

ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	5 July 2018
Subject:	Schools Modernisation Programme – Report on the Statutory Consultation in the Llangefni area: Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig
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)
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Local members:	Councillor Nicola Roberts Councillor Bob Parry Councillor Dylan Rees

1 – Recommendation/s

The evidence from the consultation leads to the following conclusions.

- i. Standards in both schools are similar in terms of the expected level attained (Level 4+). However, evidence over the last three years indicates that Ysgol y Graig has succeeded in ensuring that a higher percentage of pupils attain the higher levels in the core subjects. As a result, merging would not have a negative effect on standards.
- ii. Merger would make better use of the Council's resources and harmonise the cost per head.
- iii. The merger of the two schools would create the conditions for the Headteacher to have sufficient non-contact time for leadership.
- iv. Bringing the two schools together will address the backlog maintenance and provide a twenty first century resource for school users. The financial analysis shows that the backlog cost of the two schools is £369k with the possibility of further additional costs as Ysgol Talwrn is approaching the end of its useful life. However, it is acknowledged that there could be additional transport costs resulting from transporting children but it is difficult at this point to determine these and as a result they are not included in the evaluation. It is also acknowledged that an extension at Ysgol Y Graig would be more expensive than the current system, but the additional cost will be partially offset by an increase in the Welsh Government's contribution and the capital receipts generated through the sale of Ysgol Talwrn site.

In light of the above, it is recommended that the capacity of Ysgol y Graig be increased to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, and close Ysgol Talwrn. This would be done by

- using the existing building for Key Stage 2 i.e. years 3 to 6 and adapt it;
- build a new 'Block' for the Foundation Phase, namely Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2.
- Consider relocation of the Flying Start provision within the Ysgol y Graig campus.

The new 'block' would continue to be part of Ysgol y Graig and would not be a separate unit.

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on the above recommendation in order to inform the Executive's decision.

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 Ysgol Santes Dwynwen, Newborough 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 the proposal as regards to educational provision and value for money?
3. What procedures/support does the education service have in place to improve standards with the proposal?
4. Is there any other additional information/considerations which should be brought to the attention of the Executive to inform the Executive's decision?

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 less than 120, 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 per head expenditure 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 –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 (1 May – 18 June 2018) – Contact Mr Emrys Bebb



SWYDDOGOL – OFFICIAL

**ADRODDIAD AR YR YMGYNGHORI STATUDOL – ARDAL
LLANGFNI**

(Ysgol Y Graig ac Ysgol Talwrn)

STATUTORY CONSULTATION REPORT – LLANGFNI AREA

(Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn)

1 Mai – 18 Mehefin 2018 / 1 May – 18 June 2018



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

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No.	Contents	Page
1.	INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	3
2.	DRIVERS FOR CHANGE	3
3.	THE CONSULTATION PROCESS	5
4.	COMMENTS FROM THE CONSULTATION MEETINGS	6
5.	RESPONSES FROM YSGOL TALWRN	6
6.	RESPONSES FROM YSGOL Y GRAIG	8
7.	OTHER RESPONSES	9
8.	RESPONSES FROM PUPILS	10
9.	RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED	14
10.	FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS	19
11.	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS	22
12.	CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATION	23
APPENDIX 1	ON LINE RESPONSE	24

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, create a combination of federated 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 third highest 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.

Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector for Education and Skills in Wales noted the following in the 2016-17 annual report:

In nearly all schools, the quality of leadership is the most significant factor in determining a school’s effectiveness. There are increasing challenges in recruiting headteachers, particularly in faith schools and small schools in rural areas. (Estyn Annual Report 2016-17)

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%. However, the Council needs to continue to reduce the number of surplus 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 1 May 2018 until 18 June 2018.

Consultation meetings were arranged with school stakeholders over this period:

School	Date (in 2018)	Meeting with
Y Graig	Tuesday 15 May	Drop in sessions
Talwrn	Wednesday 16 May	Drop in sessions

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 and 6 of this report.

Ysgol y Graig

- Some asked about a possible site and possible timetable for the work
- Concerns about the safety of pupils during any potential building work.
- Concerns about the size of the new building and the its facilities
- Concerns about traffic and parking by the school
- Some asked about the possible effect of the work on Flying Start

Ysgol Talwrn

- Suggestions that the Authority should wait until the new School Organisation Code comes into force
- The feeling that the Authority does not listen
- What about federating with other schools?
- Concerns as to what the S.E.N. situation would be
- The school succeeds in nurturing headteachers
- What would be the after school club arrangements?
- The feeling that the Authority has not spent on the school
- The cost of the mobile classroom is too high according to some
- Concerns about pupils from a small primary school going to a primary school “of 400”
- Some doubted the number of housing developments in the catchment area
- Concerns about the traffic and the possible journey to Llangefni
- Concerns about the future of the local Eisteddfod, Sunday School and the Ti a Fi provision

5. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL TALWRN

- 5.1 Approximately 50 responses were received from the school's stakeholders and the vast majority disagreed with the possibility of closing the school.
- 5.2 The opinion of an officer in Nyth Clyd Nest Chapel, Y Talwrn was that he was "firm in his opinion that the school should not be closed". They felt that the school was the foundation of the local society and also made a great contribution to the social and religious life of the village. If Ysgol Talwrn was to close, the officer's view was that the " Council would be guilty of refusing an opportunity to create responsible citizens." As well as praising the school, the officer mentioned “clear guidelines to be published” by the Welsh Government's Education Secretary on why rural schools should not be closed unless there are sound foundations to do so." He felt "firm foundations did not exist here"

- 5.3 In a letter from the Talwrn Branch of Merched y Wawr, the Secretary declared the opposition of the Branch to the "intention of closing Ysgol y Talwrn". The Branch stated that "the community and parents wish to see the school remain as central to the village and area". He said that Ysgol Talwrn "is a thriving, natural Welsh school in a vibrant village and we want her to stay there". The Branch "wanted a school in the village as an integral part of a viable Welsh community".
- 5.4 Before a meeting of the Full Council on 16 July 2018, a petition will be presented to the Leader of the Council. Those who signed the petition were asked to agree to "keep our School Open". The petition has been signed by 1010 signatories.
- 5.5 In its response, Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg said:
- "This consultation document is in effect is a re-publication the old consultation document from the last consultation, if not the one before that! As a result much of the content is irrelevant to the proposal in question for these two schools, as it refers to other schools.
 - The Council "irresponsible is trying to determine its fate a few weeks before the publication of the new Code."
 - many of the options referred to in this document are irrelevant to the Talwrn situation and refer to the situation to the west of Llangefni which not subject to this consultation.
 - The Local Authority does not consider all alternative BEFORE proposing school closures, as well as considering all options offered during the consultation. Council officers have not met either duty. They have failed in their statutory duties.
 - For all these reasons, the consultation is invalid and the document is inadequate.
- 5.6 A response was received from the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee and Playground Talwrn which said:
- "Our school is at the heart of our village. Over a number of years, the school and village hall have worked together on a number of activities, and the hall relies on the school for its support. Pupils and parents have supported regular fundraising events and help towards the essential maintenance costs of the hall and its playground / playground. As well as supporting a facility that is well used by the local community, it is also one that is used by the school for events such as gym activities, Sports Day, Christmas concerts, etc. In addition, we have a number of societies, including Cylch Meithrin, the Mother and Toddler Group and The Guides, who meet regularly at the Hall, which would also suffer if the school should close. In particular, the children of the school take part in most activities within the Talwrn Eisteddfod, if not all.
 - This will not only lead to more traffic on the roads to Llangefni, but will reduce the opportunities for these young people and their families to improve their health by walking or cycling.
 - We do not have another offer, in terms of closing other schools to allow our school to remain open. Instead, we would argue that the high quality of education provided at Ysgol Talwrn will disappear "
- 5.7 In his letter, the Chairman of the Talwrn Eisteddfod Committee said:

- "Ysgol Talwrn has provided, and continues to provide, good education for the pupils. It is also an integral part of the village's social fabric. It is an unwise mistake to consider the school in terms of its narrow statutory work - the school is the focal point of the area and enables the whole village to be part of the development of children to create good and conscientious citizens.
- that the educational institution's financial and dogma considerations are behind the intention to close rural schools on the Island. "

5.8 A letter was received from staff of Ysgol Talwrn who talked about different aspects of the school:

- "The school has a history of maintaining high standards and this year's data confirms once again that the school succeeds. ... Data can be misleading in terms of small schools
- Every child in a small school receives extra-curricular opportunities whether across a country, orienteering, netball or a swimming gala and have experiences regardless of their talent or ability. The numbers of our groups allow the children to swim weekly at four. This is not possible in larger schools.
- This is also true of eisteddfodau. Audiences are not needed for school children before choosing a choir. Dancing trials do not need to compete in dance competitions. Children are not disappointed by not being selected for our speaking party. Each child has the opportunity to enjoy all aspects of culture rather than just the school's best.
- The importance of Ysgol y Talwrn support to the local eisteddfod should also be emphasised
- Closing the school would imperil the future of the language in the local community and beyond.
- It is a parent's right to choose the best establishment for their child, whether it is a large school or small school in size. "

6. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL Y GRAIG

6.1 "There were 2 responses from Ysgol y Graig's stakeholders. The first came from the headteacher. Her opinion was: "When considering space for play, it would be beneficial to have multi-weather pitch so that it could be used throughout the year. The school field is seriously wet, and despite attempts to tackle this it can only be used for a few months in summer. Having a multi-weather area would provide opportunities to tackle issues such as promoting physical activity to reduce obesity. It's also necessary to consider what to do with the wind turbine, which is no longer working. "

6.2 The other stakeholder expressed his support for the scheme and said that the new design "would have to be based on the voice of teachers and staff who have experienced the frustration of having such a small multi purpose hall so that arranging lunch and other activities to such a big school have been a bit of headache. "

7. OTHER RESPONSES

7.1 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

7.2 In its summary of its response to this consultation, Estyn said "Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to maintain the current standards of education in the area at least." In addition, the inspectorate considered that "the local authority has given a clear rationale for the intended expected benefits in relation to the current situation regarding finance, surplus places, pupils' standards, the quality of the learning environment and leadership and management. In addition, the proposer explains appropriately how the proposal matches the authority's 21st Century Schools program.

The proposal clearly defines the intended benefits of the proposal, and these relate appropriately to the stated purpose and the rationale. The local authority has provided enough evidence to show that the scheme is at least likely to maintain an education standard in the area."

7.3 A response was received from N.E.U. union officers. Their officer said: "The NEU accepts the business case for closing Ysgol Talwrn in view of the ongoing maintenance costs, access to Welsh Govt. Funds and per pupil cost of £1,050 in excess of Ysgol y Graig. With surplus places at 12% and due to rise, we can see benefits in merging the two schools due to their relatively close proximity. As a Trade Union, we are opposed to compulsory redundancies and very concerned that to date, none of our members due to be made redundant as a result of Santes Dwynwen, have been able to find alternative posts through re-deployment. More effective pressure from the Authority is needed on Governors to ensure that any teaching/support staff made redundant in the event of Ysgol Talwrn closing are interviewed for vacant posts."

The Authority's response to the N.E.U. officer's comment

In relation to the staff in the four schools that will merge to form Ysgol Santes Dwynwen School who the relocation list - none of them have been relocated to date. It must be remembered that the relocation process will not be complete until March 2019 and so the relocation process will continue until then.

The Authority will do everything possible to assist those on the relocation list. However, the Authority operates under the restrictions of the Staffing Regulations, i.e. recruitment decisions are in the hands of each individual Governing Body.

- 7.4 A response was received from Llanddyfnan Community Council. Their response was: "The Community Council is in favour of keeping Ysgol Gynradd Talwrn open and supports the Welsh Assembly Government's announcement on 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 in Ysgol y Graig? There was a shortfall in the last process and the community council feels that the County Council does not listen. "
- 7.5 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's website. A summary of the survey [10 responses] is presented in appendix 1.

8. RESPONSES FROM PUPILS

- 8.1 Council officers visited Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig to hold short meetings with a representation of pupils from the two schools, to find out their views on the proposal to change their existing school.

It was an opportunity for the children in the schools to express their opinion about the Council's plans for school modernisation. 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:

- Schools on Anglesey have too much surplus places or not enough places in some of its schools
- 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

The children were asked the following questions.

What did the pupils like about their current school?

What do you think of the proposal to adapt Ysgol y Graig and close Ysgol Talwrn and transfer pupils of Ysgol Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig?

Did they agree with the reasons for change?

Any other comments

Their responses are noted below. During some sessions, some children wrote their comments on paper and these presented in the children's language.

8.2 The children's comments from Ysgol Talwrn

The School Council was consulted in the first instance. Then a group of children of different ages had the opportunity to contribute to the consultation. The parents of those children expressed an interest in the involvement of their children in the consultation.

Question: What do you like about your current school?

- Ysgol Talwrn has a number of resources. The School Council has arranged to raise money to buy netball equipment. As a result, the school will be able to maintain a netball club after school, every Thursday.
- We do not want resources to go to waste
- We have a new train on the yard and good equipment here
- Everyone's work in school is put up on the walls. In a large school there will be less chance to showcase work as it's only the best work that gets put up.
- I'm worried that year 6 pupils at Ysgol Talwrn will have to move school twice in a short period. Moving to another primary school and secondary school.
- Staff at Ysgol Talwrn know everyone, and everyone knows the staff
- People from the community who visited the school were listed - the children felt they had valuable experiences - and one member composes songs for Ysgol Talwrn only.
- Reference was made to the Talwrn Eisteddfod held in the Village Hall and there is a risk of losing this if the school closes. Only the best are chosen to take part in the big schools.
- Children have the opportunity to assemble in the square after school. This is a tradition by the school. The parents and children are able to assemble and have a conversation after school
- We get school bike lessons
- Enough variety and opportunities
- Friends
- Playing
- New children join the school
- We as a family know each other.
- We have team play and everyone taking part
- My cousin goes to a big school and I hear from him that there is not as much opportunity for everyone to get involved.
- Everyone looks after each other
- No lot of children here
- Learn new things
- I can walk to school
- Netball club
- The train on the yard
- Play and friendly friends
- Cycling to school
- Walking down to the square after school
- My Mum chose this school because the Welsh language is good here
- Teachers know our names
- New equipment and resources and more clubs
- Members of the community reading with us
- If a child hurts, other children are cautious
- Gardening opportunities with members of the community
- Nature books
- School trips
- 'Bugs Hotel'
- Nature around us and learning about the school
- Eisteddfod Talwrn and the opportunity to be in the choir

