

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	The Executive
Date:	26 March 2018
Subject:	Modernising Schools on Anglesey - report on the statutory consultation process on the proposal to expand Ysgol Y Graig to make room for pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor R. Meirion Jones
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Local Members:	Councillor Dylan Rees Councillor Nicola Roberts Councillor Robert G Parry

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>At its meeting on December 19, 2016, the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Executive authorised officers to continue with the statutory consultation process, and consult on Options A and B as outlined below in an attempt to modernise the provision of primary education in the Llangefni area.</p> <p>Option A This would be based on: Option 3, which is to build a new school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd. Option 6a, which is to build a new primary school in Gaerwen on an alternative site, to accommodate 150 pupils. A replacement to the current Ysgol Esceifiog Option 7, extend Ysgol y Graig to accommodate the pupils of Ysgol Talwrn. Close Ysgol Talwrn. Further consultation will be required on the option of extending Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, and close Ysgol Talwrn Option 9, adaptations to Ysgol Henblas</p> <p>Option B This would be based on: Option 3, Build a new school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir ac Ysgol Bodffordd. Option 8, adaptations to Ysgol Esceifiog Option 7 – extend Ysgol y Graig to accommodate the pupils of Ysgol Talwrn. Close Ysgol Talwrn Further consultation will be required on the option of extending Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, and close Ysgol Talwrn Option 9, adaptations to Ysgol Henblas</p> <p>Both of the above options could also include federating Ysgol Henblas with another school. The difference between Option A and B applies to Ysgol Esceifiog. The Council consulted with parents, governors and staff of the six schools in the area, with local elected members, the Welsh Government and other stakeholders. The consultation period ran from 31st January – 13th March 2017. At its meeting on 17 July 2017, Anglesey County Council's Executive decided to approve Option B</p>

Option B consists of the following sub options:

Option 3, which is to build a school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd.

Option 7, extending Ysgol Y Graig to take pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and closing Ysgol Talwrn. The report confirms that the current Ysgol y Graig school site does not have sufficient space to extend Ysgol y Graig and ensure sufficient play area for the pupils. **It is proposed that officers should consult further with the relevant stakeholders on all available options to extend Ysgol y Graig in harmony with the contents of the report on the consultation.**

Option 8, adaptations to Ysgol Esceifiog

Option 9, refurbishment of Ysgol Henblas.

A report on this further statutory consultation mentioned above which is a consultation on the proposal to adapt Ysgol Y Graig to make room for pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn was prepared. The consultation period ran from 26 September 2017 to 13 November 2017 and the findings from the consultation are outlined in the attached report. However, a pause and review period followed from 18 December 2017 to 9 February 2018 and the report on the statutory consultation was late being presented/

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Executive resolves:

1. To use the current Ysgol y Graig building for Key Stage 2 i.e. years 3 to 6 and adapt it
2. To build a new block or building for the Foundation Phase i.e. Reception Year and years 1 and 2.
3. To close Ysgol Talwrn and relocate the pupils to Ysgol Y Graig after the new building for the Foundation Phase opens and after the current building is modified
4. To consider relocating the Flying Start provision within the new provision.
5. To ensure that the wind turbine on the site is working by the opening date of the new building

This new building would be part of Ysgol Y Graig and not a separate entity.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

A total of 9 options were explored in the report on the non statutory consultation in the Llangefni area. The evaluation of the options was used as basis for approving Option B.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

The Executive Committee is responsible for school organisation matters.

D – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Yes

DD – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Yes – It is one of the plans in the Strategic Outline Programme that was approved by the Executive Committee on January 13, 2014.

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Their comments are included in the report
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Their comments are included in the report
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	As the report on the consultation report was not published within the statutory consultation period (up to 13 weeks from the end of the consultation period), the legal advice is to restart the statutory consultation period for this proposal. This period must be at least 42 days long.
5	Human Resources (HR)	Any Human Resources issues that may arise from the recommendations should be dealt with in accordance with the recognised consultation and other HR processes.
6	Property (Planning)	Property officers have provided some of the figures for the report
7	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	No comments received
8	Scrutiny	The matter was considered in detail by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 12 March 2018 and officers have supplemented additional information in response to the issues raised. See Appendices 10 and 11
9	Local Members	Their comments are included in the report
10	Any external bodies / other/s	Their comments are included in the report

F – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)		
1	Economic	Not relevant
2	Anti-poverty	Not relevant
3	Crime and Disorder	Not relevant
4	Environmental	Not relevant
5	Equalities	An Equality Impact Assessment was included in the documentation for the statutory consultation
6	Outcome Agreements	Not relevant
7	Other	Not relevant

FF - Appendices:
Appendices 1-11

G - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Committee meeting minutes for July 17, 2017: 2. Executive Committee meeting minutes for December 19, 2016. 3. Statutory Consultation document 4. Executive Committee meeting minutes for June 20, 2016. 5. Non-statutory Consultation Document and the subsequent report 6. Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) presented to the Welsh Government in December 2013.

7. Letter from the Welsh Government dated January 31 2014.
8. Minutes of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting minutes of 12 March 2018



SWYDDOGOL – OFFICIAL

**ADRODDIAD AR YR YMGYNGHORIAD STATUDOL - ARDAL
LLANGEFNI (Ysgol Y Graig ac Ysgol Talwrn)
REPORT ON THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION – LLANGEFNI
AREA (Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn)**

26 Medi – 13 Tachwedd 2017 / 26 September – 13 November 2017



**CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN / ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
ADRAN DYSGU GYDOL OES / LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT**

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Isle of Anglesey County Council is committed to providing the very best educational provision for all the island's children and young people.

As part of this commitment, the Council recognizes that modernising education and ensuring that our school buildings create an attractive learning environment that motivates children and young people to become effective learners and life skills are a main priority

In this context, the council wants to modernise schools in order to:

- improve educational outcomes for children and young people and cut the link between deprivation and low educational attainment,
- further improve the standards of leadership and the quality of teaching and learning,
- introduce sector-leading schools and sector-leading standards for every community.

Presenting this ambitious modernisation programme requires uniting existing schools through a combination of school federations, reorganizing catchments extensively based on re-modelling existing school buildings or building new area schools and closing schools that are not suitable for purpose.

