



Changing the language category of Ysgol  
Bro Hyddgen  
Consultation Report



# Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth

## Contents

<b>1. OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
i) Consultation methods .....	3
ii) Responses received .....	3
iii) Summary of issues raised .....	4
<b>2. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS .....</b>	<b>9</b>
i) A virtual meeting with the School Council of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – Primary Phase.....	9
ii) A virtual meeting with the School Council of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – Secondary Phase.....	10
iii) Summary of other comments made by pupils.....	13
<b>4. CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH STAFF AND GOVERNORS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
i) Consultation meeting with Staff of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 .	16
ii) Consultation meeting with Governors of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 .....	17
<b>5. ESTYN.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6. ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD.....</b>	<b>25</b>

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# Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

## 1. OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION

Powys County Council consulted on a proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The proposal was as follows:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022

The consultation took place from the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### i) Consultation methods

The consultation documentation was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period, and was distributed to stakeholders, as required by the School Organisation Code (2018). A separate version for pupils was also available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period.

Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by either completing an online consultation form, filling in a paper copy of the form and returning it to the Transforming Education Team at County Hall, or by e-mailing / writing to the Transforming Education Team.

Meetings were held virtually with the following:

- Ysgol Bro Hyddgen School Council – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Staff of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Governors of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### ii) Responses received

A total of 440 respondents completed the consultation response form which was included in the consultation document. This included paper copies as well as responses submitted using the online response form.

In addition, 25 written responses by e-mail or post were received from respondents, including Estyn. The response received from Estyn is provided on page 18, in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

As well as responses from parents, governors, members of staff and members of the community, responses were received from the following organisations:

Cyngor Cymuned Corris  
Cyngor Cymuned Mawddwy  
Cyngor Cymuned Cadfarch  
Cyngor Cymuned Pennal  
Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg – RHAG  
Mudiad Meithrin  
Machynlleth Community Children’s Project

### **iii) Summary of issues raised**

The issues raised in the consultation responses are listed in detail in section 6 on page 23. This includes the Council’s response to each issue. The following is a summary of the issues raised:

1. General support for the proposal
2. General disagreement with the proposal
3. Impact on pupils
4. Reference to the English language provision/skills
5. Reference to Post-16/Further/Higher Education
6. There is a need for choice
7. Concern about impact on pupil numbers at Bro Hyddgen
8. Additional support that would be needed to support the change of language category
9. Reference to transport arrangements
10. Comments about the current provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
11. Financial impact
12. Impact on staff
13. Impact on the community
14. Impact on the Welsh language
15. Reference to Welsh-medium education delivery models
16. Reference to discrimination/inequality
17. Impact on protected characteristics groups
18. Comments about the consultation documents
19. Comments about the consultation process
20. Reference to the Council’s Transforming Education Strategy
21. Criticism of the Council
22. Reference to alternative options

## 2. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

184 respondents completed the English language consultation response form which was available online, and 178 respondents completed the Welsh language consultation response form which was available online.

In addition, 78 paper copies of the response forms were received by email or post, and 25 responses were received by email.

The quantitative findings of the questionnaire are summarised below.

Written comments were also provided in the consultation response forms. The issues raised in these comments are included in Section 6 of this report.

### Part 1 – About you

1. Please indicate how you are associated with the schools affected by this consultation:

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Parent, carer or guardian	131	29.8%
Prospective parent, carer or guardian	59	13.41%
Governor	9	2.05%
Member of staff	15	3.41%
Member of the community	163	37.01%
Organisation	17	3.86%
No association with either school	16	3.64%
Other	30	6.82%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2. Please specify which school you are associated with:

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	268	60.91%
Glantwymyn, Llanbrynmair, Carno Federation	97	22.05%
Another school	24	5.45%
No association with any school	51	11.59%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

3. Please provide your postcode:

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Machynlleth	313	71.13%
Llanbrynmair	27	6.14%
Tywyn	8	1.82%

Aberystwyth	8	1.82%
Bow Street	8	1.82%
Welshpool	7	1.59%
Bangor	6	1.36%
Caersws	5	1.14%
Caernarfon	3	0.68%
Oswestry	3	0.68%
Ysbyty Ifan	3	0.68%
Bala	2	0.45%
Lampeter	2	0.45%
Newtown	2	0.45%
Llanymynech	2	0.45%
Cardiff	2	0.45%
Llandrindod	2	0.45%
Swansea	2	0.45%
Penrhyndeudraeth	1	0.23%
Llanidloes	1	0.23%
Llandysul	1	0.23%
Wrexham	1	0.23%
Lampeter	1	0.23%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1	0.23%
Swansea	1	0.23%
Dolgellau	1	0.23%
Newtown	1	0.23%
Mold	1	0.23%
Bristol	1	0.23%
Nottingham	1	0.23%
Not answered	23	5.23%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Part 2 – Consultation Response

3. Do you agree with the current proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen?

Response	No.	%
Yes	269	61.14%
No	165	37.5%
Don't know	6	1.36%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

4. Do you think that the Council should be considering any other options for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen instead of the proposal to change the school's language category?

Response	No.	%
Yes	102	23.18%
No	286	65%

Don't know	52	11.82%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Part 3 – About you

12. How old are you?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Under 16	12	2.73%
16-23	24	5.45%
25-34	77	17.5%
35-44	94	21.37%
45-54	81	18.41%
55-64	46	10.45%
65-74	23	5.23%
75-84	6	1.36%
85+	6	1.36%
Prefer not to say	16	3.64%
Not answered	55	12.5%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

13. What is your gender?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	138	31.36%
Female	243	55.23%
Gender Fluid	1	0.23%
Non-Binary	0	0%
Gender neutral	2	0.45%
Prefer not to say	11	2.5%
Not answered	45	10.23%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

14. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	357	81.13%
No	26	5.91%
Prefer not to say	12	2.73%
Not answered	45	10.23%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	10	2.27%
No	282	64.10%

Prefer not to say	39	8.86%
Not answered	109	24.77%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	30	6.82%
No	251	57.05%
Prefer not to say	36	8.18%
Not answered	123	27.95%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

17. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	19	1.8%
No	353	84.7%
Prefer not to say	19	11.7%
Not answered	49	1.8%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

18. What is your ethnic group?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
White	373	84.76%
Asian	0	0.0%
Black, African or Caribbean	0	0.0%
Mixed	1	0.23%
Gypsy/Traveller	1	0.23%
Other	4	0.91%
Prefer not to say	19	4.32%
Not Answered	42	9.55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### 3. CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS

Comments received from pupils are outlined below. This include the notes of meetings held with primary pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and the notes of meetings held with secondary pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as well as a summary of the written responses received from pupils to the consultation exercise.

#### i) **A virtual meeting with the School Council of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – Primary Phase**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Held virtually on Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Huw Foster-Evans, Sarah Astley, Huw Rowlands – Powys County Council  
Dafydd Jones, Haf ap Robert – Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

Officers from Powys County Council met virtually via Microsoft Teams with representatives from the School Council of the Primary Phase of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to discuss the consultation to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen from dual-stream to Welsh-medium.

The session was held with 3 pupils from the school council. The group were all in years 4 – 6.

The officers explained the proposals for changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and that they would like to have the views of the pupils on the proposal. The pupils understood that the change would be phased over time and that the proposal would have no effect on existing pupils.

The pupils were asked several questions and their responses are summarised below:

#### **What would be the advantages of the proposal?**

- Lots of good things but also some bad things. If all pupils were taught in Welsh, children would have more opportunities and jobs in Wales, and they would have a better understanding of Wales and its history
- Enjoy learning through the medium of Welsh
- More people in the Machynlleth area would speak Welsh

#### **What would be the disadvantages of the proposal?**

- It might be hard for the Yr1 – Yr6 English-stream pupils to get used to the change

- The school might lose some pupils as they could move to another school which has an English-stream
- Incomers moving to the area with no knowledge of Welsh might find it difficult to learn a new language

**Other questions asked:**

- What about staff who don't speak Welsh, will they have to learn Welsh before being able to teach at the school if the language was changed to Welsh-medium? – It was explained that the Council would need to help the school to provide opportunities for teachers and other staff to learn Welsh.
- What happens if a non Welsh speaker comes to YBH in a few years' time. How would you help them understand Welsh? – It was explained that there would be immersion opportunities available for pupils, so pupils would have the chance to join an intensive Welsh course when they start at the school. This currently happens all over Wales, and we need to make sure that these opportunities are available for any children who don't speak Welsh that come to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. We need to make sure that these opportunities are available to anyone that doesn't speak Welsh that moves to the primary or secondary phase of the school.

**Other comments:**

- I didn't find it difficult to learn in Welsh, my grandmother speaks Welsh and English and she helped me to speak Welsh. I wasn't worried about learning in Welsh, I was happy to be educated in Welsh even though both my parents spoke English.
- I speak English at home but I started learning Welsh at a young age with others speaking Welsh with me.

The pupils were thanked for their attendance, and were told if they or their friends did think of anything else, they were welcome to let the School Transformation Team know, and how to do this was explained.

**ii) A virtual meeting with the School Council of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – Secondary Phase**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Held virtually on Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Huw Foster-Evans, Sarah Astley, Huw Rowlands – Powys County Council

Dafydd Jones, Anwen Pughe-Jones – Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

Officers from Powys County Council met virtually via Microsoft Teams with representatives from the School Council of the Secondary Phase of Ysgol Bro

Hyddgen to discuss the consultation to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen from dual-stream to Welsh-medium.

The session was held with 12 pupils from the Secondary Phase School Council of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The group comprised of pupils in years 7 – 13.

The officers explained the proposals for changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and that they would like to have the views of the pupils on the proposal. The pupils understood that the change would be phased over time and that the proposal would have no effect on existing pupils.

The pupils were asked several questions and their responses are summarised below:

### **What would be the advantages of the proposal?**

- It would be a good idea, it's so important for children to be bilingual. It would be good for the Welsh language. It's a good idea to have children learning Welsh from an early age.
- I agree with the proposal, it's a fantastic idea. I think it had to happen. It is generally a good thing to make the change gradually over a number of years.
- I think that it's a good idea to have more Welsh in the school
- Having been through a Welsh-medium primary school where everything was in Welsh, I feel that Welsh-medium education from an early age is a really good idea. At that young age you don't realise how important the Welsh language is, and for those with parents that don't speak Welsh, perhaps they don't realise how important it is to learn the Welsh language fluently until they are older. Once they reach secondary school, it is far more difficult for them to learn Welsh fluently. Therefore it is far easier to learn from an early age.
- I think that we should have a Welsh school as Bro Ddyfi is a Welsh area, and people who are bilingual have better thinking skills. For example, they can concentrate better and have improved memory, and they can have better job opportunities in the future.
- I think that it's good that it's starting at a young age, as it's easier to learn languages when young, and it'll be picked up quicker.
- It's beneficial to be bilingual, and it would be good for others to have the same opportunities I had.

### **What would be the disadvantages of the proposal?**

- If people move to the area who do not speak Welsh they will find it very hard. Some people who have joined my year in high school have found it hard. I feel that needs to be something which allows them to have space so they can pick it up.

- I think it's a good idea from a young age, but it's for parents to decide whether or not they want their children to go to English stream or Welsh stream, and if there were students moving from Birmingham or a place in England at a later stage, it would be very hard for them to move to a full Welsh school. Therefore it could make things harder for a lot of students.
- A lot of my friends are worried about the change to a Welsh-medium school.
- Concern that it might be difficult to find Welsh speaking teachers for some niche subjects e.g. business studies, and that this would limit the range of subjects available.

### **Other comments / queries**

- It will take a long time to implement across the whole school, over 10 years. Is there a way to do it quicker? – It was explained that the change had been planned so that it wouldn't affect children attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen at this moment in time – pupils attending the school now won't have to make a change, only those pupils attending the school in the future.
- What about years 10 to 13, which are important years, with exams being sat. Would it be possible to do subjects in Welsh or English? Studying A levels in English would be easier for pupils going to study in English at University, For GCSE and A level, sometimes I find that some subjects are easier in English – This concern was noted, however it was explained that in Welsh-medium schools across Wales, all of the learners studied all subjects through the medium of Welsh up until A levels. Many of these go on to attend university in England.
- Pupils who cannot speak Welsh will need additional support. For example, my Welsh teacher gave me additional support and this helped me a lot – It was agreed that additional support would be needed to support learners alongside any change. There are many examples of good practice across Wales, and the staff at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will already be aware of good practice and will be experienced in supporting pupils.
- Will there be support for non-Welsh speaking families? – It was explained that it's important that support is there for pupils' families as well as the pupils themselves, for example Welsh lessons for parents, and ensuring that homework resources and school information are available in both Welsh and English so that parents do not feel that they don't understand or are losing out.

The pupils were thanked for their attendance and were told that the consultation period ends on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Information regarding the consultation and how to respond is available on the Powys County Council website.

The next steps in the consultation process were also explained, and it was explained that a final decision was expected by the end of the 2021 academic year.

### **iii) Summary of other comments made by pupils**

In addition to the two School Council meetings mentioned above, 12 online responses and 7 written responses were received from pupils. Here is a summary of the issues raised in these responses:

#### **Comments that support of the proposal**

- I attended the English stream and feel that I was disadvantaged by this
- Support the intention to start with primary age and work up through the years
- It's a big advantage for children in Wales to learn through the medium of Welsh, especially for job prospects and keeping our younger generation here in Wales.
- Lots of positive effects especially that will have a good outcome in Powys with more Welsh speaking children.
- We live in Wales, which has its own language. We should be proactively working towards keeping our language by having Welsh medium schools.
- Job opportunities especially when children leave school. The Welsh education is a better system here in Wales, and I am all for that.
- The more bilingual young people Powys has, the more bilingual adults there would be, and there will be more bilingual adults to offer bilingual services to Powys residents in the future.
- Pupils who are fluent in more than one language perform better in their education.
- It will make pupils better aware of the culture of Wales.
- It will provide an opportunity for both languages to be treated equally, which is not currently the case because of the additional attention given to the English language.
- The Welsh stream pupils currently have to undertake all their core subjects through the medium of English (bilingual class) with far more attention being given to the English work.
- It would give pupils equal opportunity and jobs in Wales.
- I would like to go to a school where the Welsh language is treated equal to the English language, because that is not the case in my school.
- Bilingualism has a positive effect as it leads to twice the opportunities and increases equality.
- There is need to ensure that the school nurtures pupils who are totally fluent in both languages. This would help secure the future of the

Welsh language, and would help attain the target of 50,000 Welsh speakers.

### **Comments that do not support the proposal**

- Many pupils struggle with Welsh and are happy in their current English classes, but if the school changes in the future to just Welsh they may have to move to another school
- Some pupils in the Welsh stream might start to struggle and need to move to the English class, but if there are no English classes they would have to move to a different school
- It may be great for more people to speak the Welsh language but it's outweighed by people struggling who can't speak the language and would either have to learn fluent to understand their lessons or move to another school. Many schools in Powys are only Welsh so it would be a struggle for them to find a suitable school.
- Many students/staff members would have no choice but to change schools/jobs if they struggle with the Welsh language.
- Although more people would be speaking the Welsh language which is brilliant, I do feel that more people would struggle with the language. Having the option to have my lessons in English has helped a lot, meaning that if the school did become Welsh medium students that struggle would have no choice but to change schools to one that does teach through the English medium.
- Many pupils have moved to the English stream for their GCSEs as they want to do their best in their exams.
- Classes taught bilingually are beneficial – the English medium pupils get to hear Welsh being used in the classroom everyday and this helps to develop their understanding of the Welsh language and their skills. The Welsh medium pupils also appreciate hearing some phrases and terminology in English as it also further develops their understanding of new vocabulary, especially in subjects such as Science. This bilingual approach works very well at YBH and I was surprised that this approach was criticised in PCC's report.
- The obvious adverse effect would be a decrease in the number of pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. All pupils who are currently studying through the medium of English would be forced to attend another school, most likely in another county. I think PCC underestimates the number of pupils who do actually study through the medium of English.
- Many pupils attended secondary school in either Tywyn or Penglais as they thought Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was “too Welsh”. The proposal would further alienate pupils from non-Welsh speaking homes. The fact that all subjects would only be taught through the medium of Welsh would deter many pupils from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.

- It concerns me that families who move to the area from outside of Wales, especially from Key Stage 3 onwards, will not be able to attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen if it is a Welsh medium school. They will have no choice but to attend school elsewhere.
- Some pupils would choose a different high school to be able to study in English if YBH became a Welsh medium school.
- Since I have started in YBH, many pupils have joined the English stream from different schools and countries. None of these would've been able to attend our school if it was only a Welsh medium school

### **Other comments**

- Have lessons in the core subjects taught through the medium of both Welsh and English, as using the English language has broadened my understanding.

#### **4. CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH STAFF AND GOVERNORS**

Consultation meetings were held with the staff and governors of both schools via Microsoft Teams. The issues raised at these meetings are summarised below:

##### **i) Consultation meeting with Staff of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

- A number of pupils with ALN struggle to learn even through their first language, and I am concerned regarding what support will there be for pupils with emotional, social and behaviour problems, which are already educational barriers, without having to be educated in a language which is not their mother tongue.
- I agree that teaching ALN can work well in Welsh schools all around the country. But it is also true that almost all of those Welsh schools also have English provision nearby where parents can choose to send their children.
- Just to clarify, are you saying that if a child's needs could not be met if educated in the Welsh-medium, they would then be sent out of county or to a school which is quite a distance away? I'm just thinking about the rights of the child to be educated in his or her community.
- If a child needs a speech and language therapist, what happens if no Welsh speaker is available? It's difficult to get Welsh language speech and language therapists to help in Powys.
- A lot of people move into the area from England. What provision will there be for them? Will there be immersion – especially for KS2?
- Does Powys intend to have some form of marketing or promotional campaign in order to sell the benefits of Welsh and ensure that pupils and their parents understand what Welsh-medium education exactly is?
- You need to set this proposal in its national context. You said at the beginning that Powys is far behind as far as Welsh language education is concerned, and therefore when people are rather afraid to embrace change, it is important to emphasise that Powys is lagging behind what is happening successfully in other parts of Wales. Every educational establishment in Powys needs to educate pupils so that they are completely fluent in both languages. However, to ensure this Powys needs to educate parents so that they see the advantages of having their children being bilingual citizens. Parents and teachers need to have the confidence that any current provisions in Powys in respect of needs of every kind and immersion units are improved.
- I welcome the proposal, but emphasise that Powys has a duty to convince everyone of the benefits of Welsh-medium education. It is important that children in Powys have the same opportunities as children in other parts of Wales to be fluent in both Welsh and English.
- It's important to emphasise when promoting the benefits of bilingualism that Welsh-medium education will not have a negative effect on pupils'



standards in the English language. This is an important message that needs to be communicated and promoted.

- A designated Welsh-medium school does open the door for pupils to be able to attend Universities worldwide, whatever the language. Also, across all ability ranges, Welsh--medium education opens doors to pupils, including pupils with ALN, where the skill of being able to speak Welsh is of benefit. Therefore, it is not just the most able pupils who can benefit from Welsh-medium education.
- How secure are the jobs of staff members who cannot speak Welsh, and what arrangements will there be in place to help such staff learn Welsh?
- In the past we have had financial promises from Powys, in relation to changes to be made to the school, and those promises have been broken. What assurances can be made in relation to financial provision to support the school in the future?
- It's good to hear that YBH has a secure future. However, the question I have is in relation to language medium in A level and GCSE. Will all subjects only be available through the medium of Welsh? If you look at Penweddig and Tywyn Secondary schools, some subjects are offered in Welsh or English or taught bilingually. Will every subject be taught in Welsh?

**ii) Consultation meeting with Governors of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

- Who can respond to the consultation? Is it anyone in Powys, or individuals what would be affected by the proposal, such as parents etc? I was asking the question because I know that there are a number of people who are originally from Bro Ddyfi but no longer live here, but would like to respond.
- How will you be able to respond to parents who are concerned about their children who are first language English and have special educational needs?
- How will you explain the difference between dual-stream and bilingualism?
- I understand the complexity and details necessary in the consultation document, but it is also then easy to lose some of the key messages which can then lead to confusion. Perhaps after this stage of the consultation we can have clear messages with real life examples about how it will affect children. The sort of questions you might have from non Welsh-speaking parents is for example, if their children are struggling at school can they take their exams in English?
- I think messages could be put out much more clearly, at this stage of the consultation and at the next stage. We need real life examples as to how it is going to affect children. The sort of questions you will have is will my child struggle as there is no backup after school. We know the support will be there but not every parent will know this.

- As a parent there has been some enthusiasm in relation to Bro Hyddgen from parents outside the County but they would not wish to send their child to an English-medium speaking school nor to a Welsh-medium school. So, I believe we need to get clear messages out to parents.
- Have you worked with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol at all? At open days students are asking us about learning Welsh because maybe they have had some Welsh at school or have had no Welsh but see the potential of better job opportunities, but by the time they arrive in the University it is often too late. Is there anything being done for students wanting to study through the medium of Welsh at higher Education?
- One of the questions asked frequently by parents is regarding science subjects. Will pupils have to study such subjects through the medium of Welsh? It's those subjects which make parents afraid, and for example if they go to Liverpool University will they understand what's being taught? I think in Penweddig there is a choice of languages with some subjects. Is there a percentage of subjects which a bilingual school can offer in the English language? We need to allay the fears and show that there is an option for children. If the school is working to secure that pupils will have access to both languages, then the idea of fear that they perhaps wouldn't be able to have a certain subject in English or Welsh won't be there. If the school is committing to each pupil being confident in both languages, at this moment in time it may not be an issue worth raising but perhaps further down the line.
- What kind of immersion provision will there be so as to ensure that immersion is available to latecomers to the area? There was an immersion project a few years ago. We had two pupils here starting in year 7 with no Welsh whatsoever and they progressed through the school via the Welsh-medium stream, very successfully. We need funds in place in order to ensure that immersion is available. In the past Powys has promised funding but promises have been broken.
- I would ask that you locate any new immersion centre in Machynlleth. That would be a great help and would alleviate the concerns of the local community.
- As far as teaching sciences through the medium of Welsh is concerned, there are specific case studies I have seen of pupils who have had Welsh-medium education but who have then found work, usually in England, and also elsewhere, and perhaps they could be of interest, as far as showing what is possible as this proposal proceeds.
- As part of the marketing process we need to market the fact that we give an additional skill to every pupil, whatever their ability, and it offers them access to jobs that similarly able pupils would not get, because they have this additional skill. It's very important to market the opportunities available in Wales through the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, but pupils are also available to study elsewhere. For example our Head girl last year decided to go to Goldsmiths in London to study and rejected Oxford. Therefore, we

have excellent examples in the school itself, and we don't always need to find examples from elsewhere of successful children.

- It's important that the school and the authority fully support non-Welsh speaking children, those that arrive in the school in Reception class and that we commit fully to teach them through the medium of Welsh not just at the beginning but through their journey through the school.
- If we can show that we can fully support children at Bro Hyddgen, then we are far more likely to see them stay at Bro Hyddgen and not leave for other schools.
- I agree that immersion is essential and I have heard good reports about Llanfyllin. Therefore, if we can learn from that, all the better.

## 5. ESTYN

Estyn's response to the consultation is provided below:

### **Estyn's response to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth.**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

#### **Introduction**

This proposal is submitted by Powys County Council to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, making a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium. This would be introduced on a phased basis, year by year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

#### **Summary/Conclusion**

The proposer has provided useful information that explains the reasoning behind this proposal. It responds to a new strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which identifies a number of aims and objectives to transform education in Powys over the coming years, in order to provide the best opportunities possible for learners in Powys now and in the future. One of the strategy's objectives is the aim to 'improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', in addition to the aim to 'move schools along the language continuum'.

Estyn believes that the proposal is likely to maintain, or improve, the existing standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management.

## Description and benefits

The rationale for this proposal is methodical and the considerations have been identified clearly. Evidence is based on facts and valid considerations. The proposer has identified the expected advantages and disadvantages in comparison with the status quo appropriately. The proposer has considered the following:

- Maintain the status quo, and allow Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to continue to operate as a dual stream school
- Support the school to move foundation phase provision along the Welsh language continuum
- Support the school to move primary provision along the Welsh language continuum
- Support the school to move secondary provision along the Welsh language continuum
- Support the school to move all key stages along the Welsh language continuum
- Change the school's language category to Welsh-medium

Powys officials have conducted evaluations of these six options. The result of the activity is that the fifth option would provide the best standards, provision and leadership for the two existing schools. Further analyses have been undertaken on the implementation options, and the preferred option is to introduce Welsh-medium provision year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

The advantages of this proposal outline important issues, which include improving educational outcomes, educational provision, and leadership and management, and increasing the number of pupils who receive Welsh-medium education. Overall, the considerations are firmly in favour of this proposal. Based on the preferred option and implementation option, the council's aim is to support Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to move along the Welsh language continuum over time. According to the proposer, this would contribute towards implementing the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Government strategy to ensure a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The disadvantages of not accepting this proposal include important issues, such as the possible effect on the number of pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the long term, the possible long-term effect on non-Welsh-speaking staff, local objection and a long transition period for the school. This proposal responds well to these issues.

The proposer has outlined the school's current challenges. The low number of English-medium pupils poses a challenge to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in terms of

its ability to offer appropriate provision for these learners. In the primary sector, English-medium pupils are taught in small classes, with a high number of year groups in each class. In the secondary sector, in order to provide for Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils, many lessons are taught bilingually, with teaching taking place in both Welsh and English in the same class. The strengths of the proposal outweigh the weaknesses consistently in nearly all considerations.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the proposal's effect on the quality of outcomes, provision, and leadership and management.