- Race running in sports
- Cross country race
- Lot of clubs
- School football teams and recent success. The other teams had 13 children and Talwrn only had 8, so it was a credit to Ysgol Talwrn for success.
- Eisteddfod Talwrn
- Exercise outside
- In a large school the staff forget names as there are more names to remember
- I've been at Ysgol y Graig and I moved to Ysgol Talwrn
- Enough children for us to play with
- A chance to watch a film for the younger and older children together
- Children help each other
- More money in a large school than a small school, but there are plenty of toys at this school.
- Learn something new every day
- On the evenings of the art club starting at 4pm, we can go down to the square to play after school, and come back to school by 4.
- Some of these children have come here from Ysgol y Graig. Ysgol Talwrn is a good school
- Breakfast

What do you think of the adaptation proposal to Ysgol y Graig, closing Ysgol Talwrn and the transfer of children from Ysgol Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig?

- I do not want to go to Ysgol y Graig, perhaps children will be bullied there.
- It is not a good idea. In Ysgol Talwrn, the small and big children see each other.
- That will not be true at Ysgol y Graig.
- I'm worried about which secondary school I will have to attend
- There are opportunities here. The big children are being filmed, and are recorded for the Urdd radio
- Dancing opportunities here, and we teach each other
- A new teacher is about to start here, she will not have an opportunity at the school. In addition, there are children starting in school next September
- We have had a number of new and nice teachers
- Sometimes we will be listening to music before lunch
- We get involved in a variety of different activities - dancing and learning dances from different countries, head maths and using the hubt, ap si-so, ttrackstars (times tables rockstars)
- Painting
- We help Auntie Delyth to keep kitchen equipment and clean up the floor. Auntie Delyth will play with us at lunch time and is a school assistant in the afternoon

Do you agree with the reasons for change?

- Understand the reasons but do not agree with them.
- The building may be old and does not look good from the outside, but what happens inside the school and education is good

Additional comments

- No to closing the school
- My Mum went to Ysgol y Graig and was bullied there
- Need to ensure that resources do not go to waste
- There are plenty of modern resources here - chromebooks and apple computer

The children's comments from Ysgol y Graig - School Council Representation**Question:** What do you like about your current school?

- Kind teachers
- Lunch
- Play time#
- Exercise / sports
- Football
- Art Clubs
- Breakfast club
- Eisteddfod
- Instrument lessons
- Brass instruments
- The work
- Listening at school

What do you think of the adaptation proposal to Ysgol y Graig, closing Ysgol Talwrn and the transfer of children from Ysgol Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig?

- It is not fair that the Foundation phase must move to a building for the Junior section. We have not had to do that.
- It is important to keep the link between the Foundation phase and the Junior section. An example was given of one child in the Foundation Phase crying today and the child was comforted as he saw his relative in the Junior section.
- A good idea - it will be an opportunity to make more friends
- There will be more room in the school
- The Council will need to consider more parking spaces for Ysgol y Graig
- The Council will need to consider transport to the school for children of Ysgol Talwrn, because parents may not have a car

The children were asked if they agreed with the reasons for change:**The need to plan sufficient places****Ensure everyone continues to get a good education****Modern school and good equipment****Spend money on our schools fairly**

- There was agreement that they understood the reasons for change

The children were asked about ideas on how to communicate with them during the school modification period, if the proposal was approved

- The children welcome the opportunity to chat with the Architect about the design of the new block and the existing Ysgol y Graig adaptations
- E-mail
- Newsletter / Letters

The opportunity was given to make other comments

- Pupils asked about the school uniform and if Talwrn disagreed with the Graig's school uniform
- What happened if the children of Talwrn have any allergy, how will Ysgol y Graig know that

9. RESPONSES TO COMMENTS RECEIVED

We would like to thank all for the comments. As many of them were similar, it was decided to place them under specific themes. It is not possible to respond to all the individual comments received for several reasons including the fact that many of them are similar. The Authority's response to some of the main themes presented in comparison with the main drivers of change in the School Modernisation Strategy [section 2] is presented below.

9.1 Ysgol Talwrn

1. Standards

A number of stakeholders mentioned the percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard at Key Stage 2 being 100%. However, there is a need to look at the full picture and consider the Foundation Phase as well. The consultation document detailed this and showed the attainment figures for both schools compared with similar schools nationally using a benchmarking dataset:

Ysgol	FPI*		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Talwrn	66.7	80.0	75.0
Y Graig	92.5	82.4	91.3
Anglesey	86.2	84.7	85.8
Wales	86.8	87.0	87.3

*Outcome 5+ in the Foundation Phase Indicator

Upper quarter 

Upper Median 

Lower Median 

Lower quarter 

In general, there is some variation in the schools' performance i.e. one school has been in the lower quarter more often than the other and this is reflected in the colour category of the school indicator.

The table below shows the pattern over the past three years for Key Stage 2.

Ysgol	KS2* School Results		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Talwrn	100	85.7	100.0
Y Graig	92.9	80.0	92.7
Anglesey	91.8	89.4	91.4
Wales	87.7	88.6	89.5

*Expected level in reading, writing, mathematics and science combined

The performance of the two schools for KS2 is quite similar, in that Ysgol Talwrn has 2 greens and 1 orange and Ysgol y Graig with 1 green and 2 yellows. What is significant is the number of pupils, an average of 7 in the cohort for Ysgol Talwrn and an average of 43 for Ysgol y Graig.

It could be argued that the inspection profile of Ysgol y Graig excels a little.

Estyn's response to this consultation is also noted: "Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to maintain the current standards of education in the area at least."

In addition, the performance of the two schools in terms of pupils attaining level 5+ can be studied – this is one level higher than the expected level:

School	Subject	Level 5+ in KS2* School results		
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Talwrn	Science	0.0	14.3	44.4
	Mathematics	0.0	14.3	44.4
	Welsh	0.0	14.3	44.4
	English	0.0	14.3	44.4
Y Graig	Science	33.3	55.6	46.3
	Mathematics	47.6	73.3	75.6
	Welsh	26.2	42.2	46.3
	English	28.6	48.9	61.0
Anglesey	Science	40.9	40.4	49.5
	Mathematics	40.9	40.4	49.5
	Welsh	38.1	35.3	38.3
	English	42.9	41.1	46.4
Wales	Science	41.1	42.5	46.4
	Mathematics	41.1	42.5	46.4
	Welsh	38.1	35.3	38.3
	English	40.8	42.0	44.7

From the statistics above:

- Both schools perform well in terms of expected levels
- Ysgol y Graig is successful in attaining higher percentages for level 5+ which suggests that Ysgol y Graig successfully stretches pupils well and meets levels higher than the levels for Anglesey and Wales

In terms of inspections it can be argued that the inspection profile of Ysgol y Graig excels a little.

