

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to	Meeting of the Executive Committee
Date	December 10 2012
Subject	Modernising Anglesey Schools
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Goronwy Parry MBE
Lead Officer(s)	Head of Service (Education) Programme Manager – Schools Modernisation
Contact Officer	Programme Manager – Schools Modernisation
Nature and reason for reporting	
<p>To report to members of the Executive Committee on the principles that will be used for the consultation document which will be a basis for the Anglesey schools modernisation programme.</p>	

A – Introduction / Background / Issues
<p>Following an inspection of the Education Authority by Estyn (May 2012) and the subsequent, a Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) was compiled and approved by the Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on September 21, 2012.</p> <p>The PIAP was approved by the full Council at its meeting on October 4, 2012.</p>

B - Considerations

C – Implications and Impacts		
1	Finance / Section 151	
2	Legal / Monitoring Officer	Comply with all legal requirements
3	Human Resources	This would be dealt with in the consultation stages.
4	Property Services	Implications to the Property Service would be dealt with at the appropriate level.
5	Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	Any changes would be reflected in the Service Level Agreement between the Education Service and ICT.
6	Equality	Equality assessments will be undertaken as and when required.
7	Anti-poverty and Social	It is likely that a potential new school in Holyhead would be located in a deprived area.
8	Communication	The Education Service would liaise with the Communications Unit especially during any formal consultation stage.
9	Consultation	Informal discussions have already taken place with potential Band A stakeholders. Once the Executive authorises officers in the Education Service, consultation will commence.
10	Economic	Future provision will take into account the effect of industrial developments on surplus places.
11	Environmental	The expectation of Welsh Government is that any new school is 'BREEAM Excellent'.
12	Crime and Disorder	
13	Outcome Agreements	

CH - Summary

One action point which is in response to section A6 of the PIAP was “agreement on the key educational principles to be included in the schools’ modernization strategy”. The attached report expands upon those principles.

D - Recommendation

The Executive Committee is asked to adopt the principles that are listed and to suggest other possible principles that are not listed.

Name of author of report
Job Title
Date

Emrys Bebb
Programme Manager – Schools Modernisation
November 30 2012

Appendices:**Background papers**

PRINCIPLES

1. Surplus places

Surplus places in Anglesey schools are amongst the highest in Wales. In 2011, there were 27.7% of surplus places in Anglesey primary schools, the highest but one in Wales. In the secondary sector, the corresponding figure was 23.0%.

Table 1

	Anglesey	Position in Wales (out of 22)	Wales
Surplus places in the primary sector	27.7%	21	20.7%
Surplus places in the secondary sector	23.0%	18	19.9%

However, the number of surplus places in the primary sector has fallen to 24.2% in January 2012 and to 22.7% in September 2012 but the level of surplus places in the secondary sector is currently 25.0% (it should be noted that these are unofficial figures). The Welsh Government's aim is that Local Authorities have no more than 10% surplus places¹ in their schools and an independent report has recommended the same target². However, the Education Minister has written to each local authority in Wales that has greater than 15% surplus places requesting that they reduce the % surplus places to 15%.

Anglesey Council was harshly criticised by the inspection body Estyn for its inefficient use of places in schools. Therefore, the Council needs to reduce the number of surplus places in schools across the county in order to make better use of the available funding.

In May 2012 Estyn published a thematic report entitled "*How surplus places affect the resources available for expenditure on improving outcomes for pupils?*" In it Estyn states:

"The average cost of a surplus place in the primary sector in Wales in 2011-2012 is £260, but in addition, the average saving arising from a school closure is £63,500".

Currently, there are 1,436 surplus places in Anglesey primary schools. Therefore, on this basis, the cost of surplus places in primary schools in Anglesey is £373,360, i.e. 1,436 surplus places x £260.

¹ Welsh Government Guidance Circular Number: 021/2009

² Report "The Structure of Education Services in Wales" (Vivian Thomas – March 2011)

2. Cost per pupil

Each school receives its financial allocation from the local authority. In order to endeavour to measure the efficiency of this allocation for schools, the allocation is divided by the number of pupils at the school to give the cost per pupil.

In the 2012-13 financial year, the per pupil spend is £4,146 which is the highest but one in Wales in the primary sector whilst the average for Wales is £4,080 per pupil. The Welsh Government's aim is that the per pupil spend for schools is nearer the average for Wales.

3. Standards / Achievement / Inspections.

The need to raise standards remains a priority for the Welsh Government. In this context, the following are used to gauge standards:-

1. End of key stage indicators i.e. the % of pupils that achieve the expected level and the level(s) above the expected for that key stage.
2. Estyn inspections.

Estyn is of the opinion that the end of Foundation Phase and end of Key Stage 2 standards need to be improved on Anglesey.

See Table 2 below for the data (2010/11) for the Foundation Phase a Key Stage 2:-

Table 2

	% of pupils achieving the expected level on Anglesey	% of pupils achieving the expected level on an All Wales basis
Foundation Phase	80.9	82.7
Key Stage 2	78.6	80.0

With regard to Estyn inspections, the current Inspection Framework uses three questions but there are ten aspects to them.

4. Buildings

The Welsh Government has identified as a priority that schools should have buildings that meet twenty first century expectations, that are fit for purpose, in the right place and that meet the need of learners whilst providing a resource for the community. This is the

aim of the Welsh Government's Programme "Twenty First Century Schools". It is also important to develop a sustainable education system by using resources more effectively whilst reducing fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

In order to review the condition of any school building, data from two sources is used:-

- i. Data from E.C. Harris who conducted school condition surveys county wide in 2009 and
- ii. Data from Council surveyors who calculate the cost of maintenance work for the building based on a detailed and thorough condition survey.

5. Leadership and management capacity

Educational research recognises that good leadership and management is linked to good standards – good schools are well led.