2. MODERNISATION CHANGE DRIVERS THAT INFLUENZE DECISION REGARDING THE BEST PROVISION FOR THE AREA

Some of the modernization drivers that will influence decision regarding the best provision for the area are noted below:

Raising school standards

The Council is committed to raising standards considerably if it is to attain its objective of being one of best 5 Local Authorities in Wales. According to present Research work, it is suggested that it is difficult to link standards with school size. However, recent reports suggest that larger primary schools [over 100 (or 105) pupils or more] have leadership teams with more capacity to ensure improvements; teachers with more specialism in specific areas that in turn influence other teachers' practices and in so doing have a positive influence on children. In smaller schools [around 50 or less] with mixed age classes have up to four age groups, and sometimes span key stages. This poses a considerable challenge for teachers if they are to ensure that every pupil is extended to the extent of his/her ability. The school modernisation strategy aims to abolish examples of classes with more than 2 age groups.

Reduce the variation in pupil cost

The pupil by pupil cost varies considerably, from £2,795 to £10,828 across the county's primary schools. The county's expenditure on primary schools in 2017-18 [£3,962 per pupil on average] is the highest but one in Wales. The modernization programme will need to give attention to normalizing the cost per pupil across the authority and reconcile it with the whole of Wales average.

Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment

Improving the quality of the school buildings and ensuring the best possible learning environment [that reflects somewhat in our latest school building - Ysgol y Graig - that is used as a benchmark] for our children is essentially important for meeting teaching and learning needs in the twenty first

century. This kind of environment includes teaching and learning facilities of the best quality, ICT facilities of the best degree, suitable play areas, appropriate staffing and administration areas, along with safety for the school buildings and the school site. Estyn notes that “improving the quality of the buildings has a very beneficial effect on the quality of the teaching and the morale of the staff that, in turn, has a positive effect on pupils’ performance.” Every pupil will have access to suitable facilities so that a full range of educational experiences can be provided.

It is not possible for the Council to maintain a large number of school buildings that are aging and costly to maintain. A new pattern of schools have to be set up that abolish the shortcomings in the current buildings, including considerable health and safety matters that are connected with the building or the site. There is a need to develop a system of schools where there are maintenance arrangements for them that are sustainable.

Create the conditions so that Headteachers succeed – increase leadership capacity

Effective schools are well led. Successful schools have strong leadership on every level, including the Governors. The challenges that are attached to leading and managing a school have increased considerably in recent years and the expectations continue to increase. A Headteacher needs adequate non-contact time, with the support of a deputy head or senior management team, to ensure that the teaching and learning are of the best degree, to appraise and raise standards, to develop thorough self-appraisal procedures and to ensure the staff’s continuous professional development. These are considerable expectations. There is a need to ensure that Headteachers have at least 50% non-contact time. This means that a school [or federation of schools] needs to have at least 100 pupils if it is to provide necessary time for the Headteacher to fulfil the leadership role successfully.

Ensure an adequate supply of Headteachers for the future

Over the next five years it is likely that over a third or 36% of the primary headteachers will retire. Because many of them lead small schools, the Council will need to consider the most effective and sustainable leadership models for the future. The number of applicants for headteacher posts have reduced and this is a subject for concern. The school modernisation programme needs to try and answer the problem by ensuring suitable opportunities for developing leadership in individual schools. Our schools need excellent leaders. The modernisation programme gives attention to succession planning matters and safeguards and develops leadership talents that we have in our schools.

Community use of the school building

Research suggests that schools with additional services such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, child protection, summer and weekend activities achieve higher standards and better links with parents and the community. Schools are also expected to be a resource for the local community in order to promote community activities that include parents, members of the community and local groups. This kind of activity is important to develop the link between schools and the local community. Schools that are developed as part of the modernisation programme act as area schools i.e. provide a range of services and activities that often take place outside the school day, to assist in meeting the needs of the children, their families and the wider community.

Reduce the number of empty places

In January 2017, the number of empty places in primary schools in Anglesey are 13.0%. and there are 1.9% of empty places in the 2 schools in question, this is a little less than the Welsh Government’s target [15% on Authority level and 10% in individual schools]. Even so, the

Council needs to continue to reduce the number of empty places in order to meet the Welsh Government's expectations and respond to one of Estyn's criticisms in the 2012 report. This means that there is a need to aim for a situation where schools are more than 85% full aiming that 90% of the places have been filled across the primary sector.

Welsh-medium and bilingual provision

Any arrangement developed as part of the modernisation programme give priority to strengthening and safeguarding Welsh/ bilingualism.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Meetings were arranged with stakeholders over this period:

The Council consulted with parents, governors and staff in the two schools in the area, local councillors and with the Welsh Government and other stakeholders. The consultation period ran from 26 September 2017 until 13 November 2017.

Consultation meetings were arranged with school stakeholders over this period:

School	Date (in 2017)	Meeting with		
		Staff	Governors	Parents
Talwrn	Monday 2 October	3.30	5.00	6.30
Graig	Wednesday 4 October	3.45	5.15	6.15

When the Welsh Government contributes to financing a new school, its investment needs to meet investment aims namely:

1. reduce empty places
2. increase non-contact time for teachers
3. for the school to be of twenty first century school standard
4. improve educational outcomes
5. reduce maintenance backlog
6. improve energy effectiveness

The idea was proposed by parents that a new primary school should be built in Llangefni. If this means building an additional new primary school, the Isle of Anglesey County Council would not support this because although the new primary school would be a twenty first century school, in accordance with the above criteria, it would not be:

- reducing empty places. Indeed it can lead to an increase in empty places
- change the situation as regards non-contact time for teachers of itself.
- improve educational outcomes of itself
- reduce maintenance backlog nor
- improve energy effectiveness. Indeed, an additional school and Building would lead to using more fuel.

In addition, it is very unlikely that the Welsh Government would contribute to a new primary school unless combining schools would be part of the process

The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 allows parents to choose which school their child will attend. If a new primary school is built in Llangefni, there would be a need to review current catchments and form a catchment for the new primary school. In accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Authority would not be able to force parents to move their children to the new primary school. This would increase the risk of a high level of empty places in the new primary school.

This report was considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 12 March 2018. Having considered all the information presented and the representations made, the Committee resolved to recommend to the Executive –

- That the current Ysgol y Graig building be used and adapted for Key Stage 2 i.e. years 3 to 6.
- That a new block or building be built for the Foundation Phase i.e. Reception Year and Years 1 and 2.
- That Ysgol Talwrn should not be closed.
- That consideration be given to relocating the Flying Start provision within the new provision.
- That it be ensured the wind turbine on the site is working by the opening date of the new building.

4. OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Some of the comments and concerns from the meetings conducted are listed below (these are not minutes of the meetings). Further comments can be seen in part 5 of this report.