Estyn's response to this consultation is also noted: "Estyn believes that the proposal is likely to maintain at least the current standards of education in the area."

2. The size of Ysgol Talwrn means that there are classes of mixed age in the school. This, together with the expectation to prepare suitable work for the range of abilities in a class, offers a higher level of challenge for teachers in smaller schools.

3. **Costs and condition of the building**

There is no reference in the comments received regarding the pupil's cost of £4,447 which is higher than the Anglesey average (£3,972). In addition it is necessary to note that a maintenance backlog of £332,500 reflects the age and condition of the building.

Many of Ysgol Talwrn's stakeholders did not mention the state of the school except for them to question the maintenance backlog figures. The statutory consultation document stated that the maintenance backlog was £332,500 and the cost of having a new external mobile classroom was £250,000. Qualified chartered surveyors from the Authority usually carry out surveys of every school building every two years to determine any maintenance work required and to calculate the cost of that work.

To install a new mobile classroom, permission would be required from the landowner next to the school, and without this, having a new unit on school grounds will not be possible. The following steps would then need to be completed:

1. Demolition of the existing unit
2. Underground works (foundations, electricity cables, water, telephone and communication cables and sewage pipes etc.)
3. New class unit (including toilets for children as well as staff / disabled toilet)
4. Building planning and control consent
5. Logistics work (Demolition and reconstruction of wide boundary wall between the school and the field next door, demolition and reconstruction of field boundary next to the lane), use of the 'Trackway' system on the field next door, strengthen the yard under the crane etc.
6. Ramp and iron steps to the new cabin
7. Yard repair / improvement work
8. Fee for arranging and conducting the work

The £250,000 estimate includes the transportation and installation of a new cabin and connecting the services to the cabin.

Some stakeholders asked if a 50-year loan is good value for money. Finance officers within the Authority calculate the cost of lending for 50 years.

4. **Other suggestions**

Other possibilities were suggested regarding the school's future:

- Combine Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch or Ysgol Pentraeth
Between Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Llanbedrgoch, there would be 70-80 pupils at school - the arrangement is still too small from a sustainability point of view. The federation of the 2 schools would not address surplus places or the condition of the buildings.
- [Consider federating Ysgol Talwrn with another primary school
Between Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Pentraeth, there would be around 130 pupils at school - the federation of the 2 schools would not address empty places, condition of buildings nor financial savings.
- Use Ysgol Talwrn to train headteachers

The Authority, in conjunction with the regional educational consortium GwE, has a training program for prospective head teachers to gain the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers (NPQH). This is the training route used for headteachers rather than in-job training.

- The Authority should "invest in a new school" in Talwrn.

This is not practical because the forecast for pupil numbers in the natural catchment area is very small.

5. **Surplus places**

Ysgol Talwrn has 12% of surplus places despite the fact that the % of pupils from outside the catchment area [45%] is relatively high. The fact that so many pupils come from outside the catchment area makes the surplus places situation more vulnerable. In September 2017, surplus places were 1% at Ysgol y Graig while there were 12% of surplus places at Ysgol Talwrn. There are 19 pupils traveling into the village of Talwrn from other catchment areas. This is not a firm position in the longer term as there would be uncertainty of the school's ability to maintain existing school numbers and this would worsen surplus places at school.

6. Some stakeholders supported the "recent statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Education on rural schools". It should be noted, however, that this is a presumption against closure, and the revised School Organisation Code does not say that rural schools should not close. Indeed, the code states that there is a priority to provide high-quality education in small and rural schools, and indeed it recognises that education is the paramount consideration. It's noted here from the information already presented in this report that whilst both schools perform well in terms of expected levels, Ysgol y Graig succeeds in attaining higher percentages to level 5 + which suggests that Ysgol y Graig manages to stretch pupils well and achieves levels which are better than Ynys Môn and Wales. In addition, 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. The revised School Organisation Code is not currently legally binding even though the Authority is seeking to address its contents.

7. **Environment**

A concern for some stakeholders was that closing Ysgol Talwrn would lead to an increase in carbon emissions. Calculations show that even the use of 2 buses would not have a greater impact on the environment than the closure of Talwrn Primary School. This is partly because 45% of Ysgol Talwrn pupils travel to school from outside the catchment area.

8. **Possible effect on the community**

The potential effect of closing Ysgol Talwrn on the community worried a number of stakeholders. Here are some of the comments received:

- Ysgol Talwrn is the foundation of a local Society and also contributes to the social and religious life of the village".
- The School should remain open to serve the community
- The village Eisteddfod gives young people the opportunity to build confidence by performing on stage. Losing the school would lead to the end of the Eisteddfod
- The school is a central part of the life of the village. The school is ideally located for local studies. The school is the heart and backbone of the community.
- Closing the school would affect the future of the Welsh language in the local community and beyond.
- The Village Hall depends on the school
This is the case but only because the school hall is not big enough to meet current requirements. The Cylch Meithrin is held which is independent of the school.

With regard to the allegation that 'schools are the heart of the community' and that the community would decline when a school closes, it is accepted that this is a challenge.

However, there are specific examples where a new school has created a 'wider' community. There are also examples where the community continues to thrive in villages where the school has closed. Eisteddfodau continue in villages on Anglesey where there is no school e.g. Marianglas.

9.2 Ysgol y Graig

1. **The Welsh language**

The Authority recognises that the use of the Welsh Language is a strength in the school. This is confirmed by the Language impact assessment

2. **Transport**

The "traffic situation at Ysgol y Graig is dangerous" said stakeholders. A traffic assessment of the roads around Ysgol y Graig was completed following the completion of Llangefni Link Road. The assessment confirmed that traffic going past Ysgol y Graig has reduced since opening the new road. For example in the morning, 114 vehicles that passed the school now use the new link road to or from Ysgol / Coleg Menai. Before building the new road, all of these 114 vehicles had to go past the school. In comparison, 29 vehicles use the new lane as a connection between the B5420 Penmynydd Road and the B5109 Talwrn Road. The opening of the new road has therefore improved the situation on the public highway in front of the school, but unfortunately parking near the school remains a problem. Therefore, if the proposal is approved, a traffic impact assessment will be conducted and will include the situation in terms of traffic around the school and parking.

3. Others said walking to Ysgol y Graig from the village of Talwrn would be dangerous. This concern is acknowledged. If the proposal is approved, a traffic impact assessment will be completed and will include the walking journey to Ysgol y Graig. If this was done before the Executive made its decision, it could be argued that the Authority had made a decision in advance. The process cannot be pre-judged but similar walking journeys in other parts of Anglesey have been considered to be dangerous which in turn meant that the Authority provided transport for the children.
4. Some parents were not eager for their small children to go on a bus to Ysgol y Graig if the proposal was realised. However, if the proposal is realised, the children would not necessarily travel by bus and could travel in a taxi. Children of 4-11 years of age already travel by bus e.g. from Llanfachraeth, Llanddeusant, Rhydwyn and Llanfairynghornwy to Ysgol Rhyd y Llan and from the villages of Penmynydd and Star to Ysgol Llanfairpwll.
5. Consideration will be given to the condition of the playing field and to repairing the wind turbine.
6. If the proposal is realised, it may be an opportunity to develop future leaders in the school e.e. manager / deputy head looking after the Foundation Phase.