Schools' leadership and management requirements have increased substantially over the past few years with expectations likely to increase in the future. Thus, a Headteacher requires sufficient non-contact time to attend to leadership and management matters. Indeed, it could be argued that a Headteacher needs to be wholly designated to Headship matters to be able to pay just attention to all the requirements and expectations faced.

6. Attendance

According to the Estyn report, there is a need to improve the attendance rate at Anglesey schools and therefore attendance figures are vital in order to gauge the performance of schools.

An attendance rate of 95% is considered good whilst 97% or greater is considered excellent.

7. Co-locating

In order to have full use of a school by the community, it needs to be used after school hours, in line with the Welsh Government's "Community Focused Schools" programme. One way of doing this is by co-locating other public services on the school site that will reduce the Council's use of buildings. This must be done in the context of ensuring pupil safety.

8. Development of a campus

In more urban areas, a campus can be developed i.e. a primary school adjacent to a secondary school if not on the same site. In Llangefni, the new Ysgol Y Bont that is

being built will be on the same site as Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni and Plas Arthur Leisure Centre. There are obvious benefits to this.

9. Community use

Research suggests that schools need to consider additional provision such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, child-care provision; summer holiday and weekend activities if this is to be truly addressed. It is also expected that schools should be a resource for the local community to promote community activities that will include parents, community members and local groups. Then the link between schools and the local community can be developed further so that pupils appreciate the history, culture and development of these communities.

In order to determine what community use was made of schools, an informal survey was conducted at the end of 2011 by questioning the school headteachers. The result was that there was community use of 72% of primary schools in the county.

10. Taking advantage of natural opportunities

The Framework Policy that was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on July 11, 2011 stated that it needs to be “implemented flexibly and progressively and in accordance with local circumstances as reviews become necessary and opportunities arise”. For example, when a headteacher retires from a school in an area where a review of the primary school provision in that area is about to take place, an acting headteacher could be appointed in that school or schools where the provision is being reviewed.

11. Bilingualism

The Authority operates a bilingual policy in all schools within the county.

The aim is to develop the ability of pupils and students within the county to be confidently bilingual in order that they can be full members of the bilingual society of which they are part. All educational establishments within the county reflect and reinforce the language policy in their administration, their social life and pastoral arrangements as well as their academic provision.

Attention needs to be given to strengthening and safeguarding the Welsh language / bilingualism as a part of the modernisation programme.

12. Transport

The LEA provides free school transport for full time pupils aged 4-16 years as follows.

- (i) for primary school pupils residing 1.5 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside;
- (ii) for secondary school pupils residing 3 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside (with the exception of 6th form pupils / further education students (see 6.4 below);
- (iii) for pupils whose special educational needs, medical condition or other individual circumstances, in the opinion of the LA, make free transport necessary;
- (iv) For pupils who do not qualify for transport under (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv) above but who travel to school along a route that is considered to be exceptionally hazardous or under other exceptional circumstances;
- (v) For pupils who attend a school which is not their catchment area school if that is the nearest school to the home, and if the distance from home to the school is 1½ miles or more for pupils under 8 years old or 3 miles or more for pupils aged 8 years or older.

Except for those children in (iii) above it is expected for a child to walk a reasonable distance to meet any transport provided.

Any modernisation programme will need to consider the consequences on travelling to school along with all aspects of health and safety.

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Nature and reason for reporting	
<p>To report to the Executive on the informal consultation process held in five schools in Holyhead in May and June 2012. In January 2012, the Board of Commissioners gave officers of the Education Service permission to return to Holyhead to consult on possible options for a new primary school.</p>	

A – Introduction / Background / Issues
<p>Anglesey Council was successful in its bid to secure £3.95 million from the Welsh Government, which is half the finance, towards building a new primary school in Holyhead. The Board of Commissioners gave officers from the Education Service permission to return to the town to consult on possible options for a new primary school.</p>

B - Considerations

C – Implications and Impacts		
1	Finance / Section 151	Revenue savings as outlined in the report
2	Legal / Monitoring Officer	Comply with all legal requirements
3	Human Resources	This would be dealt with in the consultation stages.
4	Property Services	Implications to the Property Service would be dealt with at the appropriate level.
5	Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	Any changes would be reflected in the Service Level Agreement between the Education Service and ICT.
6	Equality	Equality assessments will be undertaken as and when required.
7	Anti-poverty and Social	It is likely that a potential new school in Holyhead would be located in a deprived area.
8	Communication	The Education Service would liaise with the Communications Unit especially during any formal consultation stage.
9	Consultation	Informal discussions have already taken place with potential stakeholders. Once the Executive authorises officers in the Education Service, consultation will commence.
10	Economic	Future provision will take into account the effect of industrial developments on surplus places.
11	Environmental	The expectation of Welsh Government is that any new school is 'BREEAM Excellent'.
12	Crime and Disorder	
13	Outcome Agreements	

CH - Summary

A report is presented to the Executive Committee summarising the informal consultation process in Holyhead. The decision of the Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on October 26, 2012 was:-

- To recommend Option 10 (merger of 3 schools i.e. Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llaingoch and Ysgol Parch. Thomas Ellis in a new school) to the Executive as the Committee's preferred option for formal consultation subject to affordability and to traffic management and road safety issues being satisfactorily addressed
- To recommend that that new primary school in Holyhead be located on the Cybi site.

D - Recommendation

The recommendations are :-

- To recommend Option 10 (merger of 3 schools i.e. Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llaingoch and Ysgol Parch. Thomas Ellis in a new school) to the Executive as the Committee's preferred option for formal consultation subject to affordability and to traffic management and road safety issues being satisfactorily addressed
- To recommend that that new primary school in Holyhead be located on the Cybi site.

Name of author of report

Emrys Bebb

Job Title

Programme Manager – Schools Modernisation

Date

November 30 2012

Appendices:

The original consultation document.

