

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report for:	The Executive
Date:	15 March 2021
Subject:	Objection Report – Llangefni Area School Modernisation Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig
Portfolio Member(s):	Councillor R. Meirion Jones
Director:	Rhys H Hughes Director of Education, Skills and Young People
Report Author: Tel: Email:	Emrys Bebb 2919 emrysbebb@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Councillor Bob Parry Councillor Dylan Rees Councillor Nicola Roberts

A – Recommendation/ Recommendations and Reason/ Reasons	
<p>Reasons: In order to comply with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018, the Council published a Statutory Notice on 18 January 2021 of its intention to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>The statutory notice was published on 18 January 2021, followed by a 28-day objection period. Therefore, the objection period ended on 15 February 2021.</p> <p>46 objections to the above proposal were received.</p> <p>In accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018 published by Welsh Government, the proposer or proposers, the Isle of Anglesey County Council in this case, must publish a report describing any objections received i.e. an objection report. The objection report can be seen in Appendix 1.</p> <p>The way in which the Isle of Anglesey County Council deals with objections to a statutory notice follows a procedure in accordance with the School Organisation Code and has been in force since October 2013.</p> <p>In accordance with section 5.3 of the School Organisation Code 2018, local authorities must “decide whether to approve, reject or approve with modifications, the proposals”.</p> <p>Recommendation Having considered the objections received during the objection period, it is recommended that the Executive should approve the original proposal to:</p> <p>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>	

Background

Between 6 February 2020 and 20 March 2020, Council officers 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 (20 March 2020), 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. For example (but not confined to):

- 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.

As part of the consultation process, other educational models were suggested by stakeholders 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 by stakeholders 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:

- ensuring that school buildings are fit for purpose;
- improving educational standards;
- improving leadership and management;
- 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, head-teachers 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 £505,500 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. The proposal eliminates the variation in cost per pupil in the area, and it is estimated that the cost per pupil at the expanded Ysgol y Graig would be lower than the average for Anglesey primary schools.
- 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 £505,500. If the council were to fund this work through an unsupported loan over a 20-year period, it would cost around £40,000 a year. **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.**

In summary, therefore, the 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"

B – What other options did you consider and what were your reasons for rejecting and/or selecting this option?

In the consultation report, 12 reasonable alternatives to the closure of Ysgol Talwrn were considered and further assessed. Those options are set out as follows:

1. Invest in Ysgol Talwrn to bring it to 21st Century standards
2. Open a new area school for Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Pentraeth
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 existing building at Ysgol Y Graig (not a new block)
4. Leave Ysgol Talwrn as it is
5. Merge Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Talwrn
6. Merge Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Pentraeth
7. Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (thus increasing capacity) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate pressure with regard to Llangefni schools being over capacity.
8. Address the current and projected maintenance costs at Ysgol Talwrn.
9. Federate Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and extend Ysgol Y Graig.
10. Bring Ysgol Talwrn to 21st Century standards, and federate with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Bodffordd
11. Keep all schools in Llangefni open, and invest to bring them up to 21st Century standards. Consider options regarding federating at a later date.
12. Open an all-age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to take pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.

All these options were considered and evaluated in the consultation report against key drivers as outlined in the School Modernisation Strategy. However, the options did not meet the key drivers outlined in the Schools Modernisation Strategy compared to the proposal. Neither did they meet the challenges that are facing Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

The Executive is responsible for school organisation matters.

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

Yes.

It is in line with the School Modernisation Strategy for Anglesey (adopted by the Executive) and the Annual Delivery Document 2019/20 (adopted by the Full Council).

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

Yes – it's part of the School Modernisation Programme

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 Band B of the 21st Century Schools 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 provide 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, rates, 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 estimated 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 £505,500 between Ysgol Talwrn (£447,500) and Ysgol y Graig (£58,000). If the council were to fund this work through unsupported borrowing over a 20-year period, it would cost around £40,000 a year to fund. It could be argued therefore that this sum is also a saving.

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.

Therefore, the proposal is affordable for the Council. The Council considers that it would be unwise to not invest as there has been an increase in the number of children in the area in the past and the number of children will continue to increase as a result of a number of housing developments in the Ysgol y Graig catchment area.

F – Impact on Future Generations (if relevant)

1	How does this decision impact on our long-term needs as an Island?	This decision ensures the long-term sustainability of education in the Llangefni area and also ensures sufficient school places to meet current and future needs for generations of new children. It will also ensure that new school buildings are fit for purpose and meet BREEAM and 21st Century Schools standards.
2	Is this a decision that is forecasted to prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority. If so, how:	The proposal will develop a new school building that will contribute to the school becoming a "Learning Organisation" (Education in Wales: Our Nation's Mission 2017-2021).

		<p>In turn, pupils should benefit from school-based experiences that will help them become young adults who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ambitious, capable learners, willing to learn throughout their lives. • enterprising, creative contributors, willing to play a full part in life and work • healthy, confident individuals, willing to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society <p>The proposal will be funded 65:35 by the Welsh Government through Band 'B' of the 21st Century Schools programme and by the Council. The Council's investment will be via a 50-year loan, part funded through capital receipts.</p>
3	Have we been collaborating with other organizations to reach this decision? If so, who?	<p>The collaboration that has taken place and the information received from Estyn, GwE, Community Councils and schools, forms part of this proposal.</p> <p>The following stakeholders have had the opportunity to contribute during the statutory consultation process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Elected Members • Local Member of Parliament • Local Member of the Senedd • Regional Members of the Senedd • GwE • Estyn • The Police and Crime Commissioner • Welsh Government • The Welsh Language Commissioner • A neighbouring Local Authority • Local Community and Town Councils • Teaching unions and staff representing teachers and other staff at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig • Cylch Meithrin Talwrn and Flying Start • Headteacher of Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni • Senior Isle of Anglesey County Council officers • Isle of Anglesey County Council's Chief Youth Officer • Other interested parties <p>57 online responses were received along with 10 letter and email responses.</p> <p>In addition, consultation meetings were held at both schools in February 2020 to present the consultation documents and to explain the consultation process to Staff, Governors, Parents / Guardians and all other interested parties present. Attendees were informed how to respond as part of the consultation.</p>
4	Have the citizens of Anglesey played their part in	<p>Yes. Stakeholders (Parents / Guardians, members of staff, Governors, pupils and other interested parties) have had the opportunity during the statutory consultation process to</p>

	drafting this way forward? Explain how:	contribute proactively and to play a role in drafting the agreed way forward. Welsh Government has published guidelines for local authorities regarding consulting on proposals during the pandemic and the Isle of Anglesey County Council has adhered to these guidelines.
5	What effect, if any, does this decision have on the agenda in respect of equality and the Welsh language?	The Authority will ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils and staff whatever their ability and background. The proposal has the opportunity to strengthen the use of Welsh in the expanded Ysgol Y Graig. Estyn said that the Council's impact assessment "suggests that the proposal will have a positive impact on the Welsh language". The expanded school will be fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

E – Who did you consult? What were their comments?		
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (compulsory)	Incorporated in this report.
2	Finance / Section 151 (compulsory)	Incorporated in this report.
3	Legal/Monitoring Officer (compulsory)	Incorporated in this report.
4	Human Resources (HR)	Any Human Resources issue arising from the recommendations should be dealt with in accordance recognised consultation processes and other recognised HR processes.
5	Property	Incorporated in this report.
6	Information Technology and Communication (ITC)	<p>The standard of ICT equipment, such as projectors and interactive whiteboards, is low in Ysgol Talwrn and varies at Ysgol y Graig. An extension would capitalise on a high quality ICT infrastructure, along with modern audio-visual equipment. It is recommended that the audio-visual equipment throughout the school be replaced to meet digital standards.</p> <p>https://hwb.gov.wales/canolfan-cymorth/safonau-digidol-addysg</p> <p>The network equipment in these schools is located in a storage area, so it does not disturb staff or pupils in terms of noise. Any extension would require space for additional network equipment.</p> <p>The ethernet cables in these schools are Cat5e standard. It is recommended to either re-cable Ysgol y Graig to CAT6A or at least add CAT6A points in each class for the wireless points due to additional capacity.</p>

		<p>Any development or change in the composition / structure of schools would have to be incorporated into the HWB scheme, which is a Welsh Government grant for transforming ICT in schools.</p> <p>Modernising technology in schools is expensive because of the need to add cables for systems (door-entry, CCTV, VOIP phones). Considering the need for modernising technologies such as these is recommended as part of any scheme.</p>
7	Procurement	The work will be procured through the North Wales Construction Framework.
8	Scrutiny	The proposal was discussed by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in the meeting held on 10 December 2020 and it was decided that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee would recommend to the Executive that it should proceed with the original proposal as the most appropriate way forward. In the vote that followed, the proposal was carried by 8 votes to 2.
9	Local Members	

G - Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Objection Report

H - 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 an extension until 19 March 2021 to publish any proposal.