The proposer suggests that there would not be much change for English-medium pupils who currently attend the school, as they would continue to receive this provision until they leave the school. Nor would the proposal have an effect on pupils who attend other primary schools in the Machynlleth catchment area, as they are all Welsh-medium schools, therefore pupils would all have the Welsh language skills necessary to access Welsh-medium secondary provision. The proposer states that pupils from primary schools outside the Machynlleth catchment area wishing to access English-medium secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would need to attend other schools. It is also noted that implementing the proposal would not lead to changing the governance arrangements at the school, and that the small number of staff who are not able to work through the medium of Welsh would be given an opportunity to improve and develop their Welsh language skills.

Another benefit in terms of teaching and learning experiences is that changing the school's language category would have a positive effect on provision, standards and all pupils' progress, including those in specific groups, such as those who speak English as an additional language, those who are eligible for free school meals, looked after children, and those with additional learning needs. It is also anticipated that changing the school's language category will have a positive effect on all pupils' skills, particularly their Welsh language skills, as pupils will be able to become fully bilingual. It is also noted that there will be no need for the school to duplicate provision, and that this should strengthen the curriculum that can be provided, ensure better cohesion across the school and meet the requirements of the new Curriculum for Wales. This is outlined in 'Our National Mission', which sets the ambition for all schools to develop as learning organisations.

In terms of the proposal's effect on 11-16 provision and post-16 provision, it is noted that changing the school's language category would enable it to work more efficiently, as there would be no need to duplicate provision in Welsh and English, and a wider range of courses would be able to be offered to pupils of all abilities. It is suggested that the change would also support the

school to develop better partnership arrangements with other Welsh-medium providers, which would further improve opportunities for learners. The proposal supports the local authority to meet the targets in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and also to meet the council's aim of 'moving schools along the language continuum', which is described in the strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, and the Welsh Government strategy to ensure a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

It is suggested that a Welsh-medium all-age school would provide better opportunities to support pupils in vulnerable groups. It is anticipated that changing the school's language category would have a positive effect on providing a full curriculum in the foundation phase and all other key stages, as there would no longer be a need to duplicate provision in two language streams. The proposal anticipates some challenges during the transition period, as the school would need to accommodate decreasing numbers of English-medium pupils. However, the proposer assures that it would continue to support the school throughout the transition period, in order to ensure that an appropriate curriculum is provided to pupils in all key stages.

Another important consideration is the emphasis on better professional learning opportunities as a result of greater opportunities to collaborate with other Welsh-medium schools across Wales.

In terms of leadership, there would be an opportunity for robust and permanent, high quality leadership across all key stages. By operating as a single-stream school, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would be able to operate more efficiently, and leaders and managers would have more time to focus on developing effective provision across the school.

It is suggested that there would be no negative effect on pupils from other primary schools in the catchment area that would attend the all-age school in Year 7.

Overall, the proposer states the standards and progress of all pupils across all departments, including those who belong to specific groups, would improve and that the proposal would have a positive effect over time.

It appears that this proposal to merge would create annual revenue savings of around £184k per year to the council, once the school is fully single-stream. There would be no savings in the first year, and although there would be an opportunity to make savings by introducing the change gradually, this would depend on pupil numbers. It is not anticipated that there would be any effect on transport costs or capital costs.

It is suggested that no building work would be needed in the short term, as pupils would be educated in the existing buildings.

Estyn judged standards to be 'Adequate' and 'Good' in February 2017, and the school was judged as being in need of Estyn review. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was removed from Estyn review in December 2018.



## 6. ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

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

### 1. GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL

1.1	Welsh-medium secondary education has been on the Council's agenda for decades. It's time to move on and the Machynlleth area is an ideal starting place. If not in Machynlleth, where?	Comment noted.
1.2	I agree with the proposal, it's a shame that north Powys has had to wait so long for these discussions.	Comment noted.
1.3	It's time for the council to take responsibility for what the Welsh speakers in the area want to see. It's disgraceful that this hasn't happened sooner. Many are in favour, not just Welsh speakers.	Comment noted.
1.4	The issue of Welsh medium provision has for far too long been dictated to by those solely focussed on protecting the needs of the minority, mono-English community. This has been to the detriment of us parents who have been very pro such a strategic change and the benefits of bilingualism.	Comment noted.
1.5	This proposed development is long overdue both in terms of the strategic direction of Welsh medium education in Powys and the basic provision on offer in Bro Ddyfi.	Comment noted.
1.6	An opportunity for children of the area and the local areas to benefit from a Welsh-medium school instead of passing this	Comment noted.

	school to go to other areas to access Welsh-medium education. There has been too much 'brain drain' in the past because there isn't a Welsh-medium school in the area.	
1.7	The consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is to be welcomed and is a sign of change in Powys. With this proposal, the Council intends to establish the first Welsh-medium secondary school in Powys. This is good to see, hopefully this will be the first of many.	Comment noted.
1.8	The current bilingual approach does not equip children with enough time learning in Welsh to have confidence in the language to continue using it. Wales is its own country with its own language and this approach dilutes the language and creates a divide in the community. Long term I would like to see all members of the community graduating from the school able to converse in their native lands' language.	Comment noted.
1.9	Welsh language education is not a "niche" opportunity for parents to send their children for a "taster" of the language. It's our language in Wales and therefore education should be taught in this medium.	Comment noted.
1.10	The proposal is a big step forward, not only for the area and the county but for Wales. It would ensure a bilingual workforce in the future, and would ensure that people can communicate confidently in Welsh and English.	Comment noted.
1.11	The number of pupils attending the English stream means that staying as a dual stream school is financially unsustainable, and causes difficulties with the school's day to day organisation.	Comment noted.

1.12	People are always scared of change but I believe this change is for a better education and future for our children and the future of the Welsh language.	Comment noted.
1.13	This proposal is very inclusive – it gives pupils the opportunity to start developing their Welsh language skills when they start in the Foundation Phase, and does not exclude those pupils in the English stream who are already in the school.	Comment noted.
1.14	I am 100% in favour of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen becoming Welsh medium. In order for the Welsh language to thrive beyond primary schools and the homes of Welsh speakers, in order to stand a chance of it being spoken as a first language in public places and build a Welsh literacy at all academic levels we are in the position where we need to positively discriminate for the language.	Comment noted.
1.15	This is an essential change which needs to be made to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. It will improve the provision which is available for pupils, and the support that will be available for them in school. It will offer stability of education locally, which will enable the provision to be developed and improved, and will enable the school to concentrate on the education. This is a development which will appropriately complement the exciting plans for a new building for the school.	Comment noted.
1.16	Excellence in all aspects of schooling - academic, learning support and global citizenship can be achieved in any language. Let's make it Cymraeg.	Comment noted.

1.17	I agree with the proposal, it's a fantastic idea. I think it had to happen. It is generally a good thing to make the change gradually over a number of years.	Comment noted.
1.18	I think that it's a good idea to have more Welsh in the school.	Comment noted.

## 2. GENERAL DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PROPOSAL

2.1	The current set-up is a real strength of the school in my opinion.	Comment noted, however as outlined in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal, the dual stream nature of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen causes a number of challenges to the school, and also means that not all pupils attending the school have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.
2.2	The proposal goes against the bilingual nature of the Bro Ddyfi area. The system of a Welsh, Welsh-learning, and English stream perfectly reflects the demographics of the area and serve the agenda of the growing the use of the Welsh language.	As above.
2.3	I can't see any advantages as the offer of Welsh education is there at the moment and can be accessed if a child chooses it.	As above.
2.4	Anyone who moves to this area can learn the language - many do. Students and their families can speak Welsh in shops, with friends etc, there are so many opportunities. There is no need to change the whole school.	As above.

2.5	Quite simply, drop the proposal and look at other ways to promote the Welsh language if that is the real agenda here. Stop messing with people's education and potentially hampering their future options.	The aim of the proposal is to improve the learning opportunities available to pupils and to improve their future options.
2.6	If you force people to learn something, they often tend to rebel against it. If Welsh was an option rather than compulsory, more English-speaking people would be drawn to it through interest rather than it being enforced.	<p>Comment noted. This has been the case in the Machynlleth area for many years, which has led to an increase in the proportion of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education, and a decrease in the proportion of pupils accessing English-medium education.</p> <p>As outlined in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal, the dual stream nature of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen causes a number of challenges to the school, and also means that not all pupils attending the school have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p>
2.7	It is absolutely ridiculous to change the language to Welsh only. Not just for the children but for the parents too. English is a much widely known and used language and Welsh isn't.	The Council fully acknowledges the need for pupils to be fluent in both English and Welsh. The aim of the proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium is to ensure that all pupils are fully bilingual in both languages by the time they leave school.
2.8	I am totally opposed to any proposal to make Ysgol Bro Hyddgen a monolingual school. Just as it would wrong be to enforce an English-medium mandate on the school, the same goes for making it Welsh-only.	As above.
2.9	I agree that there is a need to keep the language alive, but I don't think this is the way to do it.	Comment noted.

2.10	I went to Machynlleth county school through the medium of English my best friend went through the medium of Welsh....we both left the area and both had good careers...It worked for us. Why change it...	The Council notes the successes of pupils that attend the schools in Machynlleth in the past. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen can continue to offer high quality provision to all learners in the future, and to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both languages.
2.11	People who went through the English stream in the past can understand and speak Welsh, there is nothing wrong with the system as it hasn't failed to give people the skills to speak both Welsh and English.	The Council is pleased to note that some pupils who accessed English-medium provision in Machynlleth in the past have managed to acquire Welsh language skills, however in general in dual stream schools, it is only pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream who become fully bilingual. The aim of the proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium is to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English by the time they leave school.
2.12	The dual streams has worked well for decades... both my husband and myself went through the English stream in the 1990s/2000s as well as both of our mothers in the 1970s/1980s – why should it change now when it's provided education for so long?	As above.
2.13	I think this a very short sighted idea that the majority of Machynlleth people are against. Children coming out of the school at lunch break converse in English even if they are in the Welsh stream. It's what they choose to do and trying to turn the schoolchildren into monoglots is a bad idea and a waste of time and money.	<p>The majority of people that responded to the consultation response form in respect of the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category indicated that they supported the proposal.</p> <p>The Council is not 'trying to turn the schoolchildren into monoglots' – the aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the</p>

		<p>opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English. The current dual stream provision enables Welsh-medium pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English, however very few pupils educated through the medium of English develop full bilingual skills.</p>
2.14	<p>This is going to be detrimental and exclusive of the English community based in Machynlleth. Kids will have to travel longer time to access education and in time they will have fees when travelling between counties, as counties are less and less happy to cover those costs.</p>	<p>The proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p>
2.15	<p>Suggesting that certain children in the community should attend a different school in a different community is not good enough. I would like to see a proposal to strengthen Welsh language education that embeds inclusivity within its processes and outcomes.</p>	<p>The Council is not proposing that any children should attend a different school in a different community. In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh</p>

		language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.
2.16	How is this so much more important than academic achievement of our children, adaptability of our children to different places in the world. The environmental crisis our children face is far more pressing and important than the preservation of the Welsh language.	<p>The aim of the proposal is to provide the best educational opportunities to all pupils, and to ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Alongside the proposal to change the school's language category, the Council is continuing to move forward with plans to build a new community campus to include early years, education, leisure and library facilities.</p> <p>Powys County Council is fully committed to the decarbonisation agenda and has declared a climate emergency.</p> <p>The Bro Hyddgen Community Campus building will be amongst the first 'passivhaus' building of its kind in Wales and wider in the UK. The scheme will also deliver a BREEAM Excellent building.</p> <p>As part of the Community Benefits Strategy, pupils will be offered unique opportunities to learn about how the new 'passivhaus' building is contributing towards the decarbonisation agenda.</p>
2.17	I believe that changing the school to an all through Welsh school will be detrimental to Machynlleth. It is simply a vanity	The aim of the proposal is to provide the best possible opportunities for learners attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The proposal reflects the Council's aim to 'Improve



	project for a few politically motivated individuals who have been angling at this for many years.	access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.'
2.18	Those who are seeking to foist a Welsh language only school on Machynlleth have scant regard for our community's proud heritage – their motivation is purely political.	The aim of the proposal is to provide the best possible opportunities for learners attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The proposal reflects the Council's aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.'
2.19	Education should be the priority, not using the school as a publicity stunt to trial a language stream.	The Council is not 'using the school as a publicity stunt to trial a language stream'. The aim of the proposal is to provide the best possible opportunities for learners attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The proposal reflects the Council's aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium across all key stages.'
2.20	It would only benefit those fluent and possibly a small amount of learners, we have a variant community in Machynlleth and its the fact that we predominantly quite a bilingual town with such good schools is why attracts some people to move here.	<p>The aim of the proposal is to provide the best educational opportunities to all pupils, and to ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school,</p>

		meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.
2.21	<p>The people I know who disagree with the proposal do so for the following reasons:</p> <p>They are from Welsh speaking families whose parents put them through the English stream thinking it would be better for them. They feel a loyalty to their parents beliefs, and feel that this proposal undermines them.</p> <p>They or their children have experienced anti English racism at school in Machynlleth.</p> <p>They or their children have not been given adequate learning support for dyslexia.</p> <p>You need to be very clear in addressing all 3 of these issues in order to gain support. In the case of reasons number 2 and 3 you need to be clear that past failures have been due to human error, and are not the fault of the language.</p>	Comment noted.

### **3. IMPACT ON PUPILS**

#### **3.1 Positive Impact on pupils**

##### **3.1.1 Positive impact of Welsh-medium education on pupils**

3.1.1.1	Welsh-medium education creates children that are confident, and the language opens new doors and opportunities for them.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.2	Pupils would have more confidence to speak Welsh with each other as everyone in the class would learn in Welsh.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.3	All pupils would have an equal opportunity to learn the language instead of the inequality that currently exists.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.4	Pupils that aren't immersed and taught in Welsh are losing out – professionally and socially. The ability to use Welsh is a benefit for these pupils.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.5	It is important that as many young people as possible have the benefit of a *proper* Welsh-medium education.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.6	It would improve the linguistic skills of children.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.7	Pupils would be more experienced and competent in the use of Welsh.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.8	Bilingualism is a benefit for any pupil, in any language. Statistics show this throughout Europe. Educational results in Gwynedd area very high.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.9	By the use of bilingual teaching simple terms will be picked up by pupils and used in context which will improve their understanding of Welsh, as opposed to splitting both streams. This would integrate them and enable pupils to be taught together so that they learn English and Welsh.	Comment noted.

3.1.1.10	Some children could pick up the language relatively quickly and then go on use it.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.11	It would improve the Welsh language skills of all pupils to a good standard so that they are ready for the world of work.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.12	Bilingual children get better results.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.13	The proposal would give all pupils the Welsh language skills they need to be bilingual citizens, and will help them to contribute fully to their community, expanding their horizons to access a wide range of employment opportunities, in Wales and beyond, increasing their appreciation of their own culture and other cultures.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.14	It's the children that will benefit from this – this shouldn't be an argument for the parents.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.15	It would improve the opportunities to speak Welsh, not only for non-Welsh speaking children who may need a boost, but also for pupils from Welsh speaking homes who feel under pressure to speak English outside their classes as the majority of their friends choose to speak English although they can speak Welsh. It would encourage children in school and out of school, by improving their confidence in the language.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.16	Welsh-medium education to promote more Welsh speakers in rural Wales. Children should be encouraged to be part of the area's Welsh culture from the start, and parents that don't speak Welsh shouldn't have the option to change the language of their children's education. They will all be	Comment noted.

	pleased when the children leave school fluent in both languages.	
3.1.1.17	Entirely positive for a number of children who would come through this system and would learn the language to the standard where they would be fluent, and able to use it every day to socialise, at work, to improve employment opportunities, culture, to feel a sense of belonging to the community.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.18	If all pupils were taught in Welsh, children would have a better understanding of Wales and its history.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.19	I think that it's good that it's starting at a young age, as it's easier to learn languages when young, and it'll be picked up quicker.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.20	I feel that Welsh-medium education from an early age is a really good idea. At that young age you don't realise how important the Welsh language is, and for those with parents that don't speak Welsh, perhaps they don't realise how important it is to learn the Welsh language fluently until they are older. Once they reach secondary school, it is far more difficult for them to learn Welsh fluently. Therefore it is far easier to learn from an early age.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.21	It would be a good idea, it's so important for children to be bilingual. It would be good for the Welsh language. It's a good idea to have children learning Welsh from an early age.	Comment noted.

3.1.1.22	I didn't find it difficult to learn in Welsh, my grandmother speaks Welsh and English and she helped me to speak Welsh. I wasn't worried about learning in Welsh, I was happy to be educated in Welsh even though both my parents spoke English.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.23	People who are bilingual have better thinking skills. For example, they can concentrate better and have improved memory, and they can have better job opportunities in the future.	Comment noted.

### 3.1.2 Improved job opportunities for pupils

3.1.2.1	It would help children develop their language skills and obtain work opportunities that would otherwise not be open to them when leaving school.	Comment noted.
3.1.2.2	The ability to use Welsh will provide access to a wider range of job opportunities in the area or further afield.	Comment noted.
3.1.2.3	It would help children develop their language skills and obtain work opportunities that would otherwise not be open to them when leaving school.	Comment noted.
3.1.2.4	Possibly more job opportunities	Comment noted.
3.1.2.5	Learning another language gives pupils an advantage when looking for jobs and shows that they have understanding and respect towards other languages. This will help them all over the world.	Comment noted.

3.1.2.6	During a reasonably successful career, I was unable to apply for some interesting jobs as the ability to write Welsh was, quite rightly, considered essential.	Comment noted.
3.1.2.7	Continuity of education from early years through to post-16 / further education is essential with the demand for fluency in both languages for the workplace.	Comment noted.
3.1.2.8	As a local employer, I see this as a very positive change as it is likely to increase the number of pupils who can undertake a range of employment roles in Welsh.	Comment noted.
3.1.2.9	As a local employer in the manufacturing field which operates mainly in Welsh, we see the change in language policy as a way for children to develop practical skills (engineering and IT) throughout the medium of Welsh, as well as conventional academic qualifications. Whilst we have been lucky to attract some excellent young people from the Machynlleth area over the years, attracting people with the right essential technological skills has always been a problem. Therefore, we welcome the strengthening of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language policy as a step towards improving the situation.	Comment noted.
3.1.2.10	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen pupils are the workers of the future, and there is a responsibility to ensure that the school creates bilingual pupils who are confident in both languages. Statistics show that on average, bilingual workers earn 9% more than workers that speak only one language.	Comment noted.

3.1.2.11	Students that have studied in Welsh are more likely to get graduate jobs after graduating (see Aberystwyth University's website).	Comment noted.
3.1.2.12	If all pupils were taught in Welsh, children would have more opportunities and jobs in Wales.	Comment noted.

### 3.1.3 Positive impact on the provision for pupils currently accessing the English-medium stream

3.1.3.1	Children would be dispersed across a healthier range of classes, particularly when they transfer to the secondary sector.	Comment noted.
3.1.3.2	Currently, the children in the English stream are confined to the same cohort of children during lessons. It is misleading to think that Welsh medium and English medium have opportunities to mix in the same school; the opportunities to mix are very limited whilst the school remains dual stream.	Comment noted.
3.1.3.3	It would avoid duplicating classes unnecessarily for a small number of children, and would mean that primary aged pupils would be taught with their peers, instead of combining a number of years together. This will enable more focus on what they need to learn.	Comment noted.

### 3.1.4 Improved opportunities for pupils

3.1.4.1	This is the natural step to take considering the trends of the last few years, and it's a positive step which would improve	Comment noted.
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	the opportunities for all young people in the area in the future.	
3.1.4.2	It would increase the pool of young people in the area who will be able to use Welsh in work and socially.	Comment noted.
3.1.4.3	The proposal would provide additional opportunities for pupils by opening doors for their future and opening their eyes to experiences within a stronger community.	Comment noted.

### 3.1.5 Other

3.1.5.1	The pupils would be immersed in the Welsh language from a very young age, so it should be natural for them to continue with their education in Welsh when they are older without feeling that they are missing out by not studying in English.	Comment noted.
3.1.5.2	There is no benefit to pupils that have studied through the medium of Welsh from studying sciences in English only – in fact, studying these subjects in Welsh is beneficial to them as the children learn the English terms alongside the Welsh terms (most scientific terms are based on Latin). Learning the sciences bilingually leads to a better understanding of these subjects.	Comment noted.
3.1.5.3	Students that haven't studied A levels in Welsh are unlikely to study in Welsh at higher education level (see research by Aberystwyth University 2009 – 2011).	Comment noted.

### 3.2 Concerns about negative impact on pupils

### 3.2.1 Concern that pupils would struggle in Welsh-medium education

3.2.1.1	Concern that pupils will struggle.	<p>The Council notes these concerns regarding the impact of the proposal on pupils. In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>Across Wales, a significant proportion of pupils that access Welsh-medium education come from homes where no Welsh is spoken, and this does not impact on their ability to succeed in their education. Should the proposal be implemented, Welsh would eventually become the main language of communication within the school, which would enable all pupils to improve their Welsh language skills, and should enable those from non-Welsh speaking homes to develop more fluency in Welsh, ensuring that they are better able to thrive in Welsh-medium education.</p>
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		Alongside any change to the school's language category, the Council would ensure that additional provision such as immersion provision and additional language support would be available to support pupils and their families.
3.2.1.2	Having to learn a subject in Welsh when it is not a child's first language would leave them at a disadvantage to those children whose first language is Welsh. English speaking children should not be forced to accept lower grades because they are unable to be taught in their first language.	As above.
3.2.1.3	Children won't learn to their full potential.	As above.
3.2.1.4	This would cause huge anxiety in children who do not currently speak Welsh fluently. Children have enough to deal with without having the added pressure to try to learn in a language which does not come naturally to them.	As above.
3.2.1.5	This would put some children at a disadvantage and hold them back in their education.	As above.
3.2.1.6	Concern that children would dread going to school because of fear of not being able to understand or even keep up with the assignments given in class.	As above.
3.2.1.7	Concern that there would be a detrimental impact on the children's education.	As above.
3.2.1.8	Concern that it would be confusing and overwhelming for pupils to be taught in another language.	As above.

3.2.1.9	Children should not lose out if they happen to struggle to pass exams in one language.	As above.
3.2.1.10	It may be great for more people to speak the Welsh language, but it's outweighed by people struggling who can't speak the language and would either have to learn fluent to understand there lessons or move to another school.	As above.
3.2.1.11	This would be totally unfair to non-Welsh speaking children and their parents.	As above.
3.2.1.12	Concern that pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken will feel out of place.	As above.
3.2.1.13	Students who struggle academically who speak English at home will have their confidence shattered and it would be detrimental to their education.	As above.
3.2.1.14	Concern that children will feel stupid if they can't grasp subjects in Welsh and won't have any support at home to help them.	As above.
3.2.1.15	Every child is different and children with English speaking backgrounds shouldn't suffer or struggle with their education.	As above.
3.2.1.16	A significant proportion of students in Machynlleth are from English speaking homes. Being taught through the medium of Welsh is not ideal for all of these children. Many children will fall behind if taught through Welsh only.	As above.

3.2.1.17	The proposal to turn Ysgol Bro Hyddgen into a Welsh medium school would exclude many students from having a positive learning experience, in particular those who have moved to the area from abroad or from an English medium school, those who have learning difficulties, those who come from less supportive families.	As above.
3.2.1.18	A lot of my friends are worried about the change to a Welsh-medium school.	As above.
3.2.1.19	While bilingual children perform better than monolingual children in certain skill areas, such as languages and lateral thinking, there is also strong evidence that children who are educated and examined in their first language outperform those whose education is in their second language, overall, when assessed across the full range of subjects. These factors must be balanced on an individual basis by parents and pupils when deciding on the best approach to their schooling.	Evidence in Wales would indicate that pupils from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds accessing Welsh-medium education have educational outcomes which are at least equivalent to their peers in English-medium schools.
3.2.1.20	Concern that children would be frightened to speak English in school in case they have a row.	The school would support pupils speaking both languages.
3.2.1.21	This option will restrict future opportunities for pupils and be a disadvantage in later life for employment and further study.	The Council does not agree with this comment. The aim of the proposal is to provide the best educational opportunities to all pupils, and to ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and have the bilingual skills needed to take advantage of employment and study opportunities through the medium of Welsh or English.

3.2.1.22	Children's well-being is more important.	<p>The Council agrees that ensuring the well-being of children is essential. In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Council's view is that implementation would have a positive impact on pupil well-being as all pupils would be taught in the same classes and would have the opportunity to be fluent in both Welsh and English, therefore the proposal would lead to improved cohesion within the school and the community.</p>
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### 3.2.2 Concern about parents' ability to help with homework

3.2.2.1	Some children who do not have Welsh speaking parents at home would not be able to help with homework.	The Council notes these concerns about the ability of parents who don't speak Welsh to help with homework. Across Wales, Welsh-medium schools have introduced many strategies to help parents support their children
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		<p>with homework, ensuring that pupils who do not have Welsh speaking parents are not disadvantaged.</p> <p>In addition, it has been shown to be beneficial to children to be able to discuss their homework in English with their parents because bilingualism aids conceptual development.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the Council would work with the school to ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place to support pupils and their families.</p>
3.2.2.2	Not all children have the ability to learn and go through school without a parent who can help with homework, very many may be Welsh learners themselves.	As above.
3.2.2.3	Some parents would find it difficult to help with homework if it was just in the Welsh language.	As above.
3.2.2.4	Provide extra homework support for children from English speaking homes so they don't struggle to understand the work.	As above.
3.2.2.5	Parents unable to help their children with homework etc, will result in parents taking their children out of the school.	As above.