Background papers



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

ADRAN DYSGU GYDOL OES
LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT

ADOLYGIAD YSGOLION CYNRADD
CAERGYBI – YMGYNGHORIAD
ANFFURFIOL (MAI – GORFFENNAF 2012)

HOLYHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOLS REVIEW –
INFORMAL CONSULTATION
(MAY – JULY 2012)

May 2012

NUMBER AND CONTENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2011, the Welsh Government announced it was going to contribute £3.95 million towards a new primary school in Holyhead costing £7.9 million. It is hoped the new school will be opening its doors in September 2015 or September 2016.
- 1.2 This document is the basis of **public consultation on proposals for a new primary school in Holyhead i.e. informal consultation**. This is the first stage of the consultation process for a new primary school in Holyhead.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Public expenditure is being reduced everywhere in response to the worldwide economic recession. This reduction has been happening for two years and the financial outlook is unlikely to improve, with similar pressures facing local authorities throughout Wales and Britain. This means every local authority has to face substantial cuts in its budget and this will inevitably affect services.
- 2.2 Since there is 40% less funding for capital projects coming to the Welsh Government from the British Government, the Welsh Government does not have as much money to give to local authorities. Over the next three years, Anglesey Council will have to achieve savings of £11 million, which means making better use of money.
- 2.3 The Education Service's provision is not excluded from these cuts, therefore savings also have to be looked in this provision as well. That can be achieved by reducing the number of schools maintained by the Education Service.
- 2.4 Because the percentage of surplus places in the primary sector in Anglesey is so high (27.7% in January 2011, which is the second highest in Wales) Anglesey Council was heavily criticized by the inspection body, Estyn, for ineffective use of school places. Therefore, the Council needs to reduce the number of surplus places in schools throughout the county in order to make better use of the funding available. Even so, a number of new houses are proposed for Holyhead and developments such as Wylfa B will affect the local population and the number of children attending Anglesey's schools.
- 2.5 There are seven primary schools serving Holyhead:

Ysgol y Parc

Ysgol Llanfawr

Ysgol Llaingoch

Ysgol Kingsland

Ysgol Morswyn

Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis [A Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School]

St Mary's School [A Catholic Church Voluntary Aided School]

2.6 The Executive decided at its meeting on February 23, 2009 that Ysgol Morswyn and St Mary's School should not be included in the further study of the pattern of schools in Holyhead town. Since St Mary's School is more than full and a voluntary controlled school, it was excluded from the process. In 2009, the projections showed the school would be full soon afterwards. This happened, and the school is now more than full. Because of this and because Ysgol Morswyn is in the catchment area for Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern, it was decided to exclude this school from the rationalization process.

2.7 Therefore, the remainder of the report offers options in relation to five schools, namely:-

Ysgol y Parc

Ysgol Llanfawr

Ysgol Llaingoch

Ysgol Kingsland

Ysgol y Parch Thomas Ellis

3. HOLYHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

3.1 The Guidance in Welsh Assembly Government Circular: 021/2009 is as follows:-

"It is important the funding for education is used cost effectively. Resources targeted towards raising standards should be optimised. Some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils, but excessive numbers in unused places, with consequentially excessive numbers of schools, mean that resources are tied up unproductively. Where there are excessive numbers of surplus places in an area, Local Authorities should review their provision and, where feasible, make proposals for school reorganization especially where individual schools have 'significant' levels of surplus places, require significant investment, or have a catchment area which is unlikely to provide sufficient numbers of pupils to make it sustainable for the future. Local Authorities should ensure that schools to be retained are of an appropriate number and are located so as to maximise potential engagement with the community. Local Authorities should aim to retain no more than 10% surplus places*

overall, although levels in individual schools may be higher than this, particularly in more rural areas. In general, Local Authorities should look to reallocate revenue savings made through the removal of surplus capacity within the education portfolio.”

** “Significant surplus is defined as 25% or more of a school’s capacity and at least 30 unfilled places: for example a small school with a total capacity of 100 places might have 28 unfilled places but this would not be classed as significant surplus.”*

3.2 A report entitled “The Structure of Education Services in Wales” (Vivian Thomas – March 2011) recommended a target of 10% of surplus places in schools.

3.3 Table 1 shows the figures for surplus places in the five primary schools concerned:-

Table 1

School	Capacity	Pupils (September 2011)	Surplus places	% surplus places
Parc	204	135	69	34%
Llanfawr	246	162	84	34%
Llaingoch	200	156	44	22%
Kingsland	146	122	24	16%
Parch Thomas Ellis	139	98	41	29%
Total	935	673	262	28%

The table therefore shows there are ‘significant’ numbers of surplus places at Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llanfawr and Ysgol y Parch Thomas Ellis, according to the Welsh Government definition above. The Welsh Government’s guidance is that “Local Authorities should aim to retain no more than 10% surplus places overall.” High levels of surplus places means that resources are not being used in the most effective way. The present level of surplus places between the five schools is 28.0% compared to an average of 27.7% in Anglesey primary schools. Even so, it is foreseen there will be an increase in the population of the five schools in the next few years but the empty places would continue to be about 19% in 2015 as things are at present.

3.4 Estyn said in a report it published in May 2012:
 “...in the primary sector in Wales in 2011-12, the average cost of a surplus place is £260, whilst, in addition, the average saving that results from closing a school is £63,500”. Therefore, on this basis, the cost of empty places in the five primary schools above in Holyhead is £72,800.

3.5 The way school buildings are used has changed, and will continue to change. The new curriculum requirements (the Foundation Phase, for example), developments in Information and Communication Technology or ICT (using interactive whiteboards and wireless technology, for example) and the potential for community use means that the

county's schools have to change and that the Council needs to be leading on this if it is to meet the needs of modern life.

