



Changing the language category of Ysgol  
Bro Hyddgen  
Objection Report



# Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

## Objection Report

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# Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

## Objection Report

### 1. BACKGROUND

Powys County Council consulted on proposals to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The consultation took place from the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Council published a consultation report outlining the findings of the consultation exercise.

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Council's Cabinet agreed to proceed with the proposal, and Statutory Notices were published from the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The proposals were as follows:

#### **From 31 August 2022:**

- i) The To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.
- ii) This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

The proposal would be introduced on a phased basis as the pupils joining the school's Reception class in September 2022 move through the school. The phasing of the implementation for each year group would be as follows:

#### **Reception – September 2022**

**Year 1 – September 2023**

**Year 2 – September 2024**

**Year 3 – September 2025**

**Year 4 – September 2026**

**Year 5 – September 2027**

**Year 6 – September 2028**

**Year 7 – September 2029**

**Year 8 – September 2030**

**Year 9 – September 2031**

**Year 10 – September 2032**

**Year 11 – September 2033**

**Year 12 – September 2034**

**Year 13 – September 2035**

## 2. OBJECTIONS RECEIVED

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

- Parents of pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
- Members of the community
- Llanbrynmair Community Council
- Machynlleth Golf Club
- Machynlleth Bowling Club
- Machynlleth Community Children's Project Ltd (MCCP)
- Russell George MS

The objections received included two petitions:

- A petition in support of the proposal which received 278 signatures
- A petition against the proposal which received 1,219 signatures

Of the remaining 256 'objections', 4 were in support of the proposal.

The issues raised in the objection are outlined on the following page, along with the Council's response. The Objections received relate to the following headings:

1. Positive comments about dual stream provision
2. Comments about the need for choice
3. Comments about Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
4. Comments about funding for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's new building
5. Comments about the impact on pupils
6. Comments about additional learning needs
7. Concern about the impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
8. Comments about alternative provision
9. Comments about travel implications
10. Comments about additional support that would be needed to support a change of language category
11. Comments about the impact on the community
12. Comments about the impact on local employment and businesses
13. Comments about early years provision
14. Comments about the use of Welsh in the local area
15. Other comments about the Welsh language
16. Comments about discrimination / equality
17. Comments about the Council's approach to developing Welsh-medium provision
18. Comments about other proposals
19. Other options
20. Criticism of Powys County Council
21. Criticism of Welsh Government
22. Comments about the process

23. Comments about documentation
24. Comments in support of the proposal

### 3. ISSUES RAISED DURING THE OBJECTION PERIOD

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

#### 1. POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT DUAL STREAM PROVISION

##### 1.1 Dual stream provision has enabled pupils in the English stream to learn Welsh

1.1.1	<p>My family have lived in Machynlleth for generations and have all attended Ysgol Bro Hyddgen (Ysgol Bro Dyfi). Some of my family went through the school through the medium of Welsh and the others through the medium of English, I can assure you that those that went through the medium of English were at no disadvantage in regards to learning the Welsh language, the teachers employed in the school were able to teach Welsh at such high standard that it didn't matter that they were learning it as a 'second language'.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Whilst some learners may become fluent in Welsh after studying Welsh as a Second Language, these learners are exceptions – generally, pupils accessing English-medium provision and studying Welsh as a Second Language do not become fluent in Welsh.</p>
1.1.2	<p>I am a long term local resident, having had two children complete their schooling in Machynlleth from nursery to sixth form. They were both in the "English" stream, both speak Welsh fluently, and both excelled at the school. They had opportunities to learn about Welsh culture, attend Urdd club</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	and the Eisteddfods and spoke Welsh daily, both in the classroom, playground and through their school life in general.	
1.1.3	I have a daughter who completed all of her education at Ysgol Gynradd Machynlleth/Ysgol Bro Ddyfi/Ysgol Bro Hyddgen; in the English stream; whom is now a valued member of the community, working at Machynlleth leisure centre. She can communicate effectively through the medium of Welsh despite completing her education in English!	As above.
1.1.4	I joined what then was called 'Ysgol Bro Ddyfi' and was put into the English speaking 'stream', with lessons in Welsh. I was able to learn Welsh and use it on my peers, and to speak it many times throughout my day - which helped my confidence incredibly. Many of my school friends were of similar levels to me having spoken English themselves, and therefore we could learn together. I even joined in the school 'Eisteddfod', and learnt all my lines in Welsh and stood on stage and performed them. I was encouraged to speak and therefore because I was not forced, I found myself learning much faster and choosing to practice. I feel strongly that if the school had been a 'Welsh only' speaking school it would have segregated me and likely I would not have attended at all, unable to learn. I am proud of having been part of the town, my friends I made here are my closest and dearest and I often speak Welsh all these years later.	As above.  All pupils accessing English-medium provision would be required to study Welsh as a Second Language up to GCSE level, therefore pupils would continue to be introduced to the Welsh language should they access English-medium provision in a different location.
1.1.5	Those which support the change of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category to Welsh-medium choose to ignore the importance of the Bilingual stream in ensuring that Ysgol Bro	The English-medium stream at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is not a 'bilingual stream' – it is the Welsh-medium stream which ensures that pupils become fully bilingual, fluent in

	Hyddgen retains its Welsh ethos. The Bilingual stream has given opportunities to English speaking pupils, by introducing them to the Welsh language, without forcing them.	Welsh and English. All pupils accessing English-medium provision would be required to study Welsh as a Second Language up to GCSE level, therefore pupils would continue to be introduced to the Welsh language should they access English-medium provision in a different location.
	We have had pupils moving to the school from abroad, with no knowledge of English, let alone Welsh, but by being in the bilingual setting, they have succeeded in mastering both languages.	It is the Welsh-medium stream which ensures that pupils become fully bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, pupils moving from abroad would continue to be welcome at the school, and appropriate support would be provided for them.

## 1.2 Dual stream provision means that pupils can move from the Welsh stream to the English stream

1.2.1	I studied through the medium of Welsh up to year 9, when I considered myself to be bilingual, and I still consider myself to be bilingual up until this day, even though I decided to complete my GCSE's and A Levels in English. I decided this because I knew I would not have reached my full education potential if I had completed my studies in Welsh. This does not imply that my Welsh speaking is poor, only that my academia is better in English, and so why would I choose to complete my studies, that dictate my future, in a language that would put me at a disadvantage of achieving this?	<p>The Council notes these comments regarding the dual stream model enabling pupils from the Welsh stream to move 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>The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that</p>
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		<p>the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.</p> <p>Many pupils across Wales attend single stream Welsh-medium schools (Category 1 or Category 2A) 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>
1.2.2	The dual stream was great for me and allowed me to learn Welsh but also meet my well-being needs when I needed to switch streams.	As above.
1.2.3	My children attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and were originally in the Welsh stream up until year 8, at this point they struggled with the Welsh language so decided to move over to the English stream, the school made this transition easy and smooth and both my children are happy to have the option to do their GCSEs in English.	As above.

1.2.4	There are many families that have started their education in the Welsh stream and somewhere though the years primary, Juniors or high school have needed to change to English or bilingual to complete their education.	As above.
1.2.5	My eldest daughter is very highly educated but chose to do her exams in English. My nephews have had completely different experiences in school, similarly they started their education in the Welsh Stream but they COULD NOT learn through the medium of Welsh, they moved across to the English stream.	As above.
1.2.6	My wifes younger brother is in the junior school and he struggled in the all Welsh stream. He became disheartened, stressed and thought he was simply not clever enough. He switched to the English stream where he is now flourishing all his school work has vastly improved.	As above.
1.2.7	I, as an individual, attended this school and for one can say how much having a dual stream helped a number of individuals. All had the ability to move to the English stream from the Welsh stream if they found their learning was challenging and vice versa.	As above.
1.2.8	I have lived in Machynlleth all of my life and I went to both primary and secondary school here. I was taught through the medium of Welsh from the ages of 4-11 before I decided it was the best option for me to change to the English medium for my GCSE's. It wasn't a decision I made lightly, but it was one I am thankful I was allowed and able to make.	As above.

1.2.9	As a former pupil at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen I studied through the Welsh medium until I reached year 10, when I decided to change to the English medium to sit my GCSE's, and then continued through English for my A-levels. From my experience, I can say without a doubt that it was of benefit to me to change the language that I was learning in as I got to this crucial stage in my education, despite the fact that I am a fluent and confident Welsh speaker. I would go as far as to say that continuing in Welsh would have been a detriment to me going forward to University.	As above.
1.2.10	Both of my children started their educational journey through the medium of Welsh. They are now both fluent in Welsh, however when it came to studying for and sitting their GCSE's and A level's, both decided it was more beneficial for them to move to the English stream. The choice to do so was definitely the right move.	As above.
1.2.11	I am a pupil at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and I am strongly against the proposed changes. I attended the Welsh stream from reception up until year 8, then I began to struggle in the Welsh stream and was lucky enough to have the option of changing over to the English stream to continue with my GCSEs, which helped a lot.	As above.
1.2.12	At present I do have the comfort knowing that there is the English stream that I could my children to if needs be as I hate the thought of them struggling with work and being unhappy. I want all my children to be able to do the best that they can, be	As above.

	it being taught through Welsh or English whichever is best for them.	
1.2.13	It will not improve the uptake of Welsh medium education, which is currently quite high, since removing the safety net makes the decision to enter Welsh medium education far more of a gamble, and families may prefer to move elsewhere than risk unsettling a child part way through their schooling.	As above.

### 1.3 Pupils that have moved to the area during their time in school have been able to attend the school's English stream

1.3.1	Thanks to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen dual stream, my older daughter was able to achieve excellent results at GCSE and A levels and was able to secure an unconditional offer from university. If Machynlleth only had Welsh stream, my daughter would never have succeeded academically as she was already 15 when she entered the system.	<p>The Council notes this concern regarding the possible impact on any children moving to the area during their school years if there isn't an English stream in Machynlleth.</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>However, it is acknowledged that this provision may not be suitable for all pupils, particularly those towards the end of their time in school. 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</p>
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		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.
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## 2. COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR CHOICE

### 2.1 There is need for choice

2.1.1	I believe our children should have a choice in their education and not be segregated because of the language they speak or end up struggling to learn their subjects because they struggle with the Welsh language!	<p>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>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>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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		The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.
2.1.2	Children have the right to CHOICE and the right to an education which develops their personalities, talents and abilities to the fullest possible extent	As above.
2.1.3	Lack of choice. Every child in the Dyfi valley has the right to be educated in their own community.	As above.
2.1.4	Everyone has a choice and can be taught in their preferred language.	As above.
2.1.5	Both English and Welsh are the official languages of Wales so pupils should be able to learn in the language of their choice.	As above.
2.1.6	All official documents are required to be in both languages so education should be as well.	As above.
2.1.7	If Powys County Council change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to a Welsh medium school then they are taking away the freedom of choice for the pupils.	As above.

2.1.8	Reduces choice for pupils and forces a Welsh Only secondary education at Bo Dyfi.	As above.
2.1.9	As a family we have to make the decision that's right for our children, and Powys County Council should not be dictating that such choices cannot be made.	As above.
2.1.10	Personal choice. Wales has two official languages - parents should therefore be able to exercise their right to choose which language their child is educated in.	As above.
2.1.11	Pupils and their families have the right to decide which language is right for them to be educated in. This is not a decision that Powys County Council has the right to make or take away from local families.	As above.
2.1.12	We have the luxury of being given the freedom of choice, that choice should be the same for our children. As local residents, we are passionate that the Welsh language and heritages does not fizzle out, but to be forced into doing something that isn't our choice is not acceptable.	As above.
2.1.13	At present the provision of bilingual education gives pupils and their families choice. Pupils in the English stream learn Welsh and some become fluent in the language while others struggle. There is no segregation, Welsh and English pupils working and learning together in one school. This proposal takes away choice and creates exclusion.	As above.
2.1.14	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	As above.

<p>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? The Council would rightly be castigated if it were making YBH an English-medium school – why does it not recognise the gross hypocrisy and Anglophobic prejudice behind the proposal?</p>	<p>The Council disagrees that there is ‘anglophobic prejudice’ behind the proposal.</p>
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## 2.2 Not being able to choose English-medium provision will impact on educational progress

<p>2.2.1</p>	<p>Not allowing them to learn through the medium of English which may in fact be their ‘first language’ hinders them from achieving high grades as not only are they learning the initial subject but they are then also having to learn the Welsh within that subject too as it would not come naturally to them.</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>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. Pupils would also be fluent in English, and would have the skills needed to use both language in future education / employment opportunities.</p>
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		<p>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.</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>
2.2.2	I believe that by surrendering the right to choose from these children and parents you are impacting their grades and chances of jobs in the future. It helped my grades by having the option to choose in more ways than one. I'm sure many of my ex-classmates would agree with me on my views and could also share stories on how their right to choose helped them further their learning and helped them get the grades that they deserved.	As above.
2.2.3	I would like to register my disapproval with regard to changing the system from dual to a Welsh medium only as I believe that this is a divisive move which removes choice for local parents and, from my experience, has the potential to adversely affect the future academic development of local children entering into a global workplace where the Welsh language makes up only a tiny part.	As above.
2.2.4	Why should parents be forced to have their children educated in a language that they fear will leave them disadvantaged.	As above.

2.2.5	Increasing the number of Welsh speakers is commendable but expecting success for all students in secondary education to write, read and speak in their second language is NOT.	As above.
2.2.6	I fear that children will not be allowed to make such decisions for themselves and be forced to struggle in the Welsh medium and not get the grades they deserve.	As above.
2.2.7	My child went to a Welsh-only primary school at the age of six where he was taught to read in Welsh – a language he didn't know – and he proceeded to do badly at school and taunted by some of the other children as being 'stupid'. He was a very bright, articulate and lively child but during this period became unconfident (which remained with him throughout his school years even when he went to an English-medium school).	<p>Whilst we acknowledge that this must have been difficult for the family involved, this is not a comment about Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. This is not reflective of the experiences of most pupils accessing Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>There are no 'Welsh only' primary schools in Wales. In a Welsh medium primary school, all pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh. English is introduced formally as a subject at Key Stage 2 and is taught through the medium of English. The requirements for schools and pupils in terms of English at Key Stage 2 are the same in all schools in Wales, whatever the designated medium of the school.</p>

### 3. COMMENTS ABOUT YSGOL BRO HYDDGEN

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

3.1.1	Each year the support [from the school] becomes less and less due to funding. Currently almost non-existent.	All schools in Powys are funded according to the Powys Fair Funding Formula.
3.1.2	Following the amalgamation this is when the problems began, it was evident that the primary campus finances were becoming a concern as it was felt the secondary campus was utilising the money and this was having an adverse effect on the provision of support. The primary headteacher left her post and was replaced by the head of the 6th form.	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is an all-age school and receives one budget from Powys CC. The allocation of budgets within the school is the responsibility of the school.
3.1.3	I just want my children to have the support they need to do this smoothly which going by Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's history is little and late if it materializes at all there's been lots of should we need help / talk of external units to help with Welsh maybe we are not re assured at all that this support will come.	The local authority will work with the school to provide immersion support to all learners that need the additional support with the Welsh language.
3.1.4	There is already children at YBH struggling with no support. Children are being let down by the school. I worked tirelessly with the school to help them understand my child's needs, but they just didn't want to know! What hope would he of had in an all Welsh school, none! There is many children already in that school being let down.	Support for pupils' needs would be an issue for the school to address with support and guidance provided by the Local Authority.
3.1.5	Children will need more support if this goes ahead I have no doubt, but Ysgol Bro Hyddgen seems to be getting rid of support teachers.	As above.
3.1.6	There is already a high number of children struggling in that school because they have NO support. ALN needs to be looked at down there. They are destroying children!!	As above.

<p>3.1.7</p>	<p>Education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen does need to improve - standards of education are poor.</p>	<p>The Council does not have any concerns over the quality of education provided at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The Consultation Document included the latest Estyn judgement and the 2019 National Categorisation for the school. It must be noted that there is a difference between Estyn inspections and National Categorisation – Estyn evaluate by judgements, National Categorisation uses colours to identify the support a school needs.</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was inspected in 2017 and were placed in Estyn review. However by December 2018 the school was judged to have made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations and was removed from Estyn review.</p> <p>National Categorisation identifies the amount of support a school will receive on an annual basis. The last categorisation took place in the autumn term 2019. Since that period, Welsh Government have suspended categorisation. There are four colours for categorisation (Green and Yellow are seen as self-improving schools; Amber and Red are schools in need of significant support).</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was categorised as Yellow in 2019, indicating that the school is a self-improving school.</p> <p>Although there is no National Categorisation for schools, the Council has continued to work closely to support the school. The school has responded well to the challenges of providing education over the pandemic period. This</p>
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		<p>has reinforced the view of the local authority that the school is a self-improving school and provides education to a standard that is equitable.</p> <p>Estyn's response to this consultation also confirms the Council's view: <i>'Estyn believes that the proposal is likely to maintain, or improve, the existing standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management.'</i></p>
3.1.8	<p>School staff have refused to speak English to me even when being told I do not understand or speak Welsh, their way round this was to speak Welsh to my child and force them to struggle translate what they were saying to me, no reverse translation was needed as they fully understood English, they just refused to speak it to me. I would only imagine this getting worse if they were officially a Welsh only school which would force my child to seek other education providers outside of the county.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
3.1.9	<p>Concern about the English language skills of school staff.</p>	<p>All teachers and leaders are required to have an English qualification.</p>
3.1.10	<p>My youngest daughter would be the first year to be affected by this change proposed. As an English speaking family, we already struggle with the current Ysgol Bro Hyddgen as they refuse to translate everything into English.</p>	<p>Good practice is that all correspondence to parents is provided bilingually at Welsh-medium / bilingual schools.</p>
3.1.11	<p>Currently Bro Hyddgen is not able to offer biology A level, other Bro Hyddgen A level students have to commute to Aberystwyth. This is a question of provision not language.</p>	<p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen works in partnership with Ysgol Penweddig, secondary schools across Powys and e-sgol provision. This has ensured the broadening of the</p>

		breadth of academic and vocational provision for Bro Hyddgen Post 16 learners through the medium of Welsh and English, as well as securing the quality of provision.
3.1.12	There is already a shortage of teachers. My son in year 8 has a TA teaching him in some lessons.	Funding is provided to the school through the funding formula to enable the school to appropriately staff all classes. The school's leadership team and governing body is responsible for the staffing of the school.
3.1.13	The secondary school is often short-staffed, currently borrowing a teacher from the primary I believe. They have had many staffing problems over the years.	As above. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is an all-age school, therefore it is not the case that the secondary school is 'borrowing' a teacher from the primary. It is considered good practice for teachers to teach across phases.
3.1.14	This school which already has multiple incidents of racist behaviour will now probably have a distinctly non-diverse teaching staff. How many people of colour are Welsh Speakers? How many of those are teachers?	All schools are required to have an inclusive curriculum which promotes diversity, and to report racist incidents to the local authority. There is no evidence of 'multiple incidents of racist behaviour' at the school.
3.1.15	My child is being taught English through the medium of Welsh even though he is in the English Stream. What hope do these children have. I urge Powys County Council to investigate the goings on at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and to withdraw the proposed changes for the good of the future of Machynlleth and the generations to come.	English is a statutory subject. It is the responsibility of the school to monitor the standards that pupils achieve.
3.1.16	As an example, my son's ability to speak Welsh has suffered greatly due to Covid and the lack of online learning during 'homeschooling'. He is in the Welsh stream at primary school. There is no provision to help him with the language so he struggles on.	These concerns regarding difficulties parents who do not speak Welsh have experienced supporting home learning during the Covid pandemic are noted.  Schools remain the first point of contact when it comes to children's' continued learning. All pupils in a Welsh medium stream are taught through the medium of

		<p>Welsh, with the exception of English as a subject, and thus hear and use the language in a variety of contexts on a daily basis. Teachers are responsible for observing and assessing the progress of all pupils with an expectation that they use this information to plan the next steps in skill development for the pupils. Schools should be able to support or advise parents on the best way to support children to develop 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 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>
3.1.17	<p>I would also like to point out my disappointment that Powys County Council have allowed the Cofiwch Dreweryn sign that has been graffitied on the wall of the school to remain in place and have not requested the governors remove it. I know full well being a first language Welsh speaker who has lived in the town all my life the meaning of that phrase (a political slogan used for welsh nationalism) What council who is operating an inclusive education system allows such a slogan on their premises?</p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for signs displayed at the school.</p>

### 3.2 References to changes already taking place at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

3.2.1	They have already removed the English stream on the secondary campus and changed it to a Bilingual stream running alongside the Welsh stream, without consultation.	<p>For a number of years, in order to accommodate both Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have used a 'bilingual' teaching model, where Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils are taught in the same class using both languages. The Council made reference to this in the Consultation Document published in respect of this proposal:</p> <p><i>'In the secondary sector, in order to be able to accommodate both Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils, many classes are taught bilingually, with teaching taking place in both Welsh and English in the same class. This is not a desirable model for Welsh-medium or English-medium pupils. Subject choice is also limited for English-medium pupils.'</i></p>
3.2.2	Powys County Council have stated that no children who currently attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen through the English stream will be affected by these changes. However, new term classes have been set for September 2022 and the English stream classes have been amalgamated into just a few classes. Children aged 4 years old and children aged 8 years old will be taught in one classroom. Can you guarantee that a class can be taught effectively with varying different age groups and who are at different stages of development?	<p>The school's class structure for September 2022 is a matter for the school and its governing body. All schools are required to regularly review their class structure based on pupil numbers in order to ensure that provision is affordable within the budget allocated to the school.</p> <p>There are many schools across Powys that have classes with mixed age classes. These pupils can be taught effectively through differentiation and challenge in mixed age classes.</p>
3.2.3	My daughter currently attends reception in the English stream, we were assured that the proposal would have no implications	Any changes made to the school's class structure have been made due to the number of pupils accessing

	on children already in school. This is already questionable giving as her class will now compromise reception-year 3. The same is happening from year 4-6. How are these children with such massive age gaps going to be given a satisfactory education.	English-medium provision in the school. This is not linked to the Council's proposal to change the school's language category.
3.2.4	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is already a predominantly Welsh speaking school, this is reflected in how the English medium classes are set up. Where years 0-3 and years 4-6 are crammed together. I find it extremely concerning and disappointing that those who are for the change are happy to see other people's children and their education suffer when it does not affect or concern them or their own.	As above.
3.2.5	I also find it upsetting that the English classes being provided this year has minimised where children are being put together from different age groups yet the same is not happening on the Welsh side. I cannot help but feel the children are being forced out the school through the exclusion they are being directly faced with, as well as the impact their learning will face through less attention for each age group. How is the English classes less important than the Welsh classes? Why do these children deserve less attention less space less focused age appropriate learning?	As above.
3.2.6	You have stated that it will not affect the children already in the English stream but there has already been changes e.g. putting 3 years in one class and what about the resources?	As above.

