

ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL <u>Scrutiny Report Template</u>	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	23 April, 2018
Subject:	Schools Modernisation Programme – Report on the Statutory Consultation in the Llangefni area: Ysgol Corn Hir, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas
Purpose of the Report:	Schools Modernisation on Anglesey – to report on the statutory consultation process; propose a recommendation and receive the Scrutiny Committee’s comments.
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Aled Morris Jones
Portfolio Member(s):	Councillor R Meirion Jones (Portfolio Member for Education Services, Libraries, Youth and Culture)
Head of Service:	Arwyn Williams, Head of Learning
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Local members:	Councillor Nicola Roberts Councillor Bob Parry Councillor Dylan Rees Councillor Dafydd Roberts Councillor Eric Wyn Jones

1 – Recommendation/s

The evidence from the consultation leads to the following conclusions.

- Ysgol Corn Hir, in light of the number of pupils, current capacity, cost per head and backlog maintenance needs to be central to any new arrangement.
- The current standards of the school, the pace of improvement and the quality of leadership, school size, maintenance backlog and cost per head means it is not possible to justify the future for Ysgol Bodffordd. However, it should be noted that any decision needs to take into account the need to attempt to secure the community provision.
- There are a number of issues which need to be addressed when considering the future of Ysgol Henblas.
 - The school's standards are lower than expected and have been for some time and the pace of improvement is very disappointing.
 - Considerable work is required in order to develop leadership at the school.
 - The size of the school means that classes are of mixed age and this, together with the expectation to prepare suitable work for the range of abilities in a class, is more challenging for the teachers.
 - According to the Authority's current assessment, the current condition of the building is satisfactory and there is a maintenance backlog to the value of £112,000.
 - The cost per pupil is higher in this school than the other two schools.
 - There are 13% surplus places in the school despite the fact that the % of out-of-catchment pupils, although recently reduced, is relatively high.
- It is acknowledged however that a decision to close Ysgol Henblas could influence the availability of education in a rural area together with meeting the wishes of some parents for a different type of school. As a result, a case could be submitted to support Ysgol Henblas provided there is clear evidence that the recent improvements continue and that the pace of improvement increases.

The financial analysis shows that the maintenance backlog of the three schools is £406k and that this amount would increase as the buildings approach the end of their useful lives. It is also noted that the construction of one school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas would be more expensive than

building one school for Corn Hir and Bodffordd but this additional cost would be partially offset by an increase in the contribution of the Welsh Government and the capital receipts generated by the sale of the Ysgol Henblas site. The closure of Henblas would improve the value for money associated with the new school as it would lead to more revenue savings.

In light of the above, and all the comments received, the following options are presented.

Option 1

Build a new school for Bodffordd, Corn Hir and Henblas schools.

Option 2

Build a new school for Bodffordd and Corn Hir schools and continue to maintain educational provision in Llangristiolus. The provision in Llangristiolus could entail maintaining Ysgol Henblas in its current form or as a multi-site school [i.e. merge Henblas with the new school and create one school on two sites]. This decision would have to be linked to assurance in a year's time that standards at Ysgol Henblas are improving, that the current pace of improvement increases and the prospects with regard to pupil numbers remain constant or increase. Any planning for the new school would have to take this into account.

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to address the following issues.

- I. To consider the report in its entirety and to highlight **any additional issues** that could be useful to include to assist the Executive to reach a decision.
- II. Consider the above and recommend a preferred option for the Executive Committee.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Direct link with the Council's Plan 2017/22:

Objective 1: Ensure that the people of Anglesey can flourish and achieve their long-term potential.

We will continue to raise education standards and ensure that our young people have the right skills for employment and training.

1. Continue our school modernisation program by publishing a revised strategy that will address the long-term sustainability of primary and secondary education across the Island. This will include the possibility of 3 - 18 year old learning campuses at specific locations.
2. Complete the work on Santes Dwynwen, Newborough School and Seiriol and **Llangefni** areas.

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

3.1 Impact the item has on individuals and communities [**focus on the customer / citizen**]

3.2 A look at the efficiency and effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [**focus on value**]

3.3 A look at any risks [**focus on risk**]

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [**focus on performance and quality**]

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- long term
- prevention

- integration
- collaboration
- involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

4 – Key Scrutiny Questions

1. How do these proposals enable the Executive to deliver the Council’s new Plan and the transformation programme? Are there any specific risks?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of option 1 and 2 as regards to educational provision and value for money?
3. What procedures/support does the education service have in place to improve standards with option 2?
4. Is there any other information/considerations which should be brought to the attention of the Executive to make a decision including the community use of buildings?

5 – Background / Context

The Council’s Vision and the Modernisation Strategy

Anglesey County Council’s ambition is to ensure that every child, every young person and every learner, whatever their background and their circumstances, achieves their full potential and that they are ready to play an active part as responsible citizens and community champions of the future.

The Council will ensure that every school achieves the highest standards so that Anglesey’s young people can make the most of the opportunities which are available in the current competitive world. It is key that education standards on Anglesey are amongst the best nationally.

The Modernisation Strategy is key to delivering the ambitious vision above through ensuring schools which are effective, self-critical, of the correct size and in the correct locations and that they are led by Headteachers and Leadership Teams who are inspiring and entirely committed to raising the standards of the work of the pupils under their care.

Since the publication of the original strategy in 2013 the Authority has worked with Headteachers and elected members to modernise the schools stock on the island through merging 10 smaller schools and building 21st century schools in three areas in Band A, with one of them opening in March 2019. [See appendix]

The financial situation is challenging in the primary sector. The difference in expenditure per pupil in the primary sector is a cause for concern and is unsustainable for the future. It could be argued that the fact that smaller primary schools receive what is equivalent to additional money to maintain the minimum of staffing levels means that the 11 largest schools, which often serve the most deprived areas, are subsidising the smaller schools. This is not sustainable for the future, especially if the Government’s financial austerity programme continues.

The situation regarding the age profile of Headteachers has improved and several schools share leadership teams through the implementation of Partnership Management arrangements, informal federation and formal federation. The strategy to develop School Leaders of the Future offers professional development for those who have the potential to be active. However, the number of candidates for Headteachers is low, especially for small, rural schools.

Estyn, in their report ‘Small Primary Schools in Wales’ noted the educational challenges which face small schools. These include the challenge of teaching mixed age classes, including more than 2 or 3 age groups; the limited size of peer groups and adequacy of challenges; limited opportunities for social interaction; difficulties

in recruiting and retaining staff; excessive burdens on staff and the senior expertise which is needed to support pupils with special educational needs.

The Schools Modernisation Programme deals with the challenges above and plans to ensure that the number of pupils is sufficient on the register in every key stage. This means the need to review the future of schools where the number of pupils is small, deciding on the sustainability of each one. This will reduce the number of classrooms which have more than 2 age groups, it will ensure that leaders/headteachers have enough non-contact time in order to deliver the key responsibilities of raising standards, ensuring that administrative arrangements and management support is in place, and it will reconcile the cost per pupil across the island to ensure more equality.

The drivers for change remain the same:

- Improving teaching standards and attainment.
- Reducing the surplus places in order to make efficient use of resources.
- Aim towards reducing the expenditure range per pupil ensuring more equal opportunities across schools.
- Leadership and Management Capacity.
- Succession planning
- Welsh medium and bilingual provision
- Ensuring that school buildings are fit for purpose.

A detailed report on the consultation with the conclusions and the recommendation is presented in the appendix.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

An Impact Assessment was conducted as part of the statutory consultation process. The possible effect of fulfilling the proposal on the Welsh Language, equality and the community were assessed.

7 – Financial Implications

The possible effect on the Authority's financial situation is assessed in the report

8 – Appendices

Appendix 1 – A vision for twenty first century schools

Appendix 2 – Detailed report on the consultation, conclusions and recommendation

9 – Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

The statutory consultation document (20 February – 6 April 2018) – Contact Mr Emrys Bebb

W.G. Vision of 21st Century Schools

Appendix 1

- Schools will be configured to respond to changing modes of teaching and learning that, together with strengthened school leadership and the involvement of the school community, will reflect local needs and support young people to fulfill their potential.
- Inspirational environments that are appropriate for new educational developments and technologies, which are effective and yet adaptable enough to accommodate the changing needs of the future up to 2030.
- World class environments, which are sustainable for teaching teachers and learners to learn; fully supported by ICT, and drive improvements in educational standards, and tackle climate change issues.
- Inclusivity, providing appropriate provision for each learner's individual learning needs, places where those with special educational needs and disabilities may feel their needs are met, and that all members of the school workforce can work, rest and socialize.
- A notable resource for the whole community that can offer a range of co-located facilities such as childcare, health and social services, and adult training.
- Opportunity for schools and other services to work collaboratively to supplement teaching and learning and engage more effectively with the post-16 transformation agenda.



