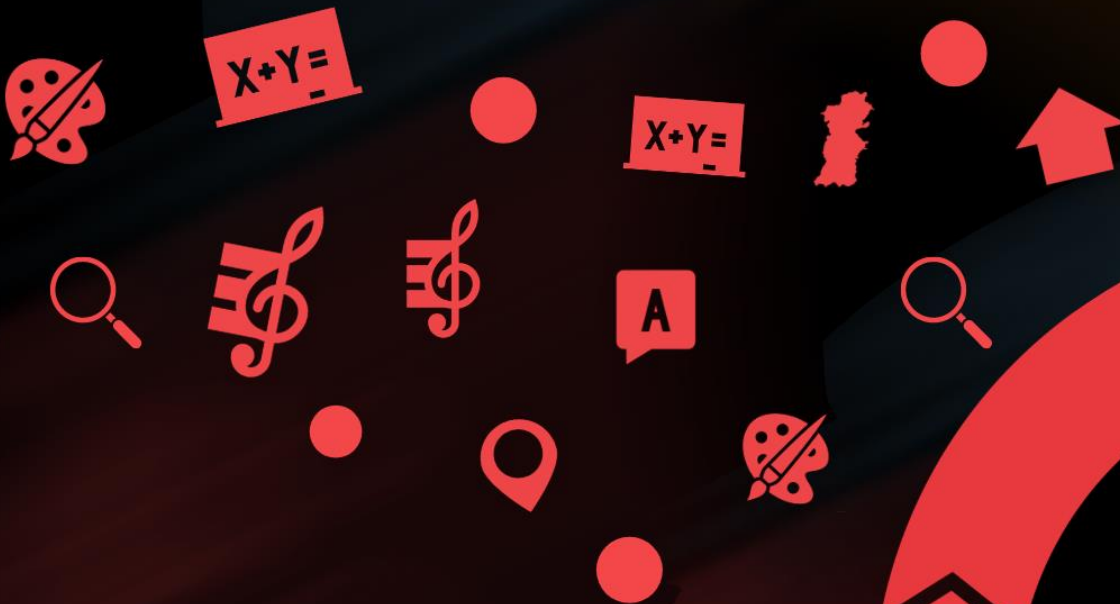




Establishment of a new all-age school for
pupils aged 4-18 in Llanfair Caereinion
Objection Report



**Consultation on the establishment of a new all-age school for
pupils aged 4-18 in Llanfair Caereinion**

Objection Report

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Objection Report

1. BACKGROUND

Powys County Council consulted on proposals to establish a new all-age school for pupils aged 4-18 in Llanfair Caereinion. The consultation took place from the 13th October 2020 to the 24th November 2020. The Council published a consultation report outlining the findings of the consultation exercise.

On 16th February 2021, the Council's Cabinet agreed to proceed with the proposal, and Statutory Notices were published from the 23rd February 2021 to the 23rd March 2021.

The proposals were as follows:

From 31 August 2022:

- i) The Council proposes to discontinue the following two schools which are maintained by Powys County Council:
 - Llanfair Caereinion Community Primary School/Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion, Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0SF ("Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School");
 - Caereinion High School, Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0HW.

From 1 September 2022:

- i) The Council proposes to establish a new bilingual community school maintained by Powys County Council for boys and girls aged 4-18 years old, that will operate on the current sites of Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.

2. OBJECTIONS RECEIVED

31 objections were received during the statutory objection period. Objections were received from the following:

- Parents of pupils at Caereinion High School, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng
- Members of the community
- The governing body of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd
- The governing body of Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng

- Newtown & Llanllwchiarn Town Council
- Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (Parents for Welsh-medium Education)

The issues raised in the objection are outlined on the following page, along with the Council's response.

3. ISSUES RAISED DURING THE OBJECTION PERIOD

The following headings and tables list the issues raised during the objection period, and provide the local authority's response to these issues.

Objection 1

Issue	Points raised	Council response
1.1	1) There are 26% of surplus places in the secondary sector in Powys.	<p>Comment noted, however the current proposal relates to establishing a new dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School, and would not impact on surplus places.</p> <p>The Council is fully aware of the level of surplus places in its schools – ‘High number of surplus places’ is one of the reasons listed in the ‘Education in Powys – why change is needed’ section of the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. This is one of the reasons why the Council’s current intention is to develop designated Welsh-medium provision within its current infrastructure, in order to ensure that there is no increase in surplus places.</p>
1.2	2) Political decision to support 13 secondary schools, 5 in east Montgomeryshire. This decision is not based on the logic of educational standards.	<p>The Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020 includes an objective to ‘Develop a network of all-age schools based around the 13 current secondary school locations’.</p> <p>The strategy was developed following engagement with a range of stakeholders, and the aim of the Strategy is to provide education which provides the best opportunities for</p>

		<p>learners across Powys – the Strategy sets out a vision for education in Powys, which is as follows:</p> <p><i>‘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.’</i></p>
1.3	3) Powys's dual-stream secondary schools policy since 1989 to provide Welsh-medium education has been an undoubted failure. No growth in the numbers of Welsh-medium pupils post 11.	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the need to develop it's Welsh-medium provision. The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a clear aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.'</p> <p>The Council fully agrees that designated Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium pupils, particularly for pupils from a non-Welsh speaking background.</p>
1.4	4) The number of Welsh-medium secondary subjects in Llanfair and Llanfyllin has shrunk over the last 6 years.	<p>The Council notes this statement and fully recognises the need to improve the Welsh-medium provision available in Powys, in particular in the secondary sector. As stated in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-30:</p> <p><i>‘The size and proportion of the secondary streams varies considerably across the county, and the range of subjects available through the medium of Welsh also varies significantly. The curriculum offer is increasingly limited for Welsh-medium learners, and there is significant concern</i></p>

		<p><i>amongst the profession regarding the commitment of the authority to learners who study in Welsh.'</i></p> <p>The Strategy includes an objective to 'improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council is developing a number of proposals which would eventually lead to a significant improvement in the Welsh-medium provision available in the county.</p> <p>The Council has also made clear throughout the process to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion that, should the Council proceed with the establishment of the new school, the intention would be to develop the Welsh-medium provision at the new school.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder</p>
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		<p>schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p>
1.5	5) The main growth seen in Welsh-medium pupils has been in designated primary schools.	The Council notes the growth that has been seen in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in designated primary schools over recent years.
1.6	6) Immersion in designated schools is the way forward.	The Council fully agrees that designated Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium pupils, particularly for pupils from a non-Welsh speaking background.
1.7	7) Any school transformation plan must be based on the priority and intention to provide the best education to pupils. Other considerations are less important.	The Council's new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys does aim to provide the best education to pupils
1.8	8) Forcing parents to receive Welsh-medium education is not an effective method and neither does it recognise the right of parents to have a choice. Similar schemes have failed in other countries. The best way is to ensure that there is a clear choice for parents between two equivalent language mediums.	The Council is not forcing parents to receive Welsh-medium education.
1.9	9) The schools and the authority have been guilty over the years of misleading parents about Welsh-medium provision.	The Council does not agree that it has misled parents regarding the Welsh-medium provision available over the years. Any information shared by the Council was provided by the schools.

1.10	<p>10) Powys education authority is prepared to ignore facts by using misleading and factually incorrect arguments. The organisation does not make decisions on the basis of the validity and merits of relevant matters, or provide sufficient rationale to justify them. It is a reason why Powys education authority has been judged to be a failure.</p>	<p>The Council does not agree with this statement. All decisions made related to school reorganisation are based on carefully developed proposals and the reasons for proposals are clearly stated in consultation documents and Cabinet reports.</p> <p>It is not true that Powys education authority has been judged to be ‘a failure’ – Estyn carried out an inspection of Powys education services, which concluded that ‘Powys local government education services are causing significant concern and require follow-up activity.’</p> <p>Estyn made a number of recommendations in its report. Much work has been done since then to address these, and good progress is being made.</p>
1.11	<p>Considerations arising from the above.</p> <p>A) Too many surplus places.</p> <p>1) With funding scarce it is incumbent that the authority ensures that there is no waste of public money. With so many surplus places, it means that consideration has to be given to closing one secondary school in east Montgomeryshire to reduce the financial loss due to the number of unnecessary places.</p>	<p>The Council is not currently considering wholesale closure of any of its secondary schools. The ‘Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys’ includes a clear commitment to developing ‘a network of all-age schools based around the 13 current secondary school locations.’</p>
1.12	<p>2) In justifying the best provision for Welsh-medium pupils in a designated school, it is necessary to review the impact that the loss of Welsh-medium pupils will have on the existing dual-stream schools. This is a problem that has to be</p>	<p>The Council is not currently proposing any change which would lead to ‘the loss of Welsh-medium pupils’ from dual-stream schools.</p>

	<p>addressed. In the secondary sector, it is not possible to continue with two English-medium secondary schools, two or three dual-stream schools and one designated school. There are not enough pupils. This is why the scrutiny committee's comments about the need for a review of east Montgomeryshire provision as a unit is necessary, rather than ineffective piecemeal changes such as an all-through school in Llanfair.</p>	<p>The proposal to establish an all-age school at Llanfair Caereinion is being taken forward as part of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed following a review of education provision across Powys. This is not a 'piecemeal' change.</p>
1.13	<p>B) The importance of establishing designated Welsh-medium secondary provision.</p> <p>1) All the evidence shows that Welsh-medium secondary provision must be established in a designated institution to provide the best education.</p>	<p>The Council is fully aware of the differences between Welsh-medium and dual stream schools, and fully agrees that Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium provision.</p>
1.14	<p>2) "Pupils in the bilingual schools with low proportions taking courses through the medium of Welsh, generally do not have Welsh speaking and writing skills which are good enough". Estyn Nov 2014.</p>	<p>Comment noted. As indicated above, the Council is fully aware of the differences between Welsh-medium and dual stream schools, and fully agrees that Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium provision.</p>
1.15	<p>3) The numbers of Welsh-medium primary pupils in east Montgomeryshire is such that there is sufficient demand to establish provision of sufficient size to provide full progression which is equivalent to the English-medium provision in the two existing English-medium schools.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

1.16	<p>4) If a designated Welsh-medium secondary provision is established in east Montgomeryshire, it will be even more necessary to review the situation of there being too many surplus places in the secondary sector, which means that consideration must be given to reorganising the schools in the whole area.</p>	<p>The current proposal relates to establishing a new dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School, and would not impact on surplus places.</p> <p>The Council is fully aware of the level of surplus places in its schools – ‘High number of surplus places’ is one of the reasons listed in the ‘Education in Powys – why change is needed’ section of the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. This is one of the reasons why the Council’s current intention is to develop designated Welsh-medium provision within its current infrastructure, in order to ensure that there is no increase in surplus places.</p>
1.17	<p>5) It would be difficult to justify more than one Welsh-medium secondary institution in east Montgomeryshire at the moment, because it is important that the number of pupils are sufficient to make it sustainable, and without centralisation in one location, the same problem of surplus places facing smaller dual-stream schools would have to be faced.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Council is not currently proposing any changes to the Welsh-medium provision in east Montgomeryshire – the current proposal is to establish a dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion.</p> <p>Should the Council propose any change to the school’s language category in the future, the impact on other Welsh-medium providers would need to be considered.</p>
1.18	<p>6) The arguments in support of creating growth in the numbers of Welsh-medium pupils without a Welsh-medium secondary provision to provide full progression are not going to work in East Montgomery. There is evidence over a period of 30 years to prove this.</p>	<p>The Council notes the comments regarding the need for access to full Welsh-medium secondary provision, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school, something which is not currently available to most Powys pupils.</p>

1.19	<p>7) It is therefore inevitable that any designated Welsh-medium secondary provision is situated in a location central to east Montgomeryshire for reasons of travel and choice for the greatest possible number of parents.</p>	<p>The Council agrees that any designated Welsh-medium secondary provision in North Powys would need to be located in a central and accessible location.</p>
1.20	<p>8) Caereinion is not the location that meets these needs. It is not central and transport to it is not convenient for the majority of pupils/parents.</p>	<p>The Council does note these comments, however does not agree that Caereinion is not in a central location – a map of the area served by the school’s Welsh-medium shows that the school is located in a relatively central location to the area.</p>
1.21	<p>C) Misleading information from the authority.</p> <p>1) In various publications, such as information for parents, the WESP, and in particular the relevance of the consultation document to the merger of Caereinion schools, the guidance in relation to 'defining Welsh-medium schools 2007' is used in misleading ways to designate the category of dual-stream schools in east Montgomeryshire.</p> <p>2) The 2007 guidance states that "in category 2A,2B,2C and 2D schools it is expected that pupils would be assessed through the medium of Welsh in all subjects except English at KS3 and KS4 and that they would move on easily to post-16 provision through the medium of Welsh in the subjects they have chosen". This is not what happens in east Montgomeryshire.</p>	<p>The guidance on ‘defining Welsh-medium schools’ which was published by the Welsh Government in 2007 does not provide clear information on how school’s should be allocated to a category. When the categories were introduced, the Council adopted its own methodology for calculating the categories.</p> <p>The Welsh Government has recently carried out consultation on new categories which would replace the 2007 document.</p>

