

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL <u>Scrutiny Report Template</u>	
Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 December 2020
Subject:	The County Council's Schools modernisation Programme – Llangefni Area: Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig
Purpose of Report:	To present the responses to the statutory consultation held in February / March 2020 on Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig, make a recommendation and receive the comments of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
Protocol for public speaking at virtual meetings of the Scrutiny Committees	Members of the public can register their interest to speak at a Scrutiny Committee Meeting in advance, using the relevant form . See the Protocol for public speaking at the virtual meetings of the Scrutiny Committees: Protocol for public speaking at virtual Scrutiny Committee meetings
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Aled Morris Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor R Meirion Jones
Head of Service:	Rhys H. Hughes, Director of Education, Skills and Young People
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Local Members:	Councillor Nicola Roberts Councillor Bob Parry Councillor Dylan Rees

1 – Recommendation/s
<p>The consultation was carried out between 6 February and 20 March 2020 on the proposal to: "Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn"</p> <p>It is recommended to the Executive that the most appropriate way forward considering all consultation responses and impact assessments is to proceed with the original proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn" • Authorise officers to proceed to the next stage of the process set out in the School Organisation Code (2018) and issue a statutory notice for a 28-day period early in the new year. • Authorise officers to undertake responses to the statutory notice and produce an objection report (if there are any objections) for further consideration by the Executive in the new year. • Authorise officers to re-publish the Impact Assessment on the proposal as part of assessing the proposal's ongoing impact on equality, the Welsh language and the community. <p>The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on the recommendation and recommend to the Executive that the above be approved.</p>

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

The Authority's strategies linked to the School Modernisation Program are as follows:

2.1 Annual Delivery Document 2019-20:

Objective 1: Ensure that the people of Anglesey can thrive and realise their long-term potential. Continue the school modernisation programme by exploring the options available to us in the Llangefni and Seiriol areas and subsequently consulting on the best way forward.

2.2 The revised **School Modernisation Strategy** was approved by the Executive in October 2018 and this proposal forms part of Band B in the Strategy's timetable.

2.3 Corporate Asset Management Plan 2015-2020

The plan refers to the school modernisation plan and use of the schools once they are empty. Reference is also made to how the school modernisation plan contributes to the corporate energy efficiency strategy.

2.4 Energy Strategy

The Council's Executive adopted an Energy Strategy in 2017. The strategy aims to reduce carbon emissions by 15% by 2022. The school estate contributes significantly to the Authority's emissions.

2.5 Joint Local Development Plan

The housing developments outlined in the Joint Local Development Plan is an important factor in the provision of new education in this area of Llangefni.

2.6 The Welsh language

In order to increase the percentage of foundation phase pupils achieving Welsh language targets as outlined in Welsh Government strategic documents and local plans, it is also intended to use the childcare models to increase Welsh-medium childcare capacity on Anglesey. The childcare partnership model has the potential to be a key contributor to the Welsh Government's aspiration of a million Welsh speakers by 2050. The modernisation programme complies with the following language policies and strategies:

- Isle of Anglesey County Council's Language Strategy 2016 – 2021
- Isle of Anglesey County Council's Strategic Plan for Welsh in Education
- The Welsh Government's strategy for a million Welsh speakers by 2050

2.7 Medium Term Financial Plan

The Council is required to have a robust system in place to monitor and manage its revenue budget, and a key element of this system is the Medium-Term Financial Plan. The plan sets out the Council's budget strategy over the next three years and outlines the assumptions that will go into the annual budget setting process. The plan will identify projections of budget challenges (savings requirement) for the next 3 years.

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:

3.1 The impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen]

See Impact Assessment – Appendix 1.

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

Details in the Consultation Report (parts 5 and 6) – Appendix 1.

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

Details in the Consultation Report (parts 5 and 6) – Appendix 1.

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance management or quality assurance role **[focus on performance & quality]**

Irrelevant at present as the report presented here is a report on the consultation.

3.5 To look at plans and proposals from the following perspectives:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

See Impact Assessment – Appendix 1.

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

4.1 Will this proposal contribute to achieving the aims of the School Modernisation Plan?

4.2 Is the process, the content of the consultation report and the impact assessment rigorous and robust (i.e. do they adequately recognise the effects on the Welsh language, equality and the community) - if not, what's missing?

4.3 Is the proposal affordable and reasonable (from a revenue and capital perspective)?

4.4 Is there any other information / considerations that should be brought to the attention of the Executive in order to decide whether or not to continue with its recommendation?

5 – Background / Context

Between 6 February 2020 and 20 March 2020, Council officials undertook a statutory consultation on the future of the two schools in question. Officials were authorised to carry out the consultation after the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and Executive considered the 'proposal paper' in January 2020. The consultation closed on the last day of school before the first lockdown period, as a result of the global pandemic that transformed education provision for a time.

It is important to note that the Council has received a letter from the Welsh Government (School Organisation and Admissions Branch) stating that Welsh Government Ministers are giving the Council an extension until 19 March 2021 to publish any proposal. The Council has operated in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018 throughout the pandemic period.

As part of that consultation, the Council's original proposal and a number of other proposals were considered in detail. e.g.

- Establishing a multi-site school, Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn
- Undertaking current and projected maintenance work at Ysgol Talwrn
- Expansion of all primary schools (Ysgol y Graig, Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Corn Hir)

There were 57 online responses and 10 letter and email responses to the consultation. Responses were received from individuals and community organisations such as Merched y Wawr and others. Substantial feedback from the majority of stakeholders associated with both schools indicated:

Of the 57 online respondents, 52 (91%) disagreed with the proposal, while 5 (9%) agreed with the proposal. Of the 52 who said they disagreed with the proposal, 48 of these were associated with Ysgol Talwrn.

There were 7 respondents associated with Ysgol y Graig. 4 of these 7 (57%) disagreed with the proposal, while 3 of the 7 (43%) agreed with the proposal.

As part of the process, other educational models were also received and they were assessed by officers against the criteria and drivers of the current school modernisation strategy (set out below) while preparing the consultation report. Examples of the type of models presented are:

- Building a new 21st Century primary school for Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig and closing both schools.
- Federating Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol y Graig
- Providing Nursery and Reception classes at Ysgol Talwrn and Years 1-6 at Ysgol y Graig

After considering all the responses and following a comprehensive analysis of their weaknesses and strengths against the drivers of the school modernisation strategy, the original proposal is considered the most appropriate way forward.

This conclusion was reached because the proposal meets the key challenges (set out below) faced by Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig and meets the requirements of the key drivers of change set out in the School Modernisation Strategy 2018. These include:

- improving educational standards;
- improving leadership and management;
- ensuring that school buildings are fit for purpose;
- reducing the number of surplus places;
- reducing the overall cost of education and the variation in cost per pupil;
- maintaining and improving Welsh-medium provision and
- increasing the community use of school buildings.

In addition, the proposal would secure sufficient school places for the future.

The proposal meets the requirements of the key drivers as follows:

- **Standards** across all schools need to be at least good or excellent. In addition, schools in the area would be expected to be in the green category, i.e. schools that are performing well and need the lowest level of support. **The new expanded school would be in a position to maintain the Estyn grade and retain the green categorisation in the medium to long-term.**
- **Leadership and management** must be good or better in all schools. In this context, headteachers need sufficient non-contact time to balance leadership and management

challenges with teaching commitment - at the new expanded Ysgol y Graig, it is envisaged that the headteacher would have no teaching commitment. **It would be possible to build and further develop a senior management team, which could improve leadership and management.**

- The **school building** needs to provide an inspiring learning environment that will encourage all pupils to achieve their potential across all areas of learning. In addition, all schools must comply with the Equality Act 2010 in terms of accessibility for children with disabilities - a new 21st century building will be designed, with low maintenance costs and an excellent BREEAM rating. **The current and projected maintenance costs of both schools of £408,500 would be written off. The expanded school will be fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010.**
- Sufficient **school places** need to be available in the area to meet current demand, future forecast numbers as well as reduce surplus places. In addition, there is a need to reduce pupil movement from within and outside the catchment area if possible - **it addresses the need to provide sufficient places at Ysgol y Graig. Pupils from Talwrn will also be taught in classes where the age range is smaller. Fewer pupils will move between catchment areas.**
- Any revised school provision in the area will need to be cost efficient i.e. there is a need to reduce revenue costs and any current and projected maintenance costs. In addition, there is a need to reduce the variation in cost per pupil across individual schools - there would be a reduction in the average cost per pupil in the expanded school. The projected cost per pupil at the new expanded school would be approximately £3,436 (based on the 2019/20 budget). This is lower than the average for Anglesey Primary Schools - £3,988 (2019/20). It also eliminates the variation in cost per pupil between the two schools - Ysgol Talwrn - £4,553 (2019/20), Ysgol y Graig - £3,429 (2019/20). The proposal incurs an additional revenue cost of approximately £33,000 per annum (more information is provided in part 7), however it eliminates current and projected maintenance costs of £408,500. If the council were to fund this work through an unsupported loan over a 20-year period, it would cost around £32,000 a year to fund. **It can therefore be concluded that the proposal is close to cost neutral.**
- **Welsh-medium provision** - at the very least, the existing good provision **would be maintained.**
- **Community use** of school buildings and associated facilities needs to be maintained and maximised where possible - **the wider community would continue to benefit from the use of the newly expanded school building.**
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In summary, therefore, the recommended proposal is to **"Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn"**

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

The impact assessments in respect of the Equality Act, Language, Community and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are included as one Impact Assessment shown in Appendix 1 at the end of the consultation report. The consultation also included a response to the Impact Assessment. A total of 40 respondents (70% of them online) commented on the impact assessment.

Equality - 7.5% of respondents stated that:

- some pupils, especially those with a particular condition, may find it difficult to settle in a large school.

The Welsh language - 25% of respondents stated the following:

The comments highlighted the following themes:

- Talwrn is an area where Welsh is the natural language. Although Ysgol y Graig does good work in promoting and encouraging the use of Welsh, stakeholders were concerned that pupils will turn to English in the school yard, during extra-curricular activities and among children out of school.
- [Ysgol Talwrn] is important to the Talwrn Eisteddfod and Welsh culture. If the proposal is realised, there will be fewer Welsh speakers, as schools will become larger with more English speakers.
- Welsh speaking staff losing jobs.

Community - 40% of respondents stated the following:

- they believe that local pupils should receive their education locally, and believe that the proposal to close Ysgol Talwrn would have a detrimental effect on the community.
- that it would be more difficult for pupils from Talwrn to attend a childcare club / breakfast club, as the school bus will be too late.
- the negative impact of the proposal on private childcare nurseries, staff redundancies, and the fee for pupils under 2 years old is likely to increase to cover loss of income from pupils aged 2 and over.

Road Safety / Transport - 27.5% of respondents stated the following:

- they are concerned that traffic was already a problem around Ysgol y Graig, and that the proposal would make this problem worse. Similar comments were made by staff at Ysgol y Graig. Some respondents said they were concerned that accidents were likely, and suggested that council officers should observe traffic in the area between 8.30 and 9am and around 3pm to realise how bad the problem is.
- they are concerned about environmental impact and climate change as potential factors. It was noted that their child would not be able to walk, scooter or cycle to Ysgol y Graig. This would be impossible if Ysgol Talwrn were to close, as the road from Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig is dangerous without a pavement.

The number of responses to the impact assessment question provides 95% certainty that the response is correct and matches the feelings of the rest of the consultation respondents. A 95% confidence level means that if the survey were conducted 100 times, you would get the same results 95% of the time.

The Impact Assessment is a live document that has been updated to include stakeholder comments received during the statutory consultation period.

Please note: The Impact Assessment will be regularly updated throughout the development period so that the Council, in partnership with the local community (if another risk arises) can put in place mitigation measures to overcome the risk or issue that arises, in partnership with the local community.

This arrangement will operate throughout the development phase and will be accountable to the Corporate Programme Board - Service Transformation.

7 – Financial Implications

The new provision is estimated to cost around £6 million to build. If the proposal is approved, it will be funded by the Welsh Government who will contribute 65% through the 21st Century Schools Band B programme, and the Isle of Anglesey County Council who will contribute 35%.

If the current Ysgol Talwrn building is sold, it is assumed that this could contribute approximately £150,000 towards the Council's contribution.

The Council's contribution to the project will be funded through unsupported borrowing. The annual repayments are estimated to cost around £94,000.

The running costs of the Ysgol y Graig building will increase, for example, taxes, energy and cleaning costs. However, these will be more offset by the savings made by closing Ysgol Talwrn. There is a saving against the running and maintenance costs of the Ysgol Talwrn building, as well as the fixed elements that all schools receive through the school funding formula (i.e. one fewer school will receive the fixed elements). It is assumed that this will result in a saving of £31,000 a year having considered everything.

If the Council did nothing, it is assumed that Ysgol y Graig would be significantly over capacity in the future, and therefore the Council would have to pay to transport pupils to schools with surplus places. This proposal creates additional capacity in the area, so pupils will not have to be transported from the area, and as a result the Council will avoid around £60,000 of transport costs that it would have had to incur in the future if it did nothing. Transporting pupils from Ysgol Talwrn's catchment to Ysgol y Graig would cost approximately £30,000 per year, as there is no safe walking route, so the saving against the transport heading would be around £30,000 per year.

Therefore, the annual net cost to the Council would be approximately £33,000 (£94,000 - £31,000 - £30,000)

The proposal will also remove current and projected future maintenance expenditure of £408,500 for Ysgol Talwrn (£360,000) and Ysgol y Graig (£48,500).

School balances have reduced significantly in recent years, from £2,089,338 at 31 March 2017 to £197,315 at 31 March 2020. At 31 March 2017, 4 primary schools and 1 secondary school were in deficit. At 31 March 2020, 9 primary schools, 3 secondary schools and 1 special school were in deficit.

8 – Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Consultation Report - Outcome of the consultation undertaken between 6 February 2020 to 20 March 2020 on the proposal to: "Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn"

and

Impact Assessment including Equality, Language, Community and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

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

School Organisation Code (11/2018)

Anglesey Schools Modernisation Strategy (revised) – October 2018

The County Council's Delivery Document - 2019/20

Letter from Welsh Government to the Isle of Anglesey County Council dated 7 May 2020 granting the Council an extension until 19 March 2021 to publish any proposal.

Welsh Government document - Education Update Covid-19 - **Changes to the School Organisation Code in response to the coronavirus outbreak** (that provides guidance for consulting on school organisation proposals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak).



CONSULTATION REPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION - LLANGFNÍ AREA

Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig

Outcome of the consultation undertaken between

6 February 2020 to 20 March 2020

On the proposal to:

“Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn”

Protocol for public speaking at virtual Committee meetings	<p>The public, may pre-register their interest, using the relevant form, to speak at Scrutiny Committee Meetings.</p> <p>Please see the Protocol for public speaking at virtual meetings of Scrutiny Committees:</p> <p>Protocol for public speaking at virtual Scrutiny Committee meetings</p>
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December 2020

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh.

Hard copies of this report is available on request by sending an email to angleseyschools@ynysmon.gov.uk

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Isle of Anglesey County Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient and suitable places for children within the county's schools.

The Council has a responsibility under the School Organisation Code (011/2018) to consult with stakeholders when considering school reorganisation proposals that meet specific criteria.

The Council from 6 February 2020 to 20 March 2020 held a statutory consultation process in respect of the following proposal to:

“Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn”

The purpose of undertaking a statutory consultation was to seek the views of stakeholders/ interested parties on the proposal.

This consultation report now represents the council's responsibilities in line with the School Organisation Code (011/2018) to produce a report to inform stakeholders/ interested parties of the outcome of the statutory consultation by means of:

- Summarising each of the issues raised by stakeholders/ interested parties
- Responding to the issues by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection to the concerns with supporting reasons
- Setting out Estyn's view on the proposal with the Council's response.
- Express the views of children and young people affected by the proposal.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT

The consultation report has been published on the Council's website www.anglesey.gov.uk and the following stakeholders / interested parties have been informed directly of the publication of the consultation report.

- Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig
- Governors and Parents/Guardians of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig
- Local Elected Members
- Local Member of Parliament
- Local Member of the Senedd
- Regional Members of the Senedd
- GwE
- Estyn
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Welsh Government
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Local Town and Community Councils
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig
- Cylch Meithrin Talwrn
- Flying Start
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Meithrinfa Medra
- Meithrinfa Sêr Bach

- Cylch Meithrin Stryd Y Bont
- Headteacher of Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni
- Canolfan Addysg Y Bont
- Coleg Menai
- Isle of Anglesey County Council -Senior Officers
- Isle of Anglesey County Council- Principal Youth Officer
- Barnados

3. THE PROPOSAL

The Council consulted on the proposal to “Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig”

The new school building would accommodate all pupils from the current Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn and meet estimated future demand including nursery provision. Ysgol Talwrn would close.

For the purpose of this report the enlarged school building will still be known as Ysgol Y Graig.

3.1 The expanded Ysgol Y Graig’s proposed details

The expanded Ysgol Y Graig’s proposed details are noted below:

Proposed details for the extended Ysgol Y Graig	
Age range	3-11 years
Pupil Places	480 (4-11 years)
Nursery Places	68
Admission number	68
Location	Land near the current Ysgol y Graig building, Llangefni.
Category	Community
Language Category	Welsh Medium
Proposed facilities	21 st Century Primary School facility to realise the new Curriculum for Wales (CFW), including nursery and community provision.
Anticipated Project Cost	Approximately £6m, financed 65/35 through Welsh Government 21 st Century Schools Programme and the Council’s capital.

It is proposed that the extension to Ysgol Y Graig which would include a new Foundation Phase (FP) block could include the following:

- Foundation Phase (FP) Classrooms
- Toilets and Cloaks adjacent to FP Classrooms
- Reception classrooms
- Toilets and Cloaks directly off Reception Classrooms
- Nursery classroom

- Toilets and Cloaks directly off Nursery Classrooms
- A main hall (for lunch provision and for use as a gymnasium);
- A resources room
- A Nurture Group Room
- A flexible Art/Group Room
- Kitchen with stores, staff office and toilet; server area; hall storage
- Reception Office and photocopier
- Office
- Hygiene room
- Pupil Support / Medical Inspection / Interview Room
- Staff room with separate Staff Work area
- Visitor/staff toilets
- IT Server Room
- Sick Bay
- Entrance / Reception Area
- Cleaner's Store
- 1 Small Group Room

External areas would include hard play areas, soft play areas and a garden area. Play areas for the nursery and pre-school nursery children would be segregated. The existing Ysgol Y Graig playing field would be used for both the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 pupils. As a result of these inclusions, it is proposed that-

- The extended Ysgol Y Graig would have sufficient places to meet demand.
- The extended Ysgol Y Graig would be purpose built to deliver the new Curriculum for Wales (CFW).
- The extended Ysgol Y Graig would be in a position to maintain their Estyn gradings of Excellent and Good and be expected to retain the Green (A) status categorisation held.
- The extended Ysgol Y Graig would be fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
- The cost per pupil at the extended Ysgol Y Graig would be below the average cost per pupil for Anglesey primary schools.
- In the extended Ysgol Y Graig, it is foreseen that the Headteacher would have no specific teaching commitment.
- The extended Ysgol Y Graig would be a 21st century building would be designed to have low maintenance costs and have a BREEAM Excellent rating.

The Council proposes to provide free transport for pupils currently attending Ysgol Talwrn to the extended Ysgol Y Graig for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's transport policy for schools.

The Council would provide appropriate help and support for ALN pupils. Should parents with pupils' who are registered ALN have any questions regarding the support offered, individual meetings can be arranged with Dr Einir Thomas (Additional Learning Needs Manager), Email: einirthomas@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, telephone 01286 679007.

4. CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

On 20 January 2020 the Council's Executive authorised officers to conduct a statutory consultation in line with the requirements set out in the School Organisation Code (011/2018), on the proposal below:

4.1 Methodology

The Consultation was held between 6 February 2020 and 20 March 2020. During this period stakeholders / interested parties were invited to express their views on the proposal to:

“Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn”

The consultation document link was made available to all the stakeholders /interested parties listed in section 2 and the consultation document was published on the Council's website www.anglesey.gov.uk.

The Council also raised awareness of the consultation via the Council's social media networks. Consultees were also advised of the following opportunities to respond to the consultation proposal or ask questions by:

- Sending an email to angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk or
- Completing the on line response form or
- Completing a paper response form by email to angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk

Or posted to:
 Programme Manager (Schools Modernisation),
 Human Resource and Transformation Service
 Council Offices,
 Llangefni,
 LL77 7TW

Hard copies of the consultation document or alternative formats were available on request.

4.2 Consultation Meetings

The following meetings/sessions were held to present the consultation documents and explain the consultation process to Staff, Governors, Parents/Guardians and all other interested parties who attended. Attendees were advised of the importance of responding to the consultation as described in section 4.1 as no formal minutes were taken at the consultation meetings.

Date	Location /School	Stakeholders	Time
10 February 2020	Ysgol Talwrn	Staff	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
	Ysgol Talwrn	Governors	5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
	Ysgol Talwrn	Parents/ Guardians	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
13 February 2020	Ysgol Y Graig	Staff	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
	Ysgol Y Graig	Governors	5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
	Ysgol Y Graig	Parents/ Guardians	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

4.3 Consultation With Children and Young People

The consultation process with Children and Young People was conducted in accordance with Section 3.5 of the School Organisation Code 011/2018.

Pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig participated in the consultation process. Officers from the Council met with both School Councils and other pupils during the consultation period. The information provided was presented to the participants in such a way that was relevant to their age and level of understanding and in accordance with practice agreed with both Headteachers beforehand.

The Council developed a child friendly A3 response form which the children completed in groups, and they were given the opportunity to speak freely and to ask questions.

A summary of the feedback received from children and young people can be found in section 5.7 of this report.

5. RESPONSES AND COMMENTS

The following section summarises each of the issues raised by consultees during the consultation period.

5.1 Summary of responses

The Council received 57 responses from the smart survey and 10 responses in the form of letters and e-mails. The 57 on-line responses were categorised as follows:

Respondent category	Number of responses
School Governor	2
Staff	5
Parent / Guardian	38
Elected Member	0
Town / Community Councillor	0
Local Resident	5
Other	7
Total	57

Respondents connected to	Number of responses
Ysgol Talwrn	49 (86%)
Ysgol Y Graig	7 (12%)
Not Stated	1 (2%)

Response to the question “Do you agree with the proposal to “Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn”

Yes – 5	No – 52
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Number of comments regarding the proposal to “Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn”

48 (smart survey) – these have been summarised in part 5.2 below.

Number of other reasonable alternatives received for the continuation of Ysgol Talwrn that addresses the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces?

34 responders provided comments when given the opportunity to offer a new reasonable alternative through the smart survey. After analysing the responses, we conclude that

14 reasonable alternatives had been suggested, **however some of these had already been considered within the Consultation Document and Proposal Paper.** A full summary has been included in section 6 below.

Number of other matters the Council should consider as part of the Impact Assessment

A total of 40 respondents provided comments when given the opportunity to suggest other matters the Council should consider as part of the impact assessment. Table 5.2 below summarises these comments and outlines the Council's response.

These matters have been addressed in the Impact Assessment - Appendix 1

5.2 Summary of comments

The following table shows a summary of comments (collated into themes) received from the on-line survey during the consultation period together with the Council's response.