Document by Welsh Government - Covid-19 Education Update – **Changes to the School Organisation Code in response to the coronavirus outbreak** (updated 8 January 2021) (which provided guidance on consulting on school organisation proposals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak).

Minutes of the Executive- 17 December 2020.

Minutes of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee - 10 December 2020.

Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn – Objection Report

1. Background

In order to comply with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018, the Authority issued a **Statutory Notice** of its intention 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 **Statutory Notice** was published on 18 January 2021 followed by a period of 28 days for objections to the proposal. Accordingly, the objection period ended on 15 February 2021. **A total of 46 objections were received to the proposal.**

Summary of Objections

The Council received 46 responses objecting to the proposal from a cross-section of stakeholders e.g. parents, residents, governors, former pupils, school staff and national and local organisations. Many of the responses included more than one reason for objecting. These reasons were categorised as follows and the type of comment raised is noted:

Number	Objection Categories	Number objecting
1.	Based on standards at Ysgol Talwrn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards / level of teaching at Ysgol Talwrn are high Ysgol Talwrn has provided children with a good education 	27
2.	Because of the pandemic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfair to make changes in the middle of a pandemic Parents unable to meet during the pandemic The pandemic puts more stress on the children Due to social distancing, more school places will be needed Easier for viruses to transmit in a large school 	24
3.	Questioning the basis of the Council's constitutional decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient time for stakeholders to read the documents Insufficient time for Councillors to read the documents Is it right for a County Councillor to be a governor and a member of the Executive? Was the vote in the Executive on 17 December 2020 valid? 	23
4.	Potential impact on the community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing the school would have a detrimental effect on the community The school is vital for the community Potential impact on housing costs 	17
5.	An accusation that the Council is not listening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council does not listen to the views of stakeholders Have all options been considered? The Council rejects all arguments in favour of keeping the school open 	15



6.	Potential impact on the Welsh language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing the school could destroy a Welsh speaking community The village of Talwrn needs a school for the Welsh language to continue 	13
7.	The impact of such a process on mental health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process has an impact on the mental health of staff, parents and children Excessive pressure on child and staff mental health already 	13
8.	The feeling that Ysgol Talwrn is being treated differently <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why keep Ysgol Bodffordd open but close Ysgol Talwrn? Other small schools have survived, why close Talwrn? 	11
9.	Questioning the option of federating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why not federate Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch? The Council has ruled out the option of federating 	10
10.	Impact of the proposal on the village eisteddfod in Talwrn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing Ysgol Talwrn would mean the end of the village eisteddfod 	9
11.	Impact of the proposal on the Cylch Meithrin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions the impact of the closure of Ysgol Talwrn on the Cylch Meithrin Disagrees with the accuracy of the Cylch numbers in the consultation report 	8
12.	Transport safety / link roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parking and traffic situation around Ysgol y Graig is bad currently Unfair to expect children to go from Talwrn to Llangefni on foot or bike or by bus Unreasonable to force children to walk to Ysgol Y Graig 	8
13.	Children's human rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not considered as part of the consultation. 	7
14.	Disagrees with the way the Council has implemented the Well-being Act in the proposal's Impact Assessment.	4
15.	The need to consider the options with an open mind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in the Isle of Anglesey County Council's (IoACC) proposal since 2019 	4
16.	Proposed cost of the scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagrees with the figures Is the scheme affordable? 	2
17.	The Council's Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's or officers' perspective? 	1
18.	Class sizes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too large in the new expanded school? 	1
19.	The size of the expanded school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it large enough? Will it fill up quickly? 	1
20.	The Ysgol Talwrn site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who owns the site? Is it leasehold or freehold? 	1



In accordance with section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, proposers, in this case the Isle of Anglesey County Council, must publish and respond to a summary of the statutory objections (“the objection report”) – which is this document.

The table below contains a summary of the objections and the Council's response to those objections.

Summary of Objections to the Statutory Notice – Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn

	Summary of Objections	The Council’s response to the objections
1.	<p>Standards at Ysgol Talwrn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards / level of teaching at Ysgol Talwrn are high • Ysgol Talwrn has provided children with a good education 	<p>Although Ysgol Talwrn is currently performing well, there is a risk that this could be difficult to maintain in the long term in a small school of this size. The proposal will provide a building that meets the standards of 21st Century Schools and a building of exceptional quality for the children to learn. It would also be a challenge for Ysgol Talwrn to meet the needs of the new curriculum for Wales, given the school building and the few facilities available for outdoor learning.</p> <p>A limited number of staff in a small school can mean a lack of curriculum diversity compared to a larger school, as well as fewer opportunities for a variety of extra-curricular experiences. Mixed ages in smaller schools can be challenging in terms of provision and also difficult in terms of organising cost effective class sizes (i.e. class sizes close to 30). This places additional pressure on school budgets, which means that there is not enough money remaining to fund other aspects, such as appointing specialist staff to provide nurture and pastoral care. In addition, it is inevitable that school leaders will have less time to lead because of their specific learning commitment.</p> <p>In addition, the benefits of the proposal are set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merging would not have a negative effect on standards. • Merging would make better use of Council resources and redress the cost per head. • Merging the two schools could create the conditions for the Headteacher to have sufficient non-contact time for leadership. • Merging the two schools together would address the current and future maintenance costs and provide a 21st Century resource for school users today and for future generations. <p>As part of the consultation process, all consultation documentation was sent to Estyn, in accordance with procedure. Estyn (part 5.8 of the consultation document) said: “The proposer provided useful and detailed information that explains the rationale behind the proposal. Estyn believes that the proposal is likely to at least maintain current standards in terms of education, provision and leadership and management for children in the area.”</p> <p>Both schools are in the green 'A' category in terms of support needs, as defined by the national model for school categorisation. Ysgol Y Graig has been in this category consistently since September 2015, and Ysgol Talwrn since September 2019.</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<p>Both schools were judged to have 'good' outcomes in all Estyn inspection areas:</p> <p>Ysgol Talwrn – October 2018</p> <p>Ysgol y Graig – January 2019</p> <p>Overall, pupils' "standards in both key stages are consistently good. When considering a number of sources, the performance of both schools is generally consistent."</p> <p>There were no issues identified in Estyn's response that the Council needed to respond to or clarify. In addition, the expanded school will have an age range of 3-11 rather than 4-11, which means that on-site care facilities will be available to <u>more children</u> from the area than the current situation. This will relieve parents of the pre-school burden and enable them to gain more employment opportunities.</p> <p>If the proposal is approved, the new expanded school will be in a position to maintain the Estyn grade and the green categorisation in the medium to long term as the proposal will provide a building that meets the standards of 21st Century and a building of special quality in which children can learn.</p>
2.	<p>The pandemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfair to make changes in the middle of a pandemic • Parents unable to meet during the pandemic • The pandemic puts more stress on the children • Due to social distancing, more school places will be needed • Easier for viruses to transmit in a large school 	<p>The Council recognises that it is a difficult time in terms of responding to the pandemic and understands that there are many different views as to what is right or not.</p> <p>Indeed, with this in mind it is important to note that the original intention was to make a decision on the proposal in June 2020 but, due to the Council's consideration for the workforce, residents and children of Anglesey, this was postponed due to the pandemic. Responding to the crisis and keeping the people of Anglesey safe remains at the heart of the day-to-day work of Isle of Anglesey County Council officers and as a result, many important projects - including school modernisation - were halted. But the process could not be put off forever - especially as it is not known how long the pandemic will continue.</p> <p>School buildings across Wales closed at the end of the school day on 20 March 2020. Shortly before children returned to school, the Welsh Government issued guidance on 25 June 2020, the "Modification of School Organisation Code (Wales) Notice 2020". The notice allowed school organisation proposals to continue, where not all school buildings are open for education. It temporarily modified section 3.4 of the Code in relation to the consultation document, and section 4.1 of the Code in relation to how the statutory notice is published, so that references to "school day" included days when a school session would have been held but for any restriction on the attendance of pupils at the school in connection with the coronavirus".</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<p>The School Organisation Code 2018 states that proposals must be published within 26 weeks of the end of the consultation period allowed for objections, otherwise the proposals will fail and a new consultation document must be issued in order to revive them. In other words, the statutory notice must be published within 26 weeks of the statutory consultation deadline, therefore by 18 September 2020. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and taking into account the safety of Anglesey's children and residents, this has not been possible. In such a case, the Code states in part 3.6: "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." Council officers therefore submitted an application for an extension to the Welsh Government. This was done and the Isle of Anglesey County Council was given until 19 March 2021 to issue the Statutory Notice.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Education Minister announced on 4 January 2021 that "all schools, colleges and independent schools should move to online learning until at least January 18." This period has since been extended. A few days later, the Welsh Government published an updated version of the modified School Organisation Code in response to the coronavirus crisis (updated 8 January 2021) which provided guidance on consulting on school organisation proposals during the coronavirus crisis (COVID-19).</p> <p>Part 6 of the document states: "The notice temporarily modifies paragraph 4.1 of the Code so that any references to a "school day" include days when a school session would have been but for any restriction on the attendance of pupils at the school in connection with the coronavirus"</p> <p>In other words, although the schools in question are offering distance education to the pupils as well as offering face-to-face education for vulnerable children and key worker children at present, the 28 days to object to the proposal, the objection period, remains valid. This was further confirmed in a further Welsh Government update published on 12 February 2021.</p> <p>The Council wants to invest in the future of the children and young people of Anglesey. As part of this programme, we must ensure that children receive their education in buildings that are fit for the 21st Century, that are in the right place, that meet the needs of pupils and staff, that help to promote high standards and protect the Welsh language.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that it is very difficult to meet to discuss any matter face-to-face but the Council and a number of organisations have overcome this problem by holding meetings using videoconferencing or teleconferencing. The Council understands the frustration of stakeholders due to the pandemic situation. However, the number of objections received to the proposal (during the lockdown period), at 46, was higher than in the past. In addition, more consultation responses were received in 2020 (57 responses) than in 2018 (52 responses). It could therefore be argued that more responses and objections were received in the middle of a lockdown than in the pre-pandemic period.</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<p>In addition, it is acknowledged that the loss of education is detrimental to the cognitive and academic development of children and young people and that being in school is vital to the education and wellbeing of children and young people. In order to help alleviate stress for pupils during the pandemic period, the Authority in conjunction with schools, has ensured that education and childcare settings continue to operate with minimum disruption during the COVID -19 outbreak. Ensuring the welfare and well-being of all has been a priority, especially our young children, with schools engaging with learners and supporting where appropriate. During lockdowns, the Authority, in conjunction with schools, continued to offer vulnerable children in-school education provision to safeguard their welfare, and the children of essential workers to ensure that essential services can continue to operate.</p> <p>Consequently, the Council believes that it has been considerate and sensitive in the way it has handled the lockdown period and has given stakeholders sufficient opportunity and time to respond despite the COVID-19 pandemic situation.</p> <p>The COVID-19 outbreaks in Anglesey primary schools have shown that a case in a small school can mean that most, if not all, pupils have to self-isolate.</p> <p>It should be noted therefore, that there is a greater risk of a small school having to close completely when dealing with viruses now and in the future and this can disrupt face-to-face education for all pupils, and affect their social contact. In a larger school, only pupils in the same class as the pupil who tested positive for the COVID-19 need to self-isolate. Face-to-face learning would continue for the majority of pupils at that school.</p> <p>These cases highlight that the risk of a small primary school having to close due to a COVID-19 virus outbreak in the future is greater than that for a larger primary school, which can create the conditions for reducing the risk of wider transmission.</p>
3.	<p>Questioning the basis of the Council's constitutional decision-making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient time for stakeholders to read the documents • Insufficient time for Councillors to read the documents • Is it right for a County Councillor to be a 	<p>Part 8.3.2 of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's constitution states that notice of a meeting should be published "at least 3 clear days before the meeting". The consultation report was published on 4 December 2020 which is more than 3 days before the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10 December 2020 and is in accordance with point 8.3.2 of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Constitution.</p> <p>After careful consideration and discussion, members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee resolved to support the proposal with a majority of 8 to 2.</p> <p>The Isle of Anglesey County Council Constitution states that the papers should be made public at least 3 days before a meeting of the relevant Committee. Papers for the Corporate Scrutiny Committee were made public 4 working days before the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10 December 2020. Following the publication of the consultation report, stakeholders were informed immediately on 11 December 2020 that the report was available on the Council's website.</p>

Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
<p>governor and a member of the Executive?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the vote in the Executive on 17 December 2020 valid? 	<p>Similarly, the consultation report was issued to the Executive on 11 December 2020 for the Executive meeting on 17 December 2020. This was also in accordance with the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Constitution.</p> <p>After careful consideration and discussion, members of the Executive unanimously resolved to support the motion.</p> <p>Only one item was placed on the agenda of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that the proposal was given due consideration by the members of that Committee.</p> <p>For the meeting on 10 December 2020, the report pack consisted of 132 pages and the meeting pack for the meeting on 17 December 2020 was 184 pages.</p> <p>This is in comparison with the 232-page pack for the meeting on 11 September 2019.</p> <p>Given the above points, it is considered that the members of the Committees (Corporate Scrutiny and Executive) have been given more than the time required in the constitution to read the documentation and to consider the contents carefully.</p> <p>The Councillor in question is not a member of the Executive.</p> <p>In accordance with the Constitution, the Councillor concerned declared at the meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 10 December 2020 that she was a member of the governing body of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig. See link: http://democratiaeth.ynysmon.gov.uk/mgListDeclarationsOfInterest.aspx?UID=268&LLL=1</p> <p>The Councillor concerned has been appointed as a governor for both schools on behalf of the County Council: http://democratiaeth.ynysmon.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=268&LLL=1</p> <p>The Corporate Scrutiny Committee does not make decisions as the Committee is an advisory body. The Executive took the decision and the Councillor concerned is not a member of that Committee.</p> <p>In accordance with the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Code of Conduct, any governor appointed by the Council should declare a personal interest when a matter relating to that school is referred to a committee of the Isle of Anglesey County Council. However, the Code prevents the interest from being prejudicial only if the matter under consideration is a regulatory matter - school modernisation is not a regulatory issue.</p> <p>Having considered the information presented as well as the feedback and recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee, the Executive unanimously resolved to support the proposal. Officials monitoring the meeting were satisfied with the way the matter was handled.</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections																		
		<p>In summary, the Councillor in question is not a member of the Executive and as a result the Councillor did not have a vote in the decision process taken by the Executive on the 17th December, 2020.</p>																		
<p>4.</p>	<p>Potential impact on the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing the school would have a detrimental effect on the community • The school is vital for the community • Potential impact on housing prices 	<p>If the proposal is implemented, community groups could continue to work with children from the village of Talwrn. Section 4.8 of the Impact Assessment states: "Community facilities provided by the school at Talwrn may be undertaken at the expanded Ysgol y Graig, or from other sites in Talwrn such as the village hall or Talwrn church." This would be the case in this instance. The potential impact of the proposal on the community was assessed and it was concluded that the proposal appeared to have a neutral impact on the community after considering the following issues:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="660 488 2112 971"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="660 488 1921 539">Criteria</th> <th data-bbox="1921 488 2112 539">Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="660 539 1921 592">Pupils attending the school from outside the catchment area</td> <td data-bbox="1921 539 2112 592">Positive</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="660 592 1921 644">Services provided to the community by the school including extra-curricular activities</td> <td data-bbox="1921 592 2112 644">Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="660 644 1921 697">Community facilities used regularly by the school</td> <td data-bbox="1921 644 2112 697">Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="660 697 1921 750">Community facilities provided by the school and activities held in the school grounds</td> <td data-bbox="1921 697 2112 750">Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="660 750 1921 815">Other effects Transport + public</td> <td data-bbox="1921 750 2112 815">Negative</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="660 815 1921 880">Other Impact on the community</td> <td data-bbox="1921 815 2112 880">Neutral</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="660 880 1921 933"><i>Concerns presented during the statutory consultation period</i></td> <td data-bbox="1921 880 2112 933"><i>Neutral</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="660 933 1921 971"></td> <td data-bbox="1921 933 2112 971">Neutral</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was noted in the Impact Assessment that "the closure of Ysgol Talwrn could have an impact on the attractiveness of the local area to potential home buyers, especially those with or intending to have children. On the other hand, local residents might consider closing or relocating a school away from the area to be useful and make the area more attractive to home buyers looking for a quieter area."</p> <p>Therefore, the possibility that the closure of Ysgol Talwrn could affect how attractive the village is to invest in was considered in the Impact Assessment. Additionally, the Impact Assessment noted that the effect of the proposal on the community would be neutral.</p>	Criteria	Impact	Pupils attending the school from outside the catchment area	Positive	Services provided to the community by the school including extra-curricular activities	Neutral	Community facilities used regularly by the school	Neutral	Community facilities provided by the school and activities held in the school grounds	Neutral	Other effects Transport + public	Negative	Other Impact on the community	Neutral	<i>Concerns presented during the statutory consultation period</i>	<i>Neutral</i>		Neutral
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	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
5.	<p>An accusation that the Council is not listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council does not listen to the views of stakeholders • Have all options been considered? • The Council rejects all arguments in favour of keeping the school open 	<p>The Council's original proposal paper in preparation for consultation on the proposal considered 10 options for keeping Ysgol Talwrn open. These options were evaluated against set criteria (see below).</p> <p>In addition, in the consultation report, 12 reasonable alternatives to the closure of Ysgol Talwrn were considered and further assessed. Those options are set out as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest in Ysgol Talwrn to bring it to 21st Century standards 2. Open a new area school for Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Pentraeth 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 existing building at Ysgol Y Graig (not a new block) 4. Leave Ysgol Talwrn as it is 5. Merge Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Talwrn 6. Merge Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Pentraeth 7. Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (thus increasing capacity) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate pressure with regard to Llangefni schools being over capacity. 8. Address the current and projected maintenance costs at Ysgol Talwrn. 9. Federate Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and extend Ysgol Y Graig. 10. Bring Ysgol Talwrn to 21st Century standards, and federate with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Bodffordd 11. Keep all schools in Llangefni open, and invest to bring them up to 21st Century standards. Consider options regarding federating at a later date. 12. Open an all-age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to take pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir. <p>All these options were considered and evaluated in the consultation report against key drivers as outlined in the School Modernisation Strategy, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 ▪ 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. ▪ 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. ▪ 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.