	<p>3) My interpretation of the guidance therefore is that the category should be used as a summary of the provision between the ages of 11 and 18 in the school as a whole. This is not what is happening in Powys and it means that parents in particular are being misled.</p>	
1.22	<p>D) The lack of logic in the education authority's decisions on the merits of Cabinet discussions, 16/2/21.</p> <p>1) The Scrutiny Committee's main recommendation was that the basis of consultation with Caereinion secondary primary schools alone was wholly incomplete because the secondary school is not only relevant to the primary schools of the Caereinion catchment area, but also to the designated Welsh-medium schools of the catchment areas of the two other secondary schools in east Montgomeryshire. It was not acceptable to ignore them.</p>	<p>The Council did not ignore any schools as part of the consultation exercise – information about the consultation was sent to Caereinion High School and all of its feeder schools, in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018).</p> <p>During the consultation, consultation meetings were held with staff and governors at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School as they are the two schools that would be directly affected by the proposal to merge the two schools. This is in line with the Council's usual practice for consultation exercises such as this, e.g. when establishing an all-age school at Llanfyllin.</p>
1.23	<p>2) Officials replied that they did not have to broaden the discussion on the basis of the School Organisation Code. Fine, but why then accept the recommendation in part? The answer is clear, in this unique situation, the authority's logic demonstrates the disingenuous attitude towards the rights of parents of Welsh-medium pupils.</p>	<p>The 'partially accept' in respect of this point relates to the statement 'the authority will consider if virtual/public meetings with cluster feeder schools provides further opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the consultation process.'</p> <p>Since the Council carried out consultation in respect of the schools in Llanfair Caereinion, the Welsh Government has issued guidance on carrying out consultation during the</p>

		<p>pandemic, which the Council has taken into consideration when carrying out subsequent consultations.</p>
1.24	<p>3) An argument put forward by a Cabinet member against the Scrutiny Committee's main recommendation that the consultation on establishing an all-age school in Llanfair had been insufficiently broad, was that this was "factually incorrect". He said, "The parents of Castle Caereinion and Llanerfyl only had to be asked if they had had the opportunity to express an opinion". A completely unsubstantiated comment because reference here was made to the primary school closure consultations. These consultations had nothing to do with creating an all-age school and demonstrated the willingness of some to try to influence by making incorrect comments a 'fact'.</p>	<p>The Council did not ignore any schools as part of the consultation exercise – information about the consultation was sent to Caereinion High School and all of its feeder schools, in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018).</p> <p>During the consultation, consultation meetings were held with staff and governors at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School as they are the two schools that would be directly affected by the proposal to merge the two schools. This is in line with the Council's usual practice for consultation exercises such as this, e.g. when establishing an all-age school at Llanfyllin.</p>
1.25	<p>4) The 2017-2020 WESP which is current, because the next one does not yet exist, states that there will be discussions to consider establishing a designated Welsh-medium secondary school in the Severn Valley during the period of the WESP. Quite reasonably the Scrutiny Committee asked the Cabinet to consider this when considering their request. Officers refused this consideration because the next WESP would not be ready for delivery before May 2021. This is not an adequate response and is an excuse to avoid presenting a response. It is quite clear that Cabinet's decision to accept the</p>	<p>Objective 2.1 of the Council's WESP for 2017-20 states the Council will 'Continue with the work to establish one or more category 2A schools in north Powys.' The Council continues to work to achieve this Objective. The Council is currently carrying out the statutory process to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth. Should the process be implemented, this would eventually meet the objective of 'establishing one or more category 2A schools in north Powys.'</p> <p>The Council has also made clear throughout the process to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion that, should the Council proceed with the establishment of the</p>

	<p>2017-20 WESP in the past is relevant to the discussions and considerations of the current future of Caereinion school. The Scrutiny Committee was not asking for a copy of the future WESP but consideration of documents and the current situation.</p>	<p>new school, the intention would be to develop the Welsh-medium provision at the new school.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caerinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
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1.26	<p>5) A Cabinet member in an effort to undermine the Scrutiny committee's recommendations said that they had contained "a number of factual errors". "The numbers are incorrect. There are currently 176 in the primary school". The authority's current record (16/2/21) was 160. This demonstrates a lack of accuracy on the part of a Cabinet member.</p> <p>6) The Cabinet member went on to add "which combined with the 645 in the high school does not make a number of 400 as mentioned in the Scrutiny report". Another inaccurate "fact", presented in an effort to undermine the Scrutiny committee's recommendations. The correct number in the secondary school is approximately 457 (current as at 16/2/21 from local authority records). Not only had a Member of the Cabinet presented the wrong number of pupils in the secondary school but it was clear that she had added primary and secondary numbers to inflate the numbers and mislead the Cabinet. Perhaps the Scrutiny committee's report may have been unclear in saying 200 in the English and Welsh streams, (the authority's current record 16/2/21 is 242 and 215), but in the oral presentation 300 was mentioned. The</p>	<p>The comments in the Scrutiny committee's observations in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caerinion state the following:</p> <p>'Scrutiny are concerned about the educational viability of the school following the amalgamation of the two schools, with the new remaining dual stream this will leave it with approximately 200 pupils in each stream. This raises significant concerns about the ability of the school to deliver a comprehensive offer at post 14 and post 16 in either language.'</p> <p>As indicated in the consultation document, the total pupil numbers at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School at the time of the consultation¹ was 161, and the total number of pupils in Caereinion High School at the time of the consultation² was 461.</p> <p>There are currently 159 pupils on roll at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School³ and 459 pupils on roll at Caereinion High School⁴.</p> <p>The My Local School website, which is maintained by the Welsh Government, only displays pupil numbers at each school as at the PLASC counting date in January.</p>
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¹ Teacher Centre, 12th October 2020.

² Teacher Centre, 12th October 2020.

³ Teacher Centre, 31st March 2021

⁴ Teacher Centre, 31st March 2021

	<p>reason that the Scrutiny committee raised this as a general point was that pupil numbers were low and meant that the choice of subjects was going to be very limited and detrimental to the opportunities of Welsh and English medium pupils. Members of the Cabinet had completely ignored this important educational point.</p>	<p>Pupil numbers at schools change frequently, however the Council is confident that the information that was included in the consultation document in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion was the most accurate information that was available at the time.</p>
1.27	<p>7) It was said that the "most important thing scrutiny failed to pick up was the overwhelming support of people in the area behind the proposal. The numbers are in the document that there is a considerable support for this in the area". What was said by a Cabinet member is incorrect on the basis of the results of the consultation which indicates only 52% support for the proposal. 40% also felt that an improved proposal should be considered. Clearly the Cabinet's decision to support the establishment of an all-through school was not based solely on the validity and merits of the arguments.</p>	<p>The decision to proceed with the proposal to establish an all-age school at Llanfair Caereinion was based on consideration of the quantitative findings of the consultation as well as consideration of the issues raised in the feedback received as part of the consultation.</p>
1.28	<p>8) The Scrutiny committee's report considered the finance aspects of the proposal. The authority's report states that the secondary school's deficit in 2020/21 will be £-27K turning to £+31K of reserves. It is reasonable to have clarification from officials as to how this is going to happen and whether it means a greater reduction in pupils' education. Hot air and waffle by a Cabinet member did nothing more than demonstrate a willingness to say anything to</p>	<p>The Scrutiny comments attached as Appendix E to the paper considered by Cabinet on the 16th February 2021 include the following paragraph:</p> <p>'That the current overspend by the high school (£47k) which would be written off by the Council if the proposal proceeded would in effect take 4 years to be paid based on the proposed saving of £12k per year by the amalgamation of the two schools a timescale in which further changes are likely.'</p>

	<p>undermine the Scrutiny committee's sensible requests, which was to ask the Cabinet to make a reasoned decision on the merits of the arguments.</p>	<p>Whilst the Consultation Document issued in respect of the proposal to merge Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School stated the current budget position at the two schools, the budget position of schools changes regularly. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, the Council's finance team would continue to work with the two schools to minimise any overspend which may exist at the time when the proposal is implemented.</p>
1.29	<p>9) It was the vision of officials and Cabinet members that the plan to merge Llanfair schools was a step forward in the direction of establishing Welsh-medium designated provision in Llanfair and they claimed that there was "overwhelming" support for this. But this was not the proposal in the consultation but rather a proposal to establish a two-stream all-through school. The question was not asked about the establishment of a designated Welsh-medium medium all-through school and therefore no-one had the opportunity to present an opinion or respond to the authority's true intention. This is the fundamental lack of honesty of the consultation.</p>	<p>The current consultation is on a proposal to establish a dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, which would not lead to any significant change compared with the current position.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, any change to the school's language category in the future would be subject to a separate consultation exercise, which would provide an opportunity for stakeholders to let the Council know their views on any proposals relating to the school's language category.</p> <p>Whilst the current proposal does not propose any change to the current language category of the provision in Llanfair Caereinion, many of those that responded to the consultation exercise provide views on Welsh-medium provision in the area. All views expressed were outlined in the consultation report, which was considered by Cabinet on the 12th January 2021 and the 16th February 2021.</p>

1.30	<p>10) Some parents of Welsh-medium primary pupils in east Montgomeryshire had the opportunity (January 2021) to present their views on the authority's plan to create a dual-stream all-through school in Llanfair as presented in the consultation. The question was asked " do you agree (or not) that the authority should prioritise the establishment of a designated Welsh-medium secondary school within a reasonable distance of pupils in north east Powys?" 257 families answered with 218 (85%) in favor of establishing a designated secondary school rather than the offering of the local authority to establish a dual-stream all-through school in Llanfair. Given that the authority's consultation has only received 111 replies with only 52% in favor of the school's merger plan, it is quite clear that the authority does not understand the situation.</p>	<p>The proposal in respect of the schools in Llanfair Caereinion is to merge Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School to establish a dual stream all-age school in the buildings currently occupied by the two schools. The Council wasn't consulting on the language category of the provision in Llanfair Caereinion, nor on the establishment of a designated Welsh-medium secondary school in the area.</p>
1.31	<p>11) The enforcement element in the plans of officials will be counterproductive. The result will be that discussions will become ever more entrenched making the current situation even worse and preventing the creation of a satisfactory solution.</p>	<p>There is no 'enforcement element' in the Council's plans. When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caerinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p>

		<p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>Should Welsh-medium provision be established, no pupils would be 'forced' to access this provision – pupils / parents can apply for a place at any school they choose, any pupils not wanting to access any Welsh-medium school established could apply to attend a different school.</p>
1.32	<p>12)The plan to establish a Welsh-medium secondary designated school in Llanfair in 1989, 2011and 2015 was rejected when the question was honestly asked. Many in the community objected then and there is no reason to believe that there has been a change of mind. Therefore dual-stream provision would be the choice of some in the community, not because of effective educational reasons but for parochial reasons.</p>	<p>No formal consultation has been carried out on establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school in Llanfair Caereinion.</p> <p>Should the Council wish to proceed with establishing a Welsh-medium school in Llanfair Caereinion, a further statutory process would be required, and there would be an opportunity for stakeholders to give their views on the proposal. These would need to be taken into consideration by the Council's Cabinet, who would need to decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair</p>

		<p>Caerinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>This dialogue has commenced, and is expected to reach a conclusion by the end of the summer term.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent following this dialogue that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
1.33	<p>13)But the world has changed and there are now enough pupils to maintain a sustainable Welsh-medium designated secondary school in another area of east Montgomeryshire without having to consider the opposition of some in the community of Llanfair. Following this logic there is no need to maintain a Welsh-medium secondary stream in Llanfair. Welsh-speaking pupils in Llanfair will receive better progression and better education in another designated secondary setting.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

1.34	<p>14)The logic and vision of the authority’s Cabinet members is therefore not credible and it is clear that the Cabinet's intention is to protect Caereinion’ s position as a dual-stream school while continuing to deprive the best educational opportunities for Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils there and for the Welsh-medium pupils of the rest of east Montgomeryshire.</p>	<p>The aim of the proposal to establish an all-age school is to provide the best possible education to pupils across the County.</p> <p>As stated on page 24 of the Consultation Document issued in respect of the proposal, the reasons for the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘To improve educational outcomes - To improve educational provision - To improve leadership and management - To improve efficiency in the delivery of education - To provide more seamless transition between key stages’
1.35	<p>In summary the Scrutiny Committee asked Cabinet to specifically consider 5 points on February 16. In my view and many others, the Cabinet's response to the Scrutiny Committee's report was unacceptable. There can be no pretense that the first step to merge Caereinion schools is sufficient because it is quite clear, and has been recognised by the Cabinet and officials, that it is inadequate until the next steps are realized. There will be further years where Welsh and English-medium pupils will be deprived of their educational rights and it would be better to make a difficult decisions earlier rather than later. That is the difference between planning in an education authority which is of poor quality and in an education authority which is of good quality.</p> <p>In Cabinet minutes, officials refer only to 3 points by the scrutiny committee with the 3 comments omitting any</p>	<p>The document</p> <p>‘Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: Call-In of Cabinet Decision – Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School’</p> <p>was included as Appendix E to the paper on establishing an all-age school at Llanfair Caereinion which was considered by Cabinet on the 16th February 2021, therefore Cabinet had the opportunity to consider all points made by the Scrutiny Committee before deciding to proceed with publication of the Statutory Notice. In addition, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee spoke at the meeting to outline the Committee’s comments.</p> <p>Officers were required to respond to the specific issues raised by Scrutiny in Appendix E and this response was provided.</p>

	substantive clarification of the totality of the need for answers to the Scrutiny committee's points. The remainder of the scrutiny committee's comments were ignored.	
1.36	The misinformation and misleading arguments put forward by Cabinet members before the decision was made on February 16 were embarrassing. Indeed, the evidence shows that there is reason to believe that the Cabinet has acted contrary to the requirements of councilors' standards because they approved a decision on the basis of misinformation and failed to give adequate reasons for their decision. The logic of their decision was not based on pupils' educational needs either but only on political or parochial pride.	<p>The reasons for the recommendation were included within the Cabinet report and agreed by all Cabinet members. All facts and data relating to the proposal were included within the documentation that was presented to Cabinet.</p> <p>Every Cabinet member is required to operate in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members. If any members of the public believe that they have acted inappropriately, there is a process for referring this to the Public Services Wales Ombudsman.</p>
1.37	This is my main objection to this scheme to create an all-age school in Caereinion. The scheme is not based on educational needs and the best opportunities for all pupils in the area. No wonder Estyn and parents are so critical of Powys education authority's neglect.	<p>It is untrue that the proposal 'is not established on the basis of the educational needs and securing the best opportunities for all pupils in the area.'</p> <p>As stated on page 24 of the Consultation Document issued in respect of this proposal, the reasons for the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'To improve educational outcomes - To improve educational provision - To improve leadership and management - To improve efficiency in the delivery of education - To provide more seamless transition between key stages' <p>Providing the best possible education to pupils across the County is the aim of the proposal.</p>