- 3.6 At present, Anglesey County Council, together with every other local authority in Wales, is reviewing its schools as part of a commitment to modernize education and ensure that its schools provide the best possible learning environment and facilities in accordance with the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme.
- 3.7 The Council will be holding a series of area reviews to achieve this (see below). Political approval was given in January 2012 when the Anglesey Council Board of Commissioners authorized the Education Department's officers to begin the process of reviewing the primary school provision in Holyhead. The review includes the five primary schools listed above.

4. CONDITION OF THE BUILDINGS

- 4.1 Reviews of condition, suitability and sustainability were carried out in 2009/10 on behalf of the Assembly Government by a company of consultants, E.C.Harris. They looked at a number of factors (in schools throughout Wales) including:
 - 4.1.1 Condition of the school building
 - 4.1.2 In terms of suitability, the surveyor tried to gather information from every part of the school to see how suitable it was for education. Matters considered were ones such as health and safety, flexibility of space, size and shape of the school, ventilation, lighting, acoustics, location, storage, fixtures and fittings and ICT infrastructure.
 - 4.1.3 In terms of sustainability, the surveyor noted information on the energy efficiency of the heating and lighting equipment, control of the heating system, water conservation, waste recycling and the Display Energy Certificate. The sustainability review looks at those areas affecting the school's environmental, social and economic sustainability (energy, heat, security).
 - 4.1.4 Table 2 gives a summary of the results of the surveys:-

Table 2

<u>School</u>	Condition¹	Suitability²	Sustainability³
Llaingoch	B	B	C
Y Parc	B	B	B
Parch Thomas Ellis	B	B	B
Llanfawr	B	A	B
Kingsland	B	A	B

¹*Building Condition Categories*

Category A – Good

Category B – Satisfactory

Category C – Poor

Category D – Very Poor

²*Suitability Categories*

Category A – Good – suitable levels for teaching, learning and wellbeing in schools

Category B – Reasonable – but having a negative effect on behaviour / morale and management

Category C – Poor – impairing teaching methods

Category D – Very Poor – a serious situation and /or unable to teach the curriculum

³*Sustainability Categories*

Category A – Excellent

Category B – Good or Higher than Average

Category C – Poor

Category D – Poor or Nonexistent

- 4.2 Anglesey County Council has a substantial backlog of maintenance work on schools, and this is a problem common to most other local authorities in Wales. What it means is that maintenance or repair work that should have been done in the past has not been done, for a number of reasons. This in turn leads to a backlog of maintenance work. A backlog of maintenance work is an integral characteristic of a large and varied stock. In theory, there is an ideal time to carry out each task when considering them individually, but it is more economical and practical to do some of the work as a ‘package’ and prioritize the work in accordance with the funding available. Therefore, there will always be some amount of maintenance backlog.

4.3 The total amount of maintenance backlog at the five schools under consideration is about £665,000. This is a substantial sum, and it is unlikely the authority will be able to afford to make any substantial investment to deal with this backlog in the present economic climate.

4.3 The £665,000 is the cost of maintenance work only, not improvement work. Dealing with the backlog of maintenance work at these schools would not provide the facilities in terms of teaching and environment suited to the 21st century, nor would it meet the Welsh Assembly Government requirements for 21st Century Schools.

5. EDUCATION STANDARDS

5.1 The aim of the whole process is to improve standards. The indicator used by the Welsh Government for education standards is the End of Key Stage performance indicator. This happens at the end of Key Stage 1 (6 years old) and the end of Key Stage 2 (11 years old) i.e. the percentage of the school's pupils attaining the expected levels or higher (Level 2+ for KS 1 and Level 4+ for KS2) in Mathematics, Welsh, English and Science. For Key Stage 1 in 2011 at the five schools concerned, this level was 75.2%, which compares to an average of 80.9% for Anglesey and 82.7% for the whole of Wales. Graph 1 below shows the pattern over the last three years.

Graph 1 – Percentage reaching Level 2+ at the end of Key Stage 1



For Key Stage 2, at the five schools concerned in 2011, this level was 63.3%, which compares to an average of 78.6% for Anglesey and 80.0% for the whole of Wales. Graph 2 below shows the pattern for the last three years.

Graph 2 – Percentage reaching Level 4+ at the end of Key Stage 2



6. POSSIBILITIES

6.1 Table 3 shows the possible options:

Table 3

No.	Option	New school to be a 'church school' like Rev Thomas Ellis School?	Effects
1	Leave things as they are		Present problems getting worse
	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis		
2a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 270	Yes	Disperse some to Llanfawr a Kingsland
2b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 270	No	
3a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 300	Yes	No dispersal
3b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 300	No	
4a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 330	Yes	No dispersal – reduction in others?
4b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 330	No	
5a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 360	Yes	No dispersal – reduction in others?
5b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 360	No	
	New Llaingoch and Parc		
6	New Llaingoch and Parc for 270	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr and Parch. Thomas Ellis
7	New Llaingoch and Parc for 300	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr and Parch. Thomas Ellis
8	New Llaingoch and Parc for 330	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse some to Llanfawr and Parch. Thomas Ellis
9	New Llaingoch and Parc for 360	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse some to Llanfawr
	New Parc / Llaingoch / Parch Thomas Ellis		
10a	New Parc / Llaingoch and Parch Thomas Ellis for 480	Yes	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr
10b	New Parc / Llaingoch and Parch Thomas Ellis for 480	No	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr

6.2 It is intended that the new school would be built on one of the following possible sites:

1. Cybi Site
2. Ysgol y Parc Site
3. Ysgol Llaingoch Site
4. Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis Site

6.3 **Option 1** – Since there is funding allocated for a new school, leaving things as they are is not an option – the primary school provision in Holyhead needs to be changed.

6.4 The variable factor with **Options 2-5** is the size and status of the school i.e. whether it will be a ‘church school’ or not. At present, there are about 233 pupils aged 4-11 at Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis and the estimates show that the numbers at both schools will be about 250 by September 2015. Bearing in mind that Ysgol y Graig in Llangefni is full only three years after it opened, some ‘extra space’ will be needed. Therefore, it is more than likely that a school for about 300 children, including the nursery, would be needed if these two schools were combined.