Ysgol Y Graig

Concern about the size of the new building and facilities there

Some asked about the possible timetable of the work

Concerns about the safety of children during construction

Concern about traffic and parking near the school

Concern about the potential impact of staffing, jobs and the location of the new building

Some asked about the possible impact of the work on Flying Start

Ysgol Talwrn

Concerns about staff posts

Concerns about how much of a 'voice' governors of Ysgol Talwrn would have at the expanded Ysgol Y Graig.

Some mentioned the Cabinet Secretary for Education's statement about rural schools

Concerns about transport to any other primary school should Ysgol Talwrn close.

Concerns about the potential impact of the closure of Ysgol Talwrn on the village hall and the local eisteddfod

Some parents wish to have Ysgol Talwrn merged with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch or Ysgol Pentraeth as they are "rural schools"

See [Appendix 1](#) for the Isle of Anglesey County Council's definition of Twenty First Century school.

5. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL TALWRN

- 5.1 108 responses were received from the school stakeholders. Each one of them disagreed with the proposal to close Ysgol Talwrn.
- 5.2 Talwrn's Cylch Meithrin/Nursery Setting said that they did not support the option [to close Ysgol Talwrn] and the Cylch hoped that the Authority would " invest in a new school in Talwrn." See the Cylch's observations in [Appendix 2](#).
- 5.3 The opinion of the officers and members of Capel Nyth Clyd, Y Talwrn was that they were "unanimous that the school should not be closed". They felt that the school is a foundation for the local community and that it also contributes widely to the village's social and religious life". Officers and members' comments are in [Appendix 3](#).
- 5.4 In his letter, the Secretary of Capel Siloam, Talwrn (Independent's Chapel) "expressed the opposition of the Chapel members to close Ysgol Gynradd y Talwrn". His wish was for the "school to stay open to serve the community". Please see the Secretary of Siloam Independents' Chapel's comments in [Appendix 4](#).
- 5.5 In their letter, the Supervisor of Siloam Sunday School, Talwrn (Independent's Chapel) "expressed the opposition of teachers, members and parents of the Sunday school members to closing Ysgol Gynradd y Talwrn". Their wish was for the "school to stay open to serve the community". Please see their comments in [Appendix 5](#).
- 5.6 The Talwrn Eisteddfod Committee "opposed the closing of Ysgol y Talwrn" and the Committee felt that "the school was a cornerstone for the village community and the area". They felt that the Eisteddfod "gave opportunities to nurture confidence by performing on stage,that is a skill that will be of assistance to individuals in future in their everyday lives". The Committee's opinion was that "the policy of closing rural schools was equivalent to a policy of cultural and social extinction". If Ysgol Gynradd y Talwrn closed, the Committee's opinion was that there would not be "any future for the Talwrn Chair Eisteddfod as indeed happened in the village of Llanddeusant". See the Committee's comments in [Appendix 6](#).
- 5.7 In a short letter from Talwrn's Branch of Merched y Wawr, the Secretary stated the Branch's opposition to the "intention to close Ysgol y Talwrn". The Branch said that "the community and the parents' wish was to see the school continuing as a central part of the village and the area". See the Branch Secretary's comments in [Appendix 7](#).
- 5.8 The staff were of the opinion that Ysgol Talwrn is a "key centre for the local area's children's services as well as the wider community". They were of the opinion that the "key advantage of a small school is the family element that underlines the importance of each individual in the school". The staff's feeling was that the school site "is ideal for" local "studies" and that it is in "a safe and ideal place". According to the staff, the "school's contribution over the years has been all important for keeping the Eisteddfod [the village] alive". In their opinion, "closing the school offended the future of the language in the local community and beyond". Please see the staff's observations in [Appendix 8](#).

- 5.9 Llanddyfnan Community Council’s response was that they were “in favour of keeping Ysgol Gynradd Talwrn open and supported the Welsh Assembly Minister’s recent announcement on keeping small schools open. As the school is 98% full, and primary schools in Llangefni are full, we see no reason to close the school”. Please see the Community Council’s observations in [Appendix 9](#).
- 5.10 In personal letters, members of Ysgol Talwrn’s governing body said that they felt that “the officers’ decision is to close the school” and that “there is no turning the decision”. The importance of the local Eisteddfod for the village and the community was mentioned by the Governors and they challenged the backlog maintenance figures and the cost of having a new cabin for the school.
- 5.11 A response was received by email from Talwrn’s Village Hall Committee that stated: “On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, we wish to state our disappointment that the school is being included in the consultation in the first place. The hall has been co-operating with Ysgol Y Talwrn for years, and the Hall is dependent upon support from the school pupils and parents to support fund raising activities that are regularly held towards essential maintenance costs. Additionally, a large number of societies such as the Cylch Meithrin (Nursery Setting), Grŵp Rhiant a Phlentyn (Parent and Child Group), Guides who meet in the Hall will suffer because of this.”
- 5.12 Before a meeting of the Full Council in December 2017, a petition was presented to the Council Leader. Those who had signed the petition:
- Felt that “any threat to close Ysgol Talwrn is going to have serious results” for the village and the community.
 - Asked that “the signatories’ concerns are tabled in the Executive Committee in accordance with Future Generations’ Welfare Act (Wales) 2015
 - Encourage the Council not to close Ysgol Talwrn but to invest in it.
- The petition was signed by 801 signatories.
- 5.13 89 respondents (82%) felt that Ysgol Talwrn is "small rural school" and therefore "essential for the community and to the Welsh way and the Welsh language" and that closing Ysgol Talwrn would “kill the community” and that the school maintains the traditional Welsh way of living and is the "heart" and "backbone" of the community.
- 5.14 The standard of education at Ysgol Talwrn was praised by 80 (74%) of the stakeholders and 53 of them (49%) cited the figures in the consultation document that were "better for Ysgol Talwrn than Ysgol y Graig" for Key Stage 2. They also felt that the education that is provided by the school "develops the children well".
- 5.15 The opinion of 56 (52%) of respondents was that the costs in the documents were doubtful and that the figure of £250,000 for a new cabin was unrealistic. They questioned whether a loan over 50 years to finance a new building for the Foundation Period would be "good value for money". Others said that as Ysgol Talwrn is full," there is no need to close it".
- 5.16 Possible travel to Ysgol Y Graig is a concern and it was noted by 42 (39%) of stakeholders and they said that the journey to walk to Ysgol Y Graig is dangerous.