### 3.3 The school pressurises pupils to attend the Welsh-medium stream

3.3.1	Many start YBH in the Welsh stream because you're under pressure to do so.	<p>As outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and to contribute to the implementation of the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy, the Council's priority is to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision, to increase the number of Powys pupils that are fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>The Council would expect all schools that offer Welsh-medium education to share information with parents about the benefits of Welsh-medium education, with the aim of encouraging parents to choose Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>The Council's Admissions information has stated that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is a dual stream school, and any parent could have applied for a place at the school's English stream. Applications for places at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are processed centrally by the Council. Any applications for places in the English-medium stream at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would have been processed in accordance with the Council's admissions process.</p>
3.3.2	I have noticed a concerted effort by a vocal minority including certain teachers at Bro Hyddgen who have slowly picked away at the English stream using various tactics such as under investment, virtual coercion of new parents with dire stories of the consequences of not being taught solely in Cymraeg.	As above.
3.3.3	I have been told parents are being told at year 6 – Welsh stream when they ask for their children to go into the English stream for secondary education – Don't – Naughty children are	As above.

	in the English stream. What is going on? This must be investigated.	
3.3.4	For many years, the management of the school has been pushing an agenda of 'Welsh above all else' and parents have been coerced into putting their children in the Welsh stream on the understanding that they can move them back to the English stream at any time.	As above.
3.3.5	The school management team have employed various tactics over the years to make the numbers of families wanting an English medium provision for their children seem lower than it is. This includes making personal phone calls to parents who had requested their child be in the English stream for reception and applying pressure during these calls to persuade the parent to change their choice to Welsh stream. The school management team have also been refusing to move children over to the English stream on parental request, even when the child is deeply unhappy and struggling with their education in the Welsh stream.	As above.
3.3.6	I have heard from local parents that primary school starters in the last few years have been strongly encouraged by the school to start their children in Welsh medium, with the security that they will always have the option to move their children to the English stream should they have concerns at any time. This may have falsely elevated the preference for Welsh medium education at primary level as many parents would have selected the English stream if they'd had any inkling their child would be denied that shift later.	As above.

3.3.7	Children were no longer moved over, parents no longer consulted and advised of the best decision for their child. This has continued to the point of those opting for English medium education were being contacted and persuaded to go into the Welsh stream, parents letters have been sent to cabinet members highlighting this but no action has resulted from those. Parents requests to move their children have not been sanctioned and reassurances have been provided that they are ok with a promise of support??	As above.
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### 3.4 Criticism of the Governing Body / Chair of Governors

3.4.1	Parents have been lied to by the school Governors sending letters out informing us that its going to be a bilingual school, which is leading people to believe we'll still have an English stream.	This would be a matter for the governors. Any complaints against any governor should be addressed by following the appropriate complaints procedure.
3.4.2	Powys County Councillors who represent Plaid Cymru and sit on the board of governors are continuing to cause huge division in our town by sharing their personal views through media channels. Once again those concerns when reported have been ignored by Powys officials.	As above.
3.4.3	The board of Governors is not representative of the local Community. I am aware of resignation of a significant proportion of Governors who could not continue to tolerate the attitudes towards English speakers in meetings.	The governors of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have been appointed in accordance with the required procedures. Any governors are entitled to resign from their positions at any time if they wish to do so.
3.4.4	The governing body is not a fair representation of the community of Machynlleth. It is predominantly made up of Welsh language activists who have strong connections to	As above.

	PCC employees involved in this consultation process. It is my understanding also that many governors resigned when this proposal was introduced as they did not agree with it. They have since been replaced with co-opted members approached by County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan who is also Chair of the Governors, Plaid Cymru representative and secretary for Menter Iaith Maldwyn.	
3.4.5	There has been a huge push towards Welsh Medium education and the governing body had many Welsh language activists sitting on it actively promoting Welsh medium education and were critical of Powys for their lack of Welsh medium schools.	As above.
3.4.6	Why has Cllr E Vaughan not declared an interest in this matter. He is an active Plaid Cymru councillor and the Chair of Governors. The board of Governor's is NOT representative of the local Community. There has been a mass exodus of Governors resigning who could not tolerate the attitudes towards English speakers in meetings.	As above.  Cllr Elwyn Vaughan is not a member of the Council's Cabinet, so is not a decision maker in respect of the Council's proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. There is no requirement for him to declare an interest in this matter.
3.4.7	I object to the inappropriate conduct of Cllr Elwyn Vaughan, Chair of Governors, during this objection period. Surely, it is inappropriate for someone in his position to publicly comment on the proposal during this period?	As above.
3.4.8	In fact it's fair to say that once again County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan has portrayed himself through media channels as the person who will ensure that support is available through the Canolfan Hyddgen building, I must add that the company he is secretary of Menter Iaith Maldwyn was included in those	The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.

	plans! How convenient! Education of every child must ultimately be the responsibility of the Local Authority not a third party company. Once again a County Councillor of yours following his own agenda!	
3.4.9	This is another string in a worrying political takeover of the school: although it is normal for a local councillor to be on a school's board of governors, for them to be the Chair is highly unusual. Since, political graffiti has been sanctioned by the school's leadership and turning the Hyddgen building into a Welsh Language Immersion Centre has been suggested, when the main beneficiary of such a move would likely be Menter Maldwyn. The Chair, Elwyn Vaughan, is the Chief Officer of Menter Maldwyn. There is clearly a conflict of interest here and the Council is failing in to conduct due diligence on ensuring politics stays out of the classroom. This is all the more disappointing given the education brief is held by a so-called Conservative who is meant to uphold freedom of choice and tackle nationalism.	<p>There are other examples in Powys of county councillors being Chairs of governing bodies.</p> <p>There is no 'political takeover' of the school – the proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.</p>
3.4.10	The governors and supporters of Bro Hyddgen school need to put the welfare, wellbeing and the education of the pupils before their personal beliefs and stop trying to make a name for themselves. They are taking away the children's choice of education and setting them up to fail before they've even started on their education/learning journey.	<p>The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council, not by the 'governors and supporters of Bro Hyddgen school'.</p> <p>It is not true that the proposal is 'taking away the children's choice of education and setting them up to fail'. 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</p>

		English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
3.4.11	The governors of Bro Hyddgen school should ensure that the school caters for every child, whether their Welsh or English!! It's their duty of care to ensure that every child has the right to their education.	As above.
3.4.12	The suspicion of many locals is that there is a political agenda from the Ysgol Bro Hyddgen governors in having this proposal accepted. The feeling is that the school governance has changed in recent years to become more nationalistic of Welsh identity. Where previous proposals to reduce English provision have failed, an opportunity has presented itself via new Welsh Government targets for this 'agenda' to be adopted. As someone who deals with a lot of American and European compliance due to my employment, there is a suspicion that this proposal is more to meet that agenda. To the detriment of those who struggle speaking Welsh.	As above.
3.4.13	The Chair of Governors recently spoke on local radio about the proposal. It is interesting that he chose to do this as he has not chosen to talk to parents and answers their questions and concerns at any point during the consultation period. Neither has PCC made any attempt to engage with parents and the community during this period. During the radio presentation, the Chair of Governors commented on the Welsh Government's vision of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050; but he failed to mention that Bro Hyddgen already has 76% Welsh-medium pupils (exceeding Welsh Government's target of 70%). The Chair of Governors made comparisons with Penweddig School in Aberystwyth; but	<p>The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors' radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.</p> <p>It is not true that PCC has not 'made any attempt to engage with parents and the community during this period' – nearly 500 consultation responses were received, as well as over 250 objections and two petitions signed by a total of nearly 1500 people,</p>

	<p>failed to acknowledge that families in Aberystwyth have the choice of Penweddig (608 pupils) or Penglais (1087 pupils). He clearly failed to recognise the far higher number of pupils in Aberystwyth choosing English medium secondary education. He also dismissed the fact that pupils from Machynlleth would have to travel at least 18 miles to have a choice of English medium education, unlike those in Aberystwyth who have a choice of both within their own town. He also talked about the success of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd; but failed to mention that there are also several English medium schools in the Newtown area available for pupils. He also failed to mention that once pupils leave Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd there is no Welsh medium secondary education available to pupils in Newtown – unlike at Machynlleth where pupils can access Welsh medium at every key stage. The Chair of Governors also commented on pupils/parents ‘opting out’ of learning Welsh. Surely, he is aware that all pupils at Bro Hyddgen learn Welsh. In fact, results for second language Welsh at Bro Hyddgen are very good. It is very sad that he fails to understand that parents and pupils have very valid and genuine reasons for choosing English provision and this absolutely underlines the lack of empathy shown by himself and PCC throughout this proposal.</p>	<p>therefore it is clear that parents and the community have engaged with the process.</p>
3.4.14	<p>The Chair of Governors is wrong to suggest that the pupils in the English stream only receive education through English, throughout Key Stage 4 every GCSE lesson is taught bilingually and with great success. This never caused any negative impact on the teachers or pupils, with high grades being achieved by both the English and Welsh medium pupils in the same class. I believe being in a bilingual class greatly improved my Welsh language skills, and allowed me to</p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors’ radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.</p>

	<p>achieve the high Welsh grade that I did. Also, there are so few pupils in the GCSE classes in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, that bilingual classes are the only sensible approach. For example, in GCSE PE, there were only around 12 boys, with only 3 pupils studying through Welsh. Obviously with so few pupils, they have to be grouped together for the school to be sustainable. The Chair of Governors is wrong when he suggests that the English stream in Bro Hyddgen only receives their education through the medium of English, there is a strong Welsh ethos in the school, which is no comparison to English medium schools such as Penglais.</p>	
3.4.15	<p>We are looking to our future, and not reacting to historical acts of our ancestors. It seems that Cllr Elwyn Vaughan is stuck in history, and was quoted in the Cambrian News as saying 'the welsh language been undermined so much during the last century' he also stated 'Its the language of the oppressor over the oppressed, the language of intolerance, and that's why we have to call it out and condemn it' Which is ironic as he is now leading a campaign that is causing so much division, leading to children feeling ashamed to speak their own language in public, the tables turned so that he is now the oppressor..and that is not the future we want for my children.</p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors' radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.</p>
3.4.16	<p>Not only is it inappropriate for the Chair of Governors/Powys Councillor to comment so publicly on this proposal during the objection period, but the information given was very selective to say the least. Yet again, some parents and local residents could hear the information given during this radio presentation and be misinformed of current provision at Bro Hyddgen. Following this radio presentation, a member of the community actually commented that they were in favour of this proposal</p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors' radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.</p>

	as they believed it to be right and correct that pupils should be able to learn and study through Welsh! Once it was explained that pupils already have full access to Welsh medium provision, they were surprised as they had assumed, from the information given, that this was not available!	
3.4.17	Cllr Elwyn Vaughan said that PCC had made this proposal following a critical ESTYN report; but failed to mention that Bro Hyddgen have the highest percentage of Welsh-medium pupils in Powys. Pupils at Bro Hyddgen have full access to Welsh-medium provision.	The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors' radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.
3.4.18	It must also be noted that the mistruths and false reassurances by your Plaid Cymru County councillor Elwyn Vaughan has been a contributory factor in residents of our town becoming confused over the actual proposal, several attempts by residents to PCC to address these concerns have been ignored.	The Council has been clear throughout that the aim of this process is to make a regulated alteration to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category from dual stream to Welsh-medium.
3.4.19	Even the name of the school – which when it was changed due to becoming a through age school – I was thrilled to hear that the children would be consulted. They chose to call the new through school, Ysgol Bro Ddyfi – a healthy reflection of the area it serves. However, their views were ignored and the Governing body decided to choose the name HYDDGEN which again harks back to the Battleground where the Welsh fought the English 620 years ago!	The new school name was proposed by the school's temporary governing body following input from pupils and the community, and was ratified by the Portfolio Holder for Education. It was chosen as it is the name of a historic battle where Owain Glyndwr, an important figure in the history of Wales who is associated with Machynlleth, won his first big victory, not because it was a location 'where the Welsh fought the English'.
3.4.20	Just two years ago the governing body tried to change the intake of children within the reception class and had support from Cllr Myfanwy Alexander and Marianne Evans who both	It is true that a couple of years ago a letter was issued to parents advising of planned changes to the provision in the reception class, and that eventually, this change

	<p>attended the governors meeting. A letter sent out to parents caused huge anger within the community and the parents campaigned to keep it dual stream. Once again the community was really anxious and the community divided. Parents spoke up and the decision was overturned.</p>	<p>did not take place following representations made by parents.</p> <p>The current process to change the school's language category is separate to the governing body's attempt to change the provision. This process is being carried out by the Council in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. All issues raised in the consultation were considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice, and all issues raised in the Objections will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p>
3.4.21	<p>I sat on the governing Body following that attempt 2 years ago to change the provision in the foundation Phase and was stunned that the subject of language never came up in any of the meetings, so you can image my surprise when I found out via an email sent to Russell George MS by Cllr Phyl Davies that he had been in discussions with representatives of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and the proposal was going to be a Welsh medium school. Many governors were equally as stunned and five resigned, they did not know who those representatives were! We are still attempting to access those minutes, but no avail other than reassurances from Cllr Phyl Davies Education Portfolio holder that those discussions were open and honest. We are currently on our fourth email to the cabinet attempting to access the minutes from those open and honest discussions. Maybe you could help with that?</p>	<p>Informal discussions took place between officers and the Chair of Governors and Headteacher of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. These were no minutes taken of these discussions.</p>

### 3.5 Positive comments about the current provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

3.5.1	I think Ysgol Bro Hyddgen currently delivers a brilliant service, with options for both local families, Welsh and non Welsh, as well as incomers, from other areas of Wales, the general UK or further afield. The school is currently a valuable resource locally for all members of the community, regardless of their ethnic background or country of origin. We chose to move to Machynlleth, rather than Tywyn, because of the wonderful community and the school.	The Council is pleased to note these positive comments about the current provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. However, the current small numbers of English-medium pupils at the school causes challenges, as outlined in the Consultation Document issued in respect of this proposal. The Council's aim is to change the school's language category to enable the school to operate more efficiently in future, to ensure that it can continue to offer the best possible education to all learners.
3.5.2	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen currently offers a choice to parents and pupils and meets the pupils needs at every stage of their education.	As above.
3.5.3	YBH has lovely primary school teachers (I have very limited experience of the secondary school teachers, so I will not comment on them) and Mrs Haf Af Robert has got time for each and every little person in her care. This, however, is not enough to make me feel content to keep my child in YBH or with my decision to enrol my son in the school.	As above.
3.5.4	I like Ysgol Bro Hyddgen I have a lovely teacher and lots of friends.	As above.

### 3.6 Other comments / queries

3.6.1	How many children who don't have additional learning needs - 'swap' from the Welsh stream to the English at secondary education level, or even before?	<p>The number of pupils 'swapping' from the Welsh stream to the English stream varies on an annual basis.</p> <p>Information received from the school indicates that 6 pupils at the school have moved from the Welsh stream to the English stream since September 2020, 3 in the primary phase and 3 in the secondary phase. These figures include any pupils with additional learning needs.</p>
3.6.2	It was unacceptable that friends of my son applying to university were unable to understand and complete UCAS application forms because they had not been taught English properly.	All pupils are taught English as a subject up to GCSE level. Any concerns about the standard of teaching would be identified during Support Visits, and if required, appropriate actions would be put in place to support the school to improve the provision. The last Support Visit took place during the summer of 2021.
3.6.3	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen has a very successful 6th form, drawing pupils from Dolgellau, Tywyn, Aberystwyth etc - many of these pupils are not first language welsh speakers and choose to attend YBH as they are able to study the subjects of their choice through Welsh or English. My daughter is currently in the 6th form and is currently studying A Level History, which she does through Welsh, however completing IT and Medical Science through English. If A level/BTEC subjects will only be delivered through Welsh it is likely that a large number of students will decide to go elsewhere to continue their studies, which would have a devastating effect on the numbers attending this current successful 6th form. YBH is currently able to work along other schools such as Llanidloes, Penweddig and Penglais to offer students a wide range of subjects - many of which are delivered in English due to their	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to work in partnership with other schools across Powys and nationally through the e-sgol provision. By working together through the newly established Operational and Strategic Post 16 Management Boards, the North Powys Post 16 provision will ensure a breadth of academic and vocational provision through the medium of Welsh and English. Bro Hyddgen Post 16 learners will be able to access this breadth of provision.

	delivery partners, thus reducing choices for pupils at the school.	
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#### 4. COMMENTS ABOUT FUNDING FOR YSGOL BRO HYDDGEN'S NEW BUILDING

4.1	Wasn't the funding for the new build 'super school' received under the impression it was to remain a dual stream educational setting?	The business cases submitted to Welsh Government in respect of the new school building reflected the school's dual stream delivery model. Welsh Government colleagues are fully aware of the Council's current proposal to change the school's language category, and there has been no indication that the Welsh Government would not provide funding for the new building should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the language category.
4.2	I'm confident in saying the only reason the proposal to make the new school a single Welsh stream school is that by doing so the funding will be increased / granted in full by the Welsh Government in full.	There is no requirement to change the school's language category in order to access 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools funding for the new school building.

#### 5. COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON PUPILS

##### 5.1 General concern about the impact on pupils

5.1.1	There are more creative ways to ensure than every child has a knowledge and grounding in the Welsh Language than to	The Council is not introducing a 'blanket ban' on English-medium education. Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should
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	blanket ban any class from being taught in the first language of the majority of the children.	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.
5.1.2	Forcing a child to be educated in Welsh is the hallmark of an oppressive regime which should not be tolerated in the 21 century. The wrongs of the past, where children in Wales were forced to learn in English, should not be copied by forcing them to learn in Welsh. Two wrongs do not make a right.	The Council is not 'forcing' pupils to be educated in Welsh. 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.
5.1.3	The pupils would also be at a great disadvantage as Welsh is a language only spoken and recognised in Wales whereas English is a language spoken internationally.	The Council fully acknowledges the need for pupils to be able to communicate effectively in English. 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.
5.1.4	My question is, why should a child's educational needs be treated as secondary to a social / political position? I think there is a serious risk of putting a 'politically correct' decision ahead of a child's welfare and well-being. How can a child from an English-speaking family who are unable to give him / her support in their work because of the language barrier, do	The Council is not treating the educational needs of children as secondary to a social / political position. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to be bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.

<p>well? They will be at a huge educational disadvantage that will impact the rest of their lives.</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> <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> <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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5.1.5	Education is a right and the key to their future. Don't let the pride and love for the Welsh Language blind you to putting that before the vital importance of what education is for and how it can utterly shape the lives of the children of Machynlleth.	As above.
5.1.6	I am very concerned that a Welsh medium school would harm the opportunities of the children of Machynlleth. Not all children can learn through the medium of Welsh. Not all parents can, or would be willing to learn enough Welsh to support their children in school. We cannot fail these children by adding more barriers to their opportunity to make the best of their education.	As above.
5.1.7	Not making an already tough time for many children even tougher. Language shouldn't be a barrier, it should be enjoyed, something that is loved, not something that is grown to be despised.	As above.
5.1.8	Every child has the right to be treated fairly. All children should be welcomed at their local school with their friends from the primary school, and be able to be taught in a language they feel most comfortable with, surely they are entitled to this?	As above.
5.1.9	Our Welsh children who are not able to learn through a second language will be treated like second rate citizens and face an increase in barriers to learning that will not be solved by a few weeks in an immersion centre... (Especially one that is housed in a building that was built for the whole community, but hasn't allowed its community open access to it in recent years).	As above.
5.1.10	I am concerned about the influence of those children that cannot learn through the medium of Welsh on the education of	The Council does not agree that the proposal would disadvantage pupils learning through the medium of

	<p>those children that are able to learn through the medium of Welsh. Many think that they can [cannot?] cope or that they will move to other English language schools, but I believe that they will in fact stay at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as it is not likely that they will be willing to make the effort to travel elsewhere to be educated.</p>	<p>Welsh. 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 home where no Welsh is spoken.</p>
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## 5.2 Concern about pupils' ability to access Higher Education

<p>5.2.1</p>	<p>Which university is going to teach a Welsh speaking student for example chemical engineering or doctors, before they relearn terminology in English. I know of such people.</p>	<p>Pupils that access Welsh-medium education become bilingual – fluent in both Welsh and English, and able to use both languages in their future education or in their chosen careers. Accessing Welsh-medium education does not mean that pupils cannot attend universities in England – 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> <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>
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5.2.2	I am currently studying Medicine. Although some aspects of my course have the option to be taken in Welsh, the core learning and lecture material is delivered in English. Being such a difficult course, I do not think I would be able to cope with all the scientific and medical terms if I was constantly having to translate between both languages. I also believe that if I didn't have my base of scientific knowledge from A-levels in English this would have put me at a disadvantage when undergoing the huge step up from school to university.	As above.
5.2.3	The impact to Further Education and Higher Education need to be considered, what are the statistics for current Welsh-medium education at YBH that go on to Further Education and by which language, University in Wales or elsewhere. The statistics of previous pupils at this school and where their education has taken them, need to be assessed before any significant changes are implemented.	As above.
5.2.4	Does this also mean that the push to encourage star pupils to apply for Oxford and Cambridge and Russell group universities will be abandoned? Machynlleth pupils could miss out on fulfilling their potential here, which would be a huge loss.	As above.
5.2.5	My daughter went to the school from primary through to 6th form, and although she was predominantly in the Welsh stream, and took hers GCSEs in Welsh. However when it came to choosing A levels, she knew that she needed to take these in English in order to have the best choice of university. Limiting the school to Welsh only would have been highly detrimental to her further education.	As above.