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leadership and management must be good or better in all schools. In this context, head-teachers need sufficient non-contact time to balance leadership and management challenges with teaching commitment. ▪ Welsh-medium provision should at the very least be maintained and improved ▪ Community use of school buildings and associated facilities needs to be maintained and increased where possible. <p>These options were evaluated on the basis of information by officials e.g. the condition of the school building, current and projected maintenance costs, education standards. In approving the consultation report which included these options, it became the opinion of the Executive acting on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>The Executive is responsible for school organisation issues.</p> <p>It is accepted that many different perspectives exist when talking and discussing any kind of 'change'. The Council has demonstrated through the statutory process that it has listened to and considered those views through the consultation report and this objection report.</p> <p>The Council is also of the opinion that it has considered options to keep Ysgol Talwrn open and evaluated them against appropriate criteria, which included options presented by stakeholders, and other options carefully, consistently and thoroughly.</p>
6.	<p>Potential impact on the Welsh language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing the school could destroy a Welsh speaking community • The village of Talwrn needs a school for the Welsh language to continue 	<p>It is important to note here that the impact on the Welsh language is twofold – i.e. on the children and families of the expanded school and on the community at Talwrn.</p> <p>When considering the impact on the children and families of the expanded school, Pupil Level Annual School Census or PLASC 2020 data highlights that the percentage of pupils who are fluent Welsh speakers at home is higher at Ysgol Y Graig (72%) than it is at Ysgol Talwrn (40%) which may provide an opportunity for the language to flourish among the children who move from Talwrn through greater use with a wider range of children.</p> <p>In terms of Welsh as a subject, there is no clear difference between the achievements of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig between 2015 and 2019.</p> <p>On page 21 of the Impact Assessment attached to the Consultation Document, section 3.5.6 stated:</p> <p><i>“The proposed expanded school will be a community, Welsh-medium school. It will be a priority for the Authority to strengthen and safeguard the Welsh language and bilingual education.”</i></p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections																																
		<p>Therefore, if the proposal is implemented, it will be the responsibility of the leadership team at the proposed expanded Ysgol Y Graig to promote the informal use of Welsh by pupils during school hours. The proposed expanded Ysgol Y Graig would promote the use of Welsh in the classroom and in the school yard, in accordance with the Authority's Welsh Language Charter.</p> <p>When considering the impact on the community - the table below provides Welsh language data for the population of the Llangefni and Llanddyfnan wards:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="678 435 2157 820"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="678 435 1205 472"></th> <th colspan="3" data-bbox="1205 435 2157 472">Percentage of population 3 years old and over:</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="678 472 1205 541">Area</th> <th data-bbox="1205 472 1547 541">Who only understand spoken Welsh</th> <th data-bbox="1547 472 1809 541">Who can speak Welsh</th> <th data-bbox="1809 472 2157 541">Who can speak, read and write Welsh</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 541 1205 577">Cefni</td> <td data-bbox="1205 541 1547 577">5.8%</td> <td data-bbox="1547 541 1809 577">80.5%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 541 2157 577">70.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 577 1205 614">Cyngar</td> <td data-bbox="1205 577 1547 614">5.6%</td> <td data-bbox="1547 577 1809 614">80.8%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 577 2157 614">69.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 614 1205 683">Llanddyfnan (ward where Ysgol Talwrn is located)</td> <td data-bbox="1205 614 1547 683">6.8%</td> <td data-bbox="1547 614 1809 683">64.7%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 614 2157 683">55.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 683 1205 751">Tudur (ward where Ysgol Y Graig is located)</td> <td data-bbox="1205 683 1547 751">6.5%</td> <td data-bbox="1547 683 1809 751">75.8%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 683 2157 751">64.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 751 1205 788">Anglesey</td> <td data-bbox="1205 751 1547 788">10.9%</td> <td data-bbox="1547 751 1809 788">56.1%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 751 2157 788">44.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 788 1205 820">Wales</td> <td data-bbox="1205 788 1547 820">5.3%</td> <td data-bbox="1547 788 1809 820">18.6%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 788 2157 820">14.1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="824 820 1187 852">*Figures from 2011 Census</p> <p data-bbox="633 879 2157 943">A higher percentage of the population in the Llangefni wards speak Welsh than in Llanddyfnan ward where Ysgol Talwrn is located.</p> <p data-bbox="633 979 2157 1214">The Isle of Anglesey County Council understands stakeholders' concerns about the impact of such a proposal on the Welsh language in the community of Talwrn and indeed after receiving feedback from stakeholders, agreed that the proposal (which was an assessment of the potential impact of the proposal on the community, the Welsh language and equality) should be a live document. If the proposal is approved, the potential impact of the proposal would be assessed throughout the project until the proposal is realised. This would enable the Council to undertake mitigation measures should the above risk materialise. The Authority is committed to working with communities to address any issues that may arise if the proposal is approved and the school closes.</p> <p data-bbox="633 1251 2157 1385">Prior to the lockdown, Council officers embarked on a project to promote spoken Welsh in Llangefni town shops. Due to the pandemic situation, the project had to be postponed. However, this project is an example of a project that the Council would promote and support in continuing to implement its Language Strategy and Language Charter with Anglesey communities to ensure that the language continues and grows in communities similar to Talwrn.</p>		Percentage of population 3 years old and over:			Area	Who only understand spoken Welsh	Who can speak Welsh	Who can speak, read and write Welsh	Cefni	5.8%	80.5%	70.0%	Cyngar	5.6%	80.8%	69.1%	Llanddyfnan (ward where Ysgol Talwrn is located)	6.8%	64.7%	55.9%	Tudur (ward where Ysgol Y Graig is located)	6.5%	75.8%	64.3%	Anglesey	10.9%	56.1%	44.2%	Wales	5.3%	18.6%	14.1%
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	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<p>The Welsh Language Impact Assessment, which assessed the potential impact of the proposal on the Welsh language in school and in the community, concluded that the proposal would have a positive impact on the Welsh language. The Impact Assessment will be a live document and will be a way of alleviating stakeholder concerns throughout the project.</p> <p>See point 10 and the Council's response to the possible effect of the proposal on the Talwrn Eisteddfod.</p>
7.	<p>The impact of such a process on mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process has an impact on the mental health of staff, parents and children • Excessive pressure on child and staff mental health already 	<p>The lockdown period has been challenging for everyone and the Council acknowledges this.</p> <p>The good work of all school staff in conjunction with the Education Authority in helping the children through this time is also acknowledged.</p> <p>It should be noted that the Council's Human Resources officers are available to provide help, advice and support to all school staff throughout this period, as they have always been. For example, there is a Mental Well-being at Work course available which helps staff who may have a mental health problem or a workplace well-being problem.</p>
8.	<p>The feeling that Ysgol Talwrn is being treated differently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why keep Ysgol Bodffordd open but close Ysgol Talwrn? • Other small schools have survived, why close Talwrn? 	<p>The Council understands the rationale why some have a sense that the School has been treated differently as the outcome of the two processes reaches a different conclusion. The reasons for this were as follows -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current and projected maintenance expenditure - The cost for Ysgol Talwrn (£447,500) and for Ysgol Bodffordd (£252,000) has increased. (January 2021 figures) 2. School Premises and Location – It would be difficult to develop Ysgol Talwrn in the future due to poor access to the site (narrow lane with few passing places), and no grass play area. External Area of Ysgol Bodffordd – 2,578 m² External Area of Ysgol Talwrn – 1,730 m² (hard surface only) 3. Transport Costs – The projected costs of transporting pupils from Bodffordd to the new Ysgol Corn Hir (£70k) would be higher than the anticipated costs of transporting pupils from Talwrn to Ysgol Y Graig (£30k). The figure for Bodffordd - Corn Hir was based on 2 buses at £35k per bus (Transport department estimate). The figure for Talwrn - Y Graig is based on 1 bus for £30k per bus (Transport department estimate). Note therefore that the figure per bus is higher for Bodffordd, due to the lack of turning space on the journey.

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections												
		<p>4. Cost per head – Ysgol Talwrn (£4,553 – 2019/20) is higher than Ysgol Bodffordd (£4,274 – 2019/20). The average for Anglesey primary schools was £3,988 in 2019/20.</p> <p>Although Ysgol Bodffordd's per capita cost figure is higher than average, the figure compares favourably with other rural schools. In 2019/20 Ysgol Bodffordd's cost per pupil was the 4th lowest of the 17 Anglesey schools identified as rural schools in the School Organisation Code.</p> <p>Allocation (Budget) - Schools receive their budget allocation through the schools' devolved budget formula. Elements of the formula protect small schools, for example, by funding a minimum of 1.5 teachers for schools with less than 16 pupils, or 2 teachers for schools with between 16 and 38 pupils. This reduces the budget available for the rest of Anglesey's schools.</p> <p>There are also fixed elements within the school funding formula, where the amount each school receives / the number of teachers funded is consistent across all schools. This amount equates to a larger percentage of the small schools' budget compared to larger schools. This is arguably disadvantageous to the larger schools, as it reduces the budget available for allocation based on pupil numbers and needs.</p> <p>Part of the budget goes towards the maintenance of the school building. The greater the proportion of the budget that is spent on maintaining the building, the least is left to be allocated on the basis of pupils and their needs.</p> <p>40% of Ysgol Talwrn's budget and 23% of Ysgol Bodffordd's budget is allocated on the basis of factors that: Protect small schools Are fixed allocations Are specific for maintaining and running the building</p> <p>5. School Places –Ysgol Talwrn has 18% surplus places. Ysgol Bodffordd is slightly over capacity - PLASC 2020 figures</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="900 1216 1892 1401"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Capacity</th> <th>PLASC numbers 2020</th> <th>Surplus Places / (Over Capacity)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bodffordd</td> <td>63</td> <td>66</td> <td>(3)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Talwrn</td> <td>49</td> <td>40</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	Capacity	PLASC numbers 2020	Surplus Places / (Over Capacity)	Bodffordd	63	66	(3)	Talwrn	49	40	9
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		<p>6. Out of catchment – The number of pupils (67%) from outside Ysgol Talwrn's catchment area is higher than Ysgol Bodffordd's (41%). 33% of Ysgol Talwrn pupils come from Ysgol Y Graig's catchment area – October 2019.</p> <p>7. Welsh – 85% of Ysgol Bodffordd pupils speak Welsh at home. 40% of Ysgol Talwrn pupils speak Welsh at home. The percentage of children from Ysgol Y Graig (72%) who speak Welsh at home is higher than the figure for Ysgol Talwrn. Pupils from Ysgol Talwrn will engage more with Welsh-speaking children by going to Ysgol Y Graig</p> <p>Pupils who speak Welsh fluently at home:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="900 638 1888 742"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ysgol Bodffordd</th> <th>Ysgol Corn Hir</th> <th>Ysgol Talwrn</th> <th>Ysgol Y Graig</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>85%</td> <td>61%</td> <td>40%</td> <td>72%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Consequently – it could be noted that while the conclusion is different for the two schools (Bodffordd and Talwrn) the reasoning is highlighted above and as a result it is noted that Ysgol Talwrn has not been treated any differently to Ysgol Bodffordd.</p>	Ysgol Bodffordd	Ysgol Corn Hir	Ysgol Talwrn	Ysgol Y Graig	85%	61%	40%	72%
Ysgol Bodffordd	Ysgol Corn Hir	Ysgol Talwrn	Ysgol Y Graig							
85%	61%	40%	72%							
9.	<p>Questioning the option of federating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why not federate Ysgol Talwrn with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch? • The Council has ruled out the option of federating 	<p>The proposal paper presented to the Executive in January 2020, (in order to reach its decision on whether or not to proceed with the statutory consultation period) recognised federating as relevant option for consideration. Similarly, the consultation document included federating as a relevant option for consideration. In the consultation report, in addition to the Cefni Federation, 12 reasonable alternatives to the closure of Ysgol Talwrn were considered and assessed, 5 of which included federation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest in Ysgol Talwrn to bring it to 21st Century standards 2. Open a new area school for Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Pentraeth 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 existing building at Ysgol Y Graig (not a new block) 4. Leave Ysgol Talwrn as it is 5. Merge Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Talwrn (federation) 6. Merge Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Pentraeth (federation) 								