- 5.17 35 respondents (32%) wanted the Authority to build a new school instead of Ysgol Talwrn whilst 12 respondents (11%) thought that the Authority should consider federalizing Ysgol Talwrn with another primary school.
- 5.18 The traffic situation in Ysgol y Graig worried 24 (22%) respondents.
- 5.19 20 respondents (19%) felt that the consultation process would be unfair.
- 5.20 The local Eisteddfod would suffer if Ysgol Talwrn closed according to 19 respondents (18%).
- 5.21 The effect of the consultation process on the school staff was important to 17 (16%) of respondents.
- 5.22 9 respondents (8%) (10 November 2017) mentioned the Cabinet Education Secretary's recent statement on rural schools. Even so, according to the Welsh Government's definition, Ysgol Talwrn is not on its list of rural schools.
- 5.23 Other ideas and other points were proposed by various stakeholders namely:
- Use Ysgol Talwrn to train headteachers
 - Build a new primary school in Talwrn or modernize it
 - There is no mention in the consultation document of the possible effect of the plan on carbon emissions nor on the possible effect of realizing the proposal in question on parents' work patterns.
 - Merge Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch or Ysgol Pentraeth.
- 5.24 Additional comments and responses can be seen in [Appendix 10](#).

6. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL Y GRAIG

- 6.1 Response was received from 4 stakeholders namely a parent and 3 Governors.
- 6.2 What worried the parent were the current parking arrangements until they were a "concern" for them as a family. The parent's experience was that "cars were parking on double yellow lines at the end of the day, and since the new road opened parking places were more scarce again, and the traffic in the area had increased further. It stands to reason that the situation will become worse again when houses are built in the area and as school numbers rise". In addition the parent:
- It is hoped that consideration will be given to recruiting and employing escorts/lollipop men in considering the number of children and cars there are at the beginning and end of the school day.
 - Suggest that officers "visit the school during a variety of busy times in order to understand the seriousness of the situation before considering further building on the school site".
- If the plan goes forward, the parent thought that consideration should be given to the following:
- "Disregard the expectation that people who live within walking distance of the school walk" as "this is not true when the weather is poor".

- “The number of cars in the area on busy evenings e.g. Christmas shows or sports when two parents come from their work to see their children, and the need for adequate parking places for similar occasions”.
- According to the parent, the numbers who have access to the car park “are governed by the caretaker” but he “receives complaints from parents/taxi drivers because of this”. He hoped “that consideration will be given to staffing if human resources are needed to manage the traffic as recruiting assistants, caretakers and cleaners is challenging enough for schools without setting further requirements on them. It would be unfair to expect the school to take responsibility for staffing these situations”.

6.3 The Governors agreed with the reasons for change and supported the proposal in question. They drew attention to the following points:

1. “That there is a need for more than two classes for every age as the current classes are full”.
2. “There’s a need for a hall in the new block for lunch and physical education”.
3. “A need for Foundation Period staff to have an input and governors to have an input into the design”
4. “As the school is in a deprived area”, the governor’s feeling was that there should be additional rooms for pupils who find it difficult to cope in a mainstream class”.
5. The need to “solve problems that already exist e.g.’drainage’ and the wind turbine that does not work”
6. A need for “plenty of space in the classrooms in accordance with the standards of Twenty First Century Schools”.
7. “Parking and the need to resolve the parking situation by Ysgol Y Graig.”

7. OTHER RESPONSES

7.1 A response was received from Llanddyfnan Community Council i.e the community council for Talwrn and the surrounding area. Llanddyfnan Community Council’s response was it was “in favour of keeping Ysgol Gynradd Talwrn open and supported the Welsh Assembly Minister’s recent announcement on keeping small schools open. As the school is 98% full, and primary schools in Llangefni are full, we see no reason to close the school”. Please see the Community Council’s observations in [Appendix 9](#).

NOTE - Ysgol Talwrn is not on the list of rural schools published by the Welsh Government as part of the consultation on the School Organisation Code.

7.2 In addition to meeting staff, governors and parents, the consultation document was sent to the following stakeholders:

- Gwynedd Council;
- Welsh Government Officers;
- Members of the regional and local Assembly
- Estyn;
- teachers’ unions and ancillary staff unions;
- the Regional Education Consortium namely GwE;

- The Regional Traffic Consortium namely Taith/Journey;
- Police Commissioner and North Wales Crime;
- Communities First Partnership;
- Mudiad Meithrin;
- The Authority’s Youth Service;
- Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni.

7.3 There was response from the N.U.T.’s union officers. Their officer “appreciated the Authority’s need to modernise the school estate” but “deplored the need for compulsory redundancies as took place in Ysgol Santes Dwynwen’s reorganisation”.

7.4 See [Appendix 11](#) for Estyn’s response.

8. FEEDBACK FROM PUPILS

Council officers visited Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig in order to hold short meetings with representation of pupils from both schools, to ascertain their views on the proposal to change their current school.

It was explained to the pupils that consultation had been conducted with the adults in the community, and this was an opportunity for the children of the schools to express their opinions about the Council’s plans for modernising schools. It was stressed that their views are important because they attend the schools. They were told the information presented by them would be transferred to the form of a report and submitted to the Council’s Executive as part of the statutory consultation.

It was explained that the reasons for school modernisation were:

- Anglesey schools have too many surplus places or not enough places in some of their schools
- need to make sure that all pupils have a good education
- need to make sure that the school is modern and offers good equipment
- that the Council spend their money on schools in a fair way

The following questions were asked to the children:

What do the pupils like about their current school?

What do you think about the option of modifying Ysgol y Graig, closing Ysgol Talwrn and transferring the children of Ysgol Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig

Whether they agree with the reasons for change

Any other comments

The responses are presented below.

Ysgol Talwrn

The School Council participated in the first instance, then a group of children from different age groups were invited to participate. The parents of those children had expressed an interest in involving their children in the consultation process.