5.2.6	The option to progress to university will be reduced, due to the limited number of universities in Wales.	As above.
5.2.7	Many of these pupils may not stay in Wales after they leave school, they may go to universities all over the country- if the proposal goes ahead their level of English could not be sufficient. There are 10 universities in Wales in comparison to 109 in England not counting the rest of the UK.	As above.
5.2.8	The top universities in the United Kingdom are mainly situated outside of Wales, on various tables you have to go down some fair way before actually coming across one located in Wales. The majority of these will be taught in English despite attracting students from all over the world.	As above.
5.2.9	When I attended university (in England) I spend most of my time with a Welsh medium student. We were best friends. Watching her truly struggle with the work, the reading and understanding, translating was painful. Having been schooled in Welsh medium only meant that she had such a language barrier, and learning through any means in English for her degree was so much more difficult. Although in the end she did well at university, following this experience, I would not choose that for any of my children. Unlike other students from France and Italy, Welsh was not considered a 'first language' for my friend and so she was not afforded extra support/points for completing her work through her second language English.	As above.
5.2.10	I do not wish for my children to struggle if they go to university in the future and with so little choices in Welsh language degrees across the country (UK), I therefore want to ensure	As above.

	the provision for them to study in English and Welsh so they can be truly bilingual. It's so that they can complete their education to the best of their ability, with one hundred percent support possible from both parents and without language barriers.	
5.2.11	What happens when they want to go to university and they've only been taught through Welsh but wish to attend university in England?	As above.
5.2.12	Something else to consider is that if a pupil completes their school education through the medium of Welsh, and they decide to go to an English University, they may experience a troublesome transitional period, which could lead to them giving up.	As above.
5.2.13	Removing the English stream will hold back young people from the area who wish to move away to study a professional career. To study any subject at university level, a good command of English is essential. Furthermore, if this young person starts working on the international stage, it is normal to run technical conferences (and journals) in English.	As above.
5.2.14	Comfort within education is crucial. Many of my friends and I speak Welsh together and with family members, but we completed our education in English. This is because we felt most comfortable and able to achieve the grades needed to be accepted into the university of our choice through studying in English. We were thinking of our future in making this decision. I ask you to do the same.	As above.

### 5.3 Concern about the impact on the future employability of pupils

5.3.1	<p>Most jobs people get they need to speak English, not many need to speak Welsh.</p>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the need for Council to have good English language skills. The aim of Welsh-medium education is to ensure that pupils become bilingual and are able to communicate effectively in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>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. Pupils that access Welsh-medium education become bilingual – fluent in both Welsh and English, and able to use both languages in their future education or in their chosen careers. Accessing Welsh-medium education does not mean that pupils cannot secure jobs where they are required to work in English – many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have secured jobs which require them to work in English, Welsh or both languages.</p> <p>Bilingual pupils have an additional skill to take to the workplace as they are also able to work through the medium of Welsh. This additional skill would be beneficial to pupils looking for work in Wales, where employers are increasingly looking for staff who have the ability to work in both Welsh and English.</p>
5.3.2	<p>The majority of further education and any potential jobs are mainly in English and I believe my children will have a huge set</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	back if they were to have all their primary/high school subjects in Welsh.	
5.3.3	To be well served by their education, pupils need to be prepared for gaining employment. The opportunities for employment for school leavers where Welsh is essential are few. The main opportunities for Welsh linguists are in public service, joining the ranks of the 80% of the population who are dependent on the public purse for some or all of their income. The ability to select candidates on the basis of ability to do the job rather than prioritising the ability to speak Welsh is essential if standards are to be maintained.	As above.
5.3.4	In this day and age of less jobs for our children we should be equipping them with as many different skills as we can during their period in education and broadening their career horizons not restricting them.	As above.
5.3.5	If you go to any employer in the UK, the likelihood is you will mainly trade in English, My employer before he sold his business had lived in Wales since he was 10 and even though he has become very successful in the 40 years that he has lived in Wales, still only speaks English and the firm now employs over 30 people from the local community, of which I'd say 50% are English speaking only.	As above.
5.3.6	STEM careers are on the increase on the global platform, computer coding is primarily conducted through English language. By removing the English language option may reduce the numbers of students in Wales reaching these significant career options.	As above.

5.3.7	Not everyone wants to work for the Welsh Government, Local Authority, where Welsh Language is mandatory, by keeping freedom of education provides workforce for all areas of Wales future.	As above.
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## 6. COMMENTS ABOUT ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

### 6.1 General concern about the impact on pupils with Additional Learning Needs

6.1.1	Some children in Machynlleth rely on the English stream due to various reasons, but specifically because they might have learning difficulties. A mixture of learning difficulties plus being raised in an English-speaking household does not equate to a successful education in an entirely different language.	<p>The Council acknowledges that there are many concerns about how pupils with SEN/ALN who have little or no Welsh when they start at school would cope in a Welsh-medium setting.</p> <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>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro</p>
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		<p>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 with SEN/ALN who are currently attending the English stream at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to receive their education through the medium 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, the intention is that all pupils, including those with SEN/ALN are taught through the medium of Welsh. However, the needs of each individual pupil with SEN/ALN would be fully assessed, and, if required, support could be provided using both languages.</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 to support pupils' learning, such as phonics, early reading and writing and speech and language support, 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>
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		<p>Pupils with SEN/ ALN would also have the opportunity to access any Trochi provision that is provided to improve their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>However, it must be noted that, whilst this is an area of genuine concern, children of a wide range of abilities operate entirely flexibly in more than one language in most countries around the world. This is true of learners with a range of learning difficulties in Welsh-medium and bilingual schools across Wales. Teachers are mindful of the unique needs of each learner, and with the right support are able to provide full access to all learners, including those with challenges.</p> <p>As part of the SEN/ALN strategy, the Council 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>
6.1.2	<p>I feel taking away this opportunity for individuals to have access to learning in English will make it very difficult for some individuals to learn and reach their own potentials. Individuals with learning disabilities for instance may have to now travel to a different county to be able to access education in a language that they are able to process</p>	<p>As above.</p>

6.1.3	The impact on children with Additional Learning Needs. Those children who come from an English speaking family with no Welsh at all will be at a huge disadvantage with a Welsh only education. They already have enough problems to overcome without this additional barrier making it virtually impossible to be educated and gain the support they need and deserve in the town in which they live.	As above.
6.1.4	Children with additional learning needs already feel different to their peers so why are we now making it difficult for them to learn in a language they feel comfortable with.	As above.
6.1.5	What about SEN/ALN? How will this be addressed?	As above.
6.1.6	The impact on pupils with ALN – The impact on their families – coming from non-Welsh speaking homes – How will they cope?	As above.
6.1.7	this will have a detrimental effect on my family and future generations. my son has additional needs and would never been able to do lessons solely in Welsh.	As above.
6.1.8	Children with additional learning needs wouldn't stand a chance in an all-Welsh school, they would have to travel to access another school causing stress and anxiety to them and their families.	As above
6.1.9	Secondly, if our children struggle with the changes (which many will) either it being through learning disabilities or falling behind due to the language barrier; will these children have the option to be taught in English?	As above

6.1.10	Impact on children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) – these can be a whole spectrum of needs, but if their main language at home is English, then a pure Welsh Medium Education will present them with an insurmountable barrier. Ostracising them from the right to an education meeting their needs in their community. It is not as if we live in an area which has more than one school option in the town. Children would be forced to travel a minimum of 18 miles from Machynlleth to another town to be able to access this support.	As above
6.1.11	I also worry about the impact of Children with ALN, how will pupils be supported from non-Welsh speaking homes?	As above.
6.1.12	My son has learning difficulties and would not be able to attend a Welsh medium setting. His difficulties mean he needs to be surrounded by a language he understands, he has no capacity to learn another and we have no desire for him to become bilingual if that means he will become distressed and suffer from further isolation in the process. He already faces many barriers to his learning and successful inclusion in society, we will not introduce another. I do not believe Powys will provide sufficient support to overcome these difficulties that face so many ALN pupils, I do not believe there will ever be sufficient support. So I also oppose the proposal because of the damage that will be done to the education and experiences of some ALN pupils.	As above
6.1.13	My child would struggle with having to be taught all his lessons in the medium of Welsh, he has additional needs and this would have a profound effect on his progress. A huge part of who he is necessitates his environment remaining constant	As above

	as much as possible, change greatly upsets him and would be detrimental to his ability to keep learning	
6.1.14	Although I appreciate the benefits to be gained from a successful bilingual education, I don't feel this should come at the cost of a child's happiness, self-confidence or attainment of other skills. My aspirations for my son are that he enjoys school, can express himself confidently (he is non-verbal), feels comfortable in his surroundings and less isolated due to his disabilities, spends quality time with peers learning social skills and experiencing positive interactions in a language that is familiar to him.	As above.
6.1.15	How is this proposal inclusive at all to those children whose parents were probably told at some point they may never speak at all, but who are now thriving in an English medium in a mainstream school? This isn't inclusivity, this is privilege and ableism at it's best.	As above.
6.1.16	Taking away the right to study in English and just speaking in Welsh in my opinion will alienate students with learning disabilities as well as those suffering with dyslexia and things like that.	As above. There is no evidence that learning Welsh disadvantages learners that have dyslexia.
6.1.17	The proposal disadvantages pupils with special educational needs. Coping with things like dyslexia, poor hearing, poor vision, poor concentration, being a bit slow etc, is difficult enough, without being expected to learn a language which all concerned know is a difficult one, unless you've spoken it from early childhood.	As above.

6.1.18	<p>For children with Autistic spectrum disorders this choice could be especially disabling. A child who would perform well in their first language, but struggles socially, should not be forced to become isolated from their local peer group and undergo travel that may trigger their symptoms of sensory overwhelm, if that is the only alternative to a second language environment that they find too overwhelming to learn within. There is no adequate proposal in the consultation document to address the needs of children such as this. I can only conclude that cutting the English stream will have a disproportionate adverse impact on the most vulnerable children in the area</p>	<p>The council is currently reviewing its provision for children and young people with autism and will ensure that they have access to appropriate support. The councils' vision is to provide specialist support as close to home as possible for all children and young people. At Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year, starting with the reception class in 2022 and so pupils with autism already at the school will have time to grow accustomed to any changes.</p>
6.1.19	<p>What about those English speaking children who are on the autistic spectrum who come from English speaking families, who struggle enough with one language?</p>	<p>As above</p>
6.1.20	<p>I was a student with Aspergers which is a type of Autism in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen school which then was called Ysgol Bro Ddyfi when I was there and because I don't fully speak Welsh because of the way I am and I had special needs in a few sessions in the school and because I had difficulty speaking and understanding a lot of Welsh I want to speak on the behalf of children that are like me and in my opinion I don't agree with the dual language system being scrapped in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and it should be kept for children to study in both Welsh and English if they choose to.</p>	<p>As above</p>
6.1.21	<p>My child receives one to one support and we would not be happy having to find another member of staff who understands him as well as his helper does now</p>	<p>If the child is already at school, there should be no change of provision for him. The proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a</p>

		phased basis, year by year, starting with the reception class in 2022.
6.1.22	My children have been taught in both English and Welsh at different stages, my middle child suffers from global learning delay and has had to concentrate on English only, please keep that option available at secondary level!	As above.
6.1.23	What about pupils with special needs? How are these pupils going to have an education? Pupils with speech and Language difficulties? Across Wales the policy for children with additional needs that have individual support from outside agencies is that these pupils will be spoken to and taught in their home language?	It is common for bilingual pupils with speech and language difficulties to be supported in both languages. The aspiration is bilingualism and for each learner to be supported to achieve that.
6.1.24	I am sure others will highlight the need to support children with additional needs, I do not have sufficient knowledge in that area, so can only speak from a personal experience my grandson who was attending the Welsh stream of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen developed speech and language difficulties and unfortunately was unable to access the support through the medium of Welsh. There are many other support services within Powys that do not operate through the medium of Welsh.	The historical shortage of support available in Welsh and English is being addressed comprehensively by the local authority, and it is intended that the ALN Strategy will lead to more comprehensive specialist coverage for all key areas, in both languages.
6.1.25	The 'ALN code' on the Welsh Government website states that one of their principles is to have an inclusive education where children with ALN are supported to participate fully in mainstream education and a whole setting approach is taken to meet their needs.	The local authority is totally committed to ensuring that the national ALN expectations are delivered across Powys.

6.1.26	The continued sending of our ALN children (who benefit through learning through their language choice) away from their community is unacceptable and not inclusive.	See above.
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## 6.2 Queries about the support that will be provided to support pupils with ALN

6.2.1	<p>In the consultation report, there are numerous concerns raised about the impact on pupils with ALN. This is by far the area that has been most commented upon. It was also raised as a concern by staff and Governors and some really valid concerns were raised by the staff.</p> <p>Whilst the authority reports ‘The Council fully recognises these concerns’, the response is ‘If the proposal goes ahead, pupils with ALN will be taught in the medium of Welsh’.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this seems to reflect the general response of the authority throughout this report - ‘one cap fits all’ and, if the cap doesn’t fit, find a different school!</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges that there are many concerns about how pupils with SEN/ALN who have little or no Welsh when they start at school would cope in a Welsh-medium setting.</p> <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>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 with SEN/ALN who are currently attending the English stream at Ysgol Bro</p>
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		<p>Hyddgen will continue to receive their education through the medium 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, the intention is that all pupils, including those with SEN/ALN are taught through the medium of Welsh. However, the needs of each individual pupil with SEN/ALN would be fully assessed, and, if required, support could be provided using both languages.</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 to support pupils' learning, such as phonics, early reading and writing and speech and language support, 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> <p>Pupils with SEN/ ALN would also have the opportunity to access any Trochi provision that is provided to improve their Welsh language skills.</p>
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		<p>However, it must be noted that, whilst this is an area of genuine concern, children of a wide range of abilities operate entirely flexibly in more than one language in most countries around the world. This is true of learners with a range of learning difficulties in Welsh-medium and bilingual schools across Wales. Teachers are mindful of the unique needs of each learner, and with the right support are able to provide full access to all learners, including those with challenges.</p> <p>As part of the SEN/ALN strategy, the Council 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>
6.2.2	The proposal seems to offer no confidence that children with additional learning difficulties will be supported if they are struggling to learn through the medium of Welsh, and indeed when I queried with the school if any additional help will be offered to those children not from first language Welsh families the response was very vague and non committal, leaving us with little confidence in how the transition will be made.	As above.
6.2.3	None of the conversations I have been part of or information I have received have reassured me that this could be done in a way that will ensure inclusive access to education for children	As above.

	like my son, who have significant learning difficulties or emotional needs.	
6.2.4	Powys have not delivered the support they promised two years ago so I have no faith they will deliver extra support for children who may need it.	As above.

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

7.1	I really believe it would lead to a decrease in pupil numbers, which is a major concern.	<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: <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</i></p>
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		<p><i>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>
7.2	Any risk of decreasing the already minimal pupil numbers that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should be taken seriously and avoided at all costs. Surely this also poses the risk of injecting resources into a school that will be faced with low pupil numbers? This is not an efficient use of resources or funding.	As above.
7.3	The removal of the English stream would surely see a dramatic decrease in pupil numbers, I have been informed that there is nearly 150 pupils that are in the English stream. And if there is a decrease in pupil numbers does that then lead to a decrease in funding for the school? Is that the aim to decrease funding here so it can go elsewhere?	As above.
7.4	When the pupil numbers continue to decline where will that leave education as a whole in Machynlleth? The primary joined the school to safeguard the secondary! Now we are losing our English stream! What is the real agenda here Powys County Council?	As above. There is no hidden agenda in respect of the Bro Hyddgen catchment – the Council is committed to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as evidenced by the planned investment in a new community campus to replace the current school building.
7.5	This could result in a drastic loss of pupils and perhaps the failure of the school.	As above.

7.6	It will be a sad day when the numbers of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen drop below sustainable levels, and be forced to close at the cost of a small percentage increase in Welsh speakers.	As above.
7.7	There will be a dramatic effect on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen if this proposal is accepted. Can you please advise on the total number of pupils currently attending the school and how many of these are <u>exclusively</u> taught in Welsh and not accessing English provision at all? Is the council prepared to support a school of this size without alteration to the current catchment area and with markedly reduced pupil numbers?	<p>As above. The Council is committed to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as evidenced by the planned investment in a new community campus to replace the current school building.</p> <p>The 119 pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium primary provision at the school in September 2021 are taught exclusively in Welsh.</p> <p>In the secondary phase, there are 156 year 7-11 pupils accessing Welsh-medium secondary provision (September 2021). 38 of these pupils study Maths and Science through the medium of English.</p> <p>The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.</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</p>

		<p>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. Therefore, the current number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision at the school is not an accurate reflection of what the numbers would be in the future.</p> <p>As indicated in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal: <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>
7.8	The viability of the school as it stands rests on retaining the majority of that proportion of English speaking pupils in the school. That is one of many reasons why people can see a situation very soon when PCC will shut all local small primary	As above. The Council is not currently reviewing primary provision in the catchment.

	schools to boost relative numbers in their new school. It will be 'apparently' an unfortunate necessity, but in fact it was inevitable, and planned. Tell me I'm wrong? I'd love to be proved wrong.	
7.9	If the school is made single stream there will be a loss of choice and a reduction in pupil numbers. Many pupils are fine in Welsh medium up to secondary school age and then gradually transfer to learning in English for GCSE and further exams – this is the simple reality.	As above.
7.10	The pupil numbers in our school are low, in fact many have moved to other areas for English medium education already because of your attempt at this 2 years ago as to ensure a stable path for their children.	As above.
7.11	There will be no need for a school on such a large scale as parents will be opting to send their children out of county.	As above.
7.12	Additionally, local and Powys Council may find that the multimillion-pound new school will not have the numbers of children to make it viable or at the very least run effectively.	As above.
7.13	The planned building to be built for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will not be able to sustain its capacity because there will not be enough students with the confidence and ability to successfully complete an education only through the medium of Welsh.	As above.
7.14	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is going to become a super school with the new build happening very soon. It will be a sad day when this multi million pound project will not have the required number of pupils to remain sustainable.	As above.

7.15	I don't think this is going to do the pupil number of the school any favours which will be such a shame, especially with the plans in place for the new super school.	As above.
7.16	We could have a fantastic new school, however, numbers could be low as the dual stream option will be removed.	As above.
7.17	A brand new super school is being built, yet if the current proposal is put in place the school won't be well attended, as anyone wanting access to an English education will attend a different school.	As above.
7.18	This small community want choice for their children so listen to the local people otherwise your big shiny new school will have no children in it.	As above.
7.19	Parents will take their children to other schools to access English stream. (it's already happening). The New school will be empty.	As above.
7.20	Spending £48 million on a new school and then putting in place a policy that will reduce the number of pupils seems perverse. It is very clear from local discussions that many parents with young children will choose to send their children to other schools to avoid the Welsh only teaching policy when they leave primary. This will deplete the numbers in the school.	As above.
7.21	Why build this incredible new school but not make it accessible to everyone?	As above. The new school will be accessible to everyone.

## 8. COMMENTS ABOUT ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

### 8.1 Pupils would attend alternative schools instead of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

8.1.1	<p>I fully intend for my children to move to English medium education once they reach secondary school, should the proposal go ahead I will be forced to send my children to secondary school in Tywyn or Aberystwyth, out of county.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments that should the Council proceed with the proposal, pupils would move to alternative schools to access English-medium provision.</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>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.</p>
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8.1.2	If Bro Hyddgen becomes an all Welsh school, I will be sending my children out of county to either Aberystwyth or Tywyn so that they can have the best chance at an education in their first language.	As above.
8.1.3	It breaks my heart that my daughter will not be attending the secondary campus and will have to go to Penglais school in Aberystwyth if this proposal goes ahead.	As above.
8.1.4	If the school becomes a Welsh only medium I will unfortunately have no choice but to move my daughter to another school out of county assuming places will be available.	As above.
8.1.5	If the dual language option disappears, I will have no option but to find alternative primary and secondary for my 2 children who can both speak Welsh fluently but would struggle without the dual language option.	As above.
8.1.6	I feel that removing the language choice would drive others locally to alternative education providers and some other parents I have discussed this with who would be in the same group have expressed how they would not send their children to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and might have to move out of the area.	As above.
8.1.7	If the change does go ahead, I will be one of many parents having to move my children to a bilingual school which will then impact on my working life.	As above.  Should the Council proceed with the proposal, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would continue to be a 'bilingual' school, where all pupils would become fluent in Welsh and English.
8.1.8	I disagree with sending children out of catchment area for schooling, this isolating them from their own community	The Council is not proposing to 'send children out of catchment area for schooling.'