9.3 General Comments

Comments were received that were consistent across the schools and there is a response to the most common ones below:

- There were a number of comments about the Welsh language and they questioned the potential impact of closing Ysgol Talwrn on the language. Given that 78% of Ysgol y Graig pupils speak Welsh compared to 60% at Ysgol Talwrn, it can be argued that closing Ysgol Talwrn and transferring pupils to Ysgol y Graig would strengthen Welsh.
- In addition, according to the Cylch Meithrin Ysgol Talwrn 2017 report, "almost all of the children [16 of them] were of white British origin and none of them speak Welsh as their first language." This suggests a decline in numbers the children who speak Welsh in the catchment area.
- Others said that school size was affecting the quality of Welsh. It is a priority for the Council to strengthen and safeguard the Welsh language. Any plan for a new school plan will be subject to the requirements of the language policy. In addition, it is the Council's expectation for schools that are part of the school modernisation program to continue to be community, Welsh-speaking schools. There is no evidence that smaller schools are more effective in promoting high standards in Welsh.
- The comment is presented 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 the community would 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 where the community continues to thrive in villages where the school has closed.

In terms of the Authority's Language Charter, Ysgol y Graig has reached the Gold standard and Ysgol Talwrn has reached the Bronze standard.

If the proposal was implemented, in accordance with the language assessment of the proposal in question, the proposed option would have a positive effect on the Welsh language (+4).

10. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The capital cost of any new school built under Band A of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme is funded through a combination of grants and borrowing. The Welsh Government provide 50% of the funding through capital grants and supported borrowing (annual debt repayment and interest costs are funded in the Revenue Support Grant). The remaining 50% has to be funded by the Local Authority through any income generated via the sale of former school sites and through unsupported borrowing where the annual cost of debt repayment and loan interest must be funded by the Council.

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

Revenue savings are generated as running one larger school is less costly in terms of building maintenance and energy, management costs are reduced (one Headteacher instead of two) and class sizes can be set to an optimum level which reduces teaching costs.

The financial appraisal considers the cost of financing the borrowing, 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.

- Borrowing to fund the new schools would be funded over a 50 year period with the Minimum Revenue provision calculated on a 2% straight line method.
- Borrowing to fund the backlog maintenance costs would be funded over a 20 year period with the Minimum Revenue Provision calculated on a 4% straight line method.
- Interest rates were based on the current borrowing rate
- To calculate the revenue costs of the new school, the current pupil numbers, free school meals, special educational needs pupils etc were used to determine an estimated allocation for the new school.
- One off costs including the cost of appointing a Headteacher prior to the new school opening, redundancy costs, pay protection and the costs of maintaining the former sites have not been included in this financial appraisal. These will be taken into account when the detailed business plan for the agreed option is drawn up.

Maintaining the current 2 schools would not incur significant capital costs but it would require the backlog maintenance in the two schools of £369k to be addressed with a potential for further additional costs as Ysgol Talwrn gets closer to the end of its useful lives. Additional costs may be incurred in transporting children to other schools, which are outside the catchment area because of lack of capacity, particularly in Ysgol y Graig, but these are difficult to determine at this stage and have not been included in the assessment.

Building an extension to Ysgol Y Graig to replace Ysgol Talwrn would be more expensive but this additional cost would be partly offset by an increase in the Welsh Government contribution and the capital receipt generated by selling the Ysgol Talwrn site.

The results of the financial appraisal of the 2 options is shown in the Table below:

	Option 1 Do Nothing	Option 2 Extension to Ysgol Y Graig and close Ysgol Talwrn
Estimated Capital Cost	£0	£3,870,660
Backlog Maintenance Cost	£369,000	£0
Total Capital Cost	£369,000	£3,870,660
Welsh Government Funding	£0	(£1,935,330)
Capital Receipts	£0	(£140,000)
Net Unsupported Borrowing	£369,000	£1,795,330
Revenue Implications		
Annual MRP Charge	£18,450	£35,910
Annual Interest Costs @ 2.3%	£8,490	£41,290
Additional Transport Costs	Not calculated	£28,000
Total Additional Revenue Costs	£26,940	£105,200
Revenue Savings	£0	(£39,540)
Net Additional Revenue Costs	£26,940	£65,660

Note that the Authority's budget is shared between the schools by treating them in the same way through a formula. The school budget is determined on the basis of a complex formula that considers a number of factors in addition to the number of pupils in the school in September of that particular school year.

The location of a new building would be dependent on a search for a site and feasibility studies of those sites prior to assessing and scoring them to select a favoured option. Therefore, at the moment, the site or address of a new building is not yet known.

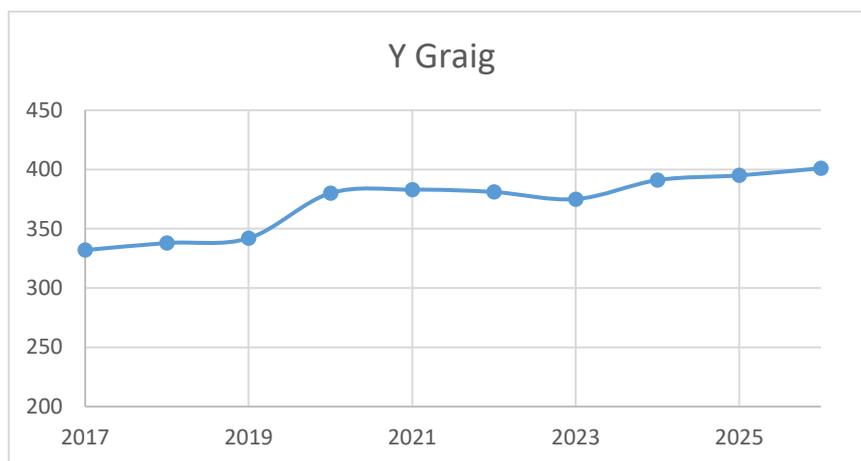
Whatever, the final configuration, the primary school will continue to be Welsh medium and will be a community school and the Local Authority will be the admission body for the school.

Walking routes and transport to any new school building will be assessed during the build period.

In terms of the walking routes to the proposed new school site, a safety assessment of these routes would need to be carried out following any decision made by the Council.

Should a new part of the primary school be built, there would be a change in travel arrangements for learners from the direction of Talwrn. Officers of the Authority would then formally decide whether to provide transport to Ysgol Y Graig, following a safety assessment of the routes.

Should the proposal be implemented and that a new primary school be built and opens in 2021, the impact on numbers would be as follows (this assumes that parents would allow their children to move to the new primary school).



11. 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 schools:

Ysgol	Expenditure (on electricity and fuel)			Average (per year)		
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	Cost	Per pupil	Per m ²
Y Graig	£15,208	£15,362	£13,790	£14,787	£44.14	£5.87
Talwrn	£4,228	£4,634	£3,233	£4,032	£87.65	£13.35

It can be seen from the table that the spend per pupil and square metre (m²) is higher in Ysgol Talwrn.