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<p>7. Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (thus increasing capacity) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate pressure with regard to Llangefni schools being over capacity.</p> <p>8. Address the current and projected maintenance costs at Ysgol Talwrn.</p> <p>9. Federate Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and extend Ysgol Y Graig. (federation)</p> <p>10. Bring Ysgol Talwrn to 21st Century standards, and federate with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Bodffordd</p> <p>11. Keep all schools in Llangefni open, and invest to bring them up to 21st Century standards. Consider options regarding federating at a later date.</p> <p>12. Open an all-age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to take pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir.</p> <p>However, as listed in the consultation document in table 5.2.11, the disadvantages of these outweighed the advantages.</p> <p>Even so, the Authority is not prejudiced against federation, it has a federation in place at Ysgol Goronwy Owen and Ysgol Moelfre. This federation began operating in January 2020. This demonstrates the Authority's willingness to form federations, in this case the Gwêl y Glannau federation.</p> <p>Federating Ysgol Talwrn with any other school only partially meets the challenges faced by Ysgol Talwrn, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pupil numbers – it does not address the need to provide sufficient places at Ysgol Y Graig 2. Insufficient space to present the Curriculum for Wales (CfW) in the mid/long-term – it would remain unchanged as a result of federating 3. Cost per pupil – very small savings would mean that the cost per pupil would continue to be higher than the average for Anglesey primary schools 4. School building – it has current and projected maintenance costs of £447,500 (2020) and a condition grade of B (Satisfactory - Performing as it should but showing slight deterioration). The Ysgol Talwrn building only partially complies with the requirements expected under the Equality Act 2010 - these would remain unchanged 5. Standards – as a small school, the current standards at Ysgol Talwrn may be difficult to maintain in the long-term - this would continue to be the case 6. Head-teacher's teaching commitments – teaching commitment of 70% at present - likely to change 7. Finance - it is unlikely that any small savings from federating would be sufficient to contribute to the reduction the Council needs to make to its budget <p>Due to the fact that federating Ysgol Talwrn with any other school does would meet the challenges faced by Ysgol Talwrn, it was not considered a realistic option.</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
10.	<p>Impact of the proposal on the village eisteddfod in Talwrn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing Ysgol Talwrn would mean the end of the village eisteddfod 	<p>This possibility was assessed as part of the Impact Assessment which was published with the consultation document in February 2020. Section 2.3.2 of the Impact Assessment stated: <i>“Events held in Welsh, such as the village eisteddfod could be held at other locations within the community, for example the village hall ”.</i></p> <p>The Council understands that the village eisteddfod is held in the village hall. If the proposal is implemented, the village eisteddfod could still be held there. There may be an opportunity to expand the Eisteddfod, e.g. an Eisteddfod for Talwrn and Y Graig.</p> <p>If this objection is based on a concern that the number of children in the village of Talwrn who can compete in an eisteddfod would be reduced, this could be overcome, perhaps, by working with Ysgol y Graig to appeal to those children who attend Ysgol y Graig to compete in Eisteddfod Talwrn. This could increase the number of children who could compete but also increase awareness of the eisteddfod locally among parents and staff of a nearby school which would consequently be an opportunity to ensure the future sustainability of the eisteddfod.</p> <p>Council data shows that there are approximately 27 primary school-aged children living in the village of Talwrn and that 14 of these attend Ysgol Talwrn whilst around 280 pupils live in the Ysgol y Graig catchment area.</p> <p>If there was a desire to make this idea a reality, the Council would be very keen to work with the new expanded school and community to do so. This could help to ensure the future sustainability of the Eisteddfod.</p>
11.	<p>Impact of the proposal on the Cylch Meithrin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions the impact of the closure of Ysgol Talwrn on the Cylch Meithrin • Disagrees with the accuracy of the numbers in the consultation report 	<p>Part 5.5 of the consultation document, published in February 2020, discussed Cylch Meithrin Talwrn and noted the following: “Cylch Meithrin Talwrn is held in Talwrn village hall and 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.” In addition, it was stated that if the proposal were to be realised, nursery provision, as well as a pre-school childcare unit would be provided at Ysgol Y Graig for all pupils as wrap around care. Therefore, the Council's intention was clearly outlined in the consultation document.</p> <p>However, some were concerned about staff in the nurseries losing their jobs. This was acknowledged in section 4.4. of the Impact Assessment: "It is envisaged that provision at Meithrinfa Medra, Meithrin Bach and Dechrau'n Deg would continue if the proposal is realised. The numbers who attend Cylch Meithrin Stryd y Bont and the Cylch Meithrin at Talwrn Village Hall may be at risk if the proposal goes ahead."</p> <p>In line with the aim of the Impact Assessment, risks such as the one mentioned have been assessed and measures have been identified to mitigate or reduce its impact.</p> <p>In addition to the above, the Impact Assessment, in section 5.5 on page 16, discussed the potential impact of the proposal on childcare facilities in the area. It was noted that the Ysgol y Graig proposal is intended to complement the</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<p>existing provision of child-minders and private day nurseries in the area. It is expected that the service will be competitive with the local rates charged by the private providers which will give parents choice and sufficiency of childcare in this area.</p> <p>Given the above, the Council acknowledges the concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposal on the Cylch Meithrin in the village of Talwrn and recognises the potential impact on jobs that could arise if the proposal is realised. However, job opportunities will arise from the new wrap around care provision if the offer is realised.</p>
12.	<p>Transport safety/ link roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parking and traffic situation around Ysgol y Graig is bad now • Unfair to expect children to go from Talwrn to Llangefni on foot or bike or by bus • Unreasonable to force children to walk to Ysgol Y Graig 	<p>If the proposal is approved by the Executive, the development of the Foundation Phase Unit on a new site will allow the existing parking problems 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 unit will need to demonstrate how the existing parking problems can be resolved with the support of the Highways Department. If this proposal is implemented, it is an opportunity to alleviate these concerns as a result of the proposed improvement works.</p> <p>A Traffic Impact Assessment will be undertaken and will form part of the Planning Application. The application will be developed with Council staff, Traffic Impact Advisor, Landscape Architect and a Civil Engineer. The plan will also be developed in consultation with officers from the Highways Department, prior to submitting the planning application to the Planning Committee.</p> <p>When the proposal was discussed by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Executive, the proposal was approved subject to the above points being finalised.</p> <p>In October 2019, 17% (7 pupils) of pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn were from the Corn Hir catchment area, and 31% of pupils attending Ysgol Talwrn (13 pupils) were from Ysgol Y Graig's catchment area. Consequently, it was reasonable to believe that nearly 50% of Talwrn school children travelled along the B5109 daily. At that time, 67% of Ysgol Talwrn's pupils came from outside the catchment area of Ysgol Talwrn.</p> <p>In October 2020, over 60% of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn were from outside the catchment area. Given this, if the proposal is approved, fewer children from the village of Talwrn would travel to the new expanded school than the number of pupils currently travelling to Ysgol Talwrn from outside catchment area. Fewer people will travel to the village of Talwrn from Llangefni along the B5109 if the proposal is approved. Therefore, realising the proposal would mean less travel for some but increased travel for others and so, carbon emissions would not change much.</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<p>In order to mitigate any adverse effects as a result of the proposal, in accordance with the statutory notice, the Authority commits to provide transport for pupils who currently attend Ysgol Talwrn and reside within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Talwrn to the expanded Ysgol Y Graig, in line with the Council's transport policy for schools. If the proposal is approved by the Executive, then transport arrangements will be made in due course.</p> <p>There will be no compulsion for young children to walk from the village of Talwrn to Ysgol y Graig if the proposal is implemented.</p> <p>Child safety is therefore an integral part of the proposal and has been fully considered by officers and councillors. Security will continue to be a paramount consideration if the proposal is realised.</p>
13.	<p>Children's human rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not considered as part of the consultation. 	<p>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. Council officers met with both School Councils and other pupils during the consultation period. The information provided to participants was presented in a manner relevant to their age and level of understanding, and in accordance with practice agreed with Headteachers in advance.</p> <p>The Council developed a user-friendly A3 response form for the children to complete. Pupils completed the response form in groups and were given the opportunity to speak freely and ask questions.</p> <p>A summary of the feedback received from the children and young people can be found in section 5.7 of the consultation report.</p> <p>Council officers visited both schools to find out their views on the proposal. School Councils were consulted in both schools, and at the request of parents at Ysgol Talwrn a group of children of different ages had the opportunity to contribute further to the consultation.</p> <p>Officers explained that the Council is responsible for schools in Anglesey and works as part of a team to support schools, with the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give every child the best opportunity to learn in excellent schools on the island. • To ensure safe and strong school buildings. • To ensure that money for children and schools in Anglesey is spent fairly. • To give everyone the opportunity to have a say in decisions that affect them, and make sure those voices are heard.