### 3.2.3 Negative impact on Welsh-medium pupils

3.2.3.1	Welsh speaking pupils would be under a disadvantage as teachers will need to concentrate on non-Welsh speaking learners.	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposal would place Welsh speaking pupils under a disadvantage.</p> <p>The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils are fully bilingual in Welsh and English and have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium education. Across Wales, the majority of pupils attending Welsh-medium schools come from homes where no Welsh is spoken, however this is not detrimental to pupils from Welsh speaking homes.</p>
3.2.3.2	It will hold the current pupils who are first language Welsh back.	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposal would hold pupils who are first language Welsh back.</p> <p>The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils are fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium education. Across Wales, the majority of pupils attending Welsh-medium schools come from homes where no Welsh is spoken, however this is not detrimental to pupils from Welsh speaking homes.</p>
3.2.3.3	The Welsh children will suffer as the language used will be diluted to accommodate the Welsh learners.	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposal would mean that Welsh speaking pupils would suffer.</p> <p>The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils are fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium education. Across Wales, the majority of pupils attending Welsh-medium schools come from homes where no Welsh is spoken, however this is not detrimental to pupils from Welsh speaking homes.</p>



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### 3.2.4 Negative impact on English-medium pupils during transition period

3.2.4.1	Although an increasingly diminishing offering of English-medium education would remain for a few years (under option 5A), in reality there would be a process of attrition at the School, whereby teaching in the medium of English would gradually diminish, leading to those continuing English-medium students feeling increasingly predominated over and potentially also resulting in their seeking schools elsewhere, too.	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, it would work with the school to ensure that appropriate provision is available to learners continuing to access English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen during the transition period.</p>
3.2.4.2	It might be hard for the Yr1 – Yr6 English-stream pupils to get used to the change.	In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school’s language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.

### 3.2.5 Concern about impact on pupils that move to the area during their education

3.2.5.1	I have concerns about how it might affect children who come to live in the area during their school years if there isn’t an English stream. Some way to ease children in might be good.	The Council notes these concerns regarding the possible impact on any children moving to the area during their school years if there isn’t an English stream in Machynlleth. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language
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		<p>skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>Alongside any change to the school's language category, the Council would ensure that additional provision such as immersion provision and additional language support would be available to support pupils and their families, providing the opportunity for pupils moving to the area during their time in school to be immersed in the Welsh language, so that they would be able to access Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
3.2.5.2	What about those who come from England and want to attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen?	As above.
3.2.5.3	There is a need for clear, tested means of provision for non-Welsh speaking children and families to get additional help at all levels of the school to accommodate pupils who relocate to the area at any point in their school life.	As above.
3.2.5.4	Incomers moving to the area with no knowledge of Welsh might find it difficult to learn a new language.	As above.

3.2.5.5	If there were students moving from Birmingham or a place in England at a later stage, it would be very hard for them to move to a full Welsh school. Therefore it could make things harder for a lot of students.	As above.
3.2.5.6	If people move to the area who do not speak Welsh they will find it very hard. Some people who have joined my year in high school have found it hard. I feel that needs to be something which allows them to have space so they can pick it up.	As above.
3.2.5.7	If the proposal goes ahead, it would be utterly detrimental and insulting to all those who live in the area, as well affecting anyone who would move to the area in future.	<p>The Council disagrees that the proposal would be 'utterly detrimental and insulting to all those who live in the area'. The number of respondents in favour of the proposal suggests that there is significant local support for the proposal.</p> <p>See above for the Council's response to comments relating to the impact on anyone moving to the area in the future.</p>

### 3.2.6 Other

3.2.6.1	Pupils that choose to go to other schools to access English-medium provision will lose the opportunities for speaking Welsh in a school with a strong Welsh ethos such as Bro Hyddgen. This will negatively impact their use of the language as they become older.	<p>Comment noted, however the intention is to introduce the change to the school's language category on a phased basis, which would minimise the number of pupils choosing to access English-medium provision in other schools.</p> <p>All schools in Wales are required to teach Welsh as a second language and to offer opportunities to use Welsh</p>
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		outside the classroom. Should pupils choose to attend English-medium provision at different schools instead of attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, they would continue to have opportunities to learn Welsh as a second language.
3.2.6.2	The young people and children of Machynlleth have, maybe more than most, been through a particularly challenging time in the last decade. They do not deserve to be used as guinea pigs in a political experiment at the potential expense of their future and their community's cherished unity.	<p>The Council acknowledges the challenges that have been faced by the children and young people of Machynlleth over recent years. It is not the case that the Council is using them as 'guinea pigs in a political experiment.'</p> <p>The aim of the proposal is to provide the best educational opportunities to all pupils, and to ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and have the bilingual skills needed to take advantage of employment and study opportunities through the medium of Welsh or English.</p> <p>The intention is that implementation of the proposal would improve community cohesion in the long term as all pupils would be taught in the same classes.</p>

#### 4. REFERENCE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROVISION / SKILLS

##### 4.1 Some subjects should be available in English

4.1.1	When it comes to high school I think that a Welsh only approach could be detrimental, for example for maths and science subjects which have a language of their own.	Maths and science subjects are already taught through the medium of Welsh at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. Developing an understanding of subject specific terminology in both
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		<p>English and Welsh is a natural part of a Welsh-medium education and adds to the students' understanding of the concepts involved.</p> <p>There is no evidence that pupil outcomes for these subjects through the medium of Welsh are worse than outcomes of pupils studying in the medium of English.</p>
4.1.2	The whole world speaks English – being able to learn science and maths and other subjects through the medium of English can only be a good thing if you're choosing a university somewhere outside Wales?	Pupils studying maths and science through the medium of Welsh also have an understanding of the terminology and concepts through the medium of English as well, therefore there is no reason that they cannot continue to study these subjects in universities outside Wales. Many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have successfully attended universities in England, Scotland and further afield as well as universities in Wales.
4.1.3	Pupils would benefit from learning science and maths terminology in English as well as Welsh.	As above
4.1.4	Better to learn maths in English instead of Welsh if you plan to study at university in English.	As above
4.1.5	Some A level and GCSE subjects should be offered in English, for example science – this would provide an option for pupils who will be studying science / English subjects at University later in their education.	As above
4.1.6	Will all subjects only be available through the medium of Welsh? If you look at Penweddig and Tywyn Secondary	As above

	schools, some subjects are offered in Welsh or English or taught bilingually. Will every subject be taught in Welsh?	
4.1.7	Is there a percentage of subjects which a bilingual school can offer in the English language? We need to allay the fears and show that there is an option for children. If the school is working to secure that pupils will have access to both languages, then the idea of fear that they perhaps wouldn't be able to have a certain subject in English or Welsh won't be there.	The Welsh Government is currently consulting on new language categories for schools.
4.1.8	A child wishing a career in Maths or science will need to study in English in further education. Therefore, a child in secondary school who needs to follow this career needs to understand these subjects in English while at secondary school especially ones from Welsh speaking homes to avoid disadvantage at later in life.	<p>There is no need for a child wishing to have a career in maths or science to study in English in further education. There are significant opportunities to study these subjects through the medium of Welsh in further education in Wales. Many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have successfully attended universities in England, Scotland and further afield as well as universities in Wales.</p> <p>Developing an understanding of subject specific terminology in both English and Welsh is a natural part of a Welsh-medium education and adds to the students' understanding of the concepts involved.</p>
4.1.9	A child wishing a technical career (Doctor/Engineer) needs to be able to study through either the medium of English or Welsh in those specific subjects (maths / science)	As above
4.1.10	Options to take some subjects in English especially at A Level	As above

4.1.11	Pupils should carry on in core subjects in English as when they grow up and move away they will be studying in English.	As above
4.1.12	What about years 10 to 13, which are important years, with exams being sat. Would it be possible to do subjects in Welsh or English? Studying A levels in English would be easier for pupils going to study in English at University, For GCSE and A level, sometimes I find that some subjects are easier in English.	As above.
4.1.13	One of the questions asked frequently by parents is regarding science subjects. Will pupils have to study such subjects through the medium of Welsh? It's those subjects which make parents afraid, and for example if they go to Liverpool University will they understand what's being taught?	As above.

## 4.2 Skills in English are needed

4.2.1	English must always be used in Welsh schools. The option to study in English must not be taken away for those children who need it. We are global citizens educating only in Welsh is short-sighted and assumes that our children will stay in Wales. The ability to talk, read and write in English will always be far more valuable to our children in later life than to be able to do so in Welsh. There are only a small number of jobs that would require the Welsh language. English is a global language. Educating our children in French Spanish Mandarin or Russian would be more valuable.	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the need for pupils to be able to communicate effectively in English.</p> <p>The aim of Welsh-medium education is to ensure that pupils become bilingual, and are able to communicate effectively in both Welsh and English. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, all pupils would continue to study English to GCSE level, and would be able to talk, read and write in English as well as Welsh.</p>
4.2.2	It is important to remember that English is a universal language recognised around the world and most employment	As above.

	or further education will be through the medium of and requires a sound understanding of English.	
4.2.3	First and foremost I wish my child to read and write well in English and if my child wishes to learn Welsh later on in life that's their choice.	As above.
4.2.4	Speaking English more fluently than Welsh would open a lot more doors than Welsh.	As above.
4.2.5	While I agree we certainly need more Welsh speaking we cannot deny that we are part of an island that the majority of people do speak English.	As above.
4.2.6	It is important that children have a good command of the English language.	As above.

## 5. REFERENCE TO POST-16 / FURTHER / HIGHER EDUCATION

### 5.1 Reference to sixth form provision

5.1.1	Gwynedd has no school based Sixth Forms in the area, meaning currently Gwynedd students wanting a Sixth Form provision have to travel to Machynlleth. English pupils from Dolgellau etc will be negatively impacted by the loss of this provision.	<p>Whilst the Council notes these concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen on sixth form pupils in Gwynedd, this is not a matter for Powys County Council.</p> <p>Access to post-16 provision for pupils in Gwynedd is a matter for Gwynedd County Council and its post-16 partners.</p>
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5.1.2	Ysgol Bro Idris is Welsh medium also, so redesignating Bro Hyddgen as Welsh medium, and in particular teaching immersively through Welsh, will negatively impact pupils from that area.	As above.
5.1.3	English medium Sixth Form students (in particular students from Dolgellau college region) will no longer have access to more academic courses that Dolgellau college does not offer (e.g. Further Maths, Mathematics, etc.)	As above.
5.1.4	Sixth form students from Powys seeking an English provision would have to travel outside of county to Aberystwyth, which for some pupils is a very long journey. Also, as this is out of catchment, these pupils may have to pay out of pocket just to be educated in English.	<p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school / post-16 provider they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative provider to access English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p> <p>Transport would be provided in accordance with the home to school transport in operation at the time.</p>

## 5.2 Reference to further / higher education

5.2.1	Students going on to further education in maths and science subjects could be put at a disadvantage as they also need to learn new terms in the English language as well as the subject.	<p>The Council does not agree that students going on to further education in maths and science would be put at a disadvantage.</p> <p>Many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have successfully attended universities in England, Scotland and further afield as well as universities in Wales.</p>
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5.2.2	Why should a child go through all their education in the Welsh language, to then go on to university or a job in English.	<p>Being fluently bilingual in both English and Welsh would be an advantage in many situations.</p> <p>Many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have successfully attended universities in England, Scotland and further afield as well as universities in Wales, and have proceeded to secure jobs which require them to work in English, Welsh or both languages.</p>
5.2.3	Students would leave for university with a limited grasp of English in subjects that they wish to pursue. Are there any Welsh medium universities? English is the international language and as such is infinitely more useful to a young person's future than having A levels in subjects taught in the Welsh language.	<p>Students would not leave with a 'limited grasp of English' but rather they would be fluently bilingual.</p> <p>Many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have successfully attended universities in England, Scotland and further afield as well as universities in Wales.</p> <p>There are opportunities to study in Welsh at all universities in Wales. These are continually being developed. The 'Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol', which was founded in 2011, plans and supports Welsh language Higher Education provision across Welsh universities, working with providers to ensure and develop more Welsh medium study opportunities for students in Wales.</p>
5.2.4	All children also need to be fluent in English as this would be the learning language in further education. Each child will have its own career path and we do need doctors and medical staff that could converse in the welsh language.	As above.

	However, the world medical and technical language is English.	
5.2.5	In further education, very few technical subjects are delivered in the medium of Welsh nor are the text books available in the Welsh language. Some students have had to have readers when taking exams as their command of English is so poor they do not understand the questions. The Welsh language should be preserved but not at the cost of some pupils struggling in further education and limiting their careers to Welsh speaking companies and institutions.	As above.
5.2.6	Starting at university could be a challenge for pupils if they've studied all subjects in Welsh as they wouldn't be familiar with the terms.	<p>Many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have successfully attended universities in England, Scotland and further afield as well as universities in Wales.</p> <p>Developing an understanding of subject specific terminology in both English and Welsh is a natural part of a Welsh-medium education and adds to the students' understanding of the concepts involved.</p>
5.2.7	Concern that students in further education studying to be doctors and technical/engineering careers could be put at a disadvantage as they do not understand English technical terms. Thus they would struggle in those subjects resulting in fewer qualified welsh doctors and engineers.	As above.
5.2.8	Medicine can only be studied in English in Cardiff – pupils wanting to study medicine would have to move to a school in Aberystwyth to study subjects in English.	Based on information on Cardiff University and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's websites, up to 73% of the medicine course at Cardiff is currently available through the medium of Welsh.

		It is untrue that pupils wanting to study medicine or any other subjects through the medium of English at university would need to move to a different school to study subjects in English – many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have successfully attended universities in England, Scotland and further afield as well as universities in Wales.
5.2.9	Have you worked with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol at all? At open days students are asking us about learning Welsh because maybe they have had some Welsh at school or have had no Welsh but see the potential of better job opportunities, but by the time they arrive in the University it is often too late. Is there anything being done for students wanting to study through the medium of Welsh at higher Education?	The Council does work with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and will continue to develop this relationship to ensure that young people in Powys are aware of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and have access to the opportunities they offer.

## 6. THERE IS A NEED FOR CHOICE

6.1	I see the benefits to children being fully bilingual. I just also believe they should have choice.	<p>The Council notes these comments about the need for choice of Welsh-medium provision or English-medium provision. The majority of people in the Machynlleth catchment area choose Welsh-medium provision, and the proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium reflects this choice.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a</p>
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		place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
6.2	The kids should have a choice in which language they feel confident in carrying their work out in. I do believe they should still learn Welsh but it won't help them in future.	As above.
6.3	No change should be introduced to continue the opportunity for parents to choose the medium in which their own child's future should be determined to the child's best advantage. Surely parents should have the choice.	As above.
6.4	Both languages are important. As long as the Welsh language is being taught it shouldn't be made compulsory for children. The choice of both Welsh language and English language streams is the much better option – works so far.	As above.
6.5	This infringes on the freedom of choice that is central to any democratic nation. The status quo allows parents and pupils to choose in which medium in that child is educated – why does the Council want to deprive them of this choice? Indeed, what right does it have, especially looking at the make-up of councillors who have benefitted from that choice to deprive it from others?	As above.
6.6	It would be great for more children to learn Welsh (or a second language in general), but the option of learning in what language is best for the child should not be taken away from them.	As above.
6.7	Give families a choice. Welsh language lessons are important to sustain the language, however as every other pupil up until	As above.

	2020 have had, a choice of what language they wish to learn in.	
6.8	Removing the use of English is not an appropriate way to encourage the use of Welsh. It is up to individuals how they communicate; pupils can currently use Welsh if they wish. Language should not be controlled by any authority.	As above.
6.9	Every child and their family have the right to make their own decision as to what medium their education is delivered through, so that their child can flourish to the best of their ability.	As above.
6.10	Everyone in Machynlleth needs the right to choose either Welsh or English streams so the town can continue to flourish as a bilingual society and not have the Welsh language being made compulsory with the only choice left to move area to where their children could be taught in their mother tongue.	As above.
6.11	Children / parents should have the option of both streams, the children will be the ones that suffer in the long run.	As above.
6.12	I think it's a good idea from a young age, but it's for parents to decide whether or not they want their children to go to English stream or Welsh stream.	As above.
6.13	The well-being of the children should come first, not letting the children have a language option is not fair.	As above.
6.14	The school should represent the current and future demographics of the area and promote the diversity of its	As above.

	community by providing an option for the families who would benefit from English taught streams.	
6.15	I'm concerned that the proposal to change the school's language category would mean that there would be no choice in terms of the language subjects would be taught in in future. These pupils would have to move to other schools to choose the language they feel comfortable with as the level of work gets more difficult to prepare for going to university.	As above.
6.16	It is the removal of that choice for future children which I am concerned about. For those children who choose to be educated in English at secondary level, they could have to travel over 40 miles in order to access English medium education. The travel distance/time for accessing English medium education must be taken into consideration and the impact that this will have on children of all ages.	<p>As outlined above, the majority of people in the Machynlleth catchment area choose Welsh-medium provision, and the proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium reflects this choice.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p> <p>Whilst this would require additional travel for any pupils choosing to access alternative English-medium provision instead of accessing provision in Machynlleth, there are many areas of Powys where there is no local access to Welsh-medium provision in both the primary and secondary phases, meaning that pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision have to travel significant distances to be educated in the language of their choice.</p>

6.17	<p>By removing the option of English-medium education for children whose first language is English, you would be creating a disadvantage that did not previously exist. This is likely to become most evident for pupils who sit close to the thresholds of achievement, and in subjects where a high level of fluency is required to grasp complex or subtle concepts, such as the Sciences and Humanities.</p>	<p>The Council disagrees with this statement. Developing an understanding of subject specific terminology in both English and Welsh is a natural part of a Welsh-medium education and adds to the students' understanding of the concepts involved. There is no evidence that Welsh-medium education puts pupils of any ability at a disadvantage.</p>
6.18	<p>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states "Children have the right to education in their mother tongue". It continues to show that children educated in their first language have a demonstrable advantage over those learning in their second (or third) tongue.</p> <p>By removing the English Language Stream education stream, you will be placing non-Welsh Fluent students at a disadvantage to their peers, which will affect them for the rest of their lives.</p>	<p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>

## 7. CONCERN ABOUT IMPACT ON PUPIL NUMBERS AT YSGOL BRO HYDDGEN



7.1	<p>Changing the language may lead to a decrease in opportunity, if parental preference leads to large numbers of children from Machynlleth and its environs being bussed to schools further afield.</p>	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the possible impact of changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen on pupil numbers at the school in the future.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the intention is that this would be introduced on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school, therefore minimising the impact on pupil numbers. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>As indicated in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal:</p> <p><i>'It is possible that changing the school's language category could lead to a reduction in pupil numbers as pupils from out of county currently accessing English-medium provision at the school may no longer choose to attend the school, or pupils from the local area may choose to attend alternative English-medium providers.</i></p> <p><i>However, it is also possible that changing the school's language category could lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the longer term, as pupils from other areas</i></p>
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		<i>could choose to attend the school. This may be the case in respect of secondary provision in particular.'</i>
7.2	Parents will choose schooling elsewhere.	As above.
7.3	Local people will travel out of the county for education.	As above.
7.4	Less parents would be inclined to send their children to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.	As above.
7.5	I believe this proposal would have a disastrous impact on pupil numbers.	As above.
7.6	I fear all those pupils who change from Welsh to English in the secondary phase would have no option other than to choose a different secondary school and, in the case of Machynlleth, this would mean in a neighbouring county.	As above.
7.7	Any change of language category would be disastrous for pupil numbers. Our community needs dual stream provision in order to retain enough pupils to make this school sustainable.	As above.
7.8	To keep an English stream would benefit the school by keeping pupil numbers up.	As above.
7.9	I strongly believe the switch to Welsh only will see a reduction in pupil numbers at the school.	As above.
7.10	The children that would start primary school in the Welsh class and then, when in high school, struggle with the language would have to move to another school. Currently	As above.

	these children have the choice to move class and not move to another school. They shouldn't have to travel for their education out of area, which would be the case under this proposal.	
7.11	With a new school being built, some parents would choose not to send their children to the school if there was no English provision; how would that affect the school numbers?	As above.
7.12	Parents will send their children to other schools therefore reducing the numbers in Bro Hyddgen because they won't have the language choice.	As above.
7.13	The obvious adverse effect would be a decrease in the number of pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. All pupils who are currently studying through the medium of English would be forced to attend another school, most likely in another county. I think PCC underestimates the number of pupils who do actually study through the medium of English.	As above.
7.14	Any change of language category would be disastrous for pupil numbers. Our community needs dual stream provision in order to retain enough pupils to make this school sustainable.	As above.
7.15	If you take away lessons being in English, it will result in them moving schools and this will be very difficult if they're in the middle of their school years.	As above.
7.16	For those in the Welsh stream they will continue as normal. Those in the English stream are most likely to try and find provision elsewhere.	As above.

7.17	It would have a negative effect as parents choose to send their children across the border.	As above.
7.18	I can imagine people moving out of the area or choosing alternative schools.	As above.
7.19	Concern that English-only parents will vote with their feet and potentially send their children to Penglais. Presumably the likely scale of that effect can be predicted to an extent and is being taken into account. It would be a real shame to impact on the viability of what is a great local school.	As above.
7.20	Many pupils already go to school in Tywyn or Penglais because they feel Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is 'too Welsh'. This proposal would further alienate pupils from non-Welsh speaking homes, and would deter many pupils from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.	As above.
7.21	Most pupils will go to neighbouring schools in Aberystwyth and Tywyn.	As above.
7.22	More children will go out of county, i.e. Aberystwyth or Tywyn resulting in smaller school numbers.	As above.
7.23	Such a decision is also going to be detrimental to the school and its staff: parents and pupils will vote with their feet. It will sadly bring less pupils to school as it will contribute to push the English kids towards Penglais, Newtown, Tywyn. Whilst in the past pupils would have been able to change streams in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the only alternative will be to move school.	As above.

7.24	Restricting the school to a single stream risks alienating potential pupils that will then seek alternative provision. This may impact the intake of the school in future years, potentially making the school unviable, which seems a less than optimal solution given the scale of the council's investment.	As above.
7.25	I noted with the projections that pupil numbers are in decline which unless addressed would result in surplus capacity at the school. Firmly believe that introducing the changes will make it less likely for 1st language English speakers to let their child attend a Bro Hyddgen school stream. Having a surplus in any organisation which requires public funding is an area where financial savings can be achieved. Therefore you have the risk that this surplus capacity is 'mothballed' or reduced to a level that is more suited to the need.	As above.
7.26	Families who don't want their children to be educated in Welsh will withdraw them and move them elsewhere. Thus the learning environment will be less diverse for those remaining. How can this be seen in any way as a positive thing in the 21st century world?	As above.
7.27	Less pupils means more pupils will be crammed in a class. Bleeding pupils after GCSE is already an issue in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, outlined my Powys County Council in 2019. The biggest percentage of students in A level in YBH are coming from our own very GCSE. At so many levels it would be very short sighted and a big social and economical mistake to change the language category when other English school are not so far out of reach.	As above.

7.28	The school might lose some pupils as they could move to another school which has an English-stream.	As above.
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## 8. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE CHANGE OF LANGUAGE CATEGORY

### 8.1 Immersion provision

8.1.1	Immersion units in the primary school similar to neighbouring county councils. Also, why not for the secondary school? Why not offer language immersion to staff who want it as well?	<p>The Council notes these comments relating to the need for immersion provision to support any change to the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The Council fully acknowledges the need for this type of provision in the area.</p> <p>The Council's 'Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a strategic objective to 'develop immersion opportunities', and work is underway to develop these opportunities in Powys. Online immersion provision was introduced in January 2021, and this will be developed further over the coming months.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, officers would work with the school to identify and introduce the support needed to support any pupils already attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen as well as any pupils that might move to the area in the future.</p>
8.1.2	Have an immersion centre in Machynlleth.	As above.

8.1.3	I would ask that you locate any new immersion centre in Machynlleth. That would be a great help, and would alleviate the concerns of the local community.	As above.
8.1.4	A lot of people move into the area from England. What provision will there be for them? Will there be immersion – especially for KS2?	As above.
8.1.5	What happens if a non Welsh speaker comes to YBH in a few years' time. How would you help them understand Welsh?	As above.
8.1.6	What kind of immersion provision will there be so as to ensure that immersion is available to latecomers to the area? There was an immersion project a few years ago. We had two pupils here starting in year 7 with no Welsh whatsoever and they progressed through the school via the Welsh-medium stream, very successfully. We need funds in place in order to ensure that immersion is available. In the past Powys has promised funding but promises have been broken.	As above.
8.1.7	Need to offer an opportunity for rapid language development, including support and an immersion programme.	As above.
8.1.8	It's very important that there is a transition centre in the school or the area which would help newcomers etc to receive support with their learning and would enable them to thrive through the medium of Welsh at the school.	As above.