No.	Theme	Council's response
5.2.1	<p>Agreed or disagreed with the proposal</p> <p>There were 57 responders - 52 (91%) disagreed with the proposal, whereas 5 (9%) agreed with the proposal.</p> <p>Of the 52 that stated they disagreed with the proposal, 48 of these were connected to Ysgol Talwrn.</p>	<p>The number of responders is very low.</p> <p>There are 336 pupils at Ysgol Y Graig, and 38 pupils at Ysgol Talwrn totalling 374 across both schools. All parents, staff and governors were made aware of the Consultation Document. Parents of both schools were invited to attend a presentation on its content and the consultation process. Therefore, at least 374 individuals were advised of the survey.</p> <p>It can therefore be assumed that a maximum of about 15% of the combined stakeholders of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn felt strongly enough to state their feelings via the survey.</p> <p>As at September 2019 there were 38 pupils, and there are 18 staff or governors at Ysgol Talwrn. As all staff, parents and others were advised of the survey, it appears that almost all of the combined stakeholders of Ysgol Talwrn felt strongly enough to state their feelings via the survey.</p> <p>Although 91% of respondents disagreed, one parent from Ysgol Talwrn stated: "I wholeheartedly agree with the proposal to close a small school that is old, non-inspiring and costly in favour of a larger school at a reduced cost per pupil. I believe that this will give my children more opportunities and better prepare them for secondary"</p>

No.	Theme	Council's response
	<p>Of the 52 respondents that disagreed with the proposal, 9 (17%) did not make any further comments on the proposal.</p> <p>One of the reasons why 15 (26%) of the responders did not agree with the proposal was, that Ysgol Talwrn is performing well, and they feel that the school can provide a personal service experience, with each pupil getting the attention and support they require.</p> <p>One of the reasons why 14 (25%) of the responders did not agree with the proposal, was that they were of the opinion that local pupils should receive their education locally, and they believe that the proposal to close Ysgol Talwrn would have a</p>	<p>This can be interpreted in a number of different ways i.e. –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the individuals did not want to change the status quo • the individuals did not want to send their children to Ysgol y Graig • the individuals didn't feel there was a need to modernise <p>Although Ysgol Talwrn is currently performing very well, there is a risk that this could be difficult to maintain in the long term. The more schools there are on the island, the more difficult it will become to appoint effective head teachers, especially in smaller schools, where there may be less competition for posts. Should there be a change in the management team at Ysgol Talwrn in the future, this would be a significant risk.</p> <p>It will also be challenging for Ysgol Talwrn to meet the needs of the new curriculum for Wales, due to the school building, and limited outdoor learning facilities.</p> <p>A limited number of staff at a small school means there is a lack of curriculum diversity and less opportunities for a variety of extra-curricular experiences.</p> <p>Mixed ages in smaller schools can be challenging with regards to provision. School leaders inevitably will have less leadership time due to teaching responsibilities.</p> <p>It can be difficult for small schools to set cost efficient class sizes (i.e. class sizes close to 30). If classes are inefficient, this will put additional pressure on school budgets, resulting in insufficient funding remaining to fund other areas, such as the appointment of specialist nurturing and pastoral care staff.</p> <p>There are many examples of strong communities within villages that do not contain a school.</p> <p>The facilities at Ysgol Y Graig (within 2 miles of Ysgol Talwrn) would be available to use by the Talwrn community.</p>

No.	Theme	Council's response
	<p data-bbox="359 264 790 331">detrimental effect on the community.</p> <p data-bbox="359 566 790 869">One of the reasons why 9 (16%) of all responders did not agree with the proposal, was that they feared that schools in Llangefni may be over capacity in the future, due to the number of future housing developments expected within the Llangefni area.</p> <p data-bbox="359 1776 790 2040">One of the reasons why 9 (16%) of all responders did not agree with the proposal, was that they were concerned that traffic is already a problem around Ysgol Y Graig, and that the proposal would make this problem worse. Some responders stated that</p>	<p data-bbox="813 264 1388 398">In addition, Talwrn has a Village Hall which is currently used to facilitate many local activities and could be utilised for further activities.</p> <p data-bbox="813 432 1388 533">The impact of such a decision is clearly articulated in the attached impact assessments (Appendix 1)</p> <p data-bbox="813 566 1388 1137">The proposal has not only been developed to accommodate additional pupils from housing developments that have been submitted for planning application, but has also considered data held by the Joint Planning Policy Unit such as housing allocations for the Llangefni area. Section 5.4 of the Consultation Document described in detail the potential effect of these housing developments in Llangefni on the proposed extended Ysgol y Graig. The Consultation Document outlined that the projected number of pupils at Ysgol Y Graig would be 383 in September 2023 and would peak at 419 in September 2027. The conclusion was that there would be sufficient spaces at the school for additional pupils.</p> <p data-bbox="813 1171 1388 1272">The proposal has also looked at the number of children aged 3-11 per household within the individual wards at the last census date.</p> <p data-bbox="813 1305 1388 1541">It will however always be difficult to accurately determine a school's projected number of pupils, due to parental choice of which school their pupil will attend. However, the proposal is likely to reduce the number of out of catchment pupils in the Graig / Talwrn area.</p> <p data-bbox="813 1541 1388 1742">If the proposal is approved, the new Foundation Phase Unit for Ysgol y Graig will be designed to allow for a future 2 classroom extension which will future proof the development of the school for the forthcoming period.</p> <p data-bbox="813 1776 1388 2040">If the proposal is approved by the Executive, the development of the Foundation Phase Unit on a new site will allow the current parking issues to be resolved as part of the new scheme. This can only be achieved by increasing the site area to include additional parking provision. The Planning Application will need to show how the current parking</p>

No.	Theme	Council's response
	<p>they were concerned that accidents are likely, and suggested that officers from the council should observe traffic in the area between 8.30 to 9am and about 3pm to realise how significant the problem was.</p> <p>One of the reasons why 5 (9%) of the responders disagreed with the proposal, was that they were concerned that the proposal would have a detrimental effect on the Welsh language.</p>	<p>issues can be resolved in order to receive the support of the Highways Department. If this proposal is implemented, it is an opportunity for these concerns to be mitigated as a result of the proposed improvement works.</p> <p>A Traffic Impact Assessment will be carried out and will form a part of the Planning Application and proposals will be developed with the Council Staff, Traffic Impact Consultant, Landscape Architect and Civil Engineer. The scheme will also be developed in consultation with officers from the Highway Department prior to the submission of the application.</p> <p>The development of the Unit on a new site will allow the current parking issues to be resolved as part of the new scheme. This can only be achieved by increasing the site area to include additional parking provision. The Planning Application will need to show how the current parking issues can be resolved in order to receive the support of the Highways Department.</p> <p>PLASC data for 2019 reflects that the percentage of pupils speaking fluent Welsh at home is higher at Ysgol Y Graig (59%) than at Ysgol Talwrn (40%).</p> <p>There is no clear difference in Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig pupils' achievements in Welsh between 2015 and 2017.</p> <p>On page 21 of the Impact Assessment which accompanied the Consultation Document, section 3.5.6 stated: <i>"The proposed extended school will be a Welsh medium, community school. It will be a priority for the Authority to strengthen and safeguard the Welsh language and bilingual education."</i></p> <p>Therefore, if the proposal is implemented, it will be the responsibility of the leadership team at the proposed extended Ysgol y Graig to promote the informal use of the Welsh by the pupils during school hours. The proposed extended Ysgol y Graig would promote the use of Welsh in the classroom</p>

No.	Theme	Council's response
		and on the school yard in line with the Authority's Welsh Language Charter.
5.2.2	Responders from Ysgol Y Graig There were 7 responders connected to Ysgol Y Graig. 4/7 (57%) of responders connected to Ysgol Y Graig disagreed with the proposal, whilst 3/7 (43%) of responders connected to Ysgol Y Graig agreed with the proposal.	It should be noted that the percentage of responders from Ysgol Y Graig was extremely low. It could therefore be concluded that most individuals connected to Ysgol Y Graig who were advised of the survey, did not feel strongly enough to note their agreement or disagreement with the proposal via the smart survey.
5.2.3	Ysgol Talwrn building Some of the responders who did not agree with the proposal said that they thought the current building was not fit for purpose.	All school buildings are inspected regularly by qualified surveyors. Ysgol Talwrn has a condition grade of B - Satisfactory (Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration).
5.2.4	"Unfair to have another consultation" Several of the responders stated that they felt it was unfair that Ysgol Talwrn have had to undergo yet another public consultation.	Whilst accepting that Ysgol Talwrn has been the subject of 4 statutory consultations, the Council is committed to listening to the views of stakeholders when implementing a significant change that will impact our residents. The modernisation of our school stock is such a change and the views of parents, staff and residents are important to note and can differ over time. Therefore, the need to undertake timely consultations is imperative. It is also a requirement of the School Organisation Code to undertake a public consultation before implementing a school reorganisation such as the proposal under consideration.
5.2.5	"Money is more important" Some stated that they believe that saving money is more important to the Council than educational standards.	The Council have identified seven drivers for the school modernisation programme, of which 'financial' is one of these drivers. Other drivers include – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards • Leadership and Management, • School Spaces, • School Building, • Community Use and • Welsh Medium provision. The Council is of the opinion that the proposal performs well against all of these drivers, whilst also addressing the key

No.	Theme	Council's response
		challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig.
5.2.6	<p>“Rural schools being punished” A handful of respondents felt that rural schools were being punished due to problems that exists within the towns i.e. that Ysgol Talwrn was being closed to help finance an extension to Ysgol Y Graig, due to Ysgol Y Graig being over capacity.</p>	<p>The proposal addresses key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn as well as Ysgol Y Graig, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It ensures that pupils are taught in classes with an age range of no more than 2 years. - It provides pupils with facilities which are fit for purpose to deliver the new curriculum for Wales. - It ensures that the headteacher does not have a significant specific teaching commitment. <p>The School Modernisation strategy provides a direction of travel to where the future of our school stock is headed. This has been consulted upon with the current schools and governors and is very much seen as an opportunity for improvement which will benefit current and future generations of children.</p>
5.2.7	<p>“Proposed Ysgol y Graig is too large” 17 (30%) of all responders made comments to suggest that they would consider the proposed Ysgol Y Graig (with a capacity of 480) to be too large for pupils to get the attention and support that they require, or they felt that some pupils would struggle to settle in a school of this size.</p>	<p>A school of this size will have the resources to ensure that teaching is tailored to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with additional learning needs, and those pupils who are considered the most able and talented.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that smaller schools struggle to meet the needs of both these groups (Estyn report – School Size and Educational Effectiveness – December 2013)</p> <p>A school of this size will give greater curricular diversity due to resources and specialist teaching i.e. IT, music</p> <p>There would be more opportunity for extracurricular activities to meet the needs of all pupils and families.</p> <p>Due to additional resources and the ability to appoint specialist staff, larger schools are able to provide pastoral care and nurturing groups.</p>
5.2.8	<p>“Proposal disruptive to pupils” 7 (12%) of the responders made comments to the effect that the Council does not have the best</p>	<p>The council acknowledges that the change may be difficult for some pupils, particularly pupils from Talwrn. If the proposal is</p>

No.	Theme	Council's response
	<p>interest of the current pupils at heart. That pupils were happy where they are, and the proposal would be disruptive to pupils. Most of these comments were made by parents / guardians who are connected to Ysgol Talwrn.</p>	<p>approved, every effort will be made to make the transfer as seamless as possible, by undertaking joint activities between pupils of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn so that pupils make friends from Ysgol Y Graig before they transfer.</p> <p>Indeed, the school modernisation programme has already seen 10 primary schools merged into 3 new primary schools. Lessons have been learnt about how to manage the process and ensure a seamless transition from one school to another. Similar concerns were raised prior to the mergers of these primary schools and these were taken seriously. To alleviate these concerns, joint activities between pupils of the schools that were to merge were undertaken for pupils to get to know each other. These activities were successful prior to the formation of Ysgol Cybi, Ysgol Rhyd y Llan and Ysgol Santes Dwynwen. In addition, experience shows that children, on the whole, adapt easily with the change of school.</p> <p>The Council must consider the effect of future generation as well as existing pupils when making proposals for the area.</p>
5.2.9	<p>Federalisation</p> <p>5 (8%) of the responders made comments to suggest that they would prefer the option of federalisation.</p>	<p>There was limited reasoning why responders preferred the option of federalisation, other than what has already been considered and stated within the consultation document.</p> <p>Several options in section 6.3 of the Consultation Document involved possible federations of schools. However, the disadvantages of these outweighed the advantages. The advantages and disadvantages of federating schools are summarised in table 5.2.11 below.</p> <p>However, the Authority is not biased against federation but has a working federation of schools namely Ysgol Goronwy Owen and Ysgol Moelfre. This federation started operating in January 2020. This demonstrates its willingness to form federations, in this case, to form the Gwêl y Glannau federation.</p>

No.	Theme	Council's response						
5.2.10	<p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>Less than 5 (9%) responders stated one or more of the following as reasons why they did not agree with the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The proposal does not address the challenges faced by Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni.▪ The estimated cost to address the current and projected future maintenance cost at Ysgol Talwrn has been overstated.• Pupils at Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn come from different social backgrounds. It would be easier to merge with schools from a similar background, or with schools of similar size, e.g. Llanbedrgoch and / or Pentraeth.	<p>The key challenges and reasonable alternatives including Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni were considered within the proposal paper. The Council concluded that there was no reasonable alternative that addressed the needs of Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni and the primary schools within the area. The only significant challenge facing Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni was the condition of the existing building. This will therefore be reconsidered when Anglesey will be identifying their schemes for Bands C and D of the 21st Century Schools programme.</p> <p>If anything, the costs contained within the Consultation Document were understated. The current and projected future maintenance costs of £360,000 can be broken down as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>Internal works</td><td>£29,500</td></tr><tr><td>External works</td><td>£80,500</td></tr><tr><td>New temporary classroom</td><td>£250,000</td></tr></table> <p>A quotation for a similar sized temporary classroom was received in August 2019 by the Council and the estimated price was £308,000 in total (£185k for the mobile classroom, £11k for additional equipment and £112k for foundation works and connecting the mobile classroom to utility services)</p> <p>Pupils attend schools based on catchment areas not on social backgrounds. Ysgol Pentraeth is in a different secondary school catchment area to Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Talwrn – this could lead to pupils from the same primary school going to a different secondary school which, in turn would make it more difficult for Year 6 pupils when they move to secondary school. Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Pentraeth are not part of the current consultation but could well be considered in the School Modernisation Programme in the future. This option will therefore not be considered further.</p>	Internal works	£29,500	External works	£80,500	New temporary classroom	£250,000
Internal works	£29,500							
External works	£80,500							
New temporary classroom	£250,000							

No.	Theme	Council's response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk that if Ysgol Y Graig was operating from two separate buildings, that the school could be seen as two separate schools. There was also concern that two separate buildings could cause logistical problems for parents, needing to pick up pupils from more than one site. These comments were made by staff from Ysgol Y Graig. ▪ Pupils from Talwrn will be unable to walk or cycle to Ysgol Y Graig. ▪ The proposal does not provide value for money. 	<p>The senior leadership team at Ysgol Y Graig will be responsible for overseeing the teaching approaches, and for ensuring Key Stage 2 teachers have a good understanding of Foundation Phase pupil development levels. The senior leadership team could also arrange activities that bring the foundation phase and key stage 2 teachers and pupils together, to make the transition from foundation phase as seamless as at any other school. The new foundation block would be located within approximately 90 meters of the Key Stage 2 building, which will make it easier to manage 2 separate buildings, and will reduce the logistical problems for parents. Monitoring and support from the Council's Education Service would continue and the regional education service, GwE would also continue its monitoring of standards at the school.</p> <p>The Council has acknowledged this disadvantage within the proposal paper, the consultation document and the impact assessment. The effects of which will be mitigated as far as possible, by providing a free transport for eligible pupils in accordance with the school transport policy.</p> <p>There is a lack of school capacity within the Llangefni area, which must be addressed. Any scheme to create additional capacity will require a significant capital investment by the Authority. The investment required by the Authority has been significantly reduced, as Welsh Government's contribution through the 21st Century Schools programme will fund 65% of the capital costs. The costs for this proposal are in line with the suggested costs in Welsh Governments 'Standard Cost and Size' document, after accounting for abnormal costs, such as costs to purchase additional land, and costs to resolve parking issues at the current site. It is anticipated that the proposal would have a net cost of about £33,000 per annum for the Authority for 50 years. Should the authority not capitalise on the current opportunity available through the 21st Century Schools Programme, the net annual cost would be far greater in future years.</p>

No.	Theme	Council's response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff from Ysgol Y Graig stated that they did not want Ysgol Talwrn to have to close in order for Ysgol Y Graig to have an extension. ▪ In past consultations, parents have asked for a breakdown of maintenance costs for Ysgol Talwrn, which were never provided. 	<p>The decision to close Ysgol Talwrn is not a direct consequence of Ysgol Y Graig being over capacity. The benefits of closing Ysgol Talwrn and transferring pupils to Ysgol Y Graig would include (but would not be limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It ensures that all pupils are taught in classes with an age range of no more than 2 years. - It ensures the needs of all pupils are met, including those with additional learning needs, and the most able and talented pupils. - It provides current and future pupils from Talwrn with a learning facility that is fit for purpose for the 21st Century, including the delivery of the new curriculum for Wales. - It reduces the variation in the cost per pupil and delivers revenue savings. <p>The Council has provided a governor at Ysgol Talwrn with a breakdown of Ysgol Talwrn's maintenance costs including the cost of procuring and fitting a new mobile classroom on the site.</p> <p>To install a new mobile classroom, access permission would be required from the landowner next to the school. Once this has been obtained, the following steps would then need to be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demolition of the existing unit ▪ Underground works (foundations, electricity cables, water, telephone and communication cables and sewage pipes etc.) ▪ New class unit (including toilets for children as well as staff / disabled toilet) ▪ Building planning and control consent ▪ 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. ▪ Ramp and iron steps to the new cabin ▪ Yard repair / improvement work

No.	Theme	Council's response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fee for arranging and conducting the work <p>As mentioned above, a quotation for a similar sized temporary classroom was received in August 2019 by the Council and the estimated price was £308,000 in total (£185k for the mobile classroom, £11k for additional equipment and £112k for foundation works and connecting the mobile classroom to utility services)</p>
	<p>The three chairs of governors for Ysgol Bodffordd, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn met with the local Member of the Senedd and the three chairs wrote a joint letter.</p> <p>This is a joint response from the chairs of the three schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That a new School for Corn Hir was urgently needed The principle that it is not necessary to close other schools for this to happen Consultation needed to be truly transparent when seeking an alternative response We are prepared to help develop ideas that may make school closures inevitable. <p>There was sympathy with the Council's position in terms of funding and national policy direction.</p>	<p>The response will be considered as part of the consultation.</p>

Table 5.2.11

The advantages and disadvantages of federating schools are summarised in the table below (this is continued from section 5.2.9 above):

Driver	Advantages	Disadvantages
1.Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhances opportunities for pupil activities Opportunities for sharing staff expertise and good practice Greater possibility of consistency of teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in the variation in class sizes or the number of age ranges taught in classes in Ysgol Talwrn.
2.Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options to choose senior leadership structure to suit the federation structure including school site managers. The headteacher would have increased non-contact time and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can cost more to run as site managers are required at both schools and some positions need back filling.

Driver	Advantages	Disadvantages
	would have the opportunity to further develop a senior management team to share the leadership burden.	
3.School Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ysgol y Graig would remain fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010 in respect of access for disabled pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not address the need to improve the Ysgol Talwrn building to meet 21st Century School standards. Does not address the need to provide external learning environments at the Ysgol Talwrn site Does not address the current and projected future maintenance costs at the school. (£360k as at 2019). Ysgol Talwrn building is only partially compliant with the Equality Act 2010
4.School Spaces		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not address the need to provide sufficient places at Ysgol y Graig.
5.Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each school would retain its own budget. Teaching cost savings are estimated to be approximately £2k per annum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lose the opportunity for substantial capital investment. Does not address the variation in the cost per pupil and equality of provision. Does not reduce the amount delegated to schools through the school funding formula. Does not eliminate the current and projected future maintenance costs Revenue costs are likely to increase in the future
6.Welsh medium provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains the good provision. 	
7.Community use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The present community use would continue 	
8. General issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education provision would continue on each school site. Minimum disruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils would need to be transported to schools outside the catchment area (who have surplus places), as there is not sufficient capacity to accommodate all pupils within the catchment area.

Federating Ysgol Talwrn with any other school only partially meets the challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces namely:

1. Pupil numbers - **does not address** the need to provide sufficient places at Ysgol y Graig
2. Limited space to deliver the Curriculum for Wales (CFW) in the medium to long term – would remain **unchanged** as a result of federating
3. Cost per pupil – very small savings would mean the cost per pupil **would remain higher** than the Anglesey primary average
4. School building - has current and projected future maintenance costs of £360,000 (2019) and a condition rating of B (Satisfactory - Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration). Ysgol Talwrn building only partially conforms to the requirements expected under the Equality Act 2010 – **these would be unchanged**

5. Standards - the current standards seen in Ysgol Talwrn could be difficult maintain in the long term – this would still be true
6. Teaching Commitment of the Headteacher – currently 70% teaching commitment – likely to change.
7. Finance – it is unlikely that any minor savings as a result of federating would be sufficient to contribute to the reduction the Council has to make to its budget.

Due to the fact that federating Ysgol Talwrn with any other school does not meet the challenges faced by Ysgol Talwrn, it is disregarded.

5.3 Specific comments by the Welsh Language Society (Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg)

The following points were raised by Cymdeithas yr Iaith:

- **Consultation “not fair and valid”**
Cymdeithas yr Iaith claims that the proposal under consideration is a “rehash” of the previous “original proposal” and that this “proves that the Council did not have an open mind in formulating its proposal”. It continues: “Almost all the arguments used by the Council when it comes to the “challenges” faced by Ysgol Talwrn and the “disadvantages” of all the options, including, keeping Ysgol Talwrn, are generic arguments against ALL rural or relatively small schools - they are not arguments specific to Ysgol Talwrn e.g. ALL relatively small schools will have mixed-age classes and the cost per pupil to provide education, or any service, will of course be higher in a rural area. But this is not unfair as there are far fewer services in rural areas and therefore the total expenditure per head is less. It’s obvious that there is a head teaching in ALL smaller schools. The document therefore clearly shows a presumption AGAINST smaller schools because of the generic arguments, and this is contrary to the requirements of the Code”.

School Organisation Code requirements

The School Organisation Code 2018 makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools establishing a procedural presumption against their closure. The Code states that “this requires proposers to follow a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal.”

Those bringing forward statutory proposals **must** publish a consultation document in hard copy and electronically on their website or that of the relevant local authority. Hard copies **must** be available on request. Consideration **should** be given to publishing in other formats where accessibility might otherwise be an issue.

The consultation document **must** be published on a school day of the school or schools subject to the proposal and consultees **must** be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days. Consultation documents should not be published on a school day which includes a school session which is devoted (wholly or mainly) to improving teaching standards or management practices of staff at the school (INSET days).

The following (listed in the School Organisation Code 2018) **must** be advised by letter or email of the availability of the consultation document (The notification e-mail was sent on 6 February 2020 at 12:04pm)

The Council's reply to the claim by Cyl that its consultation was not 'fair and valid'

The presumption mentioned in the School Organisation Code is a procedural presumption. Additionally, Ysgol Talwrn is not classed as a rural school in the School Organisation Code

The consultation process was conducted in accordance with the statutory guidelines in the School Organisation Code 2018 as described in the table below:

School Organisation Code 2018 requirements	Steps taken by the Isle of Anglesey County Council
Publish a consultation document in hard copy and electronically on their website	Published on the Isle of Anglesey County Council's website on 6 February 2020 and available by hard copy.
Consultation document must be published on a school day	Published on 6 February 2020, a school day at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig
Consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document,	Consultees given from 6 February 2020 until 20 March 2020 to respond to the document – at least 42 days
Consultees must be advised by letter or email of the availability of the consultation document	Consultees listed in section 3.1 of the Consultation Document advised by email of the availability of the consultation document

The table above shows how the Authority has adhered to the School Organisation Code for this consultation making it valid. All reasonable alternatives are assessed against the key drivers of the modernisation programme. This ensures that all options are assessed consistently and fairly. In assessing each option we look at the specific situation of each school individually and in detail.

- **The Council went straight to statutory consultation**

Cymdeithas yr Iaith believes that the Isle of Anglesey County Council should not have proceeded without "informal consultation" first. Cymdeithas yr Iaith did not agree with "publishing a virtually finalised proposal and report for a Scrutiny Committee only 4 days before the vote by the Executive." This they felt does not "constitute initial non-statutory or informal consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Code".

Council reply

According to the School Organisation Code 2018, there is no statutory requirement for proposers to conduct informal consultations. Statutory and constitutional guidelines were followed for discussion of the proposal paper at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2020 and by the Executive on 20 January 2020.

The School Organisation Code 2018 states: "From time to time proposers will have conducted 'informal' consultation with particular stakeholders at an earlier stage in the development of proposals. Such consultation **must not** be seen as a substitute for any part of the formal consultation processes set out below.

In section 3.3 of the Code it states: “There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings although there will be circumstances where proposers will consider that meeting with certain groups of consultees will assist greatly in the dissemination of information and provide a suitable platform for the consultees to make their views known.”

Therefore, it is the belief of the Isle of Anglesey County Council that there is no requirement for it to conduct an “informal consultation” prior to conducting a ‘formal’ or statutory consultation. Neither is there a requirement on the Authority to “hold consultation meetings” but this was done at both schools to assist with the dissemination of information and provide a suitable platform for the consultees to make their views known.

- **Evaluation of reasonable alternatives**

Here the claim is that “the options appraisal ... fails to meet the requirements of the Code”. Cymdeithas yr Iaith proposed another option: “an arrangement with school(s) to the east of Talwrn There are two options (6.3.10 / 11) elements of which could form part of a sustainable solution involving the creation of a federation - of some model - that will secure community support by keeping a school in their community whilst also creating a strong educational unit, rationalising administration costs, and providing an effective path from the primary to the secondary sector”. Cymdeithas yr Iaith also claimed that the Council has a “prejudice against federations”. (See the point below – Cefni federation)

Council reply

- The consultation process was conducted in accordance with the statutory guidelines in the School Organisation Code 2018. All stakeholders were given an opportunity to respond to the proposal. All the options discussed in the consultation document were consistently and thoroughly evaluated against the key drivers namely:
- **Standards** across all schools need to be at least good or excellent. In addition, schools in the area would be expected to be categorised as green, i.e. a school that is performing well and in need of the lowest level of support.
- **Leadership and management** must be good or better in every school. In this context, headteachers need sufficient non-contact time to balance leadership and management challenges with teaching commitment.
- The **school building** needs to provide an inspirational learning environment that will encourage every pupil to achieve their potential across all areas of learning. In addition, every school needs to comply with the Equality Act 2010 regarding accessibility for disabled children.
- **Sufficient school spaces** need to be available in the area to meet current demand, future projected numbers as well as reducing surplus places. In addition, pupil movement within and from outside the catchment area needs to be reduced if possible.
- Any revised school provision in the area will have to be **cost efficient** i.e. the revenue costs need to be reduced and any current and projected future maintenance costs are addressed. In addition, the variation in cost per pupil across individual schools reduced.
- **Welsh medium provision** will need to be at least maintained or improved.
- The **community use** of school buildings and associated facilities needs to be maintained and where possible increased.

On 25 November 2019, the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Executive resolved to "conclusively confirm the proposal to federate Ysgol Goronwy Owen and Ysgol Moelfre". Therefore, the Authority currently has a working federation of schools namely Ysgol Goronwy Owen and Ysgol Moelfre. This federation started operating in January 2020. The Authority is not prejudiced against federations. Indeed, the example above demonstrates its willingness to form federations, in this case, to form the Gwêl y Glannau federation.

- **Cefni federation**

Cymdeithas yr Iaith proposed another option: "The creation of a Cefni Federation covering the secondary school, the town's primary school(s) and Bodffordd and Talwrn schools would create a strong and innovative educational unit that could be a pilot scheme for rural Wales, and which would still tick all of central government's strategic boxes in terms of attracting financial support."

Council reply

This option was discussed in detail in section 6.3.10 of the Consultation Document and is analysed further in the Consultation Report. However, the Council has been consistent in stating that this option would not address:

- the need for additional school places in Llangefni – Pupil projections that include pupils arising from new housing developments show that there is likely to be 764 pupils at the 4 primary schools (Bodffordd, Corn Hir, Talwrn and Y Graig) whereas current capacity in the four primary schools is 646 places, **a shortfall of 118 spaces.**
- the current and future maintenance spend on all the schools - the current and future maintenance spend on the 4 primary schools and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni is £4,385,500. Cymdeithas yr Iaith's proposal **would not lead to a reduction in the current and future maintenance costs.**
- the standard of the school buildings – Ysgol Y Graig has a condition grade of A, Ysgol Talwrn has a condition grade of B, Ysgol Bodffordd has a condition grade of B, Ysgol Corn Hir has a condition grade of C and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni has a condition grade of C. Cymdeithas yr Iaith's proposal **would not lead to improvements in the standard of the school buildings without a considerable funding package from Welsh Government to realise these improvements.**
- the variation in the cost per pupil and equality of provision - **the cost per head would not be addressed and would remain as they are now where some children receive approx. £1,000 per head more than their counterparts in other schools i.e.:**
 - Ysgol Bodffordd 2019/20=£4,274
 - Ysgol Corn Hir 2019/20=£3,587
 - Ysgol Y Graig 2019/20 = £3,429
 - Ysgol Talwrn 2019/20 = £4,553
 - Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni 2019/20= £5,039

Ysgol y Graig would continue to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 whilst the other 3 primary schools would not meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010

The Council therefore rejects this proposal as a reasonable alternative.