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<p>The children were reminded of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>'Children have the right to have their say on what should happen when adults make decisions that affect them, and for their views to be taken into account'.</p> <p>It was explained that the information they submit would be transferred to a report and presented to Councillors as part of the Statutory Consultation, who will then make a decision.</p> <p>The children were asked the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 do you feel about the proposal? • What would you like about the proposal? • What would you dislike about the proposal? • Do you have anything else you would like to say? <p>The pupils' responses were noted in the consultation report and their comments were published in the consultation report discussed by the Executive at its meeting on 17 December 2020, and the views of the pupils were taken into account as part of the decision-making process.</p> <p>One example of this was that while some children were a little concerned about the possibility of realising the proposal, some pupils were keen to have more space to play (a grassed area to play football).</p> <p>Therefore, the consultation process with children and young people was conducted in accordance with Section 3.5 of the School Organisation Code 011/2018 and children's views have been included and taken into account as part of the consultation.</p>
14	Disagrees with the way the Council has implemented the Well-being Act in the proposal's Impact Assessment.	<p>With regard to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council operates by following 5 ways of working namely Long-term, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement.</p> <p>With regard to Long-term, the Impact Assessment identified the need to ensure that education in the community is maintained and that there are sufficient school places to meet current and future needs. It was also noted that there</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<p>was a need to ensure that the school building is fit for purpose and complies with 21st Century guidelines. How the proposal would do this was outlined in the Proposal Paper, the Consultation Document and the Consultation Report.</p> <p>With regard to Integration, the proposal paper highlights how the Council considered integrating other organisations into the different options evaluated against the drivers of change.</p> <p>With regard to Content, the Impact Assessment stated that the “proposal is subject to formal statutory consultation. This will enable stakeholder involvement in the proposal”. This was done and the consultation report stated that 57 stakeholders from the Talwrn area had responded. In addition, this objection period provides an opportunity for stakeholders to be involved in the process.</p> <p>Following feedback from stakeholders, it was agreed that the Impact Assessment of the proposal (which was an assessment of the potential impact of the proposal on the community, the Welsh language and equality) would be a live document. If the proposal is approved, the potential impact of the proposal would be assessed throughout the project until the proposal is realised.</p> <p>The Impact Assessment has been updated to include points regarding the Assessment raised by stakeholders during the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>When the Executive resolved to support the proposal at its meeting on 17 December 2020, the Committee also agreed to 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> <p>All matters that go before the Executive of the Isle of Anglesey County Council must assess the potential impact of the issue or proposal on Future Generations. The questions that need to be considered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. How does this decision affect our long-term needs as an Island? ii. Is this a decision that is forecasted to prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how? iii. Have we been collaborating with other organisations to reach this decision, If so, who? iv. Have the citizens of Anglesey played their part in drafting this way forward? Explain how: v. What impact, if any, does this decision have on the equality agenda and the Welsh language? <p>Although this point appears to be a matter of opinion, the Council has adhered to the expected procedure and process by carrying out an impact assessment of the proposal should it be realised. The proposal in question was therefore assessed in terms of its potential impact on Future Generations.</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
15.	<p>The need to consider the options with an open mind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change in the Isle of Anglesey County Council's (IoACC) proposal since 2019 	<p>The proposal paper (January 2020) outlined 11 options that have been considered for the Llangefni area, as well as 10 other options that have been considered for Ysgol Talwrn and 9 options for Ysgol Y Graig as individual schools. In addition, in the consultation report (December 2020) 12 options were considered by stakeholders as reasonable alternatives to closing Ysgol Talwrn (see list below):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invest in Ysgol Talwrn to bring it to 21st Century standards 2. Open a new area school for Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Pentraeth 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 existing building at Ysgol Y Graig (not a new block) 4. Leave Ysgol Talwrn as it is 5. Merge Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Talwrn 6. Merge Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Pentraeth 7. Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (thus increasing capacity) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate pressure with regard to Llangefni schools being over capacity. 8. Address the current and projected maintenance costs at Ysgol Talwrn. 9. Federate Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and extend Ysgol Y Graig. (federation) 10. Bring Ysgol Talwrn to 21st Century standards, and federate with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Bodffordd 11. Keep all schools in Llangefni open, and invest to bring them up to 21st Century standards. Consider options regarding federating at a later date. 12. Open an all-age (multi-site) school in Llangefni to take pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni, Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Corn Hir. <p>The Council had been consistent and transparent in considering and assessing these options thoroughly. The School Organisation Code 2018 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.</p> <p>This does not mean that a rural school will never close but the case for closure must be strong and all viable alternatives to closure must have been conscientiously considered by the proposer, including federation."</p> <p>Although Ysgol Talwrn is not a rural school, in assessing these options, the Council has treated Ysgol Talwrn as a rural school and has therefore exceeded the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 and has considered and assessed 12 reasonable alternatives to closing Ysgol Talwrn</p> <p>These options were evaluated in the consultation report against the key drivers as outlined in the School Modernisation Strategy, namely:</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 ▪ 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. ▪ 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. ▪ 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. ▪ Leadership and management must be good or better in all schools. In this context, head-teachers need sufficient non-contact time to balance leadership and management challenges with teaching commitment. ▪ Welsh-medium provision should at the very least be maintained and improved ▪ Community use of school buildings and associated facilities needs to be maintained and increased where possible. <p>These options were evaluated on the basis of information from officers e.g. the condition of the school building, current and projected maintenance costs, education standards. The consultation report therefore reflected the position of Council officers from a number of disciplines.</p> <p>Although the conclusion has not changed, and the Council has nothing against Ysgol Talwrn, the revised School Organisation Code and the detail that the Council has gone into means that the Council has carefully and thoroughly evaluated the options and will allow the decision to be made with an open mind.</p>
16.	<p>Proposed cost of the scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disagrees with the figures • Is the scheme affordable? 	<p>The proposal paper and consultation document outlined how this is affordable for the Council:</p> <p>The anticipated capital cost of the proposal is currently £5.923m; this is part funded (65%) by the 21st Century Schools programme. The capital cost may increase with inflation.</p> <p>The proposed capital cost of the proposal is £5,923,323.</p> <p>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%. No other funding streams can be used.</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections	
		Total Cost	£5,923,323
		21 st Century Schools Grant	£3,850,160
		Authority's contribution towards the project	£2,073,163
		<p>It is expected that the Council's contribution of £2.073m will be funded through: £150k in capital receipts from the sale of the Ysgol Talwrn site;£1.923m unsupported borrowing that does not attract Government grants.</p> <p>The overall cost and sources of funding are shown below:</p> <p>The revenue saving (excluding the building-related financing costs) of this project is estimated to be: around £31k per annum based on the school funding formula; and a further £30k saving on transport costs (otherwise pupils would have to be transported to schools outside the catchment area due to lack of capacity). There will therefore be an ongoing net revenue saving of £61k per annum.</p> <p>The cost of borrowing to finance the £1.923m unsupported borrowing will be approximately £94k per annum. The resulting £61k revenue saving will be earmarked towards repaying the unsupported loan. The annual net cost to the Council would therefore be approximately £33,000. In addition, a contribution from a housing developer is expected between 2019/20 and 2026/27. The Authority will consider how best to fund any remaining deficit.</p> <p>The proposal will also eliminate current and projected future maintenance expenditure of £505,500 on Ysgol Talwrn (£447,500) and Ysgol y Graig (£58,000). If the Council funded the £505,500 cost through unsupported borrowing (over 20 years), it would cost around £40k a year to fund. It could be argued that this amount is also a saving.</p> <p>Therefore, the proposal is affordable for the Council. The Council believes that it would be unwise to not invest as there has been an increase in the number of children in the area in the past and the number of children will continue to increase as a result of a number of housing developments in the Ysgol y Graig catchment area.</p>	