	<p>especially if the child has additional needs that could be provided in a local school.</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>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.</p>
8.1.9	<p>There is a lack of choice of alternative schools.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Alternative English-medium primary provision is available at a number of providers in Ceredigion, including Ysgol Comins Coch, St Padarn Primary School, Plascrug Primary School and Llwyn yr Eoi Primary School, and at Caersws C.P. School or Llanidloes C.P. School in Powys.</p> <p>Alternative English-medium secondary provision is available at Ysgol Penglais in Aberystwyth or Llanidloes High School.</p>

		<p>Whilst these alternative providers are located several miles away from Machynlleth, this is similar to the position in respect of pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision in some parts of Powys, where only English-medium provision is available.</p>
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## 8.2 Concerns about availability of places at alternative schools

8.2.1	<p>No guarantee of availability of suitable school places in neighbouring areas</p>	<p>The Council's intention is that pupils living in the Machynlleth catchment area would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. 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>Should parents / pupils wish to access alternative provision in other local authority areas, they would need to apply for a place in accordance with that local authority's admissions arrangements.</p>
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8.2.2	What happens if Aberystwyth – Penglais secondary school / Comins coch primary school / Plascrug primary school cannot accommodate all these pupils who will have to move?	As above.
8.2.3	I feel that many local families whose children are already at the school will be forced to apply to Penglais school in Aberystwyth to continue their education in English and will have to travel out of their community in order to do this. They may or may not be allowed to attend Penglais, as it is out of County and may be full already.	As above.
8.2.4	No guarantee of availability of suitable school places in neighbouring areas	As above.
8.2.5	It is not the responsibility of neighbouring counties to ensure school places for our children, how can we be certain that other counties will accept children from our community?	As above.
8.2.6	Lack of clarity as to capacity for English medium education elsewhere and whether Machynlleth pupils can be educated in said schools	As above.
8.2.7	You will drive away existing students and future students & potentially their families as some may consider relocating. Can Gwynedd or Ceredigion cope with an influx of students who have been isolated by this proposal? Have they been consulted even?	As above.  Gwynedd and Ceredigion Council's were notified of the Council's proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.

## 9. COMMENTS ABOUT TRAVEL IMPLICATIONS

## 9.1 Additional travel would be required to access alternative provision

9.1.1	<p>I be forced to put my children through a different school outside of Machynlleth. This will then cause financial problems for both me and my partner due to transport costs.</p>	<p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, no parents will be 'forced' to put their children in alternative schools. The Council's intention is to introduce the 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, 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>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. It is acknowledged that there would be transport implications for these families.</p>
9.1.2	<p>Access to alternative (English Medium) educational provision would see children travelling far outside their community (Aberystwyth/Newtown). Not only would this make their day incredibly long (Especially for younger children) but would again cause massive issues for families' ability to be involved</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that additional travel would be required for any pupils choosing to access alternative provision, and that there would be other implications associated with this. The Council's intention is that</p>

	in the school community, parents evenings, extra curricular activities and local friendships.	pupils living in the Machynlleth area continue to access provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and the intention is to implement the proposal on a phased basis in order to ensure that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen can continue to do so.
9.1.3	The local options for that appear to be Aberystwyth and Newtown, both of which would involve a substantial bus journey of over 30 minutes. I do not feel that over an hour travelling each day to access education would be a reasonable thing to put a child through and would have a detrimental effect on their life.	As above.
9.1.4	Penglais as the only credible English speaking alternative is in Aberystwyth 18 miles away and would require hours of increased traveling each and every school day via Train or Bus as well as increasing costs for many.	As above.
9.1.5	Yes they can travel an extra 18 miles (at their expense) to Aberystwyth which is in another county. Personally I dont think a 4 year old should be subjected to this.	As above.
9.1.6	I am concerned about the lack of transportation for children who will not be able to study through the medium of Welsh and will be forced out of their local school if this proposal is to go ahead.	As above.
9.1.7	It's also very unlikely that Powys County Council will provide transport for those pupils that don't wish to be educated in the medium of Welsh.	As above.

9.1.8	However, a concern of mine regarding this would be transport. I attended Ysgol Penglais in Aberystwyth and moved to Machynlleth at the age of 14. Instead of changing schools, I travelled on the public bus for the remainder of my school years. During this journey and whilst waiting at the bus stops, I had witnessed a huge number of things from bad language, drug and alcohol abuse and violence. This is not something I would like my children at the age of 11 to witness!	As above.
9.1.9	Pupils who wish to be educated at least in part in English will have to travel 20 or 25 miles each way every day.	As above.
9.1.10	Is it really acceptable to expect a child to travel this far to school? The journey for our children should be to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which is 7 Miles away (12 minutes in the car).	As above.
9.1.11	The impact of spending a potential of 50-60 miles on the road and at least 1hour and 40 minutes on a bus travelling to and from school every day would be HUGE. I should imagine by the time they turn up for school they would be feeling tired and hungry before they have even begun their school day. It would all be just so unnecessary, terribly frustrating, and would certainly have an insurmountable impact on their ability to learn.	As above.
9.1.12	Traveling to Aberystwyth worries me I will feel sick on the bus	As above.
9.1.13	The only option available to us would be to send her to Tywyn, Dolgellau or Aberystwyth all of which are a 20 – 30 minute journey each way. The extra time spent travelling and the unknown costs to us as a family are of great concern.	As above.

9.1.14	The nearest English language setting in Powys is 22 miles away and PCC have made it clear they would not provide transport to this setting.	As above.
9.1.15	Powys County Council has not provided full information with options, such as free transport to alternative schools.	As above.

## 9.2 Reference to transport costs for attending nearest English-medium school

9.2.1	It is disappointing that the proposal does not even address whether there will be a free provision of school transport for such pupils who choose to be educated through the medium of English, at their nearest English medium stream school.	<p>The Council would hope that pupils in the Machynlleth area would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and the intention is that the proposal would be implemented on a phased basis to enable pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school to continue to do so throughout their time in school. There would be no change in the transport arrangements for these pupils.</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that ‘For pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future, transport will be provided in accordance with the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy.’</p> <p>The Policy approved by Cabinet in September 2020 came 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</p>
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		<p>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> <p>For a learner, who for personal or circumstantial reasons, might be denied effective access to learning because of the language medium of the school, consideration will be given to how transport provision can best support that learner to gain appropriate access to education.</p>
9.2.2	Concerns about transport costs and arrangements for pupils who want an English-medium education. Can't see PCC providing transport and also what happens if neighbouring counties are unable to accommodate these pupils.	As above.
9.2.3	Lack of available free transport that would be needed in order for the children not able to cope with Welsh Medium only education to travel to another school. Is the extra cost of this to be carried by those families affected?	As above.
9.2.4	The nearest alternative school that offers English medium education are out of county in Aberystwyth, Parents will inevitably have the financial burden of meeting those costs with a possibility of relocating to that area.	As above.
9.2.5	Those families needing/wanting English medium education, many are not financially as stable as affluent families, so will inevitably struggle to fund the transport costs to access English medium education.	As above.

9.2.6	Will PCC provide free transport to pupils to attend alternative schools in Powys?	As above.
9.2.7	Is transport to the closest English medium school going to be funded by the government or Powys County Council?	As above.
9.2.8	Powys County Council have also stated that no transport costs will be met for this purpose. Basically, if you cannot afford to move your children from the school, they will stay in an educational facility that is not meeting their basic educational rights. This is not a fair approach.	As above.
9.2.9	The nearest school offering bilingual education for those children who cannot cope with Welsh medium education is 18 miles away. Will their families, some of who are already struggling to make ends meet, be expected to pay the extra travelling expenses?	As above.  Should the Council proceed with the proposal Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would continue to be a 'bilingual' school – pupils accessing the school would become fluent in both Welsh and English. English-medium provision is not 'bilingual' – generally, pupils attending English-medium provision are only fluent in English.
9.2.10	There is no commitment by Powys to fund the required the transport that will be required. Not taking responsibility for the consequences of the proposal.	As above.  In order to minimise impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council is proposing to implement the change to the school's language category on a phased basis, ensuring that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school can continue to do so, and therefore minimising the impact on current pupils.

<p>9.2.11</p>	<p>I note that Powys County Council would expect parents to fund a child's travel to a school that taught in the English language should parents see the Welsh medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen as unsuitable. When making enquiries with Powys County Councils transport department I was told that an estimate cost of a 'vacant seat' would be £400 per quarter. This cost is per child, per term, up until the age of 16 only. IF this 'vacant seat' arrangement is even available - (which I am informed it is NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE) for us from home to Newtown, Llanidloes, or Welshpool, the total cost would be £6000 from year 7 to year 11!!!! That's a cost of £1200 per year for one child. I have four children so for our family this could mean a total cost of £24,000!! This is without considering inflation. Powys County Council, can you justify charging a family £24,000 in bus fees so that their children can learn in their preferred language of English?!!</p>	<p>The Council's intention is that pupils in the Machynlleth area would continue to access provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and that transport would continue to be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. The Council is proposing to implement the change to the school's language category on a phased basis, ensuring that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school can continue to do so, and therefore minimising the impact on current pupils. 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>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. It is acknowledged that there would be transport implications for these families.</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that 'For pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future, transport will be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.' The Policy approved by Cabinet in September 2020 came into operation in September 2021. This states that free home-to-school transport is</p>
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		<p>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> <p>For a learner, who for personal or circumstantial reasons, might be denied effective access to learning because of the language medium of the school, consideration will be given to how transport provision can best support that learner to gain appropriate access to education.</p>
9.2.12	The decision to make Ysgol Bro Hyddgen a Welsh medium only school would quite simply force families into debt	As above.

### 9.3 Other comments

9.3.1	No thought as to the impact on road-based emissions at a time when the council had declared a climate emergency.	It is acknowledged that there would be an environmental impact should pupils choose to travel to alternative provision instead of accessing the provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. However, the Council's aim is to implement the proposal on a phased basis, ensuring that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen can continue to do so, minimising the need for additional transport.
9.3.2	Do these costings include increased travel allowances for family who will be forced to send their children possibly in excess of a 60 mile round trip to the nearest English language	The Council anticipates that there would no additional transport costs associated with this proposal.

	provision school that will, incidentally, be out of Powys councils boundaries and in Ceredigion or Gwynedd?	
9.3.3	Reading the Gov.Wales page that covers legal duties of the local authority with regard to school transport, it states, that they must provide free home to school transport for primary school age children who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school, and 3 miles for secondary school age. If the child's nearest school is not willing to educate a child in their primary language then it may be argued (especially if the child is suffering emotionally or educationally) that the school is not suitable and PCC would then have the costs of providing transport to a variety of schools for such pupils.	<p>Parents can apply for a place for their child at any school and would admitted to be that school if there was a place available.</p> <p>Section 1.39 of the Learner Travel: Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance (June 2014) states “deciding which suitable school is the learner’s <b>‘nearest’</b> is a matter for the local authority to determine in accordance with their own learner travel and education policy”.</p>

## 10. COMMENTS ABOUT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO SUPPORT A CHANGE OF LANGUAGE CATEGORY

### 10.1 Concerns about support for pupils that move to the area during their education

10.1.1	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 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.	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 skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school, ensuring that they become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.
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		<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>However, it is acknowledged that this provision may not be suitable for all pupils, particularly those towards the end of their time in school. 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>
10.1.2	Machynlleth is now such a diverse area with many outsiders coming to live here, a lot do embrace the Welsh language where as soon do struggle as my eldest does but he is persevering but some are unable to do this, what choice will these families have? What are they to do with their children??	As above.
10.1.3	What about those pupils who join the school in their teen years?	As above.

10.1.4	The proposed immersion programmes and infrastructure is not good enough to support English families already living in the area or for anyone considering moving to the area.	As above.
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## 10.2 Immersion provision

10.2.1	<p>The numerous concerns of parents need to be addressed in concrete terms - where is the guaranteed funding for immersion Welsh learning, and where will it be provided? We need to know - specifically where, and for how many years this is to be funded and supported. Surely it will have to be ongoing? Still we have not had those concerns addressed.</p> <p>The school should be a wonderful place, it will be, for those who can attend. It would be welcomed by all - if the concerns are addressed. It is not a case of 'IF' there is a need for support, there will 100% have to be support, so let's now hear details about that, clear unequivocal detail. What is this 'virtual support' that may or may not be offered?</p> <p><i>'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...'</i></p> <p>It is this sort of vague can kicking down the road that is so seriously concerning to parents and local residents. If PCC have not budgeted for it, then that shows they do not take seriously their responsibility in supporting the community in this change. If they HAVE budgeted, then you must let</p>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that support would need to be provided to the school during the transition to the new delivery model.</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. Officers are already in discussion with the school about the type of immersion provision which could be required should the Council proceed with the proposal, but this could also include other Welsh language support.</p> <p>Alongside this the specific work to support Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes an objective to 'Develop immersion opportunities', and progress has been made in implementing this objective since the Strategy was approved. In order to improve the provision and provide more access for pupils, a virtual immersion programme has been piloted successfully during the Covid pandemic. Positive feedback has been received by the schools that have been accessing this provision. To</p>
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	parents know the details of what they have budgeted for and what is on offer.	further develop this provision, the Council will establish new Welsh language immersion centres to support pupils who move into Powys with little or no Welsh language skills The first Welsh language pilot Trochi centre will open in Newtown at the beginning of November 2021 for KS2 pupils that are latecomers to Welsh language education. The plan is to establish further immersion centres in other areas of the county in the future. Alongside this, virtual provision will continue to be utilised where needed, for example where pupils are unable to access a centre due to their location. This provision is funded by the Council.
10.2.2	I feel strongly that the immersion unit should be provided and funded by Powys County Council and should be available to ALL children, local or non local. PCC needs to provide a safety net for those children who WILL struggle with Welsh if you remove the English.	As above.
10.2.3	Information provided is very vague. PCC acknowledge the limits of this support. This could have a massive effect on pupils moving to the Dyfi Valley, meaning they would have to attend English medium in alternative locations.	As above.
10.2.4	The proposal accepts there will be problems for incoming pupils who are not Welsh language speakers. The proposals for “Immersive Education in Welsh” are vague.	As above.
10.2.5	The support for Welsh immersion has been very non committal on your part.	As above.

10.2.6	Will there be adequate immersion provision available for those children who need it? Where will this take place? Are those children who need extra support for their Welsh, going to have to travel away from the school/Machynlleth to receive this? How will this be funded?!	As above.
10.2.7	Immersion centres are only for children moving into the area	Immersion Centres are for children / learners that are accessing Welsh medium education at a later stage and are new to the Welsh language. Plans are in place in the LA to pilot an immersion centre in Newtown for the primary phase during the second half of the autumn term. This information will be used to plan further immersion provision in various locations, according to the need. As stated above, conversations are taking place in the Bro Hyddgen area to identify the level of support that is needed, should the Council proceed with the proposals.
10.2.8	Immersion is for children moving into the area not children who already attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. What about them....?	As above.  Should the Council proceed with the proposal, officers would continue to work with the school to identify the level and type of support needed. However, the intention is that the proposal is implemented on a phased basis, therefore pupils currently accessing English-medium provision would be able to continue to access this provision throughout their time at the school.
10.2.9	I have concerns about the proposal for an immersion unit. I don't think it is realistic for pupils to join the school at the secondary phase and be able to learn Welsh in a few	It is acknowledged that this provision may not be suitable for all pupils, particularly those towards the end of their time in school. Pupils/parents are entitled to

	weeks/months and then be able to study through the medium of Welsh.	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.
10.2.10	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 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?	As above.  As outlined in the response to 10.2.1, the Council is developing immersion provision across Powys.

### 10.3 Concern about the support that would be provided for non-Welsh speaking families

10.3.1	All the parents I've spoken to are only opposed to the change because they agree that the support isn't coming	The Council fully acknowledges that support would need to be provided to the school during the transition to the new delivery model.  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
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		Hyddgen as well as any pupils that might move to the area in the future. Officers are already in discussion with the school about the type of immersion provision which could be required should the Council proceed with the proposal, but this could also include other Welsh language support, including the sharing of resources across schools, both within and outside the Local Authority, Welsh lessons for parents, effective use of IT to provide support with homework, additional resources, opportunities to use Welsh in the community and other initiatives.
10.3.2	Powys County Council's lack of concrete plans for support for families and children whose first language is not Welsh and may struggle with this transition is saddening	As above.
10.3.3	To respond with vague promises of help for parents to learn the Welsh language is simply not good enough I'm afraid.	As above.
10.3.4	Lack of support for those families that find Welsh is not part of their everyday lives. It is not as if these families have only just moved to the area – many may well be parents who themselves were born here but as already mentioned this reflects the true nature of our community – it is a bilingual I've concerns I have, and lack of reassurances from Powys, regarding any extra support for pupils should the proposal go ahead – plans for how to support pupils have been vague, lacking in direction or a detailed understanding of the difficulties that could arise and how these will be dealt with and seriously lacking in proficiency.	As above.

10.3.5	I also feel there is a lack of support for non-Welsh speaking families in the community.	As above.
10.3.6	Where is the support for families who are struggling with the Welsh language – there is no support now.	As above.
10.3.7	This proposal does not fully support those children and families who will struggling with the Welsh language.	As above.
10.3.8	I am worried for my daughter who starts school next year, I feel she will struggle and there is little or no indication of help for the transition to Welsh language (which I'm not opposed to)	As above.
10.3.9	Are parent communications going to be bilingual?	The Council would expect all Welsh-medium schools to ensure that communications with parents are provided bilingually.

#### **10.4 Concern about parents' ability to help with homework**

10.4.1	How will we be supported with my children bringing home homework from school. Will my children be less educated than other children who can receive the support from home and family members?	<p>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 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>
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		Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it would work with the school as part of the 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, effective use of IT to provide support with homework, additional resources, opportunities to use Welsh in the community and other initiatives.
10.4.2	My concern is also that there will also be no support for children who struggle with the language and for parents who also can't help their children with homework.	As above.
10.4.3	My children 2 boys went to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen they went into English stream and some nights they brought home Welsh homework which I couldn't do.	As above.
10.4.4	I do fear the difficulty of having parents who can't help with homework in an English speaking household.	As above.
	In order to be fully supportive of the proposal I would have needed to see more assurances of bilingualism in homework for English speaking families.	As above.
	Are homework tasks going to be bilingual?	Teachers set homework tasks, therefore would decide the language in which they are provided. In line with the new curriculum, pupil-led activities are becoming popular, therefore pupils can also influence the language of homework.

## 11. COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

### 11.1 The proposal is causing division within the community

11.1.1	This school change is dividing our town community many against the change and I'm worried about how this will effect Machynlleth in years to come.	<p>Comment noted. 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>
11.1.2	Machynlleth community is very cohesive. This policy is already upsetting our harmonious relations.	As above.
11.1.3	The hurt and anger this issue has caused in my small town of Machynlleth is truly sad. For years we have all rubbed along	As above.

	nicely Welsh being taught to both stream with second language for the English stream.	
11.1.4	Your proposal has caused a huge division in our once closely knitted town and will take years and years to heal	As above.
11.1.5	It is already causing a divide in our community and it's extremely sad.	As above.
11.1.6	Where we are at today is that our community is struggling with social cohesion, anxiety levels of parents are extremely high, staff are concerned.	As above.
11.1.7	Please note that we are strongly opposed to this change. Bilingual education has worked and must be the way forward or it will certainly create a divide in the community.	As above.
11.1.8	The decision to make the only school in Machynlleth a Welsh medium provision could destroy a united community. It will increase disparities in wealth and income and divide the community.	As above.  The Council does not agree that the proposal would 'increase disparities in wealth'. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils accessing Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fluent in Welsh and English, therefore minimising disparities in wealth and income.
11.1.9	I speak for us all as a family who feel strongly that if this decision is made you will split a community, and children will suffer due to segregation.	As above.
11.1.10	It also creates a divisive atmosphere where children are subjected to a kind of educational and social apartheid.	As above.

11.1.11	The result of the proposal will be division in the town – separation of groups that have Welsh or English education. For example the annual pantomime, a very important event for much of the town. The event is in English, and is presented at the school. Will be tricky if the school is Welsh only.	As above.  This would be a matter for the school, however changing the school’s language category does not mean that the school would not be able to host an English language pantomime. There are other examples of Welsh-medium schools in Powys who are used by other organisations to hold English language events.
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## 11.2 Concern about the impact on community activities

11.2.1	This example of a negative impact will be repeated in the town’s football and rugby clubs. All will result negatively upon this community.	The Council does not agree that implementation of the proposal would impact on community activities in the town. Primary and secondary provision will continue to be available in Machynlleth, and the Council’s intention is that pupils living in the area would continue to attend this provision, which would mean that they could continue to attend community activities in the town.
11.2.2	There is a real concern that if children are travelling a considerable distance to attend a school of their choice because of the plan, travelling time will erode their involvement in many of the social and leisure activities in the community that they would normally enjoy.	As above.
11.2.3	Consideration must be given to the impact of the wider community, and this proposal will inevitably over the coming years impact on our club. I am uncertain that the impact	As above.

	assessment undertaken by yourselves has considered clubs and organisations within the area. In fact it is safe to say many of our committee members knew nothing about this proposal and we had to rely on members of our community to inform us. Thanks to them we now can oppose!	
11.2.4	They will be to late getting home from school - which means that clubs will lose adult helpers, which means that the clubs might have to close.	As above.
11.2.5	We as a club rely heavily on membership for our club to flourish. We all know that thriving sports clubs are built on teamwork and togetherness, once that is shattered it will lead to reduced participation, fewer members and their eventual closure. It must be noted that we have already lost our cricket, tennis and snooker clubs along with our much-desired youth club. We cannot allow any more of our clubs to close and deprive youngsters in our area a means to develop essential skills. We have many local youngsters join our club from the school, we encourage juniors to join us, to experience that sense of belonging. That sense of belonging promotes good mental health and well being allowing them to be valued members of our community. Our qualified coaches conduct coaching sessions in both Welsh and English.	As above.
11.2.6	Your proposal will impact on the potential to recruit junior bowling members as we feel that those opting for English medium provision will have to leave our community, they will inevitably join in their social circle of that school and follow their school friends and join in clubs an organisation out of the community they live. That leaves clubs and organisations	As above.

	in Machynlleth in vulnerable positions with less and less youngsters joining.	
11.2.7	You will be making organisations e.g. Scouts defunct as we will lose children.	As above.
11.2.8	Pupils travelling to alternative schools will have to give up swimming lessons, after school sports and clubs as instead of arriving home at 3.30pm she won't arrive home till closer to 5pm	As above.
11.2.9	Those children will not have that sense of belonging to the community they live in and will inevitably be disadvantaged in forming social relationships within their hometown, they will not feel confident joining clubs and associations on offer within the town, this could impact on the long term future of those clubs.	As above.
11.2.10	It must be noted the success of 7 former pupils of the school who are members of our club, they joined as juniors and went on to represent the club at a County, International, European, World and Commonwealth Level. 3 of them are fluent Welsh speakers 4 of them 2 <sup>nd</sup> language Welsh speakers. We never discriminated against them on their spoken language and we as a club and a town are immensely proud of their achievements.	As above.