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

Ysgol	Tonnes CO ₂ (electricity and fuel)			Average		
	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	(tonnes CO ₂)	Per pupil	Per m ²
Y Graig	65	58	61	61	0.184	0.024
Talwrn	15	26	14	18	0.397	0.060

The figures show that the carbon dioxide emissions per pupil and carbon dioxide emissions per square metre (m²) are higher in Ysgol Talwrn.

12. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

12.1 The following questions summarize the main issues presented in the previous sections and try to use that to present a recommendation for the attention of the Executive.

12.2 Attention is drawn in the report to the following key issues.

- i. Standards in both schools are similar in terms of the expected level attained (Level 4+). However, evidence over the last three years indicates that Ysgol y Graig has succeeded in ensuring that a higher percentage of pupils attain the higher levels in the core subjects. As a result, merging would not have a negative effect on standards.
- ii. Merger would make better use of the Council's resources and harmonise the cost per head.
- iii. The merger of the two schools would create the conditions for the Headteacher to have sufficient non-contact time for leadership.
- iv. Bringing the two schools together will address the backlog maintenance and provide a twenty first century resource for school users. The financial analysis shows that the backlog cost of the two schools is £369k with the possibility of further additional costs as Ysgol Talwrn is approaching the end of its useful life. However, it is acknowledged that there could be additional transport costs resulting from transporting children but it is difficult at this point to determine these and as a result they are not included in the evaluation. It is also acknowledged that an extension at Ysgol Y Graig would be more expensive than the current system, but the additional cost will be partially offset by an increase in the Welsh Government's contribution and the capital receipts generated through the sale of Ysgol Talwrn site.

12.3 In light of the above, it is recommended that the capacity of Ysgol y Graig be increased to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, and close Ysgol Talwrn. This would be done by

- using the existing building for Key Stage 2 i.e. years 3 to 6 and adapt it;
- build a new 'Block' for the Foundation Phase, namely Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2.
- Consider relocation of the Flying Start provision within the Ysgol y Graig campus.

The new 'block' would continue to be part of Ysgol y Graig and would not be a separate unit.

APPENDIX 1

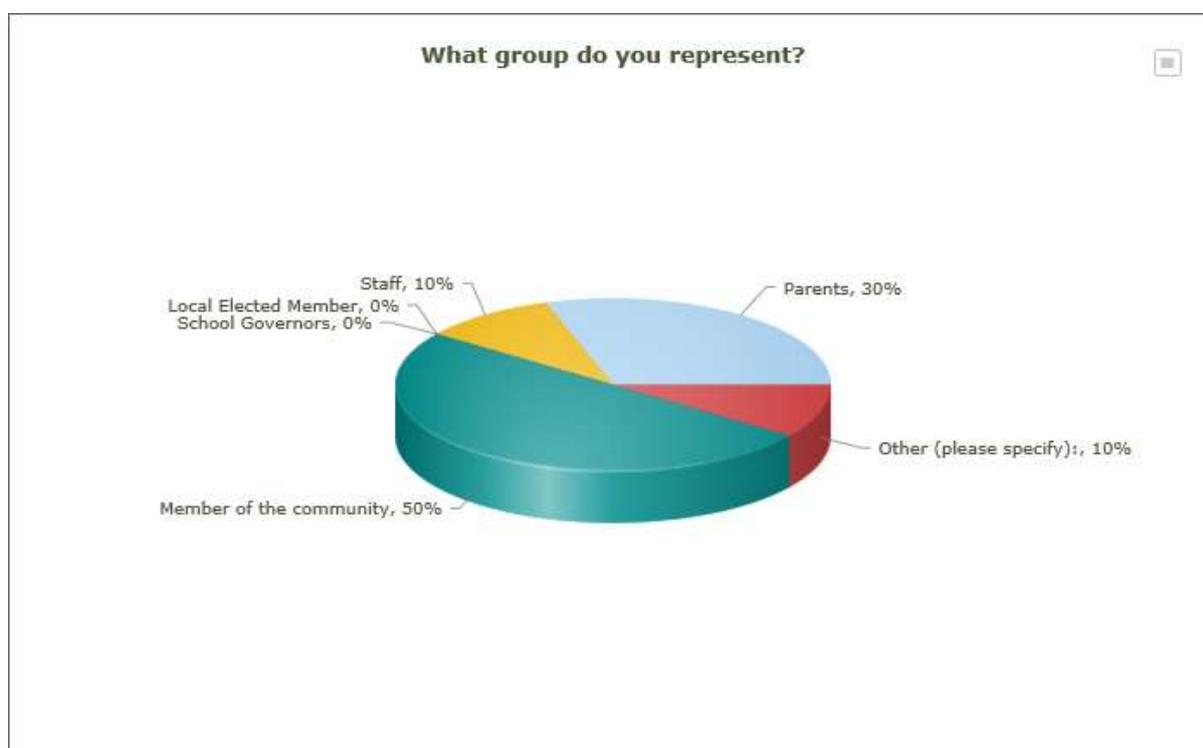
ON LINE RESPONSE

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.

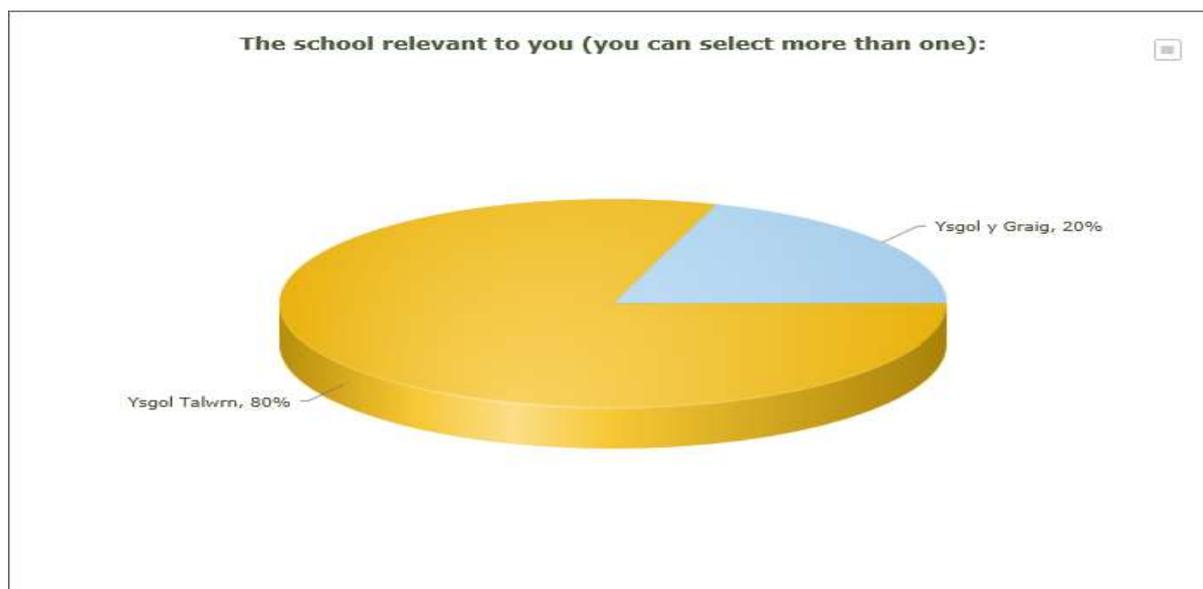
We are grateful to the 10 people who took part in the survey with representation from the three schools involved.