SWYDDOGOL – OFFICIAL

ADRODDIAD AR YR YMGYNGHORIAD STATUDOL - ARDAL LLANGEFNI
(Ysgol Bodffordd, Ysgol Corn Hir ac Ysgol Henblas)
REPORT ON THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION – LLANGEFNI AREA (Ysgol
Bodffordd, Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Henblas)

20 Chwefror – 6 Ebrill 2018 / 20 February – 6 April 2018



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 best possible education for all children and young people on the island.

As part of this commitment, the Council acknowledges that modernising education and ensuring that our school buildings create a pleasant learning environment that motivates children and young people to become effective learners and develop life skills, is a high priority.

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

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

To achieve this ambitious modernisation programme there will be a need to merge schools through a combination of federalising schools, extensive catchment reorganisation by remodelling school buildings that are there already or building new area schools and close schools that are not suitable for the purpose.

2. CHANGE DRIVERS FOR MODERNISATION THAT WILL INFLUENCE ANY DECISION REGARDING THE BEST PROVISION FOR THE AREA

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

Raising educational standards

The Council is committed to continuing to raise standards if it is to reach its objective of being one of the 5 best Local Authorities in Wales. According to current research work, it is suggested that it is difficult to link standards with school size. However, recent reports suggest that larger primary schools [over 150 pupils or more] have leadership teams with more capacity to ensure improvements; teachers with a wider range of specialisms in specific areas that in turn influence other teachers' practices and thus influence the standards of pupils' work. In smaller schools [around 50 or less] mixed age classes include up to four age groups, and sometimes span key stages. This places 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 cost per pupil 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 modernisation programme will need to normalise the cost per pupil across the authority and reconcile it with the Welsh average.

Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment

Improving the quality of school buildings and ensuring the best possible learning environment [that reflects those in our latest school building- Ysgol y Graig, Ysgol Cybi and Ysgol Rhyd y Llan] for our pupils is vitally important to meet teaching and learning needs in the twenty-first century. This kind of environment includes teaching and learning facilities of the best quality, first grade ICT facilities, 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 staff morale that, in turn, have 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 ageing school buildings that are costly to maintain. A new pattern of schools that address the shortcomings in the present buildings including considerable health and safety matters connected to the building or the site will have to be established. A system of schools where maintenance arrangements are sustainable needs to be developed.

Create the conditions so that Headteachers succeed – increase the leadership capacity

Effective schools are well led. Successful schools have strong leadership on every level, including the Governors. The challenges involved with 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 headteacher or senior management team, to ensure that the teaching and learning are of the highest quality, to evaluate and raise standards, to develop thorough self-evaluation 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 the necessary time for the Headteacher to achieve the leadership role successfully is to be provided.

Ensure an adequate supply of Headteachers for the future

Over the next five years it is likely that 28% of our primary Headteachers will retire. Because many lead small schools, the Council will have to consider the most effective and sustainable leadership models for the future. The number of candidates for the posts of Headteacher have reduced and this is a cause of concern. The school modernisation programme needs to modernise schools to try and answer the problem by ensuring suitable opportunities to develop leadership in individual schools. Our schools need excellent leaders. The modernisation programme will also address succession planning and safeguard and develop the leadership talent in our schools.

Community use of the school building

Research suggests that schools with additional services such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, child care, 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 will act as an area school i.e. provide a range of services and activities that often take place outside the school day, to assist in meeting the needs of pupils, their families and the wider community.

Reduce the number of surplus places

In September 2017, the number of surplus places in primary schools in Anglesey was 12.3%. The current situation in the three schools is Ysgol Henblas 13%, Ysgol Bodffordd 1.6%, whilst Ysgol Corn Hir is 9.3% over capacity. However, the Council needs to continue to reduce the number of empty places in order to meet Welsh Government expectations and respond to one of Estyn's criticisms in the 2012 report. As a result, schools will need to be more than 85% full and that 90% of the places are full across the primary sector.

Welsh-medium and bilingual provision

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

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Council has consulted with parents, governors and staff in the three schools in the area, local councillors and with the Welsh Government and other stakeholders. The consultation period ran from 20 February 2018 until 6 April 2018.

Consultation meetings were arranged with school stakeholders over this period:

School	Date (in 2018)	Meeting with		
		Staff	Governors	Parents
Henblas	Monday 26 February	3.30	5.00	6.30
Bodffordd	Tuesday 27 February	3.45	5.00	6.00
Corn Hir	Wednesday 28 February	3.45	5.30	6.30

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

1. reduce surplus 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 efficiency

One proposal suggested by parents was 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:

- reduce surplus places. Indeed it can lead to an increase in surplus places
- change the situation as regards non-contact time for teachers of itself.
- improve educational outcomes
- reduce maintenance backlog
- improve energy effectiveness. Indeed, an additional school and building would lead to using more energy.

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

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 allows parents to choose which school their child will attend. If a new school was built in Llangefni then the present catchment areas would need to be reviewed and a catchment area established for the new school. In accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Authority cannot force parents to move their children to another school. This would increase the risk of a high level of surplus places in any new primary school.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Some comments and concerns from each one of the meetings are summarised below (these are not minutes of the meetings). There are further comments in sections 5-7 of this document.

Ysgol Bodffordd

- Some felt there was no point replying to the consultation

- Enquiries were received about the possible location and timeframe.
- Concerns were raised about the safety of pupils during any potential building work.
- To what degree would the possible new school be ready for the Donaldson curriculum
- Concerns were raised about the possible effect on staff and jobs
- Concerns were raised about the future of the Community Centre and the Cylch Meithrin

Ysgol Corn Hir

- There were enquiries about the current school if the proposal comes to fruition
- Enquiries were received about the possible effect of the proposal on the nursery and after school club
- Concerns were raised about staff jobs
- Some asked about a possible site for a new primary school and any connection between the new school and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni

Ysgol Henblas

- Concern about which school pupils from Ysgol Bodorgan would transfer to if Ysgol Henblas was to close
- Stakeholders did not understand why the Authority was considering closing Ysgol Henblas
- Concern about staff jobs
- What would happen to the building if the school closed?
- Some parents felt that the new Headteacher should be given a chance

5. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL BODFFORDD

- 5.1 Over 260 responses were received from the school's stakeholders and the vast majority disagreed with the possibility of closing the school.
- 5.2 A petition was presented to the Authority entitled "No to closing Ysgol Gymuned Bodffordd". The petition, with 43 signatories, will be presented to Full Council at its meeting on 15 May 2018.
- 5.3 In her letter, the Secretary of the Bodffordd Pensioners Club stated that "a number of societies conduct their activities at the Centre attached to the school". According to the secretary, the Centre is "the heart of the village".
- 5.4 A spokesman for the Bodffordd Literary Circle stated that they used the Community Centre 5 times a year. His view was that "a strategy was needed to keep the Centre open for the village".
- 5.5 In their letter, the joint leaders of the Cylch Meithrin in Bodffordd say that the Cylch was "an important part of the village and the community". Both said that the Cylch was included "in Estyn's annual report as an excellent sector leading cylch, the only one in Wales." Closing the Cylch could lead to children "losing out at an essential start in their educational, social and cultural life."
- 5.6 The former Cylch Meithrin leader said that "the school and the Community Centre are the heart of the village". According to the former leader, the "Cylch Meithrin ... is full" and "100% of the children who attend are Welsh first language ... the language of the home!!" Her view is that "these strong cultures, especially those in an area that is so warm, community based and supportive must be kept". She noted that the Cylch Meithrin "had been adjudged as excellent by Estyn in 2016" and included "in Estyn's annual report as a leading sector Cylch".
- 5.7 The school's teachers and auxiliary staff wished to voice "their opposition to the original option and to the 'new' option set in the statutory consultation document." They wished to draw the Authority's attention to some of the following factors:

- Parental choice being undermined
- Creating uncertainty
- Parental support for the continuation of Bodffordd school is "total"
- Essence and ethos of the school are strong
- The Mudiad Meithrin is an integral part of "start of the children of the area's educational journey".
- The school is "an integral part of a vibrant cultural and Welsh community"
- Closing the school "would be contrary to the Future Generations and Wellbeing Act"

6. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL CORN HIR

6.1 There were 2 responses from the stakeholders of Ysgol Corn Hir. The first by Governors of Corn Hir School. The response was in the form of 5 bullet points. The following points are noted:

1. The proposal for an admission number of 64 creates problems in organising classes. An admission number of 75 would give the school the opportunity to create viable classes and create capacity for growth. There is a very strong case in the area to go over the additional 10% given which has already happened at Ysgol y Graig and the fact that that school needs to be revisited only after about ten years. The comments in point 5 also offer an additional solution to creating more finance to fund the scheme.
2. Although this is not proposed, consideration should be given to adjusting the school's catchment area boundaries - this would remove the pressure from the Ysgol y Graig catchment area for the future which would in turn mean that it would be possible to look at modifying the proposals in that area e.g. there will be a need to invest in additional land - this can ultimately save the Council money.
3. There is an urgent need for an interim plan for Ysgol Corn Hir to enable the school to continue to offer pupils a full curriculum. The problems identified in relation to space and lack of space and numbers in classes in the consultation report are already a problem in the school and need to be resolved urgently in fairness to the pupils and staff of the school. This is also developing into a serious Health and Safety problem.
4. The school (staff and governors) wishes the Council would move on the agenda as a matter of urgency due to the seriousness of the situation in the school regarding space and class numbers - a problem which is known to the Council's Education Department.
5. There is a question as to whether the Council receives value for money when selling the sites and the figure indicated in the consultation is low - it is necessary to look to see if it is possible to obtain planning permission on the sites before them selling to get the best value for money.
6. As the plan bridges Band A and Band B there is an opportunity to create a fully inclusive school for the whole community and a truly valuable resource for all members of the community not just children of the school, to include additional services - e.g. with the health service to ensure care from a very early age, training rooms (courses for parents etc), sports services so that the school is a 'one stop shop' for all the resources that parents will need.

6.2 The other stakeholder was concerned that a new school for 450 children would be too small. He also felt that the consultation was in vain and that the decision had been made.

7. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL HENBLAS

7.1 A total of 118 responses were received from the school's stakeholders and the vast majority disagreed with the possibility of closing the school.

7.2 A petition with 107 signatories was submitted to the Authority requesting "support to keep Ysgol Henblas open by signing this petition"; a number of stakeholders from outside the area signed the petition. The petition will be presented to the Full Council at its meeting on May 15, 2018. By 11 April 2018, 901

individuals signed an electronic petition that required "keeping Ysgol Henblas open" - many from outside the catchment area of the school.

7.3 In her response, the Chair of Henblas Cylch Meithrin said that the Cylch Meithrin was "extremely good" and "full". She added that this was a "great sign of the reputation of the Cylch and the School with the children's happiness leading towards a brilliant future for the Henblas catchment area".

7.4 A local elected member who is also a Governor of Ysgol Henblas said that he was of the opinion that "**the decision of the Executive on July 17, 2017 should stand**, and that there has not been sufficient justification for the proposal in question, namely the closure of Ysgol Henblas, and combining Bodffordd, Corn Hir and Henblas Schools into a new school." He listed reasons why he thought the school should be kept open:

- Numbers at the school at present and this could be increased after extending the school.
- The building is fairly modern and very suitable for updating to Twenty-First Century standards.
- The closure of Henblas would involve arranging transportation from Llangristiolus and Cerigceinwen to Llangefni. School transport is one of the areas that constantly overspends, an overspend which would reduce any possible savings of school merger.
- Concern that many parents would choose to transport their youngest children to the school in private cars. Crossing the A5 at the Nant Turnpike is dangerous. Increasing the traffic that crosses the Turnpike Nant at peak hours would increase this risk.
- The appointment of a new Headteacher in the face of the consultation process is testimony to the resilience of the School, and this appointment will strengthen leadership and ensure the school's standards to the future.
- Schools are a community focus and it is essential that a rural County such as Anglesey retains viable rural schools such as Ysgol Henblas

7.5 A spokeswoman for Llangristiolus Church Sunday School wrote to the Authority. He asked the Authority to "fully consider the following points before deciding to close another rural school:

- There are many volunteers at Henblas who have achieved national sporting success and on the local and national stage of eisteddfodau. There is a sense of society at its best here and this extends to the church's family. The feeling of belonging and responsibility derives from the experiences that are found in the school and reinforced in the Sunday School.
- There is a high percentage of parents from outside the catchment area driving their children to Ysgol Henblas - there is currently a fair choice of urban schools and a rural school in the Cefni area. The voice of the people who insist on choosing the way they raise their children must be listened to. If we lose these close communities at the expense of modernisation, it will not turn back. In an era where there are more 'friends' on social websites but fewer true friends we have to hold on to our communities like Henblas.
- In Henblas, everyone can choose to be in a choir, recite, football team, netball team, gymnastics competition - in a large school of over 400 this would be impossible. We must ensure that our children have the opportunity to become full and responsible members of society. I know about a number of children in large schools on the island who do not have these opportunities as other pupils are 'better'. What kind of message does this give to a small child?

The spokesman asked the Authority to return to the original decision namely the renovation of Henblas and to safeguard communities such as Llangristiolus that contribute so much to Anglesey's Welsh Language and Culture and special community."

7.6 An e-mail was received from the Leader of the Urdd Henblas Department who "declared their objection to the recommendation to close Ysgol Henblas, Llangristiolus." Their feeling was "that it would be a complete mistake to close a school that is so central to this community in Llangristiolus. The Urdd Department has been established in the village for many years now and we have a dedicated volunteer team that ensures that the children benefit from all Urdd activities." They felt "if the School closed, it will

undoubtedly be the end of the Department. Closing the school would be an expensive cultural loss for the whole community.”

7.7 A response was received from the Chair of Governors of Ysgol Henblas. While "acknowledging that the Council has very difficult decisions to make," the Governing Body was of the opinion that the answer was not "sacrificing Ysgol Henblas". Their feeling about the proposal that would involve closing Ysgol Henblas was:

- It would reduce the choice of schools available to children in the area
- That the proposal did not make financial sense
- If the school closed, that would lead to "environmental problems, depopulation of the countryside, a negative impact on the Welsh language and on a Welsh culture"
- That the school should not be closed due to the recent statement of the Cabinet Secretary on Education.
- The shortcomings they saw in the consultation process
- The Group's Opinion that the closure of 2 schools "could not be justified under the School Organisation Code"

NOTE - Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas are on the list of rural schools published by the Welsh Government as part of the consultation on the School Organisation Code. The proposed changes to the School Organisation Code have not come into effect.

8. OTHER RESPONSES

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

- Gwynedd Council;
- Welsh Government Officers
- Regional and local Assembly Members and Member of Parliament
- Estyn;
- Teaching unions and auxiliary staff unions;
- The Regional Education Consortium namely GwE;
- The Regional Transport Consortium namely Taith;
- North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner;
- The Communities First Partnership;
- Mudiad Meithrin;
- The Authority's Youth Service;
- Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni

8.2 A response was received from the local Assembly Member. He said: "The impression is, therefore, that financial considerations have driven the change of mind. As there has been no financial change in Ysgol Henblas, people could be forgiven for thinking that financial considerations arise from other parts of your rationalisation program that makes it attractive to include Ysgol Henblas pupils in your plans.

A *strategy* is needed in any rationalisation program, and it is suggested that long-term issues should drive a strategy? Of course you have an urgent short-term financial pressure as an authority, but when a decision is made and undone within a few months, on such an important issue as the future of a school and children and a community, it does not give people the confidence that a true strategy is at work here.

We can list widespread reasons for keeping Ysgol Henblas open. The fact is that it is not a small school. The fact that an excellent new headteacher has recently been appointed. The fact that the

building is still relatively new and fit for purpose. The fact that it was unreasonable not to have a primary school to serve such a huge rural area between Llangefni and the western coast of Anglesey (Bodorgan has also been closed). The native rural Welsh culture of the school. The fact that Llangristiolus children contribute culturally to Anglesey directly from their experience at Henblas. The fact that a new playground has been opened to the village on the school field recently (and all the money has been raised by my wife as a Community Councilor). The fact that Ysgol Henblas is the only village hall for any significant size event.