6.5 In looking at **Options 6-9**, it is seen that what is being considered here is combining Ysgol y Parc with Ysgol Llaingoch. At present, there are about 291 pupils at Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol Llaingoch and the estimates show that the numbers at both schools will be about 315 by September 2015. Therefore, it is probable that a school for about 360 children, including the nursery, would be needed if these two schools were combined.

6.6 The possibility in **Option 10** is combining Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llaingoch and Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis. At present, there are 389 pupils aged 4-11 at the three schools and the estimates show that the numbers at the three will be 428 by September 2015. Therefore, a school for about 510 children, including the nursery, would be needed if these three schools were combined.

7. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 7.1 The Council will consult with parents, governors and staff at the five schools that are part of this proposal, as well as with the local communities, local councillors, the Assembly Member, Member of Parliament and the Government of Wales and other stakeholders. The consultation period will end on **Saturday, July 14, 2012.**

A number of meetings have been arranged during this time period, as shown in Table 4:-

Table 4

School	Date (in 2012)	Meeting with		
		Staff	Governors	Parents
Y Parc	Tuesday 29 May	4.00	5.30	6.30
Thomas Ellis	Wednesday 30 May	3.45	5.00	6.30
Kingsland	Thursday 31 May	3.30	5.00	6.00
Llaingoch	Tuesday 12 June	3.45	5.00	6.30
Llanfawr	Thursday 14 June	4.00	5.00	6.00

- 7.2 You are welcome to ask us questions and you can send your views on the proposals either by letter, email or by completing the response form attached. Your responses should be sent to:

Programme Manager (Schools Modernisation),
The Education Service,
Park Mount,
Glanhwfa Road,
Llangefni,
Anglesey
LL77 7EY.

The email address is
angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk

You should ensure your response reaches Anglesey Council by July 14, 2012.

The Council will gather your views and consider them before making a recommendation to the Anglesey Council Board of Commissioners regarding how to proceed. The Anglesey Council Board of Commissioners will consider a report on the results of this consultation and consider recommendations from officers at its meeting in September or October 2012.

Your contributions to the process as members of the community are all-important.

8. THE NEXT STAGES

This is the initial and informal consultation. At the end of this consultation period, officers will collate all the responses and information before a recommendation is made to the Board of Commissioners. In September or October 2012, the Board of Commissioners will consider reports on the results of this consultation, including the recommendation from Council officers.

If the Board of Commissioners decides that two schools or three schools should be combined in one school, the Council will have to follow a statutory process:

1. A Statutory Notice to close one, two or three schools would be published and the period for objecting to it would be one month.
2. If there are no objections, the authority will decide whether to implement the proposal or not. If they do decide to implement the proposal, the statutory period will begin.
3. If objections are received, the Welsh Government will make the final decision. The Government will usually require a minimum of 4 months for this stage, so a decision could be expected by about summer 2013.
4. The earliest date when the proposed new school could open would be September 2015.
5. See **appendix 1** for the process in the form of a flow chart.

Appendix 1

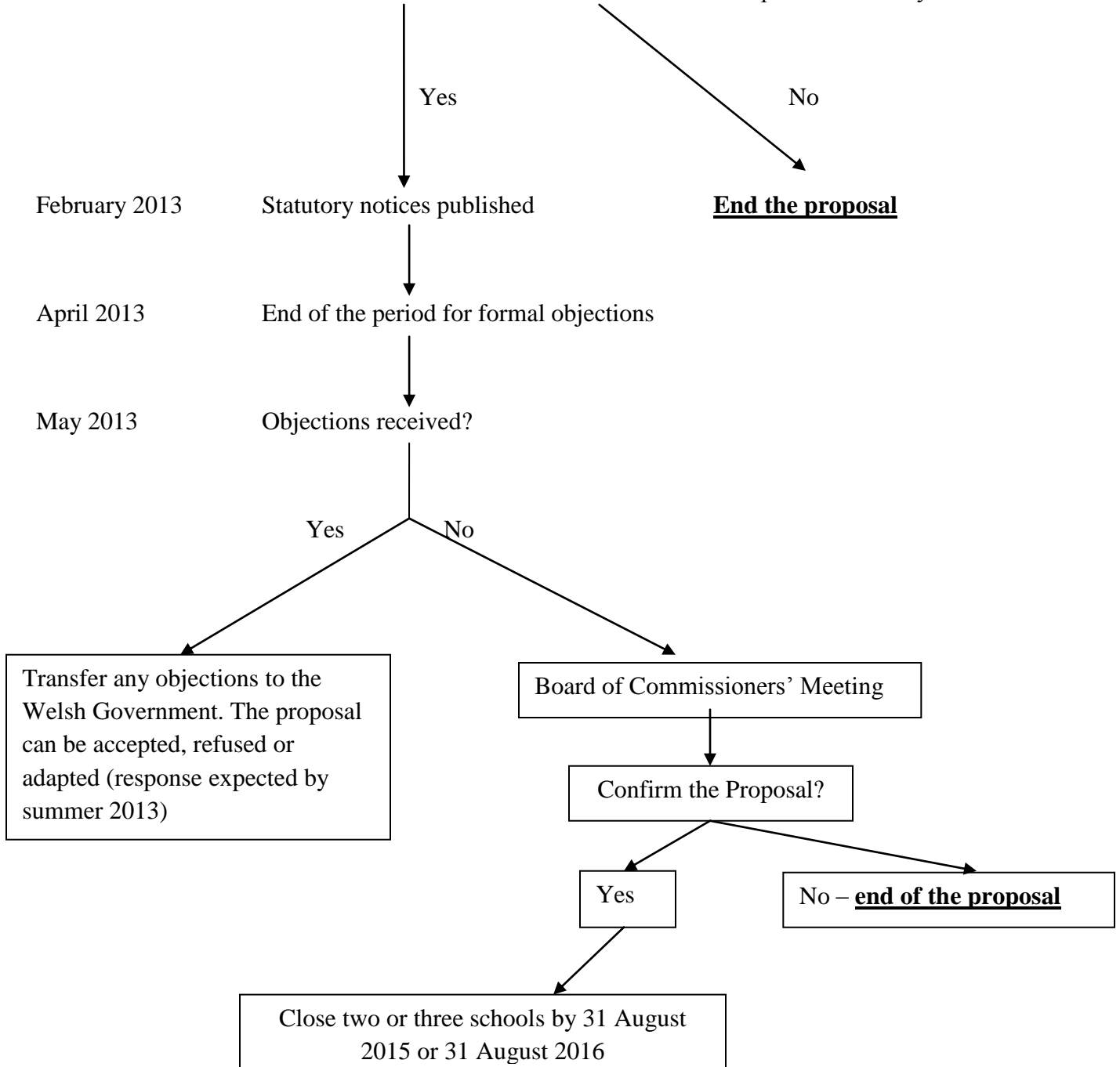
(The timetable is an estimate and times can change)