Question: What do the pupils like about their current school?
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- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We receive a lot of attention |
|---|

- the school is surrounded by nature and we learn about nature.
- We have the opportunity to participate in the Eisteddfod because the school is small.
- I'm worried about losing my friends, everyone knows each other in this school and each other's names.
- There is a lot of support in the school.
- I have been to Ysgol y Graig but I have good friends now in Ysgol Talwrn.
- There is an old train in the yard, we are not used to having modern things. The things that we have at present has helped us to learn.
- There is a football team at a school, and in a larger school only the best will be selected.
- We enjoy taking part.
- I live in the village and can walk to school.
- we have a tradition of hanging out in the village square on our way home from school.
- the Welsh Language is good here and we have opportunities to learn Welsh.
- All of our work are displayed on the walls. In larger schools only the best children's work will be displayed on the walls.
- We are able to see all of our friends in the playground in Talwrn during playtime.
- We have good toys here, Chromebooks and a train on the yard. We do not want to see these going to waste.
- I like coming to school here-I am happy here. I feel very sad that the school is closing.
- my family has been coming to this school for years and I live in Talwrn.
- There is a lot of choice in terms of activities here.
- We sing in the choir. We have a good relationship with the community here
- We have good teachers here, they are nice and looks after us.
- this school feel like a 'family '.
- members of the community come here to hold activities with us. We do not want to miss opportunities like this. One member of the community composes songs for us.
- I have been in a school similar to Ysgol y Graig, I do not like a lot of children in a school, it makes it difficult to make friends.
- the school is old but we are learning new things.
- There is an opportunity to learn about nature here, there will be no such opportunities in Ysgol y Graig.
- I like going to the woodland for a story.
- We are allowed to use bicycles on the yard

What do you think about the option of modifying Ysgol y Graig, closing Ysgol Talwrn and transferring the children of Ysgol Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig

- I'm worried I'm too shy to make friends
- I will need to learn where things are kept and where classes are located. Its so easy to get to classes at present
- Children from the juniors are friends with children from the infants at present. We want this arrangement to continue (the contact between the infant and junior department).
- We have a friend in the school that requires additional attention. We know her and look after her. We are worried that children from Ysgol y Graig will laugh at her.

- In the Eisteddfod and Thanksgiving concert, everyone gets involved. We wouldn't have such opportunities then.
- I'm worried that the work will be hard then, and especially for some who experience difficulties already
- I want to keep this school open and this school is better.
- The playground Ysgol y Graig is very big and the corridors are long
- in a big school with lots of children, there will be a lot of arguing going on
- I don't want to lose good teachers

Do you agree with the reasons for change?

- Yes we agree, but we are more important and our personal viewpoints

Further comments

- All of this makes also makes me worry about transferring to the secondary school
- I want to keep Talwrn open
- A trial day in Ysgol y Graig would be useful
- What about transport- how will we travel to the school?

Ysgol Y Graig

A representation was chosen from years 5 and 6 of the School Council, a total of 6 children.

Question: What do the pupils like about their current school?




- a lot of friends, and we feel like a family
- There is plenty of space in the school
- Good and fair teachers
- The school bright and large
- It look brand new and clean
- It's fun
- There are plenty of after school activities held
- There are a lot of people here to help the teachers

Question: What do you think about the option of modifying Ysgol y Graig, closing Ysgol Talwrn and transferring the children of Ysgol Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig

- I look forward to making new friends
- Do the children of Ysgol Talwrn have to choose Ysgol y Graig? We will help them if they feel sad here
- there will be more children to play football with us
- it's a good idea
- We don't want the new school to be located too far from the current school and its important to keep the connection between both buildings
- The children of Ysgol Talwrn require opportunities to become familiar with our school

Ysgol y Graig

Sut wyt ti'n teimlo am y newidiadau?

		
✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓	

9. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

All of the nine original options in the report on the non-statutory consultation document were evaluated financially. The following were considered for each option - capital costs, revenue savings, transport costs, capital receipts and borrowing costs have been considered for each option.

The assumptions for these calculations should be noted. Borrowing:

- will be at a fixed rate.
- will take place over a period of 50 years using the latest interest rates.
- is taken in its entirety i.e. at one time because the expenditure/date of profiling available. In simple terms, this calculation is the cost of funding that amount for 50 years.

These calculations only take into account the unsupported borrowing of the 21st century schools programme.

It should be noted that these costs and savings are *best estimates* currently available. The proposal if realised, may create short-term costs such as, appointing a head teacher before the school opens, severance costs, pay protection costs, and maintenance costs of buildings until they are sold. These costs will be part of a business case, if the proposal is realised, when the number of options have been reduced.

As the Executive approved statutory consultation upon the proposal, only this proposal will be considered:

Proposal : Expand Ysgol Y Graig

The costs of the proposal as outlined in the document are:

Capital cost	Net revenue savings	Transport costs	Capital receipts
£4,840,660	£53,216	£28,000	£140,000

Additional costs	£28,000	Net project costs	£4,700,660
		Cost to be financed	£2,280,330

The additional estimated net costs from this proposal are £53,216 and the estimated net project cost is £2,280,330. The cost would be £103,073 per annum.

10. RECOMMENDATION

On considering the above the factors, the Executive agreed at its meeting on 17 July 2017 with officers' recommendation that:

- **further consultation will be required on adapting Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, and close Ysgol Talwrn.**

Therefore, after further consultation, rather than extending Ysgol y Graig, it is proposed:

1. To use the current Ysgol y Graig building for Key Stage 2 i.e. years 3 to 6 and adapt it
2. To build a new block or building for the Foundation Phase i.e. Reception Year and years 1 and 2.
3. To close Ysgol Talwrn and relocate the pupils to Ysgol Y Graig after the new building for the Foundation Phase opens and after the current building is modified
4. To consider relocating the Flying Start provision within the new provision.
5. To ensure that the wind turbine on the site is working by the opening date of the new building

This new building would be part of Ysgol Y Graig and not a separate entity.

Twenty First Century Schools

It is likely that any new school will be a Twenty First Century School. The Council considers a Twenty First Century primary school as one which can provide the following:

Teaching and learning facilities

Suitable teaching areas containing sufficient:

- Classrooms that are of suitable size with a feeling of space and light (in line with the current guidance from the Welsh Government and Building Bulletins)
- Suitable facilities for the Foundation Phase including areas outside (in accordance with the current guidance from the Welsh Government and Building Bulletins)
- Practical specialist areas, including an area technology for artistic activities
- Modern ICT equipment
- Adequate storage facilities (in accordance with the current guidance from the Welsh Government and Building Bulletins)
- Access to a learning resource room (in line with the current guidance from the Welsh Government and Building Bulletins)
- Smaller Rooms for smaller groups e.g. targeting and S.E.N
- Place outdoor learning in the school grounds
- A school hall and dining facilities of an appropriate size. (in accordance with the current guidance from the Welsh Government and Building Bulletins). Depending on the size of the school, it can be a dual use school hall. Spring floors may be needed for dual use school halls. There would be a need for dedicated storage for dining tables.

Community Facilities

Be able to provide a range of services in the community during school hours, either through shared areas or areas. Consideration should be given to the possibility of wide community use whilst keeping child protection as a priority.