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Objection 2

Issue	Points raised	Council response
2.1	I am writing to object to the all purpose school that you deem appropriate to build in a remote and rural area of Wales.	The Council is not intending to 'build' a new school as part of this proposal. The proposal is to establish the new school in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.
2.2	Such a school requires vast amounts of travel to reach from all areas that would most use the school. This would have an environmental impact that was unnecessary. The largest two towns to Llanfair Caereinion and therefore the largest footfall would come from Welshpool and Newtown. Therefore, most of the pupils would be able to walk or cycle to school without the need for a bus. The Llanfair school requires almost all its pupils to arrive by bus or by car. The days start early and end late as a result of an hours travel either end of the day and limit the ability to maintain extra curricular activities without a parent who can drive.	The Council notes the comments regarding the distance from Newtown and Welshpool to access Welsh-medium secondary provision at Llanfair Caereinion. Unfortunately, given the rural nature of Powys, many pupils across the county travel to school. Free home to school transport is provided to pupils to facilitate access to Welsh-medium secondary provision.
2.3	There is a new purpose-built Welsh school in Newtown that has a large capacity and is already growing in popularity year on year. I understand Welshpool already has a Welsh medium high school. It therefore makes sense to bring a Welsh medium high school to Newtown where there are a large number of primary schools to feed into the school.	The Council notes these comments regarding the need for Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown. There is no Welsh-medium high school in Welshpool – the Council has recently opened a new Welsh-medium primary school – Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng – which is currently due to move to a new building in September 2022.

	<p>The fact Newtown is a large area and does not have a Welsh medium school within walking distance is incomprehensible! It gives our children no opportunity to have a Welsh medium education without travelling. Some parents have to pay for this travel because of the lack of choice in their nearby town.</p> <p>Travel in horrific weather on narrow lanes is just an accident waiting to happen. A more central school makes more sense not only environmentally but graphically and you may find that opening a Welsh medium school in a more centralised area will attract more students to use the schools and more Welsh choice being accessible.</p> <p>I know parents who don't choose a Welsh medium primary school because the feeder schools are out of town. Meaning by secondary school they want them to still be in the main town. Thus limiting the options for them.</p>	<p>Secondary Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils who live in Newtown and the surrounding area at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Llanidloes High School, both of which are dual stream schools offering Welsh-medium provision to pupils in the Welsh-medium stream. The proposal for Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a dual stream all-age school in the town, which would provide continued access to Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils accessing Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd via a dual stream model.</p> <p>The Council note the comments regarding the distance from Newtown to Welsh-medium secondary provision, however whilst the Council would hope that pupils would continue with their education through the medium of Welsh throughout the primary phase and onwards into secondary, so that they would continue to develop their Welsh language skills throughout their time in school ensuring that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave, ultimately this is a choice for pupils and their parents.</p>
2.4	<p>The buses are not manned by staff and my son was a target for bullies. I felt Llanfair High school were inadequate in dealing with 5 years of bullying that my son suffered there. Such an archaic way of dealing with modern school life should not continue and Llanidloes high school in particular does well in dealing with bullies but again this school is too far away and the large towns where pupils generally live are uncatered for.</p>	<p>All schools are required to have a bullying policy, and the school would be required to operate in accordance with its bullying policy.</p>

Objection 3

Issue	Points raised	Council response
3	<p>While I still believe that Llanfair would be a good site for a Welsh medium school due to geographical and social reasons, if the dual stream all-through school is to go ahead, I would like to emphasise and ask for confirmation that the head appointed will be a fluent Welsh speaker.</p> <p>A headmaster that ‘ticks the box’ by having some Welsh lessons is not good enough. The Welsh status of the school must improve from what it is at the moment, and this needs to happen from the top down, ensuring all staff and all pupils have a shared respect and love for the language.</p>	<p>Comments noted. As indicated in the Consultation Report published in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion:</p> <p>‘Should the Council proceed with the proposal to establish an all-age school, a temporary governing body would be established which would be responsible for staffing arrangements at the new school, supported by the Council’s Challenge Advisors.’</p>

Objection 4

Issue	Points raised	Council response
4.1	<p>Access to full Welsh Secondary Education is a right for all our children, regardless of their location. Please consider the rights of our children and the future of the language.</p>	<p>The Council notes the comments regarding the need for access to full Welsh-medium secondary provision, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school, something which is not currently available to most Powys pupils.</p>
4.2	<p>Although Caereinion High School try very hard to create everything bilingually there is no doubt that pupils’ Welshness, their pride in their country and language starts disappearing when they transfer there, which is such a</p>	<p>Should the Council proceed with the current proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, the temporary governing body will be key in establishing the ethos of the new school. The Council would work with the</p>

	<p>shame as that is an aspect that Ysgol Dafydd Llywd tries so hard to instil in their pupils.</p>	<p>temporary governing body to ensure that the need to improve and enhance the Welsh-medium provision at the school will be a key consideration when establishing the new school.</p>
4.3	<p>I am sure that if you take a walk through the corridors of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and then progress to Llanfair Caereinion High School you will soon notice the difference in ethos. No amount of investment can change the feeling of a school or the predominant language that you hear as you walk through the campus.</p> <p>For the first two terms of Secondary School at Caereinion, pupils' Welsh lessons were taught by an English speaking teacher because of lack of cover! Without a doubt, if he had made that natural move to a Welsh medium secondary school there would be a huge difference in the standard and ethos of Welsh within the school.</p>	<p>The Council is fully aware of the differences between Welsh-medium and dual stream schools, and fully agrees that Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium provision. This was outlined in the Council's 'Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys', which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020.</p>
4.4	<p>There is a huge drive on sending your children to full Welsh medium primary school, with the investment in two brand new schools. It just does not make sense to me that there is no plan to continue this into secondary education. If our children in Powys are to be able to compete with children from other areas of Wales who have access to full medium secondary schools then they are certainly going to fall short. Do you think this is fair?</p>	<p>The Council fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school, something which is not currently available to most Powys pupils.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys clearly identifies the need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, and includes a strategic aim to 'improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.' The strategy identifies within this section that 'learners in Powys do not have access to a Welsh-medium secondary school.'</p>

		Since the new Strategy was agreed by the Council's Cabinet in April 2020, the Council has been developing a number of proposals across Powys to take forward implementation of the Strategy. Many of these relate to improving access to Welsh-medium provision, and the Council is working on developments which, if implemented, would result in three designated Welsh-medium providers in Powys.
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Objection 5 – duplicate 5, 7,10,11,13

Issue	Points raised	Council response
5	<p>The Council has acknowledged that a fundamental change is required to the method of delivering Welsh-medium education in Powys, to ensure that all learners can access high quality, robust provision from the early years onwards.</p> <p>The proposal to close Llanfair Caereinion's primary and secondary dual stream schools and to open a new all-age dual stream school appears to go against recently publicity from the Council that it agrees with the view of Welsh Government that pupils are more likely to become fully bilingual after attending Welsh-medium schools, particularly when they come from non-Welsh speaking homes, and acknowledges that designated Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model of delivery for Welsh-medium education.</p>	<p>It is true that the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that designated Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model of delivery for Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>The Council also notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county,</p>

<p>At present, this choice is not available to us in Powys. In fact, we are the only County in Wales that does not have access to Welsh-medium secondary education.</p> <p>The merger of the two schools will no doubt include investment in buildings and facilities, strengthening the existence of the school, and seemingly affirming the concept of dual stream provision.</p> <p>Investing scarce Council resources in creating this all-age dual stream school will surely make it very unlikely that a designated Welsh-medium secondary school will be established in the area in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>I understand that there has been significant growth in the number of primary school pupils receiving Welsh education in the North East Powys area, and the Council has invested heavily in new designated Welsh primary schools. There are now sufficient pupil numbers to justify a designated Welsh-medium secondary school in the area and I want to fight for this right for my children.</p>	<p>with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to providing access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caerinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible,</p>
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		<p>the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p> <p>The Council currently has no plans to invest in buildings and facilities for the proposed new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion. The proposal is to establish the new school in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.</p>
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Objection 6

Issue	Points raised	Council response
6	<p>The number of children accessing Welsh medium primary education in schools such as Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Newtown, Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng, Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon and Ysgol Rhiw Bechan deserve to access Welsh medium secondary education in a dedicated Welsh medium high school, and in Severn Valley. If the Council is serious about Welsh medium education, the only conclusion that makes any sense is to establish a Welsh medium school in Severn Valley.</p> <p>After all, Powys County Council is way behind every other council in Wales in terms of provision of Welsh medium education. It's high time the County Council took the lead in offering fair and equitable opportunities for children and young people to access their complete education through the medium of Welsh. An attempt to establish an all-</p>	<p>The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council's intention is to provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p>

	<p>through school in Llanfair Caereinion isn't going to fulfil that need.</p>	<p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
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Objection 7

Duplicate of Objection 5 – see responses provided to Objection 5.

Objection 8

Issue	Points raised	Council response
8.1	<p>Whilst I am not against providing new facilities at Llanfair Caereinion in itself, I feel I must object to the proposed all age school because at present there does not appear to be any clear or confirmed plans for Welsh-medium secondary education for pupils like my daughter and son who currently attend and will attend Cylch Meithrin Y Drenewydd.</p> <p>We chose to begin our daughter's Welsh medium education at Cylch Meithrin Y Drenewydd because it is our nearest Welsh medium pre-school and is attached to our nearest Welsh medium primary school. We want our children to have a Welsh medium education because of the many benefits it provides and because we ourselves did not have this opportunity to be educated in the language of our country.</p> <p>At present, it feels that the provision of the fantastic education facility of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is not being supported by a Welsh medium secondary school, forcing pupils to attend either Llanfair Caereinion or possibly Llanidloes. It seems unfair that the high number of pupils at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd are forced to travel to the other towns when Newtown is the largest town in Powys and therefore is able to and should support the growing</p>	<p>The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>The Council's new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Strategy also includes a Strategic Aim to 'improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that designated Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model of delivery for Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>The Council remains committed to providing access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caerinion and approving continuing with the statutory</p>

	<p>numbers of pupils being educated in Welsh, which is a Welsh Government target.</p>	<p>process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council’s Cabinet also agreed ‘to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.’</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school’s language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
8.2	<p>If there is to be no Welsh medium secondary education in Newtown, it is highly likely that our children will not continue with their education in Welsh, certainly through secondary school and potentially primary school also. This would be a great disappointment for us because we regret</p>	<p>The current proposal is to establish a new all-age dual stream school in Llanfair Caereinion, in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, pupils living in the</p>

	that we cannot converse in Welsh to any great extent but we thought we would be able to give our children the opportunity to have a Welsh medium education. In addition, it could be said that by removing the opportunity for a Welsh medium secondary education and therefore the ability to speak fluent Welsh, we feel our children will be at a disadvantage when seeking employment in the future. The Welsh Government's target for growing the language seems very far away from the Newtown area at present.	Newtown area would continue to be able to access Welsh-medium secondary provision at Welsh-medium stream at the new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion or at the Welsh-medium stream at Llanidloes High School. Whilst the Council would hope that pupils would continue with their education through the medium of Welsh throughout the primary phase and onwards into secondary, so that they would continue to develop their Welsh language skills throughout their time in school ensuring that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave, ultimately this is a choice for pupils and their parents.
8.3	I urge you to consider providing Welsh medium secondary education in Newtown for the benefit of all pupils and the language.	See the response to 8.1 above.