The Authority's response to many of the points raised in the in line survey can be seen in section 9 of this report.

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 expand Ysgol y Graig to take the pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn would have a negative impact on the Welsh Language?

Yes a negative impact	No negative impact
70%	30%

Here is a summary of the main mitigation measures presented by the stakeholders to reduce the negative impact on the Welsh Language, if the proposal is approved.

There would be no adverse effect on the Welsh language as a smaller number of schools would be easier to control.
It cannot. Extending capacity in one school to provide space for children from another school has a detrimental effect on their education and in turn it will affect the Welsh language.
Ysgol Talwrn is central to the Welsh community of the village. Closing the school will be a big mistake that will kill the culture of the Welsh language.
The use of the language will decrease and the size of the classes will be too large to ensure the use of the language.
Only by keeping the school open will you ensure the future of the Welsh language in the village.
You would have to invest heavily in community activities, i.e. eisteddfod.
Keep Ysgol Talwrn open

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

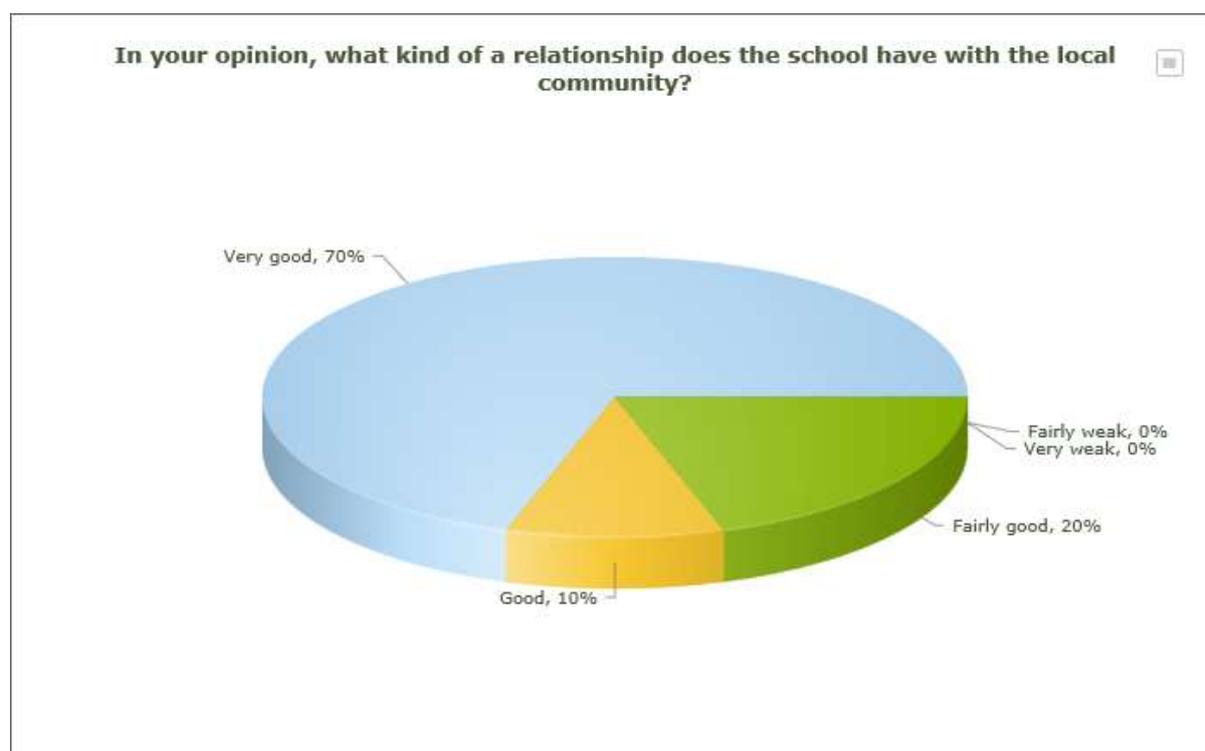
The Isle of Anglesey County Council has adopted the principle that Welsh should not be treated less favourably than English, and that residents of the island should live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they wish to do so. The expectation in relation to the Welsh language is the same for each 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.

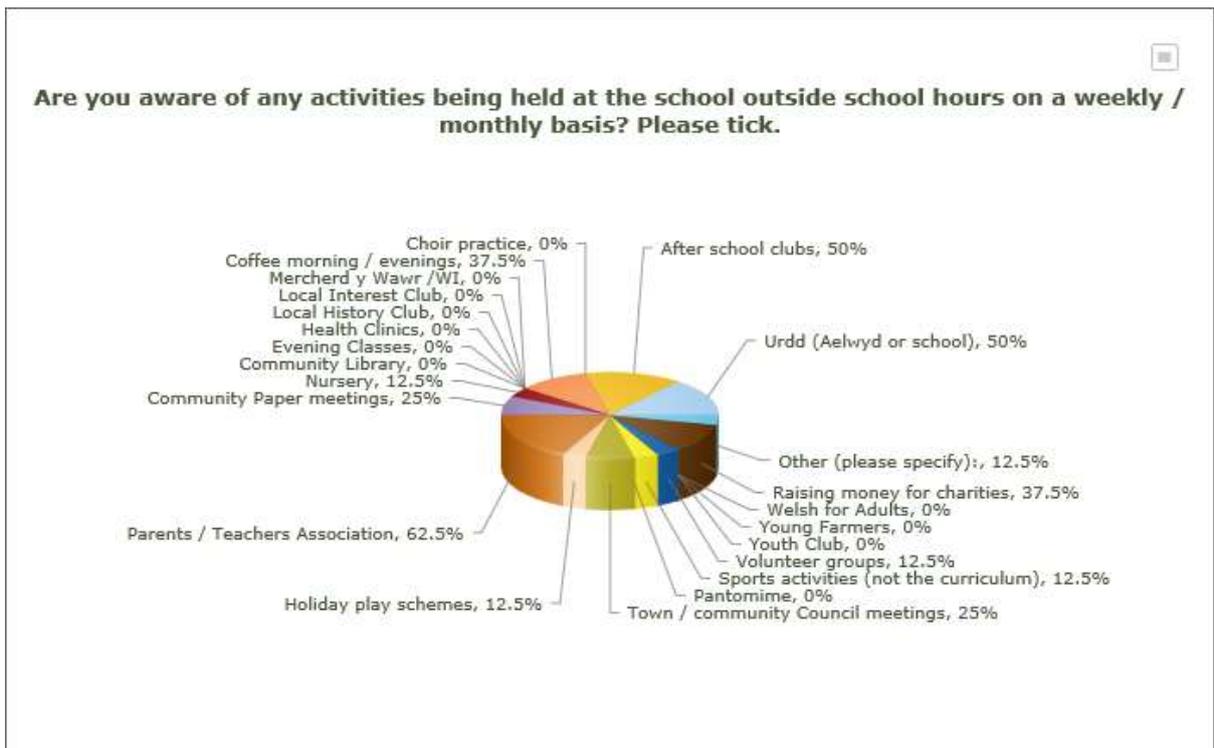
Stakeholders were asked 'In your opinion, what relationship does the school have with the local community?'