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections
17.	<p>The Council's Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's or officers' perspective? 	<p>The proposal paper and consultation report were discussed and approved by the Executive prior to publication. The Executive made its decision based on the documentation summarising the work undertaken by officers as part of the process. Therefore, in approving these documents, it became the opinion of the Executive acting on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>The Executive is responsible for school organisation matters.</p>
18.	<p>Class sizes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too large in the new expanded school? 	<p>While class sizes at Ysgol Y Graig are sometimes over 30, there is no statutory limit on the size of any class at Key Stage 2. The main reason for classes of 30+ is usually due to limited school budgets. A portion 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. In addition, the cost per pupil in small schools is greater than that in larger schools. It could be argued that the smaller schools receive the equivalent of additional funding to maintain minimum staffing levels, and that the larger schools lose out as a result. It could therefore be argued that the proposal will help reduce the number of classes with more than 30 learners.</p> <p>The views of pupils who transferred from small schools to one of Anglesey's new primary schools were obtained as were the views of the head-teacher. It was noted that there had been no problems transferring from a small school to a larger school. The children had settled in and made new friends very quickly. Many parents commented on how fast and easy the move was and that it was the best thing that had happened to their children.</p> <p>It was noted that the children had been given opportunities that were not possible in the small individual schools - residential trips, sports tournaments, visits and visitors.</p> <p>In addition, GwE has placed Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig in the green, 'A' category, in terms of support needs, as defined in the national model for school categorisation. Both schools were judged to have 'good' outcomes in all Estyn inspection areas:</p> <p>Ysgol Talwrn – October 2018</p> <p>Ysgol y Graig – January 2019</p> <p>A new expanded school 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 to be the most able and talented. A school of this size will provide greater curricular diversity because of specialist resources and teaching i.e. IT, music. There would be more opportunity for extra-curricular activities to meet the needs of all pupils and their families. Due to additional resources and the ability to appoint specialist staff, larger schools can provide pastoral care and nurture groups.</p>

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections									
		<p>The realisation of the current proposal would result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. However, it is recognised that the transition may prove to be more challenging for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN). All practical steps are taken to minimise disruption and to assist pupils with any transfer. Pupils with ALN who currently attend Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn will continue to receive the level of support required to meet their needs. The proposal also offers the possibility of developing more expertise and capacity to address the needs of more vulnerable and more able and talented pupils. Safeguarding would remain a priority.</p> <p>Overall, pupils' standards in both key stages are consistently good and the performance of both schools is generally consistent. It could therefore be argued that class sizes do not make a difference to the standard of education.</p>									
19.	<p>The size of the expanded school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it large enough? Will it fill up quickly? 	<p>The Authority is of the opinion that the proposal under consideration would provide sufficient places for the maximum number of pupils at the school in the next few years, i.e. 419. This number based on the following considerations:</p> <p>Between 2019 and 2024, the number of pupils at Ysgol Talwrn is projected to fall from 40 to 37 which is an 8% decrease. During the same time period, the number of pupils at Ysgol y Graig is projected 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.</p> <p>In addition, there is a need to consider new housing developments in the catchment area and the primary school-age children that will arise from these. The number of primary school-aged children resulting from the new housing developments is shown in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="831 999 1839 1139"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Proposed housing developments in the catchment area to 2026</th> <th>Equivalent number of children*</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Y Graig</td> <td>397</td> <td>67 - 143</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Talwrn</td> <td>6</td> <td>1 - 2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Evidence suggests that every household in Anglesey has an average of 0.17 children of primary school-age. Multiplying the number of housing developments by 0.17, gives an estimate of the number of additional children to be educated at that particular school. However, in the Tudur ward, there is an average of 0.36 primary school-aged children per house and this could result in a total of 145 pupils from the new housing developments.</p> <p>Although the proposed housing developments are contained in the Joint Local Development Plan, there are a number of factors that affect whether these proposed developments will proceed in the planning process. Firstly, they would need to be assessed to determine whether the proposed development(s) would meet the requirements for planning permission and then, whether planning permission (valid for 5 years) would be granted. It follows that the number of</p>	School	Proposed housing developments in the catchment area to 2026	Equivalent number of children*	Y Graig	397	67 - 143	Talwrn	6	1 - 2
School	Proposed housing developments in the catchment area to 2026	Equivalent number of children*									
Y Graig	397	67 - 143									
Talwrn	6	1 - 2									

	Summary of Objections	The Council's response to the objections																		
		<p>houses in the table above is an estimate and it is not guaranteed that all these houses will be built by 2027. If these proposed housing developments were built, it is highly likely that the developer would build them in stages. This would mean that pupil numbers would increase steadily and would NOT mean that the highest number of pupils, 145 (143 + 2 = 145, from the table above), would start attending school at the same time. However, the school would be built to ensure it could be expanded in the future.</p> <p>The table below shows the expected numbers of pupils at the proposed expanded Graig School up to September 2027, taking into account the maximum number of proposed housing developments mentioned above.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="831 488 1733 644"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="831 488 1088 523"></th> <th colspan="5" data-bbox="1088 488 1733 523">Projected number on roll in September</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="831 523 1088 571"></th> <th data-bbox="1088 523 1249 571">2023</th> <th data-bbox="1249 523 1368 571">2024</th> <th data-bbox="1368 523 1487 571">2025</th> <th data-bbox="1487 523 1606 571">2026</th> <th data-bbox="1606 523 1733 571">2027</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="831 571 1088 644">Expanded Ysgol Y Graig</td> <td data-bbox="1088 571 1249 644">383</td> <td data-bbox="1249 571 1368 644">404</td> <td data-bbox="1368 571 1487 644">407</td> <td data-bbox="1487 571 1606 644">418</td> <td data-bbox="1606 571 1733 644">419</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is important to note that projections are difficult as many pupils attend schools from other catchment areas. In October 2019, Ysgol Talwrn had 14% surplus places, although 17% (7 pupils) of pupils who attend Ysgol Talwrn are from the Corn Hir catchment area, and 31% of those who attend Ysgol Talwrn (13 pupils) are from the Ysgol Y Graig catchment area.</p> <p>Parents can also choose to send their child (ren) to whichever school they wish.</p>		Projected number on roll in September						2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Expanded Ysgol Y Graig	383	404	407	418	419
	Projected number on roll in September																			
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027															
Expanded Ysgol Y Graig	383	404	407	418	419															
20.	<p>The Ysgol Talwrn site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who owns the site? • Is it leasehold or freehold? 	<p>The Ysgol Talwrn site is the property of the Isle of Anglesey County Council and has been registered under title number CYM615519 as freehold.</p>																		