Objection 9

Issue	Points raised	Council response
9	<p>I am writing as a parent who has decided, without a doubt, that my children want to be taught through the medium of Welsh. One currently attends Dafydd Llwyd and receives an excellent standard of education, and it is intended that the other two children also want to attend the same school.</p> <p>The Welsh Government's view is that pupils are more likely to become fully bilingual after attending Welsh-medium schools, particularly if they are from non-Welsh speaking homes. They also recognise that designated</p>	<p>The Council is pleased to note these comments regarding the provision at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd.</p> <p>It is true that the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that designated Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model of delivery for Welsh-medium education.</p>

<p>Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model of provision for Welsh-medium education. Powys County Council has publicly stated that they agree with this.</p> <p>Powys County Council also recognises that there needs to be a fundamental change to the delivery of Welsh-medium education in the county, to ensure that all learners have access to robust, high quality provision from the early years onwards.</p> <p>The Council's recent decision to close Llanfair Caereinion's two primary and secondary streams and open a new 'all-through' dual-stream school goes completely against the above. The merger of the two schools will no doubt involve investment in buildings and facilities and that this will confirm the concept of dual-stream provision.</p> <p>I understand that there is a significant growth in the number of primary school pupils receiving Welsh-medium education in North East Powys, and the Council has invested heavily in new Welsh-medium designated primary schools. This trend is also seen in the younger age group, with a high number of children attending Cylch Meithrin Y Drenewydd, and the numbers continuing to increase. Given the above, there are enough pupils to justify a designated Welsh-medium secondary school in the Severn Valley area and I want to fight for this right for my children.</p> <p>In addition, Cymraeg 2050 (Welsh Government) aims to create a statutory education system that increases the number of confident Welsh speakers. Not providing secondary Welsh-medium education in the Severn Valley</p>	<p>The Council also notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to providing access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caerinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary</p>
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	<p>area will undermine this aim, and indeed all the fruits of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd's labour.</p> <p>Therefore, I oppose the plans to create a two-stream, all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, until the Council has consulted and confirmed how they intend to provide fair and equal access to Welsh-medium secondary education for my children.</p>	<p>governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p> <p>The Council currently has no plans to invest in buildings and facilities for the proposed new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion. The proposal is to establish the new school in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.</p>
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Objection 10

Duplicate of Objection 5 – see responses provided to Objection 5.

Objection 11

Duplicate of Objection 5 – see responses provided to Objection 5.

Objection 12

Issue	Points raised	Council response
12	<p>I find myself in the unthinkable position of having to object to the proposed plans for an all age school Llanfair Caraenion, at least until full consideration has been made for the equivalent type of schooling for the Severn Valley.</p> <p>Since I have lived in the Newtown area I have watched Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd grow amazingly and the use of Welsh in daily life in the area is growing expidentially.</p> <p>If our children are to be encouraged to remain in the Severn Valley as adults, to work here and participate in community life then we need them to feel comfortable and confident in their use of Welsh both in commercial and social situations.</p> <p>At present Children's future options are decided at the age of 11 when they must choose between a local secondary education in English or a long commute to continue their education in the language they are already used to learning in and which will give them all the advantages bilingualism allows.</p> <p>It seems crazy that my children will face the same dilemma as their aunts who were in education in Newtown in the 1980s. As a bilingual (French/English) speaker and keen Welsh learner I am disheartened by this thought, especially with such a groundswell of Welsh usage locally</p>	<p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating the need for more local secondary provision for pupils living in the Newtown area.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community</p>

<p>at present and the amazing opportunities presented from being bilingual.</p> <p>The lack of possible provision also seems to go completely against the Senedd's own targets for bilingualism and Welsh usage.</p> <p>I believe it does a disservice to all the young people of the Severn Valley not to provide equal access to continuing education through the medium of Welsh within easy travelling distance of their homes.</p>	<p>to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
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Objection 13

Duplicate of Objection 5 – see responses provided to Objection 5.

Objection 14

Issue	Points raised	Council response
14.1	<p>It is impossible to pursue a true consultation during this period [due to Covid-19]. No meetings to engage parents or future parents have been held owing to restrictions. There have been no presentations to explain the plans and neither was there an opportunity to examine other options.</p>	<p>The consultation in respect of the Council's proposal to establish an all-age school at Llanfair Caereinion was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018).</p> <p>There is no requirement for consultation meetings to be held as part of school reorganisation proposals.</p> <p>A consultation document was published which included extensive information about the proposal. This was published on the Council's website and was available to stakeholders throughout the consultation period. The consultation document included consideration of a number of possible options.</p> <p>The consultation response form asked respondents whether they thought there were any alternative options the Council should consider in respect of the schools in Llanfair Caereinion, any alternative options suggested were listed in the Consultation Report along with the Council's response to each option.</p>
14.2	<p>No examples of other successful 'all age' schools have been shown so that stakeholders could evaluate their effect and their implementation in Caereinion. In fact evidence of the effectiveness of these schools the Chief HMI's annual reports in recent years does not reveal very convincing evidence of the effectiveness of these schools.</p>	<p>A number of other 'all age' schools which currently exist in Wales were listed on page 23 of the Consultation Document that was published in respect of this proposal.</p>

14.3	Admittedly there was an online response survey and 111 responded. What percentage of possible respondents was this?	<p>The consultation was open to anyone who wished to respond, therefore it is not possible to provide a percentage of possible respondents.</p> <p>111 respondents is in-line with the number of responses the Council has received to consultations on other, similar proposals – in 2018/19, the Council carried out consultation on a similar proposal to merge Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School to establish an all-age school in Llanfyllin. 80 responses were received to this consultation.</p>
14.4	Of the 111 - 52% agreed to the proposal. In real terms this would amount to 57 responses. Surely this cannot be considered to be a sufficient response on which to take this plan forward.	The decision to proceed with the proposal to establish an all-age school at Llanfair Caereinion was based on consideration of the quantitative findings of the consultation as well as consideration of the issues raised in the feedback received as part of the consultation.
14.5	It has been reported in the Shropshire Star that Powys County Council's Independent/Conservative Cabinet brushed aside concerns that the decision to go ahead with the process of creating an all-through school for 4 to 18 year olds in January had been 'flawed'. The Scrutiny committee chair stated 'We are unconvinced that there is sufficient evidence that this move will be beneficial.'	<p>The document</p> <p>'Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: Call-In of Cabinet Decision – Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School'</p> <p>was included as Appendix E to the paper on establishing an all-age school at Llanfair Caereinion which was considered by Cabinet on the 16th February 2021, therefore Cabinet had the opportunity to consider all points made by the Scrutiny Committee before deciding to proceed with publication of the Statutory Notice. In addition, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee spoke at the meeting to outline the Committee's comments.</p>

<p>14.6</p>	<p>A Cabinet member stated that</p> <p>‘The numbers (quoted) are incorrect, there are 176 in the primary school which combined with 645 in the High School does not make the number of 400 mentioned in the scrutiny report.’</p> <p>These numbers need to be scrutinised further in order to be verified –</p> <p>Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion – www.schoolguide.co.uk/schools/llanfair state on their website that there are 174 pupils.</p> <p>Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion My Local School Wales, gov site state that there are 439 pupils at the school.</p> <p>In previous County Council presentations it has been stated that these numbers will fall.</p> <p>Where is the evidence for the numbers quoted in the Cabinet meeting? What is the source and the date of verification?</p>	<p>The comments in the Scrutiny committee’s observations in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion state the following:</p> <p>‘Scrutiny are concerned about the educational viability of the school following the amalgamation of the two schools, with the new remaining dual stream this will leave it with approximately 200 pupils in each stream. This raises significant concerns about the ability of the school to deliver a comprehensive offer at post 14 and post 16 in either language.’</p> <p>As indicated in the consultation document, the total pupil numbers at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School at the time of the consultation⁵ was 161, and the total number of pupils in Caereinion High School at the time of the consultation⁶ was 461.</p> <p>There are currently 159 pupils on roll at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School⁷ and 459 pupils on roll at Caereinion High School⁸.</p> <p>The My Local School website, which is maintained by the Welsh Government, only displays pupil numbers at each school as at the PLASC counting date in January.</p> <p>Pupil numbers at schools change frequently, however the Council is confident that the information that was included</p>
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⁵ Teacher Centre, 12th October 2020.

⁶ Teacher Centre, 12th October 2020.

⁷ Teacher Centre, 31st March 2021

⁸ Teacher Centre, 31st March 2021

		in the consultation document in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion was the most accurate information that was available at the time.
14.7	It is imperative that correct numbers are used. There will be no credibility in the validity of any re-organisation plan in Powys if numbers are skewed in order to carry a plan forward and furthermore there will be invalid budgets as when the school opens will be based on actual numbers. There is strong evidence from previous amalgamations of considerable financial problems.	<p>It is agreed that it is imperative that correct numbers are used. As indicated above, pupil numbers at schools change frequently, however the Council is confident that the information that was include in the consultation document in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion was the most accurate information that was available at the time.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the latest projected pupil numbers that are available to the Council will be used by the Finance Team to calculate the new school's budget, and will work closely with the temporary governing body of the new school to ensure that the new school operates within the budget allocated to it.</p>
14.8	<p>Cabinet member stated</p> <p>“The most important thing that scrutiny did not pick up was the overwhelming support for this proposal.”</p> <p>Where is the evidence for this? Only 52% of respondents in the online survey- is this really overwhelming?</p>	The decision to proceed with the proposal to establish an all-age school at Llanfair Caereinion was based on consideration of the quantitative findings of the consultation as well as consideration of the issues raised in the feedback received as part of the consultation.
14.9	Throwing this into the mix of an all-age school does not address the issue [of Welsh Secondary Education] at all.	The pullout including in the County Times on the 19 th March 2021 listed a selection of key developments which have taken place since the new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys was launched in April 2020. The

<p>In fact in the County Times of 19th March 2021, under strategic aim 1- it states that 'Statutory notice published proposing to merge the primary and high school in Llanfair Caereinion to establish a new all- age school for pupils of 4 -18.</p> <p>The recommendation was backed unanimously to continue with the merger.</p> <p>The decision includes starting talks with the wider community as well as all the feeder primary schools from nearby villages in the Caereinion High school catchment area on how to improve Welsh medium education provision.</p> <p>There is no mention of the all through school promoting Welsh Medium Education, however in cabinet it was stated</p> <p>This is not being stated in either Strategic Aim 1 or Strategic Aim 3</p> <p>'There will be talks with the wider community'- how? When? In which Strategic aim is this?</p>	<p>document did not list every proposal / development which is being considered.</p> <p>The decision to start talks with the wider community was not part of the Statutory Notice, therefore was not included in the pullout.</p> <p>This dialogue with the community has commenced, and is expected to reach a conclusion by the end of the summer term. These discussions are being taken forward as part of Strategic Aim 3.</p>
<p>The numbers in Caereinion HS are in no way sufficient to support a comprehensive secondary education in either/or English /Welsh medium. Already there is a haemorrhaging of pupils from the school both Welsh Pupils and English pupils choosing other very distant schools even out of Powys. An all through school will not increase KS3 and KS 4 numbers, there may be more overall numbers by including Foundation Phase and KS2 pupils.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>

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Objection 15

Issue	Points raised	Council response
15	<p>I am responding to Powys Education Committee's decision to create an All-Age School in Llanfair Caereinion. Putting a focus on Caereinion will slow down the development of Welsh-medium education in a designated Welsh-medium Secondary school in the Severn Valley.</p> <p>I would like to draw the Education Committee's attention to something that concerns me. As someone who has been involved in education, in the Secondary and Primary sectors in Montgomeryshire and then in Powys over a thirty-year period, I regret the Education Committee does not see value in continuity of Welsh-medium education into the Secondary sector by affording status to the language and establishing a designated Welsh-medium Secondary School in the Severn Valley. There is an increase in the numbers attending the Cylch in Newtown and the Primary school in the town is proof of the linguistic success that is already there in the Severn Valley.</p>	<p>It is untrue that the Council does not see value in continuity of Welsh-medium education into the secondary sector.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular, in order to improve continuity into Welsh-medium education in the secondary sector. The Council also notes the comments relating to the need for more local secondary provision for pupils living in the Newtown area.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p>

		<p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
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Objection 16

Issue	Points raised	Council response
16	<p>I wish to share my objection to the Council's plans to establish a dual stream, all through school at Llanfair Caereinion.</p> <p>20 years ago, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd was established in Newtown – a designated Welsh Medium School in North Powys. This was made possible by the vision and perseverance of many. As you know 98% of our pupils come from non welsh speaking families of which we are extremely proud. These parents have put 100% faith in FULL Welsh medium education. The result being that their children breathe Welsh, their experiences are Welsh, the standard of their education is high, and they leave Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd totally bilingual. The growth in the Cylch Meithrin is exciting, the future of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is exciting however Powys County Council is letting our pupils, parents and staff down enormously. Powys is the ONLY county in Wales which is failing Welsh medium primary pupils. They deserve the right and the choice to Full Welsh medium secondary education and unbelievably this is not available.</p> <p>I personally have fought for this for over 20 years and here we are 2021, Powys wasting time, energy, showing lack of vision and opportunity in creating a safe dual stream all through school in a community which does not want change. I object to the time consuming 'fixing 'a problem which will always be there.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments regarding the growth of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, and notes that almost all pupils attending the school come from homes where no Welsh is spoken.</p> <p>The Council also notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating to the need to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to</p>

