

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	The Executive
Date:	7March 2019
Subject:	<p>Modernising Schools on Anglesey – Report following publication of statutory notice for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing Ysgol Gynradd Biwmares, extending and refurbishing Ysgol Llandegfan and Ysgol Llangoed. and approval of the original proposal</li> </ul>
Portfolio Member(s):	Councillor R. Meirion Jones
Head of Service:	Arwyn Williams
Author of Report: Phone number: E-mail:	Emrys Bebb
Local Members:	<p>Councillor Lewis Davies Councillor Carwyn Jones Councillor Alun Roberts</p>

A – Recommendation(s) and Reason(s)
<p><b>Reasons:</b></p> <p>In order to conform with the School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013 and the School Organisation Code, the Authority issued a <b>Statutory Notice</b> of their intention:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not to support Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris, Beaumaris, Anglesey, LL58 8HL which is currently maintained by Anglesey County Council, and extend and refurbish Ysgol Llandegfan and refurbish Ysgol Llangoed. Both of which are Welsh medium community primary schools which are maintained by Anglesey County Council. Both school will be for boys and girls aged 3-11.</li> </ol> <p>The <b>Statutory Notice</b> was issued on 14 January 2019 and there was a period of 28 days to object to the proposal to follow. Therefore, the objection period ended on 10 February 2019. <b>A total of 50 objections were received to the above proposal.</b></p> <p>In accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013 issued by the Welsh Government, the proposer or proposers, namely the Isle of Anglesey County Council in this case, need to issue a report describing any objections received i.e. an objection report. See the objection report in <b>Appendix 1.</b></p> <p>The way the Council deals with objections to a statutory notice is in line with the procedure set out in the School Organisation Code that has been in force since October 2013.</p> <p>Therefore, in accordance with the 2013 School Organisation Code, section 5.3, the Executive Committee through this report must –</p> <p>“decide whether the proposals should be approved’, rejected or approved with adaptations.”</p>

**It is recommended that the Executive:**

- i. Decide to approve the original proposals namely:

To refurbish and extend Ysgol Llandegfan, close Ysgol Beaumaris and refurbish Ysgol Llangoed.

- ii. Authorise officers to continue with the process of refurbishing and extending Ysgol Llandegfan, closing Ysgol Beaumaris and refurbishing Ysgol Llangoed.

**Background:**

A non-statutory consultation on the options for modernising primary education provision in the Seiriol area was conducted for a period between June and July 2017. Following the Executive’s approval in October, 2017, a statutory consultation process was conducted from 20 November, 2017 until 6 February, 2018. The report regarding the result of the statutory consultation was considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Panel in its meeting held on 12 March, 2018 before the Executive considered it on 26 March 2018.

The Executive decided to “delay making a decision in regards to the modernisations of schools in the Seiriol area so that a new statutory consultation could be conducted on the proposals for primary education in the area.”

The additional statutory consultation period was conducted from 22 May 2018 until 2 July 2018. A report on the statutory consultation period was discussed by the Executive on 18 July 2018 and it was decided to:

- Approve Option 1, namely to refurbish and extend Ysgol Llandegfan, close Ysgol Beaumaris and refurbish Ysgol Llangoed.
- That discussions with pre-school childcare groups – Little Puffins and “Ti a Fi” – would be carried out soon to see what pre-school childcare provision is required in the area.
- That Cwlwm Seiriol is to be included in the post decision Stakeholder Group which will be established.

A statutory notice of the Authority’s intention to operate the proposal was issued on 22 November 2018. This meant that the objection period of more than 28 days ended on 27 December 2018 and many complained that this period ended during the Christmas holidays. Therefore, in order to provide stakeholders with additional time, an additional statutory notice was issued on 14 January 2018 and the objection period ended on 10 February 2019.

**B – Which other options did you consider and what were their reasons for declining them and/or choosing this option?**

28 specific options were considered in the report on the non-statutory consultation in the Seiriol area. The options were evaluated as a basis to the recommendations presented in the report and each option was scored and the reasons for disregarding some of the options were outlined in the reports on the consultation.

Additionally, 4 options proposed by stakeholders were assessed as part of the process. None of the other options scored as high as the proposal scored against the 11 criteria.

**C – For what reason is this a decision for the Executive Committee?**

The Executive Committee is responsible for school organisation matters.

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

Yes

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

Yes – The Strategic Outline Programme plans for Band B approved by the Executive Committee in July 2017. It is foreseen that a business case for the plan above will be presented to the Executive in September / October 2019.