But I know that tens of other parents list these factors, and much more.

My questions are: is there a strategy here, and are you really comfortable in the way you have dealt with the case of Ysgol Henblas by giving little time to re-consult on something that is so far reaching its implications, not just to Llangristiolus but to a large rural area in western Anglesey? "

- 8.3 In its summary, Estyn said "In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is at least likely to maintain the provision and standards for pupils in the area".
- 8.4 A response was received from the union officers of the N.E.U. Their officer said: "The Anglesey Division of the National Education Union (N.U.T. section) supports the C21 Schools Program. Although in this case, the size of surplus places and the age of school buildings is not a key driver of change, the benefits of staffing / additional staffing / flexibility, from a new C21 area school are indispensable. **What the Union continues to oppose is the risk to member posts and the move to compulsory redundancies. The scale of redundancies in the reorganisation of Santes Dwynwen has relocated members across the island and this can increase the objection to further reorganisations.** We appreciate your effort to "relocate" redundant members, and suggest that the Authority publishes any success in this regard, of course, protecting individuals' privacy."
- 8.5 The National Teachers' Union of Wales official said: "UCAC is aware that one of the Council's priorities is to improve the educational outcomes for children and young people from disadvantaged areas by breaking the link between deprivation and low educational achievement. In considering the workloads of headteachers and teachers in our schools nowadays, UCAC is very pleased to understand that the Authority works with primary and secondary schools to develop a model that reduces the burden of bureaucracy and enhances business management arrangements to the primary sector, through the Small and Rural Schools and Business Management grants scheme. "
- 8.6 A response was received from Llangristiolus and Cerrigceinwen Community Council. The response was: "Llangristiolus Community Council members are strongly in favor of keeping the school open. Members feel that if the school closed it would have a big impact on the community. There are a large number of children in school and the school's performance is outstanding."
- 8.7 A response was received from the Head of Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni. He expressed his disappointment that there was no mention of the "3-18 school at Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni" "in the body of the report". He felt "with the advent of the new curriculum in 2022, that this is a golden opportunity to develop an innovative system for pupils in the area".
He went on to describe the potential benefits of a 3-18 school that were:
- Standards and Provision
 - Professional Development and Future Leaders
 - Resources
- 8.8 A response from a spokeswoman was received on behalf of the Welsh Language Society Education Campaign Group. The group stated their opposition to the proposal to close Henblas, Bodffordd and Ysgol Hir Hir schools to create a new area school. The main points in the e-mail were:

- The shortcomings they saw in the consultation process
- The Group's opinion that the closure of 2 schools "could not be justified under the School Organisation Code"
- The Group's view that the Authority had "not considered other possibilities "
- The impact of the proposals in the opinion of the Group on Welsh communities

8.9 In addition to the consultation forms and feedback letters there was an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to an electronic survey through the Isle of Anglesey County Council website. A summary of the survey [101 responses] is presented in appendix 1.

9. RESPONSES FROM PUPILS

9.1 Council officers met with pupils from Ysgol Henblas, Bodffordd and Corn Hir. The intention was to hold short meetings with a representation of pupils from the three schools, to find out their views on the proposal to change their existing school.

It was explained to the pupils that consultation had been undertaken with adults in the community, and this was an opportunity for the children from the schools to express their views on the Council's school modernisation plans. It was emphasised that their views were important, as they are the individuals attending the schools. They were told that the information they submitted will be transferred to a report and presented to Councillors as part of the Statutory Consultation.

It was explained that the reasons for modernisation were:

- Need to make sure that all pupils receive a good education
- Need to make sure that the school is modern and offers good resources
- That the Council spends its money on schools in a fair way
- Anglesey schools have surplus places or insufficient places in some of their schools

The children were asked the following questions.

1. What did the pupils like about their current school?
2. What do you think of the proposal to combine Ysgol Henblas, Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd and build a new school?
3. Did they agree with the reasons for change?
4. Any other comments

During some sessions, some children wrote their comments on paper and it will be presented in the children's language.

9.2 The children's comments from Ysgol Bodffordd

What do you like about your current school?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Outdoor play area▪ Good staff▪ Kind people – staff and children▪ Interesting work▪ Feeling safe▪ Know who to turn at▪ Not a school to close▪ Good areas to play▪ Large spaces for exercise▪ Familiar with everyone in the school▪ We are all friends▪ Good dinner▪ Good breakfast here

- football games
- Three play time
- Fun
- Everybody is treated fairly
- Sufficient number of computers / plenty of resources
- Speak Welsh
- Everybody helps each other
- Do not want to lose friends
- Children and staff are helpful
- Everybody ready to help
- If you are worried - the staff will always help you
- Staff look after us
- Friends will help us, if staff are not available
- People here to play
- Enough healthy food
- No one gets unpleasant with each other

Question – What do you think of the proposal to combine Ysgol Henblas, Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd and build a new school

- Friends will be separated
- Staff will lose their job
- I'm not happy and don't agree with the proposal
- I'm familiar with everyone at this school
- We do not want to close this school. Corn Hir wants the school to close - so why not give them an extension
- A school for 500 children is too much
- We won't know where to go (the school will be large)
- The bigger the school, the greater the problems
- If children are excluded from the new school and the other schools are full - to which school will the excluded children go?
- Without a school there is little else in Bodffordd –it is a community school i.e. we hold birthday parties, Eisteddfod Bodffordd.
- In a large school, there is no fair opportunity. There is more fair play in a small school
- I do not want to be a pupil in a large school
- I'll be shy in a big school and feel more comfortable in a small school
- Safety will need to be considered at school, as there will be more doors in the new school
- We won't know the children– we will need an opportunity to get to know them
- The staff will not know the children in name terms

The children were asked if they understood the reasons for change

- **Need to make sure that all the pupils receive a good Education**
- **Need to make sure that the school is modern and offers good resources**
- **That the Council spends its money on schools in a fair way**
- **Anglesey schools have surplus places or insufficient places in some of their schools**

- Some of the school council agreed with the reasons and others did not.
- One child noted - I hate the proposal under consideration by the Council, and questioned why the Council had not explored further the option of an extension at Ysgol Bodffordd.

9.3 The comments from the children of Ysgol Corn Hir Representation from Years 2-6

What do you like about your current school?

- Playing football in the summer
- Small school – I feel safe and people are friendly
- Celebrating Book day
- Competitions and the Eisteddfod
- A lot of friends
- An opportunity to make more friends in the new school
- The work is cool
- Mathematics
- Close to the housing estate – and not a school in the middle of a field somewhere
- I can walk here
- A lot of resources
- Come to school on our bikes and sports opportunities
- Cwl Cymru
- Bikes yard
- Climbing frame
- Reception, Infants and Juniors (3 play areas)
- If we get a new school – we want a park like the one in Ysgol y Graig
- We want trampolines – if that’s ok with Health and Safety
- We want more space in the toilets
- With more children, there’s more chances for them to get hurt
- Larger classrooms
- Larger hall. The current hall is small
- We wish for the kitchen of the new school to be similar to that of Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni
- There will be more staff in the new school to prepare the food
- How will disabled children go up the stairs if the school has two floors?
- There will be more lessons in the new school i.e. Cookery
- There might be an opportunity to prepare food in the new school
- We wish to have another goal in the new school in order to play football over the winter
- In the new school
- In the new school, divide the yard fairly between those who play football and those who do not.
- Have AstroTurf
- Sports opportunities are important
- It will be disadvantageous for Ysgol Henblas – they will have to travel further
- We want to see the junior and infants departments working together
- We wish to have another hall for physical Education, there’s food on the floor in the hall when we have physical Education at present
- Not enough rooms in the current school, and we have to juggle rooms
- We wish to have an AstroTurf play area and include spectator chairs, similar to a stadium
- I’m eager to have a school that’s more modern
- Big school. keep safe and healthy
- I wish to have a small space to play and knit
- School nurse
- A larger room for the after school club and a computer for all

Question – What do you think of the proposal to combine Ysgol Henblas, Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd and build a new school