8.1.9	Reassure local people that enough support will be provided, through immersion and through extra staff providing in class support and that this will be maintained into the future.	As above.
8.1.10	Immersion is essential and I have heard good reports about Llanfyllin. Therefore, if we can learn from that, all the better.	As above.
8.1.11	Ensure that children that move to the school's catchment area without sufficient understanding of the Welsh language, particularly in the secondary age, can access intensive courses of the highest quality to immerse them in the Welsh language before they join in with the school's usual activities.	As above.
8.1.12	Alongside the change to the language category, the Council needs to ensure that there are immersion centres available across Powys, ensuring that pupils can access Welsh-medium education whatever their background, or where in Powys they live.	As above.
8.1.13	Ensure that the framework to support this positive development includes an immersion centre and materials to support non-Welsh speaking parents to support their children with school work.	As above.
8.1.14	All non-Welsh speaking families to have time to be immersed in the language.	As above.
8.1.15	The Council needs to ensure that help and practical support is provided for latecomers e.g. by establishing an immersion class / centre similar to that provided in Gwynedd which	As above.



	would support the families of latecomers to understand the purpose and ethos of Welsh-medium education.	
8.1.16	Support needed for children who move to the area - Gwynedd has an excellent place in Porthmadog. Powys should consider how Gwynedd do this, the children leave fluent. Fantastic work.	As above.
8.1.17	The opportunity for children to have Welsh language immersion starting as early as possible is incredibly valuable, and the planned phasing should support those children who did not have that opportunity from the start.	As above.
8.1.18	Trochi (immersion) is referred to several times. What form will this take? Will there be funding for this and support for parents?	<p>The preferred option for the trochi provision would be through a 'Trochi Centre' approach where pupils attend an intensive Welsh language course for a period of 12 weeks, for example, for four days a week.</p> <p>The provision would be fully funded by the local authority. Communication with parents would be effective, and parents would be encouraged to access Welsh lessons in the community.</p>
8.1.19	In order to enable ALL pupils to be taught in Welsh medium classes, you propose additional Welsh language support for latecomers or pupils needing additional support. Do you honestly believe that such immersion programmes would enable ALL pupils to succeed in Welsh medium education and to undertake their GCSE courses in Welsh? If such immersion provision is as successful as you claim, why have you not introduced this support in area such as Newtown or Welshpool? I agree that immersion support can be	<p>The Council's 'Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a strategic objective to 'develop immersion opportunities', and work is underway to develop these opportunities in Powys. Online immersion provision was introduced in January 2021, and this will be developed further over the coming months. Eventually, the intention is to provide opportunities for pupils across Powys to access immersion provision, to enable pupils to transfer into Welsh-medium education</p>

	<p>successful for supporting latecomers at a primary level but do you realistically believe that this would enable English speaking pupils to access Welsh medium education at a secondary level?</p>	<p>during their school careers. This would include areas such as Newtown or Welshpool as well as the Machynlleth area.</p> <p>Immersion provision exists in different forms across Wales. Whilst some programmes focus on primary aged pupils, there are successful programmes which provide opportunities for pupils to be immersed to Welsh-medium education on transfer to the secondary phase. There is no reason to believe that such provision could not be offered effectively at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. However, in some situations – for example when learners are nearing the end of their time in school – this may not be appropriate.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen’s language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
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## 8.2 Additional Welsh language support for parents / families

8.2.1	<p>Access to a wide range of Welsh lessons for parents would be essential so that they can feel that there is support there for them to be able to support their children with their school work.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments which outline the need to provide additional Welsh language support for parents / families alongside any change to the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it would work with the school as part of the</p>
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		transition process to identify the support needed and to ensure that arrangements are made to offer appropriate provision to support parents / families. This could include Welsh lessons for parents, support with homework, opportunities to use Welsh in the community and other initiatives.
8.2.2	Support for parents and free lessons.	As above.
8.2.3	Significant importance placed on the provision of support to non Welsh speaking families on how to support their children's education.	As above.
8.2.4	A strong link is needed between the school and parents that don't speak Welsh. They are often concerned (without any reason in many cases) about their ability to help their children with homework. This is where friendly contact and technology are key.	As above.
8.2.5	The support available to English speaking households is imperative and has to be above and beyond for those families to trust the proposal.	As above.
8.2.6	Provide free Welsh education for English speaking parents to be able to support their child's learning.	As above.
8.2.7	Welsh lessons for those that don't speak Welsh.	As above.
8.2.8	Arrange for Aberystwyth University to provide intensive courses for parents in the Hyddgen building.	As above.

8.2.9	Provide access to high quality courses and techniques to learn second languages to residents of the area, with access to the required technology.	As above.
8.2.10	Offer language improvement courses so that parents and other people have the confidence to use the Welsh language orally and in writing.	As above.
8.2.11	Ensure that parents have the ability to help their children with homework and to use the language for reasons apart from learning – enjoyment / leisure e.g. sports.	As above.
8.2.12	A 'transition' system which offers support to individuals, e.g. free after school homework club during the transition period	As above.
8.2.13	Practical support for learners and their parents will be essential.	As above.
8.2.14	Ensure that there is support available for all pupils – and ensure that parents know where to turn if there are any problems or if they need more information.	As above.
8.2.15	Unfortunately there isn't the support for the parents who don't speak Welsh, yet put their children into Welsh streams, then having to seek help in the Facebook inboxes of other parents, which isn't an issue, however, it would be great if they were offered language courses.	As above.
8.2.16	Will there be support for non-Welsh speaking families?	As above.

### 8.3 Promotion of Welsh-medium education / the Welsh language

8.3.1	Arrange a promotional campaign in the local press, and on social media.	<p>Comment noted. The Council has been working with partners to develop promotional materials relating to Welsh-medium education, including a new webpage and information leaflets for parents. These materials have been launched recently, and are now available to be used by schools, parents and other organisations.</p> <p>In addition, the Council is working with headteachers in the Bro Hyddgen catchment on a more focussed campaign to share information with parents / other stakeholders in the local area.</p>
8.3.2	A marketing campaign to outline the benefits of Welsh-medium education and how this links with the Welsh Government's aim to ensure a million Welsh speakers, Powys' Strategy to Transform Education in Powys and the Estyn recommendations.	As above.
8.3.3	A robust PR campaign is needed to communicate the benefits of speaking Welsh, as well as a campaign to offer accessible (and if possible free) Welsh language classes to non-Welsh speakers in the community, similar to those English classes which are compulsory for non-Anglophone immigrants to Wales. Does Powys intend to have some form of marketing or promotional campaign in order to sell the benefits of Welsh and ensure that pupils and their parents understand what Welsh-medium education exactly is?	As above.
8.3.4	As a parent there has been some enthusiasm in relation to Bro Hyddgen from parents outside the County but they would not wish to send their child to an English-medium speaking	As above.

	school nor to a Welsh-medium school. So, I believe we need to get clear messages out to parents.	
8.3.5	Educate the community, meetings, guest speakers. Ensure that people see the value of both languages.	As above.
8.3.6	Powys needs to educate parents so that they see the advantages of having their children being bilingual citizens. Parents and teachers need to have the confidence that any current provisions in Powys in respect of needs of every kind and immersion units are improved.	As above.
8.3.7	I welcome the proposal, but emphasise that Powys has a duty to convince everyone of the benefits of Welsh-medium education. It is important that children in Powys have the same opportunities as children in other parts of Wales to be fluent in both Welsh and English.	As above
8.3.8	How will you explain the difference between dual-stream and bilingualism?	As above.
8.3.9	As part of the marketing process we need to market the fact that we give an additional skill to every pupil, whatever their ability, and it offers them access to jobs that similarly able pupils would not get, because they have this additional skill. It's very important to market the opportunities available in Wales through the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, but pupils are also available to study elsewhere. For example our Head girl last year decided to go to Goldsmiths in London to study and rejected Oxford. Therefore, we have excellent examples in the school itself, and we don't always need to find examples from elsewhere of successful children.	Comment noted.

8.3.10	It's important to emphasise when promoting the benefits of bilingualism that Welsh-medium education will not have a negative effect on pupils' standards in the English language. This is an important message that needs to be communicated and promoted.	Comment noted.
8.3.11	As far as teaching sciences through the medium of Welsh is concerned, there are specific case studies of pupils who have had Welsh-medium education but who have then found work, usually in England, and also elsewhere, and perhaps they could be of interest, as far as showing what is possible as this proposal proceeds.	Comment noted.

#### 8.4 Extra-curricular activities

8.4.1	Co-operate with other organisations e.g. Menter Iaith to provide activities out of school hours and raise awareness of Welsh language activities in the area.	<p>The Council notes these comments which outline the need to provide additional opportunities to use Welsh in the community alongside any change to the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it would work with the school and other organisations as part of the transition process to identify the requirements and to put appropriate arrangements in place.</p>
8.4.2	Ensure that the school has enough support to be able to continue to provide opportunities for primary and secondary aged pupils to take part in Welsh language extra curricular activities such as the Urdd and Menter Maldwyn.	As above.

8.4.3	The Council should fund more positive projects to promote use of the language to keep the Welsh culture alive. Financial support could be provided to pupils from disadvantaged homes to learn Welsh and have experiences such as staying in the Urdd camps.	As above.
8.4.4	Ensure that the school is supported and funded to become a central hub for community use in developing the Welsh language for a number of users. Hub for the learning of Welsh for different groups of adults, young families with babies/children, newcomers who have moved to the areas but don't understand Welsh etc. I would also hope that it could be a focus for out of school activities during holidays and Welsh language based evening classes.	As above.

## 8.5 Reference to home schooling during Covid

8.5.1	Currently I am home learning with my eldest and I regret him being in the Welsh stream. He is now in year 3 and most of his work on teams is set in Welsh and when it is translated to English it is poor English. I am struggling to help him with his work as the support for English speaking parents of children in the Welsh stream is very poor.	<p>These concerns regarding difficulties parents who do not speak Welsh have experienced supporting home learning during the Covid pandemic are noted.</p> <p>Schools remain the first point of contact when it comes to children's' continued learning. Schools should be able to support or advise parents on the best way to support children to maintain their Welsh language skills and understand all set tasks. In addition to the work set by the school, parents can also help their children by encouraging them to engage in activities available through various media, e.g. listening to Welsh-language music, downloading Welsh-language apps, watching</p>
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		<p>Welsh-language television programmes and various online resources. The important thing is that children have contact with the language as often as possible.</p> <p>Additional support for parents is available through <a href="https://www.welsh4parents.cymru">https://www.welsh4parents.cymru</a>. Resources and guidelines are frequently updated.</p>
8.5.2	<p>Home learning shows that there is not enough support out there. No consideration is being given to children that struggle in the transition from primary to high school and transferring over from Welsh to English stream. Let's keep those classes bilingual as they are. It works. Children that would have to otherwise leave the Welsh classroom can remain in bilingual settings meaning they are still soaking up the language and culture whilst also having the opportunity to write and learn in a language they are comfortable with.</p>	As above.
8.5.3	<p>The home learning experience has caused significant problems for some families whose children are educated through the medium of Welsh with parents having difficulty supporting them at home due to their language barrier. Return to school following the summer lockdown resulted in many children delayed in their learning due to this, the Covid grant has had to be used to employ extra staff to support those children to get back some fluency in the language, this has inevitably led to other interventions having to take a back seat along with well being interventions.</p>	<p>Additional funding through the WG's Accelerated Learning Grant has enabled schools to prioritise support for affected cohorts. Learners in Welsh medium schools who live in non-Welsh speaking households are identified as part of Principle 1. This is additional funding and the impact on other planned interventions should be minimal.</p>
8.5.4	<p>The Covid crisis has shown the difficulties involved when children are educated in a language that isn't spoken at home.</p>	As above

8.5.5	<p>The home learning experience has caused significant problems for some families whose children are educated through the medium of Welsh with parents having difficulty supporting them at home due to their language barrier. Return to school following the summer lockdown resulted in many children delayed in their learning due to this, the Covid grant has had to be used to employ extra staff to support those children to get back some fluency in the language, this has inevitably led to other interventions having to take a back seat along with well being interventions. This information is evident that most parents rely solely on school for Welsh education and hence why so many children opt to move streams as the language becomes more challenging further up the school.</p>	As above
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## 8.6 Other

8.6.1	<p>The Menter laith to locate a community officer in the town.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Whilst the Council would support the suggestion that Menter Maldwyn should develop a greater presence in Machynlleth in order to support the transition to any new delivery model for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the work location of Menter Maldwyn staff would be a matter to be determined by Menter Maldwyn.</p>
8.6.2	<p>There needs to be more clarity on what extra help, resources and funding is available for those pupils that might struggle to receive their education in a second language.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it would work with the school as part of the transition process to identify any additional support needed and to ensure that arrangements are made to offer appropriate provision for pupils and their parents / families.</p>

8.6.3	It's important that the school and the authority fully support non-Welsh speaking children, those that arrive in the school in Reception class and that we commit fully to teach them through the medium of Welsh not just at the beginning but through their journey through the school.	As above.
8.6.4	If we can show that we can fully support children at Bro Hyddgen, then we are far more likely to see them stay at Bro Hyddgen and not leave for other schools.	As above.
8.6.5	Additional staff will be needed for the 'transition period' for those children currently in the English stream. 1 to 1 staff if needed with free homework clubs after school. A structure of positive support needs to be put in place for the children to feel happy, confident and reduce any concerns.	As above.
8.6.6	Regular opportunities for parents and families to visit the school (after the Covid restrictions have been relaxed); an open door policy.	As above.
8.6.7	A greater attempt should be made to intensify the teaching of Welsh as a community language in the current English stream in order to quicken the transition and communicate some of its benefits to current pupils.	As above.
8.6.8	Establish a community of parents and families – Friends of the School who will help the staff and governors to promote the school's aim and ethos.	Comment noted. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it would work with the school as part of the transition process to identify any additional support needed and to ensure that arrangements are made to offer appropriate provision for pupils and their parents / families.

8.6.9	It's a concern that the ERW consortium will be coming to an end at the end of this financial year; ensuring that the effective Welsh-medium support which Powys County Council currently has in place is extended across the full range of provision to reflect the school's work, and that parents see that support and provision is available in Welsh beyond school. Within the field of ALN, this is essential as so many non-Welsh speaking parents are concerned that their pupils can't develop educationally in a language other than their first language; ensuring that this is addressed as part of this proposal would be a step towards easing the concerns of these parents.	The Council is currently developing a new structure of support for schools to replace that provided by ERW. This will include staff to support Welsh-medium education. The Council will also work with neighbouring authorities to ensure that support for pupils with ALN is available.
8.6.10	Parents need positive encouragement to send their children to the Welsh stream. Many don't do this because they are following a historic pattern or other examples. A lack of confidence is the reason for many of these decisions.	Comment noted.

## 9. REFERENCE TO TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

9.1	Are Powys County council going to provide a school bus free of charge for all these children you are forcing out of education in their town – where their families have been living for generations – shame on you Powys CC	The Council is not forcing children out of education in Machynlleth. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen can continue to offer high quality provision to all learners in the future, and to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both languages.
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		<p>Free transport would be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy which is in operation at the time.</p> <p>The Policy approved by Cabinet in September 2020 will come into operation in September 2021. This states that free home-to-school transport is provided to a learner's nearest suitable or catchment school, subject to the learner meeting the eligibility criteria. If an application for transport is refused, the applicant has the right to appeal that decision. The decision at all transport appeals are heard and decided upon on a case by case basis.</p>
9.2	Free bus travel/transport should be provided to the nearest school where the option to learn in English is given.	As above
9.3	Kids will have to travel longer time to access education AND in time they will have fees when travelling between counties, as Counties are less and less happy to cover those costs.	<p>The Home to School Transport Policy that becomes operation in September 2021 states the following:  <i>'The Council recognises its obligations under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to comply with parental preference regarding choice of school. However, where parents/guardians exercise a preference for a school other than their nearest suitable school, the child/ren will not be entitled to free home to school transport. Parents must make their own transport arrangements and are wholly responsible for their child/rens to travel to the school of their choice and all associated transport costs.'</i></p>
9.4	Changing Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to a Welsh medium school would mean some children having to travel across county to reach that education a round trip of 36 miles.	As above

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## 10. COMMENTS ABOUT THE CURRENT PROVISION AT YSGOL BRO HYDDGEN

### 10.1 A large number of pupils currently move from the Welsh stream to the English stream

10.1.1	Some children go through school in the Welsh language but struggle so move to the English stream later on.	<p>The Council notes these comments regarding movement of pupils from the Welsh stream to the English stream during their time at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>The Council's aim is that as far as possible, pupils that start in Welsh-medium education continue to do so throughout their education. This is the best way to ensure that pupils continue to develop their bilingual skills, so that they are bilingual in both Welsh and English when they leave school.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, the school would benefit from an enhanced Welsh ethos, which should have a positive impact on pupils' Welsh language skills, meaning that they are better equipped to continue to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school. The aim of the proposal is to ensure the best opportunities for all learners, and should the Council proceed with the proposal, staff at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would continue to support pupils to ensure that they have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>Many pupils across Wales attend single stream Welsh-medium schools in the primary and secondary sector. In these schools, there is no English stream for pupils to</p>
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		move into. However, pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply to transfer to an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
10.1.2	Lots of children move over to the English stream.	As above.
10.1.3	Some pupils start in the Welsh stream but move to English medium because of the impact on their education and their wellbeing from not being able to keep up with learning in Welsh.	As above.
10.1.4	Pupils start in the Welsh stream but move to the English stream to ensure that they don't fall behind.	As above.
10.1.5	Some pupils have moved from the Welsh stream to the English stream as they weren't flourishing in the Welsh stream and this had a negative impact on their self-esteem.	As above.
10.1.6	Children are being moved from the Welsh stream into English because they cannot read etc – there are so many awful stories.	As above.
10.1.7	Some children move from the Welsh stream to the English stream which enables them to achieve better grades.	As above.
10.1.8	Many pupils have moved to the English stream once in High School which has enabled them to achieve their predicted	As above.

	grades – don't think they would have achieved these grades had they stayed in Welsh-medium education.	
10.1.9	The majority wish for their children to be bilingual. However, many parents from non-Welsh speaking homes put their children in Welsh-medium education in the safe knowledge that should they find it challenging they can change to the English-medium stream. The change from the Welsh to English stream becomes even more noticeable at the secondary school.	As above.
10.1.10	Pupils are able to study some secondary subjects in English which enables them to achieve the best results.	As above.
10.1.11	Various children have to move from the Welsh stream due to them being unable to understand and progress, what is the option for children moving forward if this continues?	As above.
10.1.12	The number of pupils starting in the Welsh stream is misleading as parents are encouraged to put children in the Welsh stream. You need to look at the amount of children that eventually move to the English stream – at least 8 children going into Year 7 this September moved from Welsh stream to English stream because their parents believed they were struggling.	As above.
10.1.13	There have been reports that the English numbers are diminishing, but this is because the school is not reporting figures accurately and don't show how many students who begin in the Welsh stream move across to the English stream later which I know to happen often.	As above.



## 10.2 Concerns about the current provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

10.2.1	The Council should be considering improving education provision at the school, investing money and maintaining the school for the local population to benefit.	The local authority works closely with the school to provide and broker support for the school's identified areas for improvement as outlined in the school development plan. The school receives a delegated budget in line with the local authority's fair funding formula.
10.2.2	There are bigger problems within in the school that need addressing. Whilst I can understand the need for a consultation the problems within the school will remain regardless what language category is agreed for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future.	As above
10.2.3	Is the current set up working within the school? Are children getting the correct help, specialist help? Staff shortages continue to hinder the development of our children.	As above
10.2.4	You have allowed the school to change its name after a poor inspection, when it still has the same headmaster etc. Try to improve the education and results per student before a drastic change.	In December 2018, Estyn judged that the school had made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the Section 28 inspection. The school was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review. There will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection.
10.2.5	There is a need to improve the level of teaching first, instead of it being about language. During the younger years they should be taught an additional language like German or Spanish to be trilingual.	The local authority works closely with the school to provide and broker support for the school's identified areas for improvement in the school development plan. There is no statutory requirement for schools to teach additional languages to younger pupils.

10.2.6	Improve the facilities they have not waste resources changing things. Have an appropriate head teacher with a business head on their shoulders.	Comment noted.
10.2.7	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen treats the Welsh language as its priority language and I feel the English stream kids are not thought of equally.	Comment noted.
10.2.8	There has been a concerted effort for years to down grade English streams at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	Comment noted.
10.2.9	I don't like how as a parent of a reception class pupil I don't like how we were approached by Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to be persuaded to move our children over to the Welsh stream after applying for the English I think that was very underhanded of the school	Comment noted.
10.2.10	The teachers are kind and nice but basically ignore any indication of children struggling with Welsh medium in a thinly veiled effort to keep children from transferring to the English stream. So doing, keeping the English stream figures low (in preparation no doubt for this proposed change)	Comment noted.
10.2.11	From the time of early years / nursery age in Machynlleth, parents are told things like, the Welsh stream is better funded, all the nice children go in the Welsh stream etc. It really is very underhand and irresponsible when we really should be thinking what will help a child develop the best.	Comment noted.
10.2.12	As a non Welsh speaking parent I already struggle as the school will issue paperwork for its English stream students in Welsh only.	Comment noted.

10.2.13	The English support at the school is poor as it as, so I fear it will only get worse if the school changes to dual stream.	Comment noted.
10.2.14	It's important that the governors listen and have the opportunity to share the concerns of parents that support bilingual education as well as those that support mainly Welsh-medium education. Currently there isn't a wide cross section on the school's governing body. I feel that a negative attitude has been shown towards those that wanted more information, and these people have been called anti-Welsh.	Comment noted.
10.2.15	The preferences and prejudices of the school management are well known in the area - it would be better to put in place management that better understood the needs and demands of the community which the school serves, rather than imposing an ideological shift on the community using the reason of cost-savings. Machynlleth and its environs is a diverse area, provision in the community should reflect this.	Comment noted.
10.2.16	The school's leadership and management is out of step with community feeling on the matter. The renewal of the school may be a catalyst for renewal of the leadership and management to one with a more diverse, inclusive and internationalist outlook.	Comment noted.
10.2.17	This school already can't support children with ALN. Parents have had to take their children out – how will they support them with a different language?!	Comment noted.
10.2.18	The school already is struggling to support children with additional needs – pupils are leaving school with no	Comment noted.

	confidence and with low self-esteem because the school is failing them.	
10.2.19	I am concerned that there is a lack of commitment to finance a small school (post 11) effectively. It's as if we accept that Bro Hyddgen has a business case to stay open and the much warranted plan to upgrade facilities – but not it seems to fund it so that the children have access to a full subject choice – revenue funding seems to be based on a number of pupils – but unless we compensate for its smaller size it can't be run well. I am very concerned that pupils are expected to start a narrower choice of subjects from year 8, with only 1 full year of a wide curriculum against which to determine this choice. This I find far more worrying than whether teachers teach bilingually or just in Welsh.	Comment noted.

### 10.3 Other

10.3.1	Currently, pupils are being taught on Teams, and children are having their lessons almost entirely in Welsh. Pupils can speak Welsh confidently. If they went to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen as it currently is, many of them would choose to have lessons in English, and would move away from Welsh even though they are able to speak and write Welsh.	Comment noted.
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## 11. FINANCIAL IMPACT

11.1	Given that the school has had problems recruiting teachers, future surplus capacity and the potential of making teachers	The overarching aim of this proposal is meet the objectives of the Strategy for Transforming Education in
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	<p>redundant, the greater portion of the cost savings will come from the reduction of staff numbers and not by relocating pupils to another school. The consultation document shows that this school currently has an average spend per pupil that is in line with the counties average. Whilst I accept that the county has to make cost savings overall, the introduction of this policy will bring minimal cost savings to the overall Powys school budget simply because this school is already meeting its obligations. Greater savings can be made elsewhere, arguably where the cost per pupil exceeds the county average.</p>	<p>Powys to improve access to Welsh-medium provision and to move schools along the language continuum, rather than to drive cost savings, although the proposals are anticipated to result in a modest net saving to the authority.</p> <p>The Council's Transformation Programme is also considering schools across the county where cost per pupil exceeds the county average.</p>
11.2	<p>It will save costs, having less teaching staff.</p>	<p>As above</p>
11.3	<p>I know that the school needs financial help but this is not the way to do it at the cost of the educational needs of non Welsh speaking children.</p>	<p>Many pupils across Wales attend single stream Welsh-medium schools in the primary and secondary sector. In these schools, there is no English stream for pupils to move into. However, pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply to transfer to an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
11.4	<p>It is important that efficiency savings are put back to good use at the school to support the transition and maintain subject breadth.</p>	<p>Comment noted. However, any savings would be reinvested in the Council's corporate budget and any reinvestment in the schools' system would be agreed as part of the annual budget planning cycle.</p>
11.5	<p>The community has been promised 'support', 'extra help' for non Welsh speaking parents who have placed their children</p>	<p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, it would work with the school to identify additional support</p>

	<p>in Welsh streams over the last few years, there has been no help for them. This has definitely swayed people's opinions and feelings, because if there was no support available then, how can you guarantee this now, with over a million pounds in cuts to the language service being made annually, or at least this year.</p>	<p>required to support transition to the new operating model. This could include offering the opportunity for current pupils to access immersion provision which would enable them to transfer to Welsh-medium education earlier, which could enable the change to be fully implemented more quickly.</p> <p>This immersion provision is already being developed and expanded</p>
11.6	<p>I understand that the school being built a lot of the government funding is dependent on it being a Welsh speaking school</p>	<p>Funding for the new build planned for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is not dependent on the school becoming a Welsh-medium school.</p>
11.7	<p>Concern that the proposal would reduce outside investment and make it harder to improve standards.</p>	<p>There is no anticipation that outside investment would reduce as a result of this proposal.</p> <p>The local authority works closely with the school to provide and broker support for the school's identified areas for improvement in the school development plan.</p>
11.8	<p>Fewer children (i.e. the % of English children choosing another school) will probably mean less funding and the same challenges which reduce subject choice so disastrously at the moment.</p>	<p>Changes in the number of learners in the English medium stream do not currently impact on the funding available for the Welsh medium stream. Should this change go ahead, funding will continue to be based on pupil numbers but costs should reduce as a result of all the pupils being in one stream and funding would reduce in line with this.</p>
11.9	<p>In the past we have had financial promises from Powys, in relation to changes to be made to the school, and those promises have been broken. What assurances can be made</p>	<p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, it would work with the school to identify additional support required to support transition to the new operating</p>

	in relation to financial provision to support the school in the future?	<p>model. This could include offering the opportunity for current pupils to access immersion provision which would enable them to transfer to Welsh-medium education earlier, which could enable the change to be fully implemented more quickly.</p> <p>This immersion provision is already being developed and expanded.</p>
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## 12. IMPACT ON STAFF

### 12.1 Concern about the impact on staff that don't speak Welsh

12.1.1	What will happen to non-Welsh speaking staff?	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, a full staffing consultation would take place to look at the staffing required, and to identify any training needs for those staff who currently work in the English Stream.
12.1.2	What will happen to the staff who are currently teaching the English streams?	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, a full staffing consultation would take place to look at the staffing required, and to identify any training needs for those staff who currently work in the English Stream.
12.1.3	What about staff who don't speak Welsh, will they have to learn Welsh before being able to teach at the school if the language was changed to Welsh-medium? – it was explained that the Council would need to help the school to provide opportunities for teachers and other staff to learn Welsh.	As above.