	<p>I implore you to look beyond – think outside the box, be innovative, and set your vision on Newtown, on an exciting decision in establishing a Welsh medium Secondary School/ All through School. This is your opportunity to create history.</p>	<p>designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council’s Cabinet also agreed ‘to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.’</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school’s language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to</p>
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		ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.
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Objection 17

Issue	Points raised	Council response
17	<p>I am so grateful for having the opportunity of speaking Welsh - the language of our country. Coming from a non-Welsh speaking home, this has given me many opportunities and confidence and as a result has meant that I have succeeded in my career.</p> <p>Unfortunately pupils in North East Powys do not have access to complete Welsh-medium secondary education. For me, secondary education was one of the most rewarding times of my life for me to be able to speak, use and study through the medium of Welsh, particularly when coming from a non-Welsh-speaking home. This was the time I developed confidence, pride and opportunities in the language of our country.</p> <p>As you note you are going to create an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, I feel it unlikely a Welsh-medium secondary school will be established in the Newtown area. A Welsh-medium primary school has been established and I feel strongly that a Welsh-medium Secondary school is needed to respond to the growth in the language in the Severn valley both currently and in the future.</p>	<p>The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating the need to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to</p>

<p>So as a result I am opposed to plans to create the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion until the Council has consulted on clear plans and confirmation of how they intend to provide fair and equal access to full Welsh-medium secondary education for our pupils.</p>	<p>designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to</p>
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		ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.
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Objection 18

Issue	Points raised	Council response
18	<p>I write to question the county's intended proposal to close the Current School in Llanfair Caereinion in favour of a new age dual stream school in the town.</p> <p>Our daughter has enjoyed Welsh Medium education at Ysgol Daydd Llwyd and we are shocked to hear our daughter will be unable to attend the same in secondary school even though a plan to build a new school in Llanfair Caereinion is not going to be Welsh Medium school.</p> <p>We question the choice not to allow children who enjoy speaking and learning in Welsh up to the end of primary school the same opportunities to continue in studying their subjects in Welsh medium until they leave school? a lack of consistency in policy and a basic right to learn in our Indigenous language overlooked no doubt.?</p> <p>Welsh, the oldest Language in Europe has to be protected and promoted and the decision would affect the protection and indeed the promotion of our culture and heritage for generations to come.</p> <p>Powys, its Welsh speakers and its future has to surely have the best opportunity to develop by ensuring a Welsh</p>	<p>The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating the need to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to</p>

<p>Medium Secondary school. If this opportunity is lost Powys and its cabinet would surely have to take responsibility for such a move!</p> <p>How possibly would you and other members behind this decision manage to sleep at night with such responsibility hanging over to you do the right thing!?</p> <p>The time is now to make the necessary plans to protect the numbers of children speaking Welsh into the future by ensuring North Powys had a Welsh Medium school.</p>	<p>designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to</p>
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		<p>ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p> <p>There is no plan to 'build a new school in Llanfair Caereinion' – the proposal is to establish a new dual stream all-age school in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.</p>
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Objection 19

Issue	Points raised	Council response
19.1	<p>I am writing to object to the plans to create an all-through school in Llanfair Caereinion. Instead, I would like to see full Welsh-medium secondary education provision in Newtown.</p> <p>To hear that the council is investing in schools is good news but it makes me wonder whether Powys council are averse to investing in quality Welsh language provision or to investing in Newtown. How long will calls for full Welsh medium education in Newtown be met with resistance by the council? Granted, a wonderful primary school has been built in Newtown but no child should have had to go to school in a run-down portacabin in this country in the 21st century, just to have the chance to become a Welsh speaker, in Wales.</p> <p>To maximise on any investment in primary Welsh education, it's obvious that follow-on Welsh secondary education in Newtown is also essential. For some, the</p>	<p>The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and in particular the need for provision in the Newtown area. The Council fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council's intention is to provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair</p>

	<p>efforts and investment in Welsh language primary education prove to be futile as the geographical spread of schools means that parents have little choice but to send their children to the nearest school: Newtown high school; English medium education, or possibly further afield for dual stream provision. There is a glaring absence of full Welsh language provision.</p> <p>As a parent of two children, who have enjoyed excellent Welsh medium primary education, I find it difficult to understand the council's decision to throw funds at an area of Powys already delivering Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
19.2	<p>Despite my children embracing Welsh as a second language, we are now faced with the decision of how far away from Newtown they will have to travel and how much, as a family, we will be inconvenienced, to allow</p>	<p>Secondary Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils who live in Newtown and the surrounding area at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Llanidloes High School, both of which are dual stream schools offering Welsh-</p>

	<p>them to continue learning in the language of our country. Again, there is no such problem for children who study through the medium of English; they receive superior treatment. Providing full Welsh language education in Newtown would mean children do not have to face a journey of up to 45 minutes, each way, being transported to and from school. Additionally, such transport costs would no longer need to be met by the council and improve the council's carbon footprint with a reduced negative impact on the environment.</p> <p>Finally, it is heart-breaking that the council's lack of full Welsh secondary education provision in Newtown means that, at the age of eleven, primary school friendship groups are torn apart as parents do not have the option to continue their child's Welsh education locally. My son has found this very difficult. After 8 years in school together, he will have to attend a high school without many of his friends with whom he started school at the age of 3. Anyone who is learning a second language will know how important a sense of security is in building confidence to use the language; and young children's friendship groups are key to their self-assuredness. Sadly, it seems the council is turning a blind eye to the dissolution of these important relationships and allowing the dilution of local Welsh language.</p>	<p>medium provision to pupils in the Welsh-medium stream. The proposal for Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a dual stream all-age school in the town, which would provide continued access to Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils accessing Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd via a dual stream model.</p> <p>The Council note the comments regarding the distance from Newtown to Welsh-medium secondary provision and the impact on friendship groups when pupils transfer to different schools, however whilst the Council would hope that pupils would continue with their education through the medium of Welsh throughout the primary phase and onwards into secondary, so that they would continue to develop their Welsh language skills throughout their time in school ensuring that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave, ultimately this is a choice for pupils and their parents.</p>
19.3	<p>If the council is serious about growing the Welsh language in Powys, it is quite obvious that the best way to do this is to provide full Welsh language secondary education in Newtown. All children deserve equal educational provision whether in the English or Welsh language.</p>	<p>Comment noted – see response to 19.1 above.</p>

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Objection 20

Issue	Points raised	Council response
20	<p>I am writing to express my views regarding the proposed all through school in Llanfair Caereinion.</p> <p>Firstly, I have a child who has started their journey through Welsh Medium Education in Cylch Meithrin Drenewydd and will go on to attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and hopefully in the near future there would be a fully Welsh Medium All Through School. However, as a parent, my main concern is the lack of opportunities for Welsh speaking children within the Severn Valley and also, the whole of Powys.</p> <p>To me, this is a priority for pupils of Newtown and the surrounding area. Newtown is the biggest town in Powys and is crying out for Welsh Medium Secondary Education.</p> <p>As a parent, my worry would be where would I send my child to secondary school? They would leave Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd fluent in the Welsh Language, however, there is no further correct fully Welsh medium provision available. Is this fair?</p> <p>Our children are at massive disadvantage compared to other areas in Wales. They are missing out on huge opportunities and experiences.</p>	<p>The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and in particular the need for provision in the Newtown area. The Council fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council's intention is to provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p>

I strongly believe that, with the growing number of children attending Welsh medium primary schools in the local area, Newtown would be the perfect location for an all through Welsh Medium school.

To sum up, it's not just about speaking Welsh, it's about the whole picture. The passion of the language, the ethos, the community spirit. This is what they're taught in the Welsh Primary Schools in the area. This then disappears when they attend bilingual secondary schools when full Welsh provision cannot be provided.

Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.

If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.

If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.

Secondary Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils who live in Newtown and the surrounding area at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Llanidloes High School, both of which are dual stream schools offering Welsh-medium provision to pupils in the Welsh-medium stream. The proposal for Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a dual stream all-age school in the town, which would provide continued access to Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils accessing Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd via a dual stream model.

Objection 21 – Governing Body of Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng

Issue	Points raised	Council response
21.1	<p>We as the Governing Body of a designated Welsh-medium School are witnessing the impact of Welsh immersion on linguistic and cultural elements. There is a positive impact on our pupils, staff, parents and the wider community. Since Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng opened as a designated Welsh-medium School in 2017, their linguistic ability, cultural awareness and Welsh participation has developed significantly compared to the dual-stream school that was here in Welshpool previously. This is key, as 97% of our pupils are from non-Welsh speaking homes, and bilingualism is an integral part of their lives.</p> <p>Pupils do not now receive Welsh lessons in an English-medium school. Pupils learn formally, informally and through every part of the Welsh language that imparts the sense of belonging. They do not just learn Welsh, but they converse in Welsh, declare their emotions in Welsh, play in Welsh and present themselves in Welsh. Singing, acting, creating, dancing, writing, reading, discussing, arguing, engaging, living, succeeding and belonging.</p> <p>Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng is delighted to provide a Welsh-medium education that the pupils and the wider community deserve.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments, and is pleased to note the success of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng since its establishment in 2017. The Council is fully aware of the benefits of designated Welsh-medium provision, and fully agrees that Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium provision, particularly for pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken. This was outlined in the Council's 'Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys' which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020.</p>
21.2	<p>According to the Welsh Government, research states that key skills taught and learned in primary school quickly</p>	<p>As indicated above, the Council fully agrees that Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-</p>

	disappear if the linguistic medium changes. If pupils attending Welsh-medium secondary school do not continue with Welsh-medium secondary education, their linguistic ability will not continue, especially for those children from non-Welsh speaking homes. In addition, Powys County Council has stated that they agree with the views of the Welsh Government and recognize that designated Welsh-medium schools are the best way to provide Welsh-medium education.	<p>medium provision, particularly for pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken. This was outlined in the Council's 'Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys' which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020.</p> <p>The Council also fully recognises the need for pupils continue to access education through the medium of Welsh throughout the primary phase and onwards into secondary, so that they would continue to develop their Welsh language skills throughout their time in school, ensuring that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave.</p>
21.3	This option is not available to Powys pupils as part of their educational journey. Powys is the only county not offering Welsh-medium secondary education to their pupils.	The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.

Objection 22

Issue	Points raised	Council response
22.1	The fact that Powys County Council is willing to invest money in the education of our local area is extremely encouraging but merging the dual-stream schools of the Caereinion area is not the priority.	The current proposal is to establish a new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School. There is no significant investment planned as part of the current proposal. Should the proposal be implemented, the new school would be funded as an all-age dual stream school in accordance with the Council's funding formula for schools, and as indicated in the

		consultation document published in respect of this proposal, it is anticipated that this would lead to a small revenue saving to the Council compared with the total funding currently provided to the two schools.
22.2	It is inexcusable that there is no designated Welsh-medium Secondary School, not only in our own area, but in the whole of Powys! This is the priority!	The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.
22.3	Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd has been established for several years and has been successful locally, and on a county and National level. A very high percentage of children starting their education at the School come from non-Welsh speaking homes and leave at the end of Key Stage 2 completely fluent in Welsh. These parents send their children to the School as the provision offered is a complete one, one that inspires and one that ignites the creativity of the pupils and this through the medium of Welsh.	The Council is pleased to note these comments regarding Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, and is pleased to note that a very high percentage of children that attend the school come from non-Welsh speaking homes.
22.4	I can say without the slightest doubt that the sense of being Welsh, the ethos and the passion is alive at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and I can say the same about other Welsh-medium schools in the area. This is not the case for two-stream schools! The Welsh language is not alive here as it is in our Welsh primary schools.	<p>The Council is pleased to note these comments regarding the Welsh ethos at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd.</p> <p>The Council is fully aware of the differences between Welsh-medium and dual stream schools, and fully agrees that Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium provision. This was outlined in the Council's 'Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys' which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020.</p>

22.5	<p>What is the purpose of investing money to dedicated Welsh-medium primary education and then leaving children and parents to have to ask the question; where next?</p>	<p>Secondary Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils who live in Newtown and the surrounding area at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Llanidloes High School, both of which are dual stream schools offering Welsh-medium provision to pupils in the Welsh-medium stream. The proposal for Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a dual stream all-age school in the town, which would provide continued access to Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils accessing Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd via a dual stream model.</p>
22.6	<p>A significant growth in the numbers of the Cylch Meithrin in Newtown shows the need for a Welsh-medium appointed secondary School in the area, and I firmly believe that the Severn Valley is the best place for this. As a parent who has a child attending the Cylch, I am already worried about her future after she has been in Year 6. I don't want to be asking the question; where next?</p> <p>Our children here, in the Severn Valley, and indeed in Powys are at a complete disadvantage. Every single child should have the right to a Welsh-medium education, wherever they live, and I feel that we are placing our young people at a disadvantage. If you really want our pupils to have the same opportunities as children in the rest of Wales, then designated Welsh-medium secondary education in Powys, and in particular, here in the Severn Valley, must be prioritised.</p> <p>I therefore oppose the plans to create an all-age two-stream school in Caereinion until the Council has</p>	<p>The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area, and in particular the need for provision in the Severn Valley. The Council fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating the need to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive</p>

<p>consulted and confirmed how they intend to provide fair and equitable access to designated Welsh-medium secondary education for our children.</p>	<p>engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council’s Cabinet also agreed ‘to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.’</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school’s language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p>
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		<p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
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Objection 23