### 11.3 The proposal will mean that people will be pushed out of Machynlleth

11.3.1	You will be driving out families – even Welsh speaking families who need the dual system for additional learning need purposes.	<p>The Council disagrees that the proposal will push families out of the area.</p> <p>The proposal is to implement the proposal on a phased basis, and all pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision throughout their time at the school. All pupils joining the school’s reception class following implementation of the proposal would be immersed in the Welsh language, and would become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English, meaning that they would have the language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision at the school.</p> <p>There are a range of factors which influence where people choose to live. Ultimately people are entitled to live wherever they choose, and are entitled to choose to move away from the area if they wish to do so.</p>
11.3.2	People will move away if this service is not provided.	As above.
11.3.3	This will lead to segregation and pushing half of the population out of town and possibly out of county, in order to get the best education that will serve that half of the population, in order for them to be the best that they can be, in the language that serves them best.	As above.
11.3.4	This may mean we move away from Machynlleth in the future. We are aware that there are many others in the community who feel similarly and have raised the concerns as described above.	As above.

11.3.5	By doing this families will move – leaving no children and no future, by making children travel for an education that they can't have in their home town!	As above.  There should be no need for pupils to travel out of Machynlleth to access their education, 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 to attend alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference, however it is correct that additional travel would be required in order to access this provision.
11.3.6	I already know of two families that have moved from the local area in the last 2 months, people that fell in love with the area who are now put off by this whole ordeal.	As above.
11.3.7	English only speaking families are likely to leave the area of their children will have to travel long arduous journeys to other sites to access the education of their choice – which can only be detrimental to their well-being and mental health.	As above.
11.3.8	We feel that we are now being pushed out of the area by this decision, as when we have children they will be in the English stream. If the proposal goes through this will obviously not be an option here. This would mean we would no doubt have to move out of the area that I have grown up in and lived in my whole life.	As above.
11.3.9	It foresees the possibility of English-speaking families rejecting a re-location to the Dyfi Valley. It also anticipates a growing number of parents who will choose to 'opt-out' of the	As above.

	state school system in order to educate their children at home because of the denial of a system that recognises and responds to their needs and those of their children	
11.3.10	Parents are already moving their families out of town, and moving their children to schools that can and will accommodate to their needs without parents having to fight for the bare minimum they deserve, the choice.	As above.

#### 11.4 The area would not be attractive to people looking to move in

11.4.1	The main reason for my objection is the potential to prevent families who wish to move to the Machynlleth area for work bringing with them older, especially younger teenagers, who will find it very difficult to suddenly have to master the Welsh language.	<p>The Council disagrees that the proposal will deter people from moving into the area. There is no evidence of this across Wales.</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>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. 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>
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11.4.2	It is possible that those families will not feel able to come to live in the area and this will restrict the influx of new pupils to the school and new members for the community.	As above.
11.4.3	When moving home, the key things you look for are infrastructure/transport links, a nice home and if you have a family, or are planning for a family a school.	As above.
11.4.4	Machynlleth is well known for being a diverse and multicultural town. It is incredibly warm and welcoming and we thrive off people moving to the area.	As above.
11.4.5	This proposal will have a detrimental effect on the number of new comers moving to town	As above.
11.4.6	It restricts the opportunities for non-Welsh speaking families to relocate to the area. I have contributed much time, energy and effort to the Community and to the School since moving here.	As above.
11.4.7	One of my concerns is that if you change the language of tuition from dual medium (English and Welsh) to a Welsh medium only, you may end up in a situation where we will have fewer people moving to Machynlleth. We will lose potential new students and potential people moving into Machynlleth.	As above.
11.4.8	It would almost certainly deter a lot of people from moving to the area with their children and may drive families that are already here to go elsewhere.	As above.

11.4.9	This proposal could have a negative impact on local families and also to the prospect of new families moving into the area.	As above.
11.4.10	It will discourage people from moving here as their school-aged children will not cope with learning in Welsh.	As above.
11.4.11	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?	As above.
11.4.12	It saddens me to think that non Welsh speaking migrants will from now on not have the support and opportunities that my kids enjoyed from Powys.	As above.
11.4.13	A sad prospect for newcomers to Machynlleth.	As above.

## 12. COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESSES

### 12.1 Concern about the impact on businesses

12.1.1	Business will be effected, no one here to spend in the town, to be employed in the town.	<p>There is no evidence that having a Welsh-medium school affects the development of businesses.</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</p>
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		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. There should be no need for anyone currently living in the area to move from the Machynlleth area to access alternative provision.
12.1.2	I moved a business to this area some years ago and local education facilities were part of the consideration, looking forward, the removal of English medium school provision would be a negative for other businesses looking to make a similar decision.	As above.
12.1.3	This area relies on incoming immigration to maintain and develop the society and businesses on which we all depend.	As above.

## 12.2 It would be more difficult to recruit to positions in the area

12.2.1	Ultimately, people will take their children to where their educational needs can be met, and they will leave Machynlleth. The challenges of recruitment into professional roles will continue and posts remain empty, and services not provided.	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at the school.
12.2.2	Your proposal to alter the language medium of our school will have a significant impact on recruitment of professionals to our town, we already have 6 health professional vacancies that cannot be filled (dated 25/6/21) with the offer of a dual stream education establishment. How do you think by altering	There are challenges with recruiting health professionals in many areas across Powys, Wales and beyond, regardless of the education provision available in the local area.

	that it will give more opportunities to entice such professionals to the area?	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at the school. Alternatively, anyone moving to the area to take up a position could apply for a place at an alternative school which offers English-medium provision.
12.2.3	The health centre has been advertising for a doctor to join the practice since sept 2019. We have had no permanent Health Visitor or School Nurse for the last 2 years and rely on those services form other area of Powys.	As above.
12.2.4	By having a Welsh medium only school it will not encourage professionals such as Doctors, Dentists Nurses to move into our community. The Health Centre has been trying to recruit Doctors to our area for over 2 years. We must ensure that our school is accessible to all.	As above.
12.2.5	In Machynlleth we have struggled to find Doctors. If your not aware of this...it's has gone on for years. The struggle for local people to see a GP has ultimately been affected greatly. So what's this got to do with the school....well if we are asking Doctors to move into the area (often from outside of Wales) to come and take care of our families, they aren't likely to do this if we don't take care of theirs.	As above.
12.2.6	In this area of the country we rely on specialist dentists, doctors and surgeons moving to the area from outside of Wales, they aren't going to want to move here where their children can't learn in English, this again will have an effect on the attraction of specialists.	As above.

12.2.7	<p>Another important issue is that a new health centre is being built for Machynlleth, with all the associated staffing requirements. I understand that it has been notoriously difficult to fill senior medical positions for a long time here, this decision would risk shrinking the applicant pool even further, English speaking applicants, with school age children or contemplating starting a family, would be reluctant to take a position where they have concerns their child's education may be compromised.</p>	As above.
12.2.8	<p>We really need doctors, nurses, teachers, solicitors, engineers, chefs, entrepreneurs, and many others in our community. We already have difficulties recruiting good staff to fill jobs in the area, and this will just make matters worse. More professional families may also send their children away to be educated in English and experience tells us that many of these do not return to the Dyfi Valley having made connections elsewhere. (someone told me that this could be a good thing because we would have a more Welsh speaking community but this sounds narrow minded and possibly racist).</p>	As above.
12.2.9	<p>Our area is crying out for skilled tradespeople, nurses, GPs, and a wide diverse range of wonderful people from all ethnicities and walks of life, they deserve to have the chance to live in this beautiful area of the world and contribute where we so desperately need the help as the younger generations move out of the area to seek training elsewhere.</p>	As above.
12.2.10	<p>How many nurses and healthcare professionals work here who are from other areas? How many of these people have</p>	As above.

	brought their children with them? Cutting off a dual education will see the number of people moving to the area drop. Where will we be then?	The Council does not access to information about healthcare staff.
12.2.11	We as a business would be really concerned of the effect this would have on the future of Machynlleth and local businesses. I run a successful business in Machynlleth where we employ 30 staff. We have always employed local where possible. Over 80% of the team live within 5 miles of Machynlleth. I do feel that we would struggle to offer the same opportunities if we didn't have the mixed language in our company. We have both plenty of fluent Welsh speakers in the office, including myself. Which brings us to the question, do you want professional people (it is difficult to recruit professionals, let alone first language Welsh speaking professionals) to move to Machynlleth, because I don't think you value them enough to want to educate their children in a way that enables their parents to help them. If you want to attract professionals, the priority should be to provide a good education, not a mediocre education in the Welsh language. Professional people will not move to the area if they cannot foresee a good education for their children!	As above.  The Council's priority is to provide a good education to pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, in accordance with the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which aims to improve learner entitlement and experience alongside its aim to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.
12.2.12	Lifeblood of Machynlleth's future is to welcome incomers to fulfil some the few positions of employment available.	Pupils will continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, regardless of their background, and latecomers to Welsh medium education attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will be provided with Welsh language development support to enable them to transition to Welsh medium education, for example through immersion programmes. There is no reason why implementation of the proposal should mean that people would not want to move to the area to access

		<p>employment opportunities. Many areas of rural Wales have Welsh-medium schools and this does not make these areas look closed to outsiders.</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>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>
12.2.13	I imagine people from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds who move to the area, particularly with children of secondary age, would be unwilling to place their children in a totally Welsh speaking environment, therefore such pupils would move to other schools.	As above.

12.2.14	Would English speaking professional people want to move to Machynlleth knowing that their children would struggle in an all Welsh school.	As above.
12.2.15	So by removing the English stream it also affects the wider Community because families like mine wouldn't move to the area and help with the local economy.	As above.
12.2.16	Surely for the future livelihood of Machynlleth we should be attracting families with diverse skills and ethnic backgrounds to add investment into our town.	As above.
12.2.17	This will further drive people away from the town and will make it even less attractive to people considering moving into the area from away.	As above.
12.2.18	I know of a brilliant teacher who has moved to the area from Leeds, and due to the language barrier (being that she can't speak welsh) trying to gain employment in her chosen field was near impossible, and instead moved into a new field away from the area for work.	As above.
12.2.19	What effect due envisage if you have a professional such as a doctor, nurse or solicitor that has when they have a child that only speaks English? Do you think that they are going to want to substitute their child's education while they get up to speed with the language or are they going to want to move to an area where the transition from schools is more seamless, or do you think they are going to relocate to an area that they feel there child will thrive, with them being able to support them	As above.

12.2.20	I think this would have a massive negative effect on our community with many people moving away and less people moving in. Surely this would then see local businesses and local services such as health care take a massive hit.	As above.
12.2.21	By changing the system as it stands - it will inevitably have a knock on effect on attracting new people to the town, medical professionals for example (whose second language might be English) will overlook Machynlleth and look towards Aberystwyth.	As above.
12.2.22	I'm positive it would put many professionals off coming to our community if they have to send their children off to another town to get a bilingual education. Doctors and dentists are already hard to attract to our town, this would make this an even harder sell.	As above.
12.2.23	We rely on people moving in to the town to keep it thriving and education is an important factor in parents' decision to move to an area. This proposal will have a very damaging effect on the growth of the town.	As above.

### 12.3 Reference to employment at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

12.3.1	It's also crazy in terms of attempting to recruit a high standard of fully fluent in Welsh teachers to cover the complete spectrum of subject areas. It's a challenge to fill vacancies in specialist subjects at the best of times.	The Council acknowledges that recruitment of Welsh speaking staff is a challenge. This is a challenge across Wales, not just in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen / Powys. The Council is currently consulting on a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2022-2032, which includes an outcome on improving and developing the
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		workforce, with the aim of improving the ability to recruit Welsh speaking staff.
12.3.2	Statistically the proportion of Welsh speaking qualified teachers is tiny and those who feel confident enough to teach in Welsh is even lower, surely we should be striving to recruit the very best teachers for our children in both languages not just basing recruitment from a tiny pool on their ability to teach in just one language.	As above.
12.3.3	The choice of teachers to employ will be significantly reduced if it is mandatory to teach in Welsh. According to the School Workforce Census results as at November 2019, only 32.3% of teachers valued their Welsh language ability as 'Proficient' or 'Advanced' in Primary Schools and a mere 28.0% in High Schools. These statistics show the small proportion of teachers able to educate children in Welsh.	As above.
12.3.4	Another concern which I have not seen raised, is that of staffing. A totally Welsh medium education would require all staff to be fluent in the language. I am fully aware that there are very, very many excellent Welsh speaking teachers. However, sometimes the best candidate for a post might not be Welsh speaking. This could be the case in any subject, but more so in subject areas such as foreign languages and English.	The school is responsible for the appointment of staff, in accordance with the relevant recruitment processes.
12.3.5	Another concern is that the available pool of talented teaching staff will be much smaller as they will be appointed according to their fluency in Welsh rather than their teaching ability.	As above.

12.3.6	What about the teachers who are and will lose their positions?	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 if needed, a full consultation with staff would take place. This would also provide an opportunity to identify any training needs for those staff who currently work in the English stream.
12.3.7	I am also concerned for the staff team currently at Bro Hyddgen. What will happen to the teachers who only teach the English stream students? Are they going to be supported in finding other jobs, will they have the choice to stay on at Bro Hyddgen?	As above.
12.3.8	One report indicated the recruitment of English speaking teachers has, in the past, not met with expectations. My question is why? Should a current teacher not meet the expectations of teaching in Welsh, what happens to that teacher? If that teacher is reassigned to another school or made redundant, will that position be advertised? If you have falling pupil numbers this would indicate that in the future, you require less teachers.	<p>The staffing structures of schools is reviewed regularly and consideration given to pupil numbers and curriculum needs.</p> <p>Should the language requirements change, any training requirements would be discussed to enable current staff to fulfil the staffing needs. If changes were needed to the level of staff or to the requirements HR would support the school follow a staffing consultation process which would include looking at options other than redundancy.</p>
12.3.9	What if you no longer recruiting the right teachers? Just the one that "tick box" being hired on being able to converse in Welsh rather than the merits of their past accomplishments.	The recruitment of suitably qualified staff is a matter for the school and advice from the local authority can be

		sought in relation to adopting robust recruitment processes.
12.3.10	How many teachers aren't Welsh?	There is currently one member of the teaching staff who does not teach through the medium of Welsh but who is currently learning the language.
12.3.11	It will impact on local people who would seek employment in school however the preference of Welsh only would stop them from making an application. As a result, jobs are lost to local people.	<p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and many dual stream schools across Powys and beyond already look for staff with Welsh language skills when recruiting, in order to improve the school's Welsh language ethos and to ensure that staff can work confidently in both languages.</p> <p>Whilst it is possible that local residents who do not speak Welsh would not be able to secure positions at the school, there are many opportunities available for people to learn Welsh, either through attending 'Learn Welsh' courses offered by Aberystwyth University or through accessing various on-line courses.</p> <p>The aim of the proposal is to ensure that in the future, all pupils that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are fluent in Welsh and English, therefore in future, any pupils that have attended the school would have the language skills needed to secure employment at the school.</p>

### 13. COMMENTS ABOUT EARLY YEARS PROVISION

13.1	We at MCCP have been contracted to deliver the English stream provision for Powys County Council since September	Comment noted.
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	2017. Although we deliver the provision bilingually. We had originally been contracted for 16 places. Since September 2020 this has been increased to 19 places. We work closely with the Cylch and they are also full. This suggests that 50% of children when given the choice choose the bilingual setting. We know the school encourages parents to send their children to the Welsh medium provision.	
13.2	By doing this the local nursery will struggle as they will have lack of children and staff.	The Council will work closely MCCP to identify staff who would need additional support to develop their Welsh language skills.

#### 14. COMMENTS ABOUT THE USE OF WELSH IN THE LOCAL AREA

##### 14.1 Comments about the bilingual nature of the community

14.1.1	The area is bilingual so the school serves the needs of the surrounding community.	In general, it is only pupils that access Welsh-medium education that become fully bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English. The Council's view is that implementation of the proposal would mean that the school would be better placed to serve the needs of the community as all pupils would be fluent in both languages and able to use both languages in the community.
14.1.2	The town is bilingual, and the school needs to reflect this.	As above.
14.1.3	Machynlleth is a bilingual community, and the towns' school must accommodate its bilingual community.	As above.

14.1.4	The Dual stream education that has existed in Machynlleth up to now, fully represents the population of Machynlleth and the area it serves. This will not be the case if the school becomes Welsh Medium only.	As above.
14.1.5	We must keep Machynlleth thriving in its greatest asset... As a bilingual community. And an education system that reflects the community it serves whilst recognising the rights of our children.	As above.
14.1.6	I was under the understanding that any school should serve its community not the community change to suit the needs of the school.	As above.
14.1.7	A towns school should reflect and serve the towns needs and wishes.	As above.
14.1.8	I oppose your proposal because it doesn't meet the needs community.	As above.
14.1.9	The proposal does not meet the needs of the local children and community	As above.
14.1.10	It does not meet the needs of our local community in any form what so ever.	As above.
14.1.11	Machynlleth has always been a bilingual town, so why change a system that already works??	As above.
14.1.12	Machynlleth is a community whereby both Welsh and English are spoken freely and equally respected within our town.	As above.

14.1.13	I object to this proposal as it would harm the pupils because Machynlleth is now a bilingual town	As above.
14.1.14	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.
14.1.15	Machynlleth is a bilingual town.	As above.
14.1.16	This is and always has been a bilingual community, we need an education system that reflects the community and ensures that choices are kept available for all students who attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen now and in the future.	As above.
14.1.17	Machynlleth is a bilingual town, everyone is welcome. If the school were to change, it would affect our community.	As above.
14.1.18	Machynlleth is a bilingual and diverse community. As such, it needs a school that can provide education in both English and Welsh. It's as simple as that.	As above.

## 14.2 Reference to the number or proportion of Welsh speakers in Machynlleth

14.2.1	Mach has 51% English first language, at least. That's a lot of children having the right taken away.	Machynlleth is widely regarded as a traditionally Welsh speaking area. Compared with the rest of Powys, a high proportion of the population can understand Welsh.
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		<p>According to the 2011 Census, a majority of people in the Machynlleth LSOA can either speak or understand Welsh as indicated below:<sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 39% can speak, read and write Welsh</li> <li>• 8% can speak but cannot read Welsh</li> <li>• 12% can understand spoken Welsh only</li> <li>• 8% other combination of skills</li> <li>• 33% no Welsh skills</li> </ul> <p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is the provider of secondary provision for the rural catchment area which surrounds Machynlleth. This area is also regarded as a traditionally Welsh speaking area. The figures for the Glantwymyn LSOA are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 51% can speak, read and write Welsh</li> <li>• 5% can speak but cannot read Welsh</li> <li>• 6% can understand spoken Welsh only</li> <li>• 5% other combination of skills</li> <li>• 34% no Welsh skills</li> </ul>
14.2.2	Machynlleth has at least 51% people stating English as their first language with only 39% able to read, write or speak Welsh (2011 Census).	As indicated above, 67% of the population of the Machynlleth LSOA and 66% of the population of the Glantwymyn LSOA indicated that they had some knowledge of Welsh in the 2011 Census.
14.2.3	As a community 51% of the population are first language English speakers	As above.

<sup>1</sup> Census 2011 – Welsh Language Skills by LSOA (Office for National Statistics via the Powys Wellbeing Information Bank)

14.2.4	Cllr. Phyl Davies, Cabinet Minister for Education and Property, has said “Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is located in a traditionally Welsh-speaking area.” This may be true, though the most recent Census in 2011 would suggest that the proportion of English and Welsh speakers is almost split 50% - 50% in the Dyfi Valley.	As above.
14.2.5	The 2011 census showed that 60+% of the population spoke Welsh – many speaking in a local dialect not recognisable by other Welsh speakers. By taking away choices it could mean that this unique dialect of Machynlleth is destroyed.	It is correct that 60+% of the populations of the Machynlleth LSOA and the Glantwymyn LSOA indicated that they had some knowledge of Welsh in the 2011 Census. Whilst the Bro Ddyfi area does have a distinct Welsh dialect, it is not true that ‘many speak in a local dialect not recognisable by other Welsh speakers.’ The aim of the proposal is ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen become fluent in both Welsh and English, which would help to safeguard the local dialect which is spoken in the area.
14.2.6	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.	According to the PLASC 2020 return, 42.5% of pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen came from non-Welsh speaking homes <sup>2</sup> .
14.2.7	Machynlleth is a predominantly English speaking area, welcoming more and more incomers every year. These people genuinely want to embrace the local language and lifestyle.	The Council does not agree with the statement that ‘Machynlleth is a predominantly English speaking area’ – see the census figures which are provided above.
14.2.8	Machynlleth is largely an English speaking town	As above.

<sup>2</sup> PLASC 2020 – No. of pupils who either ‘Do not speak Welsh at home but are fluent’ and ‘Does not speak Welsh at home and not fluent’.