September 2012 Formal consultation document circulated

September/October 2012 Consultation meetings for staff, governors and parents

November 2012 Closing date for receiving comments on the proposal

December 2012 Board of Commissioners' decision on whether to publish statutory notices





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ADRAN DYSGU GYDOL OES
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ADOLYGIAD YSGOLION CYNRADD
CAERGYBI – YMGYNGHORIAD
ANFFURFIOL (MAI – GORFFENNAF 2012)

HOLYHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOLS REVIEW –
INFORMAL CONSULTATION
(MAY – JULY 2012)

May 2012

NUMBER AND CONTENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2011, the Welsh Government announced it was going to contribute £3.95 million towards a new primary school in Holyhead costing £7.9 million. It is hoped the new school will be opening its doors in September 2015 or September 2016.
- 1.2 This document is the basis of **public consultation on proposals for a new primary school in Holyhead i.e. informal consultation**. This is the first stage of the consultation process for a new primary school in Holyhead.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Public expenditure is being reduced everywhere in response to the worldwide economic recession. This reduction has been happening for two years and the financial outlook is unlikely to improve, with similar pressures facing local authorities throughout Wales and Britain. This means every local authority has to face substantial cuts in its budget and this will inevitably affect services.
- 2.2 Since there is 40% less funding for capital projects coming to the Welsh Government from the British Government, the Welsh Government does not have as much money to give to local authorities. Over the next three years, Anglesey Council will have to achieve savings of £11 million, which means making better use of money.
- 2.3 The Education Service's provision is not excluded from these cuts, therefore savings also have to be looked in this provision as well. That can be achieved by reducing the number of schools maintained by the Education Service.
- 2.4 Because the percentage of surplus places in the primary sector in Anglesey is so high (27.7% in January 2011, which is the second highest in Wales) Anglesey Council was heavily criticized by the inspection body, Estyn, for ineffective use of school places. Therefore, the Council needs to reduce the number of surplus places in schools throughout the county in order to make better use of the funding available. Even so, a number of new houses are proposed for Holyhead and developments such as Wylfa B will affect the local population and the number of children attending Anglesey's schools.
- 2.5 There are seven primary schools serving Holyhead:

Ysgol y Parc

Ysgol Llanfawr

Ysgol Llaingoch

Ysgol Kingsland

Ysgol Morswyn

Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis [A Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School]

St Mary's School [A Catholic Church Voluntary Aided School]

2.6 The Executive decided at its meeting on February 23, 2009 that Ysgol Morswyn and St Mary's School should not be included in the further study of the pattern of schools in Holyhead town. Since St Mary's School is more than full and a voluntary controlled school, it was excluded from the process. In 2009, the projections showed the school would be full soon afterwards. This happened, and the school is now more than full. Because of this and because Ysgol Morswyn is in the catchment area for Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern, it was decided to exclude this school from the rationalization process.

2.7 Therefore, the remainder of the report offers options in relation to five schools, namely:-

Ysgol y Parc

Ysgol Llanfawr

Ysgol Llaingoch

Ysgol Kingsland

Ysgol y Parch Thomas Ellis

3. HOLYHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

3.1 The Guidance in Welsh Assembly Government Circular: 021/2009 is as follows:-

"It is important the funding for education is used cost effectively. Resources targeted towards raising standards should be optimised. Some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils, but excessive numbers in unused places, with consequentially excessive numbers of schools, mean that resources are tied up unproductively. Where there are excessive numbers of surplus places in an area, Local Authorities should review their provision and, where feasible, make proposals for school reorganization especially where individual schools have 'significant' levels of surplus places, require significant investment, or have a catchment area which is unlikely to provide sufficient numbers of pupils to make it sustainable for the future. Local Authorities should ensure that schools to be retained are of an appropriate number and are located so as to maximise potential engagement with the community. Local Authorities should aim to retain no more than 10% surplus places*

overall, although levels in individual schools may be higher than this, particularly in more rural areas. In general, Local Authorities should look to reallocate revenue savings made through the removal of surplus capacity within the education portfolio.”

** “Significant surplus is defined as 25% or more of a school’s capacity and at least 30 unfilled places: for example a small school with a total capacity of 100 places might have 28 unfilled places but this would not be classed as significant surplus.”*

3.2 A report entitled “The Structure of Education Services in Wales” (Vivian Thomas – March 2011) recommended a target of 10% of surplus places in schools.