12.1.4	How secure are the jobs of staff members who cannot speak Welsh, and what arrangements will there be in place to help such staff learn Welsh?	As above
12.1.5	Concern for the English speaking staff – it is not acceptable for staff to lose their jobs because they do not speak Welsh – this is discrimination.	As above.
12.1.6	Whilst the school will also happily make redundant any teacher unable to either speak Welsh or unable to show ability to multi-teach in a redundancy-skills audit, what will happen to the teachers teaching Welsh as a second language. 9 lessons a fortnight in Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10, Y11...?	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, a review of the curriculum would need to take place, along with a review of the staffing requirements to support that curriculum. This would then enable decisions to be made on the required staffing moving forward and a full consultation with staff would take place.
12.1.7	There will be a requirement for the current staff to all speak Welsh and training will be provided for those who require it. However those teachers may not want to learn Welsh or fail to achieve the required standard and by doing so, have in effect made themselves surplus to requirements. In simple terms, either learn Welsh or you'll be made redundant. Should that happen then you have solved your surplus capacity and made the financial savings in mentioned earlier.	There are a significant number of processes which would need to be undertaken before staff were placed at risk of redundancy including staff consultations, potentially reviewing any fixed term posts and seeking volunteers for retirement. The Council would work with each individual member of staff to review options including training and development prior to any redundancy taking effect.
12.1.8	How can you expect a French teacher to teach through the medium of Welsh? Surely a French speaker would benefit the children more than a Welsh speaker attempting to learn French? Surely it is about the skills they have and not the language!	Comment noted and as above, should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, a review of the curriculum and staffing needs would take place and consultations with staff would also ensure staff's views regarding the staffing structure were taken into account.



## 12.2 Concern about additional pressure on staff

12.2.1	Staff will be under more pressure than before because of increased class sizes.	Comment noted.
12.2.2	Already children are not getting enough support in the classroom as it is.	Comment noted.

## 12.3 Concern about impact on job opportunities

12.3.1	Such a language change will not bring more Welsh children. We are more likely to bleed English potential pupils than Welsh pupils. Thus less pupils simply means less classes, so less teachers will be needed.	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the possible impact of changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen on pupil numbers at the school in the future.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the intention is that this would be introduced on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school, therefore minimising the impact on pupil numbers. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>As indicated in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal:</p>
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		<p><i>'It is possible that changing the school's language category could lead to a reduction in pupil numbers as pupils from out of county currently accessing English-medium provision at the school may no longer choose to attend the school, or pupils from the local area may choose to attend alternative English-medium providers.</i></p> <p><i>However, it is also possible that changing the school's language category could lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the longer term, as pupils from other areas could choose to attend the school. This may be the case in respect of secondary provision in particular.'</i></p>
12.3.2	Many teachers cannot afford to be employed part-time.	Comment noted.
12.3.3	There would be less need for specialist teachers which would eventually lead to less choice at GCSE for the children of this community and even less so at A level where already students have to video conference here and there for subjects lacking specialist teachers.	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, a full staffing consultation would take place to look at the staffing required, and to identify any training needs for those staff who currently work in the English Stream.
12.3.4	Given that the school has had problems recruiting teachers, future surplus capacity and the potential of making teachers redundant, the greater portion of the cost savings will come from the reduction of staff numbers and not by relocating pupils to another school.	As above

#### **12.4 Improved opportunities to recruit staff who can teach through the medium of Welsh**

12.4.1	The proposal would give the school the power to insist that staff can speak Welsh when recruiting and appointing staff in future.	Comment noted.
12.4.2	The recruitment of teachers across the curriculum will improve as the need / expectation for them to teach bilingually will be reduced / removed. This can sometimes be a current barrier.	Comment noted.

## 12.5 Other

12.5.1	Concern that it might be difficult to find Welsh speaking teachers for some niche subjects e.g. business studies, and that this would limit the range of subjects available.	Comment noted.
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## 13. IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

### 13.1 Positive impact on the community

#### 13.1.1 The proposal would improve community cohesion

13.1.1.1	This would unite the community in the long term.	Comment noted.
13.1.1.2	Over a long period, changing the language category would benefit the community, by enabling stronger links between the different sectors of the community. Keeping a handful of children separate because of the linguistic choices of their parents creates a barrier, having all children in one language stream would be a bridge.	Comment noted.

13.1.1.3	This would bring everyone in the area together and improve community spirit.	Comment noted.
13.1.1.4	Having one language stream would end the negative effects of the current situation of creating splits within the community.	Comment noted.
13.1.1.5	The recent situation with Covid-19, particularly the lockdown in early 2020, saw Machynlleth pull together as a community; the change of the school to Welsh medium will have further positive effects on strengthening and bringing together the community.	Comment noted.
13.1.1.6	Once the change has happened, it will help improve community cohesion in the school and the area, as everyone would pull together as part of the same provision rather than being split into two streams.	Comment noted.

### 13.1.2 Positive impact on the Welsh language in the community

13.1.2.1	This would reinforce the language of our community.	Comment noted.
13.1.2.2	The more people in the community we can get learning in the medium of Welsh can only be an advantage moving forward.	Comment noted.
13.1.2.3	More people in the Machynlleth area would speak Welsh.	Comment noted.

### 13.1.3 Other

13.1.3.1	Intuitively I think this offers huge advantages to children and young people, and to the community as a whole.	Comment noted.
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## 13.2 Negative impact on the community

### 13.2.1 Concern that the proposal would lead to community division

13.2.1.1	It will create conflict in the community	<p>Whilst the Council acknowledges that the proposal could cause some tensions within the local community in the short term, in the long term the Council would hope that the proposal would improve community cohesion, as all pupils would attend the same provision.</p> <p>As indicated in the Integrated Impact Assessment published as part of the consultation documentation:</p> <p><i>'In the short term, it is possible that the proposal to change the school's language category could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing. Eventually however, it is expected that these tensions would diminish, and in the longer term as the change in language category is implemented, it is hoped that the proposal would help to improve community cohesion, as all pupils in the area would be fluent in both Welsh and English.'</i></p>
13.2.1.2	Moving to a Welsh medium has the potential to foster resentment in the local English speaking only community.	As above.

13.2.1.3	A change could be seen as discriminatory and divisive in a town that has an integrated bilingual community.	As above.
13.2.1.4	I am concerned that consulting again on the language status of the school is causing division within the communities of Machynlleth.	<p>As above.</p> <p>The Council is not ‘consulting <u>again</u> on the language status of the school’ – no formal consultation has previously been carried out on the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p>
13.2.1.5	It feels like gentrification to rid the school of lower class English speaking children or “problem kids” and it’s full on obvious.	<p>The aim of the proposal is not ‘to rid the school of lower class English speaking children’. It is the Council’s view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales.</p> <p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school’s language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school, including those from homes where no Welsh is spoken, would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh</p>

		language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.
13.2.1.6	It's important that pupils from all backgrounds are welcome at the local schools. Losing the English stream would make these schools less inclusive in my opinion.	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school, including those from homes where no Welsh is spoken, would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p>
13.2.1.7	Being told your not welcome in this community anymore. It is disgusting and shameful.	Should the proposal be implemented, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales.

		<p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school, including those from homes where no Welsh is spoken, would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p>
13.2.1.8	Machynlleth has always had an inclusive and multicultural atmosphere which will now be threatened by a minority of middle class nationalists who want a society of Monoglots.	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales.</p> <p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p>



		<p>Any new pupils starting school, including those from homes where no Welsh is spoken, would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>The Council's aim is not to create 'a society of monoglots'. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English. The current dual stream provision enables Welsh-medium pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English, however very few pupils educated through the medium of English develop full bilingual skills.</p>
13.2.1.9	The Dyfi area is a kind and welcoming community, made so by the actions of the eclectic mix of people that make up the population. Openness and inclusion are at the core of most Dyfi communities. For these community values and "feel" of the area to continue, the school must continue to provide Welsh and English education fairly and equally.	It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and be able to participate fully in their local community.
13.2.1.10	This is going to be detrimental and exclusive of the English community based in Machynlleth.	As above
13.2.1.11	By removing the English stream there will be an obvious inequity between the two languages. The Welsh language will be seen to be prioritised over the needs of English	It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully

	speaking children, and this sense of unfairness and imposition is likely to result in a backlash against the Welsh language in some parts of the community. It is therefore doing the Welsh language a disservice to attempt to promote it in this way, when some of the most vulnerable children are the most likely individuals to suffer.	bilingual in Wales and be able to participate fully in their local community.
13.2.1.12	There is no question of Welsh-medium education being removed from the school, and yet the news of this consultation has triggered a trauma response from some members of the Welsh-speaking community, who still remember the historical suppression of the Welsh language. Language is so important, and so central to our culture and identity, that in these difficult times I fear this consultation could place strain on the usually tolerant and respectful nature of the town, and create unhelpful division between communities who would be better served by supporting each other.	Comment noted.
13.2.1.13	Never in my lifetime here, until recent years, were people side-lined or frowned upon for not speaking both languages. Sadly though that appears to be seeping in through the political protestations of a small but vociferous minority. As a first language Welsh speaker I am the last to allow my language to play second fiddle to any other. But first and foremost must come the welfare of our future generations, living in a warm, welcoming and loving community. That is being jeopardised for cheap political gain and must be resisted for the sake of our areas renowned togetherness. Please retain the school as dual stream, it is what our community needs and deserves. Machynlleth is an outward-looking community which is rightly proud of its UK-wide and	It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and to participate fully in the community.

	indeed international cultural links, through its main cultural festivals, cultural facilities and wider outreach.	
13.2.1.14	Contrary to what some are currently claiming, the true definition of a bilingual area is not one where everyone can speak in both English and Welsh – it is one where each language is equally respected; one where people live together in harmony, side by side, speaking in whatever tongue they wish; where everybody is an equal stakeholder and each individual is valued for how they enrich our society.	It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and to participate fully in the community.

### 13.2.2 The area would not be attractive to people looking to move in / new businesses

13.2.2.1	The proposal will make the area look closed to outsiders. Not only would this give the area a bad name but become reinforcing as the children are educated in an environment that is hostile to non-Welsh speakers. This is not the attitude of people in the area now, so why would Powys Council want to instil such an insular viewpoint in future generations?	It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and to participate fully in the community. All pupils would continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.  Many areas of rural Wales have Welsh-medium schools and this does not make these areas look closed to outsiders.
13.2.2.2	This policy is structured to disadvantage the area to newcomers in two different ways: firstly, how will the school help non-speakers who move to the area (for example, when their parents have to relocate for work or family breakdown), especially for those later in their education? In the middle of an already stressful relocation, the council	The Council disagrees that the proposal will deter people from moving into the area. There is no evidence of this across Wales.  Pupils will continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, regardless of their background, and

	wants to force them to have their education in a language they do not understand, triggering mental health problems and setting them back in their education. Secondly, this could only exacerbate the “brain drain” Wales suffers, especially in rural areas like Bro Ddyfi, as it deters people from moving to area, bringing expertise, skills, and investment to an area badly in need of it.	<p>latecomers to Welsh medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will be provided with Welsh language development support to enable them to transition into Welsh medium education, for example through immersion programmes.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, eventually all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English so that they are able to utilise these skills in the workplace, where there is a growing demand for fluency in both languages in Wales.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposal would lead to improved employment opportunities for all pupils in the area in the future, as all pupils would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and therefore able to take advantage of employment opportunities which require fluency in both languages.</p>
13.2.2.3	New families would not come to live here.	As above.
13.2.2.4	Machynlleth particularly welcomes new residents from beyond as well as those from within Wales. New residents have, over the years moved here and contributed to the town and Dyfi Valley district's economic base, alongside native Welsh speakers, by setting up and developing successful businesses which have enhanced the resilience of the local economy.	There is no evidence that having a Welsh-medium school affects the development of businesses. Should the proposal be implemented, eventually all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English so that they are able to utilise these skills in the workplace, where there is a growing demand for fluency in both languages in Wales.
13.2.2.5	How many new businesses are going to want to relocate to this area knowing that the only education available is Welsh	It is anticipated that the proposal would lead to improved employment opportunities for all pupils in the

	<p>medium? We will lose jobs that are sorely needed. If Scotland decided to have Gallic medium education only it would be absurd and cause jobs to move elsewhere so employees could have a choice of English education. The same will apply to Wales I fear and we desperately need incomers to bring work and jobs to the area as they have done in the past much to the benefit of the local economy.</p>	<p>area in the future, as all pupils would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and therefore able to take advantage of employment opportunities which require fluency in both languages.</p>
13.2.2.6	<p>Machynlleth is highly dependent on health care professional to move their families to the area to ensure we have an adequate GP to serve the area. Most often these families have travelled from other counties or countries and making this change will have a huge knock on effect for the area. In the long term we could see a lack of working professionals and lack of children in a local school.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
13.2.2.7	<p>The proposal would be disadvantaging families from moving to the area, some of which could provide vital roles to the community such as doctors, paramedics, vets and also teachers. How can their children be educated through the Welsh language only? Not everyone is fluent in the Welsh language to support their children.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
13.2.2.8	<p>Machynlleth needs to be able to employ people from outside the area for particular specialisms e.g. doctors, engineers etc. Some of these will come from non-Welsh speaking areas - and bring great benefit to the area. Again, enabling their children to have an English language education with support to become fully bilingual is surely better for the area.</p>	<p>As above. The pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will be fully bilingual by the time they leave the school at 16 years of age.</p>

13.2.2.9	This would encourage people to move out of the area, I know I would so that my children get the education they deserve!!	Comment noted.
13.2.2.10	Machynlleth is a multicultural society and this will alienate families who will move their children to other schools, e.g. Aberystwyth, and will discourage people from moving to the area when we are crying out for doctors, dentists and vets.	As above.
13.2.2.11	Local business people who provide income and employment to the local area will move	As above.
13.2.2.12	Who will want to relocate to Machynlleth when only Welsh is spoken in the high school? This is a long term policy to change the society here, which has long been criticized as being not Welsh enough. Such a shame that Nationalism is rearing its head again and using the school as an instrument	The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.
13.2.2.13	We may not be able to attract professional people to live here if we cannot provide a bilingual education for children.	As above.
13.2.2.14	Where parents chose to move home closer to alternative schools, there could be an impact on existing local businesses and the economy. Indeed new local businesses might not locate here from outside in the future , - unsure whether older non-Welsh speaking children would be able to cope within a single Welsh-medium teaching regime, - or alternatively with facing a daunting commute.	As above.
13.2.2.15	Also by removing the English Language stream you will create a barrier to people considering moving to the area.	As above.

	<p>While it is all well and good "preserving" the Welsh language, if this is done to the exclusion of others this will result in a population drain on an already sparsely populated area. The language will then, literally, die.</p> <p>For any community to thrive, it needs to adapt to retain its young people and attract others to start families within it. Through my involvement in promoting the area via the Dyfi Mountain Biking community interest company, I am aware of 8 couples (with families) who have moved to the area for the sport. All have made efforts to learn Welsh, but all were reassured that schooling was available in their child's first language.</p> <p>As COVID has redefined how we can work from home, more people are looking to live somewhere rural and pleasant, rather than within a fixed distance of their jobs. Mid Wales is seeing a boom in interest from young people and families which we must encourage, and not create barriers to. By making Machynlleth School Welsh Only, you will restrict its appeal only to those who consider themselves Fluent (11%) or able to speak "A Fair Amount" of Welsh (8%) (Welsh Language Use in Wales, 2013-15. Gov.Wales). This will directly result in fewer families moving to the area and the subsequent decline in population of young people. Ironically, this move to "save" the language could help to kill it!</p>	
13.2.2.16	If no English stream is available in future, no new incomers, many fulfilling important healthcare/professional roles. No placements for fostered children who are unable to access second language education.	As above.

	<p>No needs being met of the most vulnerable in our society... And all because you don't want to give our English speaking children an equal opportunity in education? The Welsh speaking already have theirs.</p>	
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### 13.2.3 Other

<p>13.2.3.1</p>	<p>Our language is widely, but far from universally, spoken in the town. Machynlleth is not, and never has been, defined by the language that is spoken here.</p>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that not everyone in the Machynlleth area speaks Welsh.</p> <p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school, including those from homes where no Welsh is spoken, would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>This would ensure that eventually, all pupils that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would be fully bilingual in both Welsh and English, and would be able to use both languages, both in the community and beyond. The</p>
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		intention is that in the longer term, this would improve community cohesion in the area.
13.2.3.2	The overwhelming characteristic of our area's inhabitants is our community spirit, the collective will to bind together, both at times of jubilation and of severe adversity. It is being demonstrated in our togetherness right now during lockdown and countless times before. The language we speak comes secondary to all of that.	As above.
13.2.3.3	I think for this to be a sustainable option all of the community needs to be behind it.	<p>Whilst the findings of this consultation exercise have clearly illustrated the strength of feeling locally in respect of the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, and have identified a number of concerns in respect of the proposal, overall a majority of responses to the consultation indicated support for the proposal.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that the proposal could cause some tensions within the local community in the short term, in the long term the Council would hope that the proposal would improve community cohesion, as all pupils would attend the same provision. As indicated in the Integrated Impact Assessment published as part of the consultation documentation:</p> <p><i>'In the short term, it is possible that the proposal to change the school's language category could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing. Eventually however, it is expected that these tensions would diminish, and in the longer term as the change in</i></p>

		<i>language category is implemented, it is hoped that the proposal would help to improve community cohesion, as all pupils in the area would be fluent in both Welsh and English.'</i>
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## 14. IMPACT ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE

### 14.1 Would lead to increased use of the Welsh language

14.1.1	Changing the school's language category would help to spread the language throughout the whole community. It would bring unity between pupils and would reduce any differences in their education. Children from different backgrounds would have the same start to their education.	The Council notes these comments, and agrees that implementation of the proposal would lead to increased use of the Welsh language in the area.
14.1.2	The boost to the Welsh language locally would be huge, as children from non-Welsh speaking homes would inspire their families to learn Welsh. As the children grow with the language, they would go on to Further Education and Higher Education through the medium of Welsh, and on to the workplace where they would have bilingual skills. This would only increase the benefits for the local economy.	As above.
14.1.3	It would be a huge boost to the Welsh language in the town. So many people in the town understand Welsh but don't have the confidence to speak it.	As above.
14.1.4	Welsh-medium education would promote more Welsh speakers in rural Wales. Children should be encouraged to be part of the Welsh culture in the area from the start, and non-Welsh speaking parents shouldn't have the option to	As above.

	change the language of their children's education. They will all be pleased when they leave the school fluent in both languages.	
14.1.5	It would be natural for the Welsh language to be used more, not only in school but within the children's families, and therefore in the wider community.	As above.
14.1.6	We should be encouraging as many Welsh speakers as possible in the Bro Ddyfi area. If people have chosen to live here in rural Wales, they should have no option apart from becoming fluent in both languages, and being confident to use the language with each other in the area once they have left school.	As above.
14.1.7	Changing the school's language category is the only way to ensure more opportunities to use Welsh – it wouldn't be possible to increase these opportunities by keeping the school as a bilingual school as it limits the number of people who can speak Welsh.	As above.
14.1.8	More opportunities for all to make use of the Welsh language within the local community.	As above.
14.1.9	Changing the school's language category will lead to a shift in language use socially, which will have a positive impact on use of the Welsh language.	As above.
14.1.10	More people would be able to take part in Welsh activities.	As above.
14.1.11	Changing the school's language category would strengthen the ethos of Welsh-medium education in the area, which	As above.

	would also impact on the community, and will undoubtedly increase the opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.	
14.1.12	Changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would have a positive impact on the opportunities for people to use Welsh e.g. all children and their families would have the opportunity to take part in Welsh language activities e.g. the Urdd.	As above.
14.1.13	A Welsh-medium school would create fully bilingual citizens by immersing pupils in the Welsh language. This would ensure that the Welsh language flourishes in the community, and would provide more opportunities for individuals to use Welsh in all aspects of their lives.	As above.
14.1.14	The proposal would improve the status of the Welsh language locally, especially in the town, where English tends to be more fashionable.	As above.
14.1.15	The language of the school yard will change to Welsh as friends will discuss everything in Welsh. Outside school hours the Welsh language will be used by children that live in homes where no Welsh is spoken, more opportunities for further education, jobs, socialising, to be part of the community.	As above.
14.1.16	Would lead to the pupils speaking Welsh in school every day.	As above.
14.1.17	Welsh would become the natural choice for pupils to communicate with each other as they would have been	As above.

	used to this from a young age. This would lead to more community use of Welsh in the wider community – not just in school.	
14.1.18	Strengthening the opportunities to use the Welsh language and particularly limiting the opportunities and excuses to use the English language will increase the likelihood of Welsh being the language of choice, in particular scenarios such as the school playground and social media. Under the current provision, there is a tendency for Welsh speaking pupils to resort to English as the mono English pupils are unable to converse in Welsh. What more is needed to highlight the benefits of being bilingual? When Welsh speaking pupils begin relating their accounts of the day in English (as the dominant language in their activities), this can cause tension between pupils and parents concerned that yet again, the use of Welsh is under threat.	As above.
14.1.19	There would be more opportunities to use the Welsh language as everyone would speak Welsh. There will be some challenge in getting some pupils to speak Welsh together instead of English, but with more practice, they will become confident to speak Welsh together.	As above.
14.1.20	The proposal would strengthen the Welsh provision in the community and would be a great opportunity to promote the Welsh identity in the area and ensure that our young people develop to be fully bilingual individuals in the Dyfi valley.	As above.

14.1.21	The proposal would normalise the Welsh language, and would be an opportunity to promote the language and educate people that the language isn't something to be scared of. It's an additional skill which will help pupils on their journey through life, not make it more difficult.	The Council notes these comments, and agrees that implementation of the proposal would contribute to normalising the Welsh language in the area, and would lead to increased use of the Welsh language.
14.1.22	Because of social media it's inevitable that children and young people are involved with English culture, and as a result there is huge pressure on the Welsh language. By changing the school's status the Council is also changing the status of the language, and stating that Welsh is equal to English and deserves equal status.	As above.
14.1.23	This change should be fantastic. A truly bilingual community especially here in mid-Wales where we can bridge the North-South dialect a little easier. Maybe we will begin to attract some administrative work out of Aberystwyth.	Comment noted.
14.1.24	Census statistics show that the numbers speaking Welsh is decreasing at an alarming rate. The Council needs to be ambitious and innovative when taking the lead on plans to strengthen and ensure a future for the Welsh language in Powys. Changing the school's language category would be a big step in the right direction.	The Council notes these comments, and agrees that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in the number of Welsh speakers and increased use of the Welsh language in the area.
14.1.25	This would protect the Welsh culture within the community.	The Council notes these comments, and agrees that implementation of the proposal would help promote the Welsh culture in the area.

14.1.26	I agree that this move is not only essential to save the Welsh language but is also beneficial to the community, and will help promote Welsh traditions and culture which is slowly disappearing.	The Council notes these comments, and agrees that implementation of the proposal would help promote the Welsh culture in the area.
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## 14.2 Comments about bilingualism

14.2.1	It's important to raise standards and bilingualism does this.	Comment noted.
14.2.2	Research shows that bilingual education gives pupils many benefits.	Comment noted.
14.2.3	Changing the school's language category would facilitate the process of ensuring equal opportunities for both languages by developing bilingual citizens who would use bilingualism for their jobs and to contribute to the country more generally.	Comment noted.
14.2.4	Bilingual, multilingual children perform better in exams and develop problem solving skills more quickly than children that only speak one language. Bilingualism also slows down the onset of dementia.	Comment noted.
14.2.5	Having an additional language is a massive benefit when applying for jobs in Wales, and being totally bilingual means that children will grow up feeling a full part of their community, especially in a Welsh area such as Bro Ddyfi. Being able to speak two languages opens so many doors, to a totally new world.	Comment noted.
14.2.6	Speaking two or more languages is a skill in itself, and helps the process of learning other languages. Ensuring equal	Comment noted.

	ability in Welsh and English is something to be promoted, enabling pupils to access social, educational and employment/business opportunities in the local area and further afield. Speaking more than one language confidently is a way to expand horizons effectively.	
14.2.7	Welsh-medium education is the fastest and best way to true bilingualism. The English will look after itself! Bro Ddyfi always was and always should be a heartland of Welsh speaking and I believe PCC ought to do everything within its power to support that.	Comment noted.
14.2.8	All children in a bilingual society need to be bilingual.	Comment noted.
14.2.9	It's essential that all children have a fair opportunity to have a bilingual education. In an area that sees many incomers, there is a need to ensure that the Welsh language is taught and spoken at all levels to retain the language and expand the horizons of children bilingually.	Comment noted.
14.2.10	Education should be provided in the medium of Welsh in Wales, the language needs to be protected at all costs. There is a health benefit also in being fluent in two or more languages, such as English and Welsh, has been scientifically proven that it can reduce the risk of developing dementia which one positive is taking pressure from the NHS.	Comment noted.
14.2.11	Many are unaware of the benefits of bilingualism and the wealth of opportunities and experiences available from speaking the local language. By offering Welsh-medium	Comment noted.



	education to everyone, it will be possible to change some of these attitudes.	
14.2.12	Promoting the Welsh language and bilingualism is hugely positive for children's understanding of their culture and history as well as promoting the use of the language throughout their lives e.g., increased job prospects, benefits of bilingualism etc.	Comment noted.
14.2.13	Developing the pupils to be bilingual will open doors to pupils across the ability range socially and in terms of employment / business. As the Welsh Government's priority to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050 develops, this plan will ensure that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen pupils will have access to the opportunities that will result from that, locally and beyond.	Comment noted.