## 15. OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT THE WELSH LANGUAGE

15.1	<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 fully acknowledges the challenges associated with increasing the use of Welsh outside school. The Siarter Iaith (Welsh Language Charter) is a national framework for all settings and schools to provide a holistic basis for planning experiences across the curriculum in order to increase learners' use of Welsh and develop their confidence in the language. It supports increased opportunities for learners to speak Welsh in a variety of contexts and embed their use of Welsh language patterns from an early age. The principles set out in the Siarter Iaith are in keeping with the Curriculum for Wales 2022 guidance. The 2050 Welsh strategy notes the need to plan provision for children and young people which not only gives them the opportunity to use or practise Welsh, but instils in them positive attitudes towards the language which translates into active use. This can reap dividends in the long term, helping them to see that the language is not something solely connected to school, and that there is a rich social and cultural world associated with it.</p>
15.2	<p>It is important to recognise that there are other ways to acquire the language and to integrate English-speaking and Welsh-speaking young people other than compulsory teaching in one language.</p>	<p>Whilst it is true that there are other ways to acquire the Welsh language apart from accessing Welsh-medium education, it is widely recognised across Wales that accessing Welsh-medium education is the best way for pupils to become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.</p>
15.3	<p>This cannot and should not be solely about the promotion of the Welsh language, you have got to consider the bigger</p>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the need for pupils to be able to communicate effectively in English as well as</p>

	<p>impact to families and communities. The Welsh language is available in the school for those who want it, why would you take the English away? Both are recognised languages of Wales our own Senedd uses and respects both, why can't our local school?</p>	<p>Welsh. 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> <p>The Council is not proposing to 'take the English away' – rather the aim of the proposal is to provide the opportunity for all pupils attending the school to be fluent in both Welsh and English.</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>
15.4	<p>Welsh is still being treated as a separatist issue. Too many publications are produced with Welsh at one end and English at the other thus doubling the cost of printing the illustrations</p>	<p>The Council and many other organisations are required to publish documentation bilingually in order to meet the requirements of Welsh language legislation. There are</p>

	<p>and minimising the ability of readers to familiarise themselves by comparing the Welsh with the English.</p>	<p>many different ways in which this can be achieved, however and this is a matter that is determined by each individual organisation for each publication. It is acknowledged that historically there has been an additional printing cost for bilingual documents, however documentation is increasing available online, which helps to minimise printing costs.</p>
15.5	<p>Can we be sure that this change isn't purely to enable contribution to the Welsh Government's aspiration to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050?</p>	<p>The reasons for the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are outlined in the Consultation Document which was published. The reasons for the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To improve educational outcomes</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Children would no longer be taught in mixed language classes in the secondary phase</i></li> <li>○ <i>Children would no longer be taught in mixed age classes in the primary phase</i></li> <li>○ <i>There will be more pupils who are fluent and confident in using the Welsh and English language equally</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>To improve educational provision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Opportunities to develop a broader curriculum to meet the needs of pupils</i></li> <li>○ <i>Having one language stream would make it easier to track and target the progress of pupils and their well-being</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To improve leadership and management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The school's management team could work more efficiently</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>To improve efficiency in the delivery of education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Potential for the school to operate more efficiently through more efficient deployment of staff and resources</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>To increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>More pupils would be fluent in both Welsh and English, therefore contributing to the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050.'</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Whilst contributing to the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050 is one of the reasons identified, this is not the only reason.</p>
15.6	Education should be useful to pupils and in the <i>lingua franca</i> of whatever country it is in. To learn Welsh should be a pleasure and not a chore.	Comment noted.

## 16. COMMENTS ABOUT DISCRIMINATION / INEQUALITY

### 16.1 Discrimination

16.1.1	<p>Withdrawal of English Language education from pupils is discriminatory, and disadvantages children long settled here, whom, owing to their ethnic or family backgrounds can't possibly attain the level of fluency to benefit from the education to which they are entitled, and to which the Local Authority is required by law to provide.</p>	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposal is discriminatory. 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>
16.1.2	<p>This proposal is discriminatory. How can Powys County Council even consider doing this.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
16.1.3	<p>I believe that cutting the English stream without moving towards fully bilingual provision is nothing more than a cut in services. In a mixed community like Machynlleth this is discriminatory and divisive, and likely to drive English first language families away.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
16.1.4	<p>I feel it's a form of discrimination and that it's a step backward in education.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
16.1.5	<p>All children should have equal opportunity, be treated right and fairly. This is discrimination.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

16.1.6	In honesty, I am surprised that in this day that anyone would want to exclude other languages, backgrounds or beliefs when we are more welcoming than ever, and embrace other's cultures rather than ban them. It is rather an archaic notion and discriminatory.	As above.
16.1.7	It's insular, xenophobic, and incredibly divisive.	As above.
16.1.8	If the intention is to improve inclusivity and attract capable English speaking residents to the area it will prove divisive and anti-English.	As above.
16.1.9	Would this be the same outcome if we where to keep the school as English only? This is racism between languages and we as a community are disgusted by this decision from PCC!	As above.
16.1.10	It feels like the English speaking familys are being pushed aside to force a political agenda and there education and needs and choice are being swept away. it is 2021 and im having to argue for the right for my children and others to be taught in the language which we believe is best for our children.	As above.
16.1.11	I think it's about time for some honesty, this anti English stance has to stop for the sake of the children because this is all starting to look rather menacing and if what you do fails it won't just be a few angry parents looking for names and explanations – it will be the national media.	As above.

16.1.12	Unfortunately, I really do believe that this is not the only reason that you want to get rid of the English stream. I do believe there is a component of anti-English racism and discrimination. Please refer to your Ysgol Bro Hyddgen questionnaire that only refers to the 'Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language' and 'Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?'	<p>As above.</p> <p>The questions in the consultation response form relating to 'Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language' and 'Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language' are questions the Council is required to include in order to meet the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.</p>
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## 16.2 Reference to human rights / UN Rights of the Child

16.2.1	I'd like your final decision to consider the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.	<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</p>
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		place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
16.2.2	I believe the proposal would remove the basic rights of the child to an education in their chosen language. To remove the English stream from Machynlleth, and the surrounding area, would be a failure to meet the basic rights of the child to an education, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 23 and 24).	As above.
16.2.3	I would also like to draw your attention to the other rights that I feel are not being wholly protected in this situation, Articles 2, 3, 4 and 5. These changes would affect English speaking-Welsh children and Welsh families who have a right to be represented fairly and supported by their local government.	As above.
16.2.4	The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that they have a right to education and their views to be respected. If this decision is to go ahead, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are going against the above.	As above.
16.2.5	Removing the option of the English stream goes directly against the UN Rights of the child to have an education that recognises the right of the child to Education, and with view to achieving this right progressively and in the Basis of Opportunity.	As above.
16.2.6	School life can be daunting for some young children and having the extra pressure of all their work in Welsh is an added barrier and pressure they do not need. This goes against the rights of children to have education in a language of their choice where they have the best chance of learning.	As above.

16.2.7	By removing the English Language stream you are denying English First Language children their Human Right to education in their first language. It may be ironic that English may be the minority language in this case, but the same principles which were applied to “save” the Welsh language over the last few decades must also be applied to the 81%* of people in Wales who do NOT speak the language. We also have a relatively high proportion of non-UK children in the area who are already learning in their second language. Making them learn in their third language will not help their development.	As above.
16.2.8	It would seem that Powys County Council is choosing to ignore that it is a child's basic right to be taught in the language of their choice according to the Human Rights Commission. Wales is and always will be bilingual with both English and Welsh having equal status and so they have every right to be given the choice of their education provision within their local school.	As above.

## 17. COMMENTS ABOUT THE COUNCIL’S APPROACH TO DEVELOPING WELSH-MEDIUM PROVISION

### 17.1 The Council should focus on areas other than Machynlleth

17.1.1	Welsh Language provision does need to increase in Powys as a whole, not in Machynlleth specifically, which exceeds targets currently - over 70% of pupils are taught here in Welsh, despite 62% of pupils coming from non-Welsh speaking homes. All pupils here have access to Welsh language	The Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a number of Strategic Objectives in order to take forward for the Strategic Aim to ‘Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages’.
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	<p>education through school if they want it, and most do as you can see. Every other town in Powys has the option of education through either language, but Machynlleth is the only one that is to be changed.</p>	<p>Whilst the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is one of the first to be taken forward since the new Strategy was approved, many other proposals and developments will be taken forward in the coming years, in order to ensure that more Powys pupils have the opportunity to access Welsh-medium education throughout their time in school.</p>
17.1.2	<p>I would also like to oppose the proposal on the grounds that it isn't needed as Ysgol Bro Hyddgen already exceeds the targets set by Powys and Welsh Government for providing Welsh medium education. I feel there will be minimal gain here compared to other schools in the county where pupils struggle to access a Welsh medium education, especially at secondary level.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
17.1.3	<p>Whilst I respect the need to promote the Welsh Language, the number of children in this area currently learning through Welsh and the bilingual stream far outstrips most other parts of Powys which suggests that the local authority should look further afield in Powys to promote Welsh Language Learning.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
17.1.4	<p>The consultation report claims the Ysgol Bro Hyddgen change 'would contribute towards implementing the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)'. However they do not make proposals to change anything so significant at schools in Newtown or Welshpool, where respectively they are 'Predominantly English' and 'English' only provision. Surely THAT is where some achievement could be made in increasing Welsh medium education in Powys? By PCC's own admission the numbers receiving English medium education</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	<p>in Machynlleth is small, and therefore less significant in achieving that WESP aim, but it does significantly increase at examination age, something that PCC seem to also be ignoring in their presentation of data.</p>	
17.1.5	<p>Finally, the Council's proposal misunderstands how to implement the Welsh Government's new continuum – it is to increase Welsh-medium education opportunities across Wales – or in this case Powys – whereas the proposal simply takes away English-medium education in area already well-served with Welsh services. Surely, expanding Welsh-medium education opportunities in areas where use of Welsh is low would be a better use of the Council's time.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
17.1.6	<p>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%. 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>As above.</p> <p>Newtown High School and Welshpool High School are both English-medium secondary schools, therefore it is no surprise that 0% of pupils at these schools access Welsh-medium education. Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils living in these towns is provided by Welsh-medium streams at Llanfair Caereinion, Llanfyllin and Llanidloes.</p>

17.1.7	<p>Why are PCC targeting Welsh provision at the school with the highest percentage of Welsh-medium pupils, whilst ignoring the total lack of Welsh provision in secondary schools such as Newtown HS or Welshpool HS? If we are to believe that PCC genuinely want to ‘improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages’, then PCC should have been looking at improving provision in their English-medium schools or in their Bilingual Category 2C schools.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
17.1.8	<p>So, while ESTYN criticised Powys in 2019 (‘the authority’s record on stimulating the growth of Welsh-medium is weak. As a result, the proportion of pupils receiving their education through the medium of Welsh has stagnated over recent years’), it is staggering that PCC are focusing on Bro Hyddgen to address this. PCC acknowledges that Welsh provision in Powys is a postcode lottery and this report acknowledges that Newtown HS and Welshpool HS are English-medium high schools with 0% Welsh-medium pupils. As far as I am aware, there are no other proposals in Powys to move any other secondary schools along the language continuum – the new school in Llanfair Caereinion will remain as a dual stream/Bilingual Category 2B. This is an interesting decision by PCC given that throughout their report they have been quite critical of dual stream provision. Indeed, PCC are going ahead to merge and create new primary schools in Newtown and Brecon – both English-medium! It is this hypocrisy that the community of Machynlleth find difficult to accept. PCC are not addressing the inequality of provision as they have selected to address the school with the highest percentage of Welsh-medium pupils. So, PCC may tick their box of establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school, but the proportion/numbers of pupils receiving Welsh education will</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>Whilst it is true that the Council has recently completed the statutory process to establish a dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion from September 2022, the paper considered by Cabinet in respect of this proposal clearly stated that the Council’s ambition is that the school moves along the language continuum, however a further statutory process would be required in order to achieve this.</p> <p>The Council is also developing proposals to change the provision at Ysgol Calon Cymru, a secondary school which currently operates across two campuses in Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells. The Council’s current preferred way forward is to move all English-medium secondary provision to a new building in Llandrindod Wells, and to establish a new Welsh-medium all-through school in Builth Wells, which would provide access to Welsh-medium provision at a designated school, therefore moving along the language continuum.</p>

	<p>not change – it is quite clear from the responses in this report that those currently studying fully or partly in English will simply move to an alternative school.</p>	
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## 17.2 Other comments

17.2.1	<p>It worries me that Powys’ education policy is to move towards exclusively Welsh medium education, rather than Bilingual education, which I believe would more closely resemble the education my children wish for.</p>	<p>The term ‘bilingual’ is sometimes used to describe dual stream provision, however this is misleading. In a dual stream school, it is usually only the Welsh-medium pupils that become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English. Whilst pupils in the English-medium stream study Welsh as a Second Language, generally these pupils do not become fluent in Welsh.</p> <p>‘Bilingual’ would therefore be a more appropriate term to describe Welsh-medium schools, where all pupils accessing the school become bilingual – fluent in Welsh and English.</p>
17.2.2	<p>I do believe though that better Welsh lessons could be taught throughout the year for all ages so that children then could understand and spell in Welsh at a high level and keep the language alive as I do think that it is very important to do so.</p>	<p>All pupils in Powys schools are taught Welsh up to GCSE level, regardless of whether they are taught through the medium of Welsh or English. Pupils accessing Welsh-medium education 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.</p> <p>Whilst some learners may become fluent in Welsh after studying Welsh as a Second Language, these learners</p>

		are exceptions – generally, pupils accessing English-medium provision and studying Welsh as a Second Language do not become fluent in Welsh.
17.2.3	Your proposal to mainstream the Welsh language when you never even attempted to encourage more Welsh learning in the English classes before is beyond me?	As above.
17.2.4	I am first language Welsh, and completely agree that we need to keep the Welsh language alive and teach more of it in the English medium. However, I'd advise PCC take a long and hard look at the curriculum in which our children are taught from and suggest more Welsh history lessons should be taught. It would be beneficial to our culture, identity and language as a country and you'd find more children and their parents take a deeper interest into wanting to learn/better their Welsh.	<p>The Council agrees with this comment. The framework for the new curriculum reflects Wales, its cultural heritage and diversity, its language and values, histories and traditions of its communities and all of its people. Instilling learners with passion and pride in themselves, their communities and their country is central to the four purposes. Learners should be grounded in an understanding of the identities, landscapes and histories that come together to form their Cynefin.</p> <p>The Siarter Iaith also puts a strong emphasis on the Welsh dimension, which results in the learners having a positive attitude towards the Welsh language and heritage.</p>

## 18. COMMENTS ABOUT OTHER PROPOSALS

18.1	In the Welsh Government's document 'Cymraeg 2050', they state that the challenge for local authorities will be to reconfigure provision in order to create more Welsh-medium places and they also advise that when local authorities have opportunities to open new schools, they should make strong	There are already designated Welsh-medium primary schools in Newtown (where Ladywell Green / Hafren schools were located) and Brecon (where the Mount Streets Schools and Cradoc School are located).
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	plans clearly demonstrating how their proposals align with the aim of creating more Welsh speakers. So how do the reorganisation projects at Ladywell Green/Hafren or Mount Street/Cradoc meet this criteria?	The Council is currently consulting on a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032 which outlines the Council's plans to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education in Powys over the next 10 years, in order to contribute to the targets outlined in 'Cymraeg 2050'.
18.2	When PCC decided to merge Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School, the decision was made to establish a new English-medium primary school. Again, no attempt to improve access to Welsh-medium provision and no attempt to move the school along the language continuum.	As above.
18.3	I understand that Llandrindod Wells will maintain the 'English Campus' status when/if plans go ahead to change Builth Wells into a Welsh Medium only high school. This strategy serves to provide children living in the local communities involved with a choice of preferred language. The schools are only 7 miles apart and so parents are able to send their children to the school they see fit for them and their families. I wonder then why is Builth/ Llandrindod looking to expand its language range from English medium to Welsh AND English, when Machynlleth children's choices are being removed completely?	<p>The Council's current 'preferred way forward' for Ysgol Calon Cymru which currently operates from Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells is to move all English-medium provision to a new build in Llandrindod Wells and to establish a new Welsh-medium all-through school in Builth Wells. The aim of this proposal is to increase the number of pupils choosing Welsh-medium provision in the area, and to significantly improve the Welsh-medium education offer for learners. As the catchment area is currently predominantly English-medium, it would not be possible not to offer English-medium secondary provision in the area.</p> <p>The number of pupils accessing English-medium provision in the Bro Hyddgen catchment is significantly lower than the number of pupils accessing English-medium provision in the Ysgol Calon Cymru catchment area. There are alternative English-medium secondary providers which would be available for any pupils wishing</p>

		to access English-medium provision instead of accessing the provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
18.4	The authority have been critical of dual stream provision throughout the Consultation Report. Again, this is ironic considering that during the recent consultation in Llanfair Caereinion, dual stream provision has been chosen as the language category for the new all-age school.	Whilst it is true that the Council has recently completed the statutory process to establish a dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion from September 2022, the paper considered by Cabinet in respect of this proposal clearly stated that the Council's ambition is that the school moves along the language continuum, however a further statutory process would be required in order to achieve this.
18.5	For example, when taking the decision to establish a new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, PCC decided to leave the primary phase as dual stream and the secondary phase as Bilingual Category 2B. How does this fit in with PCC's strategic aim? There was no proposal to move this school along the language continuum. Why is it acceptable to offer choice of language provision to the community of Llanfair Caereinion and to deny the very same choice to the community of Machynlleth?	As above.
18.6	If the aim (and I quote) '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.' You cannot argue that this change is also about an increase in speakers of the Welsh language, IF you are planning on closing Welsh language primaries in the Dyfi Valley, something which impacts Welsh language in those communities that are already struggling in a second homes crisis, and with fewer and fewer Welsh speakers every year. Can you categorically say you will	It is true that alongside this proposal, the Council is also taking forward a number of proposals to close small schools, however none of these schools are located in the Bro Hyddgen catchment.  The Council has no current plans to make any changes to the provision in Carno, Glantwymyn and Llanbrynmair.

	<p>not be closing those schools in the Welsh-medium primary federation that includes Carno, Glantwymyn and Llanbryn-mair?</p> <p>Removing dual stream education in Machynlleth could therefore be seen as gifting Powys CC the opportunity to rip the heart out of these rural communities. It will look good on the balance sheet, and I understand that it is a difficult decision, and funding is tight, but that is the effect on these communities. Once these small Welsh schools close, families will of course move nearer to Machynlleth. It's happened so many times all over rural Wales, over generations, and is why these communities are now struggling as 'communities' at all, soon there will be no younger generation in these villages.</p>	
18.7	<p>Powys must NOT close more small schools if their aim is to increase the use of Welsh language in the Dyfi Valley.</p>	<p>The Council has no current plans to make any changes to primary provision in the Dyfi Valley.</p>

## 19. OTHER OPTIONS

19.1	<p>If it is a case of being so confident that the new school will be full of Welsh medium pupils. Why not repurpose the current primary campus into an English medium school (still under the YBH name). There are currently 5 rooms in the infants settings, and 8 in the juniors. All 157 English medium pupils could be accommodated for, along with new pupils.</p>	<p>The majority of people in the Machynlleth catchment area choose Welsh-medium provision. The Council's aim is to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision, and the proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium reflects the choices being made by parents/pupils in the catchment, as well as the Council's aim is to increase access to Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>The Council has no intention to establish an English-medium school in Machynlleth. Should the Council</p>
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		<p>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. This is similar to the situation for parents / pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision in many areas of Powys where there is currently no Welsh-medium provision.</p>
19.2	<p>It would make much more sense, if the County Council wishes to save money, to close the sixth form at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which has hardly any pupils.</p>	<p>Following approval of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, the Council has recently been reviewing post-16 provision across Powys. The Council's Cabinet considered a paper outlining the outcome of this work on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021, when the Council agreed to proceed with the establishment of a new structure for the strategic management of Powys post-16 provision. The Council is now moving forward with implementation of this decision, and has no plans to close the sixth form at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen or any other school.</p>
19.3	<p>We know the financial costs of running a dual stream school has its challenges but maybe instead of disadvantaging children's right to an education, Powys look at the costs of the whole management structure and running of the sixth form before making such a drastic change to the community.</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>The school's management structure is determined by the school's governing body.</p>
19.4	<p>If small classes are an issue where multiple years are in 1 class, how is this not the same issue for the feeder schools where only 3 classes cover 7 years? These schools even promote this as good learning. If this is the case, perhaps amalgamating these feeder schools into the through school</p>	<p>The Council has no current plans to make any changes to primary provision in the Dyfi Valley.</p>

	would increase class size and this be able to have whole year classes?	
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## 20. CRITICISM OF POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

### 20.1 Criticism of Powys County Council's treatment of Machynlleth

20.1.1	It's clear that Powys County Council has never cared about Machynlleth or its residents, I've lived here all my life and there has just been closure after closure, lack of support for the community almost as if the town is just ignored.	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.
20.1.2	This attitude towards Machynlleth must stop, it's time for the town to thrive. It's a sad shell of its former self.	As above.
20.1.3	Mach is famously comically the black sheep of Powys - too close to Gwynedd & Ceredigion and too far from Llandrindod / Brecon / Y Trallwng to even be an issue.	As above.
20.1.4	Powys County Council don't seem to understand or care about the concerns of the local community.	As above.
20.1.5	The super school should help build this brilliant little town up (even will the lack of support from PCC)	As above.

20.1.6	In terms of the community as a whole however, my greatest concern is the precedent this sets in bringing Powys as a County, and Machynlleth in particular into disrepute.	As above.
20.1.7	The people of Bro Ddyfi look forward to being ignored by the Council again	As above.
20.1.8	Machynlleth as a town in the heart of Powys seems to have been forgotten about and the local Council seem content on watching the town sink. You may argue that the current investments in the bypass, town hospital and school contradict by previous sentence but these investments are a necessity and bring no added value to the town.	As above.