- Disadvantages, but more advantages
- Better - more room to keep the equipment, which helps us with our work
- Want more colourful physical Education equipment
- The traffic will be awful – it will need to be considered carefully
- It will be better, more teachers. Will there be jobs for the teachers?
- Get school buses
- Want dancing lessons
- What will happen to the current school buildings
- Will the new school be located behind Ysgol y Graig
- We don't want to open the Train Line in Llangefni
- We can compete and succeed more at the Eisteddfod, as more children will be at school
- There will be more rules, if there are more children
- We are Eager to talk to the architect about the design
- We want lockers instead of pegs to hold our coats etc.
- We want a new logo and new school uniform
- We propose a name for the new school Ysgol Corn Henffordd
- Want to ensure there are sufficient number of phones at the new school
- We want a show every week at the new school
- I am upset that I will not attend the new school. By that time, I will have gone to the Secondary school.
- Good resources and resources that work i.e. Computers
- Good idea – we don't have sufficient space at this school
- Its important for the school to be clean
- Learning about nature is important
- Continue with the star of the week and start of the day

The children were asked if they understood the reasons for change

- **Need to make sure that all the pupils receive a good Education**
- **Need to make sure that the school is modern and offers good resources**
- **That the Council spends its money on schools in a fair way**
- **Anglesey schools have surplus places or insufficient places in some of their schools**

They understood the reasons for change

9.4 The comments from the children of Ysgol Henblas Representation from years 2-6

What do you like about your current school?

- Learning different things. Opportunities
- Friends
- Friendly teachers
- We all enjoy
- Dinner

- Lots of friends
- Life would be dull without school and friends
- Fun work
- Safe school
- School close to houses /homes
- Learning and making new friends
- Cricket after school
- Activities after school
- Everything
- It is fun
- Musical instruments lessons
- Good resources
- Teachers and assistants look after us – no bullying
- If we are sad we have friends to help us
- Trying new things- a range of different things
- We try new things, such as food from Africa
- We made fudge during the Christmas period
- Suggestion of a name for the news school FforCenblas (Combination of the 3 schools)
- Opportunity to watch a film at the school
- School in the community
- School for the community

Question – What do you think of the proposal to combine Ysgol Henblas, Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd and build a new school

- The current school is close to where I live, and friends are important
- A village school is important, there will be no school here
- Bullying will be a problem at the new school
- Its important for the Council to consider how the children will arrive at the school safely
- I'm worried that the children who are currently friends, will be separated
- No link with the community once the school is lost
- In larger classrooms, we will not have the attention of the teacher
- We won't get the same attention if the school has larger classrooms
- Larger school feels less safe
- Important to continue with a play area in Llangristiolus
- A number of children use the school playground to play after school
- We have a new park here, why do you want to demolish it

The children were asked if they understood the reasons for change

- **Need to make sure that all the pupils receive a good Education**
- **Need to make sure that the school is modern and offers good resources**
- **That the Council spends its money on schools in a fair way**
- **Anglesey schools have surplus places or insufficient places in some of their schools**

The general consensus was that they understood the reasons

Further information submitted by the children

14 written comments presented on the day (in their own words)

- The school will be bigger
- too many children for the teachers to give attention
- What if we ask someone to play with us in the other school, what if they say no and make us sad
- We have paid thousands of pounds on the school, and the money will go to waste, we have modern technology here, and we get better Education in a smaller school
- My opinion about closing Henblas – I want my children to attend Ysgol Henblas therefore I don't want a super school and its close to my house. I will not go all the way to Llangefni to school. No to closing Henblas. Henblas forever.

- My opinion is keep the school open. We will not merge. This school is good.
- I'm happy in the school and I have a lot of friends
- If the school closes, children can get lost in the new school
- Children cannot play after school on the yard/ school grounds
- No to merging. No super school
- there will be no community school
- In my opinion, some of the teachers will lose their jobs. If the school is demolished and more houses are built, there will be more people in the school. Thank you for taking my opinion
- I love this school because we are all friends and we have many memories.
- There might be too many children in a classroom and the children who require attention will not receive it. There will be too many children.

10. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED

It is not possible to respond to all the individual comments received for several reasons including the fact that many are similar. The Authority's response to the main themes presented in comparison with the main drivers of change in the Schools Modernisation Strategy [section 2] is presented below.

10.1 Ysgol Henblas

1. There is no reference in the comments received to the fact that standards at Ysgol Henblas have been low for some time as confirmed by the Estyn report (May 2017). Since then, the school has not made the expected progress and it is a fact that the number of days of school support provided to the school is much higher than in a significant number of other schools. The Authority recognises the recent improvements under the leadership of the interim Headteacher but questions remain regarding the school's ability to improve and meet the standards expected by the Authority. Regardless of the final decision, there is an urgent need for the Authority, parents and the Governing Body to continue to work together over the next year to ensure the necessary improvements.
2. The size of the school does not allow the appointment of a deputy and recent reports suggest that considerable work is required in order to reach a point where delegated leadership [a number of teachers contributing to school leadership] would be one of the strengths of the school. As a result, it could be argued that developing a culture of leadership development and succession planning would be a significant challenge in the school.
3. The size of the school means that there are classes of mixed age in the school. This, together with the expectation that suitable work must be prepared for the range of abilities in a class, offers a higher level of challenge for teachers in smaller schools.
4. A significant number of responses indicate that the condition of the school is good. According to the Authority's current assessment, the present condition of the building is satisfactory and there is a maintenance backlog of £112,000.

5. Many of the responses referred to community use of the school. It is questioned whether more community use is made of this school than a number of other schools / areas. The community impact assessment developed by the Authority will look in more detail at community use of the school.
6. Reference is made to the fact that the use of the Welsh Language is better at Ysgol Henblas than in other schools. There is no evidence to support this as the use of Welsh is one of the strengths of all three schools and the comment is not complimentary of the current practices in the other two schools. It is also alleged that establishing a larger school would have a negative influence on the Welsh language. There is no evidence to support this. It is also noted that the children of the area contribute culturally to the Isle of Anglesey as a result of their experience in the school. There are examples to support the first part of the statement but it is questioned whether this contribution is better than the contribution of the other schools involved, both culturally and in other areas. The Linguistic impact assessment does not confirm many of these issues.
7. Reference is made to the new playground in the school field. Although this is an important issue, it is not a key factor in considering the future of the school as it would be possible to consider this at community level if a decision was made to close the school. Similarly, reference to the use of the school hall is relevant to the other schools involved; it is also questioned whether more use is made of the hall in this school compared with other schools and on a County wide level.
8. There is no reference to the cost per pupil – Henblas is the highest of the three schools. There are 13% surplus places in the school despite the fact that the % of out-of-catchment pupils [32%], which has reduced recently, is relatively high.

10.2 Ysgol Bodffordd

1. There is no reference in the comments received to the fact that standards at Ysgol Bodffordd have been low over a period of time - a fact confirmed by the Estyn report (June 2015). In addition, the progress made since then has been slow and it could be argued that the support provided by the Authority, through GwE, has been key to achieving this. The school support time provided for Ysgol Bodffordd is much higher than in a significant number of other schools.
2. The above raises issues regarding the quality of leadership in the school and in that context the Authority would recognise the challenge which exists in smaller schools where leaders are responsible for a class for a significant part of the week and are also responsible for all aspects of leading a school.
3. The size of the school means that classes are of mixed age. This, together with the expectation that suitable work must be prepared for the range of abilities in a class, offers a higher level of challenge for teachers in smaller schools.
4. The Authority recognises that significant community use is made of the school on a level which appears to be much higher than the community use made of the other schools involved and across the county. If the final decision involves closure of the school, it is acknowledged that there would be a need to collaborate with the community in order to identify a solution that would allow community activities to continue.
5. The Authority recognises that the use of the Welsh Language is one of the school's strengths. This is confirmed by the Language impact assessment.

6. There is no reference in the comments received regarding the cost per pupil of s4,500 which is higher than the Anglesey average (£3,962). In addition it should be noted that there is a maintenance backlog to the value of £209,000 which reflects the age and condition of the building.