Play Facilities

- Private and secure grassy area of sufficient size in the school grounds (in line with the current guidance from the Welsh Government and Building Bulletins)
- Hard play area (school yard) of sufficient size for the capacity of the school (in line with the current guidance from the Welsh Government and Building Bulletins)

Staff and administration areas

- staff room(s)
- separate toilets for staff
- work area for staff (PPA)
- an office for the headteacher
- an office for a secretary/administrative office
- a medical examination or room for patients
- resource room/photocopying
- interview room

General

- School buildings in excellent condition and are maintained at this level.
- Ensure that access for disabled people to the full range of facilities
- Safe building(s):
 - which has a reception area with signs to denote its location
 - which can be locked during the day with access to areas used by children through a single point of access and managed
 - with a secure fence around the site but allows public access to playing fields outside school hours and burglar alarm system
 - with a fenced area/enclosed for Foundation Phase activities
 - with cameras for supervision - internal and external
 - that conform to the current building regulations standards at the time of the building of the school
 - with fire detection systems and sprinklers
 - that comply with the Equality Act (2010) so that all the building is accessible to all.
 - access other than for vehicles and pedestrians
 - turning area/ 'drop off point' for buses (where appropriate)
 - with a safe area to keep bicycles
 - Sufficient parking places where that's possible
 - with no mobile classrooms or temporary learning spaces as part of a new school
 - with the appropriate number of wash rooms / toilets / cloak rooms for pupils
 - with renewable technology included where appropriate e.g. wind turbines, solar / photovoltaic panels, recycling facilities, ground source heat pumps and/or wood chip boilers to ensure compliance with BREEAM standards to reduce the carbon footprint.
 - all references to standards size / space should comply with the guidance for area produced by the Welsh Government contained in the appropriate Building Bulletins.

Appendix 2

Cylch Meithrin Talwrn
Talwrn,
Llangefni

Dear [REDACTED],

I am a Leader of Cylch Meithrin Talwrn and I am writing to you on behalf of the parents and children of the Cylch.

Several conversations have been held in which concern has been expressed about the future of the children's education at the Cylch and disappointment about the proposed plan / proposal in Option 7 - The Future of Llangefni Area Schools.

We are not supporting this option and hopefully you will draw attention our opinion and invest in a new school in Talwrn.

Yours sincerely,

Cylch Meithrin Talwrn.

CAPEL MC NYTH CLYD
Y TALWRN

5 November 2017



Dear 

As officers and members of Nyth Clyd Chapel, Y Talwrn, we are unanimous that the school should not be closed. The school is the foundation for local society and also contributes widely to the social and religious life of the village.

Annually, the children are given the experience of holding a Thanksgiving service at the Chapel. This is but one example of the opportunity they get to build confidence and contribute to community life. Many today can be thankful for the opportunities they have had in a rural Chapel and school to develop confidence and to communicate clearly and purposefully.

Undoubtedly, if you decided to close that school, you would be guilty of refusing the opportunity to create responsible citizens. Something our society really needs today. We are aware that the level of education at the school is very high. According to the Consultation Document you presented, it is clear that KS 2 at Ysgol Y Talwrn is higher than at Ysgol y Graig, Anglesey and Wales. Neither can we ignore the excellent work school does in securing the future of the Welsh Language.

Y mae Ysgrifenydd Addysg Llywodraeth Cymru, Mrs Kirsty Williams, wedi cyhoeddi na ddylid cau ysgolion gwledig oni fod yna seiliau cadarn i hyn. Yn ein barn ni nid oes seiliau cadarn yn bodoli yma.

The Welsh Government's Education Secretary, Mrs. Kirsty Williams, has announced no rural schools should be closed unless there are sound foundations for this. We believe there is no sound basis here.

Also, the Council must accept the responsibility that, over the years, has not allocated money fairly towards the maintenance of the school.

It would be a tragedy to close the school and deny the children having the outstanding education presented by Ysgol Y Talwrn staff.

.

Yours sincerely

A thick black horizontal redaction bar covering the signature area.

Officers

INDEPENDENTS CHAPEL SILOAM TALWRN



[REDACTED]
Anglesey Council, Council Offices, Llangefni, Ynys Môn LL77 7TW

12.11.2017

Dear [REDACTED]

I write to you on behalf of Capel Siloam Talwrn to express Chapel members' objection to closing Ysgol Gynradd Talwrn.

We wish to see Talwrn Primary School staying open to serve the community. Here is where the heart of our community beats strongest. A nation without language is a nation without heart and a community without a school is a community without children and without future.

Many of the present members of the Chapel are former pupils from Ysgol y Talwrn and have benefited greatly from that experience, They see value in keeping a school in a village not only for the education and individual development of a child but also for the children to be deeply rooted in what the whole community has to offer them.

Our language and traditions are very important to us and we believe it is in a school like the one in Talwrn that these can best be transferred to our children. As well as teaching basic information to children, we believe there is value in transferring information about the value of a village value, recognition and neighbors for children for them learn to respect others in their community.

The school's success over many areas over many years has been amazing. This school is a close community that contributes so much to the wider community. It is difficult to imagine the village without it. It would be so much poorer.

Villagers' desire and what the inhabitants believe is best for children are important considerations. Please do not, and you taking care of the education and wellbeing of our children, ignore this cry from the heart.

Yours sincerely,



Siloam Chapel, Talwrn

SUNDAY SCHOOL SILOAM TALWRN



[Redacted]
Anglesey Council, Council Offices, Llangefni, Ynys Môn LL77 7TW

Dear Programme Manager

write to you on behalf of Siloam Chapel (A.) Talwrn Sunday School to express the opposition of teachers, members and parents of Ysgol Sui to close Ysgol Gynradd y Talwm.

We wish to see the Ysgol Gynradd y Talwm staying open to serve the community.

There has been happy collaboration between the Sunday School and the School for many years especially at times such as Thanksgiving when the School comes here at request of the Chapel. In the same way the Sunday School will benefit from borrowing clothes etc from the School for the performance of the Nativity Play at Christmas

There has also been a deeper level of collaboration as the School and Sunday School reinforce each other's values Without the school in the village, it is unlikely that there would be a Sunday School. This would be a big loss to the area.

This small school contributes so much to the wider community and it is hard to imagine the village without it. The soul of our community would be ripped out.