Issue	Points raised	Council response
23	<p>I am writing as a Welsh parent who has decided that I want my children to be educated through the medium of Welsh. At the moment, one child attends Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, and the other is about to start in the Cylch Meithrin. Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd provides excellent education and I would like my children to continue with designated Welsh-medium secondary education.</p> <p>Welsh Government acknowledge that designated Welsh-medium education is the favoured option for Welsh-medium education and Powys County Council have publicly acknowledged that they agree with this.</p> <p>Powys County Council also acknowledge that there has to be a fundamental review of how Welsh-medium education is provided in Powys, in order to ensure that every learner has access to solid educational provision of high quality from the early years onwards. In my opinion this is available in designated primary schools in Powys, but</p>	<p>The Council is pleased to note the comments regarding the provision at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd.</p> <p>The Council notes the comments relating to the need for dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision in this area, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating the need to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown.</p>

<p>there is no designated Welsh-medium secondary school available to the children.</p> <p>Therefore, I oppose the plans to create an all-through school in Llanfair Caereinion until the Council have consulted and can confirm how they intend to provide fair and equal access to full Welsh-medium secondary education for my children.</p>	<p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p>
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		<p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
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Objection 24

Issue	Points raised	Council response
24.1	<p>As parents of a pre school child who attends Cylch Meithrin in Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd it has come to our attention that the Council's plans of pouring resources into a dual stream in Llanfair will mean that no Welsh medium secondary school will be built in Newtown.</p>	<p>It is untrue that the Council is planning to 'pour resources into a dual stream in Llanfair'. The proposal is to establish a new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.</p> <p>The school would be funded as an all-age dual stream school in accordance with the Council's funding formula for schools, and as indicated in the consultation document published in respect of this proposal, it is anticipated that implementation of the proposal would lead to a small revenue saving to the Council compared with the total funding currently provided to the two schools.</p>

24.2	<p>We feel that this is unacceptable as there are sufficient pupil numbers in the area to justify a designated Welsh medium secondary school in the Severn valley.</p>	<p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
24.3	<p>Our daughter is set to start school in Dafydd Llwyd this coming September, and secondary school feels like a</p>	<p>The current proposal is to establish a new all-age dual stream school in Llanfair Caereinion, in the buildings</p>

	<p>lifetime away. However, we feel that it would be far more beneficial for her and her peers to not have to travel to secondary school for a Welsh education, considering she won't have to travel far for her primary education.</p>	<p>currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, pupils living in the Newtown area would continue to be able to access Welsh-medium secondary provision at Welsh-medium stream at the new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion or at the Welsh-medium stream at Llanidloes High School.</p> <p>The Council note the comments regarding the distance from Newtown to Welsh-medium secondary provision, however whilst the Council would hope that pupils would continue with their education through the medium of Welsh throughout the primary phase and onwards into secondary, so that they would continue to develop their Welsh language skills throughout their time in school ensuring that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave, ultimately this is a choice for pupils and their parents.</p>
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Objection 25

Issue	Points raised	Council response
25.1	<p>As long term residents of Welshpool, we put a great deal of thought into which school to send our children to, ultimately believing in the benefits for them attending a Welsh Stream school. The standard of education has been fantastic and we never questioned our decision despite being non-Welsh speakers.</p>	<p>The Council is pleased to note these positive comments regarding the provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng.</p>

25.2	<p>However, we would like to have the choice for our children to continue into Welsh medium secondary education in the future.</p>	<p>Secondary Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils who live in Welshpool and the surrounding area at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Llanidloes High School, which offers Welsh-medium provision via Welsh-medium stream.</p> <p>The proposal for Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a dual stream all-age school in the town, which would provide continued access to Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils accessing Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng via a dual stream model.</p>
25.3	<p>In recent years there has been an increase in investment in Welsh-medium primary schools and a subsequent growth in the number of pupils receiving Welsh education. There are now sufficient pupil numbers to justify a Welsh-medium secondary school in the area.</p>	<p>The Council is pleased to note the growth that has been seen in Welsh-medium primary pupil numbers in recent years, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that they have the opportunity to access fully Welsh-medium secondary provision.</p>
25.4	<p>The Welsh Government and Powys County Council have both stated that pupils are more likely to become fully bilingual after attending Welsh-medium schools, particularly when they are from non-Welsh speaking homes. Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model for this standard of education to be delivered. Unfortunately, Powys is the only county where there is currently no provision for this to take place.</p>	<p>The Council fully agrees that designated Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model of delivery for Welsh-medium education, particularly for pupils from non-Welsh speaking homes.</p> <p>The Council notes the comments regarding the lack of access to designated Welsh-medium secondary education in Powys, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend provision of this type.</p>
25.5	<p>The decision for a new 'all age' dual stream school in Llanfair Caereinion contradicts the Government's opinion</p>	<p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium</p>

<p>and would appear to make it unlikely that a designated Welsh-medium secondary school will be built in the future.</p> <p>I therefore feel I must object to plans for a new dual stream school in Llanfair Caereinion until the Council has consulted on and presented clear plans for how education will be provided for those seeking a Welsh-medium secondary education.</p>	<p>provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating the need to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair</p>
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		<p>Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
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Objection 26 – Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council

Issue	Points raised	Council response
26	Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council supports the Governing Body of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and objects to the proposal to create an all age, dual stream school in Llanfair Caereinion, at least until such time that Powys County Council has consulted on and presented clear and confirmed plans for how they intend to provide fair and equitable access to the full Welsh-medium secondary education for children in Newtown and the Severn valley.	Secondary Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils who live in Newtown and the surrounding area at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Llanidloes High School, both of which are dual stream schools offering Welsh-medium provision to pupils in the Welsh-medium stream. The proposal for Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a dual stream all-age school in the town, which would provide continued access to Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils accessing Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd via a dual stream model.

		<p>The Council notes the comments regarding the lack of access to designated Welsh-medium secondary education in Powys, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend provision of this type.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating the need to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory</p>
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		<p>process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council’s Cabinet also agreed ‘to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.’</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school’s language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
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Objection 27

Issue	Points raised	Council response
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<p>27</p>	<p>I have two children who are being educated through the medium of Welsh at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and hope they will continue into Welsh medium secondary education in the future. However, there is currently no designated Welsh medium secondary school in the North East Powys area, despite the fact that there are now enough children learning through the medium of Welsh to justify one. The numbers of primary school children receiving Welsh education in the North East Powys area is also increasing.</p> <p>I am not happy at the thought of sending my children to Llanfair Caereinion high school if they will not even be getting the full benefit of a full Welsh medium secondary education. Llanfair Caereinion is not very local to Newtown. We know no one in the area and I am not comfortable driving the road to Llanfair from Newtown. Therefore I would have no one to collect my children if they needed to finish school early, e.g. due to illness, and they would be unable to attend any afterschool clubs.</p> <p>I therefore object to the plans to create an all age, dual stream school in Llanfair Caereinion if this means that there are no funds available for a full Welsh medium secondary school to be provided for the growing number of children being educated in North East Powys in Welsh.</p>	<p>Secondary Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils who live in Newtown and the surrounding area at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Llanidloes High School, both of which are dual stream schools offering Welsh-medium provision to pupils in the Welsh-medium stream. The proposal for Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a dual stream all-age school in the town, which would provide continued access to Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils accessing Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd via a dual stream model.</p> <p>The Council notes the comments regarding the lack of access to designated Welsh-medium secondary education in Powys, and fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that Powys pupils have the opportunity to attend provision of this type.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating the need to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county,</p>
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		<p>with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible,</p>
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		the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.
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Objection 28 - Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg

Issue	Points raised	Council response
28.1	<p>I write on behalf of Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg in order to object to the plans to establish an all-through school in Llanfair Caereinion.</p> <p>The following comments complement our response to the original consultation.</p> <p>The proposals regarding Welsh-medium secondary education to pupils in Powys have been piecemeal and unstable for a number of years.</p>	<p>In April 2020, following engagement with a number of key stakeholders, the Council agreed a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which aims to provide a clear strategy for developing education within the County, ending the perceived ‘piecemeal’ approach of the past. Since the new Strategy was agreed, the Council has been developing a number of proposals to take forward implementation of the Strategy. The current proposal to establish a new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion is in-line with the objectives of the Strategy.</p>
28.2	<p>RhAG have supported a number of parents over the years, who have had to fight for a clearer and more consistent provision for their children, and a number have decided to seek Welsh education in other counties, and even more, have had to accept inconsistent and inadequate provision. Promises have been made for improvements to the provision across the county, but without anything being realised with the expectations of parents and pupils being left disappointed time after time.</p>	<p>The Council fully recognises the need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision in Powys – ‘to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages’ is one of the Strategic Objectives listed in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.</p>

28.3	<p>It was therefore no surprise that Estyn in its latest report in the Summer of 2019, made a recommendation that Welsh language education needed to be improved in the County.</p> <p>Powys County Council acknowledge that there has been insufficient progress over the past years and therefore the expectation was that there would be a concerted attempt to address the current deficiencies with clear Welsh provision to the area’s pupils, from the early years to further education.</p>	<p>In response to Estyn’s findings, the Council has launched a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which clearly identifies the need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, and includes a strategic aim to ‘improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.’ The strategy identifies within this section that ‘learners in Powys do not have access to a Welsh-medium secondary school.’</p> <p>Since the new Strategy was agreed by the Council’s Cabinet in April 2020, the Council has been developing a number of proposals across Powys to take forward implementation of the Strategy. Many of these relate to improving access to Welsh-medium provision, and the Council is working on developments which, if implemented, would result in three designated Welsh-medium providers in Powys.</p>
28.4	<p>However, what is proposed does not offer anything new in terms of the linguistic nature of the provision to pupils in the Llanfair Caereinion area. It does not strengthen the linguistic provision and neither does it abolish the risk of inconsistent and inferior educational provision. It fails to do justice to that which Powys Council pupils deserve and are entitled to.</p>	<p>The current proposal in respect of establishing a dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion would maintain access to Welsh-medium provision via a Welsh-medium stream, offering opportunities to improve and enhance the Welsh-medium provision offered.</p> <p>The Council has clearly stated as part of the proposal relating to establishing an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion that it’s aspiration to further develop Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion. When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council’s Cabinet also</p>

		<p>agreed ‘to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.’</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school’s language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
28.5	<p>We note that it will be necessary for there to be a further consultation in order to change the language category of the school. No commitment or timetable in relation to this has been given.</p>	<p>As indicated above, initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language</p>

	<p>This delay is totally contrary to the Local Authority's aspiration to "improve access to Welsh-medium education across all key stages."</p> <p>We are worried that without a clear proposal as to the structure of a designated Welsh secondary school, for pupils in this area, the provision will be as unstable as ever.</p>	<p>continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p>
28.6	<p>Estyn's recommendation specifically notes: "Ensuring that the organisation of the provision for non-maintained education, post 16 education, Welsh-medium education and secondary education satisfy the needs of children and young people in Powys."</p> <p>The word "medium" is key here. This proposal is nowhere close to providing what the area's parents have been requesting for years.</p>	<p>The current proposal in respect of the schools in Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a new dual stream all-age school in the town. There is no proposal to change the language medium from that currently operating in the town.</p> <p>Whilst the Council notes the comment that the current proposal in respect of establishing an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion would not result in the establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision at this stage, the Council is taking forward a number of proposals as part of the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys which was developed in response to Estyn's findings. These include some proposals which would lead to significant changes in the Welsh-medium secondary provision available in Powys. The Council is working on developments which, if implemented, would result in three designated Welsh-medium providers in Powys.</p>
28.7	<p>The recent judgment of Mr Justice Fraser in <i>Driver v Rhondda Cynon Taf</i> needs to be considered carefully. When planning secondary education provision, there is a need to consider this proposal on the language continuum of the education, from primary to secondary within the</p>	<p>The Consultation Document includes an assessment of the impact of the proposal on many factors, as required by the School Organisation Code. As well as the draft Welsh language impact assessment and the draft integrated impact assessment consider the potential impact of the</p>

<p>County generally, and specifically in the case of this consultation for the pupils of Llanfair Caereinion and North East Powys.</p> <p>www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2020/2071.html</p> <p>The conclusion of the Welsh language impact assessment at 5.4, states “Although the proposal would not change the current language category of the two schools, it is anticipated that merging the two schools would lead to more opportunities to use and promote the Welsh language within the new school.” No further information is provided in the document and it is therefore fair to question what exactly these opportunities would be?</p>	<p>proposal on the Welsh language. As outlined on page 10 of the draft impact assessment document published as part of the consultation documentation:</p> <p><u><i>‘Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language</i></u></p> <p><i>The proposal is to amalgamate two dual stream schools in order to establish a new dual stream all-age school.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst the proposal would not change the current language category of the two schools, it is anticipated that amalgamating the two schools would lead to enhanced opportunities to use the Welsh language throughout the school, for example by providing opportunities for older pupils to act as Welsh advocates within the school, increased opportunities for participation in Welsh language extra-curricular opportunities and involvement in the Urdd.</i></p> <p><i>Implementation of the proposal would also result in the establishment of a new governing body and staffing structure, who would be responsible for embedding a vision for the Welsh language across the whole school, and for ensuring consistency across both phases of education.</i></p> <p><i>It is not anticipated that the proposal would lead to the Welsh language being treated less favourably than the English language.</i></p> <p><u><i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i></u></p>
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28.8	<p>Whilst merging both schools would create an all-through school, this would not strengthen the language provision in this area. Indeed, it will further delay the process. Over the years, it is RhAG’s experience that when educational</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments, and fully agrees that Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium provision, particularly for pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken. This was outlined in the</p>