### 14.3 Reference to 'Cymraeg 2050'

14.3.1	The proposal will contribute to the Welsh Government's policy to have a million Welsh speakers by 2050.	Comment noted. The Council agrees that the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category would contribute to the Welsh Government's aim to have a million Welsh speakers by 2050.
14.3.2	This will ensure that children are confident in both languages which will help to achieve the target of a million Welsh speakers.	As above.
14.3.3	The Welsh Government's policy aims to have a million Welsh speakers. There isn't a single Welsh-medium high school in Powys currently (the only county in Wales), so it's about time we had one.	As above.

14.3.4	The proposal will support the Welsh language and ensure its future as a community language and as part of the Welsh Government target to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050.	As above.
14.3.5	It will help to protect and develop the Welsh language in the Dyfi Valley, and in Powys more generally, by increasing the number of Welsh speakers, and contributing to the Government's aim to ensure a million Welsh speakers by 2050.	As above.
14.3.6	It will support the Welsh language and ensure its future as a community language and will contribute to achieving the Welsh Government's target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.	As above.
14.3.7	The Welsh Government has a million Welsh speakers plan, the only way to achieve this is to significantly increase access to Welsh-medium education. There is a need to normalise bilingualism and the way to do this is to learn from birth, which is exactly what is being recommended here.	As above.
14.3.8	Part of the Welsh Government's strategy to achieve a million Welsh speakers.	As above.
14.3.9	It won't be easy to achieve the targets of 'Cymraeg 2050' without having a Welsh language continuum available to pupils from birth to University. It's essential that structural and systematic changes such as these happen urgently. Steps need to be taken and practical changes need to take place in	As above.

	order to achieve these targets. This is the Council's own policy (as set out in the latest WESP).	
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#### 14.4 Other

14.4.1	With regard to the further promotion of a thriving Welsh language, more widely spoken, a major obstacle has been the non-availability of face-to-face teaching of Welsh outside Wales itself, unlike English and other European languages. There is no reason why Welsh should not be available as a taught language in the rest of the UK, perhaps starting with the English border-counties and other direct travel corridors including the West Midlands, Merseyside and Avon areas. Many Welsh-speaking sons and daughters of Wales already teach in schools in those areas and could be relied upon to volunteer to teach Welsh in schools and evening classes beyond the border.	Comment noted.
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### 15. REFERENCE TO WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION DELIVERY MODELS

#### 15.1 Welsh-medium provision

##### 15.1.1 Support for Welsh-medium provision

15.1.1.1	A Welsh medium school is a better environment to facilitate the use of Welsh in all aspects of school life. Often having an English stream impedes the natural development of Welsh outside the classroom.	Comment noted.
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15.1.1.2	The available resource and experience would be richer if the school was Welsh medium rather than dual stream.	Comment noted.
15.1.1.3	The creation of a designated Welsh medium school would also have a very positive impact on the development of the Welsh language in the valley and local communities and would enable the school to focus even more on Welsh language and cultural initiatives.	Comment noted.
15.1.1.4	Welsh schools create bilingual citizens, that can use both languages equally. It's only possible to do this by raising the status of the minority language so that they are equal. Official Welsh schools are the only places that do this. The current model does not provide language equality. The English language will always be used more.	Comment noted.
15.1.1.5	Powys has a strategic plan to develop Welsh medium education. A designated Welsh school at Bro Hyddgen would help to meet its strategic commitments to support the development of the Welsh language across Powys and would be meeting Welsh Government priorities to ensure more people across Wales are able to speak Welsh.	Comment noted.
15.1.1.6	This is now an appropriate time to introduce such a change as there will be a new build on one site. In addition it will meet Powys CC Welsh language policy and commitment to extend Welsh medium education. Many other local authorities across Wales (even communities where Welsh is not a majority language) have for some time set up designated Welsh medium schools.	Comment noted.

15.1.1.7	Changing the language status will mean that there would not be divides by language within the school.	Comment noted.
15.1.1.8	A Welsh medium school must be established as soon as possible.	Comment noted.
15.1.1.9	The change in status will ensure that the school can plan for a more sustainable future for Welsh medium education, it will be in a better place to manage staff and resources and focus and developing the Welsh language across the communities that see Machynlleth as a focal point to a wider society in mid Wales.	Comment noted.
15.1.1.10	A designated Welsh-medium school does open the door for pupils to be able to attend Universities worldwide, whatever the language. Also, across all ability ranges, Welsh-medium education opens doors to pupils, including pupils with ALN, where the skill of being able to speak Welsh is of benefit. Therefore, it is not just the most able pupils who can benefit from Welsh-medium education.	Comment noted.

### 15.1.2 Criticism of Welsh-medium provision

15.1.2.1	I am not convinced of the benefits of a Welsh only school – can the same results be achieved with a stronger and more defined Welsh language ambition?	<p>As outlined in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal, the current dual stream arrangement at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen creates a number of challenges for the school.</p> <p>The Council's view is that gradually changing the school's language category on a phased basis to enable the school to operate as a single stream school</p>
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		would ensure that the school is able to provide the best possible opportunities to learners in the future.
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## 15.2 Dual Stream provision

### 15.2.1 Support for dual stream provision

15.2.1.1	Dual stream encourages the learning and use of Welsh throughout the school.	This is not correct. In a dual stream school some learners are enabled to become fully bilingual while other learners in the school study in English only. The learners in the Welsh stream study Welsh and English as first languages and are expected to be fully bilingual, Learners in the English stream study English to first language standard and Welsh as a second language, and it is not designed for them to become fully bilingual by the end of their time at school.
15.2.1.2	Having dual streams avoids any favouritism being shown to either language and offers a more inclusive education with all pupils given the opportunity to learn and use the Welsh language during their studies.	As above.
15.2.1.3	Although dual-language classroom instruction is criticised by the report and by Estyn, the reality is that this phenomenon at High School level and either part-split or doubled-up year groups at Primary schools, are an essential compromise in rural areas if relatively local education is to continue on a widespread basis. One cannot expect conditions prevailing in large urban centres to be possible in smaller rural settings. However, larger urban centres tend to have their own particular problems and it should be remembered that	It is recognised that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is a small rural all-age school with two streams of varying cohort size and balance of language. Operating as a single stream school would address these issues, over time, and would be a more efficient model of delivery. As noted in the Consultation Document, one of the reasons for the proposal is to improve educational outcomes:

	the people of the County of Powys were recently found to be the happiest in the UK, by pollsters on Well-being!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Children would no longer be taught in mixed language classes in the secondary phase</li> <li>○ Children would no longer be taught in mixed age classes in the primary phase</li> <li>○ There will be more pupils who are fluent and confident in using the Welsh and English language equally</li> </ul>
15.2.1.4	<p>The current dual stream provision serves ALL the children in our community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you currently wish for your child to receive Welsh-medium provision, they can study all subjects through the medium of Welsh.</li> <li>- If you currently wish for your child to receive English-medium provision, they can study all subjects through the medium of English.</li> <li>- If you currently wish for your child to continue studying some subjects in Welsh but have access to some subject through English, YBH offers this provision too.</li> </ul>	As above.
15.2.1.5	Parents absolutely support the dual-stream provision at YBH. It provides flexibility for parents and pupils and provides the opportunity for ALL children to succeed. It actually allows pupils to continue in Welsh-medium education for longer – as the greatest change from Welsh to English happens at key stage 4 with the start of GCSEs.	As above.
15.2.1.6	In the past, the strength and quality of the Welsh stream at Bro Ddyfi tended to persuade English speaking families to send their children into Welsh streams – which seems to do	Should the proposal be implemented, the strength and quality of the Welsh stream would be available to all pupils – the dual stream model perpetuates a segregated approach.

	more for developing a cohesive community than a segregated approach.	
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### 15.2.2 Criticism of dual stream provision

15.2.2.1	I have championed a change to Welsh medium since the first of my 5 children entered the education provision in Powys some 30 years ago. The status quo of a dual stream school has always limited the potential of effective learning in Bro Ddyfi.	Comment noted.
15.2.2.2	Over time, compounded resource has been unnecessarily diverted to sustaining a dual stream provision, scarce resource that could have been utilised to provide an improved and possibly broader provision for mine, and others' children.	Comment noted.
15.2.2.3	I can see that the English stream is not sustainable. The numbers that join each year are small, and a number of years are taught together. This has led to a situation where difficult decisions have to be made about class sizes in order to stay within the budget. For example, to avoid combining too many year groups in the English stream, there was a need to create a Welsh-medium class which was too big.	Comment noted.
15.2.2.4	I can appreciate the difficulties and extra challenges that dual stream schools face on an ongoing basis. This includes the financial implications in maintaining two streams. In addition, it reduces flexibility in managing class sizes and deployment of staff and resources.	Comment noted.



15.2.2.5	Dual stream schools don't develop the Welsh language skills of children as well, and children are less likely to feel that they belong to the local community (see Cunnington Wynn 2019).	Comment noted.
15.2.2.6	Dual stream schools don't work. They are expensive to maintain, and children aren't really immersed in the Welsh language. The lack of subjects available in Welsh as children get older is disgraceful. It's almost embarrassing to call them 'Welsh streams', as only a very small fraction of subjects are available in Welsh in other schools.	Comment noted.
15.2.2.7	As a family we intend to send our children to school in Ceredigion unless the situation improves. Dual stream schools do not develop children's Welsh language skills as well, and children are less likely to feel that they belong to the local community (see Cunnington Wynn 2019).	Comment noted.
15.2.2.8	Children in the English stream often leave school without being fluent in Welsh. This places them under a disadvantage when moving to higher education: there are significant financial incentives available to learners studying in Welsh (see <a href="http://www.colegymraeg.ac.uk">www.colegymraeg.ac.uk</a> for the details of Welsh-medium scholarships and the websites of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Trinity St David's Universities for information about Welsh-medium scholarships offered by these organisations).	Comment noted.

## 16. REFERENCE TO DISCRIMINATION / INEQUALITY

16.1	This proposed change in instruction would be discriminatory for those unable to speak Welsh fluently leaving prospective pupils very limited options regarding choice of secondary schools.	<p>The Council does not agree that it is discriminating against English speakers. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change is introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken would be immersed in the Welsh language, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
16.2	Changing the language to only Welsh is 100% discrimination. Our children are the ones that will suffer and are being told you're not welcome in this school.	As above.
16.3	It could be argued that families and individuals who can only speak English would be unlawfully discriminated against by the move to Welsh medium. There are no English medium schools in the area.	As above.
16.4	English is one of the official languages of Wales so should not discriminate against English speakers.	As above.
16.5	Removing the English Language stream will prevent children having their UN-sanctioned right to education in their first	As above.

	language. This feels a lot like racial discrimination for "not being Welsh, or Welsh enough"!	
16.6	There would be no equality if English is taken away.	<p>This comment is noted, however the Council's view is that the current situation does not provide equality as not all pupils accessing education in Machynlleth have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English during their time in school.</p> <p>The proposal to change the school's language category would ensure that all pupils in Machynlleth would have the opportunity to become fluent in Welsh and English in the future.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
16.7	Just as it is important to offer education in Welsh it is equally important to offer provision in English. Those who wish to receive their education in Welsh already can, by moving the provision to Welsh only it only reduces opportunities and equality rather than creating more.	As above.
16.8	Equal rights is needed here not a society of monoglots.	The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English, therefore implementation of the proposal would not lead to 'a society of monoglots'.

		The current dual stream provision enables Welsh-medium pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English, however very few pupils educated through the medium of English develop full bilingual skills.
16.9	Removing the English stream will be a massive loss for the community and the children coming through education, in 2020 we work for equal opportunities and YBH has done the opposite.	The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English. The current dual stream provision enables Welsh-medium pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English, however very few pupils educated through the medium of English develop full bilingual skills.
16.10	It smacks of social cleansing.	The Council does not agree with this statement. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, pupils from all linguistic backgrounds would be welcome to attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
16.11	The Council would rightly be castigated is it were making YBH an English-medium school – why does it not recognise the gross hypocrisy and Anglophobic prejudice behind the proposal?	<p>The Council does not agree that there is ‘gross hypocrisy and Anglophobic prejudice’ behind the proposal. The trend in the Machynlleth area over recent years is an increase in the proportion of pupils choosing to access Welsh-medium education, including pupils from a non-Welsh speaking background. The current proposal reflects this trend.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change would be introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from</p>

		<p>homes where no Welsh is spoken attending the school in the future would be immersed in the Welsh language when they start school, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p>
16.12	<p>The proposal is completely unfair. By introducing this policy you are in effect creating an exclusivity element to the pupils, where those who are moved elsewhere could be regarded as failures by their peers.</p>	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposal is ‘completely unfair’, or that it would create an ‘exclusivity element’.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change would be introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken attending the school in the future would be immersed in the Welsh language when they start school, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>The Council’s intention is that pupils would be able to continue to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school, however ultimately, pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen’s language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference, however this would be their choice.</p>

16.13	<p>I believe this proposal will discriminate against pupils with learning difficulties and not allow them equal opportunities. They will not have an equal access to education. Most importantly, I believe it discriminates against children and young people who may choose to learn in the English language and be denied this essential freedom of choice.</p>	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen discriminates against pupils with learning difficulties.</p> <p>Children with ALN in Welsh-medium schools all over Wales receive excellent support as required. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the Council would work with the school to ensure that appropriate support was provided to any pupils with ALN, and will work with neighbouring authorities to develop best practice and additional support if needed.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change is introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken would be immersed in the Welsh language, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
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**17. IMPACT ON PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC GROUPS**

**17.1 Concern about the impact on pupils with ALN**

17.1.1	Children with ALN may struggle if Welsh isn't their first language. How is Powys going to overcome this issue?	<p>Across Wales there are children with SEN/ALN who are educated successfully in Welsh-medium schools, whether they are from Welsh-speaking homes, English-speaking homes or homes where other languages are spoken. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, along with other schools, can benefit from learning from best practice.</p> <p>The Powys SEN/ALN strategy, agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, is committed to improving the provision for all pupils with SEN/ALN, whatever their first language. This includes pupils who can be educated in mainstream classes as well as pupils who require specialist provision.</p> <p>As part of the strategy, the local authority is developing and improving its range of specialist provision, including specialist centres and satellites of special schools, in order to make sure that the needs of all pupils in Powys can be met effectively. The design of the new building planned for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen includes significantly improved facilities for pupils with SEN/ALN which will enable them to receive high quality support.</p> <p>The school will not change from Welsh medium to English medium over night. There will be a transition period for those pupils already in the school. During this transition period, pupils with SEN/ALN who are currently attending the English stream at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to receive their education through the medium</p>
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		<p>of English as outlined in the proposal. Pupils who attend the specialist centre at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to attend the centre, whatever their first language – English, Welsh or other.</p> <p>If the proposal goes ahead, pupils with SEN/ALN will be taught through the medium of Welsh. A key part of the strategy is that pupils with SEN/ALN have the right to be educated in mainstream schools alongside their peers.</p> <p>Under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018, pupils with ALN will have individual development plans (IDPs) which will set out their needs and the support that they will receive. This could include support from school staff as well as specialist support from the local authority. Where appropriate, interventions may take place through the medium of English. This will be determined in line with the needs of the individual pupil. Similarly, if a pupil arrives at the school with no English, a level of support may be provided in their own language.</p>
17.1.2	How will you be able to respond to parents who are concerned about their children who are first language English and have special educational needs?	Please refer to the comment above.
17.1.3	A number of pupils with ALN struggle to learn even through their first language, and I am concerned regarding what support will there be for pupils with emotional, social and behaviour problems, which are already educational barriers,	As part of the new build planned for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, there will be improved facilities for pupils with a range of needs, including emotional, social and behaviour problems.



	without having to be educated in a language which is not their mother tongue.	<p>The local authority is currently working with a number of high schools on developing wellbeing centres where pupils can be supported when they are experiencing anxiety of any kind. It is intended that all schools should have effective wellbeing provision.</p> <p>The local authority provides a range of training for schools on strategies and programmes to address the needs of pupils with emotional, social and behaviour problems. In addition, the pupil referral unit and special schools have outreach services which provide advice, guidance and training to mainstream schools.</p>
17.1.4	Children with additional learning needs with an English background will not have the support that they should.	Please refer to the comment above.
17.1.5	Children with learning difficulties will suffer, either from having to travel elsewhere and be separated from their community or from receiving their education in a language that is not their spoken one.	<p>A key feature of the ALN Strategy is that pupils should receive a high quality education that meets their needs as near as possible to their local community. We fully recognise the importance of children being able to attend school with their siblings and friends.</p> <p>A very few pupils with very significant needs may require more specialist facilities, for example in a special school. In order to reduce the amount of time spent by a few children travelling to special schools, the local authority is setting up satellites of the specialist schools in areas of Powys where there is no special school.</p>

17.1.6	Children with Additional Learning Needs from English language homes will be forced to travel far in order to have an education in English.	<p>Across Wales, there are pupils with SEN/ALN from English speaking homes who are educated successfully in Welsh medium schools. The language is not a barrier to them achieving their potential. The ability to speak two or more languages actually improves pupils' cognitive functioning.</p> <p>Schools are very sensitive to the needs of pupils with SEN/ALN. If some support is required in English, this would be provided.</p> <p>Within the specialist centre, which provides for the pupils with the highest level of need, teaching and support will continue to be provided in both English and Welsh according to the need of each individual child.</p>
17.1.7	I think this will discriminate people with ALN because of lack of support, resources and create yet another barrier to their learning.	<p>There will not be a lack of support or resources. See previous comments on support and training.</p> <p>The local authority has purchased Welsh medium resources for pupils with SEN/ALN and will continue to work with schools to ensure that they have appropriate resources.</p>
17.1.8	SEN learners have enough problems without adding a language restriction to the mix.	<p>Language is not a restriction. It actually enhances a child's learning.</p> <p>An important feature of education in Wales under the ALN Act is person centred planning. Where a pupil does not make appropriate progress, support will be provided. In some cases, this may be through the medium of English.</p>

17.1.9	I worry about those children for whom Welsh is not a first language and for whom they have learning issues and would be struggling in a Welsh medium only school.	Please see the response to comments above  It should be remembered that the aim of a Welsh medium school is to ensure that pupils leave school with highly developed skills in both English and Welsh.
17.1.10	For some children, even grasping their own first language can be difficult enough, without the added pressure of being in a new environment and being expected to learn in what may be to them, a completely different language to what they are used to. How will this enable and empower them to reach the best of their ability?	Please see the response to comments above.
17.1.11	I know that there is huge concern amongst parents about teaching children that have additional learning needs through the medium of Welsh. I believe there is a need to ease their concerns by ensuring that this is possible and that appropriate support is available. Don't ignore their concerns – they are valid concerns.	The Council fully recognises these concerns. The school and local authority will work with parents over the coming months and years to discuss their concerns and reassure them that their children will be supported to achieve their potential. There is evidence across Wales that pupils with SEN/ALN from English speaking homes can achieve very good outcomes in both English and Welsh medium schools.
17.1.12	I am however quite concerned how this will effect children with additional learning needs who aren't able to learn in Welsh. I hope that in these circumstances that there would be a relaxation to ensure they are not discriminated against.	Teachers and support staff are extremely sensitive to the needs of children with SEN/ALN and will make sure that they grasp all concepts. At times, this might require an explanation in English. There will be no discrimination.
17.1.13	A high percentage of pupils that are on the ALN register attend the English stream. The development of these pupils	The proposal will be implemented on a phased basis therefore if pupils are already in the English stream they will remain in that stream.

	will be seriously impacted if they aren't taught in their mother tongue.	
17.1.14	There is a need to look seriously at Powys' SEN provision. This is the cohort that will be most affected by the change in status. Hopefully this will be a small percentage.	The local authority has produced a detailed ALN strategy which was consulted upon and which is available on the Powys website. This strategy is extensive and is being implemented at pace. We will continue to evaluate the impact of the our new SEN/ALN strategy.
17.1.15	ALN pupils often need extra IT resources and media to access the curriculum and these are not always available in Welsh e.g. PECS and alternative communication models which are not generally available in Welsh.	We recognise this. We will work with the inclusion team in Powys and in other neighbouring authorities to procure these resources and the support needed. The planned new build for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will have intensive investment in technology.
17.1.16	The ability of ALN pupils to access a fully inclusive and supportive education will be severely limited if they are not comfortable or able to communicate in Welsh.	Please see the response to the comments above.
17.1.17	We must consider and prioritise children who have Additional Learning Needs too, I am certain those who work in the ALN department of Powys will surely have voiced their concerns to this proposal, that by limiting the choice of language to a child with ALN will no doubt add another barrier to their learning. I urge you to think of the individual child.	The focus on the individual child is paramount. This will not change with the proposals.  Effective practice in other local authorities across Wales shows that pupils from English speaking homes can achieve very well in Welsh medium schools.
17.1.18	It seems unfair that some in the community would have to look further afield for a school that caters for their child's needs, especially those with learning difficulties. A lot of these children's families choose the English stream to reduce the pressure of an extra language which so many find	Most pupils with SEN/ALN from English speaking homes learn very successfully in Welsh medium schools.

	extremely difficult. It would be a shame for Machynlleth to lose a big part of their community should this go ahead.	In a very few cases, pupils may require special school provision. This is the only time that we would expect a child to have to travel any distance.
17.1.19	Many ALN pupils have very significant difficulties in social situations and with communication, they can also have behavioural difficulties, all of which will be made more difficult to overcome if they are required to carry out their education in an environment that they don't feel 100% able to communicate and feel nurtured in.	We recognise this. Should the proposal be implemented, support from the school and from the Athrawon Bro team (who provide trochi/immersion provision) will be provided to strengthen the Welsh language acquisition of learners with SEN/ALN.
17.1.20	It is taking away the rights of the child to learn in their language spoken at home and will create obstacles to learning for some, especially those with ALN. Having spoken with sensory therapists, physiotherapists and speech and language therapists extensively about the proposed changes I know that the impact on some pupils will be hugely negative and create further inequalities to learning.	Please see the response to previous comments.  Speech and language therapists will often advise that specialist programmes should be delivered in a child's mother tongue. Expert advice from the therapist would always be sought.
17.1.21	If a child has special educational needs that require that they learn exclusively through English would that be provided through SEN provision? Just wondering about the detailed plan for the few who may suffer.	Please see the response to previous comments  The school's additional needs co-ordinator and local authority officers, including specialist teachers and educational psychologists, will assess the pupil's needs and provide advice. Person centred planning will ensure that provision meets the needs of the pupil.
17.1.22	Whilst there are compelling reasons for encouraging bilingual education, this does not suit all children, especially those with additional educational needs, some of which find it challenging to thrive in this environment. Given that the school serves a large catchment it should aim for an inclusive style that accommodates all learners.	It is the intention that all pupils should leave school with effective skills in both English and Welsh.

17.1.23	<p>I am concerned about children who are unable to pick up Welsh due to speech and language issues, dyslexia and other SEN. I do not trust the school to give them sufficient help. Some children struggle with one language, let alone two.</p>	<p>The school and the Council are able to provide support for pupils with dyslexia through the medium of Welsh and English.</p> <p>Pupils with significant difficulties may be placed at the specialist centre within Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>As part of the ALN Strategy, the local authority has funded 14 teachers to undertake specialist post-graduate diplomas in a range of SEN/ALN and intends to fund more teachers next year.</p> <p>The local authority has also recently employed a team of specialist teachers who will work with schools on areas of SEN/ALN such as specific learning difficulties (dyslexia) and speech and language.</p> <p>The local authority is working with the special schools to develop Powys Autism Service. The three special schools and the pupil referral unit provide outreach support to schools.</p> <p>All of the above will mean that staff across Powys develop skills and expertise in a range of SEN/ALN.</p>
17.1.24	<p>Pupils with Asperger's may not be able to cope with going into the Welsh stream in high school so would have to travel on a bus for 18 miles which may not be possible for them.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>The council is in the process of developing a Powys Autism Service to support pupils with autism, including Asperger Syndrome.</p>

		Many children with autism experience a high level of anxiety. This needs to be addressed by the school through the development of a wellbeing centre.
17.1.25	Removing the English stream will impact on those children from English-speaking families who have Learning Disabilities, particularly those with Disabilities of language acquisition and understanding, such as Autism. An Autistic child may be capable of mainstream schooling and high academic achievement in their first language, while being unable to tolerate the cognitive challenges of a second language environment. In addition, for Autistic children with sensory processing difficulties, the impact of having to travel longer distances to access a suitable education is likely to be more profoundly negative. An autistic child who is taken out of the local area for schooling will be far less likely to be able to build social relationships with local peers and is more likely to suffer from isolation and reduced opportunities to develop social skills as a result. Rates of autism in Wales are growing, with over 1% of the UK population having the condition. In a school the size of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen you would expect 4-5 pupils to be affected, and potentially disadvantaged by the removal of the English-medium option.	<p>Comment noted. Please see comment above.</p> <p>The council is in the process of developing a Powys Autism Service to support pupils with autism.</p>
17.1.26	Pupils with Autism, in particular, need a very familiar learning environment, not one that isolates and creates further uncertainty about the world that surrounds them. School should be a place of safety and inclusion for them.	The Council agrees with this comment. The council is in the process of developing a Powys Autism Service to address these issues. This will include working with schools to develop wellbeing centres which will be safe areas where they can go when they are feeling anxious.