The wishes of the members of the Sunday School and the parents of the children are an extremely important consideration. Please do not, with you caring for education and wellbeing of our children, disregard this cry that comes from heart.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted]
[Redacted] Sunday School Siloam
Talwm

[REDACTED]
The Lifelong Learning Directorate
Anglesey Council, Council Offices, Llangefni, Ynys Môn LL77 7TW

Dear [REDACTED]

Consultation on the future of Ysgol y Talwrn – response from the Talwrn Eisteddfod Committee

It's likely you will receive several letters objecting to the closure of Ysgol y Talwrn. Here's another one. We believe that the school is the cornerstone of the village and area society. The school can not be considered in financial and educational terms only, though those are valued. The bigger picture of wider decline that has taken place in our village for years now should be looked at for several reasons, including the policies of Governments in London and Cardiff.

In short, we firmly say that Ysgol y Talwrn is delivering much more than teaching children even though it does that well. It contributes extensively to the social life of the village, drawing people together for the benefit of the community. The connections made between parents are over the years foster social unity. The pupils see the value of collaborating on area and community level.

One example of this collaboration is the Eisteddfod, but it explains the ethos of a viable community. From the point of view of the Eisteddfod, the contribution of the children and their families to its success is central. And of course the Eisteddfod gives an opportunity to build confidence by performing on stage which is a skill and will be of help to individuals in the future in their everyday lives.

So the school achieves much more than just formal education, through this involvement between the pupils and the wider society. The community contributes to the children's education in its full sense of creating good and responsible citizens. It's unlikely that this contribution will be on the Council or Welsh Government's balance sheet.

The policy of closing rural schools is synonymous with a policy of cultural and social extinction.

The work of the Council and its officers is to protect the Island's communities. As you know, Welsh Government's Education Secretary, Kirsty Williams, has announced that there is now a presumption that rural schools will not be closed.

For information, here are some figures about Eisteddfod y Talwm. In 2016 in competitions for primary age children, 49 individuals from Y Talwrn Primary School competed on the Stage and only 19 from outside. There were 8 groups from the school competing and 0 from outside. In the literary work category, 65 competed from the school and 1 from outside and at the Art and Craft work there were 41 competing and 2 from outside.

In 2017 the competition for primary school aged pupils, there were 43 individuals from Ysgol Talwrn and only 12 from outside. There were 7 groups from the school competing 0 from outside. In the literary work, 41 competed from school and 0 from outside and in Art and Craft work were 53 competing and 0 out of the field.

We believe that if Ysgol Talwrn does not remain open there will be no future for the Talwrn Chair Eisteddfod as happened in the village of Llanddeusant. Once the Primary School there closed, the Eisteddfod also came to an end.

Yn gywir,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Appendix 7

Ysgol Gynradd Y Talwrn,

Y Talwrn,

Llangefni,

Anglesey.

November 7 2017.

Dear [REDACTED],

We write to you to express our concerns about closing Ysgol y Talwrn in the near future.

The school is a key center for serving children in the local area as well as the wider community. The educational strategies were considered rigorously in the last inspection, and the school continues to provide high quality education. The school has an outstanding relationship with the community, and promotes far-reaching aspects in several curricular areas.

A key element for a small school is the family element that highlights the importance of every individual within the school, and how all the pupils enjoy personal experiences by being an essential part of any sport or essential member of a choir. Such opportunities would only happen to the most talented children in large schools.

It must be remembered that the school is located in an area that is ideal for local studies, including being within a stone's throw away interesting places of study such as Coed y Plas, Rhyd y Ddime river and Cors Bodeilio, where children can enjoy experiences directly, integrating the glory of nature that is near the school.

Appendix 7

The school is located in an ideal safe place where every child has experiences and opportunities to thrive confidently in a happy and friendly atmosphere. The area is also full of local talents, including the contribution of Mrs E Olwen Jones, who has composed a chest of musical treasures, triggering local school children and offering the composer the opportunity to produce music for children of All Wales.

The composer's product is also based on local history, and is a special source for creating an archive of local events on a song for the future. Of course, the performances of the songs, which are specially composed for the local Eisteddfod, create a close partnership between the school, the community and the arts. This fits naturally with the Welsh Government's priority regarding Cwricwlwm Cymreig.

The importance of Ysgol y Talwrn's support to the local Eisteddfod held annually in the village should also be emphasised. The school's contribution over the years has been key to keeping that Eisteddfod alive, and the importance of local eisteddfodau that promote culture and not least keeping the Welsh language prosperous should not be disregarded. Closing the school would aggrieve the future of the language in the local community and beyond.

The right of a parent is to choose the best establishment for their child, whether it is a large school or small school in size. Once small schools disappear, parents will be deprived of this vitally important choice. Feedback from parents confirms this. The consultation document stated that 49% of children in the catchment area attended the school. This is a family choice in most cases. Is this not a clear proof that the provision of a small school suits their needs better?

We earnestly plea that you consider in detail the implications of closing the doors of this special school.

Yours sincerely,

Ysgol Y Talwrn Staff.



Merched y Wawr y Talwrn



[REDACTED]

07 November, 2017

[REDACTED]

Anglesey Council Offices
Llangefni
LL77 7TW

Dear [REDACTED]

STATUTORY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – LLANGEFNI AREA

On behalf of the Talwrn Branch of Merched y Wawr, I write to object to the intention to close Ysgol y Talwm. The parents' and the community's wishes are to see the school continue as a central part of the village and area.

Tours sincerely

[REDACTED] Talwrn Branch

Appendix 9

Comments from Llanddyfnan Community Council:

The Community Council is in favour of keeping Talwrn Primary School open and supports the Welsh Assembly Government's recent announcement on the keeping small schools open. The Council also supports the local opinion not to close the School. As the school is 98% full, and has had a total of 42 - 49 pupils over the past few years and primary schools in Llangefni are full, we do not see any reason to close the school.

Approximately 100 houses are being built in Llangefni. Will there be space for children from these properties at Ysgol y Graig?