**E – With whom did you consult?****What were their observations?**

1	<b>Chief Executive / Senior Management Team (SMT)</b> (mandatory)	Incorporated in this report
2	<b>Finance / Section 151</b> (mandatory)	
3	<b>Legal / Monitoring officer</b> (mandatory)	Incorporated in this report
5	<b>Human Resources (HR)</b>	
6	<b>Property</b>	
7	<b>Information Communication Technology (ICT)</b>	
8	<b>Scrutiny</b>	See minutes of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meetings for 13 July 2018, 12 March 2018 and 2 October 2017.
9	<b>Local Members</b>	Incorporated in this report
10	<b>Any external bodies / other(s)</b>	Incorporated in this report

**F – Risks and any mitigation steps (if relevant)**

1	<b>Economic</b>	Not applicable
2	<b>Anti-poverty</b>	Not applicable
3	<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	Not applicable
4	<b>Environmental</b>	Mitigation steps will be part of the planning application
5	<b>Equalities</b>	Not applicable
6	<b>Result Agreements</b>	Not applicable
7	<b>Other</b>	Not applicable

**FF - Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Objection Report

**G – Background Papers (please contact the Report author for any further information):**

1. Minutes of the Executive's meetings for 18 July 2018, 26 March 2018 and 30 October 2017.
2. Minutes of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for 13 July 2018, 12 March 2018 and 2 October 2017.
3. Non-statutory Consultation Documents, Statutory Consultation Documents and the Consultation Report
4. Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) presented to the Welsh Government in December 2013.
5. Letter by the Welsh Government dated 31 January 2014.
6. Report to the Executive dated 4 November 2013.
7. School Organisation Code 2013
8. Minutes of the consultation meetings with staff, governors and parents held in October and November 2016 and February / March 2018 and July 2018.
9. Statutory notice dated 14 January 2018.



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## Objection Report

### 1. Background

In order to comply with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2013, the Authority issued a **Statutory Notice** of its intent to:

- Approve Option 1, namely to refurbish and extend Ysgol Llandegfan, close Ysgol Beaumaris and refurbish Ysgol Llangoed.
- That discussions with the preschool childcare groups – Little Puffins and “Ti a Fi” – take place soon to establish the pre-school childcare provision required in the area.
- That Cwlwm Seiriol is included in the post-decision Stakeholder Group to be established.

The **Statutory Notice** was issued on the 14 January 2019 and there was a period of 28 days to object to the following proposal. Therefore, the objection period expired on the 10 February 2019. **A total of 50 objections to the proposal above were received.**

Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, proposers must announce a summary of the statutory objections and respond to those objections (“the objection report”) – which is this document.

The statutory notice was initially published on 22 November 2018. This meant that the objection period of more than 28 days ended on 27 December 2018 and many objected to this period ending during the Christmas holidays. Therefore, to give stakeholders additional time, an additional statutory notice was published on 14 January 2019 and the objection period ended on 10 February 2019.

### 2. Objections

Outlined below is the Authority’s response to the points raised as objections:

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<b>Summary of Objections</b>	<b>The Council's response to the objections</b>
<p><b>1. Timing of the notice prior to the Christmas holidays was "cynical"</b></p>	<p>The decision to close Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris was made by the Authority's Executive on 18 July 2018. A period of 26 weeks from the end of the statutory consultation period is permitted for the proposer (the Isle of Anglesey County Council in this case) to publish a statutory proposal i.e. by 30 December 2018. In the meantime, officers were developing the plans for Ysgol Llandegfan and Ysgol Llangoed. Extending the 26 week period was not thought to have been necessary. However, as many respondents complained about the timing of the publication of the proposal, an extension was sought and granted by Welsh Government and a further notice was published on 14 January 2019.</p>
<p><b>2. "Closing the school would have a "significant impact on the town and its residents" and "would be devastating".</b> <b>Closing the school would also "compound social and demographic issues" in the town. Amenities "in the town are fantastic".</b> <b>The Council should think of the future of the community</b></p>	<p>The closure of the school could have an impact on the attractiveness of the local area for proposed house buyers. Conversely, local residents could consider that not having a school in a specific area would be a useful thing making the area more attractive for home buyers looking for a quieter neighbourhood. Neither a positive or negative effect is suggested here but the possibility for residents' profile over time is acknowledged. These issues were discussed in the Community Impact Assessment issued with the statutory consultation document on 22 May 2018.</p>
<p><b>3. That "the decision was a political one" and that the Seiriol area "deserves a new school"</b></p>	<p>The decision by the Authority's Executive on 18 July 2018 to close Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris was based in the issues detailed in the report on the statutory consultation. A new school was considered for the Seiriol area and this possibility was assessed and scored</p>

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	<p>long with many other options. This possible option of a new school for Seiriol scored was assessed and scored along with many other options against 11 factors as outlined in the report on the non-statutory consultation process namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise educational standards</li> <li>2. Reduce the number of empty places</li> <li>3. Reduce the variance in cost per pupil</li> <li>4. Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment</li> <li>5. Ensure that school buildings are in a good condition and that there are no health and safety issues</li> <li>6. Increase the leadership capacity</li> <li>7. Community use of the school building</li> <li>8. Welsh-medium and bilingual provision</li> <li>9. Geographical factors and travel</li> <li>10. Costs</li> <li>11. Availability of land</li> </ol> <p>This possible option scored 71 points compared to 79 for the favoured options i.e.  Option 2 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools, renovate both and perhaps federalize (79 points)  Option 3 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools and review the catchments (79 points)</p>
<p><b>4. That stakeholders did not receive “formal notification” of the issuing of the statutory notice.</b></p>	<p>In line with the School Organisation Code, a link to the statutory notice was sent to all stakeholders including the governing body of all three schools (Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris, Ysgol Llandegfan and Ysgol Llangoed). This was done on each occasion the statutory notice was republished.</p>