5.4 Response by the Governors of Ysgol Y Graig

5.4.1 Concern the school could become 2 schools Council reply

This is discussed further in section 5.2.10. The senior leadership team at Ysgol Y Graig would be responsible for overseeing the teaching approaches, and for ensuring Key Stage 2 teachers have a good understanding of Foundation Phase pupil development levels. The senior leadership team could also arrange activities that bring the foundation phase and key stage 2 teachers and pupils together, to make the transition from foundation phase as seamless as at any other school. The new foundation block would be located within approximately 90 meters of the Key Stage 2 building, which will make it easier to manage 2 separate buildings, and will reduce the logistical problems for parents. Monitoring and support from the Council's Education Service would continue and the regional education service, GwE would also continue its monitoring of standards at the school.

It must be noted that if this a concern for a school with 2 different blocks within 90 metres of one another, it would be an even greater concern for a federation of 4 or 5 schools with a single headteacher proposed by some stakeholders.

5.4.2 Traffic and parking situation Council reply

This is discussed further in section 5.2.1. If the proposal is approved by the Executive, the development of the Foundation Phase Unit on a new site will create an **opportunity** for the current parking issues to be resolved as part of the new scheme. This can only be achieved by increasing the site area to include additional parking provision. The Planning Application for the new Foundation Phase unit would need to show how the current parking issues can be resolved in order to receive the support of the Highways Department. If this proposal is implemented, it is an opportunity for these concerns to be mitigated as a result of the proposed improvement works.

A Traffic Impact Assessment will be carried out and will form a part of the Planning Application and proposals will be developed with the Council Staff, Traffic Impact Consultant, Landscape Architect and Civil Engineer. The scheme will also be developed in consultation with officers from the Highway Department prior to the submission of the application.

The development of the Unit on a new site will allow the current parking issues to be resolved as part of the new scheme. This can only be achieved by increasing the site area to include additional parking provision. The Planning Application will need to show how the current parking issues can be resolved in order to receive the support of the Highways Department.

5.4.3 Some pupils do better in a smaller school – concern that pupils in small schools would not settle at Ysgol Y Graig

Council reply

In the case of a pupil finding it difficult to settle in the extended Ysgol y Graig, the senior leadership team at Ysgol Y Graig, under the Governing Body's oversight, would be responsible for overseeing the teaching approaches and for ensuring all teachers have a good understanding of the issue and the pupil's development levels to enable all pupils to settle in their new surroundings.

The Council has opened three new primary Schools on Anglesey since 2017, namely Ysgol Cybi, Ysgol Rhyd y Llan and Ysgol Santes Dwynwen. The Headteachers of these new primary schools expressed that in their experience pupils have settled well with the new arrangements.

5.4.4 Effect of the proposal on the Welsh language and on the local eisteddfod

Council reply

The 2019 PLASC data reflects that the percentage of pupils speaking fluent Welsh at home is higher at Ysgol Y Graig (59%) than at Ysgol Talwrn (40%).

There is no clear difference in Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig pupils' achievements in Welsh between 2015 and 2017.

On page 21 of the Impact Assessment which accompanied the Consultation Document, section 3.5.6 stated:

"The proposed extended school will be a Welsh medium, community school. It will be a priority for the Authority to strengthen and safeguard the Welsh language and bilingual education."

Therefore, if the proposal is implemented, it will be the responsibility of the leadership team at the proposed extended Ysgol y Graig to promote the informal use of the Welsh by the pupils during school hours. The proposed extended Ysgol y Graig would promote the use of Welsh in the classroom and on the school yard in line with the Authority's Welsh Language Charter.

The Council understands that the village eisteddfod is held in the village hall. If the proposal is implemented, the village eisteddfod could continue to be held there.

5.4.5 Would like the Authority to share its vision for the future re school modernisation

Council reply

The Authority's School Modernisation Strategy was subject to consultation with headteachers and chairs of governors of all 49 schools on Anglesey at the time. The consultation period was 5 months from 30 April 2018 to 30 September 2018. Following scrutiny of the strategy at the Council's Corporate Scrutiny Committee, it was approved by the Council's Executive on 15 October 2018. The Authority's School Modernisation Strategy was subsequently made public after its approval and the Strategy remains a public document

5.4.6 Why look at 2 rural schools with a small number of surplus places rather than primary school with a much higher number of surplus places?

Council reply

This proposal is part of a wider School Modernisation Programme. Other primary school in Anglesey which have more surplus places could well be part of the programme in the future. The provision in the Llangefni area has been prioritised due to lack of sufficient school places.

5.4.7 Reasonable alternative – build a third primary school in Llangefni

Council reply

The advantages and disadvantages of this reasonable alternative were as follows:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could set good standards from the outset. It may be possible to ensure that the age range in classes will be no more than two years. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The school is likely to have more expertise and capacity to address the needs of more vulnerable pupils and the more able and talented pupils. ▪ Possibility of developing consistency of teaching and learning methodology from the outset. ▪ No loss of experienced Governors and Headteachers. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The school would meet 21st century standards and would be an inspirational Learning environment for pupils. ▪ Design of the school would have suitable outside learning environments and would be designed to deliver the new Curriculum for Wales (CFW). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would likely provide 150 primary school places which is the same total number of school spaces the proposal would provide if implemented. Would provide sufficient places to meet current demand and future projections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would be very difficult to find a 5 acre site for a new primary school which was not too close to Ysgol y Graig but would be within the development boundaries of Llangefni. ▪ This could also build excessive surplus places.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No additional transport costs are anticipated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High Capital cost for the authority, a significant proportion of which would be funded through unsupported borrowing. ▪ The budget delegated to schools would likely increase ▪ Backlog maintenance costs of £360,000 at Ysgol Talwrn and £48,500 for Ysgol y Graig would remain. ▪ Cost per pupil would be approximately £4,610 per head which is higher than the Anglesey average of £3,988.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintains the provision. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possible new facility for the benefit of the community. 	

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No loss of community buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could prove difficult to enforce as the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 allows parents to choose which school their child will attend.

This reasonable alternative would mean that:

- A change to the catchment areas would be required so that the required number of pupils would attend the potential new school in Llangefni whilst parents have the legal right to decide which school their child(ren) can attend.
- This alternative could initially build in excess surplus places
- It would be very difficult to find a 5 acre site for a new primary school which was not too close to Ysgol y Graig but would be within the development boundaries of Llangefni.

The Council therefore rejects this proposal as a reasonable alternative.

5.4.8 Would the proposed new primary school fill up quickly?

Council reply

This point is discussed in section 5.4 of the Consultation Document. The Authority believes that the proposal under consideration would provide sufficient places for the predicted peak number of pupils at the school in the next few years i.e. 419. This number is derived in the following way:

From 2019 to 2024, pupil numbers at Ysgol Talwrn are forecasted to decrease from 40 to 37 which is an 8% reduction. During the same time period, pupil number at Ysgol y Graig are forecasted to increase from 324 to 334 which is a 3% increase. The forecasts confirm that pupil numbers will increase to a total of 371 in both schools by 2024.

Additionally, there is a need to consider new housing developments in the catchment area and the primary school age children which will arise from these. The number of primary school age children arising from the new housing developments are shown in the table below:

School	Number of housing developments in the catchment area to 2026	Corresponding number of children*
Y Graig	397	67 - 143
Talwrn	6	1 - 2

*Evidence suggests that each house on Anglesey, has, on average 0.17 children of primary school age. Multiplying the number of housing developments with 0.17, gives an estimated number of additional children who will need to be educated at that particular school. However, in the Tudur ward, there is an average of 0.36 children of primary school age in each house and this can lead to a maximum total of 145 pupils arising from the new housing developments.

Although the proposed housing developments are in the Joint Local Development Plan, there are a number of factors that affect whether these proposed developments will move forward in the planning process as follows. Firstly, they would need to be assessed to determine whether the proposed development(s) would meet the requirements in order to be able to seek

planning permission and then whether planning permission (which is valid for 5 years) would be granted. In other words, the number of houses in the table above is an estimation and is not an assurance that all of these houses will be built by 2027. If these proposed housing developments were built, the developer would very likely build them in phases. This would mean that the number of pupils would increase gradually and would NOT mean that the maximum number of pupils i.e. 145 (143 + 2 = 145 from the table above) would start to attend the school at the same time.

The table below shows the projected pupil numbers at the proposed extended Ysgol y Graig to September 2027 taking into consideration the maximum number of proposed housing developments mentioned above.

	Projected number on roll in September				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Extended Ysgol Y Graig	383	404	407	418	419

It is important to note that projections are difficult as a number of pupils attend the schools from other catchment areas. In October 2019, Ysgol Talwrn has 14% surplus places, although 17% (7 pupils) of pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn are from the Corn Hir catchment area, and 31% of pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn (13 pupils) are from the Ysgol Y Graig catchment area.

Parents can also choose to send their child(ren) to whichever school they wish.

5.5 Response by a Governor of Ysgol Talwrn

5.5.1 Firstly, it was stated by the Governor that the Council was going through the motions with the consultation

The Council's reply to such a statement is noted below:

The consultation process was conducted in accordance with the statutory guidelines in the School Organisation Code 2018 as described in the table below:

School Organisation Code 2018 requirements	Steps taken by the Isle of Anglesey County Council
Publish a consultation document in hard copy and electronically on their website	Published on the Isle of Anglesey County Council's website on 6 February 2020 and available by hard copy.
Consultation document must be published on a school day	Published on 6 February 2020, a school day at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig
Consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document,	Consultees given from 6 February 2020 until 20 March 2020 to respond to the document – at least 42 days
Consultees must be advised by letter or email of the availability of the consultation document	Consultees listed in section 3.1 of the Consultation Document advised by email of the availability of the consultation document

The table above shows how the Authority has adhered to the School Organisation Code and was not just “going through the motions”. The Authority has comprehensively appraised as many reasonable alternative as possible against the key drivers identified within the School Modernisation Strategy. The Council held public meetings with stakeholders of all effected schools, which is not a requirement of the code. Any comments have been carefully considered and responded to within this document, and any new alternatives suggested by stakeholders have been fully appraised within this document.

The procedures outlined in the School Organisation Code will continue to be followed as the process continues.

5.5.2 Secondly, the Governor stated that one “Cannot trust the Authority’s figures on housing developments”

In reply the Council states -

The proposal has not only been developed to accommodate additional pupils from housing developments that have been submitted for planning application, but has also considered data held by the Joint Planning Policy Unit such as housing allocations for the Llangefni area. Section 5.4 of the Consultation Document described in detail the potential effect of these housing developments in Llangefni on the proposed extended Ysgol y Graig. The Consultation Document outlined that the projected number of pupils at Ysgol Y Graig would be 383 in September 2023 and would peak at 419 in September 2027 i.e. at the end of the building of the new housing developments. The conclusion was that there would be sufficient spaces at the school for additional pupils and would allow for an increase of 13% on today’s number of prospective pupils.

The proposal has also looked at the number of children aged 3-11 per household within the individual wards at the last census date.

It will however always be difficult to accurately determine a school’s projected number of pupils, due to parental choice of which school their pupil will attend. However, the proposal is likely to reduce the number of out of catchment pupils in the Graig / Talwrn area.

If the proposal is approved, the new Foundation Phase Unit for Ysgol y Graig will be designed to allow for a future 2 classroom extension in case of further increase in pupil numbers so that the school itself is future proofed for future generations.

5.5.3 Thirdly the governor claimed that the Council is to blame for not maintaining the school building at Talwrn

In response to this claim the Council notes -

The Council does not have the financial resource to maintain 40 primary schools, 5 secondary schools and 1 special school to the desired level in the current climate and following years of austerity.

The Council undertake a condition survey on all schools each year, and the work required at each school is categorised (A-D) based on the priority for the work to be undertaken, taking considerations of aspects such as condition of the asset and health and safety considerations. Work identified for category D and C will be

prioritised, whereas works identified which falls into categories B and A will only be undertaken if there is funding remaining after the completion of all works in categories D and C.

The total current and projected future maintenance spend for all schools stands at approximately £22m. The total current and projected future maintenance cost for Ysgol Talwrn is £360,000 – approximately 1.6% of the total.

The table below reflects the current and projected maintenance spend for the 8 primary school buildings on Anglesey that have an area of less than 600m² (for the purpose of this table the cost associated with the Portacabin at Ysgol Talwrn has been removed):

<u>School</u>	Pupil Numbers PLASC 2019	Area (m²)	Current and projected future maintenance spend
Bodffordd	70	470	£134,000
Talwrn	45	302	£110,000
Carreglefn	23	224	£46,500
Llanbedrgoch	24	320	£168,500
Llangoed	69	572	£114,000
Henblas	86	533	£138,000
Pencarnisiog	69	575	£98,000
Rhosybol	58	551	£96,500
Average	56	443	£113,250

The figures for 'Current and projected future maintenance spend' included within this table covers expenditure such as, but not limited to:

- Resurfacing of school yards / car parks
- Internal and External Re-decorating
- Replacement of doors and windows
- Refurbishment of kitchens, classrooms, toilets etc.
- New fencing, gates or other access systems
- Lighting replacement
- Rewiring
- Roof Replacement

This table shows that the current and projected future maintenance spend at Ysgol Talwrn is comparable to other school buildings of similar size. This shows that Ysgol Talwrn has not been treated less favourably than other schools.

5.5.4 Fourthly the governor claimed that finance is available to modify and expand the school

The Council's reply states that -

In line with the School Organisation Code 2018, any potential modernisation project for Ysgol Talwrn would have to meet the key challenges for Ysgol Talwrn. These are:

- Pupil numbers,
- curriculum delivery,
- cost per pupil,
- school building,
- standards,
- teaching commitment of the headteacher, **AND**
- finance.

Whilst this reasonable alternative could have a positive impact on some of the key challenges noted above it could exacerbate the situation regarding pupil numbers and surplus places. Curriculum delivery could improve but education standards and the teaching commitment of the headteacher would likely remain unchanged as a result of this alternative option. The extended part of Ysgol Talwrn would meet current building standards but the cost per pupil would likely increase.

Funding for Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme excludes funding for "routine repairs and maintenance" and the funding for the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme is targeted to support "remodelling and reconstruction".

5.5.5 In addition, it was claimed that no detail to support the £100k of maintenance work required to set up a potential new temporary classroom

The Council reply is as follows -

Section 5.2.10 of this report expands upon this point. It is however important to note that the Council has provided a governor at Ysgol Talwrn with a breakdown of Ysgol Talwrn's maintenance costs including the cost of procuring and fitting a new mobile classroom on the site.

The current and projected future maintenance costs of £360,000 cited within the Consultation Document can be broken down as follows:

Internal works	£29,500
External works	£80,500
New temporary classroom	£250,000

These figures were based on a quotation for a similar sized temporary classroom which was received in August 2019 by the Council which included an estimated price of £308,000 in total. This comprised of £185k for the mobile classroom, £11k for additional equipment and £112k for foundation works and connecting the mobile classroom to the utility services. A copy of this quote was provided to the Governor at his request via e-mail on 24 February 2020 at 14:21.

The £29,500 worth of internal works can be further broken down as outlined below:

Internal works	Cost (£)
Replace the door and window unit to the hall	4,500
Part refurbishment of the kitchen	25,000

The £80,500 worth of external works can be further broken down as outlined below:

External works	Cost (£)
Resurface the school yard	24,400
Repoint stonework to the front elevation (Building)	10,000
Complete external re-decoration	4,000
Resurface the staff car park	5,100
Replacement of the rotten steel railings to the front elevation with new galvanised steel railings	3,000
Remove the cobble stones set in concrete around perimeter of the rear and replace with tarmac	15,000
Provide a new fence, gate and door entry system to the side of the school	2,500
Replace the rotten barge boards to the front elevation	1,500
Replace the timber T & G cladding with new	15,000

5.5.6 The governor also questioned whether it's sensible to borrow over 50 years for a building that deteriorates over 30 years?

In reply the Council states:

The Council considers the useful economic life of school buildings to be 50 years. Therefore, borrowing calculations are based on this 50 year period. Calculations used in business cases for new school buildings such as Ysgol Cybi, Ysgol Rhyd y Llan and Ysgol Santes Dwynwen were based on this 50 year useful economic life period. This method is well recognised and Welsh Government officers have approved this method of calculating borrowing costs.

5.5.7 It was claimed by the governor that closing Ysgol Talwrn would mean an end to the village eisteddfod

Council reply

Based on information it has received, the Council understands that the village eisteddfod is held in the village hall. If the proposal is implemented, the village eisteddfod could continue to be held there.

5.5.8 Alternative option – federate with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch

Council reply

This reasonable alternative is evaluated in section 6.2 of this document. However, Ysgol Llanbedrgoch is not part of the current consultation but could well be considered in the School Modernisation Programme in the future. The option did not meet the key drivers for the schools modernisation programme for the Llangefni area and as such will therefore not be considered further.

5.5.9 The Governor also noted that “pupils not given a voice in any other matter that affects them”

The Council strongly disputes this claim and draws attention to -

Section 5.7 of this report which outlines the consultation undertaken by Council officers with pupils of the affected schools, in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and in partnership and under the guidance of the relevant headteacher.

These requirements are outlined in the table below:

School Organisation Code 2018 requirements	Steps taken by the Isle of Anglesey County Council
Make suitable arrangements to consult with pupils of any affected school and, where possible, with children and young people who are likely to attend those schools.	During the consultation period, Council officers visited Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig, to find out the pupils' views on the proposal
As a minimum, this must include consultation with the school councils of the affected schools, but should also include consultation with individual learners where this is appropriate and practicable	Officers from the Council met with both school councils and other pupils during the consultation period.
The information given to children and young people must be presented in such a way that it is relevant to their age and level of likely understanding and allows them to reach an informed opinion	The information presented in the children's version of the consultation document was appropriate and relevant to their age and level of likely understanding and allows them to reach an informed opinion. It was also consulted upon with the relevant headteachers in meetings held on the 23 and 24 January 2020. See Appendix 2.
Proposers should refer to the Children and Young People's National Participation Standards and act in accordance with them.	Council officers referred to the standards in the Children and Young People's National Participation Standards and acted in accordance with them. The standards outlined in the document are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information • It's your choice • No discrimination • Respect • You get something out of it • Feedback • Working better for you Further information on the standards can be seen in Appendix 4.
Produce and distribute a version or versions of the consultation document appropriate to the age/ages of the children and young people affected.	A version of the consultation document appropriate to the age/ages of the children and young people affected was produced and distributed, See Appendix 2.

5.5.10 Make up of Scrutiny Committee and the Executive – do members have qualifications regarding education and financial aspects? Do they have specialisms in these subjects?

The Council reply states that:

The Constitution of the Isle of Anglesey County Council makes provision locally for meeting the statutory requirement to ensure the representation of certain interests on its scrutiny committees when considering education/learning matters. These are:

- The Church in Wales
- The Roman Catholic Church in Wales
- Parents of primary school governors
- Parents of secondary school governors/additional learning needs

The point made above may refer to the fact that 2 of the 4 seats were vacant for a prolonged period (the 2 seats for the parent governors). There were 2 attempts to fill these vacant seats. The seat for the parent governor of primary schools was filled in December 2018 and the other secondary/additional learning needs seat was filled in September 2019.

The County Council amended the scrutiny rules of procedure at its meeting on 27 February, 2019 and decided as follows in respect of the fifth seat of education which was part of the membership of the two previous scrutiny committees:

“It was RESOLVED that the Council:

- agrees to remove the requirement to have ‘one representative of other faiths or denominations’ on a Scrutiny Committee when it deals with Education matters (i.e. sits as a Local Education Authority Scrutiny Committee) as is currently included in paragraph 4.5.4.4 of the Constitution;
- authorises the Council’s Head of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Constitution to reflect the removal of the requirement noted above.”

5.5.11 Environmental concerns**Council reply**

A concern for some stakeholders was that closing Ysgol Talwrn would lead to an increase in carbon emissions. Calculations show that this would not be the case due to over half the pupils at Ysgol Talwrn coming in from outside its catchment area.

5.5.12 Design of the potential new Foundation Phase block

Two stakeholders made comments on what they think should be in the design of the potential new Foundation Phase block namely:

- i. That there should be a kitchen in the new block and
- ii. The current part of Ysgol Y Graig used by the Foundation Phase should be modified as part of the potential project.

Council reply

A decision on the way forward will be made by the Council’s Executive in November 2020. If the proposal is approved by the Executive, only then will details such as those mentioned in i and ii above be considered.

5.5.13 Class sizes

A concern for one stakeholder was the class size at Ysgol y Graig being over 30 in Key Stage 2 classes. Some parents of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn stated that “not all pupils can cope with classrooms of 30+”.

Council reply

Whilst class sizes at Ysgol Y Graig are sometimes slightly over 30, there is no statutory limit on the size of any class in Key Stage 2. The main reason for class

sizes of 30+ is usually due to limited school budgets. A proportion of the school budget is used to maintain school buildings (rates, energy, cleaning, repairs and maintenance etc). The more buildings there are to maintain, the less budget is available to spend on other resources such as teachers. The cost per pupil in small schools is also greater than at larger schools. It could be argued that the smaller schools are receiving what is equal to additional finance to maintain minimum staffing levels and that the largest schools are losing out as a result. It could therefore be argued that the proposal will help reduce the number of classes which contain more than 30 learners.

5.5.14 Transport

Some parents of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn stated that they “don’t want 4 year old kids going to Ysgol Y Graig on a bus” if Ysgol Talwrn would close.

Council reply

In order to mitigate against any adverse effects of the proposal, the Authority is committed to providing transport for pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn to the extended Ysgol Y Graig in accordance with the Council’s transport policy for schools. If the proposal is approved by the Executive, then transport arrangements would be made in due course. However, these transport arrangements do not necessarily mean a bus service as a taxi service could be provided.

5.5.15 Consultation

One stakeholder stated that “due to the corona virus situation, the Council will have to start the consultation again”.

Council reply

The consultation process was conducted in accordance with the statutory guidelines in the School Organisation Code 2018 as described in the table below:

School Organisation Code 2018 requirements	Steps taken by the Isle of Anglesey County Council
Publish a consultation document in hard copy and electronically on their website	Published on the Isle of Anglesey County Council’s website on 6 February 2020 and available by hard copy.
Consultation document must be published on a school day	Published on 6 February 2020, a school day at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig
Consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document	Consultees given from 6 February 2020 until 20 March 2020 to respond to the document – at least 42 days
Consultees must be advised by letter or email of the availability of the consultation document	Consultees listed in section 3.1 of the Consultation Document advised by email of the availability of the consultation document

The table above shows how the Authority has adhered to the School Organisation Code. Schools throughout Wales did close at the end of the school day on 20 March, 2020 but this was a full school day (as defined in the School Organisation Code 2018 – “A school day is defined in section 579 of the Education Act 1996 as any day on which at that school there is a school session. A school session can be a morning session or an afternoon session, so a school day is any day when the school meets

for all or part of the day”.) Therefore, the consultation was at least 42 days in length and meets the requirements of the Code.

The School Organisation Code 2018 states that proposals must be published within 26 weeks of the end of the period allowed for consultation responses, otherwise the proposals will lapse and a new consultation document **must** be used to revive them. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this has not been possible. In that event, the Code states that “Applications to the Welsh Ministers for a time extension **must** be made in writing before the 26 week period has elapsed and **must** set out the reasons why an extension is considered necessary.”

This time extension has been requested by Anglesey County Council and a 6 month extension has been granted by Welsh Ministers to publish the proposal. Anglesey County Council now has until 19 March 2021 to publish a proposal without the need to undertake another consultation.

5.6 Letter from Ysgol Talwrn Staff

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

1. "It is difficult to accept that closing Ysgol Talwrn will directly lead to higher standards as both schools have been adjudged to be Good”.
2. It is not fitting to say that the teachers in the school do not have the same opportunity to develop professionally due to the size of the school.
3. None of the previous consultations have given true consideration to resolving the situation e.g. purchasing adjacent land to develop a playing field for the school. Consideration has not been given to removing the mobile classroom and extending the school to negate the right to cross the yard (out of school hours) that our neighbours currently have. All consultation or proposal has been based on the argument of closing Ysgol Talwrn and increasing the capacity of Ysgol y Graig.”
4. The “numbers cited in the report do not truly reflect the number of young families in the village”.
5. “Comparing cost per head does not necessarily provide a full and fair picture of the situation”
6. “The proposal would have a significant effect on the village”
7. The staff called on the Council to consider the following:
 - Modernise Ysgol Talwrn by means of a 21st Century Schools Grant
 - Federate Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch
 - Change the boundaries of Llangefni catchment areas

Council reply

The Council will reply to each point in the order raised above:

1. Educational standards is one factor out of seven key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn that every option is assessed against. Additionally, educational standards is also one factor out of seven drivers describes in the Authority’s School Modernisation Strategy.
2. What is meant is that there are not as many staff in a small primary school to develop specialisms.
3. All consultations have mentioned the cost of purchasing adjacent land as well as the cost of acquiring a new mobile classroom. The final decision rests with the Council’s Executive.
4. It was noted in the Consultation Document that the percentage of pupils who attend Ysgol Talwrn from outside the catchment area was 67%. Conversely, many pupils from the vilage of Talwrn attended other primary schools on Anglesey.

5. Finance or cost per head is one factor out of seven key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn that every option is assessed against. Additionally, cost per head is also one factor out of seven drivers describes in the Authority's School Modernisation Strategy.
6. The potential effect of the proposal, mentioned by the stakeholder in 5.6.6 above is assessed in the Community Impact Assessment.
7. The options presented in 5.6.7 above are assessed in this report.

5.7 Views of children and young people

Council officers visited both schools, to find out their views on the proposal. Officers explained that the Council are responsible for schools on Anglesey and that they work as part of a team to support schools, the aim of that work being:

- To give all children the best chance to learn in excellent schools on the island.
- Ensure safe and strong school buildings.
- Ensure money for children and schools on Anglesey is spent in a fair way.
- To give everyone the opportunity to have a say in decisions that affect them and to make sure those voices are heard

The children were reminded of Article 12: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

'Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account'.

It was explained that the information they submitted will be transferred to a report and presented to Councillors as part of the Statutory Consultation who will then make a decision.

The children were asked the following questions:

- What would change?
- What do you like about your current school?
- Is there anything you would like to change / improve here at your current school?
- How do you get to your current school?
- How would you feel about the proposal?
- What would you like about the proposal?
- What wouldn't you like about the proposal?
- Do you have anything else you would like to say?

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

Ysgol Talwrn, March 5 2020

Ysgol Talwrn 05.03.2020	School Council and others
How many children?	12 children (5-10 years old) 7 Female / 5 Male
What would change?	Ysgol Talwrn may close and pupils from Ysgol Talwrn will move to Ysgol Y Graig.
Question	Answer
What do you like about Ysgol Talwrn?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small school – everyone knows each other / friends / like a family. • Small school – don't get lost. Know the way around the school / where everything is stored.