1.1.27	There are many children with dyslexia and other difficulties who wouldn't be able to learn effectively in an all Welsh language school.	<p>The school and the Council are able to provide support for pupils with dyslexia through the medium of Welsh and English.</p> <p>There are many pupils with dyslexia who achieve well in Welsh medium schools.</p>
17.1.28	How will the school cater for children with speech and language difficulty, that come from English speaking households? They will have difficulty in their first language, teaching them through their second language is not going to help. Will they have to travel to Aberystwyth?	<p>Please see the response to comments above.</p> <p>The only time we would envisage children having to travel would be if they require special school provision.</p>
17.1.29	I believe that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should be looking at specialised support for children with additional needs rather than having to travel to either a different local authority or different location in order to access the support they require. There is a need for an SEN unit to ensure these children also feel a part of the community they live in. Education for all is what is necessary.	<p>There is currently a specialist centre at Bro Hyddgen in the primary phase. However, this is not replicated in secondary.</p> <p>Plans for the new build include SEN/ALN facilities for both the primary and secondary aged pupils.</p>
17.1.30	The school has a specialist unit which is exceptional in meeting and supporting the needs of the current children in attendance and the staff work extremely hard. My concern is this proposal will put significant added pressure on that unit. The unit will become overwhelmed and not fit for purpose.	The Council will work with the school to strengthen the support for the specialist unit. As part of the ALN Strategy, the Council is reviewing the needs of the pupils and the staffing ratios in the specialist centres to make sure that they are fit for purpose.
17.1.31	It is evident that the support services available to children on the ALN register such as Speech and language therapists, CAMHS and Educational Psychologists through the medium of Welsh are very limited within Powys. How can you be so assured that you will be able to meet the needs of these	Specialists such as speech and language therapists and educational psychologists will advise as to whether their input should be through the medium of English or Welsh.



	children with such a drastic implementation and no alternative provision in the catchment area? Surely it is of paramount importance to all involved in Education and ALN that it needs a person centred approach to fully support them, here you are proposing another barrier to learning for some children, it is unethical and wrong.	Where Welsh medium provision is required, the local authority will arrange this.
17.1.32	The Governors, Management Team and the area SEN Unit would have an important role in discussing any concerns from parents that are concerned about the impact of any change in language category on conditions such as Dyslexia.	We are keen to work with all stakeholders in developing SEN/ALN provision at the school, to make sure that it meets the needs of all pupils.
17.1.33	Concern about the impact on pupils with dyslexia.	The school and the Council are able to provide support for pupils with dyslexia through the medium of Welsh and English.
17.1.34	There are no appropriate intervention programmes in the Welsh language to help struggling learners, only basic childish versions. These are no good for secondary aged pupils, which is the age where most pupils would change to take the subjects and exams through the English language.	We recognise that Welsh medium interventions are limited. The local authority inclusion team will work with neighbouring authorities to procure these resources and the support needed.
17.1.35	It's vital that the Council ensures that additional support is offered to children who are covered by the Equality Act 2010. It's also essential that parents receive support.	The types of support available have been outlined above.  Support for parents is also crucial. The local authority fully recognises this.
17.1.36	The language of care supersedes the language of instruction; any disabled child coming from an English speaking home would be provided for, supported and cared	Please see the response to comments above.

	for according to their level of need. The language spoken would not stand in the way of their programme of care.	
17.1.37	I agree that teaching ALN can work well in Welsh schools all around the country. But it is also true that almost all of those Welsh schools also have English provision nearby where parents can choose to send their children.	Please see the response to comments above.
17.1.38	Are you saying that if a child's needs could not be met if educated in the Welsh-medium, they would then be sent out of county or to a school which is quite a distance away? What about the rights of the child to be educated in his or her community?	If a child had a high level of need, they would be considered for placement at the specialist centre within the school. This is to ensure that their needs can be met within the community.
17.1.39	If a child needs a speech and language therapist, what happens if no Welsh speaker is available? It's difficult to get Welsh language speech and language therapists to help in Powys.	The Council will work with neighbouring authorities to procure the support needed.

## 17.2 Other concerns about the impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups

17.2.1	Foster parents in the area will be unable to put non Welsh speaking children into the local school.	<p>Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>Across Wales, a significant proportion of pupils that access Welsh-medium education come from homes where no Welsh is spoken, and this does not impact on</p>
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		<p>their ability to succeed in their education. Should the proposal be implemented, Welsh would eventually become the main language of communication within the school, which would enable all pupils to improve their Welsh language skills, and should enable those from non-Welsh speaking homes to develop more fluency in Welsh, ensuring that they are better able to thrive in Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>Alongside any change to the school's language category, the Council would ensure that additional provision such as immersion provision and additional language support would be available to support pupils and their families.</p>
17.2.2	I also believe the proposal would limit the opportunities for looked-after children to attend the school in the future and thereby be fostered within the community. In a personal capacity this decision would affect my family's potential to provide a foster care placement to a young person in the future.	As above.
17.2.3	Looked after children coming from the south of the county could not be given a home in Machynlleth if they didn't have English medium in school. Too much upheaval for any child, taken from home and then expected to put in school of different language.	As above.
17.2.4	Children will be forced to either have a Welsh only education or travel to Aberystwyth, the latter discriminates against people with disabilities who find travel hard.	The Council does not agree that the proposal is discriminating against pupils. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change is introduced on a phased basis, from the

		<p>Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken would be immersed in the Welsh language, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
17.2.5	All children have a right to an education. Many children have disability needs and taking away a language they use would be wrong and cause them discrimination.	As above.
17.2.6	Under Part 6, Chapter 1 of the Equality Act (Education and schools) accessibility for disabled pupils would be reduced.	As above.
17.2.7	Children with mental health issues will be negatively affected by being pushed out of community.	As above.
17.2.8	Concern about the impact on pupils from socio-economically deprived backgrounds, that may need school meals and go hungry or neglected at home. They are more likely to have concentration problems. They may 'play up' in their first language, because of hunger or feelings of dissatisfaction, under appreciation or low self-worth. If they struggle with communication through the medium of their first language, I suspect that communication will be even more challenging through the medium of their second language.	<p>The Council has a duty to provide adequate support to all pupils, including those belonging to protected characteristic groups.</p> <p>It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and to participate fully in the community.</p>

17.2.9	I'm concerned about children from disadvantaged non-Welsh speaking families – will they suffer more than everyone else for the middle class agenda to protect the Welsh language? Everything is against them already and if their parents aren't supportive will they lose out? For example those that will fill posts where language qualifications aren't relevant, such as those in the 'gig economy'.	<p>Across Wales, a significant proportion of pupils that access Welsh-medium education come from homes where no Welsh is spoken, and quite often these schools are in socio-economically challenged areas, and this does not impact on their ability to succeed in their education. Should the proposal be implemented, Welsh would eventually become the main language of communication within the school, which would enable all pupils to improve their Welsh language skills, and should enable those from non-Welsh speaking homes to develop more fluency in Welsh, ensuring that they are better able to thrive in Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>Alongside any change to the school's language category, the Council would ensure that additional provision such as immersion provision and additional language support would be available to support pupils and their families.</p>
17.2.10	I also have concerns about low-income households and their levels of literacy and therefore their ability to support Welsh only education when they don't have Welsh at home. I worry that these children will be at a further disadvantage in the future because they perhaps just haven't understood some of their basic education.	As above.
17.2.11	I feel changing the language will have an adverse affect on pupils under any protected characteristic as it takes away their independence and freedom of choice of being taught in the language of their choice. This could impact their attainment levels, and their right to an inclusive education.	The Council has a duty to provide adequate support to all pupils, including those belonging to protected characteristic groups.

		It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and to participate fully in the community.
17.2.12	You could also make the case that English speaking Welsh people are a specific minority ethnic group within the UK, and that removing the English-medium option from the school therefore discriminates against them on the basis of race.	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposal is discriminating against English speaking Welsh people. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change is introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken would be immersed in the Welsh language, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
17.2.13	A full and comprehensive risk assessment and equalities impact assessment need to take place, in addition to my response above before moving ahead with proposals. The community needs to be sure this is the right move, and all children will be supported.	A number of impact assessments have been carried out and published as part of the consultation documentation. This includes an equalities impact assessment and consideration of risks associated with the proposal. The impact assessments will be updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period, and the updated versions will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

7.2.14	<p>The proposals will impact Section 85, Part (2) (a, b, c and f), the responsible body of a school must not discriminate against a pupil – In the way it provides education for the pupil, in the way it affords the pupil access to a benefit, facility or service, by not providing education for the pupil and by subjecting the pupil to any other detriment. All of these will apply; pupils wanting and needing an education through English will be discriminated against and at a disadvantage to their peers and the whole effect of this discrimination will be a detriment to their learning, acquisition of skills and general development.</p>	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposal is discriminating against pupils. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change is introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken would be immersed in the Welsh language, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen’s language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
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### 17.3 Don't think the proposal would have a negative impact

17.3.1	<p>The benefits of Welsh medium provision can be beneficial to people across all protected characteristics.</p> <p>It will be a beneficial lever to improving other provisions through the medium of Welsh for people across all protected characteristics.</p>	Comment noted.
17.3.2	<p>Providing the opportunity to access Welsh-medium education to minority groups would be a very positive thing, and would be a way to include and welcome them to the local community.</p>	Comment noted.

17.3.3	The needs of people belonging to protected characteristic groups will need to be considered and the implications will need to be discussed	Comment noted.
17.3.4	With the correct support in place, I don't think there should be a problem with this.	Comment noted.
17.3.5	Having the opportunity to speak and use two languages is priceless to everyone, including those belonging to protected characteristic groups. The Welsh language is for everyone whatever their background or status.	Comment noted.
17.3.6	Children with dyslexia benefit from being in Welsh-medium/bilingual education.	Comment noted.
17.3.7	The needs and rights of pupils with protected characteristics are protected in other Welsh-medium/bilingual schools across Wales.	Comment noted.
17.3.8	<p>Ensuring natural bilingualism for all pupils in the school would enable the school to move forward and spend more time and resources solving problems associated with the protected characteristics.</p> <p>Race is one of the protected characteristics. Race isn't defined here. Genetic legacy is core, but I consider that 'racism' also includes other aspects such as religion and culture. Language is the main medium to share and transfer culture. Bilingualism is a huge step towards reducing cultural racism.</p>	Comment noted.



17.3.9	Need to ensure a thorough package of support for parents who could feel disadvantaged, to ensure support to the school.	Comment noted.
17.3.10	<p>If the child has been taught in Welsh from the start, there shouldn't be an impact in relation to equality.</p> <p>Care and the standard of learning is the most important thing here, not the language in which it takes place.</p> <p>Having said this, it's essential that the school is aware what language a child with needs speaks at home, and also the family, and that they are sensitive about this.</p>	Comment noted.
17.3.11	<p>I have no concerns. A member of my family is disabled with learning difficulties and they have been through Welsh-medium education, this hasn't had a negative impact on them. Welsh-medium education has helped them to flourish and has opened so many doors to them in respect of work opportunities because they are bilingual.</p> <p>Changing the school's language category will not affect the school's ability to tailor provision to pupils with protected characteristics if needed, nor will it impact on the school's ability to offer support to those individuals, because they are already doing that.</p>	Comment noted.
17.3.12	<p>School policies already ensure that the following categories are protected.</p> <p>In my experience designated Welsh schools already understand the importance of working closely with families</p>	Comment noted.

	and members of the community whose language is not Welsh. All the Welsh designated school I have worked with during my career and inspected as an Estyn inspector always work very hard to make their school and activities fully inclusive whatever people's background. Knowing Bro Hyddgen well this has always been their priority and I'm confident that this will continue to part of their ethos and priorities.	
17.3.13	In Welsh-medium schools across Wales, there are children, young people, school staff, parents etc who have protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. No problems have occurred due to language!	Comment noted.

#### **17.4 Other comments about the impact on pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups**

17.4.1	It will be essential to research good practice in similar situations in other Welsh-medium schools throughout Wales. Any excellent practice identified by Estyn should be incorporated, and used to support families and pupils with specific needs.	Comment noted.
17.4.2	I worry that the county will not provide adequate support or will start by promising plenty of support and that this will not be maintained.	The Council has a duty to provide adequate support to all pupils, including those belonging to protected characteristic groups.

#### **18. COMMENTS ABOUT THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

18.1	The SWOT analysis should carry the following analysis under 'Strengths' – Likely to be popular with large sections of the local community.	Comment noted.
18.2	<p>You have stated the challenges to YBH in providing appropriate provision for the low number of English-medium pupils:</p> <p>You report that primary pupils are taught in small classes, with a high number of year groups in each class. This is no different to the situation in many small primary school across the county. Your data shows that there are 52 English-medium primary pupils at YBH. Carno has only 43 pupils and Llanbryn-mair and Glantwymyn have 61 and 63 respectively. I therefore cannot see how this is considered a greater challenge to YBH than to these other feeder schools. Would you also consider removing the provision in these schools due to low pupil numbers?</p> <p>You also report that in the secondary sector, in order to accommodate both Welsh and English medium pupils, many classes are taught bilingually and that this is not a desirable model. I think this is disrespectful to the teaching staff at YBH who do this effectively and with great success. It truly is a model to promote bilingualism. The data from YBH does not show that any pupils are disadvantaged or under perform from this approach.</p>	<p>The Council's new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was approved in April 2020, acknowledges that there are too many schools in Powys. Alongside the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council has also been reviewing small schools in Powys, and is taking forward a number of proposals to close small schools.</p> <p>As indicated in the consultation document, the current dual stream provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen causes a number of challenges to the school. Operating as a single stream school would enable the school to operate more efficiently, which would benefit all learners.</p> <p>The statement in the consultation document that classes being taught bilingually (i.e. in both Welsh and English) is not a desirable model is not a criticism of the teaching staff at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p>
18.3	You have provided a table with current pupil numbers in each year group. This table tries to demonstrate the low number of English medium pupils. However, there is an obvious discrepancy with these numbers. As far as I can see, the	The Council disagrees with the statement that there is a discrepancy with the pupil numbers in the consultation document and were accurate at the time of publication.

	<p>table categorises the pupils according to whether they study first language Welsh or second language Welsh. Any pupil who attended a Welsh-medium feeder school automatically continues to study Welsh as a first language. So if a child enters YBH in Year 7 from a Welsh-medium feeder but now chooses to change to study all subjects through the medium of English, they remain in this table as a Welsh-medium pupil. This ability to change from Welsh to English is welcomed by many parents – it allows their child to study subjects in English whilst maintaining their first language Welsh. The change from Welsh medium to English medium is even more apparent in KS4 when pupils start their GCSE options. So the data provided does not reflect the true linguistic nature of the teaching and learning at the school.</p> <p>Why have you not also included data to show, for example, the numbers of pupils entered for GCSE first language Welsh and for at least 5 further subjects through the medium of Welsh? You have to question the data provided for this consultation and question if you have given a fair representation of the current provision. From our own experience, in my children's year groups, there is a significant move from Welsh to English at GCSE level.</p>	<p>All pupils would be counted in accordance with their language stream regardless of whether they attended a Welsh-medium feeder primary school.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that some parents have a positive view of the ability to change language streams, although the Council does not encourage this practice.</p> <p>The Council is aware that a number of lessons are delivered in a bilingual setting, i.e. the lesson is taught in both languages simultaneously. The Council does not believe that this model of delivery is the best linguistically for pupils.</p> <p>This information is provided in the previous point.</p>
18.4	<p>The figures that I am seeing regarding those children who have entered the Welsh and English stream are worrying and I know for a fact that September 2020 figures that have been posted are incorrect – I think more focus should be on those who have completed their GCSEs – what language are they completing them in? – then you will have your true facts.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

18.5	<p>The document says that the benefits of bilingual education will need to be explained carefully to the community. This has not been the case at all! To begin with there was confusion over the category of the school. The head of governors said in a letter to the parents that it was to be a bilingual school (which people took to be 50/50) but the consultation is for a Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>The consultation documentation published as part of this proposal is very clear that the proposal being consulted on is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium.</i></li> <li>• <i>This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.</i></li> </ul>						
18.6	<p>In your 'Impact Assessments' you report: 'Following implementation of the proposal, there could be a negative impact on pupils moving to the area from outside the area/outside Wales. In particular, this could mean that secondary aged pupils moving to the area would attend English-medium provision in alternative locations, which would not support their integration into the community'. Where exactly do you suggest for this alternative location? Do PCC actually think this acceptable?</p>	<p>The Community Impact Assessment which was included in the Draft Impact Assessments document published as part of the consultation documentation lists the nearest alternative English-medium providers to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>The nearest alternative English-medium secondary provision would be in the following schools:</p> <p><b>Secondary</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School name</th> <th>Distance from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ysgol Penglais, Aberystwyth</td> <td>17 miles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Llanidloes High School</td> <td>26.7 miles</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language</p>	School name	Distance from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	Ysgol Penglais, Aberystwyth	17 miles	Llanidloes High School	26.7 miles
School name	Distance from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen							
Ysgol Penglais, Aberystwyth	17 miles							
Llanidloes High School	26.7 miles							

		<p>category, the Council's preference would be for all pupils living in the Machynlleth area to access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. However, the Council acknowledges that in some cases that may not be the best option for the individual learner, particularly in the case of secondary aged learners moving to the area. In these cases, pupils may prefer to attend alternative English-medium provision.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p> <p>Whilst acknowledging that this would require additional travel for the learner, there are many areas of Powys where there is no access to Welsh-medium provision, and therefore pupils living in these areas who wish to access Welsh-medium provision are required to travel to access provision in the language of their choice.</p>
18.7	<p>You also report: 'it is possible that the proposal ... could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing'. Having acknowledged this in your impact report, I think it would be disgraceful for you to approve this proposal.</p>	<p>It is correct that the Council acknowledges in the draft impact assessment document published as part of the consultation process that <i>'In the short term, it is possible that the proposal to change the school's language category could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing.'</i></p>

		<p>However, the assessment goes on to state that <i>‘Eventually however, it is expected that these tensions would diminish, and in the longer term as the change in language category is implemented, it is hoped that the proposal would help to improve community cohesion, as all pupils in the area would be fluent in both Welsh and English.’</i></p>
18.8	<p>Using the term the area “was traditionally Welsh speaking” actually highlights that the area has changed. The demographics show that this is an area that has had an influx of diverse people settling and being employed and educated. This influx of incomers has brought with it increases in tourism opportunities, treehouses, unique shops, cafes, world renowned mountain bike park and BMX tracks, CAT and the students who live and join the community. If YBH is to represent the current and future demographics (which may see an increase of incomers due to better home working opportunities) we suggest that the school remains dual stream to benefit all children. Segregating the non welsh speaking children and expecting them to travel out of the county on a 50 minute bus journey not only adds additional costs, environmental pollution, it will isolate friends and also prevent these children from attending after school activities in their own communities due to the commute.</p>	<p>It is the Council’s view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and to participate fully in the community.</p> <p>The Council is not planning to ‘segregate the non Welsh speaking children or expect them to travel out of county. The aim of the proposal to change the school’s language category is to ensure that all pupils attending the school have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English during their time in school. All pupils, regardless of background, would continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p>
18.9	<p>I am concerned about the lack of clarity and information on the potential impact on pupils with additional learning needs who might struggle to receive an education in a second language. With the percentage of pupils with ADL in the</p>	<p>As of the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2021<sup>1</sup>, the current figure stands at 37% of pupils in the English stream of the primary phase.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Teacher Centre – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

	<p>primary school currently at 26% it would be useful to have some sort of breakdown of how many of those pupils are in the English stream.</p>	<p>Overall, in the primary phase, there is 28.7% of learners with ALN.</p> <p><u>Teacher Centre – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021</u></p> <p>English Stream – 54 pupils in primary  English Stream ALN – 20 pupils (37.0%)  School Action – 11 pupils  School Action Plus – 7 pupils  Statement - 2 pupils</p> <p>Overall – 167 pupils in primary  Overall ALN – 48 pupils (28.7%)  School Action – 9 pupils  School Action Plus – 15 pupils  Statement – 3 pupils</p>
18.10	<p>I think PCC underestimates the number of pupils who do actually study through the medium of English. The table presented by PCC showing the number of English medium pupils does not accurately reflect the true number of pupils choosing to study subjects through the medium of English. The table records only 6 English medium pupils in year 12. However, to give just one example, there are 15 pupils undertaking the Welsh Baccalaureate course through the medium of English.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
18.11	<p>You have stated in your report: 'The school is located in a traditionally Welsh speaking area, and YBH's English-medium stream is the only English-medium feeder primary provider in the catchment area.'</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>



	Estyn, in fact, reported in 2017 that 62% of pupils come from non-Welsh speaking homes. It is a great credit to the community and the school that parents have committed to Welsh-medium education.	
18.12	It would have helped to see in more detail what plans and resources would be in place for those pupils that struggle to learn in a second language, and how much funding would be provided to aid their learning. Without this information I cannot support the proposal.	Comment noted. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, officers would work with the school to identify and introduce the support needed to support any pupils already attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen as well as any pupils that might move to the area in the future.

## 19. COMMENTS ABOUT THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

### 19.1 Criticism that the process has been carried out during the Covid pandemic

19.1.1	This is a very sneaky response of Powys CC to do this in the middle of an epidemic...	The Council has been developing its Strategy for Transforming Education since Estyn's inspection of Powys Education Services in 2019. Whilst acknowledging that it would have been preferable for the consultation process to have taken place at a time when there wasn't a global pandemic, the consultation has been carried out in line with Welsh Government requirements.
19.1.2	This is a ludicrous proposal and one that should be halted on its timing alone! Never should such a community changing decision be allowed to take place until such a time all stake holders can meet safely to fully discuss matter within their communities. It is despicable that Powys have continued with	The Council has been developing its Strategy for Transforming Education since Estyn's inspection of Powys Education Services in 2019. Whilst acknowledging that it would have been preferable for the consultation process to have taken place at a time when

	<p>this consultation during a global pandemic. May you hold your heads in shame.</p>	<p>there wasn't a global pandemic, the consultation has been carried out in line with Welsh Government requirements.</p>
19.1.3	<p>I am disappointed that this consultation has been brought at a time of such unprecedented stress for both adults and children. Machynlleth is characterised by its tolerance and acceptance of people from diverse backgrounds and communities.</p>	<p>The Council has been developing its Strategy for Transforming Education since Estyn's inspection of Powys Education Services in 2019. Whilst acknowledging that it would have been preferable for the consultation process to have taken place at a time when there wasn't a global pandemic, the consultation has been carried out in line with Welsh Government requirements.</p>
	<p>It is already questionable that you have chosen to conduct this consultation whilst schools are closed and we are in lockdown.</p>	<p>The Council has been developing its Strategy for Transforming Education since Estyn's inspection of Powys Education Services in 2019. Whilst acknowledging that it would have been preferable for the consultation process to have taken place at a time when there wasn't a global pandemic, the consultation has been carried out in line with Welsh Government requirements.</p>
19.1.4	<p>It's appalling that Powys County Council have decided to do this consultation in a middle of a pandemic. Resources and finances would have been better directed to support the staff and pupils of the school with their mental health and wellbeing during this scary time.</p>	<p>The Council has been developing its Strategy for Transforming Education since Estyn's inspection of Powys Education Services in 2019. Whilst acknowledging that it would have been preferable for the consultation process to have taken place at a time when there wasn't a global pandemic, the consultation has been carried out in line with Welsh Government requirements.</p>

19.1.5	I question the consultation's promotion of and focus upon a 'language continuum' over what might be termed a 'wellbeing continuum', especially in the middle of a pandemic.	Comment noted.
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## 19.2 Reference to consultation meetings

19.2.1	We need a public meeting.	<p>The consultation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, which does not require public meetings to take place.</p> <p>As indicated on page 26 of the School Organisation Code, <i>'There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings although there will be circumstances where proposers will consider that meeting with certain groups of consultees will assist greatly in the dissemination of information and provide a suitable platform for the consultees to make their views known.'</i></p> <p>During the consultation period, on-line meetings were held with staff, governors and pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p>
19.2.2	Many in the community feel aggrieved that there has been no opportunity for a public meeting or any opportunity to discuss this proposal with PCC.	As above.
19.2.3	How can you fully gather the information needed when face to face meetings can not be held. You are relying on social media, not everyone is on social media. You are missing out on the whole community's feedback.	It is not true that the Council is relying on social media in order to gather responses to the consultation. As required by the School Organisation Code, information about the consultation was distributed to a wide range of

		stakeholders, including parents, staff and governors at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, parents of pupils attending feeder schools, early years providers and community councils.
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### 19.3 It's unclear what is being consulted on

19.3.1	Inaccurate information was given to parents assuring us that this would remain a bilingual school, however, Powys have told us it would be a Welsh medium. How can locals make a true judgement without the facts. This MUST be looked into at the earliest convenience.	<p>The consultation documentation published as part of this proposal is very clear that the proposal being consulted on is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium.</i></li> <li>• <i>This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.</i></li> </ul>
19.3.2	The Council needs to be clearer what their intention is in terms of the high school's language category. Currently it's a bilingual school, the children share classes as a Welsh stream and English stream so have the best of both worlds. A letter was sent to parents by the Chair of governors at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen saying that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would follow the example of schools such as Cardigan and Lampeter High Schools. These towns are very different to Machynlleth. I'm concerned that there won't be as many subject options for Welsh classes as currently exists at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen if we follow these examples.	<p>The consultation documentation published as part of this proposal is very clear that the proposal being consulted on is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium.</i></li> <li>• <i>This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.</i></li> </ul>

### 19.4 Other

19.4.1	I feel the consultation is easily lead and very daunting to read. During a time when the whole country is home schooling, who is going to have time to read this document and concentrate on completing it – extremely bad timing.	The documentation published as part of the consultation was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
19.4.2	I cannot speak for the surrounding area but I know that many people of Machynlleth a) did not realise there was going to be a consultation b) did not know when the consultation would take place and many don't realise we are in the middle of it! c) don't know what they are being consulted about d) don't know how to respond or even realise there is an opportunity to respond!	<p>As required by the School Organisation Code, information about the consultation was distributed to a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, staff and governors at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, parents of pupils attending feeder schools, early years providers and community councils.</p> <p>Nearly 500 consultation responses have been received, which suggests that people in the local area were aware that the consultation was ongoing and how to respond.</p>
19.4.3	Who can respond to the consultation? Is it anyone in Powys, or individuals what would be affected by the proposal, such as parents etc?	This is an open consultation, anyone who wishes to respond is able to do so.
19.4.4	I understand the complexity and details necessary in the consultation document, but it is also then easy to lose some of the key messages which can then lead to confusion. Perhaps after this stage of the consultation we can have clear messages with real life examples about how it will affect children. The sort of questions you might have from non Welsh-speaking parents is for example, if their children are struggling at school can they take their exams in English?	<p>Comment noted. The consultation document has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, however the Council notes that the content which must be included is complex.</p> <p>The Council has been working with partners to develop promotional materials relating to Welsh-medium education, including a new webpage and information leaflets for parents. These materials have been launched recently, and are now available to be used by schools, parents and other organisations.</p>

		In addition, the Council is working with headteachers in the Bro Hyddgen catchment on a more focussed campaign to share information with parents / other stakeholders in the local area.
19.4.5	I think messages could be put out much more clearly, at this stage of the consultation and at the next stage. We need real life examples as to how it is going to affect children. The sort of questions you will have is will my child struggle as there is no backup after school. We know the support will be there but not every parent will know this.	As above.