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<p><b>5. That Ysgol Llangoed should be closed and transferred “to Beaumaris” as it “is the most cost effective and sensible thing to do” and that closing Ysgol Beaumaris and extending “Ysgol Llangoed is and will be a waste of money” and could “remain unused”. Additionally, some think that parents “will not send their children to Llangoed”.</b></p>	<p>This possible option of closing Ysgol Llangoed and transferring the pupils to Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris was assessed and scored along with many other options against 11 factors as outlined in the report on the non-statutory consultation process namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise educational standards</li> <li>2. Reduce the number of empty places</li> <li>3. Reduce the variance in cost per pupil</li> <li>4. Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment</li> <li>5. Ensure that school buildings are in a good condition and that there are no health and safety issues</li> <li>6. Increase the leadership capacity</li> <li>7. Community use of the school building</li> <li>8. Welsh-medium and bilingual provision</li> <li>9. Geographical factors and travel</li> <li>10. Costs</li> <li>11. Availability of land</li> </ol> <p>This possible option scored 64 points compared to 79 for the favoured options i.e.  Option 2 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools, renovate both and perhaps federalize (79 points)  Option 3 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools and review the catchments (79 points)</p>
<p><b>6. That the Council has not considered alternative ideas and “ignored the wonderful opportunity to combine the elderly residents of the proposed new extra care facility (If it is</b></p>	<p>In the report on the non-statutory consultation, a total of 20 options were assessed and scored. Two options scored the highest i.e.  Option 2 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools, renovate both and perhaps federalize (79 points)  Option 3 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools and review the catchments (79 points)</p>



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<p><b>ever built) with the children of the school". Parents ready to do so</b></p>	<p>Following the statutory consultation of 20 November 2017 until 6 February 2018, the Beaumaris Primary School Response Committee presented four alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Close Ysgol Llangoed and modernise Ysgol Beaumaris to become Ysgol Bro Seiriol</li> <li>B. Reduce Ysgol Beaumaris in size and use part of the building for a nursery or other educational provision.</li> <li>C. Develop a very different educational offer at Ysgol Beaumaris to attract more pupils from the area, based on adventure, mindfulness and creativity.</li> <li>D. Develop an innovative model where pupils from Ysgol Beaumaris and older people from the extra care facility learn together and undertake shared activities.</li> </ul> <p>The alternative options were scored by the Authority's officers in response to the alternative options received by Ysgol Beaumaris Governing Body. The advantages, disadvantages and risks if each option were considered and each was appraised financially. The assessment of these options was fully outlined in the report on the statutory consultation which was issued in July 2018.</p>
<p><b>7. That the statutory notice had not been communicated to parents</b></p>	<p>In line with the School Organisation Code, a link to the statutory notice was sent to all stakeholders including the governing body of all three schools (Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris, Ysgol Llandegfan and Ysgol Llangoed). This was done on each occasion the statutory notice was republished.</p>
<p><b>8. That the Council was not keeping to the School Organisation Code – no notice to parents and governors</b></p>	<p>As of 21 January 2019, an IoACC officer has placed the statutory notice (dated 14 January 2019) on the entrances of Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris. Even though IoACC officers had requested that the Headteacher place the statutory notice at the requisite locations, this had not been done.</p>

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<p><b>9. Pupils objected in an article about wanting Santa's support in fighting the closure of their school.</b></p>	<p>A total of 22 objection letters and drawings followed by an article about wanting Santa's support in fighting the closure of their school were received from the pupils of Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris pupils in December 2018.</p>
<p><b>10. Some feel that there is no choice as to where to send their children as the notice "states that Ysgol Llangoed is the mandatory school" and that the "date of closure" has changed.</b></p>	<p>The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 allows parents to choose which school their child attends. Ysgol Llangoed is the school designated by the Authority to which children from Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris would move to when it closes. The Authority would then provide transport to these pupils to Ysgol Llangoed.</p> <p>The implementation date of the proposals has been changed to allow additional work to be conducted on Ysgol Llandegfan.</p>
<p><b>11. That the Authority has not followed the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015</b></p>	<p>The Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) was considered as part of the statutory consultation. The Impact Assessment, which accompanied the statutory consultation document, outlined how it was anticipated the proposal under consideration would contribute to the 7 Well-being goals. The Community Impact Assessment also assessed the possible effects of the proposal on the Community, as noted by the stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>12. The Scrutiny Committee of 2 October 2017, 12 March 2018 and 13 July 2018 and August 2018 not correctly constituted</b></p>	<p>The Corporate Scrutiny Committee did not have 2 parent governor representatives and 1 representative of other faiths or denominations as per the Constitution on the dates specified. However, the role of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the 13 July 2018 was to consider all relevant facts and make recommendations to the Executive for its meeting on 18 July 2018. A comprehensive public report was submitted to the Committee and all relevant facts presented including feedback from stakeholders. Public consultation was extensive and met necessary statutory requirements- this included a total of 9 public meetings in the Seiriol ward between June 2017 and June 2018.</p>