Ysgol Talwrn 05.03.2020	School Council and others
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the teachers properly and can go to [REDACTED] to talk about any problems. • Teachers help us with work and we like the way they teach – fun. • Gardening Skills. • Governor – a man in the community coming to read with the children. • Toddlers have a garden to play in and older ones have a separate one. • Likes – Yr.4, Yr.5, Yr.6 in the same class to help each other. • Trips (e.g. Plas Menai etc.) – Everyone is allowed to go because there are not many children in school. • We get to do lots of fun things. Get to work on different projects (technology / Animation /past and present) • Different activities (e.g. cooking, playing Knex, sports, art, growing healthy vegetables themselves). • After school club (e.g. playing Nintendo Wii, movie night, games night, knitting, nice things like paintings your nails). • Homework is fun. • No bullying taking place. • Everyone lives close.
Is there anything you would like to change / improve here at Ysgol Talwrn?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have more space to play (grass area to play football). • Garden to grow more vegetables. • A little more homework. • Children to share with me. • Grass area to play instead of playing on the yard. • Used to it.
How do you come to Ysgol Talwrn?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car • Walk (to the ones who live close) • Bike • Taxi
How would you feel about closing Ysgol Talwrn and moving to Ysgol y Graig?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sad – school closure. School has been here for 100 years, it's been here for so long. • Sad that a person named by a pupil is unable to come to the school. • Family has been to this school and grown up here. • Having to compete against a big school – football. • Fear – friends are separated. • Fear – getting lost. • Not sure. • Not looking forward because I like Ysgol Talwrn.
What would you like about moving to Ysgol y Graig?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing. • Know friends there already. • Make more friends. • More space to play (playing field). • Still with the same friends.
What wouldn't you like about moving to Ysgol y Graig?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eisteddfod Talwrn – lose this. • Too many children at Ysgol Y Graig.

Ysgol Talwrn 05.03.2020	School Council and others
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidents happen outside and we don't feel safe – cars / cross the road outside the school. • A lot of bullying there (teachers not dealing) – moved to this school because of bullying. • Separated from friends. • Not going to know everyone. • Don't know the way around school – school too big. • Travel further to school. • Those walking to Ysgol Talwrn cannot walk all the way to Ysgol Y Graig. • A lot of children / fear of getting lost. • A school with a lot of children – and not everyone can go on trips. • Bullying at Ysgol Y Graig.
Do you have anything else you would like to say?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like this school because you know everyone and feel safe – still don't want it to close. • Going to affect the little kids who are still here and kids who want to come again. • Try not to close the school – try to keep it open. • Parents have been collecting money to keep the school alive and worrying about our future – where will the money go? • Want to finish school in Yr.6 and don't want to move. • It's important to be here because it's our school. • Children and teachers and friends are who make a school. • Friends may be separated. • We may not be in the same class as friends at another school (because there are children of different ages in the same class at Ysgol Talwrn).

Ysgol Y Graig – 27 February 2020

Ysgol Y Graig 27.02.2020	School Council
How many children?	6 children (9-11 years old) 3 Female / 3 Male
What would change?	<p>Ysgol Y Graig may be expanding.</p> <p>A new block will be built for the foundation phase (4-7 year olds).</p> <p>Foundation phase children at Ysgol Y Graig will move to the new block.</p> <p>And all the children at Ysgol Talwrn will be moving to Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn will close.</p>
Question	Answers
What do you like about Ysgol Y Graig?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large playground – space for sports, football site, hide and seek.

Ysgol Y Graig 27.02.2020	School Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colourful classes – maths and themed walls help us with our work. • Good teachers make work interesting. • Teachers look after us and know us – can talk to everyone • Child friendly – safe for us. • Different activities (e.g. Swimming Gala, Football Team, Trips to Cardiff / Greenwood, after school cookery (Urdd). • Opportunities for all people e.g. Eisteddfod, competitions of all kinds. • Everyone playing helps foundation phase. • See our friends. • Lots of space – feel comfortable. • Everyone knows each other.
What don't you like about Ysgol Y Graig?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car park – too small, accidents happen because there is not enough parking – need to stop in the middle of the lane, zig zags or the 'roundabout'. • No lollypop man – more accidents happening this makes me nervous to cross the road. • Playing yard is wet. • Lost 2 music classes – turned into year 2 and 3 class. • Toilets are small for Key Stage 2. • Chairs are small for Key Stage 2.
How do you come to Ysgol Y Graig?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scooter • Bikes • Walking • Car
How would you feel about a new block (for foundation phase) being built and Ysgol Talwrn pupils moving to Ysgol Y Graig?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young children missing older brother / sister (Ysgol Y Graig ac Ysgol Talwrn) – don't see them as often. • Happy – more friends / new. • Talwrn children being separated. • Difficult for Talwrn children to settle in – Ysgol Y Graig children will welcome them. • Sad / scared – more noise.
What would you like about a new block (for foundation phase) being built and Ysgol Talwrn pupils moving to Ysgol Y Graig?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yr4, Yr5, Yr6 to have doors on their classrooms. • More children – more talking. • Improved concentration • More space for more children to get a good education. • More friends – fewer lonely children.
What wouldn't you like about a new block (for foundation phase) being built and Ysgol Talwrn pupils moving to Ysgol Y Graig?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not much room to play. • Miss a chance to make friends – not going to see the kids so often any more. • Don't know where the block will be – maybe losing the pitch, yard - sports day, sports competition.

Ysgol Y Graig 27.02.2020	School Council
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join the schools – and the children will feel comfortable learning in a completely different place – how the children will come into school • Don't want Talwrn Children to join. • Not allowed to see little brother / sister – in a different Building. • Not enough space to play – depending where the new Building will be. • People will have to get a new house.
Do you have anything else you would like to say?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More children therefore need to buy more food. • Where would the foundation phase have lunch? • Children's health and safety – larger numbers. • Talwrn children unable to walk to school. • Increased traffic – children having to travel longer in cars. • The separate play area for older children? – Children in the new block need a separate play area? • If there are more teachers – need more space – meeting rooms, staff rooms. • Children make new friends – friends club / make new friends whilst playing. • Too many children in clubs with one teacher – children missing out. • Ysgol Talwrn children may be nervous. • Have experience with everyone. • The Building may be far apart – School finishing time is different from Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 – parents will have to collect children from the new Building and the current school. • The Key Stage 2 yard will need to be redesigned on the existing site.

5.8 Estyn's Response (Bold letters were inserted by the Council)

Estyn, the education inspectorate in Wales, is a consultee in all school reorganisation proposals. Estyn's response in full is as follows: "The proposer has provided **useful and detailed information** that explains the reasoning behind this proposal. Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management for children in the area."

Estyn's response continued and looked at the benefits of the proposal:

Description and benefits

"The **rationale for this proposal is methodical** and the issues have been identified clearly. **Evidence is based on facts and valid considerations.**"

The proposer has identified the expected advantages and disadvantages in comparison with the status quo. **A large number of proposals are outlined in relation to keeping Ysgol Talwrn open**, which consider not only standards, and leadership and management, but also the community's use of the school, for example in order to provide provision for pre-school children. It is acknowledged that Ysgol Talwrn makes an extensive contribution to the community and that it is a key part of the local area. However, the proposer considers a number of proposals that deliver outcomes that support this proposal to close Ysgol Talwrn.

Reasonable alternative options are considered in full, in addition to the views of all partners within the school community. This contributes effectively to the validity of the consultation process and, overall, considerations are firmly in support of implementing this proposal.

Challenges are identified clearly, which incorporate issues, for example the number of pupils that attend both schools, surplus places, cost per pupil and the quality and suitability of both school buildings. **These challenges are considered effectively within the proposals.**

Important aspects are outlined within the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) 2011, which identify beneficial evidence as part of the consultation process, for example the effect on boys and girls, pupils with additional learning needs etc. **The conclusion of the risk assessment is that accepting this proposal would favour this scheme in terms of equality.**

This proposal complies with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. There would be no change to pupils' language medium by relocating to the proposed expanded school, namely Ysgol y Graig. It is identified that nursery provision, in addition to a childcare unit for pre-school children, will be provided at Ysgol y Graig for all pupils. This will be beneficial as children transfer to primary school. It is also outlined that facilities will encourage the school's pupils during school hours, in addition to the wider community outside of school hours, to communicate naturally through the medium of Welsh. **This assessment suggests that the proposal will have a positive effect on the Welsh language.**

There would be no negative or positive effects on the community of Ysgol Talwrn following wellbeing risk assessment procedures. Accepting this proposal would contribute positively to the seven wellbeing aims in line with Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

The proposer outlines information about travel arrangements, in line with Anglesey's school transport policy. The result of this assessment is that 67% of pupils will travel further. However, the Council will provide free transport for pupils to Ysgol y Graig if they live 2 miles or more from the school. It is estimated that this will cost £30k a year. A traffic impact assessment has already been provided in order to forward-plan to mitigate the effect of additional transport on staff and pupils at Ysgol y Graig."

Estyn said the following on the educational aspects of the proposal:

Educational aspects of the proposal

"The proposer has considered this proposal on the quality of outcomes, provision, leadership and management. Following the decision of the Council's Working Committee in May 2019 in relation to school modernisation in the Llangefni area, officers were instructed to look at the proposals anew, and consider the revised School Organisation Code (011/2018). Considering the reasonable alternative options, the

proposer has come to the conclusion that education provision needs to be modernised in the Llangefni area to provide a more sustainable, effective and efficient model for the future.

The proposer notes that pupils throughout the school will receive an educational experience enriched with relevant resources in order to provide a full curriculum for all pupils without exception. The proposer does not refer specifically to foundation phase provision.

Ysgol y Graig currently has ten single-age classes and three mixed-age classes, while pupils at Ysgol Talwrn are divided into three mixed-age classes in the morning, and two in the afternoon. Providing a curriculum in a new learning environment at Ysgol y Graig would be likely to enrich pupils' primary experience.

The total number of children in the nursery class would be 68, with capacity for 480 pupils (4 – 11 years old) at the school. Ysgol y Graig's site is extensive enough to accommodate more pupils attending the school.

Agreeing on the current proposal would lead to a change in learning environment for all pupils. However, it is acknowledged that the change would perhaps prove to be more challenging for some pupils with additional learning needs (ALN). The Council will take all practical steps to ensure as little disruption as possible in order to ensure smooth transition arrangements. ALN pupils who currently attend Ysgol Talwrn ac Ysgol y Graig will continue to receive the level of support that they need to meet their individual educational needs. Additional arrangements that are currently in place for pupils, such as access to additional support, will also be reviewed and provided, where necessary. The proposal also mentions the possibility that staff at Ysgol y Graig may need to develop a wider range of expertise in order to meet individual pupils' needs. As part of the transition process, it is proposed that the Council provides appropriate support and assistance for ALN pupils.

It is anticipated that the headteacher will have no specific teaching commitment at Ysgol y Graig, in comparison with the current teaching commitment of the headteacher at Ysgol Talwrn, which is 70% of the timetable. **In addition, developing leadership capacity by having no teaching responsibility will make a positive contribution towards addressing the management and strategic challenges that are involved in running a successful school.** This proposal does not go into direct detail about the statutory process of staff relocation or redundancies, in line with the relevant procedures. However, the Council will need to share further information with members of staff at Ysgol Talwrn in order to ensure fairness and statutory co-operation in line with the Council's Restructuring and Redundancy Policy for school and its Redeployment Policy for schools.

Both schools are in the green 'A' category in term of support capacity, in line with the definitions of the national model for school categorisation. Ysgol y Graig has been in this category consistently since September 2015, and Ysgol Talwrn since September 2019. Both schools were judged to have 'good' outcomes in all inspection areas by Estyn:

Ysgol Talwrn - October 2018

Ysgol y Graig - January 2019

On the whole, pupils' standards in both key stages in both schools are consistently good. When considering a number of sources, the performance of both schools is consistent, overall."

There were no issues identified within Estyn's response for the Council to respond to or clarify.

5.9 A letter was received from the **Secretary of Siloam Chapel, Talwrn** (Independent Chapel) expressing "opposition of Chapel members to close Talwrn Primary School".

- School is the "heart of the community" and "the heart of the community beats fastest here"
- Current chapel members "have benefitted greatly from being at Ysgol Talwrn"
- Language and traditions are very important and we believe that these are handed down best in a school like Talwrn
- This school is a close community that has contributed much to the wider community.

Council reply

These matters have been addressed in section 4 of the Impact Assessment - Appendix 3.

5.10 A letter was received from the **Supervisor of Siloam Sunday School, Talwrn** (Congregational Chapel)

- Happy co-operation between the Sunday School and Ysgol Talwrn for many years.
- Without Ysgol Talwrn, there would be no Sunday School
- Closing Ysgol Talwrn would "rip the soul out of the community".

Council reply

These matters have been addressed in section 4 of the Impact Assessment - Appendix 3.

5.11 A letter was received from a local resident of Ysgol Talwrn. They mentioned that having several consultations on the future of Ysgol Talwrn has left a cloud above Ysgol Talwrn. They felt this could lead to a reduction in rural communities.

Council reply

The figures presented in the Consultation Document for the number of pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn were as follows:

School	Capacity (excluding Nursery)	Pupil Numbers in January:				
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Talwrn	49	44	47	47	43	45

The figures show that the number of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn has remained fairly constant in recent years despite some consultation periods being conducted on the future of the primary school during this time.

5.12 Another local resident of Ysgol Talwrn described in a letter how they thought the proposal did not meet with the key drivers and that the proposal was "not strong enough" in their opinion.

Council reply

In the Consultation Document, the Authority has comprehensively appraised the proposal against the key drivers identified within the School Modernisation Strategy and against the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn.

- 5.13** Another stakeholder of Ysgol Talwrn said: “While buildings and resources have a very important role in providing the best education for our children, the most important factor in any educational provision is conscientious and effective teachers for our pupils.” The stakeholder also claimed that “the Isle of Anglesey County Council has, for too many years now, cast a cloud above Ysgol Talwrn by returning, time and again, to re-consult on its future. This school now deserves to be left alone to continue to provide the best education for their pupils and to remain an integral and important part of this rural community in the middle of the island.” They also called on the Council to “repeal this proposal, and then to leave Ysgol Talwrn alone to stop casting a constant shadow over its future.”

Council reply

The Council does not doubt that school teachers are an important part of any school provision. The Council’s Executive will decide whether to implement the proposal in the next few months.

- 5.14** In a short letter from the **Talwrn Branch of Merched y Wawr**, the Secretary stated the Branch’s objection to the “intention to close Ysgol Y Talwrn”. Citing a project that members of the Branch worked on with pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, they said that Ysgol Talwrn was a “naturally Welsh school in a lively town”. The Branch secretary also stated that closing the school would make Welsh Government’s target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050 “more distant”.

Council reply

If the proposal was implemented, the Talwrn Branch of Merched y Wawr could still work with children from the village of Talwrn. Section 4.8 of the Impact Assessment states: “Community facilities provided by the school in Talwrn could be undertaken at the extended Ysgol Y Graig, or from within other sites within Talwrn, such as the village hall or the Talwrn church.” This would be true on this case.

The possible impact of the proposal on the Welsh language is described in the section 3 of the Impact Assessment Appendix 3.

- 5.15** The headteacher would not know the pupils due to the sheer size of the school.

Council reply

Each pupil would be known to his or her teacher. It is likely that extended school’s leadership team structure would include a head of the foundation phase and a head of key stage 2. The pupils would also be known by these teachers as well as the headteacher.

- 5.16** Disagree with the comment that pupils from Talwrn will have more opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities. At a small school, each pupil must participate in extracurricular activities. In a large school, only the most confident or most talented participate in such activities.

Council reply

There is no obligation on pupils to participate in extra-curricular activities. However, extra-curricular activities include various activities such as lunch time or after school clubs and playing for a school football or rugby team. What was meant here is that there will be a greater opportunity in a larger primary school to have a part on these activities because there will be more pupils present along with additional staff who will have a wider variety of specialisms.

- 5.17** Negative environmental impact - the proposal will lead to more use of vehicles.

Council reply

A concern for some stakeholders was that closing Ysgol Talwrn would lead to an increase in carbon emissions. Calculations show that this would not be the case due to over half the pupils at Ysgol Talwrn coming in from outside its catchment area.

5.18 If 2 schools combine it should be a competitive process**Council reply**

Section 12 of the Consultation Document stated: "If the proposal is approved, there will be no changes for Ysgol Y Graig staff, however staff at Ysgol Talwrn will be at risk of redundancy and the Restructuring and Redundancy Policy for schools and Redeployment Policy for schools would be invoked."

6. COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF THE REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

6.1 In line with the School Organisation Code 011/2018 it is a requirement that the proposer provides reasonable alternatives to the proposal if it involves the closure of any school – the following section discusses the reasonable alternatives presented by the Council in the consultation document together with stakeholders' responses.

In section 4 of the Consultation Document, the key drivers for change were noted as outlined in the School Modernisation Strategy. All reasonable alternatives put forward would need to meet the requirements of the key drivers:

- **Standards** across all schools need to be at least good or excellent. In addition, schools in the area would be expected to be categorised as green, i.e. a school that is performing well and in need of the lowest level of support.
- **Leadership and management** must be good or better in every school. In this context, headteachers need sufficient non-contact time to balance leadership and management challenges with teaching commitment.
- The **school building** needs to provide an inspirational learning environment that will encourage every pupil to achieve their potential across all areas of learning. In addition, every school needs to comply with the Equality Act 2010 regarding accessibility for disabled children.
- **Sufficient school spaces** need to be available in the area to meet current demand, future projected numbers as well as reducing surplus places. In addition, pupil movement within and from outside the catchment area needs to be reduced if possible.
- Any revised school provision in the area will have to be **cost efficient** i.e. the revenue costs need to be reduced and any current and projected future maintenance costs are addressed. In addition, the variation in cost per pupil across individual schools reduced.
- **Welsh medium provision** will need to be at least maintained and improved.
- The **community use** of school buildings and associated facilities needs to be maintained and where possible increased.

Below is a list of the key challenges Ysgol Talwrn faces which the Council wishes to address by proposing the closure of the school:

1. Pupil numbers
2. Limited space to deliver the Curriculum for Wales (CFW) in the medium to long term.

3. Cost per pupil – 14% above the Anglesey primary average
4. School building - has current and projected future maintenance costs of £360,000 (2019) and a condition rating of B (Satisfactory - Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration). Ysgol Talwrn building only partially conforms to the requirements expected under the Equality Act 2010.
5. Standards - the current standards seen in Ysgol Talwrn could be difficult maintain in the medium to long term
6. Teaching Commitment of the Headteacher – currently 70% specific teaching commitment
7. Finance – The cost per pupil at Ysgol Talwrn (£4,553) is above the Anglesey Primary Average (£3,988), and there is a wide variation in the cost per pupil between Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig (£3,429). It is likely that the authority will be required to make significant savings over the next 3 years.

In the table below in accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018), the Council takes into account comments received during the consultation and gives its response by way of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of concerns with supporting reasons.

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
<p>6.1.1 Build a new 21st Century primary for Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig and close both schools.</p> <p>Based on approx. cost of £11.4m.</p>	<p>19 responders (out of 57 or 33%) provided comments to suggest they would prefer this option to the proposal.</p>	<p>This option would address the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher revenue cost for the Authority. ▪ The capital investment is approx. £5.5m higher than what has been earmarked within Anglesey's Band B funding envelope. There is therefore a risk that the authority would have to fund the majority of such a build and not be able to maximise the opportunities provided under the 21st century school modernisation programme. ▪ Ysgol y Graig is just over 10 years old and any decision to discontinue the school would call into question the value for money (VFM) perspective with schools having a 50 year life-span. <p>For the financial reasons listed above, this reasonable alternative suggested by stakeholders is rejected and not considered further.</p>

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
<p>6.1.2 Retain the status quo - Leave Ysgol Talwrn as it is.</p> <p>Based on no capital costs incurred.</p>	<p>14 responders (25%) provided comments to suggest they would prefer this option to the proposal</p>	<p>This option would not meet all of the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Ysgol Talwrn building would make it difficult to maintain current standards in the medium to long term. ▪ There will be no change in the variation in class sizes or the number of age ranges taught in classes in Ysgol Talwrn. ▪ The opportunity for the Headteacher to develop a senior management team to share the leadership burden will not be realised. ▪ The Headteacher's teaching commitment at Ysgol Talwrn is 70%. ▪ Ysgol Talwrn building is only partially compliant with the Equality Act 2010 in respect of access for disabled pupils. ▪ Ysgol Talwrn building does not meet 21st Century School standards in order to further create inspirational learning environments for children in the medium to long term. ▪ Ysgol Talwrn building does not provide external learning environments to promote pupils' independent learning and therefore establish the conditions to deliver the Curriculum for Wales (CFW) in the medium to long term. ▪ Does not address the surplus places in Ysgol Talwrn. ▪ ▪ Lose the opportunity for substantial capital investment at a time of financial constraints.

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current and projected future maintenance costs would not be addressed. ▪ Financially unviable in the future due to the high on-going maintenance costs of the school building estate. ▪ Does not address the variation in the cost per pupil and equality of provision as smaller schools receive a greater percentage of funding per pupil. ▪ Does not reduce the overall revenue costs of education in the area. Revenue costs are likely to increase in the future as the pupil population is expected to increase, which would result in pupils being transported to schools outside the catchment area, due to lack of capacity. It is anticipated that 2 additional bus contracts would be required in future years at a cost of approx. £60k per annum. <p>As this option does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, this reasonable alternative is rejected and not considered further.</p>
<p>6.1.3 Federate Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Y Graig Based on no capital costs incurred.</p>	<p>A total of 5 (9%) respondents suggested they would prefer the option of federation to the proposal. However, most were keen to federate with another similar school rather than Ysgol Y Graig such as Llanbedrgoch or Pentraeth.</p>	<p>The option of federalisation was appraised within the consultation document (section 6.3.3). Changing the federation arrangement from Ysgol Y Graig to Llanbedrgoch or Pentraeth would not have much impact on how well the option performs against the key drivers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change in the variation in class sizes or the number of age ranges taught in classes in Ysgol Talwrn.

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change in Leadership and Management capacity. ▪ The present pattern of balancing teaching commitment with the need to find time to lead and manage the school would continue. In addition, the opportunity for the Headteacher to further develop a senior management team to share the leadership burden will not be realised. ▪ Does not address the need to improve the Ysgol Talwrn building to meet 21st Century School standards. ▪ Does not address the need to provide external learning environments at the Ysgol Talwrn site to promote pupils' independent learning and therefore to deliver the Curriculum for Wales (CFW). ▪ Does not address the current and projected future maintenance costs at the school. (Current and projected future maintenance costs of £360k as at 2019). ▪ Ysgol Talwrn building is only partially compliant with the Equality Act 2010 in respect of access for disabled pupils. Does not address this. ▪ Lose the opportunity for substantial capital investment at a time of financial constraint. ▪ Does not address the variation in the cost per pupil and equality of provision as smaller schools receive a greater percentage of funding per pupil. ▪ Does not reduce the amount delegated to schools through the school funding formula.