10.3 Corn Hir School

1. The Authority recognizes that Corn Hir School is the largest school involved and consequently the final option needs to reflect this. It is also acknowledged that there is lack of capacity in the school and that it is not possible to expand the school on the current site.
2. Current standards in the schools are good. However, the Authority would argue that there is room for improvement.
3. There is a maintenance backlog to the value of £239,000 in the school.
4. The cost per pupil is the lowest of the three schools involved and it could be argued that this results in a significantly higher financial challenge than the other schools involved. As a result, class sizes are large and as a results and the fact that larger schools often serve areas which are more deprived, it could be argued that this does not promote equality of opportunity.
5. The school has a deputy and there are examples of individuals moving on to leadership posts in other schools.
6. The use of the Welsh language at the school is very good. This is confirmed by the Language impact assessment.

10.4 General Comments

Comments were received which were consistent to all three schools and the most common are responded to below.

- A number of comments were made regarding the Welsh language, questioning the linguistic status and quality of Welsh in the new school; school size affecting the quality of the Welsh language. It is one of the Council's priorities to strengthen and safeguard the Welsh language. Any new school will be need to follow the Welsh language policy. In addition, the Council expects any school which is part of the school modernisation programme to continue to be a community-based, Welsh-speaking schools. There is no evidence that smaller schools are more effective in promoting high standards of Welsh.
- Comments were made to the effect that larger schools are less effective in creating a 'sense of family' and that there is no chance for the children to have the opportunity to represent the school. There is no evidence that this is true - there are arrangements in primary schools to ensure opportunities for all pupils to participate e.g. year teams, age specific choirs.
- It is alleged that 'schools are at the heart of the community' and that communities decline when a school closes. It is accepted that this is a challenge but there are specific examples where a new school has created a 'wider' community. There are also examples of communities continuing to thrive in villages where schools have closed.

11. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The capital costs of any new school built under Band A of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme are funded through a combination of grants and loans. 50% of the budget is provided by the Welsh Government through capital grants and supported borrowing (annual debt repayments and interest costs are funded through the Revenue Support Grant). The remaining 50% must be funded by the Local Authority

through any income generated from the sale of former school sites and through unsupported borrowing where the Council must fund the annual cost of repayment of annual debt and interest.

Building new schools is a significant capital investment and the financial appraisal of the options must consider the future revenue obligations in order to ensure that the financial burden of building new schools on future generations is minimal. Building new schools also results in greater economies of scale and lower revenue costs. The reduction in revenue costs is also an important factor in the financial appraisal as the savings generated contribute towards the additional capital financing costs.

Revenue savings are generated as running one large school is less expensive in terms of building maintenance and energy, reduced management costs (one Head instead of two or three) and class sizes can be set to the best possible level which reduces learning costs.

Before arriving at the preferred option, a financial appraisal was undertaken of the following 4 options: -

1. Do nothing and continue to maintain Corn Hir, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas
2. Open a new school to replace Corn Hir School and Ysgol Bodffordd and continue to maintain Ysgol Henblas
3. Open a new school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas (on the same site as option 2).
4. Open a new school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas (on a different site).

The financial appraisal considers the cost of financing the loan, the revenue savings generated and the additional costs of transporting pupils to the new school. In order to undertake the financial appraisal, the following assumptions were made.

- Consider loans to fund the new schools over a 50 year period with the Minimum Revenue Provision calculated on a 2% flat line basis.
- Consider loans to fund backlog maintenance costs over a 20 year period with the Lower Revenue Provision calculated on a 4% flat line basis.
- Use current interest rates to model costs.
- To calculate the revenue costs of the new school, the current information regarding pupil numbers, free school meals, special educational needs of pupils, etc. was used to make an estimated allocation for the new school.
- One-off costs were not included in the financial appraisal, including the costs of appointing a Headteacher before the new school opened, redundancy costs, salary protection and the costs of maintaining the former sites. These will be taken into account when the detailed business plan for the preferred option is prepared.

The maintenance of the 3 current schools would not lead to significant capital costs, but the maintenance backlog of £406k in the 3 schools would need to be addressed, with the possibility of additional costs as the buildings approached the end of their useful lives. Extra costs may arise as a result of having to pay to transport children to other schools, which are outside the catchment area due to lack of capacity, especially at Corn Hir School, but it is difficult to determine these at this time and they have not be included in the evaluation.

The construction of one school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas would be more expensive but this additional cost will be partly offset by an increase in the contribution of Welsh Government and the capital receipts generated through the sale of Ysgol Henblas site. The closure of Henblas would increase the economies of the scale of the new school and would generate more revenue savings.

The following table outlines the financial evaluation of the 4 options set out above

	Option 1 Do Nothing	Option 2 A new school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd. Henblas School to stay open with modifications	Option 3 A new school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas on the same site as Option 2	Option 4 A new school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas on a different site
Estimated Capital Cost	£ 0	£ 8,143,000	£ 8,412,000	£ 10,162,000
Backlog of maintenance costs	£ 406,000	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0
Total Capital Costs	£ 406,000	£ 8,143,000	£ 8,412,000	£ 10,162,000
Welsh Government Finance	£ 0	(£ 4,071,500)	(£ 4,206,000)	(£ 5,081,000)
Capital Receipts	£ 0	(£ 320,000)	(£ 770,000)	(£ 770,000)
Net Unsupported Borrowing	£ 406,000	£ 3,751,500	£ 3,436,000	£ 4,311,000
Revenue Liabilities				
Annual cost of Minimum Revenue Provision	£ 20,300	£ 75,030	£ 68,720	£ 86,220
Annual Interest Cost @ 2.3%	£ 9,340	£ 86,280	£ 79,030	£ 99,150
Additional Transport Costs	Not calculated	£ 32,000	£ 64,000	£ 64,000
Total Additional Revenue Costs	£ 29,640	£ 193,310	£ 211,750	£ 249,370
Revenue Savings	£ 0	(£ 25,700)	(£ 110,470)	(£ 110,470)
Net Additional Revenue Costs	£ 29,640	£ 167,610	£ 101,280	£ 138,900

12. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Authority's Executive adopted the Energy Strategy in 2017. The aim of the strategy is to reduce carbon emissions by 15% by 2022. The information below shows the Authority's spending on fuel and electricity over the past three financial years for the three schools:

School	Expenditure (on electricity and fuel)			Average (per year)	Average cost per pupil
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017		
Bodffordd	£6,491	£5,560	£6,814	£6,288	£101
Corn Hir	£9,178	£8,442	£9,525	£9,048	£42
Henblas	£7,380	£6,834	£7,467	£7,227	£82

The table below shows the carbon dioxide emissions from the schools over the past three financial years:

School	Tonnes CO ₂ (electricity and fuel)			Average*	Average per pupil
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017		
Bodffordd	25	31	27	28	0.45
Corn Hir	35	34	47	38	0.18
Henblas	34	28	26	29	0.33

Key - *tonnes CO₂

The figures show Ysgol Corn Hir has the highest carbon dioxide emissions but has the lowest CO₂ emissions per pupil.

13 .CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

13.1 An attempt is made below to summarise the main issues presented in the previous sections and to use the information to make a recommendation for the Committee's attention.

13.2 The above evidence results in the following conclusions.

- Ysgol Corn Hir, in light of the number of pupils, current capacity, cost per head and backlog maintenance needs to be central to any new arrangement.
- The current standards of the school, the pace of improvement and the quality of leadership, school size, maintenance backlog and cost per head means it is not possible to justify the future for Ysgol Bodffordd. However, it should be noted that any decision needs to take into account the need to attempt to secure the community provision.
- There are a number of issues which need to be addressed when considering the future of Ysgol Henblas.
 - The school's standards are lower than expected and have been for some time and the pace of improvement is very disappointing.
 - Considerable work is required in order to develop leadership at the school.
 - The size of the school means that classes are of mixed age and this, together with the expectation to prepare suitable work for the range of abilities in a class, is more challenging for the teachers.
 - According to the Authority's current assessment, the current condition of the building is satisfactory and there is a maintenance backlog to the value of £112,000.
 - The cost per pupil is higher in this school than the other two schools.
 - There are 13% surplus places in the school despite the fact that the % of out-of-catchment pupils, although recently reduced, is relatively high.
- It is acknowledged however that a decision to close Ysgol Henblas could influence the availability of education in a rural area together with meeting the wishes of some parents for a different type of school. As a result, a case could be submitted to support Ysgol Henblas provided there is clear evidence that the recent improvements continue and that the pace of improvement increases.