## 20.2 General criticism of the proposal

20.2.1	My biggest objection to the proposal regrettably relates to the use of this subject as a political vehicle. The Council should be very careful about allowing individuals with an agenda to hijack policy and by the time I found out about the proposal (by accident rather than in any official announcements) it had been seized upon by powerful social media forces favouring Welsh independence.	<p>The proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is not being taken forward as ‘a political vehicle’, neither is the Council allowing ‘individuals with an agenda to hijack policy’. The proposal to change the school’s language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and the Welsh Government’s Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.</p> <p>Information about the proposal was shared with stakeholders in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and a press release was also issued to publicise the consultation.</p>
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20.2.2	I honestly feel this is political and you are playing with our children's live's, future and education.	As above.
20.2.3	I hope this appeals process will help the board understand the true nature of education demand in Dyfi Valley, and prevent our children falling victim to the combination of council points-raising and a personal egos.	As above.
20.2.4	It would seem this proposal before the Council is based on a shortsighted view of education in the 21 century. Shame on those who are promoting it as some kind of nationalism to be proud of. To my mind, it is just the opposite.	<p>The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.</p> <p>The aim is to ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English, and that the provision reflects the Council's Vision and Guiding Principles for education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education.</p>
20.2.5	I would also ask what popular mandate the Council has to do this given making the school a Welsh-medium school given none of the Independent or Conservative councillors elected were done so on a pledge to make this change. In its response to the consultation exercise, the Council say its proposal is to ensure all children can grow up bilingually in the area. Well it currently can. Therefore the proposal has no merit based on this argument. However, those elsewhere in Powys do not. Perhaps Cllr Davies should choose Llanidloes High School to be a Welsh-medium school if he is so passionate for spreading the Welsh-medium education – or	<p>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>The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed with input from Councillors from a range of political groups, and implementation of the Welsh</p>

	<p>maybe he'd prefer not to deprive local people of choice and because it would be wildly unpopular?</p>	<p>Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy, which has support from all political parties.</p> <p>The Council fully acknowledges that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium education in other parts of Powys. The Council is currently consulting on a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032 which outlines the Council's plans to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education in Powys over the next 10 years, in order to contribute to the targets outlined in 'Cymraeg 2050'.</p> <p>Alongside the proposal the change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council has also carried out the statutory process to change the language category of Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, Trefeglwys from dual stream to Welsh-medium. Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon is located in Cllr Davies' ward.</p>
20.2.6	<p>It would seem that Powys County Council are unilaterally trying to marginalize and paradise their indigenous English speaking residents.</p>	<p>The Council is not 'trying to marginalize and paradise their indigenous English speaking residents'. The Council fully acknowledges the need for English language skills. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils accessing Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future have the opportunity to be fluent in both languages – Welsh and English.</p>
20.2.7	<p>PCC is recklessly gambling with the lives and futures of these children/students and PHYL Davies and his council should be ashamed.</p>	<p>The Council does not agree with this statement.</p>

20.2.8	I do not feel that Powys County Council have listened or worked with us as a community to set aside our fears and ensure that our children are well looked after.	The Council does not agree with statement. All issues raised in the consultation responses received were considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice. All issues raised in the Objections received will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether to proceed with implementation of the proposal.
20.2.9	We haven't yet seen a strategy from Powys County Council which seeks to abolish the English language being taught, so why remove this provision?!	<p>The Council's priority is to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, and to increase the number of pupils accessing this provision. This is clearly outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education, and the Council is currently consulting on a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032 which outlines the Council's plans to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education in Powys over the next 10 years, in order to contribute to the targets outlined in 'Cymraeg 2050'.</p> <p>There is no strategy to improve access to English-medium provision or to increase the number of pupils accessing English-medium provision. All pupils</p>
20.2.10	It is very sad that PCC seems to have selected Bro Hyddgen as an easy target to establish a designated Welsh-medium all-through/secondary school.	The Council does not agree. The Council's view is that the proposal provides an exciting opportunity for the catchment area to host the Council's first Welsh-medium secondary provider.
20.2.11	As a parent, former educator and concerned resident of nearly 20 years I can think of nothing more absurd than this proposal to eradicate the world's most internationally	The proposal will not 'eradicate the world's most internationally accepted language'. Pupils would

	accepted language both culturally & in business - in what is after all, a bi-lingual community, for what appears to be purely political motives. SHAME! SHAME! SHAME!!!	continue to study English up to at least GCSE level, and would be fluent in both Welsh and English.
20.2.12	I think doing away with English is the most stupid thing I've ever heard.	The Council is not proposing to 'do away with English'. Pupils would continue to study English up to at least GCSE level, and would be fluent in both Welsh and English.
20.2.13	Having read the recent proposal to drop Bro Hyddgen's dual language programme in favour of a Welsh only one strikes me as complete lunacy. As a former teacher in international schools & parent of a pupil I urge the Council to reconsider this misguided proposal.	The Council does not agree that the proposal is 'complete lunacy'. However, all points raised in the Objections received will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.
20.2.14	This whole proposal is a sick joke.	The proposal is not 'a sick joke'.
20.2.15	It should not be all about money but about the best outcome for all our children.	The proposal is not 'all about money'. The aim of the proposal is to provide the opportunity for all pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.
20.2.16	I feel young people are the innocent pawns in some blinkered social engineering experiment, which is doomed to fail.	This is not a 'blinkered social engineering experiment'. Many pupils across Wales access Welsh-medium schools at both primary and secondary level.
20.2.17	Within the document you outline how the change is enabling the local authority to meet one of its targets - one aim of which is to ' <i>move schools along the language continuum</i> '. That reveals yet again that this is not based on what is best for the children, or the specific community here, but neatly helps Powys CC out of a tight spot and is good PR.	The reasons for the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are outlined in the Consultation Document which was published. The reasons for the proposal are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• '<i>To improve educational outcomes</i></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Children would no longer be taught in mixed language classes in the secondary phase</i></li> <li>○ <i>Children would no longer be taught in mixed age classes in the primary phase</i></li> <li>○ <i>There will be more pupils who are fluent and confident in using the Welsh and English language equally</i></li> <li>● <i>To improve educational provision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Opportunities to develop a broader curriculum to meet the needs of pupils</i></li> <li>○ <i>Having one language stream would make it easier to track and target the progress of pupils and their well-being</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>To improve leadership and management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>The school's management team could work more efficiently</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>To improve efficiency in the delivery of education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Potential for the school to operate more efficiently through more efficient deployment of staff and resources</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>To increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education</i></li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>More pupils would be fluent in both Welsh and English, therefore contributing to the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050.'</i></li> </ul> <p>Meeting the Council's aim to 'move schools along the language continuum' is not one of the reasons identified.</p>
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### 20.3 Other criticisms of Powys County Council

20.3.1	You are short staffed in hospitals due to negligent teaching practices within your schools, poor exam results are a direct result of spending up to 60% of their schooling on learning Welsh.	Pupils do not spend 'up to 60% of their schooling on learning Welsh'.
20.3.2	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.	The Council's priority is to provide the best possible educational opportunities to all Powys pupils to enable them to achieve educational of the highest possible quality.
20.3.3	Powys as a County is severely underfunded, underdeveloped and seems completely out of touch and disjointed compared to other counties.	Comment noted, however this is not relevant to the proposal to change the language category at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
20.3.4	The Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy sets out objectives for tackling child poverty. Continued focus and investment in what we know works in tackling poverty using	The Council is committed to tackling child poverty. Implementation of the proposal would ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would access the

	<p>the levers available to us is vital. This includes continuing to strengthen families and communities through our early intervention and prevention programmes Flying Start and Families First, further developing an Early Childhood Care and Education system, improving employability and creating secure, fair work, including promoting the Welsh Living Wage. Are Powys County Council committed to this???</p>	<p>same provision, and would have the opportunity to be fluent in Welsh and English.</p>
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## 21. CRITICISM OF WELSH GOVERNMENT

21.1	<p>The WG has set a deliberately low bar so they can claim their Welsh language policy is a success and there's been a significant upturn in those speaking, reading, and writing it.</p>	<p>The Council does not agree with this statement. The Welsh Government has set an ambitious target to create a million Welsh speakers by 2050. All local authorities are required to set targets to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision in order to contribute to achieving this target.</p>
21.2	<p>WAG and all Welsh Local Authorities should instead be perusing policies across all their remits promoting inclusiveness, choice and opportunity in both English and Welsh.</p>	<p>The aim of the proposal is to promote inclusiveness, choice and opportunity in both and Welsh by ensuring that all learners attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to be fluent in both languages.</p>
21.3	<p>I resent the time, expense and resources already spent and continually being spent by WAG and Welsh Local Authorities in their attempts to exclude English and promote Welsh as the nation's main language.</p>	<p>Wales has two official languages, Welsh and English. Both are used by the Welsh Government and local authorities. The aim of the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is to ensure that all learners attending the school have the opportunity to be fluent in both of these languages, ensuring that they are able to use both languages in their future careers.</p>

21.4	WAG seems to have a policy of forcing pupils toward only Welsh universities, limiting their education, limiting their job prospects, limiting their prospects in life - all in an attempt to promote the Welsh language. It is shameful.	It is not true that the Welsh Government has any intention to limit the education, job prospects or life prospects of pupils.
21.5	I believe that the proposal to turn Ysgol Bro Hyddgen into a Welsh medium school is motivated by the Welsh government needing a Welsh medium school in Powys to balance some statistics.	The proposal is not 'motivated by the Welsh government needing a Welsh medium school in Powys to balance some statistics'. The proposal is being taken forward by the Council in order to implement its Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

## 22. COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROCESS

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

22.1.1	The consultation was held quietly in the midst of Covid Lockdowns, which will have prevented proper discussion among parents.	<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>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</p>
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		<p>community councils. Information was also shared with the local press.</p> <p>There is no requirement for public meetings to take place as part of consultation processes – as indicated on page 26 of the School Organisation Code, ‘There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings...’</p> <p>Nearly 500 consultation responses were received to the consultation, which suggests that people in the local area were aware that the consultation was ongoing and how to respond.</p> <p>There has also been a further opportunity for people to let the Council know if they don’t agree with the proposal during the Objection Period. 258 objections were received to the Statutory Notice, suggesting that people were aware that the process was ongoing.</p>
22.1.2	The Consultation period for the proposed change took place from 8/12/20 – 26/01/21 online only with no public/wider community meetings. Therefore, anyone without access to the internet or competency in the use of the internet was not able to engage fully with the proposal. Therefore, the results from this consultation period are not a full representation of the community that will be affected by the change.	As above.
22.1.3	The Consultation period for the proposed change took place from 8/12/20 – 26/01/21 most of this time the country was either in lockdown due to a pandemic or the council was on Christmas break. Again, reducing the time that the community	As above.

	could fully engage with the consultation or have any queries/questions answered by Powys County Council.	
22.1.4	My first query in regard to the consultation period would be was it carried out in a fair and just way. It was conducted at a very difficult time for parents of young children, it was during a period of lockdown , opening and threatened further lockdown. It was carried out online -in an area that is renowned for poor broadband and internet activity.	As above.
22.1.5	An online survey conducted over the Christmas period in a lockdown is hardly going to gain a representative view of the the families of children most affected by the change in provision. Many families did not know there was a consultation taking place.	As above.
22.1.6	The timing of the consultation has made it almost impossible for proper engagement and discussion to take place suggesting that this was a deliberate ploy by the local authority which would not bode well in a legal environment	As above.
22.1.7	I am also very concerned that the consultation document was released during the second wave of the pandemic, when the children were not in school, and that it was not publicised among parents. Parents of children who are due to be affected by the changes this coming September were not informed of the consultation and were unaware of the proposals.	As above.
22.1.8	The consultation process has so far been hidden under the radar as the whole community sits in Lock down. This is a very sneaky way to operate. We don't feel that we have been	As above.

	consulted with until the process has reached this level. PCC need to operate in a more transparent way moving forward.	
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## 22.2 Suggestion that people didn't know that the consultation was taking place

22.2.1	I understand that Powys County Council have worked through their 'consultation process' and consider that they have completed so far satisfactorily. From a local parents perspective I want you to know that myself and many others don't feel they have been consulted at all.	<p>The consultation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. Nearly 500 consultation responses have been received. The issues raised in the consultation responses were considered by the Council's Cabinet before deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p> <p>There has also been a further opportunity for people to let the Council know if they don't agree with the proposal during the Objection Period. 258 objections have been received to the Statutory Notice, suggesting that people were aware that the process was ongoing. Again, the issues raised in the Objections will be considered by the Council's Cabinet before deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p>
22.2.2	There's been no adequate public consultation. Most of us have only heard of it anecdotally, which in itself must be unlawful.	As above.
22.2.3	There is a feeling that this strategy has been rushed through under the noses of the entire community whilst we have all been locked down at home. This is unfair, unjust and absolutely disgusting.	As above.

22.2.4	This decision has been rushed without proper consultation of the Machynlleth people. It's a joke, you don't make big changes like that without doing it properly.	As above.
22.2.5	I really think more information should have been given to our community before such a drastic proposal was made, instead of keeping everyone in the dark!	As above.
22.2.6	I've read Powys County Council have been completing a consultation for months. Who exactly has been consulted with? I ask this because if you haven't spoken to actual parents of the actual children who will ultimately bear the consequence of such changes then I feel your consultation so far to be worthless.	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. Information was also shared with the local press.
22.2.7	There has been little published information on how this decision has been made without the consideration or contact made with existing parents, prospective parents or those in the local area who will be disadvantaged when something so basic as standard schooling is taken away with no reasonable excuse to explain why.	As above.

### 22.3 Concerns that the consultation was an 'open' consultation

22.3.1	The way in which this consultation has been carried out has been of great concern to the community of Machynlleth. PCC's decision to conduct an 'open consultation' was totally inappropriate. Anyone could access PCC's website and respond. The whole process was anonymous and there were real concerns within our community that people could respond	All consultations carried out on school reorganisation proposals are 'open' consultations.  As indicated on Page 5 of the Consultation Report, 60.91% of respondents to the consultation response form indicated that they were associated with Ysgol Bro
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	multiple times. This method of consultation obviously provides opportunities for some to abuse the whole consultation process.	Hyddgen with another 22.05% indicating that they were associated with the Glantwymyn, Llanbrynmair, Carno Federation. 71.13% of those that responded had Machynlleth postcodes. This suggests that the majority of those that responded to the consultation were from the Machynlleth area.
22.3.2	Apparently the response to the consultation was 61% in favour. But out of that 61% who were local or with strong connections to the area? Indeed the majority of the local people did not even know there was a consultation!! Were some of the responses to the consultation from people who wanted to address their own agendas rather than considering the future of the children of Machynlleth?	As above.
22.3.3	Why was the consultation held online and open to all – This was shared widely around north wales – Welsh language and extremist facebook sites – This is not the towns peoples view.	As above.
22.3.4	The consultation was open to anyone we have no idea how many in fact responded from afar. A more fair and informative way would've been for Powys to send out a code to each household in the catchment area.	As above.
22.3.5	Surely school consultations such as this should only be accessible to those who live in the areas concerned and to those who will be directly affected by it. When ESTYN seek the views of parents during inspections, only relevant parents and pupils are provided with access to their site.	As above.
22.3.6	This consultation is of huge significance to the community of Machynlleth. I am deeply concerned that 'anyone' was able to	As above.

	<p>contribute. I was also concerned with the consultation forms – the forms were anonymous and respondents could choose whether or not to provide their postcode. So, how would you know, for example, if anyone completed the form multiple times? How would you know if they actually were, for example, a parent? The consultation methods raise many questions about the transparency of this process.</p>	<p>The consultation response software allows the Council to filter any duplicate responses. A total of 29 responses were identified.</p>
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## 22.4 Comments about petitions

22.4.1	<p>I do not feel that the consultation poll was representative of the community's feeling especially since there are petitions with far more signatures than the responses collected during the consultation.</p>	<p>As indicated on Page 5 of the Consultation Report, 60.91% of respondents were associated with Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and 80.22% of respondents were either parent, carers or guardians, prospective parents, carers or guardians or members of the community.</p> <p>However, the consultation exercise was not a vote – in addition to the qualitative information, all issues raised in the consultation responses were considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p>
22.4.2	<p>A petition was set up locally to object to the proposal. To date this has collected 1200 signatures.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
	<p>It is clear that the majority of people from Machynlleth oppose this proposal. 1,219 people have signed the petition to maintain the dual stream.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
22.4.3	<p>Parents have acquired over 1200 signatures on a petition and have demonstrated, in the plainest way possible, that removal</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	of the English stream is not an option that the community supports or, in point of fact, needs.	
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## 22.5 Comments about consultation meetings

22.5.1	For real consultation there needs to be public exhibition(s) and meetings in the whole school catchment area.	There is no requirement for public meetings to take place as part of consultation processes – as indicated on page 26 of the School Organisation Code, <i>‘There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings...’</i> .
22.5.2	There has been a lack of town meetings and engagement within the community due to this decision.	As above.
22.5.3	The community did not have an opportunity to question the proceedings through a public meeting.	As above.
22.5.4	There has been a noticeable lack of full, open and free public engagement to this proposal. Can you please advise me what public engagement events, fully publicised and available in both Welsh and English as per the requirements of the Welsh Language Act 1993, have been held in the catchment area of the school? Can you please provide copies of the publicity used to advertise this public engagement event/s and advise where these were posted.	As above.

## 22.6 Comments about consultation with pupils

22.6.1	I feel it doesn't take in consideration the child's voice - they need to be listened to.	A child version and young people's version of the document was also published, which provides information about the consultation in a simpler format. This was available to pupils throughout the consultation period, and provided information about how pupils could respond to the consultation. In addition, a meeting was held with pupils during the consultation period. Comments received from pupils were highlighted in the Consultation Report, ensuring that the Cabinet was aware of these comments when determining how to proceed.
22.6.2	Moreover it completely ignores the needs and options of young people who seem not to have a voice in this matter.	As above.
22.6.3	Have the children been asked? they are the ones that will suffer.	As above.
22.6.4	PCC did not make any attempt to consider other ways to engage with the pupils. For example, virtual child friendly consultation meetings, virtual drop-in sessions or online forums with wider groups of pupils.	As above.
22.6.5	Proposers must ensure learners' views are captured and considered as part of the consultation process. Surely the views of 12 pupils cannot be considered as an adequate response?	As above.
22.6.6	As far as I am aware, there has been no formal or systematic attempt to consult with the children themselves, either those who currently attend the school, or those who will in future.	As above.

22.6.7	It also worries me that this policy has been made without consulting any children, purely to satisfy an adult agenda of increasing the number of Welsh speakers in Wales.	As above.
22.6.8	The first consultation decision was based on a poll of just over 400 people and a mere 15 students from the school, hardly representative.	As above.
22.6.9	I do not feel that the process of consulting with pupils has been adequate or fair - too few pupils have been consulted with and all consultation has taken place under supervision.	As above.  It is true that the meeting with pupils took place 'under supervision', with staff from the Council and the school in attendance. This is usual practice when meeting with pupils to ensure pupil well-being. As well as the meetings, a child version and young people's version of the document was also published, which provides information about the consultation in a simpler format. This was available to pupils throughout the consultation period, and provided information about how pupils could respond to the consultation, therefore pupils were free to respond independently to the consultation.
22.6.10	Powys County Council met online with 15 pupils (out of 477) how were these 15 pupils selected?	Arrangements for identifying pupils to meet with the Council were made by Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
22.6.11	The minutes of the primary meeting state: <i>The session was held with 3 pupils from the school council. The group were all in years 4 – 6.</i> There are 82 pupils in years 4 – 6 so it quite surprising to see that only 3 pupils were part of this process! In comparison, during a recent consultation in Dyffryn Trannon, virtual meetings were held with pupils from both the	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is an all-through school. The original intention was to hold one meeting with pupils from the school, to include pupils from the primary and secondary phases. Prior to the meeting, it was agreed that the Council would meet with the primary pupils separately to provide a better opportunity for them to let the Council know their views.

	<p>English stream and the Welsh stream and pupils from year 1 – 6 took part.</p> <p>Do you think that 3 pupils is adequate in order to gauge the views and opinions of the primary phase?</p>	<p>The meeting with pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen took place whilst pupils were learning remotely, whilst the meeting with pupils at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon took place when they were in school together. This meant that it was easier for the Council to speak individually to the pupils that were present in the meeting with Ysgol Bro Hyddgen pupils, therefore it was necessary to meet separately with pupils from the Welsh stream and the English stream.</p>
22.6.12	<p>The session was held with 12 pupils from the Secondary Phase School Council. This is the only meeting with pupils that has taken place during this consultation. So, out of the 312 secondary pupils, a very small percentage of pupil were consulted.</p>	<p>This is similar to the usual ratio of pupils attending the meeting to pupils at the school for such meetings – 10 pupils attended the consultation meeting with pupils at Caereinion High School out of 459 pupils, and 12 pupils attended the consultation meeting with pupils at Llanfyllin High School out of 695 pupils.</p>
22.6.13	<p>Some secondary school pupils have even commented that they were not aware that a School Council had been elected this year - so are the minutes correct? If they were not representatives from the School Council, how were these pupils selected and by whom?</p>	<p>The arrangements for the meetings with pupils were made by the school.</p>
22.6.14	<p>In both meetings, members of the school's SLT were present. The Consultation reports for other recent consultations (Dyffryn Trannon and Llanfair Caereinion) do not indicate that school staff were present.</p> <p>Do you think pupils would be comfortable about expressing their opinions with the SLT present? Why were school staff</p>	<p>It is the Council's procedure when conducting pupil consultation meetings that staff from the school remain in the room to assist with the discussion and dissemination of information, and to ensure pupil well-being. Staff were also present at the meetings with pupils at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon and Llanfair Caereinion.</p>

	present during these meetings with pupils at Bro Hyddgen? Is this appropriate?	
22.6.15	It was also noted that there were 5 adults present during this meeting (3 from PCC and 2 members of staff from the SLT). Do you think this ratio of adults to children was appropriate in a meeting where children should be free to give their views and opinions?	The number of adults present is broadly in-line with the number of adults usually present at such meetings. The meeting with pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was held whilst pupils were learning remotely, therefore the arrangements were slightly different than usual, therefore two members of the school's SLT were in attendance.