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not eliminate the current and projected future maintenance costs Revenue costs are likely to increase in the future as the pupil population is expected to increase, which would result in pupils being transported to schools outside the catchment area, due to lack of capacity. It is anticipated that 2 additional bus contracts would be required at a cost of approx. £60k per annum <p>As this option only partially meets the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, this reasonable alternative is rejected and not considered further.</p>
<p>6.1.4 Cluster / collaboration arrangement - Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Y Graig Based on no capital costs incurred.</p>	No responses were received for this suggestion.	<p>Cluster / collaboration arrangement – Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol y Graig is rejected by the Council as it does not meet the key challenges faced by Ysgol Talwrn as highlighted in 6.1 above.</p>
<p>6.1.5 Accommodate Nursery and Reception classes at Ysgol Talwrn and years 1-6 in Ysgol Y Graig Based on approx. £3.4m cost to extend both schools.</p>	No comments were provided, however a similar alternative was suggested, which was to have a multi-site all age school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not address condition of school estate. Does not address the need to improve the primary school building estate to meet 21st Century School standards and provide inspirational learning environments. Does not address the need to provide external learning environments to promote pupils' independent learning and therefore deliver the Curriculum for Wales (CFW) in the medium to long term. Does not address the current and projected future maintenance costs of the individual schools – financially unviable in the future. Does

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		<p>not address the quality of the school building estate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ysgol Talwrn building is only partially compliant with the Equality Act 2010 in respect of access for disabled pupils whilst Ysgol y Graig is fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010. ▪ Would not necessarily address the need to provide sufficient places at Ysgol y Graig which is oversubscribed. Ysgol Talwrn would need to be extended for the 90 or so Nursery & Reception class pupils at Ysgol Talwrn; its capacity is 49. This would raise site accessibility issues and it is unlikely there would be sufficient space on site. This would mean there were approximately 320 pupils at Ysgol y Graig from years 1 to 6. ▪ Does not address the current and projected future maintenance costs. ▪ Would not reduce the cost per pupil. ▪ Financially unviable in the future due to the high on-going maintenance costs of the school building estate. ▪ It is unlikely that there would be any reduction in the overall cost of education in the area – premises costs would increase by approximately £39k. Transport cost is anticipated to be similar under the current provision and under this alternative. Under the current provision, 2 additional bus contracts would be required, to take pupils to schools outside the catchment area, as there is not enough places within the

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		<p>catchment. Under this alternative, 2 additional bus contracts would be required to transport pupils between Ysgol Y Graig catchment area and Ysgol Talwrn catchment area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 35% of the Capital cost would be funded through unsupported borrowing, which would cost approx. £58k per annum. ▪ Schools would probably not retain their original identity and given a new name. ▪ Ysgol Talwrn is only partially compliant with the Equality Act 2010 in respect of access for disabled pupils ▪ Logistics - problematic for parents to pick up children and drop them off if attending different sites. ▪ The road to Ysgol Talwrn is unsuitable for additional vehicles arising from this change. <p>As this reasonable alternative does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, it is rejected and not considered further.</p>
<p>6.1.6 Use Ysgol Talwrn as a community hub to accommodate/ support community services Based on no capital costs incurred.</p>	<p>No responses were received for this suggestion.</p>	<p>This reasonable alternative was discussed in section 6.3.6 of the Consultation Document and there were numerous disadvantages to the alternative. As a school modernisation measure, this option does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces and is rejected and not considered further.</p>
<p>6.1.7 Co-locate local services within Ysgol Talwrn Based on no capital costs incurred</p>	<p>No responses were received for this suggestion.</p>	<p>There is very little if any space available at Ysgol Talwrn to enable this to happen. As a school modernisation measure, this option does not meet the key challenges</p>

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		that Ysgol Talwrn faces and is rejected and not considered further.
6.1.8 Establish a multi – site school, Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig Based on approx. £3.4m cost to extend both schools. (An extension to both schools would be required to provide sufficient capacity).	No responses were received for this suggestion.	This reasonable alternative was discussed in section 6.3.8 of the Consultation Document and there were numerous disadvantages to the alternative. As this reasonable alternative does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, it is rejected and not considered further.
6.1.9 Address current and projected future maintenance spend at Ysgol Talwrn Based on borrowing of £360k over 20 years. The current and projected future maintenance costs of £360,000 can be broken down as follows: Internal works £29,500 External works £80,500 New temporary classroom £250,000 A quotation for a similar sized temporary classroom was received in August 2019 by the Council and the estimated price was £308,000 in total (£185k for the mobile classroom, £11k for additional equipment and £112k for foundation works and connecting the mobile classroom to utility services)	15 responders provided comments to suggest they would prefer this option to the proposal	This option does not address the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Age ranges of more than 2 years at Ysgol Talwrn.• Significant specific teaching commitment for the headteacher of Ysgol Talwrn• Difficult to tailor the teaching in a school of Talwrn's size to target the needs of all pupils including pupils with Additional Learning Needs and the Most Able and Talented pupils.• Does not provide a suitable environment to deliver the new curriculum for Wales• Does not address the need to provide sufficient places in the school.• If the current and projected future maintenance spend was funded through unsupported borrowing, the annual repayment cost would be approximately £28k.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lose the opportunity for significant capital investment at a time of financial constraint.▪ Does not address the variation in the cost per pupil and equality or provision as smaller schools receive a

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		<p>greater percentage of funding per pupil.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not reduce the overall revenue costs of education in the area. Revenue costs are likely to increase in the future as the pupil population is expected to increase, which would result in pupils being transported to schools outside the catchment area, due to lack of capacity. It is anticipated that 2 additional bus contracts would be required at a cost of approximately £60k per annum. No revenue savings. As this option does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, this reasonable alternative is rejected and not considered further.
<p>6.1.10 Federate Ysgol Bodffordd, Ysgol Corn Hir, Ysgol Y Graig, Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni (Secondary School).</p> <p>Based on no capital costs incurred</p>	<p>Other than Cymdeithas yr Iaith's response, no responses were received for this suggestion</p>	<p>This option was discussed in section 5.3 above. This option would not address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the need for additional school places in Llangefni – Pupil projections that include pupils arising from new housing developments show that there is likely to be 764 pupils at the 4 primary schools (Bodffordd, Corn Hir, Talwrn and Y Graig) whereas current capacity in the four primary schools is 646 places, a shortfall of 118 spaces. the current and future maintenance spend on all the schools - the current and future maintenance spend on the 4 primary schools and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni is £4,385,500. Cymdeithas yr Iaith's proposal would not

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		<p>lead to a reduction in the current and future maintenance costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the standard of the school buildings – Ysgol Y Graig has a condition grade of A, Ysgol Talwrn has a condition grade of B, Ysgol Bodffordd has a condition grade of B, Ysgol Corn Hir has a condition grade of C and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni has a condition grade of C. Cymdeithas yr Iaith's proposal would not lead to improvements in the standard of the school buildings As this option does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, this reasonable alternative is rejected and not considered further.
<p>6.1.11 Build another floor on Ysgol Talwrn Based on approx. construction cost of £1.7m. The potential cost of moving pupils temporarily to another school is not included in the above cost.</p>	<p>No responses were received for this suggestion</p>	<p>Assuming this could be done, for pupil safety reasons, this option would mean pupils at Ysgol Talwrn would need to move to another primary school whilst major construction work was carried out at the school.</p> <p>Section 5.4 of the Consultation Document outlined that the projected number of pupils at Ysgol Y Graig would be 383 in September 2023 and would peak at 419 in September 2027. Assuming that this proposal would double the capacity of Ysgol Talwrn to 98, there would be $330 + 98 = 428$ primary school places between Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn. This would be very close to the forecasted peak number of pupils of 419.</p> <p>This option would meet most of the key challenges that</p>

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		Ysgol Talwrn faces except for cost per head and finance. However, it would be very disruptive for the pupils at Ysgol Talwrn. Therefore, this option is rejected and not considered further.
<p>6.1.12 Install temporary classrooms at Ysgol Talwrn</p> <p>Based on borrowing £550k over 10 years</p> <p>The current and projected future maintenance costs for Ysgol Talwrn is £360,000. A potential new temporary classroom would cost £250,000. However, a quotation for a similar sized temporary classroom was received in August 2019 by the Council and the estimated price was £308,000 in total (£185k for the mobile classroom, £11k for additional equipment and £112k for foundation works and connecting the mobile classroom to utility services)</p>	<p>One respondent noted that the cost to replace the temporary classroom seems excessive, and that the replacement of the temporary classroom would resolve the non-compliance with the Equality Act 2010.</p>	<p>The estimate provided within this document is based on a quotation received for a suitable replacement. The replacement of the temporary building would only partly resolve issues of non-compliance with the Equality Act 2010.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This option addresses very few of the key challenges faced by Ysgol Talwrn, and the key drivers identified for the programme: ▪ The main Ysgol Talwrn building would not be improved. ▪ There will be no change in the variation in class sizes or the number of age ranges taught in classes in Ysgol Talwrn. ▪ The opportunity for the Headteacher to develop a senior management team to share the leadership burden will not be realised. ▪ The Headteacher's teaching commitment at Ysgol Talwrn is 70%. ▪ Ysgol Talwrn building is only partially compliant with the Equality Act 2010 in respect of access for disabled pupils. ▪ Ysgol Talwrn building does not meet 21st Century School

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		<p>standards in order to further create inspirational learning environments for children in the medium to long term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ysgol Talwrn building does not provide external learning environments to promote pupils' independent learning and therefore establish the conditions to deliver the Curriculum for Wales (CFW) in the medium to long term. ▪ Does not address the surplus places in Ysgol Talwrn. ▪ Lose the opportunity for substantial capital investment at a time of financial constraints. ▪ Current and projected future maintenance costs would not be addressed. ▪ Financially unviable in the future due to the high on-going maintenance costs of the school building estate. ▪ Does not address the variation in the cost per pupil and equality or provision as smaller schools receive a greater percentage of funding per pupil. <p>Does not reduce the overall revenue costs of education in the area. Revenue costs are likely to increase in the future as the pupil population is expected to increase, which would result in pupils being transported to schools outside the catchment area, due to lack</p>

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
		<p>of capacity. It is anticipated that 2 additional bus contracts would be required in future years at a cost of approx. £60k per annum.</p> <p>It also does not address some of the feelings noted by the children of the school with regards to wishing Ysgol Talwrn had a grass external play area instead of a yard.</p> <p>As this option does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, this reasonable alternative is rejected and not considered further.</p>
<p>6.1.13 Federate Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Y Graig, Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Bodffordd with Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni (Secondary School).</p> <p>Based on no capital expenditure incurred.</p>	<p>Other than Cymdeithas yr Iaith's comments, no direct comment against this option, however 3 respondents suggested that they would prefer to keep all Llangefni schools open, bring them all to 21st Century Standard and consider federation arrangements at a later date.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The responses received did not suggest any additional benefits of federalisation, in addition to what has already been included within the consultation document. ▪ Bringing all buildings to 21st Century Standard would not provide the additional capacity required within the Llangefni area, unless extensions were also included. This would cost more than what has been earmarked within the Band B envelope for the Llangefni area. <p>As this option only partially meets the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, it is rejected and not considered further.</p>
<p>6.1.14 Federate Ysgol Y Graig (YYG) and Ysgol Corn Hir (Move Ysgol Corn Hir (YCH) to a newly built school and increase capacity of Ysgol Corn Hir). Extend the federation later on to include Ysgol Bodffordd, Ysgol</p>	<p>No responses were received for this suggestion</p>	<p>This option would mean leaving Ysgol y Graig, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn as they are. This option would not address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the need for additional school places in Llangefni – Pupil projections that include pupils arising from new housing developments

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
<p>Talwrn and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni under one governing body. Based on approx. £9.5m cost.</p>		<p>show that there is likely to be 764 pupils at the 4 primary schools (Bodffordd, the new Corn Hir, Talwrn and Y Graig) whereas the capacity in the four primary schools, including a new Ysgol Corn Hir would be 745 places, a shortfall of 19 spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the current and future maintenance spend on the 4 primary schools and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni would be reduced to £4,151,500. the standard of the school buildings – Ysgol Y Graig has a condition grade of A, Ysgol Talwrn has a condition grade of B, Ysgol Bodffordd has a condition grade of B, Ysgol Corn Hir has a condition grade of C and Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni has a condition grade of C. This proposal would not lead to improvements in the standard of the school buildings other than Ysgol Corn Hir. <p>As this option does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, this reasonable alternative is rejected and not considered further.</p>
<p>6.1.15 A new all-age School for Llangefni to include Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Y Graig, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Corn Hir. An All-age school is one that combines primary and secondary education in one establishment. Based on approx. £22.46m cost.</p>	<p>No direct comment against this option, however 1 respondent suggested an all age (multi-site) school to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol Y Graig.</p>	<p>The option proposed is considered a reasonable alternative and will be considered further in section 6.3.3 of this document.</p>

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
<p>6.1.16 Extend all the primary schools. Based on approx. borrowing £7m over 50 years.</p>	<p>No responses were received for this suggestion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Ysgol Bodffordd site is not large enough to accommodate a 1 or 2 classroom extension along with sufficient parking space and sufficient educational play space that the new Curriculum for Wales requires and to bring the school up to near 21st Century School standard. ▪ Additional land around the Ysgol Talwrn site would need to be acquired for the primary school to have sufficient parking space and sufficient educational play space that the new Curriculum for Wales requires and to bring the school up to near 21st Century School standard. ▪ There is insufficient land around the Ysgol Corn Hir site to extend it. ▪ Extending Ysgol y Graig and increasing its capacity by 60 would not lead to sufficient capacity in the primary schools in the Llangefni area. ▪ As this option does not provide sufficient capacity for the future, it is rejected and not considered further.
<p>6.1.17 Clustering, collaboration of primary schools in the Llangefni area. Based on no capital expenditure incurred.</p>	<p>No responses were received for this suggestion</p>	<p>There was some suggestion of good collaboration between schools in the Llangefni area at present. However, as a school modernisation measure, this option does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces and is rejected and not considered further.</p>

From the section above, reasonable alternative:

6.1.15 A new all-age School for Llangefni to include Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Y Graig, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Corn Hir.

is considered further in section 6.3.

6.2 OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED BY STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

Section 3.6 of the School Organisation Code 2018 states: “In its consultation report, the proposer is required to explain its assessment of the proposal and the reasonable alternatives identified, how this assessment differs from their earlier assessment (if at all) and its assessment of any further reasonable alternatives. Finally, the proposer is required to confirm whether it considers the implementation of the proposal, (wholly or partly) to be the most appropriate response to the reasons it identified for the proposal and give reasons for its conclusion.” This section of the report explains the Isle of Anglesey County Council’s assessment of reasonable alternatives suggested during the consultation process.

Stakeholders were asked to suggest other reasonable alternatives to the closure of Ysgol Talwrn that address the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces. The reasonable alternatives suggested by stakeholders are highlighted in the table below and are assessed against the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces and the Council’s response is also included.

Below is a list of the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn:

1. Pupil numbers
2. Limited space to deliver the Curriculum for Wales (CFW) in the medium to long term.
3. Cost per pupil – 14% above the Anglesey primary average
4. School building - has current and projected future maintenance costs of £360,000 (2019) and a condition rating of B (Satisfactory - Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration). Ysgol Talwrn building only partially conforms to the requirements expected under the Equality Act 2010.
5. Standards - the current standards seen in Ysgol Talwrn could be difficult to maintain in the medium to long term
6. Teaching Commitment of the Headteacher – currently 70% specific teaching commitment
7. Finance – The cost per pupil at Ysgol Talwrn (£4,553) is above the Anglesey Primary Average (£3,988), and there is a wide variation in the cost per pupil between Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig (£3,429). It is likely that the authority will be required to make significant savings over the next 3 years.

In section 4 of the Consultation Document, the key drivers for change were noted as outlined in the School Modernisation Strategy. All proposals put forward are assessed against these drivers:

- **Standards** across all schools need to be at least good or excellent. In addition, schools in the area would be expected to be categorised as green, i.e. a school that is performing well and in need of the lowest level of support.
- **Leadership and management** must be good or better in every school. In this context, headteachers need sufficient non-contact time to balance leadership and management challenges with teaching commitment.
- The **school building** needs to provide an inspirational learning environment that will encourage every pupil to achieve their potential across all areas of learning. In addition, every school needs to comply with the Equality Act 2010 regarding accessibility for disabled children.
- **Sufficient school spaces** need to be available in the area to meet current demand, future projected numbers as well as reducing surplus places. In addition, pupil movement within and from outside the catchment area needs to be reduced if possible.

- Any revised school provision in the area will have to be **cost efficient** i.e. the revenue costs need to be reduced and any current and projected future maintenance costs are addressed. In addition, the variation in cost per pupil across individual schools reduced.
- Welsh medium provision** will need to be at least maintained and improved.
- The **community use** of school buildings and associated facilities needs to be maintained and where possible increased.

Reasonable alternatives proposed by stakeholders during the consultation period as alternatives to the closure of Ysgol Talwrn and the Council's response.

No.	Other Reasonable Alternatives Proposed by Stakeholders during the consultation	Does it meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces?	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
1.	Invest in Ysgol Talwrn to bring to 21st Century Standard	<p>Would address the quality of the building at Ysgol Talwrn, ensure sufficient space and adequate resources to deliver the new curriculum for Wales. It would ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Would maintain current levels of community use, Welsh medium provision.</p> <p>Standards may be difficult to maintain in the medium to long term (would not ensure classes with an age range of no more than 2 years).</p> <p>Would not address the headteacher's specific teaching commitment.</p> <p>Would result in higher revenue costs for the authority, and would not address the cost per pupil</p> <p>Bringing Ysgol Talwrn up to as near to 21st Century standard as possible would require the following work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension and land purchase • Contractor fees • Football pitch and drainage • Parking for parents. <p>All of this would cost about £1.4 million.</p>	<p>The option only partially meets the challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces.</p> <p>The option by itself does not address Ysgol Y Graig being over capacity.</p> <p>The cost to increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig and to provide Ysgol Talwrn with a 21st Century facility would be approximately £1.4m higher than what has been earmarked within the Band B funding envelope. Therefore, value for money could be questioned in spending £1.4m for less than 1% of the primary school pupils on Anglesey.</p> <p>As this option only partially meets the challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, this reasonable alternative suggested by stakeholders is rejected and not considered further.</p>

No.	Other Reasonable Alternatives Proposed by Stakeholders during the consultation	Does it meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces?	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
2.	Open a new area school for Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Pentraeth	Could address the challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces.	<p>Would still require a new block to increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig.</p> <p>Could be affordable by remodelling and increasing the capacity of Ysgol Pentraeth so that it achieves 21st Century School Standards.</p> <p>Would also address the key challenges facing schools in the Lligwy area.</p> <p>Ysgol Pentraeth is not part of the current consultation but could well be considered in the School Modernisation Programme in the future. This option will therefore not be considered further.</p>
3.	Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir to alleviate pressure at Ysgol Y Graig. Build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir, and extend the current building for Ysgol Y Graig (not a new block)	Would partially meet the challenges at Ysgol Talwrn if the Council invested in the building at Ysgol Talwrn through the 21 st Century Schools Programme to bring schools close to 21 st Century Schools standards, as noted in the above scenario.	<p>To ensure fairness, the Authority would need to invest to bring both Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn up to as near as possible to 21st Century Schools Standards. The status quo for Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn have already been discounted.</p> <p>This option is evaluated further as a reasonable alternative – see option 6.3.1 below</p>
4.	Leave Ysgol Talwrn as it is	Would not address any of the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn.	This option has already been evaluated in

No.	Other Reasonable Alternatives Proposed by Stakeholders during the consultation	Does it meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces?	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
			<p>section 6.3.2 of the consultation document.</p> <p>The option did not meet the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn. This option is therefore, not considered further.</p>
5.	<p>Merge Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Talwrn</p> <p>Based on the assumption that pupils from Ysgol Llanbedrgoch transfer to Ysgol Talwrn. The capacity of Ysgol Talwrn would be increased, and the building would be brought to 21st Century Standard</p>	<p>Could address the need to provide a suitable learning facility to deliver the new curriculum and provide sufficient capacity.</p> <p>Would not necessarily ensure good standards in the medium to long term (would not ensure classes with an age range of no more than 2 years).</p> <p>The headteacher is likely to still have a significant specific teaching commitment in a school of this size.</p> <p>Potential loss of community asset from at least one area.</p> <p>This option would involve bringing Ysgol Talwrn up to as near to 21st Century standard as possible would require the following work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension and land purchase • Contractor fees • Football pitch and drainage • Parking for parents. • Enlarging play areas • Enlarging the hall <p>All of this would cost about £2.0 million – this could lead to questions about value for money.</p> <p>Ysgol Llanbedrgoch is not part of the current consultation but could well be considered in the School Modernisation Programme in the future.</p>	<p>A significant investment of approximately £2m would be required which would only partially address the needs of the schools involved. A very small percentage of the island's pupils (approximately 70 pupils or about 1.4% of the primary school pupils on Anglesey) would benefit from such an investment.</p> <p>Would still require a substantial investment to address the lack of capacity within Llangefni.</p> <p>Ysgol Llanbedrgoch is not part of the current consultation but could well be considered in the School Modernisation Programme in the future. The option did not meet the key drivers for the schools modernisation programme and will therefore not be considered further.</p>

No.	Other Reasonable Alternatives Proposed by Stakeholders during the consultation	Does it meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces?	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
6.	Merge Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Pentraeth	<p>This option could be affordable by remodelling and increasing the capacity of Ysgol Pentraeth so that it achieves 21st Century School Standards.</p> <p>This option could address the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn but does not address capacity issues at Ysgol y Graig.</p>	Ysgol Pentraeth is not part of the current consultation but could well be considered in the School Modernisation Programme in the future. This option will therefore not be considered further.
7.	Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (with increased capacity) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate the pressure of the over subscription of pupil places in Llangefni.	<p>This option could address the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pupil numbers 2. Limited space to deliver the Curriculum for Wales (CFW) in the medium to long term. 3. Cost per pupil – 14% above the Anglesey primary average 4. School building - has current and projected future maintenance costs of £360,000 (2019) and a condition rating of B (Satisfactory - Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration). Ysgol Talwrn building only partially conforms to the requirements expected under the Equality Act 2010. 5. Standards - The current standards seen in Ysgol Talwrn could be difficult maintain in the short term. 6. Teaching Commitment of the Headteacher – currently 70% teaching commitment. 7. Finance – the Council needs to make savings. 	This option addresses the key challenges faced by Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig and is therefore evaluated further in section 6.3.2 below.
8.	Address the current and projected future maintenance cost at Ysgol Talwrn.	This option only addresses some of the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn (as described within part 6.3.9 of the consultation document).	This option has already been evaluated in section 6.3.9 of the consultation document and does not successfully meet the drivers of the modernisation strategy or indeed the

No.	Other Reasonable Alternatives Proposed by Stakeholders during the consultation	Does it meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces?	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
			challenges which the school currently faces.
9.	Federate Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and extend Ysgol Y Graig.	<p>This option only addresses a few of the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn. This option:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would not necessarily ensure good standards in the medium to long term (would not ensure classes with an age range of no more than 2 years). • Would not address the quality and suitability of the current school buildings. • The headteacher would probably still have a significant specific teaching commitment in a school of this size (70 pupils). • Would not involve the loss of community asset. • Would not address the 56% surplus places at Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and the 8% surplus places at Ysgol Talwrn 	<p>Would still require a new block to increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig.</p> <p>Ysgol Llanbedrgoch is not part of the current consultation but could well be considered in the School Modernisation Programme in the future. This option will therefore not be considered further.</p>
10.	Bring Ysgol Talwrn to 21st Century Standard, and federate with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Bodffordd	<p>Addresses most of the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn.</p> <p>Would not necessarily ensure good standards in the medium to long term (would not ensure classes with an age range of no more than 2 years).</p> <p>Does not address over subscription at Ysgol Bodffordd</p>	<p>Ysgol Y Graig would still require an additional block to address the lack of capacity within the Llangefni area.</p> <p>If Ysgol Talwrn was to be brought to 21st Century Standard, to ensure all schools are treated equally, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Llanbedrgoch would also need to be brought to a similar standard. The cost of undertaking these four projects would be approximately £2.7m in excess of what has been earmarked for this area within the Band B funding envelope.</p> <p>A significant investment of approximately £2.9m</p>

No.	Other Reasonable Alternatives Proposed by Stakeholders during the consultation	Does it meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces?	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
			<p>would be required between Ysgol Bodffordd, Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Talwrn, where only a relatively small number of pupils (approximately 3% of primary school pupils on Anglesey) would benefit from such an investment.</p> <p>Ysgol Llanbedrgoch is not part of the current consultation but could well be considered in the School Modernisation Programme in the future. This option will therefore not be considered further.</p>
11.	<p>Keep all schools in Llangefni open, and invest to bring to 21st Century Standard. Consider options for federation later.</p>	<p>This option does not address the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn:</p> <p>Would not necessarily ensure good standards in the medium to long term (would not ensure classes with an age range of no more than 2 years).</p> <p>Would not address the specific teaching commitment of the headteachers.</p> <p>Does not provide the required capacity within the Llangefni area.</p> <p>This option would lead to even higher variances in the cost per pupil.</p>	<p>If the proposal included a new building for Ysgol Corn Hir, and a new block at Ysgol Y Graig to provide the necessary additional capacity, and work to bring Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to meet 21st Century schools standards, the cost would be approximately £2.6m higher than has been earmarked within the Band B envelope for this area.</p> <p>The option does not meet the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn. This option is therefore, not considered further.</p>
12.	<p>Open a new all age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to</p>	<p>Would address many of the key challenges facing Ysgol Talwrn and</p>	<p>This is different to option 6.3.12 in the Consultation Document</p>

No.	Other Reasonable Alternatives Proposed by Stakeholders during the consultation	Does it meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces?	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons
	<p>accommodate pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Graig building to be used to accommodate foundation phase pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.</p> <p>New Corn Hir building to accommodate KS2 pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.</p> <p>Ysgol Gyfun to accommodate years 7-13.</p> <p>Remodel Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to bring to 21st Century School standard.</p>	<p>other schools within the Llangefni area.</p>	<p>which considered primary and secondary education in one establishment. This option suggests a multi-site approach.</p> <p>To ensure fairness, the Authority would need to invest to bring both Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn close to 21st Century Schools Standards. Maintaining the status quo for Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn has already been discounted .</p> <p>This option is evaluated further in section 6.3.3 below.</p>

The Council considers that the following reasonable alternatives outlined in section 6.2 above, require further evaluation:

6.2.3 Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir to alleviate pressure at Ysgol Y Graig. Build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir, and extend the current building for Ysgol Y Graig (not a new block),

6.2.7 Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (with increased capacity) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate the pressure of the over subscription of pupil places in Llangefni and

6.1.15 and 6.2.12 Open a new all age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

These are considered further in section 6.3 below.

6.3 Additional Reasonable Alternatives Suggested by Stakeholders that require further evaluation

In this section, the further reasonable alternatives suggested by stakeholders as noted above are evaluated against the key drivers identified for the school modernisation programme:

6.3.1 Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir to alleviate pressure at Ysgol Y Graig. Build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir with a capacity for 420 pupils, leave Ysgol Y Graig as it is.

Based on approx. £11m cost over 50 years

AND

Enhance the Building and grounds at Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to achieve 21st Century Schools standard with the current capacities.

Based on an approximate cost of £2.6m over 35 years

Total cost £13.6 m

Driver	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current standards seen (All schools have received a green / yellow Categorisation from GwE over the past 2 years) could be maintained in the short term. ▪ Each school would have a suitable learning environment to ensure every pupil has the opportunity to succeed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not ensure that classes at Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn would have an age range of no more than 2 years.
2. Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current good practice seen could be maintained in the short term. ▪ The Headteacher of Ysgol Bodffordd states "There's no denying that there is a lot of pressure in terms of leadership and learning on small village / rural schools, but there are many important positive factors that make it an interesting job that sharpens the mind – there is variety in the staff's work, the requirements and expectations are challenging and varied, all members of staff are developed in terms of leadership and management roles in a small school " 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not address the significant specific teaching commitment at Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn. ▪ Should there be a change in the senior management team in the future, this would pose a significant risk that a suitable successor could not be appointed, due to a lack of competition for posts within smaller schools.
3. School Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All schools would meet 21st century standards and would be an inspirational Learning environment for pupils. ▪ The area of the New Ysgol Corn Hir site would be sufficiently large to accommodate a school with a capacity of 450 pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Ysgol Bodffordd site is not large enough to accommodate a 1 or 2 classroom extension along with sufficient parking space and sufficient educational play space that the new Curriculum for Wales requires and to bring the school up to near 21st Century School standard.

6.3.1 Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir to alleviate pressure at Ysgol Y Graig. Build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir with a capacity for 420 pupils, leave Ysgol Y Graig as it is.

Based on approx. £11m cost over 50 years

AND

Enhance the Building and grounds at Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to achieve 21st Century Schools standard with the current capacities.

Based on an approximate cost of £2.6m over 35 years

Total cost £13.6 m

Driver	Advantages	Disadvantages
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional land around the Ysgol Talwrn site would need to be acquired for the primary school to have sufficient parking space and sufficient educational play space that the new Curriculum for Wales requires and to bring the school up to near 21st Century School standard.
4. School Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would provide sufficient places (862 places for 763 pupils) in the schools to meet current demand and future projections. 	
5. Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This option could result in future transport cost avoidance of approximately £120k. Transport costs are likely to increase under the current provision, due to schools forecasted to be significantly over capacity, which would result in pupils having to be transported outside the catchment areas, to the schools that have surplus places. Under the current provision, if trends continue, it is estimated that 5 additional bus contracts will be required in the future, under this alternative only 1 additional bus would be required in the future. Current and future projected maintenance costs would be reduced by £728,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of funding delegated to schools through the school funding formula is estimated to increase by approximately £31k. High Capital cost for the authority, a significant proportion of which would be funded through unsupported borrowing. The estimated cost of borrowing would be circa £243k per annum for the first 35 years, and £188k per annum for a further 15 years.
6. Welsh medium provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would maintain the current good provision. 	
7. Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would enhance the current provision. 	
8. General issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could prove difficult to change the catchment areas so that the required number of pupils would transfer from Ysgol Y Graig to Ysgol Corn Hir. The Schools Standards and Framework Act

6.3.1 Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir to alleviate pressure at Ysgol Y Graig. Build a new school for Ysgol Corn Hir with a capacity for 420 pupils, leave Ysgol Y Graig as it is.

Based on approx. £11m cost over 50 years

AND

Enhance the Building and grounds at Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to achieve 21st Century Schools standard with the current capacities.