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<p><b>13. That the Council has missed an opportunity here to strengthen Ysgol Beaumaris pupil base by allowing the Cylch Ti a Fi to work collaboratively with the school to provide a wraparound facility that would utilise existing buildings thereby reducing surplus spaces and making more efficient use of resources.</b></p>	<p>With school modernisation projects in the past, the Authority has waited until after the objection period before setting up a stakeholder group. Discussions with groups such as Little Puffins and Ti a Fi will commence following the objection period.</p>
<p><b>14. Some stakeholders object to the cost of closure of the school and the building being destroyed</b></p>	<p>The cost of each of the 20 options for the Seiriol area was one of the factors considered in the report on the non-statutory consultation process. As outlined below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise educational standards</li> <li>2. Reduce the number of empty places</li> <li>3. Reduce the variance in cost per pupil</li> <li>4. Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment</li> <li>5. Ensure that school buildings are in a good condition and that there are no health and safety issues</li> <li>6. Increase the leadership capacity</li> <li>7. Community use of the school building</li> <li>8. Welsh-medium and bilingual provision</li> <li>9. Geographical factors and travel</li> <li>10. Costs</li> <li>11. Availability of land</li> </ol>

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	<p>A new primary school for the Seiriol area was forecast to cost £7.3 million. The option chosen will be much less and Welsh Government will fund 65% of the project. It is not proposed to destroy the school but that it would be developed sympathetically.</p>
<p><b>15. The option to build a new school was not looked at thoroughly enough / Beaumaris should be considered as a super school / CSYM to invest in a new school on a new site within Beaumaris</b></p>	<p>This option was considered for the Seiriol area in the report on the non-statutory consultation process. The possibility of a new school was assessed and scored along with many other options. This possible option of a new school for Seiriol scored was assessed and scored along with many other options against 11 factors as outlined in the report on the non-statutory consultation process namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise educational standards</li> <li>2. Reduce the number of empty places</li> <li>3. Reduce the variance in cost per pupil</li> <li>4. Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment</li> <li>5. Ensure that school buildings are in a good condition and that there are no health and safety issues</li> <li>6. Increase the leadership capacity</li> <li>7. Community use of the school building</li> <li>8. Welsh-medium and bilingual provision</li> <li>9. Geographical factors and travel</li> <li>10. Costs</li> <li>11. Availability of land</li> </ol> <p>This possible option scored 71 points compared to 79 for the favoured options i.e. Option 2 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools, renovate both and perhaps federalize (79 points) Option 3 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools and review the catchments (79 points)</p>

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<p><b>16. A stakeholder disagreed with repair and maintenance costs being used as a reason to close the school. Disagreed with pupil numbers being used as a reason to close the school as these are “increasing”.</b></p>	<p>The maintenance backlog cost is the cost associated with bringing the condition of the building up to the expected condition that is safe for pupils, staff, parents and other school users i.e. work that conforms to statutory health and safety standards. This is calculated by qualified surveyors following a structural survey of the school. The maintenance backlog was one of several factors considered by the Executive when making the decision to close Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris on 18 July 2018. Pupil numbers whilst forecast to increase slightly will remain low compared to pupils number in 1996 for example.</p>
<p><b>17. Council should not have stated “that if Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris was to remain open and share a site with the [extra care] facility that it would have to shut for 2 years”.</b></p>	<p>If this option was to have been chosen, it was vital for Anglesey County Council to state this as it would be a consequence of selecting this option. Pupil safety during any potential work on an active school is of paramount importance to Anglesey County Council.</p>
<p><b>18. Reconsider the decision to close the school – site of Ysgol Beaumaris is better than the other 2 schools / Reconsider the decision and close both Llangoed and Llandegfan and renovate Beaumaris. Only need to consider cost of one school to run.</b></p>	<p>This option was assessed along with many other options in the report on the non-statutory consultation process outlined in the report on the non-statutory consultation process namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise educational standards</li> <li>2. Reduce the number of empty places</li> <li>3. Reduce the variance in cost per pupil</li> <li>4. Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment</li> <li>5. Ensure that school buildings are in a good condition and that there are no health and safety issues</li> <li>6. Increase the leadership capacity</li> <li>7. Community use of the school building</li> <li>8. Welsh-medium and bilingual provision</li> <li>9. Geographical factors and travel</li> </ol>

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	<p>10. Costs 11. Availability of land</p> <p>However, this option did not score as highly as the favoured option i.e. Option 2 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools, renovate both and perhaps federalize (79 points) Option 3 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools and review the catchments (79 points)</p>
<p><b>19. Roads to Ysgol Llangoed and Ysgol Llandegfan are not suitable “as both roads are closed frequently due to flooding and bad weather conditions”. Congestion and environmental concerns</b></p>	<p>Traffic and travel issues will be addressed as part of a Traffic Impact Assessment that is carried out for each new project. The Authority's view is that the development of possible transport plans in the Seiriol area would prejudice any recommendations or decisions that Council officers and independent contractors might make. Therefore, a Traffic Impact Assessment will be conducted prior to the implementation date of the proposal.</p> <p>The calculations in the report on the non-statutory consultation show that bus use would not have a greater impact on the environment than the closure of Ysgol Beaumaris. Section 12 of the report on the non-statutory consultation contained information on environmental aspects.</p>
<p><b>20. The Authority is happy to send the pupils from Ysgol Beaumaris to Ysgol Llangoed. Yet, Ysgol Llangoed “had the school play on their yard as the hall is not big enough”. They felt the Authority was happy to squeeze more children into</b></p>	<p>This option was assessed along with many other options in the report on the non-statutory consultation process outlined in the report on the non-statutory consultation process namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise educational standards</li> <li>2. Reduce the number of empty places</li> <li>3. Reduce the variance in cost per pupil</li> <li>4. Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment</li> <li>5. Ensure that school buildings are in a good condition and that there are no health and safety issues</li> </ol>