13.3 The financial analysis shows that the maintenance backlog of the three schools is £406k and that this amount would increase as the buildings approach the end of their useful lives. It is also noted that the construction of one school to replace Ysgol Corn Hir, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas would be more expensive than building one school for Corn Hir and Bodffordd but this additional cost would be partially offset by an increase in the contribution of the Welsh Government and the capital receipts generated by the sale of the Ysgol Henblas site. The closure of Henblas would improve the value for money associated with the new school as it would lead to more revenue savings.

13.4 In light of the above, and all the comments received, the following options are presented.

Option 1

Build a new school for Bodffordd, Corn Hir and Henblas schools.

Option 2

Build a new school for Bodffordd and Corn Hir schools and continue to maintain educational provision in Llangristiolus. The provision in Llangristiolus could entail maintaining Ysgol Henblas in its current form or as a multi-site school [i.e. merge Henblas with the new school and create one school on two sites]. This decision would have to be linked to assurance in a year's time that standards at Ysgol Henblas are improving, that the current pace of improvement increases and the prospects with regard to pupil numbers remain constant or increase. Any planning for the new school would have to take this into account.

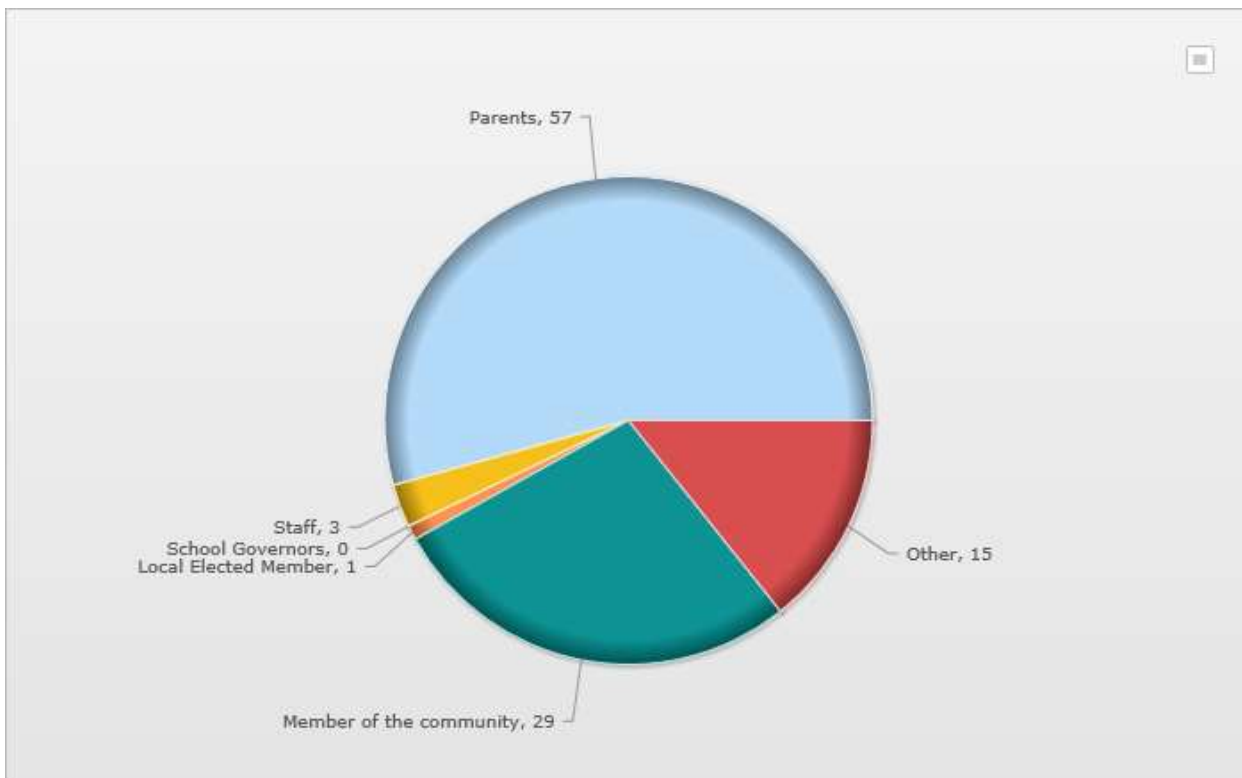
13.5 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to address the following issues.

- I. To consider the report in its entirety and to highlight **any additional issues** that could be useful in order to assist the Executive to reach a decision.
- II. Take account of the above and recommend a preferred option for the Executive Committee.

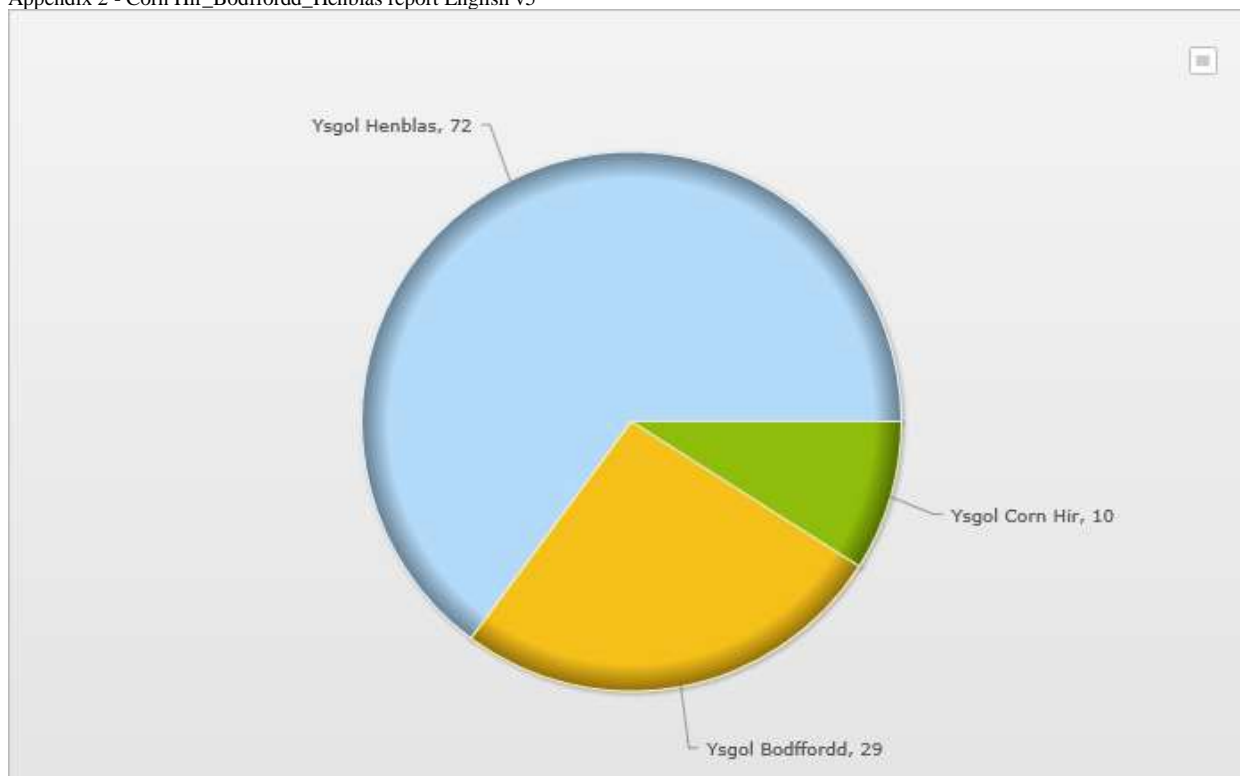
ELECTRONIC SURVEY

In addition to the consultation forms and feedback letters there was also an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to an electronic survey via the Isle of Anglesey County Council website. Below is a summary of the survey.

We are grateful to the 101 people who took part in the survey with representation from the three schools involved. Stakeholders were asked about the group they represented, and this was the response:



Below is a summary of the representations from the schools under consideration, some individuals chose more than one school.



Stakeholders were asked if the proposal to build a new primary school in Llangefni and the closure of Ysgol Henblas, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Corn Hir would have a negative impact on the Welsh Language?