Based on an approximate cost of £2.6m over 35 years

Total cost £13.6 m

Driver	Advantages	Disadvantages
		1998 allows parents to choose which school their child will attend. The traffic and parking situation at Ysgol y Graig would not be addressed.

This option would not address:

- classes at Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn having an age range of no more than 2 years.
- the significant specific teaching commitment of the headteacher at Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn. However, as stated in point 2 above: "The Headteacher of Ysgol Bodffordd states 'There's no denying that there is a lot of pressure in terms of leadership and learning on small village / rural schools, but there are many important positive factors that make it an interesting job that sharpens the mind – there is variety in the staff's work, the requirements and expectations are challenging and varied, all members of staff are developed in terms of leadership and management roles in a small school'"
- This option could be difficult to implement because adapting the catchment areas so that the required number of pupils would transfer to one school or another could be problematic. The authority would need to consider which school is geographically closest to a pupil's home when reviewing catchment areas. The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 allows parents to choose which school their child will attend.

For the reasons listed above, this reasonable alternative is rejected.

6.3.2 Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (with increased capacity of 150) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate the pressure of the over subscription of pupil places in Llangefni

AND

Leave Ysgol Y Graig as it is. Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig.

Based on approx. £4.163m cost over 50 years.

Driver	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current standards seen (both schools have received a green support category, and award A for the ability to improve according to the GwE school categorisation procedure). ▪ Both Ysgol y Graig and the relocated Ysgol Talwrn would have suitable learning environments to ensure every 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ .

6.3.2 Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (with increased capacity of 150) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate the pressure of the over subscription of pupil places in Llangefni

AND

Leave Ysgol Y Graig as it is. Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig.

Based on approx. £4.163m cost over 50 years.

Driver	Advantages	Disadvantages
	<p>pupil has the opportunity to succeed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would ensure that classes at the relocated Ysgol Talwrn would have an age range of no more than 2 years. 	
2. Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The school is likely to have more expertise and capacity to address the needs of more vulnerable pupils and the more able and talented pupils. ▪ Possibility of developing consistency of teaching and learning methodology. ▪ Assuming the governors and headteacher transfer to the relocated school, there would not be a loss of experienced governors and headteacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of opportunity to share good practice with staff from other schools. ▪ Would not address the significant specific teaching commitment at Ysgol Talwrn.
3. School Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Both schools would meet 21st Century standards and would be an inspirational Learning environment for pupils. ▪ Design of the new school would have suitable outside learning environments and would be designed to deliver the new Curriculum for Wales (CFW). 	
4. School Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will provide 480 primary school places which is the same number of school spaces the proposal would provide if implemented. Would provide sufficient places in the schools to meet current demand and future projections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would be very difficult to find a 5 acre site for a new primary school which was not too close to Ysgol y Graig but would be within the development boundaries of Llangefni.
5. Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current and future projected maintenance costs of £360,000 would be eliminated. ▪ Variation in cost per pupil (Ysgol Ysgol Talwrn £4,553, to Ysgol Y Graig £3,429) is likely to be reduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High Capital cost for the authority, a significant proportion of which would be funded through unsupported borrowing. The estimated cost of borrowing would be circa £64k per annum over a period of 50 years.

6.3.2 Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (with increased capacity of 150) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate the pressure of the over subscription of pupil places in Llangefni

AND

Leave Ysgol Y Graig as it is. Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig.

Based on approx. £4.163m cost over 50 years.

Driver	Advantages	Disadvantages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No additional transport costs are anticipated. Transport costs are likely to increase under the current provision, due to schools forecasted to be significantly over capacity, which would result in pupils having to be transported outside the catchment areas, to the schools that have surplus places. Under the current provision, if trends continue, it is estimated that 2 additional bus contracts will be required in the future, under this alternative 2 additional buses will be required in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget delegated to schools is estimated to increase by approximately £5k. Current and future projected maintenance costs of £48,500 would remain for Ysgol Y Graig.
6. Welsh medium provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would likely maintain the good provision. 	
7. Community Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced facility for the benefit of the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible loss of a community building from the Talwrn village.
8. General issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could prove difficult to adapt the catchment areas so that the required number of pupils would transfer from Ysgol Y Graig to the New Ysgol Talwrn. The authority would need to consider which school is geographically closest to a pupil's home when reviewing catchment areas. The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 allows parents to choose which school their child will attend.

- This option would not address the **current and future maintenance spend** of £48,500 for Ysgol y Graig.
- The budget delegated to schools is estimated to **increase** by approximately £5k if this option was approved.

This option could be difficult to implement - specifically, adapting the catchment areas so that the required number of pupils would transfer to the new Ysgol Talwrn. The authority would need to consider which school is geographically closest to a pupil's home when reviewing catchment areas. The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 allows parents to choose

which school their child will attend. It could also be very difficult to find a 5 acre site for a new primary school which was not too close to Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir but would be within the development boundaries of Llangefni.

For the reasons listed above, this reasonable alternative is rejected.

6.3.3 Open a new all age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

Ysgol Y Graig building to be used to accommodate foundation phase pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

New building to accommodate KS2 pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir (Capacity – 450).

Ysgol Gyfun to accommodate years 7-13.

Including improvement works to Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to bring them up to 21st Century Standard.

Based on cost of:

- approximately £11.2m (over 50 years) to build a new site to accommodate the all-age school's Key Stage 2 pupils.
- approximately £650k over 50 years to sort parking problems at Ysgol Y Graig.
- approximately £2.6m over 35 years to remodel Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn buildings.

Driver	Advantages	Disadvantages
1.Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has the potential to influence classroom standards as the staff in the all age school would be able to work together and share good practice and develop specialism in specific curriculum areas and to address the needs of pupils that have Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and the more able and talented (MAT). ▪ Larger schools (such as the all age school) tend to have more expertise and capacity to address the needs of more vulnerable pupils and the more able and talented pupils. ▪ Possibility of developing consistency of teaching and learning methodology at the all age school. ▪ All age schools can improve the transition from primary to secondary education. ▪ All age schools can offer a wider and more efficient curriculum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be more difficult to develop consistency of teaching and learning methodology at the all age multi-site school – than if on a single site. ▪ May be more difficult to improve the transition from Primary to Secondary education than if on a single site. ▪ May be more difficult to offer a wider curriculum than if on a single site. ▪ May be more difficult for Staff with experience of teaching primary and secondary school ages to work together to share good practices and develop ideas for formulating and providing an effective curriculum at the all age school, than if on a single site. ▪ May be less opportunities for pupils to have subject specific teaching from an early stage of their learning

6.3.3 Open a new all age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

Ysgol Y Graig building to be used to accommodate foundation phase pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

New building to accommodate KS2 pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir (Capacity – 450).

Ysgol Gyfun to accommodate years 7-13.

Including improvement works to Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to bring them up to 21st Century Standard.

Based on cost of:

- approximately £11.2m (over 50 years) to build a new site to accommodate the all-age school's Key Stage 2 pupils.
- approximately £650k over 50 years to sort parking problems at Ysgol Y Graig.
- approximately £2.6m over 35 years to remodel Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn buildings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff with experience of teaching primary and secondary school ages can work together to share good practices and develop ideas for formulating and providing an effective curriculum at the all age school. ▪ Opportunities for pupils to have subject specific teaching from an early stage of their learning at the all age school, giving an opportunity for the more abled pupils to develop quicker. Could build on the current good standards seen in schools. ▪ The current good performance evidenced at the schools would be easier to maintain for the medium to long term, due to improvements to the school buildings and facilities. 	<p>at the all age school, than if on a single site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Bodffordd could not ensure that the age range in classes is no more than 2 years.
2. Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It will be possible to further develop a senior management team at the all-age school which would improve leadership and management. ▪ However: the Headteacher of Ysgol Bodffordd states "There's no denying that there is a lot of pressure in terms of leadership and learning on small village / rural schools, but there are many important positive factors that make it an interesting job that sharpens the mind – there is variety in the staff's work, the requirements and expectations are challenging and varied, all members of staff are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential loss of experienced governors and Headteachers. ▪ May be difficult to lead and manage 3 separate sites. ▪ The headteacher's specific teaching commitments would not be reduced at Ysgol Bodffordd or Ysgol Talwrn.

6.3.3 Open a new all age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

Ysgol Y Graig building to be used to accommodate foundation phase pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

New building to accommodate KS2 pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir (Capacity – 450).

Ysgol Gyfun to accommodate years 7-13.

Including improvement works to Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to bring them up to 21st Century Standard.

Based on cost of:

- approximately £11.2m (over 50 years) to build a new site to accommodate the all-age school's Key Stage 2 pupils.
- approximately £650k over 50 years to sort parking problems at Ysgol Y Graig.
- approximately £2.6m over 35 years to remodel Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn buildings.

	developed in terms of leadership and management roles in a small school	
3.School Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduces current and projected future maintenance cost by £777k ▪ Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn would be close to meeting 21st century standards and would be an inspirational Learning environment for pupils. ▪ The schools would include suitable outside learning environments and would be designed to deliver the new Curriculum for Wales (CFW) as much as is possible for the medium to long term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The condition of the current Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni school building would not be addressed, as not enough funding has been earmarked within the Band B envelope for this work to be undertaken.
4.School Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fulfils current and future capacity requirements. ▪ Reduces movement across catchment areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The all age school would have approximately 1,500 pupils, which may be considered too large by the authority.
5.Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current and projected future maintenance costs would be reduced by £777k. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not address the funding inequity. Would not reduce the variation in the cost per head. ▪ A proportion of the capital cost would need to be funded by the Council through unsupported borrowing, which is estimated to cost £288k per annum for 35 years,

6.3.3 Open a new all age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

Ysgol Y Graig building to be used to accommodate foundation phase pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

New building to accommodate KS2 pupils from Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir (Capacity – 450).

Ysgol Gyfun to accommodate years 7-13.

Including improvement works to Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to bring them up to 21st Century Standard.

Based on cost of:

- approximately £11.2m (over 50 years) to build a new site to accommodate the all-age school's Key Stage 2 pupils.
- approximately £650k over 50 years to sort parking problems at Ysgol Y Graig.
- approximately £2.6m over 35 years to remodel Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn buildings.

		and £228k per annum for a further 15 years. ▪ Lead to an increase in revenue costs of £43k through the schools delegated formula.
6.Welsh medium provision	▪ Maintains the present good provision.	
7.Community use	▪ The community assets would remain, and their condition improved.	
8.General issues		▪ Logistical problems for parents picking up pupils from multiple sites.

This option could make it more difficult:

- to develop consistency of teaching and learning methodology at the all age school – than if on a single site.
- to improve the transition from Primary to Secondary education than if on a single site.
- to offer a wider curriculum than if on a single site.
- for staff with experience of teaching primary and secondary school ages to work together to share good practices and develop ideas for formulating and providing an effective curriculum at the all age school, than if on a single site.

This option could also mean:

- less opportunities for pupils to have subject specific teaching from an early stage of their learning at the all age school, than if on a single site.
- that Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Bodffordd could not ensure that the age range in classes is no more than 2 years.
- the potential loss of experienced governors and Headteachers.

- it may be difficult to lead and manage 3 separate sites.
- the headteachers specific teaching commitments would not be reduced at Ysgol Bodffordd or Ysgol Talwrn.
- the condition of the current Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni school building would not be addressed, as not enough funding has been earmarked within the Band B envelope for this work to be undertaken.
- that the all age school would have approximately 1,500 pupils, which may be considered too large by the authority.
- That funding inequality would not be addressed in that it would not reduce the variation in the cost per head.
- A proportion of the capital cost would need to be funded by the Council through unsupported borrowing, which is estimated to cost £288k per annum for 35 years, and £228k per annum for a further 15 years.
- Lead to an increase in revenue costs of £43k through the schools delegated formula.
- Logistical problems for parents picking up pupils from multiple sites.

For the reasons listed above, this reasonable alternative is rejected.

7. CONCLUSION

Upon considering all the options presented and reasonable alternatives (in section 6.3 above) and the strengths and weaknesses attributed to each, the proposal which is recommended to the Executive is to:

“Increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn”

In order to mitigate against any adverse effects of the proposal above, the Authority is committed to:

- Providing transport for pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn to the extended Ysgol Y Graig in accordance with the Council's transport policy for schools.

The proposal meets the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig faces namely:

1. Pupil numbers - it addresses the need to provide sufficient places at Ysgol y Graig. In addition pupils from Talwrn will be taught in closer age-range classes. There will also be less movement of pupils across catchment areas.
2. There would be sufficient space to deliver the Curriculum for Wales (CFW) in the medium to long term. The extended Ysgol y Graig will be purpose built to deliver the new Curriculum for Wales (CFW). It will be better equipped to be able to deliver the full curriculum in an appropriate, differentiated, broad and varied manner, which will benefit all pupils.
3. Cost per pupil – there would be a reduction in the average cost per pupil in the extended school. The approximate projected cost per pupil in the newly expanded school would be £3,436. This would lead to revenue savings for the Council.
4. School building – a new 21st century building will be designed to have low maintenance costs with a BREEAM Excellent rating. The combined current and projected future maintenance costs for both schools of £408,500 would be eliminated. The extended school will be fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

5. Standards – the newly expanded school will be in a position to maintain the Estyn grading and to retain the green status categorisation in the medium to long term.
6. Teaching Commitment of the Headteacher – in the newly extended Ysgol y Graig, it is foreseen that the Headteacher will continue to have no specific teaching commitment. It is possible to build on and to develop a senior management team further which could improve leadership and management.
7. Finance – larger Schools are in a better position to achieve efficient class sizes which are closer to the optimum pupil teacher ratio. This makes it easier for larger schools to contribute towards future savings required by the Local Authority.

The proposal would also meet the requirements of the key drivers for change noted in the School Modernisation Strategy 2018. These include improving education standards; improving leadership and management; ensuring that school buildings are fit for purpose; reducing the number of surplus places; reducing the overall cost of education and the variation in the cost per pupil; maintaining and improving Welsh medium provision and increasing the community use of school buildings. The proposal meets the requirements of the key drivers as follows:

- **Standards** across all schools need to be at least good or excellent. In addition, schools in the area would be expected to be categorised as green, i.e. a school that is performing well and in need of the lowest level of support. – the newly expanded school will be in a position to maintain the Estyn grading and to retain the green status categorisation in the medium to long term.
- **Leadership and management** must be good or better in every school. In this context, headteachers need sufficient non-contact time to balance leadership and management challenges with teaching commitment - in the newly extended Ysgol y Graig, it is foreseen that the Headteacher will continue to have no specific teaching commitment. It is possible to build on and to develop a senior management team further which could improve leadership and management.
- The **school building** needs to provide an inspirational learning environment that will encourage every pupil to achieve their potential across all areas of learning. In addition, every school needs to comply with the Equality Act 2010 regarding accessibility for disabled children. – a new 21st century building will be designed to have low maintenance costs with a BREEAM Excellent rating. The combined current and projected future maintenance costs for both schools of £408,500 would be eliminated. The extended school will be fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
- **Sufficient school spaces** need to be available in the area to meet current demand, future projected numbers as well as reducing surplus places. In addition, pupil movement within and from outside the catchment area needs to be reduced if possible. - it addresses the need to provide sufficient places at Ysgol y Graig. In addition pupils from Talwrn will be taught in closer age-range classes. There will also be less movement of pupils across catchment areas.
- Any revised school provision in the area will have to be **cost efficient** i.e. the revenue costs need to be reduced and any current and projected future maintenance costs are addressed. In addition, the variation in cost per pupil across individual schools needs to be reduced - there would be a reduction in the average cost per pupil in the extended school. The approximate projected cost per pupil in the newly expanded school would be £3,436. This would lead to revenue savings for the Council.
- **Welsh medium provision** - the current good provision would at least be maintained.
- The **community use** of school buildings and associated facilities needs to be maintained and where possible increased. - the community would continue to benefit from the use of the newly expanded school building.



CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
GWASANAETH DYSGU / LEARNING SERVICE

Proposal to:

“Increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn”

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Assessment start date	12 July 2019
The officer responsible for the assessment	Rhys H. Hughes. Director of Education, Skills and Young People.
Date	December 2020 This document has been updated following feedback from the statutory consultation held between the 6 February 2020-20 March 2020. This document has been amended to reflect the feedback received. This is a working document and is regularly reviewed.

Protocol for public speaking at virtual Committee meetings	<p>The public, may pre-register their interest, using the relevant form, to speak at Scrutiny Committee Meetings.</p> <p>Please see the Protocol for public speaking at virtual Scrutiny Committee meetings</p> <p>Protocol for public speaking at virtual Scrutiny Committee meetings</p>
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Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh.

Revision history:	
Date	Summary of changes
12 July 2019	First draft
19 August 2019	Second draft
29 August 2019	Third draft
13 November 2019	Data updated
18 December 2019	Reviewed and updated
3 February 2020	Reviewed and updated
16 October 2020	Reviewed and updated

Additions to the Impact Assessment included after the statutory consultation period are in italics.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (011/2018) requires Local Authorities to undertake assessments of the impact on the community, on equality and on the Welsh language when proposing changes to the organisation of schools.

The proposal under consideration is to:

“Increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn”.

A statutory consultation period on the above proposal was held from 6 February 2020 to 20 March 2020. The Headteachers and Community Councils were invited to complete a questionnaire to assess the current utilisation and community use of the schools and details of other facilities available in the local or wider community.

Out of all the responses received to the consultation conducted between 6 February and 20 March 2020, 70% of respondents commented on the content of the Impact Assessment. Out of those 70%, 23% of them commented specifically on the impact the proposal could have on the Welsh language. The following themes were highlighted in those comments:

- Talwrn is an area where Welsh is a natural language. Although Y Graig does a good job of promoting and encouraging the use of Welsh, I am concerned that pupils will turn to English in the school yard, during extra-curricular activities and among children out of school hours.
- [Ysgol Talwrn] is important to the Talwrn Eisteddfod and the Welsh culture.
- If the proposal is realised, there will be fewer Welsh speakers, as schools will be bigger and have more English speakers.
- Welsh-speaking staff losing jobs

The County Council accepts these comments and is very pleased to be able to understand local views about the potential impact on the Welsh language. In light of the comments received, the Council has updated the Impact Assessment to include the above points and highlights the mitigation measures in place to overcome the concerns identified.

The data and evidence collected for the purpose of the assessments was based on the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC), 2011 Census, data from the Headteacher, Joint Planning Policy Unit (between Gwynedd and Anglesey), Community Councils and senior officers in the Learning Service

2. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This equality impact assessment has been undertaken to meet the requirements of both the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (011/2018).

2.1 The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 places a General Duty on public bodies in carrying out their functions to have due regard to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristics and those who do not.

The Act is about ensuring fairness and protects the following nine characteristics (also known as 'protected groups'):

- Age
- Disability
- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief, including lack of belief
- Sexual orientation

2.2 Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

The Welsh Government introduced the above Regulations to help public bodies in Wales to meet the general duty. Specific duties include a requirement to assess the impact of its policies and practices on groups protected by the Act. This means that the authority must consider relevant evidence in order to understand the likely or actual effect of its policies and practices on protected groups and have 'due regard' (*i.e.* give appropriate weight) to the results of such assessments.

Equality considerations will be taken into account in forming the business cases for schools' modernisation, during the project development process and, if implemented, the actual impact will be monitored. The equality impact assessment document will be updated regularly to ensure that everyone is given fair consideration.

Point raised by a stakeholder

A stakeholder raised the following point during the consultation period: "The Impact Assessment should be commissioned to specialists to ensure that they comprehensively assess the effect of the proposal".

Council reply

The Isle of Anglesey County Council adheres to the guidelines contained in the School Organisation Code 2018. Annex C of the Code states:

"Community impact and Welsh-medium impact assessments

The Welsh Government takes the view that the requirement for assessments should not be overly burdensome and does not consider that it is necessary to commission such work from external consultants. Local authorities are already under a duty to carry out equality impact assessments which could provide the basis for the impact assessments specified in this guidance."

In line with this guidance and in view of the current economic climate, the Impact Assessment was completed by Council officers.

2.3 Equality Impact Assessment

2.3.1 Background	
What are you assessing?	The proposal being assessed is to “Increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn.”
Is this a new or existing proposal?	The Council held a statutory consultation from the 6 February 2020-20 March 2020 on this proposal.
What are the aims and purpose of this proposal?	<p>To change and improve the primary education provision in this part of Anglesey. The relevant key drivers have for the Llangefni area are noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensuring that education standards are maintained and improved across all schools to ensure all children reach their potential. ▪ Ensuring that schools have sufficient spaces for the current number of pupils and future projected numbers. ▪ Ensuring that the variances in expenditure per pupil are brought in line and more consistent across the schools. ▪ Ensuring the condition of the school estate is on a secure footing for the current number of pupils and the projected future increase in pupil numbers. ▪ Ensuring that the leadership and management structure of our schools provides a solid base for the strategic leadership and succession planning of our schools into the future.
Who is responsible for the proposal you are assessing?	Rhys H. Hughes, Director of Education, Skills and Young People
Who is the Lead Officer for this assessment?	Emrys Bebb, Programme Manager
Is the proposal related to other areas of work?	Yes – the proposal is part of the Isle of Anglesey County Council’s school modernisation strategy. However, each proposal is assessed on its own merit.

2.3.1 Background	
Who would be affected by the proposal(s) (adversely or positively, directly or indirectly)?	For both schools involved in the proposal, i.e. Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig, the following would be affected: Staff, pupils, governors, parents of pupils at the schools, members of the community who use both schools.

2.3.2 Information Gathering	
Does this proposal ensure that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language, in accordance with the Council's Welsh Language Policy?	Yes – this is assessed separately in the Welsh Language Impact Assessment part of this document (Section 3).
Is there an opportunity here to offer more opportunities for people to learn and / or use the Welsh language on a day-to-day basis?	If the proposal comes to fruition, a section of the extended primary school for use by the community will be available for Welsh lessons. The Welsh Language Impact Assessment will determine if there will be more opportunities to use Welsh on a day-to-day basis.
Will this area of work proactively offer services in Welsh for users?	Yes – this is assessed separately in the Language Impact Assessment part of this document (Section 3).
Is this proposal likely to protect and promote the Welsh language within communities?	<p>Realisation of the proposal will protect and promote the Welsh language within the potential extended school and the area in question i.e. Llangefni and Talwrn. <i>Events held in Welsh such as the village Eisteddfod could be held in locations such as the village hall and local religious services would not be affected by the potential implementation of the proposal. Education through the medium of Welsh will help increase the use of Welsh in the community.</i></p> <p><i>The Schools Modernisation Programme will collaborate with the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board to promote the use of the Welsh language in the community, and contribute towards the Welsh Government's target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.</i></p> <p><i>The Education Service reports on a quarterly basis to the County Council's Language Forum on the use of Welsh in the Authority's schools. The County Council's Language Forum monitors the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) on a quarterly basis.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed extended school will continue to promote and encourage the use of the Welsh language and will promote the informal use of the language by the pupils during school hours and in after school activities on site</i></p>

Are there any Human Rights issues? If so, what are they? (The 16 basic rights are listed in section 7).	No Human Rights issues have been identified.	
Does this proposal meet any of the seven national well-being goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015? (Descriptions of the wellbeing goals are listed at section 8)	A prosperous Wales	Yes
	A resilient Wales	Yes
	A healthier Wales	Yes
	A more equal Wales	Yes
	A Wales of cohesive communities	Yes
	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Yes
	A globally responsible Wales	Yes
	This is also assessed separately in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) part of this document (Section 5).	
What has been done to date in terms of involvement and consultation with regard to this proposal?	The Authority has conducted statutory and non-statutory consultations with stakeholders of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig on three previous occasions namely October – November 2016; January - March 2017 and May – June 2018. Feedback from these consultations were included in reports to the Executive on 19 December 2016, 17 July 2017 and 16 July 2018. The Authority prepared equality, community and language impact assessments for the statutory consultations.	
Have you used any other information that is relevant to the proposal to inform your assessment? If so, please detail:	Yes – the following information about the schools has been included: Gender balance, Additional Learning Needs (ALN) data, ethnicity, language and free school meals. Questionnaires were sent to the Headteachers of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig and the information they supplied is included in this assessment.	
Are there any gaps in the information collected to date? If so, how will these be addressed?	No gaps identified at this stage.	
Is the proposal relevant to how the Authority complies with the public sector general duty relating to people who are protected by the Equality Act 2010?	Yes	No
The elimination of discrimination and harassment	√	
The advancement of equality of opportunity	√	
The fostering of good relations	√	
The protection and promotion of human rights	√	

2.3.3 Considering the potential impact and identifying mitigating action

In undertaking this Equality Impact Assessment, the Authority has taken into consideration the negative, neutral and positive impact of the proposal and identified what action could be taken to reduce or improve the impact.

Protected group	*Potential Impact	Details of the impact	Actions to mitigate negative impact												
Age	Positive	The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide full-time education to children and young people aged 5-16. The extended primary school will accept pupils at 3 years of age on a part time basis.	Pupils who will be transferring to the extended primary school will participate in merger activities, which will be arranged jointly. This will provide opportunities for the children to become familiar with each other prior to the change.												
Disability	Positive	<p>If the proposal is realised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed extended school will be fully compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and will be fully accessible to all pupils. Pupils who have additional learning needs will continue to receive additional support to respond to their individual educational needs. In a larger school, more staff will specialise in Additional Learning Needs (ALN). It is possible that an increase in the number of staff will lead to a greater range of expertise to be able to deal with a wider spectrum of ALN. 	<p>The Authority will provide appropriate assistance and support for the pupils' additional learning needs. Individual needs will be assessed at the time of transferring to any school.</p> <p>The Authority will also provide appropriate assistance and support for the needs of staff members.</p>												
Sex	No impact	<p>The table below shows the current gender split and the split if the proposal is realised.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th><th>Y Graig</th><th>Talwrn</th><th>Extended primary school</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td><td>53%</td><td>38%</td><td>51%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Female</td><td>47%</td><td>62%</td><td>49%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>PLASC Data January 2020</p>	Gender	Y Graig	Talwrn	Extended primary school	Male	53%	38%	51%	Female	47%	62%	49%	All pupils' performance is assessed and monitored, to include specific groups such as male and females, free school meals, ALN pupils, ethnic minority, English as an additional language (EAL), children in care and the more able and talented. The educational performance of boys and girls is constantly monitored to ensure there are no large differences between males and females and the various groups associated.
Gender	Y Graig	Talwrn	Extended primary school												
Male	53%	38%	51%												
Female	47%	62%	49%												

Protected group	*Potential Impact	Details of the impact	Actions to mitigate negative impact				
Gender Reassignment	No impact	The Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) January 2020 does not retain data on this aspect. There is no evidence that discrimination based on gender reassignment is happening.	If issues arise, they will be dealt with sensitively.				
Marriage or Civil Partnership	No impact	Not applicable to the pupils of the school.	There is no evidence that discrimination based on marriage / civil partnership is happening with the school staff. If issues arise, they will be dealt with sensitively.				
Pregnancy & Maternity	No impact	Not applicable to the pupils of the school.	Female staff who become pregnant are eligible for a maternity period in accordance with the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Maternity Leave Scheme. Male staff are eligible for paternity leave in accordance with the Paternity Leave Policy. There is no evidence that discriminating on the basis of pregnancy or taking paternity leave takes place with the schools' staff.				
Race	No impact	PLASC data January 2020 <table><tr><th>Ysgol Y Graig</th><th>Ysgol Talwrn</th></tr><tr><td>White British 82%</td><td>White British 77%</td></tr></table>	Ysgol Y Graig	Ysgol Talwrn	White British 82%	White British 77%	If pupils from other ethnic backgrounds attend the schools, they will not be treated differently based on their ethnic origin. Should there be members of staff from other ethnic backgrounds in the proposed extended school, they will not be treated differently based on their ethnic origin.
Ysgol Y Graig	Ysgol Talwrn						
White British 82%	White British 77%						
Religion or Belief	No impact	The PLASC January 2020 does not retain data on this aspect.	The proposal can provide the opportunity to improve the pupils' understanding of religion or belief due to an increase in the pupil numbers with pupils mixing with other pupils from more diverse backgrounds. It is a parental choice to share information about their child's religion or belief with the school. If issues arise, they will be dealt with sensitively.				