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<p><b>Ysgol Llangoed whereas Beaumaris has plenty more room for more children and land to expand”.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Increase the leadership capacity</li> <li>7. Community use of the school building</li> <li>8. Welsh-medium and bilingual provision</li> <li>9. Geographical factors and travel</li> <li>10. Costs</li> <li>11. Availability of land</li> </ol> <p>However, this option did not score as highly as the favoured option i.e.  Option 2 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools, renovate both and perhaps federalize (79 points)  Option 3 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools and review the catchments (79 points)</p>
<p><b>21. No consideration given to a potential increase in pupils due to the Wylfa Newydd project</b></p>	<p>During the whole consultation processes, IoACC officers stated that no decision had been made to give permission for the Wylfa Newydd project to proceed. Therefore, until the final go ahead was given, IoACC could not formally include the possible effect of additional pupils requiring their education at schools on Anglesey in pupil projections. At the time of writing this report, the project has unfortunately been put on hold and IoACC officers will, at least for the time being, not be considering the potential effect of Wylfa Newydd due to the project being put on hold.</p>
<p><b>22. Beaumaris would be the only town in Wales without a school and “the long history of education in the town is being ignored”. School is in the only borough in Anglesey</b></p>	<p>There is no statutory requirement for a town to have a school. The current issues facing Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris were detailed in the report on the statutory consultation and members of the Executive were fully aware of the history of education in the Seiriol area when making their decision on 18 July 2018.</p>
<p><b>23. No discussions with Little</b></p>	<p>With school modernisation projects in the past, the Authority has waited until after the objection</p>

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<p><b>Puffins and Ti a Fi, Status of post decision stakeholder group</b></p>	<p>period before setting up a stakeholder group. Discussions with groups such as Little Puffins and Ti a Fi will then commence.</p>
<p><b>24. It is unlikely parents will send their children to Ysgol Llangoed but would instead send them to other primary schools on Anglesey or Bangor.</b></p>	<p>This was also said at the consultation meetings. In accordance with national law, parents can choose which school their child will attend. As noted above, the Authority's officers did not proceed further in terms of transport plans for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An attempt to estimate where pupils from any school that could close would prejudice any decision by the Executive.</li> </ul> <p>Regardless of the Executive's decision on 18 July 2018, traffic and travel issues will be addressed as part of a Traffic Impact Assessment that is carried out for each new project. The Authority's view is that the development of possible transport plans in the Seiriol area would prejudice any recommendations or decisions that Council officers and independent contractors might make.</p>
<p><b>25. Proposal disregards the economy of the area</b></p>	<p>The Community Impact Assessment assessed the potential effect of closing the school on the community. The closure of the school could have an impact on the attractiveness of the local area for proposed house buyers. Conversely, local residents could consider that not having a school in a specific area would be a useful thing making the area more attractive for home buyers looking for a quieter neighbourhood. Neither a positive or negative effect is suggested here but the possibility for residents' profile over time is acknowledged. These issues were discussed in the Community Impact Assessment issued with the statutory consultation document on 22 May 2018.</p>



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<p><b>26. IoACC did not engage with governors re alternative proposals</b></p>	<p>The Authority accepted the additional options proposed by the Beaumaris Primary School Response Committee and fully assessed them along with the 20 other possible options even though there it did not have to do so.</p>
<p><b>27. Consultation with children tokenistic</b></p>	<p>The School Organisation Code states: “As a minimum, [consultation with pupils] <b>must</b> include consultation with the school councils of the affected schools”. This was done in all 3 schools involved in this proposal.</p> <p>It was explained to the pupils at the meetings that a consultation had taken place with the adults in the community, and that this was an opportunity for the children from the schools to express their opinions regarding the Council’s plans for modernising schools. It was emphasised that their opinion was important because they were the ones attending the schools. They were told that the information they gave would be transferred to a report which would be presented to the Council’s Councillors as part of the Statutory Consultation.</p> <p>It was explained that the reasons for modernising were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are too many vacant places or not enough places in some schools in Anglesey</li> <li>• It was necessary to make sure that all pupils had a good education</li> <li>• It was necessary to make sure that the school is modern and offers good equipment</li> <li>• That the Council spends its money on schools in a fair way</li> </ul> <p>The children were asked the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What did the pupils like about their present school?</li> <li>2. What is your opinion of the proposal to close Ysgol Biwmares, and transfer the children to Ysgol Llangoed or Ysgol Llandegfan?</li> <li>3. Did they agree with the reasons for change?</li> <li>4. Any other comments</li> </ol>