Yes a negative impact	No negative impact
73%	27%

Keep Ysgol Henblas open
Keep Ysgol Bodffordd open
Keep the Canolfan and Cylch Meithrin open.
Transfer the Canolfan back to the ownership of the community. Keep small, community, rural schools open. A rural school has a greater focus on Welsh-medium education
Need opportunities to continue to encourage Welsh culture and traditions
Ensure the use of the Welsh language remains strong during break times, lunch etc.
Ensure that Welsh speaking staff are appointed
It is impossible to minimise the negative effect, difficult to control during break times etc.
Continue with activities such as Eisteddfodau that encourage Welsh language and Welsh culture
Provide assurance about the linguistic status of the new school. Develop a plan for dealing with non-Welsh-speaking families moving to the area because of Horizon and other projects.
Extend Ysgol Henblas and keep it in the community to secure the Welsh Language.
Provide assurance to the Cymdeithas yr Iaith and others that the closure of rural schools (if approved) in this case will not have a negative impact on the Welsh Language.
The High numbers of learners will mean that the new school will need to have bilingual status.
Combine Ysgol Henblas and Ysgol Bodorgan - to maintain the connection between Language and the Community.
Promote the language at school. Lessons taught through the medium of Welsh

The Isle of Anglesey County Council's response to the concerns above about the Welsh Language

The Isle of Anglesey County Council has adopted the principle that Welsh should not be treated less favourably than English, and that residents of the island should live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they wish to do so. The expectation in relation to the Welsh language is the same for each school, which gives every pupil in the County the opportunity to have the right skills to be confident in their bilingualism. In light of this, any new school proposal submitted - will be subject to the requirements of the language policy.

The Council recognises that rural schools have a key role to play in contributing to communities, the use of the Welsh language and the way of life. When considering school modernisation options the Council will take into account the balance between educational needs and the long-term needs of our communities.

It is the Council's expectation for schools that are part of the school modernisation program to continue to be community-based, Welsh-speaking schools.

It will be a priority for the Council to strengthen and safeguard the Welsh language and bilingual education

Stakeholders were asked 'What impact will the proposal have on local families?'

Negative impact on families who do not have access to a vehicle or a means of transport , especially families who can walk to their schools at present.
It is reasonable to travel some miles to school. Parents will still be able to socialise at the school gate. It will be a shame to close the school but there's no expectation for taxpayers to pay for an institution for the minority, and we have to be realistic.
Further distance to travel to the new school
Negative impact on poor families, without access to cars, and will force them to look for different ways of traveling. Additional costs for family transport.
As a result of the closure of Bodorgan and Aberffraw schools and this proposal there is a large geographical area without a school
It will cause difficulty. It will have a financial, personal and emotional effect
Loss of current close links
Loss of community hub.
House prices decrease in areas without a school
Lack of rural school choices for parents
Concern about the future of villages
Concern about parental friendship, a belief that parental relationships are easier to maintain in smaller schools
Concerned about 4 year old children traveling on the buses on their own
Loss of relationship between parents and school staff. Losing the feeling of 'family' in current schools
Devastating, in general
Children feel safer in a smaller size school
It will be a strain on families

The closure of Ysgol Bodffordd will not have a detrimental impact on local families. Everyone will see each other in the new school
If the school closes, the Nursery school will lose a building. Historically the numbers decrease and they close
The closure of village schools will make the place less attractive for young people and families. That inevitable will lead to poverty in rural areas.
Destructive - think of the long-term and not financially. Appreciate that the Authority has to make savings.
Families will be forced to move closer to the new school. I will consider moving as I am not happy to send my children on the bus, as it is not safe
Awful. We moved to the Henblas area and have been welcomed. A variety of documentations have been developed to outline the impact of closing a rural school on the communities
Negative impact on health. At Present some can walk to school and they get their exercise
Loss of access to services e.g. Cylchoedd Meithrin
Are there consideration to the families attending Ysgol Llandrygarn, and the additional travel implications
Difficult for specific groups such as single parents.
Traffic issues. The traffic will be heavier
In terms of sport and cultural, smaller schools give greater confidence and opportunity to represent a school. Worried about losing opportunities in a larger school. Worried that the focus will be on success rather than the taking part
Additional strain on families to look for provision for the children
Small schools have smaller classes, and so the children participate more. Problems are identified by the teachers because of the relationship between the children and the teachers
Childcare pre and after school will be difficult
It will have a detrimental impact on local families and many have moved into the village / area to attend the school
Very negative effect. Henblas school has been through many changes in recent years. Some families have moved their children from school, mainly due to staffing problems. Most families remained faithful to the school, and recognise the school's importance to the local community and their children are happy at school. A recent appointment, of an enthusiastic young Headteacher's has given the school a huge boost. Parents, children and school staff look forward to the future and see the school of Henblas shine again.

Stakeholders were asked 'How will the proposal affect communities?'

In general, feel that closing any school in a community will have a negative effect. Undoubtedly, opportunities will be limited in comparison to the current situation, as those opportunities will have to be shared and offered to a larger number of children but with less human resources. Therefore, those children will inevitably have less attention and a risk of being lost in the system.
The biggest loss will be the centre, although there is no major use of it, this is the only facility in the village. Losing the community's hub. An important building for meetings.
Reduce opportunities for people to socialise and meet people from the same village and this will have a negative impact on the area's well-being needs.
It will not continue to be a village, just an estate of houses
The natural closeness that exists and the support will eventually weaken and break down. Without a heart and daily contact there will be no feeling of belonging

Very quiet
The danger of turning Bodffordd into a village into a commuter town, no one around in the day.
Losing the heart of the village. Losing the assembly point '. Lose the sense of community and rural children
Decline in language, lack of communication and people not recognise each other of everyone because there are too many parents and staff. Children are likely to be forgotten, if they are quiet children, or have a learning difficulty.
The Community will suffer. Loss of collaboration between the local community and the school. Many residents and the elderly of the village support Christmas Concerts, Thanksgiving and coffee evenings that are run by the school, either in the Community Hall or local Chapels. If the school closes this can not happen on their doorstep.
The closing of the school will be the greatest impact on the community of Llangristiolus. The school is the heart of this community. Children can walk and cycle to school. .
Destructive
The loss of Ysgol Gymunedol Bodffordd will be a great disaster for the community. Losing the village hub. Welsh culture and traditions will end.
Reduce newcomers' willingness to speak Welsh. Lose the culture
No difference. People will arrange other meetings to catch up.
The Council is guilty of following a system that is not effective. (Use the English model, and they are now re-visiting the model and recognise the benefits of smaller schools). We have no faith in the proposal, as Ysgol y Graig is an example of that, which is no longer fit for purpose or sustainable and is a new school.
It will have a serious impact on the community of Bodffordd
There is no pub or shop in the community, so closing the school will stop the opportunities from the community to get together.
At present very sociable after school, children stay in the playground and the school is playing field. The parents chat while the children play. The community of the young families of Llangristiolus will suffer.
Very negative impact - less families will move because having a local school is a great attraction. With this, there will be nothing in Llangristiolus area and no community. Parents here already lose the local connection by having to take their children further.
No community in Llangristiolus.
There is a special community in Llangristiolus and Ysgol Henblas is the heart of the village. There is no shop or public house or anywhere else for people to come together, without school, everyone would pass through and the strong, Welsh, natural community that is here will be lost. On a number of occasions, parents and residents of the village come together, e.g. to raise money for the Anglesey Eisteddfod, or another charity, and there are several treasure hunts, afternoons teas and so on have been organized. If a school does not continue in the village, the community will be shaken and the loss of another natural Welsh community.
Demolish communities. Young families move closer to the area school and second homes will be in the villages.
House prices fall. No focus
Loss of local connections. Loss of Welsh Language.
Devastating the school is the Centre of the village. Destroying communities and no need.
People do not know each other.
No community hub
Destructive impact on a small community

Emigration is inevitable
The village will be rows of houses without a central point. Friends will not exist. The school is the heart of the community and its closure is criminal.
The population of Llangristiolus has increased over recent years. Many young families have settle here. The school is the hub of the community.
Closing the school of Henblas will kill the community. It is a thriving community with a number of young families who have moved here in recent years and the school is the main attractions for moving here. The Cylch Meithrin is full, 2 sessions will take place from September 2018.
Impact on the whole community. The school is the centre of the village. The community has been brought together because of the school and without it the community will break down and the Welsh language will start to disappear.
Impact on community life is obvious, with fewer families choosing to live in the villages on Anglesey.
Losing work