## 22.7 Comments about previous consultations

22.7.1	We fought against this three years ago and won because we could have a proper consultation for everyone to attend.	No formal consultation has previously been carried out on the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
22.7.2	It was 10 years ago when PCC visited our school with a consultation company to gauge the feelings of the community in relation to a Welsh medium school, the findings were that the community was happy with the dual stream status, it met the needs of the community. PCC accepted this and no further actions were taken.	As above.
22.7.3	Our community does not want this change we have said this on 3 occasions in the last 10 years but you fail to hear and listen! Instead of changing the approach and consulting in an unfair way, listen to us residents! We welcome a bilingual dual stream school that allows every member of our community to access an education that meets their needs!	As above.

22.7.4	There have been many consultations over the years where County has reaffirmed the position of dual stream secondary provision in the Dyfi Valley.	As above.
22.7.5	A few years ago, you announced that YBH would change to a Welsh Medium School the following year. That year disgruntled parents decided to enrol their kids in English schools in Aberystwyth. YBH lost pupils that would have enrolled in the English stream.	As above.
22.7.6	As we are all aware, this isn't the first time this proposal has been made. It has been met with the same passion of objection by parents, and the wider community alike, time and time again. For every time the proposal has been made, there has been no attempt by Powys County Council to deliver on anything that would have made such a transition more accepted. immersion centres, Welsh lessons etc.	As above.
22.7.7	I wish to express my opposition to the language category changes that have been proposed at this school. Think this is the third time that these changes have been discussed, and I've yet to hear a convincing case for its acceptance.	As above.
22.7.8	It is with great disappointment that, yet again, I am writing to Powys County Council to convey my anger and frustration about your proposal to start a consultation to change the language provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. I attended the initial consultation several years ago when PCC proposed the merger of the town's two schools. The people of the Dyfi valley were clearly told by PCC that by accepting the proposal to establish a new 4 – 18 school in Machynlleth this would ensure the future of dual stream provision in the town.	As above.

	<p>However, we were astounded that in 2015 and again in 2018, we again had to fight against reorganisation of the school to a category 2A school. On each occasion, the community spoke very loudly and clearly against the proposals. So I am flabbergasted that two years on we find ourselves in this situation again. The views of the community have not changed and it clearly shows that PCC do not listen at a local level and have been disingenuous about the assurances they made to our community.</p>	
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## 22.8 Comments about Scrutiny / Cabinet meetings

22.8.1	<p>During the Cabinet meeting (Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup>), Councillor Pete Roberts addressed the Cabinet and asked about the number of pupils moving between Welsh medium and English medium streams. Scrutiny's recommendation was that the Cabinet be provided with accurate figures for numbers moving between English medium and Welsh medium streams. In the minutes provided, the following was recorded: <i>Accept – information has been requested directly from the school on 13/05/21 in readiness for the Cabinet meeting 18/05/21.</i> However, the response given was 'the school advised that the numbers were low'. Surely, this cannot be considered as an adequate response? No figures were presented yet again.</p>	<p>The information received from the school indicated that one or two pupils usually move to the English stream between KS2 and KS3. The school advised that hardly any children move from the Welsh stream to the English stream between KS3 and KS4, however some ask to study Science and Maths in English.</p>
22.8.2	<p>Is Councillor Pete Roberts satisfied with the response provided during the Cabinet meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>?</p>	<p>Councillor Pete Roberts attended the Cabinet meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and has not requested any further information following the meeting.</p>

22.8.3	Has the Cabinet provided a written response to the scrutiny report?	The response to Scrutiny's recommendations was attached as an Appendix with the Cabinet papers considered on the 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2021.
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## 22.9 Other comments

22.9.1	We implore Powys CC to reconsider their proposal, and at a minimum undertake a meaningful consultation process before imposing single stream education on Machynlleth.	The consultation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018).
22.9.2	Beyond this, the Council's consultation exercise was so limited, it cannot be considered to have been a proper consultation, taking place over just 6 weeks – as opposed to the 12 recommended by both the UK Government and Welsh Parliament – which included Christmas and another coronavirus-related lockdown. Was there a reason why the Council chose this questionable timeframe?	<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>The Welsh Government's requirement, as outlined in the School Organisation Code, is that consultation is carried out over a minimum of 6 weeks – as indicated in the Code, '<i>...consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days...</i>'</p>
22.9.3	A letter sent home with school children was MISLEADING as it stated there would be a consultation about a BILINGUAL education!	The Council has been clear in all documentation issued as part of this process that the proposal is to change the school's language category from dual stream to Welsh-medium.

22.9.3	Has Ceredigion and Gwynedd been consulted in relation to the increased burden of provision that this proposal will inevitably cause?	Gwynedd and Ceredigion Council's were notified of the Council's proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
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## 23. COMMENTS ABOUT DOCUMENTATION

### 23.1 Consultation Document

23.1.1	The document places great emphasis on the positives but kicks all of the potential negatives into the long grass, and this is natural to an extent due to the change of category being the preferred option of the Council. To publish a document so riddled with bias is poor.	The consultation document was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. The consultation document was written from the Council's perspective, however the Council does not agree that the document was 'riddled with bias'.
23.1.2	'It is suggested that a Welsh-medium all-age school would provide better opportunities to support pupils in vulnerable groups.' Suggested by whom? Everything is 'suggested' by PCC to Estyn in the report, it is also 'anticipated'. This only confirms the suspicion that these are just suggestions/ideas of those in PCC that are driving this change, not based on any research or data, but rather something that is 'hoped' for, without any research in the area.	As the proposal has not been implemented, the Council can only use terms such as 'suggested' and 'anticipated'.
23.1.3	Noted in the document is a fact that primary pupils are taught in small classes with a high number of year groups in each class, and this is seen as a negative. This is however exactly the situation in all the small primary schools across Powys, many of which are among the best performing in Wales.	Alongside the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council is also consulting on proposals relating to small primary schools across the county. The high number of year groups in each class is one of the challenges facing the schools identified in these proposals.

23.1.4	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 Llanbrynmair 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.	As above.
23.1.5	<i>'The school is located in a traditionally Welsh speaking area'</i> Yet 62% of pupils come from non-Welsh speaking homes, and the majority put their children into the Welsh stream.	<p>Machynlleth is widely regarded as a traditionally Welsh speaking area. Compared with the rest of Powys, a high proportion of the population can understand Welsh.</p> <p>According to the 2011 Census, a majority of people in the Machynlleth LSOA can either speak or understand Welsh as indicated below:<sup>3</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 39% can speak, read and write Welsh</li> <li>• 8% can speak but cannot read Welsh</li> <li>• 12% can understand spoken Welsh only</li> <li>• 8% other combination of skills</li> <li>• 33% no Welsh skills</li> </ul> <p>The figures for the Glantwymyn LSOA are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 51% can speak, read and write Welsh</li> <li>• 5% can speak but cannot read Welsh</li> <li>• 6% can understand spoken Welsh only</li> <li>• 5% other combination of skills</li> <li>• 34% no Welsh skills</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Census 2011 – Welsh Language Skills by LSOA (Office for National Statistics via the Powys Wellbeing Information Bank)

23.1.6	Where are the published consultation documents?	The consultation documentation was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period. Copies can be obtained from the Transforming Education Team via email <a href="mailto:school.organisation@powys.gov.uk">school.organisation@powys.gov.uk</a> or via telephone 01597 826618.
23.1.7	<p>Why did the Consultation Document not include additional data to show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The actual number of pupils studying all subjects in Welsh and the number studying all or some subjects in English at KS3. For example, my child is a Year 9 Welsh-medium pupil but undertakes all other subjects in English.</li> <li>• The number of pupils entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) and entered for at least two further qualifications through the medium of Welsh.</li> <li>• The number of pupils entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) and entered for 5 or more qualifications through the medium of Welsh.</li> <li>• The actual number of learners in Years 12 and 13 who study subjects through either English or Welsh.</li> </ul>	The data included in the Consultation Document is in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018).
23.1.8	Do you feel that adequate information/data was provided during this consultation?	As above.
23.1.9	There has been no data provided to show the high number of Welsh-medium pupils currently accessing English medium provision. The language change being proposed will not only affect English medium pupils but all those Welsh-medium	The Consultation Document included information about actual pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium and English-medium streams at the time, as provided by the school.

	<p>pupils currently accessing English-medium provision. Surely PCC should have included this data in the Consultation Document as it is pivotal when considering such a significant language change.</p>	<p>The proposal is to introduce the change to the school's language category on a phased basis, therefore pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to do so.</p> <p>The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.</p>
23.1.10	<p>The report is also misleading as it does not represent the number of students moving from Welsh to English stream for secondary schooling.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
23.1.11	<p>I also do not feel the figures provided in the consultation documents gave a clear and accurate picture of pupils accessing an English medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
23.1.12	<p>There needs to be scrutiny around <u>the reported numbers</u> of children who are actually receiving their education fully through the medium of Welsh. The number of children that wish to or do transfer to the English stream for exams is grossly under reported.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
23.1.13	<p>Your figures for Children attending English stream are wrong.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	There has been speculation about the number of parents choosing to send their children to the Welsh stream classes at the school. I wish to have these figures clarified more clearly.	As above.
23.1.14	I also understand there are discrepancies in figures of children who have moved from the Welsh stream to the English stream over the years at both sites, this showing incorrect figures of the need for a dual stream education here at Machynlleth.	As above.
23.1.15	Do you agree that there has been a lack of acknowledgement of the difference between pupils studying Welsh First Language (which is high) and pupils studying other subjects through the medium of Welsh (which is lower)?	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that there is a difference between pupils studying Welsh First Language and pupils studying other subjects through the medium of Welsh, and that some pupils that study Welsh First Language and study some subjects in Welsh may study other subjects in English.</p> <p>The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.</p>
23.1.16	The consultation document was so wordy parents felt disenfranchised	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. A child

		version and young people's version of the document was also published, which provides information about the consultation in a simpler format.
23.1.17	Consultation should never have been done how it was. It was really difficult to understand.	As above.
23.1.18	The consultation on which the decision was made was flawed and confusingly worded.	<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>
23.1.19	I don't feel that I was able to engage in the original consultation, I don't think that the proposals were made clear and I was surprised when I found out that the actual proposal was to remove the dual stream altogether.	<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> <p>Nearly 500 consultation responses were received, which suggests that people in the local area were aware of the consultation and felt able to engage.</p>

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## 23.2 Impact Assessments

23.2.1	<p>At a cost to their sense of place in the town in which they live and with huge negative impact on their wellbeing thereby ignoring both the Welsh Government Wellbeing and Future Generations Act a legal requirement that Powys County Council must to adhere to and the United Nations Right of a Child.</p>	<p>As part of the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment, the Council assesses the impact of the proposal against other factors including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Socio-economic Duty. The impact assessment also considers the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The impact assessment will be updated to reflect the Objections received, and an updated version will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining how to proceed in respect of this proposal.</p>
23.2.2	<p>You do have to question the whole process of this consultation. When the consultation documents were first presented PCC produced its 'Draft Impact Assessments'. Throughout this assessment there was not a single area assessed as potentially having a 'Negative' impact. Even when acknowledging that this proposal 'could lead to tensions and disagreements' and when commenting 'there could be a negative impact on pupils moving 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' – this was categorised as 'Moderate' impact! Here is an acknowledgement by the authority of the limitations of immersion provisions at the secondary stage. There seems to be a real lack of understanding of the genuine concerns of local parents and the community.</p>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the general concerns of local parents and the community. The Council is proposing to implement the proposal on a phased basis in order to mitigate these concerns and minimise the impact on current pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>The impact assessment document is reviewed throughout the process to reflect feedback received during the process. The document will be further updated to reflect the Objections received, and an updated version will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining how to proceed in respect of this proposal.</p>

23.2.3	Where is your Child Impact Assessment, has one been carried out and why hasn't it been published?	The Council is not required to carry out a specific Child Impact Assessment. As part of the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment, the Council assesses the impact of the proposal against other factors including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Socio-economic Duty and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
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### 23.3 Consultation Report

23.3.1	There is a section in the Consultation Report with the sub-title: 'Some subjects should be available in English'. Respondents have specifically asked about subjects such as Maths and the Sciences being taught in English. The comments provided by the local authority do not give any indication that these subjects may be delivered bilingual (as in Bilingual 2A). The comments continuously refer to teaching these subjects through the medium of Welsh.	<p>The Council would hope that pupils taught through the medium of Welsh would continue to study all subjects through the medium of Welsh in the secondary phase, including Maths and Science. However, it is acknowledged that some pupils choose to study these subjects in English for a number of reasons.</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that the Council proposes the following:-</p> <p>'To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.'</p> <p>The Notice goes on to describe the proposed new language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen following full implementation of the proposal, as defined by the Welsh Government information document on 'Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision'. Here, the Council specifies that the provision would be as follows:</p>
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		<p>'Primary Phase – Welsh-medium (Category 1) Secondary Phase – Bilingual (Category 2A)'</p> <p>Whilst the provision in the school's secondary phase would be category 2A provision, which does allow for some subjects to be taught in English to some pupils, the school would still be a single stream Welsh-medium school, with all pupils studying through the medium of Welsh.</p>
23.3.2	<p>Llanidloes is a dual stream school and consistently one the highest ranked in Wales, so the argument that a dual stream negatively affects outcomes (repeatedly claimed in the Consultation Report) is totally flawed from the start. To therefore use this as a basis for any change is duplicitous at best.</p>	<p>The Consultation Report does not say that 'a dual stream negatively affects outcomes'. The Consultation Report states that changing the school's language category would provide an opportunity to improve outcomes at the school.</p>

#### 23.4 References to the Statutory Notice

23.4.1	<p>As you know Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is an all through school from age 5 till A level. So why does the statutory notice say all welsh medium for the primary campus and 2a for the secondary campus.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government's guidance document 'Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision'<sup>4</sup> does not provide categories for all-through schools, therefore separate categories have been provided for the primary and secondary phases which reflect the guidance document.</p>
23.4.2	<p>When the consultation started, there was a great deal of discussion and ambiguity as to the language category that was being proposed. Some believed the school would be</p>	<p>As above.</p>

<sup>4</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-02/defining-schools-according-to-welsh-medium-provision.pdf>

	<p>Welsh-medium and others understood it would be bilingual. As a result, I emailed PCC in December to ask for clarity. I received a reply from an officer who confirmed that the proposal was to change the language category to Welsh-medium, and also provided further clarity by defining the Welsh-medium category as defined by the Welsh Government. In this email, there was no mention at all of the Bilingual Category 2A. There was also no reference at all that the primary and secondary phase would have a different language category.</p>	<p>In a 'category 2A' school, all pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh, however there is the opportunity for some subjects to be taught in English to some pupils. Many schools which are traditionally considered 'Welsh-medium secondary schools' are in fact 'category 2A' schools.</p>
23.4.3	<p>The consultation was based on the proposal to change the language category to Welsh-medium. At no point was Bilingual Category 2A discussed or mentioned. Neither was it ever communicated that the primary and secondary phase would have a different language category. I do not understand how PCC can publish a statutory notice to change the language category of a school to a category that was not proposed or consulted on. This would imply that the whole consultation process was pointless and not relevant or compatible with the statutory notice. Surely, as a result, this proposal cannot go ahead.</p>	<p>As above. The consultation was on a proposal to change the language category from 'dual stream' to 'Welsh-medium', however no reference was made to the proposed category of the new school as outlined in the Welsh Government's guidance document on 'Defining schools according to Welsh-medium provision.'</p> <p>The School Organisation Code (2018) requires local authorities to refer to the Welsh language categories in any Statutory Notices published, therefore this information was included in the Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal.</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that the Council proposes the following:-</p> <p>'To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.'</p>

		<p>The Notice goes on to describe the proposed new language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen following full implementation of the proposal, as defined by the Welsh Government information document on 'Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision'. Here, the Council specifies that the provision would be as follows:</p> <p>'Primary Phase – Welsh-medium (Category 1) Secondary Phase – Bilingual (Category 2A)'</p> <p>Whilst the provision in the school's secondary phase would be category 2A provision, which does allow for some subjects to be taught in English to some pupils, the school would still be a single stream Welsh-medium school, with all pupils studying through the medium of Welsh.</p>
23.4.4	I am very confused the Consultation said it will be an all Welsh medium school.	As above.
23.4.5	Now you have announced that you will change from a 'Dual medium school' to a 'Bilingual school taught through the medium of Welsh'.	<p>The Council has not announced that the school will become a 'Bilingual school taught through the medium of Welsh.'</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that the Council proposes the following:-</p> <p>'To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.'</p>

		<p>The Notice goes on to describe the proposed new language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen following full implementation of the proposal, as defined by the Welsh Government information document on ‘Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision’. Here, the Council specifies that the provision would be as follows:</p> <p>‘Primary Phase – Welsh-medium (Category 1) Secondary Phase – Bilingual (Category 2A)’</p> <p>Whilst the provision in the school’s secondary phase would be category 2A provision, which does allow for some subjects to be taught in English to some pupils, the school would still be a single stream Welsh-medium school, with all pupils studying through the medium of Welsh.</p>
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## 24. COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL

24.1	I support the proposals to strengthen the Welsh language and to raise its status for the benefit of all pupils in a future Wales.	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.2	I am in full support of Machynlleth school become a Welsh only school and look forward to sending my little one there when he is old enough.	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.3	I support the establishment of a Welsh-medium school in Bro Ddyfi. Why should children lose the opportunity of having Welsh-medium education? Other areas in Wales are establishing secondary schools to meet the demand for	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.

	Welsh-medium education, such as in Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Newport and Cardiff. I hope that the school will be able to change its language status soon, as our children are our future. Our children are our future in order to protect and sustain the Welsh language. As the old saying goes “A country without language, is not a nation”.	
24.4	I am a parent and resident of Machynlleth, and it is expected that my daughter will attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in coming years. I am supportive of the change to Welsh-only, as I want to ensure that my daughter grows up in a vibrant and cohesive Welsh-language community. This has become particularly urgent since the consultation with the ongoing crisis over housing which threatens mid- and north Wales communities, particularly Welsh-speaking communities	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.5	I have previously contributed to the initial consultation regarding the conversion of Bro Hyddgen to a Welsh-stream school and am in full support of this measure!	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.6	I understand that there is also a great deal of support in Machynlleth to back the proposal and I am well aware how many think that total immersion in the Welsh language is good for a child's brain and indeed in my own children's case there have been no problems.	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.7	I would also like to comment on the level of objection that has been locally in Machynlleth, in many cases undertaken by people with no direct interest in the school and no children, and in many other cases there are very public objections to the proposals that are based on misinformation. I therefore urge you to consider very carefully whether the objections you	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.

	<p>receive are based on fact or misinformation and to reject those not based in fact. I know of many parents with children currently in the school who are objecting based on the impact it will have on their children already in the school - when in reality, the proposals will only affect pupils who start in the system as of 2023 (i.e. any children currently in the school system in 2021 will be unaffected by the proposals for the remainder of their time in the school).</p>	
24.8	<p>As a parent who will send her daughter to Bro Hyddgen in a few years time, I am angry at seeing the concerted efforts of people who try to stop the conversion of Bro Hyddgen from dual-stream to Welsh-stream. I am an immigrant in this country and made the effort to learn Welsh in order to reap the benefit of fitting in with all aspects that life in Wales has to offer, this includes participating in Welsh-language events such as the National Eisteddfod, local music gigs, talks or the Mari Lwyd. My life would be poorer if I wasn't able to enjoy these events for lack of understanding what is going on. An entire window of culture and community life would be shut to me.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.9	<p>My wife and I are also immigrants, and I have been particularly annoyed by the argument of the petition against the change of language status that English-speaking children will be disadvantaged by having to learn in a language other than their home language. They do not, however, advance the same argument for children, such as children of immigrants, whose home language is not English. My daughter's mother tongue is German, while I have friends in the Machynlleth area who speak Irish Gaelic with their children, and I know that other families speak a range of other European and non-European languages at home. If English-language tuition is</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>

	<p>offered by this argument, will tuition also be offered in these other languages for the same reason? I would presume not, because, as immigrants, we are often told that we need to learn the language of the country to which we have moved. Why does that argument not also apply here?</p>	
24.10	<p>Having responded to the official consultation with my support for the status change, I have been frustrated and dismayed to see a petition, apparently seeking to overturn this consultation. I am therefore writing to reiterate my support for the change. I also fear that many in support of the change, having already responded to the consultation via official channels and seen the positive outcome of that consultation, will not consider it necessary to continue to repeat their support, not because they are less passionate about the matter, but because they consider the matter already settled by the consultation.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.11	<p>I am concerned that a small minority of people who are not happy with the consultation result and statutory notice are getting a significant amount of media attention.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.12	<p>Myself and the majority who supported the change are not seeking media support as we are confident that Powys will stand by the democratic result of the consultation and continue with their plans to change the school to Welsh medium from 2022.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.13	<p>In a recent consultation, Powys County Council (PCC) assessed community and stakeholder opinion on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen (YBH) to Welsh medium. This proposed change was to be introduced gradually year by year starting with the youngest children in</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>

	<p>September 2022. The main result of the consultation was 61% in support of the change. This petition calls on PCC to respect the findings of the official consultation, and to support the language category transition. The official consultation was conducted in a fair and unbiased way, and was open to all people of all opinions. Its results must be the sole consideration in making decisions - not the results of targeted petitions.</p>	
24.14	<p>I will not reiterate my response to the initial consultation, which chiefly focused on the contribution which would be made to strengthening and normalising the Welsh language and ensuring that my daughter grows up as a part of that community, able to participate fully in local and national Welsh culture. I simply wish to register my objection to the objecting petition and the way it has been carried on, contrary to the result of the fair and open consultation in which I, and many others, participated.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.15	<p>I write in support of the proposals to move Ysgol Bro Hyddgen along the language continuum but only on the basis that this will not directly impact the viability of primary schools within Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's catchment area. If there is any suggestion that the change of status for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will make it 'easier' for the local authority to choose to close any primary school within the catchment area then I will withdraw my support.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal. The Council is not currently reviewing any other schools in the Bro Hyddgen catchment.</p>