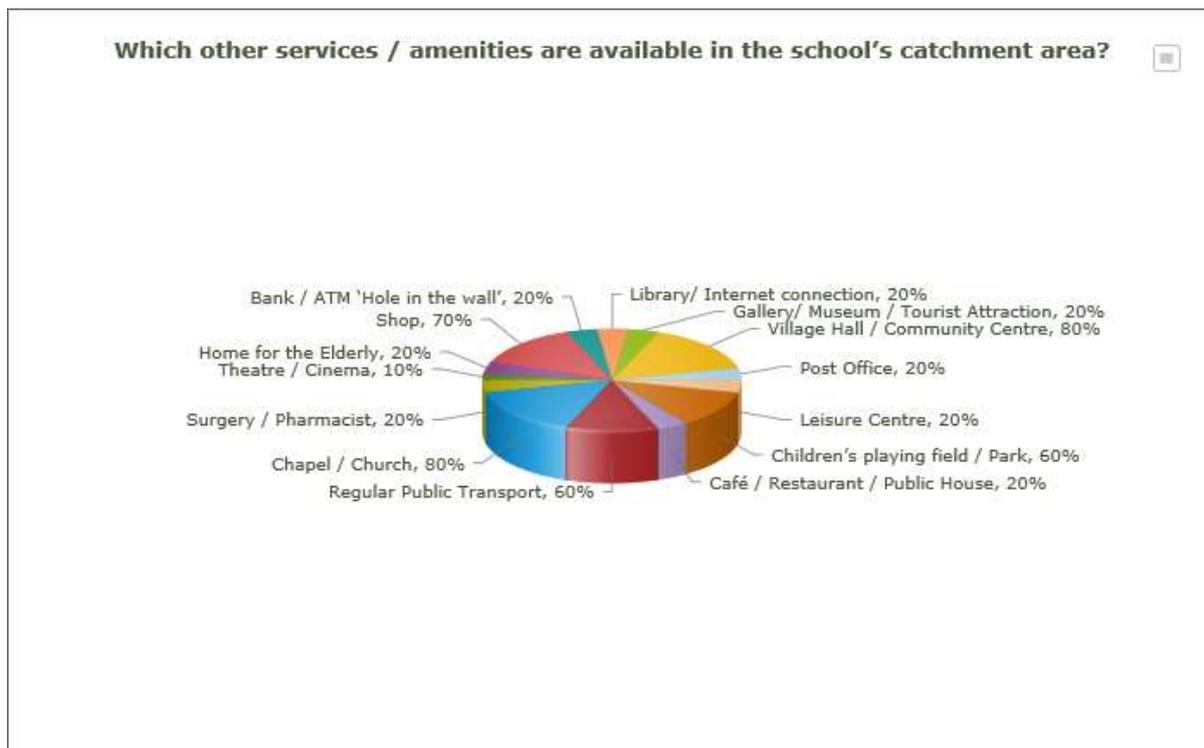
List the members of the community who visit the school regularly to contribute and enrich the learning experiences.

Not sure
There are many
The School is central to the number of village activities. With the School playing a key role in the success of the Talwrn Eisteddfod. The School and Teachers (present and past) are extremely supportive of the Eisteddfod that is central to the future of the Welsh language and our culture.
There are several manners of the community that visit the school. There are far more than there are from the Llangefni area regularly visiting Ysgol Y Graig
Unsure as my daughter is in the cylch meithrin at the moment and will not start school in Talwrn until next year.
The Reverend, music teacher
Many from the community visit to enrich the learning

Are you aware of activities conducted at the school on a weekly / monthly basis, outside school hours? Please tick.



What facilities / other services are available within the school catchment area?



What sort of childcare provision is available in your school's catchment area, except your school, if you know?

Don't know
Child minders who are independent of the meithrin in the area
None
There is no childcare provision available
Cylch meithrin in the village
Cylch Meithrin

In your opinion, what sort of impact will the proposal have on local families?

Bring more local families together from different areas.
There are too many children at Ysgol Y Graig, plus as new housing are planned the classes will be bigger, traffic already an issue with cars parked all over the place!
Coleg Menai has a huge extension and the traffic from there will also be a huge issue as speeding heading towards the college already a problem!!
Talwrn will lose it's community heart and children will no longer have a name but a classy fixation as the Graig would be enormous and the children become faceless
There will be a detrimental impact with the need to travel, in turn increasing the carbon footprints
The closure of Ysgol Talwrn will be inconvenient for families as they will then have to travel to school in Llangefni. It will have an impact on children by losing local connections.
The impact will be totally detrimental to local families with the need to travel to Ysgol Y Graig from the village. It will also have a detrimental impact upon the quality of life for those local families
I believe it will devastate local families, the school is the hub of the community. Children and parents will lose the ability to walk to school.
It will increase cost, it will have a detrimental effect on their social life, effect house prices, community spirit will be destroyed. The community shop will be negatively impacted.
Closing the school will mean fewer families with children coming to the village

What in your view will be the general effect on communities?

It will bring communities together through parents talking together at the school gates.
Talwrn will lose a vital part of its community!! Plus keeping it open will be somewhere to send the over crowding from y Graig in a couple of years!!!
Talwrn will be desolate Llangefni already has 2 large schools (primary)
An unquantifiable impact. The school is the heart of the community and is imperative for the prosperity of the community
Closing the school will destroy the community, and have an impact on community activities.

I anticipate young people like us moving out of the village so we can choose the best education for our children.
The heart of the of the community is the school. The detrimental impact cannot be underestimated
The community will suffer massively by losing the local school, it will rip the heart out of a thriving welsh village and Talwrn will lose its eistoddfod.
It will have a detrimental effect on the local community.
It would kill the community

Any further comments

Merging Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Y Graig is a good idea as it provides better standard of education for local children which is more important than keeping buildings.
The school should not be closed especially where there in no capacity within another school. Increasing the capacity within another school reduces the quality of education.
As a local couple who have been educated in community primary schools locally - at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Bodffordd. We appreciate the importance of education in a community-friendly school.
As a local couple who hope to have children, and hoping to send them to Ysgol Talwrn, closing the school would mean we would have to consider relocating to get the education we want for our children. Having a close community school like Talwrn is the focal point of our community, and I am concerned about the effect the closure of the school will have on the community.
I think that Children attending the Super Schools miss out so much, do not get the fair play we had as children in a community school.
We really appreciate the great education we had at Bodffordd and Talwrn, giving us the best start in life, having every opportunity offered to us.
It would be a poor decision to close this school especially as there is a need to increase capacity at Ysgol Y Graig. The need to increase capacity will lead to a detrimental impact upon the level and standard of education available at the school.
Please consider possibly merging Talwrn with another rural school and not Ysgol Y Graig. Talwrn is a fantastic school and has the support of all the parents, it is vital to keep it open.
The whole project seems a waste of money and time. We are the end users and we do not want Talwrn to close. Please listen to the pupils and parents, this is not in their best interest.

The Authority's response to many of the points raised in the in line survey can be seen in section 9 of this report.