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<p><b>28. Misleading information and factual inaccuracies in the document</b></p>	<p>The School Organisation Code 2013 outlines the information required in the consultation documentation. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information.</p>
<p><b>29. Community impact assessment insufficient / “IoACC has not fulfilled their duty to consider the wider impact of the school closure”</b></p>	<p>The School Organisation Code 2013 outlines the information required for the Community Impact Assessments and the Authority adhered to these during the statutory consultation process as required by law.</p>
<p><b>30. Children won’t be able to walk to school or go to a local school</b></p>	<p>It is not possible for every child to be able to walk to school. Other primary schools on the Island exist where children can’t walk to school. Children are guided to those schools in a variety of ways. Traffic and travel issues will be addressed as part of a Traffic Impact Assessment carried out for each new project.</p>
<p><b>31. Concern for child moving to another school.</b></p>	<p>As described above, many factors were assessed by the Executive prior to making its decision on 18 July 2018. When any child moves to another school, he or she will receive the same standard of care. However, if a child has Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and a Statement that identifies a child's Special Educational Needs (SEN), then the aim of the Statement is to ensure that the child receives the right support to enable him / her to make progress in the school. This Statement would remain valid for any child in question regardless of the school attended.</p>
<p><b>32. The statutory consultation document did not state “that when Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris will close, the pupils will transfer to Ysgol Llangoed by 1 May 2021, subject to parental choice and in</b></p>	<p>The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 allows parents to choose which school their child attends. Ysgol Llangoed is the school designated by the Authority to which children from Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris would move to when it closes. The Authority would then provide transport to these pupils to Ysgol Llangoed. The implementation date of the proposals has been changed to allow additional work to be</p>

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<p>accordance with the Authority's Schools' Admission Policy at the time. Ysgol Llandegfan and Ysgol Llangoed will continue to be Welsh medium community primary schools.</p>	<p>conducted on Ysgol Llandegfan.</p>
<p><b>33. Land of the school was originally designated to use for a school for Beaumaris Pupil numbers increasing / Beaumaris School should be made smaller and refurbished, with room for more pupils, as the predicted numbers of children increases./ If school not threatened for so long, numbers would have increased</b></p>	<p>There is no reverter on the site of Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris i.e. there is no conditional clause in the deeds of Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris to state that it should revert to its original purpose if the site is sold. This option to make Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris smaller and refurbish it was assessed in the report on the non-statutory consultation document against 11 factors as outlined in the report on the non-statutory consultation process namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise educational standards</li> <li>2. Reduce the number of empty places</li> <li>3. Reduce the variance in cost per pupil</li> <li>4. Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment</li> <li>5. Ensure that school buildings are in a good condition and that there are no health and safety issues</li> <li>6. Increase the leadership capacity</li> <li>7. Community use of the school building</li> <li>8. Welsh-medium and bilingual provision</li> <li>9. Geographical factors and travel</li> <li>10. Costs</li> <li>11. Availability of land</li> </ol> <p>This possible option scored 72 points compared to 79 for the favoured options i.e. Option 2 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two</p>

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	<p>other schools, renovate both and perhaps federalize (79 points)  Option 3 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools and review the catchments (79 points)  Below is a table of the number of pupils at Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris over the past few years:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="779 566 2101 654"> <thead> <tr> <th>1996</th> <th>2001</th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>189</td> <td>144</td> <td>108</td> <td>124</td> <td>117</td> <td>103</td> <td>90</td> <td>92</td> <td>81</td> <td>71</td> <td>56</td> <td>50</td> <td>39</td> <td>40</td> <td>42</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The decline in numbers started over 20 years ago and clearly, demography is a factor here.</p>	1996	2001	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	189	144	108	124	117	103	90	92	81	71	56	50	39	40	42
1996	2001	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018																	
189	144	108	124	117	103	90	92	81	71	56	50	39	40	42																	
<p><b>34. L.A has not explored the possibility of making YGB ‘shine’ in the C21 by using grants.</b></p>	<p>Each of the 20 options mentioned in the report on the non-statutory consultation process was assessed and scored. Each option was assessed and scored along with many other options against 11 factors as outlined in the report on the non-statutory consultation process namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise educational standards</li> <li>2. Reduce the number of empty places</li> <li>3. Reduce the variance in cost per pupil</li> <li>4. Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment</li> <li>5. Ensure that school buildings are in a good condition and that there are no health and safety issues</li> <li>6. Increase the leadership capacity</li> <li>7. Community use of the school building</li> <li>8. Welsh-medium and bilingual provision</li> <li>9. Geographical factors and travel</li> <li>10. Costs</li> <li>11. Availability of land</li> </ol> <p>All the options were assessed from a financial point of view using factor 10 above. Whichever</p>																														