<p>language provision is consistent, clear and provides a clear path from pre-school to further education, then this persuades parents to choose that provision. It also attracts new parents to consider Welsh education.</p> <p>We refer once again to our comments to the consultation, by imploring Powys County Council to establish a Welsh secondary school in a central and accessible location so that there is a language continuum for Welsh language pupils attending the Welsh language primary schools in the north east part of the County. There should be investment in a provision which expands on the current designated primary school provision, as soon as possible and in a cumulatively, year by year, in order to ensure the financial sustainability and careful curriculum planning, by expanding the Welsh language workforce in the County, gradually and firmly. There are numerous examples of Welsh-medium secondary schools having been established on a year by year basis, the most recent being Ysgol Caer Elen in Pembrokeshire. Powys could also lead on an innovative development which would be a new model for the development of Welsh Education in Wales.</p> <p>The dual-stream system has been proven to be a failure over the decades, there is no doubt that the main growth in Welsh language pupils has been seen in the designated primary schools.</p> <p>Bearing that in mind, it is shocking that this is not a driver as far as making decisions to ensure worthy language continuum to those pupils concerned, by establishing a designated secondary Welsh school.</p>	<p>Council’s ‘Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys’ which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020.</p> <p>The Council also notes the developments which have taken place in other local authorities, including the establishment of Ysgol Caer Elen in Pembrokeshire.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to providing access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council’s Cabinet also agreed ‘to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.’</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve</p>
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		<p>the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
28.9	<p>a) A failure to present a range of balanced options as part of the original consultation, which would have included a proposal to establish a designated Welsh-medium school. It has been suggested that it is the vision of officers and Cabinet members that creating an all-through school in Llanfair Caereinion is the first step towards establishing designated Welsh-medium provision, in time, and there was an allegation that there was “overwhelming” support for this. However, in reality, this was not the proposal which was consulted upon, but rather a proposal to establish a dual-stream all through school. The question of establishing a designated Welsh-medium secondary school was not asked, and</p>	<p>In the section ‘Options Considered’ on page 16 of the Consultation Document published in respect of this proposal, the Council clearly states that the focus of the proposal for schools in Llanfair Caereinion is to move towards ‘an all-age delivery model in Llanfair Caereinion’, which aligns with the Strategic Objective to ‘Develop a network of all-age schools based around the 13 current secondary school locations’.</p> <p>The document goes on to consider options which have been identified as possible ways to achieve an ‘all-age delivery model’ in Llanfair Caereinion.</p>

	<p>therefore there was no opportunity to offer an opinion on this. We also note that only 111 responses were received with only 52% in favour of establishing an all-through school. 40% were of the view that other options should be considered. We feel that it is misleading to say the least, as was stated in the report to Cabinet, that there was “overwhelming” support to implement the proposal.</p>	<p>The document goes on to state that ‘The current process is focussed on creating an all-age governance structure in Llanfair Caereinion, and does not propose any change to the current language categories of Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School.’</p> <p>It is noted that a number of those that responded to the consultation exercise were of the view that other options should be considered – all alternative options suggested during the consultation exercise were listed in the consultation report, along with the Council’s response to each option.</p>
28.10	<p>b) A failure to fully consult with all relevant stakeholders and as a result, the consultation was not complete. Llanfair Caereinion Secondary School serves a wide catchment area, beyond Caereinion itself, including designated Welsh-medium schools in catchment areas serving two other secondary schools in east Montgomeryshire. Neither was there a formal consultation with those parents. Ignoring these schools was unacceptable.</p>	<p>The Council did not ignore any schools as part of the consultation exercise – information about the consultation was sent to Caereinion High School and all of its feeder schools, in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018).</p> <p>During the consultation, consultation meetings were held with staff and governors at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School as they are the two schools that would be directly affected by the proposal to merge the two schools. This is in line with the Council’s usual practice for consultation exercises such as this, e.g. when establishing an all-age school at Llanfyllin.</p>
28.11	<p>c) A failure to fully consider the scrutiny process. Following “call in”, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, discussed the proposal on 1 February. It was decided that the proposal should be referred back to Cabinet by presenting a report</p>	<p>The document</p> <p>‘Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: Call-In of Cabinet Decision – Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School’</p>

	<p>specifying 5 specific points which were matters of concern. RhAG believe, as do many others, that the Cabinet's response to this report was totally inadequate. There was a superficial discussion in relation to three of the points raised by the Scrutiny Committee, but other comments made by the Scrutiny Committee were ignored. This raises serious question as to the scrutiny process and its contribution to the procedures for formulating sound policy proposals.</p>	<p>was included as Appendix E to the paper on establishing an all-age school at Llanfair Caereinion which was considered by Cabinet on the 16th February 2021, therefore Cabinet had the opportunity to consider all points made by the Scrutiny Committee before deciding to proceed with publication of the Statutory Notice. In addition, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee spoke at the meeting to outline the Committee's comments.</p>
28.12	<p>d) A failure to discuss the proposal on the basis of correct information and statistics. The information and arguments put forward by Cabinet members as part of the discussions before making a decision on 16 February raise alarm bells. It is a matter of concern that Cabinet approved the decision on the basis of incorrect information and a failure to provide sufficient reasons for the decision.</p>	<p>It is not true that 'Cabinet approved the decision on the basis of incorrect information and a failure to provide sufficient reasons for the decision.'</p> <p>The Cabinet decision on the 16th February was based on the Cabinet paper and attachments, which included the Consultation Document published in respect of this proposal. The information included in this document was correct. The consultation document also clearly stated the reasons for the proposal.</p>
28.13	<p>e) A failure to realise the targets specified in Powys Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-20 (extended until 2021), which includes a commitment to consider establishing a designated Welsh secondary school in the Severn Valley. It is a matter of concern to us that the Plan that has been agreed by Powys County Council on a statutory basis, has been approved by Powys County Council and Welsh Government, with the aim of contributing towards a national policy in relation to an increase</p>	<p>The Council's WESP for 2017-20 has not been 'thrown aside without any satisfactory justification.'</p> <p>Objective 2.1 of the Council's WESP for 2017-20 states the Council will 'Continue with the work to establish one or more category 2A schools in north Powys.' The Council continues to work to achieve this Objective. The Council is currently carrying out the statutory process to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth. Should the process be implemented, this would eventually</p>

	<p>in the numbers of Welsh speakers, has been thrown aside without any satisfactory justification.</p>	<p>meet the objective of ‘establishing one or more category 2A schools in north Powys.’</p> <p>The Council has also made clear throughout the process to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion that, should the Council proceed with the establishment of the new school, the intention would be to develop the Welsh-medium provision at the new school.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council’s Cabinet also agreed ‘to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.’</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school’s language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p>
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28.14	<p>The failure of the proposal to generally address the current challenges facing north eastern Powys in the educational, language and financial context. The proposal does not inspire any confidence that it will lead to an improved situation, stronger linguistic provision and equal choice and opportunities to pupils in north eastern Powys.</p>	<p>As outlined in the consultation document published in respect of this proposal, the reasons for the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'To improve educational outcomes - To improve educational provision - To improve leadership and management - To improve efficiency in the delivery of education - To provide more seamless transition between key stages' <p>The consultation document made clear that the current process does not propose any change to the current language categories of Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School. The document also made clear the Council's intention to work with stakeholders in the area to develop Welsh-medium provision. This aspiration was reflected in the recommendations agreed by Cabinet on the 16th February</p> <p>The Council is fully committed to improving access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. Should it become apparent following the dialogue which is ongoing with Caereinion High School and</p>

		its feeder schools that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.
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Objection 29 – Governing Body of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd

Issue	Points raised	Council response
29.1	We oppose the plans to create an all-through dual-stream school in Llanfair Caereinion, until the Council has consulted and confirmed how it intends to provide a fair and equal opportunity to access full Welsh-medium education to all the pupils of North East Montgomeryshire.	Comment noted.
29.2	Following the Cabinet’s original decision in November 2011, Welsh education supporters succeeded in getting Powys County Council’s Scrutiny Committee to call in the decision. The Scrutiny Committee agreed that there were reasons for doing so, and their reasons are clear in their report.	The proposal was called in by the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee because there was an agreement in place that the committee would receive all consultation reports prior to Cabinet.
29.3	1) In 2020, Powys County Council decided to support all of its 13 secondary schools – 5 in east Montgomeryshire. The Council’s Scrutiny Committee were not included as part of the process.	Engagement with Scrutiny and other County Councillors took place as part of the development of the new Strategy. A seminar with all County Councillors was held on the 20 th December 2019, which all County Councillors would have been invited to attend, including Scrutiny Members. The Chair of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee also

		<p>attend the second schools conference held as part of the development of the new Strategy.</p> <p>Officers attended a meeting of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd January 2020, when the Committee considered papers relating to the Strategic Review of Schools. The minutes of this meeting state that ‘a further session would be arranged for scrutiny to consider the proposals before the Cabinet meeting in April’ – i.e. before the final Strategy was considered by Cabinet.</p> <p>In the event, the final Strategy was not considered by Cabinet – it was approved by the Leader via a Delegated Decision as the Cabinet were not meeting at this time due to the Covid pandemic. During this time, the Council was focussing on business critical activity, and no committee meetings were taking place, therefore there was no opportunity for the Strategy to be considered by the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee. It is therefore acknowledged that there was no discussion with the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee as part of the process of approving the Strategy.</p> <p>Whilst the new Strategy was not discussed with the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee prior to approval of the Strategy, the Transforming Education Programme has been discussed with them subsequently – on the 22nd June 2020, the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee received a briefing on the Transforming Education Programme, which outlined the new governance arrangements for the programme.</p>
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29.4	2) It is the Welsh Government's view that pupils are more likely to be fully bilingual by attending Welsh-medium schools, particularly if they come from non-Welsh speaking homes. They also acknowledge that designated Welsh-medium schools is the favoured model for providing Welsh-medium education. Powys County Council have stated publicly that they support this view.	As indicated above, the Council fully agrees that Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium provision, particularly for pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken. This was outlined in the Council's 'Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys' which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020.
29.5	3) Over 95% of Severn Valley's pupils come from non-Welsh speaking homes.	Comment noted.
29.6	4) Powys County Council have also officially acknowledged that there is a need to fundamentally change the method of providing Welsh-medium education in Powys, in order to ensure that every pupil has access to sound provision which is of high quality from the early years onwards.	It is true that the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that designated Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model of delivery for Welsh-medium education.
29.7	5) The decision to establish a new all-through dual-stream school is totally contrary to the above. The concern is that merging both schools includes investment in buildings and facilities, and this will confirm the concept of dual-stream provision.	<p>The current proposal is to establish a new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School. There is no significant investment in buildings and/or facilities planned as part of the current proposal.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the new school would be funded as an all-age dual stream school in accordance with the Council's funding formula for schools, and as indicated in the consultation document published in respect of this proposal, it is anticipated that this would lead to a</p>

		<p>small revenue saving to the Council compared with the total funding currently provided to the two schools.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caerinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caerinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>This dialogue has commenced, and is expected to reach a conclusion by the end of the summer term.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent following this dialogue that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caerinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
29.8	6) There has been a significant growth in the number of primary pupils who are receiving Welsh education in North East Powys. Today, there are sufficient pupil numbers to justify a designated Welsh secondary school in the Severn Valley.	<p>The Council is pleased to note that there has been growth in the number of primary pupils receiving Welsh-medium education in North East Powys, and fully recognises the need to provide access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils in the Severn Valley and across Powys.</p> <p>As indicated above, when considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age</p>

		<p>school in Llanfair Caerinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caerinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caerinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caerinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caerinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
29.9	7) The secondary sector in Powys currently has 26% of surplus places.	Comment noted, however the current proposal relates to establishing a new dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caerinion, in the buildings currently occupied by Llanfair

		<p>Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School, and would not impact on surplus places.</p> <p>The Council is fully aware of the level of surplus places in its schools – ‘High number of surplus places’ is one of the reasons listed in the ‘Education in Powys – why change is needed’ section of the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. This is one of the reasons why the Council’s current intention is to develop designated Welsh-medium provision within its current infrastructure, in order to ensure that there is no increase in surplus places.</p>
29.10	8) Powys has continued with the policy of dual-stream secondary schools to provide Welsh-medium education since 1989. This policy has failed, with no growth in the numbers of post 11 Welsh-medium pupils.	<p>As indicated above, the Council fully agrees that Welsh-medium schools are the preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium provision, particularly for pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken. This was outlined in the Council’s ‘Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys’ which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2020.</p> <p>Since the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys was approved in April 2020, the Council has been developing a number of proposals in order to take forward implementation of the strategy. Three of the proposals which are being developed would ultimately lead to the establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision in different parts of Powys.</p>
29.11	9) The number of Welsh-medium secondary subjects offered in Llanfair and Llanfyllin have shrunk over the last 6 years.	<p>The Council notes this statement and fully recognises the need to improve the Welsh-medium provision available in Powys, in particular in the secondary sector. As stated in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-30:</p>

		<p><i>‘The size and proportion of the secondary streams varies considerably across the county, and the range of subjects available through the medium of Welsh also varies significantly. The curriculum offer is increasingly limited for Welsh-medium learners, and there is significant concern amongst the profession regarding the commitment of the authority to learners who study in Welsh.’</i></p> <p>The Strategy includes an objective to ‘improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages’, and the Council is developing a number of proposals which would eventually lead to a significant improvement in the Welsh-medium provision available in the Council committed to improving access to However, the Consultation Document clearly states the Council’s intention to continue dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion. If the outcome of this is the need to change the school’s language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p>
29.12	10) The secondary schools and the authority have been guilty over the years of misleading parents regarding the Welsh-medium provision.	The Council does not agree that it has misled parents regarding the Welsh-medium provision available over the years. Any information shared by the Council was provided by the schools.
29.13	11) As a result, the pupils of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd have been divided as there is no clear linguistic path for them to follow. A significant number now choose the Welsh stream at Llanidloes.	Secondary Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils who live in Newtown and the surrounding area at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Llanidloes High School, both of which are dual stream schools offering Welsh-medium provision to pupils in the Welsh-medium stream.