3.3 Table 1 shows the figures for surplus places in the five primary schools concerned:-

Table 1

School	Capacity	Pupils (September 2011)	Surplus places	% surplus places
Parc	204	135	69	34%
Llanfawr	246	162	84	34%
Llaingoch	200	156	44	22%
Kingsland	146	122	24	16%
Parch Thomas Ellis	139	98	41	29%
Total	935	673	262	28%

The table therefore shows there are ‘significant’ numbers of surplus places at Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llanfawr and Ysgol y Parch Thomas Ellis, according to the Welsh Government definition above. The Welsh Government’s guidance is that “Local Authorities should aim to retain no more than 10% surplus places overall.” High levels of surplus places means that resources are not being used in the most effective way. The present level of surplus places between the five schools is 28.0% compared to an average of 27.7% in Anglesey primary schools. Even so, it is foreseen there will be an increase in the population of the five schools in the next few years but the empty places would continue to be about 19% in 2015 as things are at present.

3.4 Estyn said in a report it published in May 2012:
 “...in the primary sector in Wales in 2011-12, the average cost of a surplus place is £260, whilst, in addition, the average saving that results from closing a school is £63,500”. Therefore, on this basis, the cost of empty places in the five primary schools above in Holyhead is £72,800.

3.5 The way school buildings are used has changed, and will continue to change. The new curriculum requirements (the Foundation Phase, for example), developments in Information and Communication Technology or ICT (using interactive whiteboards and wireless technology, for example) and the potential for community use means that the

county's schools have to change and that the Council needs to be leading on this if it is to meet the needs of modern life.

- 3.6 At present, Anglesey County Council, together with every other local authority in Wales, is reviewing its schools as part of a commitment to modernize education and ensure that its schools provide the best possible learning environment and facilities in accordance with the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme.
- 3.7 The Council will be holding a series of area reviews to achieve this (see below). Political approval was given in January 2012 when the Anglesey Council Board of Commissioners authorized the Education Department's officers to begin the process of reviewing the primary school provision in Holyhead. The review includes the five primary schools listed above.

4. CONDITION OF THE BUILDINGS

- 4.1 Reviews of condition, suitability and sustainability were carried out in 2009/10 on behalf of the Assembly Government by a company of consultants, E.C.Harris. They looked at a number of factors (in schools throughout Wales) including:
 - 4.1.1 Condition of the school building
 - 4.1.2 In terms of suitability, the surveyor tried to gather information from every part of the school to see how suitable it was for education. Matters considered were ones such as health and safety, flexibility of space, size and shape of the school, ventilation, lighting, acoustics, location, storage, fixtures and fittings and ICT infrastructure.
 - 4.1.3 In terms of sustainability, the surveyor noted information on the energy efficiency of the heating and lighting equipment, control of the heating system, water conservation, waste recycling and the Display Energy Certificate. The sustainability review looks at those areas affecting the school's environmental, social and economic sustainability (energy, heat, security).
 - 4.1.4 Table 2 gives a summary of the results of the surveys:-

Table 2

<u>School</u>	Condition¹	Suitability²	Sustainability³
Llaingoch	B	B	C
Y Parc	B	B	B
Parch Thomas Ellis	B	B	B
Llanfawr	B	A	B
Kingsland	B	A	B

¹*Building Condition Categories*

Category A – Good

Category B – Satisfactory

Category C – Poor

Category D – Very Poor

²*Suitability Categories*

Category A – Good – suitable levels for teaching, learning and wellbeing in schools

Category B – Reasonable – but having a negative effect on behaviour / morale and management

Category C – Poor – impairing teaching methods

Category D – Very Poor – a serious situation and /or unable to teach the curriculum

³*Sustainability Categories*

Category A – Excellent

Category B – Good or Higher than Average

Category C – Poor

Category D – Poor or Nonexistent

- 4.2 Anglesey County Council has a substantial backlog of maintenance work on schools, and this is a problem common to most other local authorities in Wales. What it means is that maintenance or repair work that should have been done in the past has not been done, for a number of reasons. This in turn leads to a backlog of maintenance work. A backlog of maintenance work is an integral characteristic of a large and varied stock. In theory, there is an ideal time to carry out each task when considering them individually, but it is more economical and practical to do some of the work as a ‘package’ and prioritize the work in accordance with the funding available. Therefore, there will always be some amount of maintenance backlog.

4.3 The total amount of maintenance backlog at the five schools under consideration is about £665,000. This is a substantial sum, and it is unlikely the authority will be able to afford to make any substantial investment to deal with this backlog in the present economic climate.

4.3 The £665,000 is the cost of maintenance work only, not improvement work. Dealing with the backlog of maintenance work at these schools would not provide the facilities in terms of teaching and environment suited to the 21st century, nor would it meet the Welsh Assembly Government requirements for 21st Century Schools.

5. EDUCATION STANDARDS

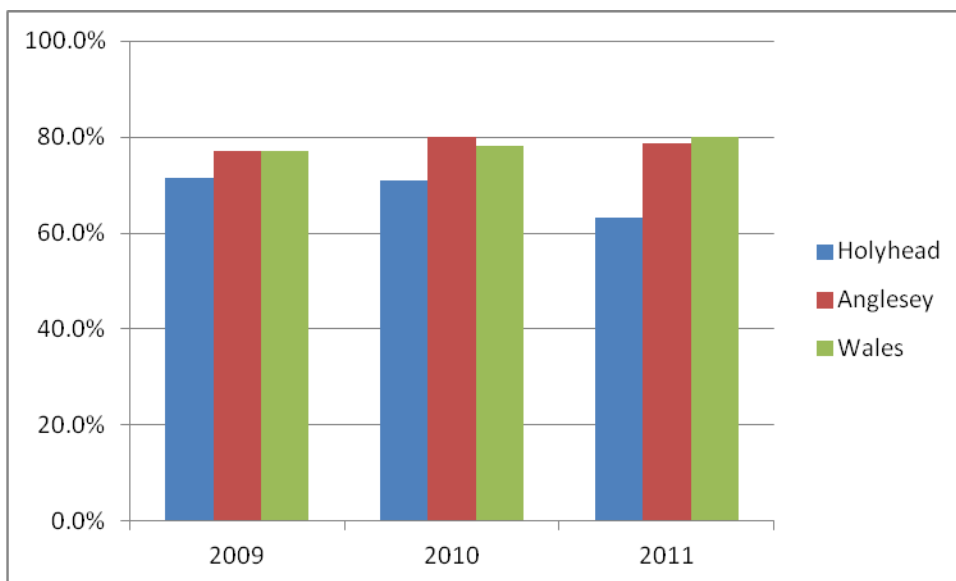
5.1 The aim of the whole process is to improve standards. The indicator used by the Welsh Government for education standards is the End of Key Stage performance indicator. This happens at the end of Key Stage 1 (6 years old) and the end of Key Stage 2 (11 years old) i.e. the percentage of the school's pupils attaining the expected levels or higher (Level 2+ for KS 1 and Level 4+ for KS2) in Mathematics, Welsh, English and Science. For Key Stage 1 in 2011 at the five schools concerned, this level was 75.2%, which compares to an average of 80.9% for Anglesey and 82.7% for the whole of Wales. Graph 1 below shows the pattern over the last three years.