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	<p>option that would have scored highest would have been pursued by IoACC and a business case would have been compiled.</p>
<p><b>35. Conducting the “consultation on the closure of Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris at the same time as the consultation on the Shared Care Facility” meant “local people became confused and the old and the young were set up to fight against each other”.</b></p>	<p>The non-statutory consultation document issued in June 2017 is was not the intention stated: “Work to share information regarding the Council’s preferred option for an Extra Care site in the Seiriol area will take place in the next few months. The preferred site is the Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris site. Developing possible Extra Care facilities on this site will not affect the result of the consultation on the future of Ysgol Beaumaris. It is foreseen that this development can be located on the same site as the present school conditional upon usual considerations.” Therefore, both consultations were conducted simultaneously for potential stakeholders to obtain information on both consultations within a short period of time. There was no sinister purpose in doing this.</p>
<p><b>36. IoACC was “in a rush to get the school closure through just before the law changes. By doing this the council may have appeared to obey the letter of the law but are disregarding the mood of the nation and the intentions of the government, which is passing laws to protect such schools.</b></p>	<p>The revised School Organisation Code came into force on 1 November 2018 which was before the date of this objection. However, this revision of the Code is not retrospective and the Authority is adhering to the Code. It should be noted, however, that this is a presumption against closure, and the revised Code of Procedure does not say that rural schools should not close. Indeed, the Code of Organisation states that there is a priority to provide high quality education in small and rural schools, and indeed recognizes that education is the main consideration.  Page 3 of the revised School Organisation Code states: “If a proposer has commenced consultation before 1 November 2018 the proposal <b>must</b> be published and determined in accordance with the first edition of the Code. Consultation will be considered to have commenced where a consultation document has been published”.</p>

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<p><b>37. “The Council doesn’t listen to our views”</b></p>	<p>As stated in the consultation documents, the Authority is always keen to hear the views of stakeholders on the way forward with regard to the primary education provision in the Seiriol area. No decision had been made until feedback from stakeholders was received as part of the non-statutory and statutory consultation processes. Reports on the consultation processes were presented to the Executive for it to make its decisions.</p> <p>The Authority has to consider many factors in reaching its decision and it is accepted that it will be impossible to please everybody.</p>
<p><b>38. Some enquired as to “what had happened to YGB’s’ maintenance budget”?</b></p>	<p>The maintenance budget for Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris is allocated annually according to a formula. This is done in the same way for each primary school on Anglesey. However, the maintenance backlog for Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris is high.</p>
<p><b>39. IoACC has applied for de-listing “when it suits you”</b></p>	<p>Anglesey County Council has not applied for de-listing of Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris. However, Anglesey County Council has asked the conservation body in Wales i.e. CADW about de-listing the school but CADW would not allow that to happen. Therefore, whatever happens to the building on the future, any changes that need to be made to it will require CADW’s permission.</p>
<p><b>40. IoACC should build a new school on the Lairds site along with mixed housing “comprising affordable and social housing and light industrial units”</b></p>	<p>The Lairds site is not in the Joint Local Development Plan for it to be developed.</p>



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<p><b>41. Closing YGB will “undermine the attractiveness of living in the north eastern end of the Llanfairpwll-Beaumaris commuter belt and people will make decisions to live on the mainland”.</b></p>	<p>The closure of the school could have an impact on the attractiveness of the local area for proposed house buyers. Conversely, local residents could consider that not having a school in a specific area would be a useful thing making the area more attractive for home buyers looking for a quieter neighbourhood. Neither a positive or negative effect is suggested here but the possibility for residents' profile over time is acknowledged. These issues were discussed in the Community Impact Assessment which was issued with the statutory consultation document on 22 May 2018.</p>
<p><b>42. A long term vision “for the south east of Anglesey” is needed</b></p>	<p>The Council has been working on this along with local elected members for several months and is working with 5 wards to develop a Place Plan. This will be done in Seiriol soon. The Seiriol League (Cynghrair Seiriol) is also a success.</p>
<p><b>43. “The Authority had made its mind up beforehand”</b></p>	<p>As stated in the consultation documents, the Authority is always keen to hear the views of stakeholders on the way forward with regard to the primary education provision in the Seiriol area. No decision had been made until feedback from stakeholders was received as part of the non-statutory and statutory consultation processes. Reports on the consultation processes were presented to the Executive for it to make its decisions.</p>
<p><b>44. My child is “happy and involved in the school” and parents did not want to have to transfer their child(ren) to another school / family wished to bring their child up in Beaumaris but will be unlikely to do so now. I chose Beaumaris to send her child because of the caring,</b></p>	<p>As described above, many factors were assessed by the Executive prior to making its decision on 18 July 2018. When any moves to another school, he or she will receive the same standard of care. However, if a child has Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and a Statement that identifies a child's Special Educational Needs (SEN) and any additional support the child should receive, then the aim of the Statement is to ensure that the child receives the right support to enable him / her to make progress in the school. This Statement would remain valid for any child in question regardless of the school attended.</p>