Protected group	*Potential Impact	Details of the impact	Actions to mitigate negative impact
Sexual Orientation	No impact	The PLASC January 2020 does not retain data on this aspect.	There is no evidence that discrimination based on sexual orientation is happening. It is a parental choice to share information about their child's sexual orientation with the school. If issues arise, they will be dealt with sensitively.
Human Rights	No impact	The PLASC January 2020 does not retain data on this aspect.	There is no evidence that discrimination based on human rights is happening with the school staff or with pupils. If issues arise, they will be dealt with sensitively.
Other - Socio-economic. Small and Rural Schools Socio-economic and rural factors were taken into consideration in the 'Community Impact Assessment' below.	Negative	<p>Ysgol Talwrn is a small school. The thematic report by Estyn, "Small Primary School in Wales (2006)" notes that there is no real difference between education standards in small and large schools, but that "it can be more difficult for teachers in smaller schools to match the work to pupils' needs, since pupils in a class can vary greatly in terms of age and development stages". This is relevant to smaller schools. Resilience in terms of staffing has improved in the larger schools on Anglesey.</p> <p>If the proposal was realised, and Ysgol Talwrn was to be closed, its contribution towards the community, Welsh language and lifestyle could be lost.</p>	<p>The Authority acknowledges that schools have a key role to play in contributing towards the community, the use of the Welsh language and lifestyle.</p> <p>In a larger primary school such as the one being proposed, more staff are likely to specialise in areas across the curriculum.</p> <p>In considering its options for school modernisation, the Authority will consider the balance between educational needs and the long-term needs of our communities, by the means of collaborative working. The Authority is committed to working with communities to address any issues that may arise in the eventuality of school closure.</p>
	<i>Point raised by stakeholder during the consultation – The proposal may "affect the close-knit community of Talwrn"</i>	<p><i>As stated above:</i></p> <p><i>If the proposal was realised, and Ysgol Talwrn was to be closed, its contribution towards the community, Welsh language and lifestyle could be lost.</i></p>	<i>In considering its options for school modernisation, the Authority will consider the balance between educational needs and the long-term needs of our communities, by the means of collaborative working. The Authority is committed to working with communities to address any issues that may arise in the eventuality of school closure.</i>

Protected group	*Potential Impact	Details of the impact	Actions to mitigate negative impact						
Other - Socio-economic. Number of children who are eligible for free school meals	Positive	<p>It would provide increased opportunities for pupils of both schools to take advantage of the resources and provision in the proposed extended primary school.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">PLASC 2020 Free School Meal figures</th></tr><tr><th>Y Graig</th><th>Talwrn</th></tr><tr><td>96 pupils or 30%</td><td>6 pupils or 15%</td></tr></table> <p>At present, 19.4% of pupils in primary schools on Anglesey are eligible for free school meals.</p>	PLASC 2020 Free School Meal figures		Y Graig	Talwrn	96 pupils or 30%	6 pupils or 15%	<p>In the proposed extended school, the Authority would provide a cashless system for school meals, which would not give rise to any possible stigma associated with pupils having free school meals.</p> <p>The number of children eligible for free school meals would be approximately 26%, based on current numbers, if the proposal was realised.</p> <p>The performance of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) is excellent in both schools and this would be expected to continue at the extended school.</p>
PLASC 2020 Free School Meal figures									
Y Graig	Talwrn								
96 pupils or 30%	6 pupils or 15%								
Other - Socio-economic. Less advantaged children's participation in after school activities.	Positive	<p><i>There's potential to provide increased opportunities for pupils of both schools to take advantage of after school activities in the proposed extended Ysgol Y Graig.</i></p>	<p><i>The newly extended Ysgol Y Graig will be expected to make suitable provision that will at least match the current provision in relation to clubs. In the context of <u>extra-curricular activities</u> every pupil, irrespective of background, will be encouraged to participate with the expectation on the school to make suitable arrangements for less advantaged pupils to be able to participate. These arrangements will include but not confined to clubs being held during the lunch break, arrangements with parents for pick-up and transport and providing after school transport.</i></p>						

Combined effect on equality	+3 Positive
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Conclusion - The proposal would have a positive effect on equality.

The potential effect of the proposal on the Welsh language is assessed separately in the Welsh Language Impact Assessment (Section 3).

2.3.4 Outcome of the assessment	
How it is intended to mitigate any negative impact highlighted in 2.3.3	The proposal is to “ Increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn ”. The potential negative impact of closing Ysgol Talwrn could be mitigated by undertaking activities that currently take place at Ysgol Talwrn in another building within the community, such as the Village Hall or Talwrn Chapel.
Is there a strategy for dealing with any unavoidable but not unlawful negative impacts that cannot be mitigated?	There are no negative impacts from this assessment that cannot be mitigated.
<p>Describe any actions taken to maximise the opportunity to promote equality and/or the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (sustainability). (The seven well-being goals are listed in section 8)</p> <p>How the proposal will contribute to the 7 Well-being goals is assessed later in the document. (Section 5)</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales – The proposal, if realised, will lead to a reduction in energy consumption and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. The education the pupils receive will help develop a skilled and well-educated population to the future.</p> <p>A more equal Wales – The project will ensure that the potential extended school is fit for purpose and will ensure that every pupil’s capacity and potential to succeed is realised.</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities – The proposal has the potential to form a new community based around Talwrn and the catchment area of Ysgol Y Graig.</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales – The extended school will be built to BREAAAM standards and will involve a number of energy-saving initiatives. This, and other specific parts of the curriculum, will be used to develop pupils’ understanding of living and growing up in a globally responsible Wales.</p> <p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language - The Welsh Language Impact Assessment can be seen in Section 3. The proposed extended primary school will be a Welsh-medium school and the proposal will at least maintain Welsh medium provision in the area.</p> <p>The Schools Modernisation Programme will collaborate with the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board to promote the use of the Welsh language in the community, and contribute towards the Welsh Government’s target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p> <p>The Education Department reports on a quarterly basis to the County Council’s Language Forum on the use of Welsh in the Authority’s schools and the Authority’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is monitored on a quarterly basis by the County Council’s Language Forum.</p> <p>The potential extended school will have a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) which will encourage participation in sports and recreation.</p>

Is there a need to reconsider the proposal as a result of conducting this assessment?	No. Many reasonable alternatives assessed in the report on the consultation but the original proposal is still the favoured option.
Will the proposal be adopted / forwarded for approval? Who will be the decision-maker?	A proposal paper was discussed by the Executive on 20 January 2020 to authorise officers to go out to statutory consultation. <i>The statutory consultation was held from 6 February 2020 to 20 March 2020. A report on the statutory consultation will be discussed by the Executive in November 2020 and the Executive will decide whether to proceed with the proposal or not.</i>
Are there monitoring arrangements in place? What are they?	<p>Yes – the following parameters will continue to be monitored: Age of pupils; gender balance of the pupils; race/ethnicity/nationality data; the language spoken by pupils; percentage of pupils taking free school meals.</p> <p>Consideration would also be given to monitoring the following data: Percentage of pupils with a Statement of Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Percentage of pupils who have noted physical difficulties. Percentage of staff who have declared a disability.</p> <p><i>The proposal will continue to be assessed for impact as it is developed. If the proposal is approved, monitoring processes will be used to ensure that the actual impact matches with the impact which was anticipated and that relevant actions have been implemented. If the proposal goes ahead, a monitoring group will be set up to monitor and assess the effect of the proposal using the parameters listed above, possibly every 6 months. These points will then be ‘fed into’ the Learning Service’s monitoring data.</i></p>

3. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

*The promotion and use of the Welsh language is not included within the Equality Act 2010 as this aspect is covered by the requirements set out in the **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**. Under the Measure, public bodies must comply with Welsh Language Standards. The basic principles of the Standards are that the Welsh language should not be treated less favourably than the English language and that the use of Welsh should be promoted and facilitated, making it easier for people to use Welsh in their everyday lives.*

The Standards also require public bodies to “ensure internal scrutiny takes place during the process with constant points of challenge on a management level”. Documents such as this Assessment and all the documents that are presented to the Executive are scrutinised by senior officers including legal officers. However, the Consultation Report and Impact Assessment are discussed by the Authority’s Corporate Scrutiny Committee before the final decision is made by the Executive. The Authority’s Chief Executive is the Authority’s strategic lead on the Welsh language.

The Isle of Anglesey County Council has adopted the principle that the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than the English language, and that the residents of the island should be able to live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they so wish. The same expectation applies in respect of the Welsh language for each of the schools, which provide an opportunity for every pupil in the County to gain the appropriate skills to be confident bilingually. In light of this, any new scheme that is introduced – such as projects deriving from the 21st Century Schools programme - will be subject to the requirements of the language policy.

The Language Policy of Anglesey County Council’s Learning Service is subject to the following aim and objectives:

3.1 Aim:

That all pupils who go through the Anglesey education system are bilingual by the end of their educational career and confident to communicate in both languages equally in the workplace, culturally and socially.

3.2 General Objective:

1. Develop the capacity of all pupils and students in the County to be confident bilingually to enable them to become full members of the bilingual society of which they are a part.
2. Increase the social use of the language amongst the educational workforce and young children who attend educational institutions within the authority and as a medium of learning.
3. All the County’s educational institutions reflect and reinforce the language policy in their administration, their social life and their pastoral regime as well as in their curricular provision.

3.3 Specific Objectives:

- **Early years** - Ensure a purposeful and efficient provision and organisation, by including immersion, is given to all children whatever their linguistic background to ensure a solid foundation in the language to enable them to achieve the goal of bilingualism fully as soon as possible.
- **Foundation phase** - Building on the foundations laid in the early years by continuing to develop pupils’ grasp of the language, and the commencement of the process of developing their English skills by the end of the period.

- **Key Stage 2** - Continue to develop children's skills in both Welsh and English by paying attention to developing their language skills in both languages by ensuring, through appropriate planning, an equal level of bilingualism by the end of the stage.

For pupils who are Welsh learners in KS2, ensure that they learn the language as soon as possible through the primary language centres.

Special education: In the case of pupils with severe learning difficulties, a Headteacher is given a right in consultation with the education service to give individual consideration to each case, while ensuring that pupils have the necessary linguistic skills to cope as adults within their communities.

3.4 The use of the Welsh language in schools

The language category of both Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig is Welsh. The language category of the proposed extended school will also be Welsh. The potential effect of the proposal on the Welsh language is assessed below (3.5).

3.4a The use of the Welsh language in the community

The table below gives data about the Welsh language for the population of the wards in Llangefni and the Llanddyfnan ward:

Table 2

Area	Percentage of the population aged 3 and over:		
	Who only understand spoken Welsh	Who are able to speak Welsh	Who are able to speak, read and write in Welsh
Cefni	5.8%	80.5%	70.0%
Cyngar	5.6%	80.8%	69.1%
Llanddyfnan	6.8%	64.7%	55.9%
Tudur	6.5%	75.8%	64.3%
Anglesey	10.9%	56.1%	44.2%
Wales	5.3%	18.6%	14.1%

**Census 2011 figures*

It is seen that there is a high percentage of people who speak Welsh in the 4 wards.

3.5 Welsh Language Impact Assessment

What is being assessed?	The proposal being assessed is to “Increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn” .
Assessment completion date	This is a working document and will be revised on a regular basis.

3.5.1 - Compliance with the Welsh Language Policy	
<p>Is the proposal influential in terms of dealing with the Welsh-speaking public?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will activities such as corresponding by letter, communicating by telephone, public meetings and other meetings comply with the language policy? Will any new IT development comply with the policy? 	<p>Yes, a positive effect - see below.</p> <p>Yes – all correspondence and communications will continue to comply with the Welsh Language Policy.</p> <p>Yes – any new IT developments will continue to comply with the Welsh Language Policy.</p>
<p>Is the proposal likely to impact upon the public image of the organisation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will all signs comply with the language policy? Will publications and forms be compliant? Will any publicity material or marketing campaigns comply? Will staff recruitment advertisements comply? 	<p>See below.</p> <p>Yes – all signs will continue to comply with the language policy.</p> <p>Yes – publications and forms be compliant.</p> <p>Yes – any publicity material or marketing campaigns will comply.</p> <p>Yes – staff recruitment advertisements will comply.</p>
<p>Is the proposal likely to have an impact upon the implementation of the language policy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the proposal create new jobs? 	<p>See below.</p> <p>Yes – any new teaching posts will be created according to the staffing structure developed by the shadow governing body. <i>It is proposed that Ysgol y Graig will increase in capacity by 150 and therefore a corresponding increase in teachers will be required. In line with the Authority’s Language Policy, these post holders will need to be Welsh speakers.</i></p>

3.5.1 - Compliance with the Welsh Language Policy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the staffing arrangements facilitate the implementation of the language policy? • Will the proposal offer training through the medium of Welsh? • Will any arrangements with third parties comply with the language policy? • Will the proposal include any targets or indicators relating to the language? • How will performance be monitored and measured? 	<p>Yes – any new staff recruited will be Welsh speakers in line with the language policy and they will continue to implement the policy.</p> <p>Yes – new staff will be trained through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Yes – arrangements with third parties will comply with the language policy.</p> <p>Yes – the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Welsh at the end of key stages and the percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home.</p> <p>By data collected by the Education Service such as the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Welsh at the end of the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. Other data such as the percentage of pupils who speak Welsh at home is collected as part of the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) conducted in January every year.</p> <p><i>Additionally, there will be 6 monthly monitoring by the transformation service and feeding data will be fed to the County Language Forum in line with the Authority's monitoring of the Welsh language policy.</i></p>

3.5.2 - Effect on Welsh speaking users	
<p>Will the proposal offer a language choice for users?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it be possible for users to receive any part of the service in Welsh? 	<p>Yes the extended Ysgol Y Graig will be a Welsh language medium school. <i>However, the Welsh language will not be treated less favourably than the English language</i></p> <p><i>Yes – the whole service will be available in Welsh – however, as is happening in Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig, some pupils will be taught through the medium of English e.g. for English lessons.</i></p>
<p>Is there a risk for the proposal to discriminate against Welsh speaking service users?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the needs of Welsh speakers been considered in the proposal? 	<p>No – the extended Ysgol Y Graig will comply with the Authority's Welsh Language Policy.</p> <p>Yes – the needs of Welsh speaking pupils is one of the key drivers for this proposal.</p>

3.5.2 - Effect on Welsh speaking users	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are Welsh speakers likely to receive the same standard of service as provided in English? Are Welsh language arrangements likely to lead to a delay in the service? 	<p>Yes – the same standard of service will be provided to all pupils.</p> <p>No – Welsh language arrangements will not lead to a delay in the service.</p>
<p>Is the proposal likely to make Welsh more visible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it likely to increase use of the language by producing Welsh language materials and signs? Is it likely to influence others to make more use of Welsh, for example businesses? 	<p>Yes – see below.</p> <p>Yes – signage in the proposed school building and on the grounds will conform to the language policy. The proposed extended school will continue to promote and encourage the use of the Welsh language and will use Welsh language materials.</p> <p>Yes – realisation of the policy will ensure bilingual signage is seen by many in the locality.</p>
<p>Will the Welsh language service in relation to the proposal be accessible?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the service be as accessible in Welsh as in English? Will the services be available at the same time? 	<p>Yes – see below.</p> <p>Yes – pupils will receive education in Welsh and English. Other services pertaining to the proposal will be available bilingually e.g. transport and childcare provision.</p> <p>Yes - pupils will receive education from bilingual staff.</p>
3.5.3 - Effect on Welsh speaking communities	
<p>Is the proposal likely to contribute towards safeguarding Welsh in communities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it likely to contribute towards efforts to tackle the challenges of demographic change and migration - such as providing opportunities for young people to stay in their communities? Is it likely to contribute towards the local economy in Welsh speaking areas? Will it provide Welsh medium services - such as child-minding services? 	<p>See below.</p> <p>Yes – the proposal will provide sufficient spaces for existing pupils at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig and will also provide sufficient spaces for pupils arising from new housing developments in the catchment area.</p> <p>Yes – it could provide more jobs in the proposed extended school area of Llangefni.</p> <p>Yes – the proposal also includes a Nursery unit for pre-school age children.</p>

3.5.3 - Effect on Welsh speaking communities	
<p>Does the proposal take steps to promote and facilitate the Welsh language?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposal contribute towards Welsh medium community activities? Does it offer opportunities for young people to use Welsh outside school hours? Does it offer a new service that will also be available in Welsh – for example leisure or sporting activities and provision? Does it contribute or add value to other activities relating to language, such as the work of the local Welsh language initiative (Menter Iaith), the Urdd etc. 	<p>Yes – see below.</p> <p>Yes - if the proposal is realised, Welsh medium community activities will continue at the extended school.</p> <p>Yes – it will provide opportunities for pupils to use Welsh in after school clubs. As mentioned in part 8 of the consultation document: “Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn have also been successful in implementing the Welsh Language charter; it is expected that the newly expanded school will build on this solid foundation to ensure that Welsh is used outside of the classroom. It is also expected that pupils would be encouraged to participate in after school activities - which will be held through the medium of Welsh”</p> <p>Yes – realisation of this proposal will provide a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for pupils and the community to use.</p> <p>Yes – if the proposal is realised, Urdd activities will continue at the extended school.</p>
3.5.4 - Contribution towards Welsh language standards, language policies, strategies and other relevant guidance relating to the Welsh language	
<p>The language policies of partner organisations or nearby public bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the authority working in partnership on the proposal? Which other organisations are likely to be affected by the development? Do those organisations have Welsh language standards or language policies? Does the proposal contribute towards these schemes? 	<p>Yes – with Welsh Government who will part finance the project.</p> <p>Yes – Welsh Government</p> <p>Yes – Welsh Government has its own Welsh language standards or language policies.</p> <p>Yes – the proposal will also comply with Welsh Government’s requirements.</p>
<p>Relevant Welsh language strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will the proposal contribute towards the Anglesey Welsh Language Strategic Forum’s Welsh Language Strategy 2016 – 2021 which was adopted by this Council in September 2016? 	<p>The proposal contributes with the following sections of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 in the following ways:</p>

3.5.4 - Contribution towards Welsh language standards, language policies, strategies and other relevant guidance relating to the Welsh language	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the proposal contribute towards the vision of the Welsh Government for one million Welsh speakers by 2050? 	<p>Outcome 1 – More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Objective 2 – Ensure that 21st Century Schools proposals strengthen Welsh medium provision.</p> <p>By having a Childcare Unit which will provide wrap around care for children of pre-school age, it would provide a sound foundation, in Welsh for the children before they transfer to the extended primary school. It would therefore contribute to increasing the number of seven-year-old children that are taught through the medium of Welsh. This would contribute to achieving Outcome 1 above.</p> <p>In implementing the Early Years strategy and in delivering the County's schools modernisation plan, it will help to ensure that 21st Century Schools proposals give full consideration to Welsh medium provision for children up to 11 years of age.</p> <p>The Authority's new language policy refers to the aim to increase the proportion of Foundation Phase pupils up to the end of their time in the secondary school that meet the targets of Welsh as a First Language. It is intended to use a childcare model as the one under consideration in this project to increase the Welsh medium childcare capacity on Anglesey. The childcare partnership model has the potential to be a key contributor to the Welsh Government's ambition to have a million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>

Both schools currently provide activities through the Urdd (see Community Impact Assessment – Section 4) and this would continue to be the case in the proposed extended primary school.

NOTE – Neither school currently offers Welsh lessons to the community – this may well be due to the low demand for Welsh lessons in the area and the fact that more than 75% of the local population speak Welsh. However, both schools have the facility to offer Welsh lessons and the extended primary school would have a community room that could be used for Welsh lessons or for any other activity that will be conducted through the medium of Welsh.

3.5.5 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

Both Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig are Welsh medium and the newly extended Ysgol Y Graig will be a Welsh medium school. Therefore, there will be no change in the language category if the Executive approves the proposal.

Realisation of the proposal would support Outcomes 1, 2 and 5 of the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 (approved by Welsh Government in March 2018):

Outcome 1: More seven year old children being educated through the medium of Welsh.

Outcome 2: More pupils continuing to improve their Welsh skills when transferring from the primary school to the secondary school.

Outcome 5: More pupils and students with higher skills in Welsh.

The Education Service reports on a quarterly basis to the County Council's Language Forum on the use of Welsh in the Authority's schools. The County Council's Language Forum monitors the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) on a quarterly basis.

3.5.6 Potential effect of the proposal on the Welsh language

Language Criteria	Observations	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Language spoken at home	Fluent Welsh speakers at home (all ages): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ysgol Talwrn – 20 pupils or 50% Ysgol Y Graig – 253 pupils or 68% Data (PLASC Jan 2020)	Neutral	If the proposal goes ahead, based on current figures, 57% or 242 of the pupils at the extended primary school would be fluent Welsh speakers. Realisation of the proposal will give pupils the opportunity to improve their bilingual skills by socialising with a larger number of pupils (compared to the present number of pupils at both schools).
Language category of the existing schools	Talwrn – Welsh Y Graig – Welsh	Positive	Pupils at both schools are educated in Welsh. However, developing bilingual pupils will be a permanent and significant focus in the School Development Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class arrangements can target the development of the specific language needs of the cohort. By tracking pupils, their progress in developing bilingualism will be considered. The Headteacher's report to the governors will include the percentages of pupils in each language cohort. Progress at end of Key Stages. Progress with reference to the Language Charter. The proposed extended school will be a Welsh medium, community school. It will be a priority for the Authority to

Language Criteria	Observations	Impact	Mitigation Measures
			<p>strengthen and safeguard the Welsh language and bilingual education.</p> <p><i>Prior to the lockdown, one of the projects developed was to establish a scheme to promote the spoken Welsh language in Llangefni town shops. This was done by encouraging shop workers and local businesses to greet, ask and answer questions through the medium of Welsh. Cards were created giving the workers guidance on how to pronounce the words in Welsh. Support for the scheme was received from the Welsh Language Commissioner who chatted with the Language Charter Council as well as shopping owners, about the work. Due to the pandemic situation, there is no quantitative data summarising the linguistic impact of this project on the residents of the town and it was also not possible to collect the qualitative accounts for the same reason.</i></p>
The use of Welsh in the community	According to the 2011 Census, 57% of the people of Anglesey speak Welsh. The percentage has decreased over the past decades – 62% of the people of Anglesey could speak Welsh in 1981.	Positive	<p>Need to promote the use of the Welsh language (Anglesey Well-being Assessment 2017). Education through the medium of Welsh will help increase the use of Welsh in the community.</p> <p>The Schools Modernisation Programme will collaborate with the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board to promote the use of the Welsh language in the community, and contribute towards the Welsh Government's target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p> <p>The Education Service reports on a quarterly basis to the County Council's Language Forum on the use of Welsh in the Authority's schools. The County Council's Language Forum monitors the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>The proposed extended school will continue to promote and encourage the use of the Welsh language and will</p>

Language Criteria	Observations	Impact	Mitigation Measures				
			promote the informal use of the language by the pupils during school hours and in after school activities on site.				
The language medium of pupils on the yard, in the breakfast club and after-school clubs	The language medium of pupils on the yard, in the breakfast club and after-school clubs of both schools is bilingual.	Neutral	This will not change in the proposed extended school. This could be improved by providing more space for play and planning of structured play on the yard. The proposed extended school will continue to promote and encourage the use of the Welsh language and will promote the informal use of the language by the pupils.				
The school's involvement in Welsh-medium activities	Both schools are heavily involved in Welsh medium activities.	Neutral	This will not change in the proposed extended school. Further information on community activities that are conducted in Welsh can be seen in the Community Impact Assessment below.				
The ability of teaching staff to teach through the medium of Welsh	<table><tr><th>Talwrn</th><th>Y Graig</th></tr><tr><td>Every member of teaching staff is fluent in Welsh</td><td>Every member of teaching staff is fluent in Welsh</td></tr></table>	Talwrn	Y Graig	Every member of teaching staff is fluent in Welsh	Every member of teaching staff is fluent in Welsh	Neutral	Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig provide education through the medium of Welsh, and there will be no change in the linguistic status of the new provision.
Talwrn	Y Graig						
Every member of teaching staff is fluent in Welsh	Every member of teaching staff is fluent in Welsh						
The ability of Governors to speak Welsh	<table><tr><th>Talwrn</th><th>Y Graig</th></tr><tr><td>90% of Governors are fluent in Welsh (9 out of 10)</td><td>Every Governor is fluent in Welsh (13 out of 13)</td></tr></table>	Talwrn	Y Graig	90% of Governors are fluent in Welsh (9 out of 10)	Every Governor is fluent in Welsh (13 out of 13)	Neutral	Both sets of Governors are fluent in Welsh and so there will be no change in the linguistic nature of the Governors should the proposal be realised.
Talwrn	Y Graig						
90% of Governors are fluent in Welsh (9 out of 10)	Every Governor is fluent in Welsh (13 out of 13)						
Feedback concerns provided during the statutory consultation	"Some of the data included within the Impact Assessment is dated, particularly achievement against Welsh indicators. Wouldn't it be fairer to use more recent data?"	Neutral	The data likely mentioned by the stakeholder and used within the Impact Assessment is from 2015 to 2017. This data was used because Welsh Government stopped publishing the data for each school after this time. However data for 2018 and 2019 was included in the				

Language Criteria	Observations	Impact	Mitigation Measures
			<p><i>consultation document regarding standards attained by pupils in the school concerned in Welsh, English, Mathematics and Science.</i></p> <p><i>When stakeholders were asked to make comments regarding the proposal (via the Smart Survey), 5 (9%) comments were received regarding the effect the proposal would have on the Welsh Language. When stakeholders were asked "Are there any other matters the Council should consider as part of their impact assessment" (via the Smart Survey), 10 (18%) comments were provided which related to the Welsh Language.</i></p>
	Combined effect on the Welsh language	+3 Positive	

Conclusion - the proposal would have a positive effect on the Welsh language.

4. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This assessment considers the possible effect of the proposal “Increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn” on the local community.

The tables below show the number of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig over the past 5 years followed by the forecasted number of pupils for the next 5 years together with pupil projections if the proposal goes ahead:

4.1 Pupil numbers in the past

School	Capacity - excluding Nursery	Pupil Numbers in January:					% Surplus January 2019
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Talwrn	49	44	47	47	43	45	8%
Y Graig	330	333	333	335	326	339	-3%*

*Over capacity

4.2 Five Year Forecasts

School	Capacity - excluding Nursery	Number of pupils September 2019	Projected number on roll in September:				
			2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Talwrn	49	40	47	46	41	39	37
Y Graig	330	324	329	331	326	320	334

From 2019 to 2024, pupil numbers at Ysgol Talwrn are forecasted to decrease from 40 to 37 which is an 8% reduction. During the same time period, pupil number at Ysgol y Graig are forecasted to increase from 324 to 334 which is a 3% increase. The forecasts confirm that pupil numbers will increase to a total of 371 in both schools by 2024.

4.3 Pupil Projections if the proposal goes ahead

There is a need to consider new housing developments in the catchment area and the primary school age children which will arise from these. The number of primary school age children arising from the new housing developments are shown in the table below:

School	Number of housing developments in the catchment area to 2026	Corresponding number of children*
Y Graig	397	67 - 143
Talwrn	6	1 - 2

*Evidence suggests that each house on Anglesey, has, on average 0.17 children of primary school age. Multiplying the number of housing developments with 0.17, gives an estimated number of additional children who will need to be educated at that particular school. However, in the Tudur ward, there is an average of 0.36 children of primary school age in each house and this can lead to a maximum of 145 pupils arising from the new housing developments.

Although the proposed housing developments are in the Joint Local Development Plan, there are several factors that affect whether these proposed developments will move forward in the planning process.

Firstly, they would need to be assessed to determine whether the proposed development(s) would meet the requirements in order to be able to seek planning permission and then whether planning permission (which is valid for 5 years) would be granted. In other words, the number of houses in the table above is an estimation and is not an assurance that all of these houses will be built by 2027. If these proposed housing developments were built, the developer would very likely build them in phases. This would mean that the number of pupils would increase gradually and would NOT mean that the maximum number of pupils i.e. 145 would start to attend the school at the same time.

The table below shows the projected pupil numbers at the proposed extended Ysgol y Graig to September 2027 taking into consideration the maximum number of proposed housing developments mentioned above.

	Projected number on roll Sept 2023	Projected number on roll Sept 2024	Projected number on roll Sept 2025	Projected number on roll Sept 2026	Projected number on roll Sept 2027
Extended Ysgol Y Graig	383	404	407	418	419

Parents can also choose to send their child(ren) to whichever school they wish.

It is important to note that projections are difficult as a number of pupils attend the schools from other catchment areas. As at October 2019, Ysgol Talwrn has 14% surplus places, although 17% of pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn are from the Corn Hir catchment area, and 31% of pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn are from the Ysgol Y Graig catchment area.

4.4 Pre-school Provision

The following pre-school provision is available in the Graig / Talwrn area of Llangefni:

- Ysgol y Graig is registered for children aged 3-11 years old and provides early years education for children who have turned 3 years of age before 1 September in any year. Its capacity is 24 per session but as of September 2019, 50 children use the facility.

The forecasts for the nursery provision 3-4 year olds at Ysgol Y Graig are as follows:

Nursery	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ysgol Y Graig	50	47	47	47	47	47	47

- The Flying Start provision.** Part of the Welsh Government's early years programme for families with children under 4 years of age. It aims to provide intensive support services for children aged 0-4 years old and their families. The focus of the programme is on promoting language, cognitive, social and emotional skills, physical development and the early identification of high needs. This is done through the delivery of health support and guidance, parenting support and groups and speech, language and communication support and quality part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds. Flying Start is a multidisciplinary team, which includes Family Workers, Childcare staff, Speech & Language Therapist, Early Years Teachers, Health Assistants and a team of dedicated support staff.
- Meithrinfa Medra** day nursery. This day nursery offers early years care and education for young babies and children up to school age, under the care of qualified and experienced staff.
- Cylch Meithrin Stryd y Bont** is a Welsh-medium non-maintained charitable organisation, which is currently commissioned to provide early education for 10 hours per week, term time only. Its capacity is 24 and as of September 2019, 18 children use the facility.
- Meithrinfa Sêr Bach** is located on the site of Parc Bryn Cefni, Llangefni. The service can provide care for a maximum of 55 children from birth up to the age of eight and is open from 7:30am until 6:00pm, Monday to Friday.

- There is a **Play group (Cylch Meithrin)** at the **Talwrn** village hall which operates 4 mornings a week. Its capacity is 16 and as of September 2019, 5 children were using the facility. There is no nursery provision at Ysgol Talwrn.

It is foreseen that the provision at Meithrinfa Medra , Meithrinfa Sêr Bach and Flying Start would continue if the proposal comes to fruition. Numbers attending the Cylch Meithrin Stryd y Bont and the Cylch Meithrin at Talwrn Village Hall may be at risk if the proposal goes ahead.

Sufficiency of Accommodation

The number of nursery places at the newly expanded Ysgol Y Graig would be 68. The nursery provision (capacity of 68) at the expanded Ysgol Y Graig would be sufficient for the projected number of children utilising the facility.

Level of demand (Llangefni Area - Cefni, Cyngar,Tudur Wards)

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment completed by the Council in April 2017, identified no registered after school provision on school sites in the Llangefni area or sufficient registered holiday provision. This provision was only available within the private day nurseries.

Childcare places within day nurseries in Anglesey were sufficient in 2017 to meet the demand of parents. However since the introduction of the Childcare Offer, spaces are limited. The sector traditionally offers care to children from 6 months to 4 years of age.

Provision within the Llangefni area as at April 2019

Childminders	Full Day Care (Private provider)	Sessional e.g Cylch Meithrin	Flying Start	After School Registered (Private provider)	Holiday (Private provider)
4	3	4	1	3	3
	Blodyn Tatws Nursery, Medra Nursery. Sêr Bach Nursery.	Cylch meithrin Bodffordd, Corn Hir, Talwrn, Stryd Y Bont.	Situated on the Ysgol Y Graig site.	Blodyn Tatws Nursery, Medra Nursery, Sêr Bach Nursery.	Blodyn Tatws Nursery, Medra Nursery, Sêr Bach Nursery.

There is a lack of childcare provision in the area for children aged 3 – 11 years of age. The number of childminders in the area has remained static and across the County there are more deregistering than being registered. This trend is continuing.

Demand for certain type of Nursery education

All current sessional services in this area provide Welsh medium education. The private nurseries provide bilingual services. In the area there is an educational provision at Canolfan Addysg Y Bont, which cares and educates children with additional learning needs. The Canolfan does not currently provide any after school or holiday childcare provision. Should a childcare unit be available at the newly extended Ysgol Y Graig, it would also be a provision within reach of children attending Canolfan Addysg Y Bont.

Effect of the proposal on other institutions

The newly extended Ysgol Y Graig is intended to complement the existing provision of childminders and private day nurseries in the area. There will be an expectation that the service will be competitive with the local rates charged by the private providers which will provide choice and sufficiency of childcare in this area for parents.

Extent to which the proposal will integrate early year's education with childcare services

The local authority is currently evaluating the proposal that Ysgol Y Graig has a childcare unit which can provide childcare for children aged 2–11 on one school site. Currently there is insufficient childcare provision in that particular area which is a barrier for parents entering work. The provision of all services on one school site by a reputable provider would also ensure the financial sustainability of the provision and offer additional working hours for staff and create new jobs.

The provision of early year's education, childcare, after school and holiday provision would provide a seamless service to parents and ensure continuity of care for children. The provision would be available from 8am until 6pm each day, including school holidays and possibly teacher training days. The provision will be registered with Care Inspectorate Wales as all day childcare and consequently allow for parents to claim the Childcare Offer for children aged 3 -4, childcare vouchers or child tax credits to benefit from financial support to reduce the childcare costs. The availability of registered all day childcare on school sites will make it easier for parents to resume work, increase their working hours and equally be satisfied that their children are receiving the best possible standards of care.

Therefore, the intention is that the proposal will complement the existing childcare facilities in the area and not compete with them or indeed to put them out of business.

Points raised by stakeholder during the consultation

"It is likely that the Cylch Meithrin in Talwrn would close / reduce, and staff would lose their jobs". "Cylch Meithrin Talwrn were not informed of the publication of the consultation document"

Council reply

This is acknowledged in section 4.4. of the Impact Assessment:

"4.4 Pre-school Provision

It is foreseen that the provision at Meithrinfa Medra, Meithrinfa Sêr Bach and Flying Start would continue if the proposal comes to fruition. Numbers attending the Cylch Meithrin Stryd y Bont and the Cylch Meithrin at Talwrn Village Hall may be at risk if the proposal goes ahead."

*The aim of the Impact Assessment is to look at risks such as the one mentioned and mitigate or lessen its impact. Cylch Meithrin Talwrn **were** informed of the publication of the consultation document in an e-mail on 6 February 2020 sent at 13:06."*

Another stakeholder stated:

"Negative impact on private childcare nurseries, staff will lose jobs, and the price for pupils under 2 is likely to increase to cover loss of income from pupils aged 2 and above"

Council reply

The Impact Assessment in section 5.5 discusses the possible effect of the proposal on childcare facilities in the area. The Assessment states:

"Effect of the proposal on other institutions

The newly extended Ysgol Y Graig is intended to complement the existing provision of childminders and private day nurseries in the area. There will be an expectation that the service will be competitive with the local rates charged by the private providers which will provide choice and sufficiency of childcare in this area for parents."

4.5 Facilities and services provided by the schools

Details of facilities and services provided by the schools were obtained from questionnaires completed by the Headteachers of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig. Llanddyfnan Community Council also provided details of local activities held.

4.6.1 Extra-curricular activities available to pupils at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig

Ysgol Talwrn Activity	During the term or holidays?	Frequency – per academic year
Yr Urdd	Term	20
After school Football Club	Term	Weekly, during the Autumn Term, after school
Netball Club	Term	Weekly, during the Summer term, after school
STEM Club	Term	Weekly, during the Autumn and Spring terms, after school
Members of the community reading with pupils	Term	2 hours per week.

Ysgol Y Graig Activity	During the term or holidays?	Frequency – per academic year
Art Club	Term	30
Football Club (Girls)	Term	20
Football Club	Term	20
Rugby Club	Term	20
Golf	Term	10
Badminton	Term	10
Yr Urdd	Term	20

4.5.2 School facilities at Ysgol Talwrn and Y Graig used by local groups:

Ysgol Talwrn User and facility	During the term or during holidays?	Frequency – per academic year
Guides		9
Pensioners Lunch club		15
Pensioners computer training		8

Ysgol Y Graig User and facility	During the term or during holidays?	Frequency – per academic year
Yoga Club Monday	Term	34
Yoga Club Wednesday	Term	34
Judo Club	Term	34
Eisteddfod Mon (Instrumental)	Term	1
Urdd Committee (Cefni catchment)	Term	3
Anglesey Youth Choir	Term	2

4.5.3 Local facilities used by Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig:

Ysgol Talwrn Service	During the term or during holidays?	Frequency – per academic year
Talwrn Village Hall – St Dwynwen’s Disco	Term	1
Talwrn Chapel	Term	1
Talwrn Village Hall- eisteddfod practice	Holidays	1
Talwrn Village Hall- Eisteddfod Talwrn	Holidays	1
Talwrn Village Hall-Christmas Fair (Breakfast with Santa)	Term	1
Talwrn Village Hall- Christmas Concert	Term	1
Talwrn Village Hall- Nursery playgroup – Christmas Fair	Term	1
Talwrn Village Hall- School and Nursery playgroup joint activities	Term	3
Plas Arthur- Leisure Centre	Term	Weekly during Autumn and Spring term
Gymnastics Club	Term	Weekly use
Oriel Môn	Term	3

Ysgol Y Graig Service	During the term or during holidays?	Frequency – per academic year
Plas Arthur (Leisure Centre)-Swimming	Term	30
Plas Arthur (Leisure Centre)-Swimming and sports competitions	Term	10
Llangefni Rugby Club	Term	2
Llangefni Football Club	Term	1
Oriel Môn	Term	10
Llangefni Library	Term	10
Moreia Chapel Llangefni	Term	2
St Cyngar's Church Llangefni	Term	1
Llangefni Archives	Term	2

4.5.4 Community facilities located near Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig (including private businesses).

Name of Facility / Business near Ysgol Talwrn	Bilingual / Medium of English or Medium of Welsh	Start Date
Bodeilio Shop	Bilingual	
Talwrn Nursery Group	Welsh	

Name of Facility / Business Near Ysgol Y Graig	Bilingual / Medium of English or Medium of Welsh	Start Date
Bakery – Becws Mefus	Bilingual	
Play ground		
Church	Bilingual	
Lôn y Felin Chapel	Welsh	
Ebeneser Community Centre	Bilingual	
Flying Start Centre	Bilingual	
Medra Nursery	Bilingual	
Coleg Menai (FE)	Bilingual	

4.5.4 Community activities available near Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig:

Name of Facility / Business Near Ysgol Talwrn	Bilingual / Medium of English or Medium of Welsh	Start Date
Eisteddfod y Talwrn	Welsh	
Gymnastics Club	Bilingual	

Name of Facility / Business Near Ysgol Y Graig	Bilingual / Medium of English or Medium of Welsh	Start Date
Merched y Wawr	Welsh	
Slimming World	Bilingual	
Karate	Bilingual	
Rugby Club	Bilingual	
Football Club	Bilingual	
Women's Union	Bilingual	
Flying Start (Parenting training)	Bilingual	

4.5.5 Childcare and pre-school care available at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig:

Ysgol Talwrn	Language	Independent from the school	Location of Provision	Frequency
Breakfast club	Welsh	No	School Hall	Daily during school year
Morning child minding club	Welsh	No	School Hall	Daily during school year

Ysgol Y Graig	Language	Independent from the school?	Location of Provision	Frequency
Morning child minding club	Welsh	No	School Hall	Daily during school year
Breakfast club	Welsh	No	School Hall	Daily during school year
After school club	Welsh	No	School Hall	Daily during school year
After school club	Welsh	Yes	Flying Start building	Daily during school year

If the proposal is authorised, it is foreseen that parents and pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig would support and engage with the extended Ysgol Y Graig. Pupils who receive free school meals (Ysgol Talwrn 18%, and Ysgol Y Graig 27%) would not be treated any differently to those who do not receive free school meals and would be encouraged to participate in after school activities such as those mentioned above, in the extended school.

If the proposal is realised, the extended primary school will be a Community School and will therefore include a larger main hall for community activities, a community meeting room. If the proposal is realised, most if not all facilities and services provided by Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig could be provided at the extended primary school.

4.5.6 Community activities held locally at Talwrn

Llanddyfnan Community Council has also provided details of activities held locally, and facilities that are used locally:

Village Hall
Playground
Village shop
Merched y Wawr
Talwrn Eisteddfod
Guides
Nursery
Bingo
Whist
Methodist Chapel
Congregational Chapel
Llanffinan Church
Archeology meetings

4.6 Distance and travelling time

If the proposal is authorised, it would mean longer travel distances for some pupils. Based on the current number of pupils on roll at Ysgol Talwrn (July 2019), 33% would travel less to the proposed school site whilst 67% would have to travel further. As the route from Talwrn to Llangefni on the B5109 is classed as a hazardous route, the Authority would provide transportation for these pupils, meaning they would be unlikely to walk or cycle to school.

In July 2019, 20 pupils or 53% of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn came from outside the catchment area. Figures for July 2019 show that 30 pupils or 9% of pupils at Ysgol Y Graig come from outside the catchment area.

As it is proposed that a new school block (extension) will locate less than a mile away from the current school building, pupils from the school will still be able to walk to the new foundation phase block. A Traffic Impact Assessment of the effect of the potential new block, on the travel arrangements of staff and pupils has been prepared.

Other than additional transportation from Talwrn to the proposed extended Ysgol Y Graig, it is very unlikely that the proposal would have an effect on public transport.

The Welsh Government states that primary aged pupils should not have to travel more than 45 minutes each way to school. The Local Authority provides free transport for primary school pupils under the age of 16 who live **2 miles** or more from school in whose catchment area they live. The same policy also states, "that transport will not be provided for part-time nursery pupils."

4.7a Staffing considerations

If the proposal is approved, there will be no changes for Ysgol Y Graig staff, however staff at Ysgol Talwrn will be at risk of redundancy and the Restructuring and Redundancy Policy for schools and Redeployment Policy for schools would be invoked.

Here is a link to the policy:

<https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/statutory-consultation-ysgol-y-graig-and-ysgol-talwrn>

4.8 Community Impact Assessment

Criteria	Observations	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Pupils who live outside the catchment area who attend school	<p>Pupils from outside the catchment area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ysgol Talwrn – 20 pupils or 53% Ysgol Y Graig – 30 pupils or 9% (July 2019 data) 	Positive	If the proposal is approved, it is likely that the catchment areas of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig would be combined. Based on current figures, this means that there would be less out of catchment pupils present in the extended primary school.
Services provided by the school for the community including extra-curricular activities	Both schools provide many activities and services. It is foreseen that this provision would continue. It is foreseen that there will be community use of the proposed extended school.	Neutral	<p>As Ysgol Y Graig will be extended to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, activities and services provided from Ysgol y Graig will continue to be provided at the extended Ysgol Y Graig.</p> <p>Services provided by Ysgol Talwrn for the community could be held in the Talwrn village hall as an alternative.</p>
Community facilities used regularly by the school	Use is made of a local chapel or church by both schools and if a extended primary school was to be built, their congregations would still use the places of worship.	Neutral	If Ysgol Talwrn closes then there could be an opportunity for the community (Guides, Pensioners lunch club, and Pensioners computer training) to use Talwrn village hall as an alternative to the school.
Community facilities provided by the school and activities held on school grounds	As Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig are community schools, the community makes use of the buildings and the school grounds.	Neutral	<p>As Ysgol Y Graig will be extended, facilities provided from the school will be provided at the proposed extended primary school.</p> <p>Community facilities provided by the school in Talwrn could be undertaken at extended Ysgol Y Graig, or from within other sites within Talwrn, such as the village hall or the Talwrn church.</p>
Other impacts Transport + public	<p>If the proposal is approved, transport to the extended primary school will have to be arranged at a cost to the Authority.</p> <p>It is very unlikely that the proposal would have an effect on public transport.</p>	Negative	If the proposal is approved, transport to the extended primary school would be arranged by the Authority.






Criteria	Observations	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Other Effect on community	Closing Ysgol Talwrn could have an impact on the attractiveness of a local area for possible house purchasers, especially those who have or intend to have children. On the contrary, local residents could consider closing or relocating a school away from an area to be a useful thing and make the area more attractive for house buyers who are looking for a quieter neighbourhood. However, the possibility for change in residents' composition over time is acknowledged.	Neutral	Talwrn does have a community run shop (Siop Bodeilio) a village Hall and chapel available for all local residents.
Feedback concerns provided during the statutory consultation	<i>The Talwrn community is likely to age due to the closure of the school.</i>	Neutral	<i>It is possible that the average age of the population of Talwrn may increase if the proposal comes to fruition. Equally, it may not change.</i>
	Combined effect on the community	Neutral	

Conclusion – The proposal would seem to have a neutral effect on the community.

5. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 gives a legally-binding common purpose of seven Well-being Goals and five Ways of Working designed to support and deliver a public service that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

5.1 How the proposal meets the requirements for way of working?

Way of working	Definition	How the proposal meets the requirements way of working
Long term		
	The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	Ensuring the long-term sustainability of education in the community and ensuring that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs both now and in the future. Ensuring the school establishment is fit for purpose and complies with 21 st Century guidelines.
Prevention		
	How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objective.	Securing the long-term future of education in the area.
Integration		
	Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies	Community integration is a focus of all new schools creating an environment to support culture, heritage and the Welsh language. Providing sufficient places ensures that the curriculum can be delivered and meets social, environmental and cultural objectives.
Collaboration		
	Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its wellbeing objectives.	Increase collaboration between services and communities to ensure the continued delivery of education to all pupils and the consultation involves extensive engagement and involvement with pupils, staff, Governors and the community. This will involve collaborating with stakeholders during and after the consultation process to secure the long-term future of education in the area. The local authority works effectively with schools, Estyn, GwE, community councils and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building will meet the short-term and future needs of the users and the community it will serve.
Involvement		
	The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.	The proposal is subject to a formal statutory consultation. This will enable stakeholder involvement in the proposal.

5.2 Well-being of Future Generations Act

In order to realise the Schools Modernisation Programme and taking into account the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015), we will focus on creating more resilient communities, engaging with our communities, establishing a local partnership, and including our communities in the long-term planning. By following such a process, we aim to enable providers and communities to develop services based on need, to encourage the sharing of resources and lead to more efficient expenditure in the long term.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Isle of Anglesey County Council is working towards achieving the objectives of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015). As a follow-up to the Well-being Assessment that was undertaken, a Well-being Plan has been developed, led by the Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Public Services Board. The consultation and engagement arrangements for schools' modernisation will be designed to meet the needs of the plan.

The table below outlines how it is anticipated the proposal to:

Increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn will contribute to the 7 wellbeing goals:

7 well-being goals	How the proposal will contribute to the 7 well-being goals
Prosperous	The project will ensure that the proposed extended Ysgol Y Graig is fit for purpose and will ensure that every pupil's capacity and potential to succeed is realised.
Equal	<i>The Authority is committed to maximising the value of every pound the Local Authority spends, and this can be realised with community benefits. Community Benefits will enable people to reach their potential. The Authority will incorporate community benefits into all projects, including, if approved, the extended Ysgol Y Graig project. The Authority will also ensure equality of opportunity regardless of a pupil's ability and background. Ensuring that the people of Anglesey can thrive and realise their long-term potential is one of the Authority's most important priorities as mentioned in the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 and the Council Plan 2017-2022.</i>
Resilient	<p>The Isle of Anglesey County Council has a policy that was established jointly with the other counties in North Wales for engaging with stakeholders. The policy is based on the national principles for public engagement.</p> <p>If the proposal is approved by the Executive, then a statutory consultation process will be held to gather stakeholders' views. Following the consultation, a stakeholder group could be established in order to maintain joint working with the Authority.</p> <p>There will also be opportunities for children to contribute to the process. In addition, if the proposal is approved, the Governing Body will develop the potential extended school's budget and staffing structure. It will also decide how to provide education to all pupils and will make the school more resilient to withstand changes in staff turnover to the future.</p> <p>The expanded school will have water efficient fixtures. The proposed extension to Ysgol Y Graig will consider food-growing opportunities that support areas for wildlife and that are accessible to all pupils and will promote and support uptake of eco-friendly initiatives such as eco-schools.</p>

7 well-being goals	How the proposal will contribute to the 7 well-being goals
Healthier	<p>The Community Impact Assessment, which is a part of this assessment, confirms that the existing schools in Talwrn and Y Graig operate as community schools.</p> <p>Furthermore, the proposed extended school, will be used as a community hub that promotes healthier communities e.g. by offering sporting activities for community members. The Authority will endeavour to make it as easy as possible to get to the school by walking or on a bicycle.</p>
Cohesive communities	<p>As part of the statutory consultation, stakeholders will have an opportunity to voice their opinions and offer comments on the proposal to “Increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn.”</p> <p>The extended Ysgol Y Graig will contribute towards the area’s community infrastructure. The proposal has the potential to form a new community based around Talwrn and the catchment area of Ysgol Y Graig.</p>
A vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	<p>The Welsh language Impact Assessment is enclosed. Both Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig are Welsh-medium schools. The proposal will strengthen Welsh medium provision in the area.</p> <p>The Schools Modernisation Programme will collaborate with the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board to promote the use of the Welsh language in the community, and contribute towards the Welsh Government’s target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p> <p>The Learning Service reports on a quarterly basis to the County Council’s Language Forum on the use of Welsh in the Authority’s schools and the Authority’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is monitored on a quarterly basis by the County Council’s Language Forum. The performance of pupils at both schools in Welsh i.e. the percentage of pupils achieving the required standard is good in both schools.</p>
A globally responsible Wales	<p>The school modernisation programme and the related projects are aligned with corporate, local and national strategies. The programme has worked closely with Welsh Government, stakeholders and partners to ensure that the projects are being supported and that the strategic direction is understood. This means that stakeholders know how the proposed scheme will help to achieve the business goals, strategic aims and plans of the Authority.</p> <p>Improvements to our schools will lead to improvements in energy efficiency by, for example, generating electricity using photovoltaic panels. This will also lead to reduction in the generation of carbon dioxide and will help teach the pupils to use natural resources wisely.</p>

6. CONCLUSION

The proposal was assessed for its potential impact on:

- Equality
- Language i.e. the Welsh language
- Community.

The effect on each part was as follows:

Combined effect on:	Impact:
Equality	+2 Positive
Language	+3 Positive
Community	Neutral

After considering the proposal (to Increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn) for its potential impact on equality, the Welsh Language and the community, the proposal would have a positive impact.

The document also shows in Section 5 how the proposal meets the requirements of the Well- being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

7 – Human Rights

Human rights are rights and freedoms that belong to all individuals, regardless of their nationality and citizenship. There are 16 basic rights in the Human Rights Act – all taken from the European Convention on Human Rights. For the purposes of the Act, they are known as ‘the Convention Rights’. They are listed below:

(Article 1 is introductory and is not incorporated into the Human Rights Act)

Article 2: The right to life

Article 3: Prohibition of torture

Article 4: Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

Article 5: Right to liberty and security

Article 6: Right to a fair trial

Article 7: No punishment without law

Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life

Article 9: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Article 10: Freedom of expression

Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association

Article 12: Right to marry

Article 14: Prohibition of discrimination

Article 1 of Protocol 1: Protection of property

Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education

Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to free elections

Article 1 of Protocol 13: Abolition of the death penalty

8 - Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

This Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Public bodies need to make sure that when making their decisions they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals:

Goal	Description of the goal
A prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
A resilient Wales	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
A healthier Wales	A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.