## 20. REFERENCE TO THE COUNCIL'S TRANSFORMING EDUCATION STRATEGY

20.1	In the 'Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys', you express in the foreword your desire to 'deliver change that will benefit all of our learners'. I hope that the Cabinet will not approve the proposal for YBH and recognise that, not only will it not have any impact on access to Welsh-medium education in the Dyfi valley, it most certainly will not benefit all of our learners and will be to the detriment of many pupils.	<p>The current proposal in respect of the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is being taken forward with the aim of improving learning opportunities for learners in the future.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education sets out a clear aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.' The current proposal in respect of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is being taken forward in order to implement this aim, and the strategy's objective to 'Move schools along the language continuum.'</p>
20.2	I understand that this proposal is part of your 'Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys'. In this document you identify the challenges facing education in Powys and recognise the inequality in access to Welsh-medium	The Council notes the comments in respect of Newtown High School and Welshpool High School. These two schools are single stream English-medium high schools, therefore it is no surprise that no pupils at these schools

	<p>education. You acknowledge that the level of Welsh-medium provision available is a postcode lottery and it is quite clear from your data that there is a huge difference in the percentage of Welsh medium pupils in Powys secondary schools. However, we are delighted to see that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen has the highest percentage of Welsh medium pupils at 76%. I was surprised to see Newtown HS and Welshpool HS in the lowest ranked secondary schools and appear to have 0%.</p> <p>When YBH were inspected in 2017, Estyn reported: There are appropriate opportunities for pupils in the Welsh stream to study all subjects, other than French, through the medium of Welsh in key stage 3 and key stage 4.</p> <p>So with this in mind, I am absolutely dumbfounded as to why PCC are targeting YBH to achieve their aim of improving access to Welsh medium provision across all key stages. YBH provides excellent provision for Welsh medium pupils. Moving the school along the language continuum would therefore not improve provision for Welsh medium pupils as they already have full access to study all subjects in Welsh. Are PCC genuine about this strategic aim? If you were, surely you would be focusing on those areas which provide little or no Welsh medium provision and move these schools along the language continuum. It almost seems farcical that you are targeting Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p>	<p>are taught through the medium of Welsh. Pupils living in the traditional catchment areas of Newtown High School and Welshpool High School wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision travel to access this provision at schools in other towns, in particular Caereinion High School and Llanidloes High School, both of which are dual stream schools.</p> <p>The Council notes the comments from Estyn's inspection of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in 2017. The Welsh-medium subject provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is not the reason why the Council is proposing to change the school's language category.</p> <p>As well as the current proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council is currently developing a number of other proposals in order to take forward the aims and objectives to develop Welsh-medium provision in Powys which are outlined in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. If implemented, these proposals would lead to improved opportunities to access dedicated Welsh-medium provision in the primary and secondary phase across Powys.</p>
20.3	<p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should be used as a pilot before introducing the same changes across Powys schools. I would like to see the Council giving a strong commitment to implementing similar proposals across the county. This will</p>	<p>Comment noted. The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys include an aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium education across all key stages'. Within this aim, the Council sets out Strategic Objectives to</p>

	lead to an increase in the opportunities, jobs, subjects and social activities available in Welsh.	<p>‘Move schools along the language continuum’ and to ‘Develop new primary and secondary provision’.</p> <p>As well as the current proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council is currently developing a number of other proposals in order to take forward these aims and objectives. If implemented, these proposals would lead to improved opportunities to access dedicated Welsh-medium provision in the primary and secondary phase across Powys.</p>
20.4	The council should be looking to move all high schools and primary schools along the continuum towards Welsh-medium education.	As above.
20.5	<p>I fully agree with the Council’s strategy to transform education in Powys (following Estyn’s recommendations) to improve access to Welsh-medium education across all key stages and across the language continuum.</p> <p>This will give pupils from all backgrounds the opportunity to be bilingual, and will contribute to the Welsh Government’s aim to see a million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>	Comment noted.

## 21. CRITICISM OF THE COUNCIL

### 21.1 General Criticism of the Council

21.1.1	The proposal appears the first of likely similar piecemeal approaches across Powys. This will, no doubt, be denied. However the Council previously denied that that there were	It is not the case that the proposal is ‘the first of likely similar piecemeal approaches across Powys’. This proposal, and other proposals being taken forward, is
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	any such plans when the setting up of Bro Hyddgen was so recently proposed and consulted upon. Either that denial was wrong or it was an unreliable statement as to short or medium-term intentions.	being taken forward in order to implement the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.  The language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was an issue which arose during the consultation carried out in 2013 to merge Machynlleth C.P. School and Ysgol Bro Ddyfi. Whilst the Council did not propose any change to the school's language category at the time, the paper considered by Cabinet on the 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2013 stated that 'it is the intention of the Council, as stated within the current Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), to assess the possibility of progressing to a Category 2A school.' The intention to review the school's language category has continued to be included in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan ever since.
21.1.2	Powys CC failed to honour promises made when the schools merged and now, as a community, we have our hands tied with little choice other than to go to Welsh Medium to ultimately save our local education provision.	As above.
21.1.3	Powys CC should honour fulfil the promises it made when the Schools merged to a bilingual all-through.	As above.
21.1.4	Inaccurate information was given to parents assuring us that this would remain a bilingual school, however, Powys have told us it would be a Welsh medium. How can locals make a true judgement without the facts. This MUST be looked into at the earliest convenience.	The consultation documentation published as part of this proposal is very clear that the proposal being consulted on is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium.</i></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.</i></li> </ul>
21.1.5	The Council would like to express our concern over the lack of clarity in the way in which the proposed changes have been presented, and apparently conflicting statements that have been made by PCC. This has led to some difficulty for parents and the community in expressing their views in regard of the proposed changes.	As above.
21.1.6	Powys Council have been cutting opportunities and services in Machynlleth continuously over recent years, and this will be the final nail in the coffin.	The Council does not accept this statement. Alongside the current proposal to change the school's language category, the Council is continuing to develop plans for a new community campus in Machynlleth to replace the current buildings of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and to provide new community facilities. This will be the first community campus of its kind in Powys with an approved funding envelope of £48,250,369.
21.1.7	We know your plan is to close smaller schools – make the all Welsh school be in Carno .... Leave our school alone ... we already have to travel to Aberystwyth for health and wealth – Now you are making our children travel on a bus for 20 miles each way each day.... So you can have a large shiny new super all Welsh EMPTY school	<p>In April 2020, the Council agreed a new 'Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys', which was developed to reflect concerns identified by Estyn in respect of school reorganisation activity in Powys.</p> <p>The Council is taking forward a range of proposals affecting schools across Powys. These include a proposal to establish an all-age school, proposals to merge 3 mid-size schools to create one larger school, proposals affecting small schools across the county, and proposals to change school's language category. All of these proposals are being taken forward in order to</p>

		<p>implement the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, and to address the concerns raised by Estyn.</p> <p>The proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>The Council does not agree that the proposal to change the school's language category would result in a 'large shiny new super all Welsh empty school'. As indicated in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal:</p> <p><i>'It is possible that changing the school's language category could lead to a reduction in pupil numbers as pupils from out of county currently accessing English-medium provision at the school may no longer choose to attend the school, or pupils from the local area may choose to attend alternative English-medium providers.</i></p> <p><i>However, it is also possible that changing the school's language category could lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the longer term, as pupils from other areas</i></p>
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		<i>could choose to attend the school. This may be the case in respect of secondary provision in particular.'</i>
21.1.8	The Welsh language doesn't have a very high status at Powys County Council, this is an important step forward for the Council which shows that they are starting to treat the language with more respect than it has shown it in the past.	Comment noted.
21.1.9	<p>Powys Council should be focussed on increasing educational standards and outputs (especially considering Wales' dire PISA rankings) rather than this social engineering. The Machynlleth area is completely capable of growing the Welsh language without this imposition, demonstrated in its relatively high level of Welsh proficiency.</p> <p>The Welsh language shouldn't have to rely on the state to protect it – it is the duty of all those who want the language to prosper to act themselves through usage outside of an educational establishment. Research shows that use of the Welsh language drops off when people leave school, including with speakers like myself. Post-education use of Welsh is what needs tackling, not this virtue signalling that will only hurt others.</p>	<p>The Council disagrees that this proposal is 'social engineering'. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen can continue to offer high quality provision to all learners in the future, and to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both languages.</p> <p>Estyn inspected the Council's Education Service in 2019, following which the Council has developed a Post-Inspection Action Plan focused on improving the issues raised by Estyn, which includes standards and outcomes. The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys is focused on improving learner entitlement and experience across all sectors.</p> <p>The Welsh Language is an official language of Wales, and the Welsh Government has an aspiration to create a million Welsh speakers by 2050. The Council fully supports this aspiration and agrees that there is a need to ensure that there are opportunities outside schools for people to continue to use the Welsh language.</p>

21.1.10	I worry that the county will not provide adequate support or will start by promising plenty of support and that this will not be maintained.	If this proposal is implemented, the Council will continue to provide support to the school.
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## 21.2 Comparison between Powys and other Councils / areas

21.2.1	It's time for Powys to catch up with the rest of Wales	The Council is fully aware that access to Welsh-medium education in Powys is lacking when compared with other areas of Wales. The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes an aim so 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', which aims to improve access to Welsh-medium provision in Powys, to ensure that the provision available is comparable to that available to learners in other areas of Wales.
21.2.2	There is no Welsh medium high school in Powys and no Welsh-medium primary school in Machynlleth. Parents need to send their children to Ceredigion to access this provision.	As above.
21.2.3	It's about time that the Council followed other nearby counties such as Gwynedd, otherwise in the future parents will choose schools outside Powys e.g. Gwynedd.	As above.
21.2.4	We need to follow Gwynedd, they have a system that works and is priceless.	As above.
21.2.5	Consider the success of Welsh-medium schools in other areas.	As above.

21.2.6	Look at examples of good practice in other areas, and share examples of these successes with those that live in the Bro Ddyfi area to ensure support to this change.	As above.
21.2.7	Promoting bilingualism is important, Welsh-medium schools in other areas of Wales are successful in doing this.	As above.
21.2.8	You need to set this proposal in its national context. You said at the beginning that Powys is far behind as far as Welsh language education is concerned, and therefore when people are rather afraid to embrace change, it is important to emphasise that Powys is lagging behind what is happening successfully in other parts of Wales. Every educational establishment in Powys needs to educate pupils so that they are completely fluent in both languages.	As above.

### 21.3 Criticism of Cllr Elwyn Vaughan

21.3.1	Remove the Toxic Governor Elwyn Vaughan who sent home an awful letter in our children's school bags – who informs parents who don't speak welsh to learn the language if you move here.... Or go back to where you come from...	Any complaints against any governor must be addressed by following the appropriate complaints procedure.  Any complaints about a county councillor would need to be referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.
21.3.2	I think Councillor Elwyn Vaughan misled parents when he allegedly sent a letter to parents of children from the school; that there would be teaching through the medium of both English and Welsh.	This would be a matter for Cllr Vaughan.

21.3.3	Remove the Governor Elwyn Vaughan who sent home an awful letter in our children's school bags.	As above.
21.3.4	It is wrong on all levels and this Councillor Vaughan you have going around lying to the public is a disgrace. He is bringing nothing but division with his speeches it must stop now.	As above.

## 22. REFERENCE TO ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

### 22.1 Retain the Status Quo

22.1.1	Maintaining the current status quo would give people opportunities to learn in the language of their preference. At the moment, there is equal opportunity for all.	These comments are noted. However, the current dual stream model poses a number of challenges to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which are outlined in the consultation document issues in respect of this proposal.
22.1.2	I think Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should continue to operate as a Dual stream school. This is appropriate provision for an area where more than half of families are English-medium, and nearly one third of pupils are currently choosing to be educated in the English medium stream.	As above.
22.1.3	The school currently provides for both Welsh and English speakers, there is a real benefit to the supporting students in either language. Why narrow the scope of the school when it is being used throughout.	As above.
22.1.4	I believe there is a place for dual stream schools and dual stream provision, especially if there are no other English medium schools within a reasonable distance. I appreciate and value the bilingual and supportive nature of the school as	As above.

	it currently is; where there is an option to have a fully Welsh-medium education if it is desired and appropriate.	
22.1.5	If dual stream remains, children will still learn through the Welsh stream. And they will learn Welsh in the English stream.	<p>Comment noted. However, the current dual stream model poses a number of challenges to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which are outlined in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal.</p> <p>Whilst pupils accessing English-medium provision do learn Welsh as a second language, very few pupils become fluent in Welsh from studying Welsh as a second language. The aim of the proposal to change the school's language category is to ensure that all pupils attending the school have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English during their time in school.</p>
22.1.6	Welsh medium education is safe and to be celebrated in the school, in fact the percentage of children accessing is satisfactory to meet the Estyn expectations. It would be more beneficial for Powys to implement more Welsh language provision in areas of less populated Welsh areas, Machynlleth cannot and should not be a tick box exercise for Powys!	<p>These comments are noted. However, the current dual stream model poses a number of challenges to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which are outlined in the consultation document issues in respect of this proposal.</p> <p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a strategic aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.' Within this aim, the Council sets out Strategic Objectives to 'Move schools along the language continuum' and to 'Develop new primary and secondary provision'.</p> <p>As well as the current proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council is currently developing a number of other proposals in order to take</p>



		forward these aims and objectives. If implemented, these proposals would lead to improved opportunities to access dedicated Welsh-medium provision in the primary and secondary phase across Powys.
22.1.7	To maintain its current status and review the teacher recruitment process at this school, making sure that there isn't a bias in favour of only Welsh speaking teachers being recruited.	<p>The current dual stream model poses a number of challenges to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which are outlined in the consultation document issues in respect of this proposal.</p> <p>Teachers at the school are bilingual, and able to communicate in both Welsh and English.</p>
22.1.8	Make the current provisions sustainable and more effective, with more English language teachers and stronger support for those in the English stream who wish, and are able, to become bilingual.	<p>The current dual stream model poses a number of challenges to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which are outlined in the consultation document issues in respect of this proposal.</p> <p>Teachers at the school are bilingual, and able to communicate in both Welsh and English, therefore there should be no need for additional English language teachers in the school.</p> <p>Whilst pupils accessing English-medium provision do learn Welsh as a second language, very few pupils become fluent in Welsh from studying Welsh as a second language. The aim of the proposal to change the school's language category is to ensure that all pupils attending the school have the opportunity to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English during their time in school.</p>

## 22.2 Implement the change sooner

22.2.1	The phasing-in process, as it will take so long, is surely going to slow the realisation of benefits to Welsh language capacity and capability.	<p>The Council notes these concerns regarding the length of time it would take to fully implement the change to the school's language category, should the Council decide to proceed with the proposal.</p> <p>The proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis in order to minimise impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, by ensuring that they can continue to access provision at the school.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, it would work with the school to identify additional support required to support transition to the new operating model. This could include offering the opportunity for current pupils to access immersion provision which would enable them to transfer to Welsh-medium education earlier, which could enable the change to be fully implemented more quickly.</p>
22.2.2	This is the only option, but it is a long process.	As above.
22.2.3	It's a shame that it will take so long.	As above.
22.2.4	The proposal is good but the process is far too long.	As above.
22.2.5	I'm concerned that the process is so long, can it be done more quickly.	As above.

22.2.6	I'm concerned about how long it will take. It will be 2035 before having full 7-13 provision in the town.	As above.
22.2.7	It's important that every opportunity is taken to speed up the process of changing the school's language status. As it currently stands, children will have to wait too long.	As above.
22.2.8	It will take a long time to implement across the whole school, over 10 years. Is there a way to do it quicker?	As above.
22.2.9	Speed up the process. Currently, lots of children will miss out and the children currently in the area won't benefit from a Welsh-medium Secondary School.	As above.
22.2.10	I would prefer a more rapid and less of a phased approach, but understand why it has been approached and appreciate its utility in assuaging the worries of parents of current pupils.	As above.
22.2.11	The long transition period threatens the efficiency of Welsh-medium education. Perhaps this could happen more quickly with additional support?	As above.
22.2.12	The change could happen more quickly, so that children currently in the catchment could benefit from the change and have the provision and exciting opportunities that will be available to children in the area in the future.	As above.
22.2.13	It's a shame that if approved, changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would take around 9 years until years 7-9 on the secondary campus would see a difference. In my opinion, this is far too long. The children and their parents are ready for this change now, not in	As above.

	another 9 years.	
22.2.14	Change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium immediately or much more quickly than the current proposal.	As above.
22.2.15	It's a shame that it will take around 10 years for the secondary campus to see a difference, and that schools like Llanbrynmair and Glantwymyn will have to take a backwards step until the primary phase of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen catches up. This is a great shame. I would recommend that the Council goes a step further and allows the Welsh stream pupils have their education in their first language from 2022 when they start Year 7.	The option to change the language medium of the secondary phase in parallel to the primary phase was considered when developing the current proposal, however this was not identified as the preferred option due to the potential impact on pupils already accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
22.2.16	Change the language category of the high school immediately.	As above.
22.2.17	After looking at reading the available options, I consider that option 5C should also be fully considered. If there are children who attend local schools who are fluent in Welsh and are about to go to high school, why isn't there an opportunity for them to benefit from this opportunity in Year 7?	As above.
22.2.18	Make the change a year earlier – Reception year in 2021.	It is unlikely that the statutory process which needs to be followed in order to change the school's language category will be concluded by September 2021, therefore it will not be possible to start to introduce the change from September 2021.

## 22.3 Additional funding

22.3.1	Fund the English stream fairly so that Welsh and English don't need to be taught together.	The Council funds schools according to a funding formula agreed with our schools, to ensure that funding is distributed across all schools based on robust and objective data, such as pupil numbers. Dual stream schools are effectively funded as two small schools for the teaching and learning element of the formula, with the only reduction being in relation to the shared costs such as the Headteacher.
22.3.2	Open a primary school for English-medium/Welsh learners and fund an English unit in the high school. How does Llanidloes High School fund its Welsh unit?	Llanidloes High School is a dual-stream school similar to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. It is funded according the Council's funding formula for schools, in the same way as Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
22.3.3	Must also consider what can be done with more funding (revenue) so that children are offered the breadth of subjects, and given the chance to thrive.	Comment noted.
22.3.4	It should be looking at better funding and better opportunities for Bro Hyddgen, albeit this may mean smaller schools in the catchment having to close.	Comment noted.
22.3.5	Fund both streams fairly. Currently, the school can fund 1 teacher for every 30 pupils regardless of the language they need to be taught in. If the English stream was a small rural school there would be more money for the pupils.	The Council funds schools according to a funding formula agreed with our schools, to ensure that funding is distributed across all schools based on robust and objective data, such as pupil numbers. Dual stream schools are effectively funded as two small schools for the teaching and learning element of the formula, with the only reduction being in relation to the shared costs such as the Headteacher.

22.3.6	To fund the 2 language streams sufficiently to continue to operate the dual stream status of the school. To stop the coercion of welsh medium education to new prospective parents.	As above  The Council does not have any evidence that prospective parents are coerced into Welsh medium education.
22.3.7	Powys agrees to fund it properly.	As above.
22.3.8	To fund the dual stream status of the school fairly to stop the governing body having to be bullied into having to push for extreme decisions like this.	As above. The Council does not have any evidence that the governing body has been bullied to 'push for extreme decisions like this'.
22.3.9	I think the Council should consider awarding the school adequate funding to give the school, the pupils and their families to the opportunity to decide through which combination of languages individual pupils should receive their education.	As above.
22.3.10	If the council is truly committed to the educational development of its young people – then this will only work if the school is adequately funded (revenue, as well as capital) so that children have access to the full breadth of choices and subjects to develop their education. This system of teaching on a shoe string is killing the school. As a parent with children in a feeder school, I am very concerned that inadequate funding at Bro Hyddgen will damage their education.	As above.
22.3.11	Fund the school based on pupil needs – not 'one size fits all'	As above.

## 22.4 Improve the Welsh Second Language provision

22.4.1	More Welsh lessons in the English class and help the children have Welsh as a second language, have it duly spoken in classes. They shouldn't have to struggle to learn and be educated in Welsh only, a lot will struggle without the support at home wouldn't get the grades that potential they could of if they had been able to study in a language they understand more.	Studying Welsh as a second language does not enable learners to become fully bilingual.
22.4.2	Should the council wish to promote Welsh more in our community then perhaps they should teach Welsh second language at a higher level from a younger age for the English stream. Perhaps provide after school facilities where English speaking children can go with their English speaking parents to be taught Welsh at a higher level	As above.
22.4.3	From the numbers this is not something being accessed by a dwindling minority – according to your figures 30% of pupils are in the English stream. Surely it would be better to strengthen Welsh language support for those in the English stream to become fully bilingual rather than force them to be schooled elsewhere.	It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and to participate fully in the community.

## 22.5 Provide an English-medium school

22.5.1	To provide an English only school within the Dyfi valley, there are currently numbers within the primary campus that in fact have more pupils than some current small primary schools offering Welsh medium.	The numbers currently accessing English-medium primary provision in the catchment area do not support the need for an English-medium school in the catchment.
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22.5.2	Would it not make sense to move Glantwymyn school pupils to Machynlleth and the operate Glantwymyn school as an English medium primary with the option of going to Llanidloes for Dual stream secondary education?	As above.
22.5.3	Open a primary school for English-medium/Welsh learners.	As above.
22.5.4	Providing English language education for the 50% of families that want children to be taught in in their mother tongue.	As above.

## 22.6 Other bilingual options

22.6.1	A bilingual school, and by that I mean truly bilingual 50/50 where both languages are respected and utilised to benefit all children in the area.	<p>This is the model which is currently in operation at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>The current dual stream model poses a number of challenges to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which are outlined in the consultation document issues in respect of this proposal.</p>
22.6.2	Perhaps the primary school should be only Welsh. But the high school should remain both? Or at least have some kind of option to learn things through the medium of English if required!	Comment noted. The option to retain English-medium provision in the secondary phase was considered in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, however this was not identified as the preferred option for the school.
22.6.3	Instead of getting rid of the English stream in the primary school, it could be called a 'bilingual / language unit'. The unit would be available for pupils that live in the area temporarily, or for pupils with additional needs who would be unable to cope with two languages.	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, officers would work with the school to identify and introduce the support needed to support any pupils already attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen as well as any pupils that might move to the



	<p>Core subjects could continue to be taught in English whilst the practical subjects (music, PE and art) could be taught in Welsh, as well as Christmas shows, concerts, assemblies, sports clubs and Urdd activities. A middle ground would be needed for other subjects such as RE, history and geography.</p> <p>The high school should continue to be bilingual, with pupils choosing if they want to learn in Welsh or English or a combination of both.</p>	<p>area in the future, whether temporarily or on a permanent basis. This could include immersion provision and other Welsh language support to support pupils to develop the Welsh language skills needed to access provision at the school.</p>
22.6.4	<p>Humanities subjects to be taught in Welsh. Other subjects such as sciences and maths to be taught in English as it is the universal language for these subjects.</p>	<p>Maths and science subjects are already taught through the medium of Welsh at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. Developing an understanding of subject specific terminology in both English and Welsh is a natural part of a Welsh-medium education and adds to the students' understanding of the concepts involved.</p>

## 22.7 Establish a Welsh-medium secondary school in a different location

22.7.1	<p>If Powys are required to have a Welsh speaking school for political reasons make it central to the county so pupils wishing to have education in Welsh only school are catered for throughout the county</p>	<p>The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a strategic aim to 'Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.' Within this aim, the Council sets out Strategic Objectives to 'Move schools along the language continuum' and to 'Develop new primary and secondary provision'.</p> <p>As well as the current proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council is currently developing a number of other proposals in order to take forward these aims and objectives. If implemented,</p>
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		these proposals would lead to improved opportunities to access dedicated Welsh-medium provision in the primary and secondary phase across Powys.
22.7.2	Move the Welsh medium school, to the middle of Powys to enable equality, there is a Welsh medium school 18 miles from Mach, where is the nearest Welsh medium school to Llandrindod?	As above.

## 22.8 Other suggestions

22.8.1	It's important that funded education for 3 and 4 year olds changes to reflect the school's language status. This is a step which needs to be implemented immediately if the Council wishes to introduce this change from September 2022. There would be no need for English education for 3 and 4 year olds in the town at all, and Cylch Meithrin Machynlleth would need additional support so that they can accept more children following this change.	<p>The Early Years settings have a contract to deliver Early Years education which is due to expire in August 2022. In preparation for the new contracts, the Council will determine the type of provision that will be funded in Machynlleth from that time on.</p> <p>Up to the end of the current contract, any amendments to the current provision would need to take account of the terms and conditions of the contract.</p>
22.8.2	A well managed school with equal priority given to both languages and to stop the current downgrading of the English classes which has been going on for years now with virtually a policy of intimidation to make parents put children into the Welsh stream.	Comment noted.
22.8.3	Is there scope to teach children in combined year groups so that classes are bigger- and given that the curriculum is modular, this should allow children to complete a wider curriculum basis and also enable Welsh only and English only	Comment noted.

	classes? E.g. Year 7 induction year then (yr 8 + yr 9) (10 and 11) and (12 and 13).	
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