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<p>nurturing environment that she had witnessed whilst her child was attending Little Puffins Playgroup</p>	
<p><b>45. Some disagreed with the maintenance backlog figures</b></p>	<p>The maintenance backlog cost is the cost associated with bringing the condition of the building up to the expected condition that is safe for pupils, staff, parents and other school users i.e. work that conforms to statutory health and safety standards. The sum for Ysgol Beaumaris reflects the condition grade [C] which notes that there are several defects requiring attention at the school.</p>
<p><b>46. “Seems perverse that IoACC should be taking steps to weaken the ability of a settlement (i.e. Beaumaris) to fulfil the role expected of it by the strategic planning system”</b></p>	<p>There is no requirement for local development plans to “provide education”. Local planning authorities prepare local development plans that provide a statutory policy framework, which is applied to proposals that require planning consent to develop land and buildings in the plan area during a specific 15 year period. Planning consent is not required to close schools. But, for example, if the evidence base available during the preparation of a local development plan demonstrates a need to safeguard land for a new school, then the Plan should include a policy that facilitates the development of that new school, and should allocate land set aside by the Council for that new school on the Plan’s proposals maps.</p> <p>The comment seems to be alluding to Beaumaris’ role in the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan. Beaumaris is identified as a Local Service Centre in the Plan’s Settlement Strategy. When local planning authorities prepare their local development plans they undertake settlement assessments to inform decisions about policies regarding where development should be spatially located to achieve a sustainable pattern of growth. The assessments look at the role and function of places, which includes collecting information about facilities and services located</p>



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	<p>within each settlement. This work was undertaken to formulate the Plan's Settlement Strategy and its Spatial Strategy. The methodology used to assess each settlement's role and function included collecting information about services and facilities available at that point in time within each town and village. The services and facilities looked at included primary schools. But it also looked at employment provision, retail provision and transport opportunities. Having applied a scoring system Beaumaris was considered to align with the definition of a Local Service Centre in terms of its role and function within the Plan area. Therefore, the presence of a primary school in Beaumaris at the Plan preparation stage was only one of several matters considered, and was not the determining factor.</p>
<p><b>47. Federalisation would be an easier option</b></p>	<p>Federating was considered in 3 of the 20 options considered in the report on the non-statutory consultation process namely options 8, 14 and 17. All three of these options scored lower than the option which became the favoured options. These possible options were assessed and scored along with many other options against 11 factors as outlined in the report on the non-statutory consultation process namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise educational standards</li> <li>2. Reduce the number of empty places</li> <li>3. Reduce the variance in cost per pupil</li> <li>4. Ensure that school buildings create the best possible learning environment</li> <li>5. Ensure that school buildings are in a good condition and that there are no health and safety issues</li> <li>6. Increase the leadership capacity</li> <li>7. Community use of the school building</li> <li>8. Welsh-medium and bilingual provision</li> <li>9. Geographical factors and travel</li> </ol>

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	<p>10. Costs 11. Availability of land</p> <p>This possible options scored as follows: Option 8 – 64 points; Option 14 – 73 points; Option 17 - 68 points This compared to 79 for the favoured options i.e. Option 2 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools, renovate both and perhaps federalize (79 points) Option 3 - Close Ysgol Beaumaris and give the parents a choice to send their children to the two other schools and review the catchments (79 points) The federation of the 2 schools would not address surplus places, the condition of the buildings or necessarily lead to financial savings.</p>																														
<p><b>48. The Local Education Authority has over a period of time strategically worked to decrease number of children in the school.</b></p>	<p>Every Head-teacher is appointed to the post following a rigorous interview process and if the successful candidate has met pre-determined criteria. “Reducing numbers” at a school is most certainly not one of these criteria. Indeed funding for each school is partly dependent on pupil numbers and therefore, Head-teachers would want to encourage pupils to attend their school rather than reduce numbers. It should also be noted that Governors are responsible for Head-teacher appointment.</p>																														
<p><b>49. For many years the future of the school has been put into doubt and parents, concerned to see their children go to one primary school for 7 years, have often chosen other schools in and out of the area from the start, in order to secure a place</b></p>	<p>Below is a table of the number of pupils at Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris over the past few years:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="779 1161 2101 1249"> <thead> <tr> <th>1996</th> <th>2001</th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> <th>2011</th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>189</td> <td>144</td> <td>108</td> <td>124</td> <td>117</td> <td>103</td> <td>90</td> <td>92</td> <td>81</td> <td>71</td> <td>56</td> <td>50</td> <td>39</td> <td>40</td> <td>42</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The decline in numbers started over 20 years ago and clearly, demography is a factor here.</p>	1996	2001	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	189	144	108	124	117	103	90	92	81	71	56	50	39	40	42
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<p><b>'before a rush begins'.</b></p>	
<p><b>50. "Has the school been in 'special measures'? This has resulted in reducing the pupil numbers at the school. Numbers now are inevitably dwindling due to the council's plans to close the school.</b></p>	<p>Estyn conducted an inspection of Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris in January 2014. As outlined in the report on the statutory consultation document, the school was given an Adequate grading on the 3 key questions and placed in an Estyn monitoring category. Estyn returned for a monitoring visit in March 2015 and stated in its report: "It is judged that Ysgol Gynradd Beaumaris has made good progress regarding the key matters for action following Estyn's visit in March 2015. We will now take the school's name away from the list of schools that need to be monitored by Estyn. There will not be more monitoring visits by Estyn in relation to this inspection."</p>