Clerc/Clerk

Llanddyfnan Community Council

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Comments and responses

The table below lists the comments received as part of the statutory consultation along with the response from the Isle of Anglesey County Council's responses:

No.	Comment	Reply
1.	The Authority should “invest in a new school “ in Talwrn.	This is very unlikely as the forecast for pupils numbers are fairly steady and low. There is also a high percentage of out of catchment pupils at the school.
2.	Ysgol Talwrn is a foundation for local Society and also contributes to the social and religious life of the village”	These matters are discussed in the Impact Assessment prepared by the Authority. The Authority empathises with the concerns of the community but must prioritise educational matters.
3.	The School should remain open to serve the community.	These matters are discussed in the Impact Assessment prepared by the Authority.
4.	The village Eisteddfod gives youngsters an opportunity to nurture confidence by performing on a stage. Losing the school would lead to the end of the Eisteddfod	These matters are discussed in the Impact Assessment prepared by the Authority. Other villages on Anglesey support a successful Eisteddfod e.g. Marianglas despite not having a school in the village.
5.	The school is a central part of village life. The school is ideally located for local studies. The school is the heart and backbone of the community	These matters are discussed in the Impact Assessment prepared by the Authority. Other villages on Anglesey support a successful Eisteddfod e.g. Marianglas despite not having a school in the village.
6.	Closing the school would affect the future of the Welsh language in the local community and beyond.	This matter is discussed in the Impact Assessment prepared by the Authority and sees a positive impact on the Welsh language.
7.	Stakeholders supported the Cabinet Secretary for Education’s recent statement on rural schools.	Ysgol Talwrn is not on the list of rural schools published by the Welsh Government as part of the consultation on the School Organisation Code.
8.	Stakeholders challenged the backlog maintenance figures	Qualified chartered surveyors from the Authority conduct surveys of all school buildings regularly to decide any maintenance work required and to calculate the cost of that work.
9.	Village Hall depends on the school	This is the case but only because the school hall is not large enough to meet the current requirements
10.	Some stakeholders asked if a loan for 50 years is good value for money	Finance officers within the Authority calculate the costs of borrowing money for 50 years. Ultimately, expenditure such as building a new school, is a matter for the Authority’s Executive to decide.
11.	Travelling to Ysgol Y Graig was a concern for some stakeholders; others said that walking to that school would be dangerous	Traffic and travel issues will be addressed as part of a Traffic Impact Assessment conducted for all new projects.

Appendix 10

12.	The traffic situation at Ysgol Y Graig is dangerous	Traffic and travel issues will be addressed as part of a Traffic Impact Assessment conducted for all new projects.
13.	The consultation process is unfair	Much information is required in the consultation documents and Authority has fulfilled the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
14.	Effect of the process on staff	This was discussed in detail with the staff of Ysgol Talwrn in the separate consultation meeting held with them.
15.	Use Ysgol Talwrn to train headteachers	The Authority, in conjunction with the regional educational consortium GwE, has a training programme for prospective headteachers to gain the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers (NPQH). This is the training route used for headteachers rather than on the job training and so a physical centre / building is not required for that purpose.
16.	Possible effect of closure on Ysgol Talwrn in carbon emissions	Calculations show that CO ₂ emissions would still be less following the closure of Ysgol Talwrn even if 2 buses were used to transport pupils to the possible new block. In other words, additional transport would not have a greater impact on the environment than closing Ysgol Gynradd Talwrn.
17.	Combine Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch or Ysgol Pentraeth Consider federating Ysgol Talwrn with another primary school	Between Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Llanbedrgoch, there would be 70-80 pupils in the school - this is too small to attract finance. Federating the 2 schools would not address empty places or tackle the condition of the buildings. Between Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Pentraeth, there would be about 130 pupils in the school - this is still considered too small to attract finance. Federating the 2 schools would not address empty places or tackle the condition of the buildings.

Estyn's response to a proposal by Isle of Anglesey County Council to:

Adapt Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, and close Ysgol Talwrn

Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales have prepared this report.

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

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

Introduction

This is a consultation proposal by Isle of Anglesey County Council. The proposal is as follows:

- Adapt Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn.
- Close Ysgol Talwrn.

As part of the adaptation of Ysgol y Graig, the proposal is to:

- Use and adapt the current building for key stage 2.
- Create a new 'block' for the foundation phase.
- Relocate the Flying Start provision.

Summary/Conclusion

The proposal is comprehensive and forms part of a wider consultation for the reorganisation of six schools in the Llangefni area.

The proposer has not yet chosen a site for the foundation phase building. The process of choosing the location is subject to a search for a site and feasibility studies of those sites, before assessing and scoring them in order to choose the preferred option.

It is Estyn's view that the proposal is likely to maintain the current standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposal in the context of the wider proposal to reorganise primary education provision in the Llangefni area. The rationale includes reducing the number of surplus places, financial matters, raising standards, ensuring up-to-date resources in relation to schools and classroom resources, breaking the link between deprivation and low educational attainment, and leadership and management capacity. The proposal addresses most of the reasons for change that are listed, but the drive to reduce the number of surplus places is not applicable to this proposal, as there is not a high percentage of surplus places (2016-17) in either school.

The proposer has considered the effect of this proposal in detail, and identifies the advantages and disadvantages fairly. For example, it asserts that there will be teaching and learning facilities of the highest quality both indoors and outdoors, suitable play areas, appropriate staffing and administration areas and state of the art ICT facilities.

This proposal is part of a wider proposal that has already considered a number of different options. Consequently the proposer has not considered the other options in this proposal.

The local authority has considered the changes to learners' travel arrangements, and has estimated the additional cost and how these costs will be met. The potential effect of the proposal on traffic flow will be assessed as part of a Transport Impact Assessment, which has not yet been completed.

The proposer has considered pupil numbers at both schools over a period of seven years and has predicted future numbers. In predicting the numbers, it has considered factors such as the decision to build a number of new houses in the area and statistics from the health service on the number of children under four years old in the area.

The proposer has given full consideration to the effect on the Welsh language. The results of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment show that the proposal will have a positive effect on the Welsh language.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has given suitable consideration to the proposal's effect on the quality of outcomes, provision, and leadership and management. For example, the reduction in the number of mixed-age classes with more than two age groups, and an increase in teachers' expertise in specific areas, which will, in turn, influence the practice of other teachers.

The proposer has completed a detailed Equality Impact Assessment, and it is reasonable to believe that the proposal will not have a negative effect on the current provision that is provided for pupils with additional learning needs, or for individual groups of pupils, such as those who are eligible for free school meals or any groups with protected characteristics.

The proposer has provided tables that show the percentage of pupils who achieve the expected outcome in the foundation phase and the expected level in key stage 2. This has been done for both schools and they also show the corresponding figures for Anglesey and Wales over a three year period. The figures are also compared with similar schools nationally, in terms of the percentage of pupils who are eligible for free school meals. However, the proposer has not provided a concise analysis of the schools' performance.

The proposer notes the judgements of the latest Estyn inspections for both schools. They also state which category the schools are in, but they have not provided the view of the local authority or the consortium about the quality of leadership and management at the schools.