		<p>The proposal for Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a dual stream all-age school in the town, which would provide continued access to Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils accessing Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd via a dual stream model.</p> <p>The Council note the comments that the pupils of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd have been divided, however whilst the Council would hope that pupils would continue with their education through the medium of Welsh throughout the primary phase and onwards into secondary, so that they would continue to develop their Welsh language skills throughout their time in school ensuring that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave, ultimately this is a choice for pupils and their parents.</p>
29.14	<p>Comments arising from the Scrutiny Committee's report, and general historical points:</p> <p>1) The Scrutiny Committee's main recommendation was that consulting with Caereinion primary and high school was flawed and incomplete, because the secondary school is not only relevant to the primary schools of the catchment but also the designated Welsh-medium schools of two other secondary catchment areas in East Montgomeryshire. It was not acceptable to ignore these.</p>	<p>The comments made by Scrutiny on the proposal to establish an all-age dual stream school were addressed in the Cabinet meeting held on the 16th February 2021.</p> <p>The Council did not ignore any schools as part of the consultation exercise – information about the consultation was sent to Caereinion High School and all of its feeder schools. During the consultation, consultation meetings were held with staff and governors at Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School as they are the two schools that would be directly affected by the proposal to merge the two schools. This is in line with the Council's usual practice for consultation exercises such as this, e.g. when establishing an all-age school at Llanfyllin.</p>

29.15	<p>2) The 2017-20 WESP is still current. It states that there will be discussions to consider the establishing of a designated Welsh-medium secondary school in the Severn Valley during its existence. The Scrutiny Committee, perfectly reasonably, asked the Cabinet to consider this when considering their request. The authority's officers refused because the next WESP was not ready to be considered before May 2021. The Scrutiny Committee was not asking for a copy of the new WESP for future purposes, but rather requesting that current documentation and the current situation were considered.</p>	<p>Objective 2.1 of the Council's WESP for 2017-20 states the Council will 'Continue with the work to establish one or more category 2A schools in north Powys.' The Council continues to work to achieve this Objective. The Council is currently carrying out the statutory process to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth. Should the process be implemented, this would eventually meet the objective of 'establishing one or more category 2A schools in north Powys.'</p> <p>The Council has also made clear throughout the process to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion that, should the Council proceed with the establishment of the new school, the intention would be to develop the Welsh-medium provision at the new school.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder</p>
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		<p>schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school's language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
29.16	<p>3) The Scrutiny Committee's report raised issues regarding the financial aspect of the proposal. It is reasonable to expect an explanation by officers as to how the proposal is to be funded and whether or not it will lead to further cutbacks to the education of the children.</p>	<p>It is true that the Scrutiny comments attached as Appendix E to the paper considered by Cabinet on the 16th February 2021 include the following paragraph:</p> <p>'That the current overspend by the high school (£47k) which would be written off by the Council if the proposal proceeded would in effect take 4 years to be paid based on the proposed saving of £12k per year by the amalgamation of the two schools a timescale in which further changes are likely.'</p> <p>Whilst the Consultation Document issued in respect of the proposal to merge Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School stated the current budget position at the two schools, the budget position of schools changes regularly. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, the Council's finance team would continue to work with the two</p>

		schools to minimise any overspend which may exist at the time when the proposal is implemented.
29.17	4) The vision of officers and Cabinet members was that the proposal to merge Llanfair schools was a step in the direction to establish designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair. However, this was not part of the proposal. The question in relation to establishing an all-through designated Welsh-medium school was not asked, and therefore nobody had the chance to present an opinion nor to respond to the authority's true intention.	<p>The current consultation is on a proposal to establish a dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, which would not lead to any significant change compared with the current position.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, any change to the school's language category in the future would be subject to a separate consultation exercise, which would provide an opportunity for stakeholders to let the Council know their views on any proposals relating to the school's language category.</p> <p>Whilst the current proposal does not propose any change to the current language category of the provision in Llanfair Caereinion, many of those that responded to the consultation exercise provide views on Welsh-medium provision in the area. All views expressed were outlined in the consultation report, which was considered by Cabinet on the 12th January 2021 and the 16th February 2021.</p>
29.18	5) In a questionnaire distributed by some schools in January 2021, some parents of primary Welsh-medium pupils in east Montgomeryshire had the opportunity of responding to the question "do you agree (or not) that the authority should prioritise establishing a designated Welsh-medium secondary school within a reasonable distance to the pupils of north east Powys?" 257 families responded with	The proposal in respect of the schools in Llanfair Caereinion is to merge Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School to establish a dual stream all-age school in the buildings currently occupied by the two schools. The Council wasn't consulting on the language category of the provision in Llanfair Caereinion, nor on the establishment of a designated Welsh-medium secondary school in the area.

	<p>218 (85%) in favour of establishing a designated secondary school rather than the authority's proposal to establish a dual-stream all-through school in Llanfair. Considering that the authority's own consultation had only received 111 responses with only 52% in favour of the proposal to merge the schools, it is perfectly obvious that there is no substance to the opinion voiced by a Cabinet member that there was "overwhelming support of people in the area" to its proposal.</p>	
29.19	<p>6) The plan to establish a designated Welsh secondary school in Llanfair in 1989, 2011 and 2015 was refused when the question was honestly asked. A number of people in the community opposed at that time, and there is no reason to believe that there has been any change of mind.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
29.20	<p>7) It is obvious that the Cabinet's intention is to protect the Caereinion site as a dual-stream school by continuing to deny the best educational opportunities to Welsh and English-medium pupils there, and to the Welsh-medium pupils of the whole of east Montgomeryshire.</p>	<p>This is not the case. Alongside approving the publication of a Statutory Notice proposing to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, the Council's Cabinet approved the following:</p> <p>'To accelerate dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.'</p> <p>This dialogue has commenced, and is expected to reach a conclusion by the end of the summer term.</p>

		<p>If it becomes apparent following this dialogue that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
29.21	<p>To summarise, the Scrutiny Committee asked the Cabinet to specifically consider 5 points on 16.02.21. In our opinion, the Cabinet’s response to the Scrutiny Committee’s report was unacceptable. It cannot be pretended that the first step to merge Caereinion schools was sufficient because it is quite obvious, and this has been acknowledged by Cabinet and officers, that it is insufficient until the next steps are realised. There will be further years where Welsh and English medium students will be denied their educational rights and it is better to make difficult decisions earlier rather than later.</p> <p>The Cabinet’s response to the Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations refer to 3 points only, with all 3 points failing to provide any explanation of any significance for the request for clear answers. The other comments of the Scrutiny Committee were ignored.</p>	<p>The document</p> <p>‘Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: Call-In of Cabinet Decision – Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School’</p> <p>was included as Appendix E to the paper on establishing an all-age school at Llanfair Caereinion which was considered by Cabinet on the 16th February 2021, therefore Cabinet had the opportunity to consider all points made by the Scrutiny Committee before deciding to proceed with publication of the Statutory Notice. In addition, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee spoke at the meeting to outline the Committee’s comments.</p>
29.22	<p>This is our main objection to this proposal to establish an all-through school in Caereinion. The proposal is not established on the basis of the educational needs and securing the best opportunities for all pupils in the area. Should not any proposal to transform education not be founded on the priority and intention to provide the best</p>	<p>It is untrue that the proposal ‘is not established on the basis of the educational needs and securing the best opportunities for all pupils in the area.’</p>

	<p>possible education to pupils across the County, rather than being parochial?</p>	<p>As stated on page 24 of the Consultation Document issued in respect of this proposal, the reasons for the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'To improve educational outcomes - To improve educational provision - To improve leadership and management - To improve efficiency in the delivery of education - To provide more seamless transition between key stages' <p>Providing the best possible education to pupils across the County is the aim of the proposal.</p>
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Objection 30

Issue	Points raised	Council response
30	<p>I am writing to you as a parent of a child that attends Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in Newtown.</p> <p>I was fortunate enough to have Welsh-medium education, and therefore when it was time for me as a parent to decide which school my child should attend, the choice was an easy one.</p> <p>Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd was our first choice, the quality of education and facilities there are excellent. It is very important to me that my children have the opportunity of having their education through the medium of Welsh. Unfortunately, if the current situation prevails, my children</p>	<p>The Council is pleased to note these comments regarding the provision at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd.</p> <p>Secondary Welsh-medium provision is currently available for pupils who live in Newtown and the surrounding area at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Llanidloes High School, both of which are dual stream schools offering Welsh-medium provision to pupils in the Welsh-medium stream. The proposal for Llanfair Caereinion is to establish a dual stream all-age school in the town, which would provide continued access to Welsh-medium secondary provision to pupils accessing Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd via a dual stream model.</p>

	<p>will have to travel to Llanidloes or Llanfair Caereinion for their secondary education.</p> <p>Powys County Council have acknowledged that there needs to be a fundamental change to the way Welsh-medium education is provided in the County, but despite this they have agreed to invest in an all-through dual-stream school in Llanfair Caereinion, without considering the gap in the present provision of Welsh secondary education for children who live in the Newtown area.</p> <p>As a result of this, I object to the plan to create an all-through dual-stream school in Llanfair Caereinion, until the Council has confirmed how they will be providing Welsh-medium secondary education to my children and other children at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd.</p>	
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Objection 31

Issue	Points raised	Council response
31	<p>I am writing as a parent to oppose the decision to establish an all-through school for children aged 4-18 in Llanfair Caereinion.</p> <p>As a family, we have decided to send our children to Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Newtown, so that they then have complete Welsh language education; hear, speak and breathe the Welsh throughout the day, every day in the school, and we are proud of the standards they have achieved, the standards the school has achieved and the never ending</p>	<p>The Council is pleased to note these comments regarding the positive impact attendance at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd has had on pupils' Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The Council notes the comments regarding the need for a designated Welsh secondary school, and in particular the need for such a school in Newtown.</p> <p>The Council fully agrees that there is a need to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium</p>

<p>opportunities that are available through the Welsh language.</p> <p>We know that the number of pupils that choose complete Welsh education in Newtown and attend Cylch Meithrin Y Drenewydd increases every year and therefore we feel strongly that the pupils of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd should have the choice to continue their education at a Welsh secondary school and beyond. We feel strongly that the children of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd should have the opportunity to attend a Designated Welsh Secondary School in Newtown.</p> <p>I would be very grateful if Powys County Council would reconsider the decision to establish a new school in Llanfair Caereinion, until the Council have outlined their plans in respect of providing complete and fair Welsh education to the children of Newtown and North-East Powys.</p>	<p>secondary school, something which is not currently available to Powys pupils.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, includes a Strategic Aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and the Council fully agrees that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across Powys, in the secondary phase in particular. The Council also notes the comments relating the need to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in Newtown.</p> <p>As well as a commitment to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed after extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders, includes a commitment to reconfigure provision across the county, with an aspiration to develop an infrastructure of all-age schools within the 13 secondary school localities. The Council remains committed to improving access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, and the intention is that this is taken forward within the current infrastructure of 13 secondary school localities.</p> <p>When considering the consultation report in respect of the proposal to establish an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion and approving continuing with the statutory process through the publication of a statutory notice, the Council's Cabinet also agreed 'to accelerate the dialogue with representatives of the two schools and the community to explore ways to develop and enhance the Welsh-medium</p>
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		<p>provision in Llanfair Caereinion, and to include all feeder schools in this dialogue.’</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place with Caereinion High School and its feeder schools. Should the Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, this dialogue will continue with the temporary governing body and leadership of the new school, in order to move the school along the language continuum. Feeder schools and other partners will be essential to help develop this vision.</p> <p>If the outcome of this is the need to change the school’s language category, a further statutory process would be required to implement this.</p> <p>If it becomes apparent that developing designated Welsh-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion will not be possible, the Council will reconsider its previous plans to develop Welsh-medium provision within the Severn Valley, to ensure that designated Welsh-medium provision can be offered to pupils in the area.</p>
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