Graph 1 – Percentage reaching Level 2+ at the end of Key Stage 1



For Key Stage 2, at the five schools concerned in 2011, this level was 63.3%, which compares to an average of 78.6% for Anglesey and 80.0% for the whole of Wales. Graph 2 below shows the pattern for the last three years.

Graph 2 – Percentage reaching Level 4+ at the end of Key Stage 2



6. POSSIBILITIES

6.1 Table 3 shows the possible options:

Table 3

No.	Option	New school to be a 'church school' like Rev Thomas Ellis School?	Effects
1	Leave things as they are		Present problems getting worse
	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis		
2a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 270	Yes	Disperse some to Llanfawr a Kingsland
2b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 270	No	
3a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 300	Yes	No dispersal
3b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 300	No	
4a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 330	Yes	No dispersal – reduction in others?
4b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 330	No	
5a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 360	Yes	No dispersal – reduction in others?
5b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 360	No	
	New Llaingoch and Parc		
6	New Llaingoch and Parc for 270	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr and Parch. Thomas Ellis
7	New Llaingoch and Parc for 300	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr and Parch. Thomas Ellis
8	New Llaingoch and Parc for 330	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse some to Llanfawr and Parch. Thomas Ellis
9	New Llaingoch and Parc for 360	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse some to Llanfawr
	New Parc / Llaingoch / Parch Thomas Ellis		
10a	New Parc / Llaingoch and Parch Thomas Ellis for 480	Yes	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr
10b	New Parc / Llaingoch and Parch Thomas Ellis for 480	No	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr

6.2 It is intended that the new school would be built on one of the following possible sites:

1. Cybi Site
2. Ysgol y Parc Site
3. Ysgol Llaingoch Site
4. Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis Site

6.3 **Option 1** – Since there is funding allocated for a new school, leaving things as they are is not an option – the primary school provision in Holyhead needs to be changed.

6.4 The variable factor with **Options 2-5** is the size and status of the school i.e. whether it will be a ‘church school’ or not. At present, there are about 233 pupils aged 4-11 at Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis and the estimates show that the numbers at both schools will be about 250 by September 2015. Bearing in mind that Ysgol y Graig in Llangefni is full only three years after it opened, some ‘extra space’ will be needed. Therefore, it is more than likely that a school for about 300 children, including the nursery, would be needed if these two schools were combined.

6.5 In looking at **Options 6-9**, it is seen that what is being considered here is combining Ysgol y Parc with Ysgol Llaingoch. At present, there are about 291 pupils at Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol Llaingoch and the estimates show that the numbers at both schools will be about 315 by September 2015. Therefore, it is probable that a school for about 360 children, including the nursery, would be needed if these two schools were combined.

6.6 The possibility in **Option 10** is combining Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llaingoch and Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis. At present, there are 389 pupils aged 4-11 at the three schools and the estimates show that the numbers at the three will be 428 by September 2015. Therefore, a school for about 510 children, including the nursery, would be needed if these three schools were combined.

7. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 7.1 The Council will consult with parents, governors and staff at the five schools that are part of this proposal, as well as with the local communities, local councillors, the Assembly Member, Member of Parliament and the Government of Wales and other stakeholders. The consultation period will end on **Saturday, July 14, 2012**.

A number of meetings have been arranged during this time period, as shown in Table 4:-

Table 4

School	Date (in 2012)	Meeting with		
		Staff	Governors	Parents
Y Parc	Tuesday 29 May	4.00	5.30	6.30
Thomas Ellis	Wednesday 30 May	3.45	5.00	6.30
Kingsland	Thursday 31 May	3.30	5.00	6.00
Llaingoch	Tuesday 12 June	3.45	5.00	6.30
Llanfawr	Thursday 14 June	4.00	5.00	6.00

- 7.2 You are welcome to ask us questions and you can send your views on the proposals either by letter, email or by completing the response form attached. Your responses should be sent to:

Programme Manager (Schools Modernisation),
The Education Service,
Park Mount,
Glanhwfa Road,
Llangefni,
Anglesey
LL77 7EY.

The email address is
angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk

You should ensure your response reaches Anglesey Council by July 14, 2012.

The Council will gather your views and consider them before making a recommendation to the Anglesey Council Board of Commissioners regarding how to proceed. The Anglesey Council Board of Commissioners will consider a report on the results of this consultation and consider recommendations from officers at its meeting in September or October 2012.

Your contributions to the process as members of the community are all-important.

8. THE NEXT STAGES

This is the initial and informal consultation. At the end of this consultation period, officers will collate all the responses and information before a recommendation is made to the Board of Commissioners. In September or October 2012, the Board of Commissioners will consider reports on the results of this consultation, including the recommendation from Council officers.

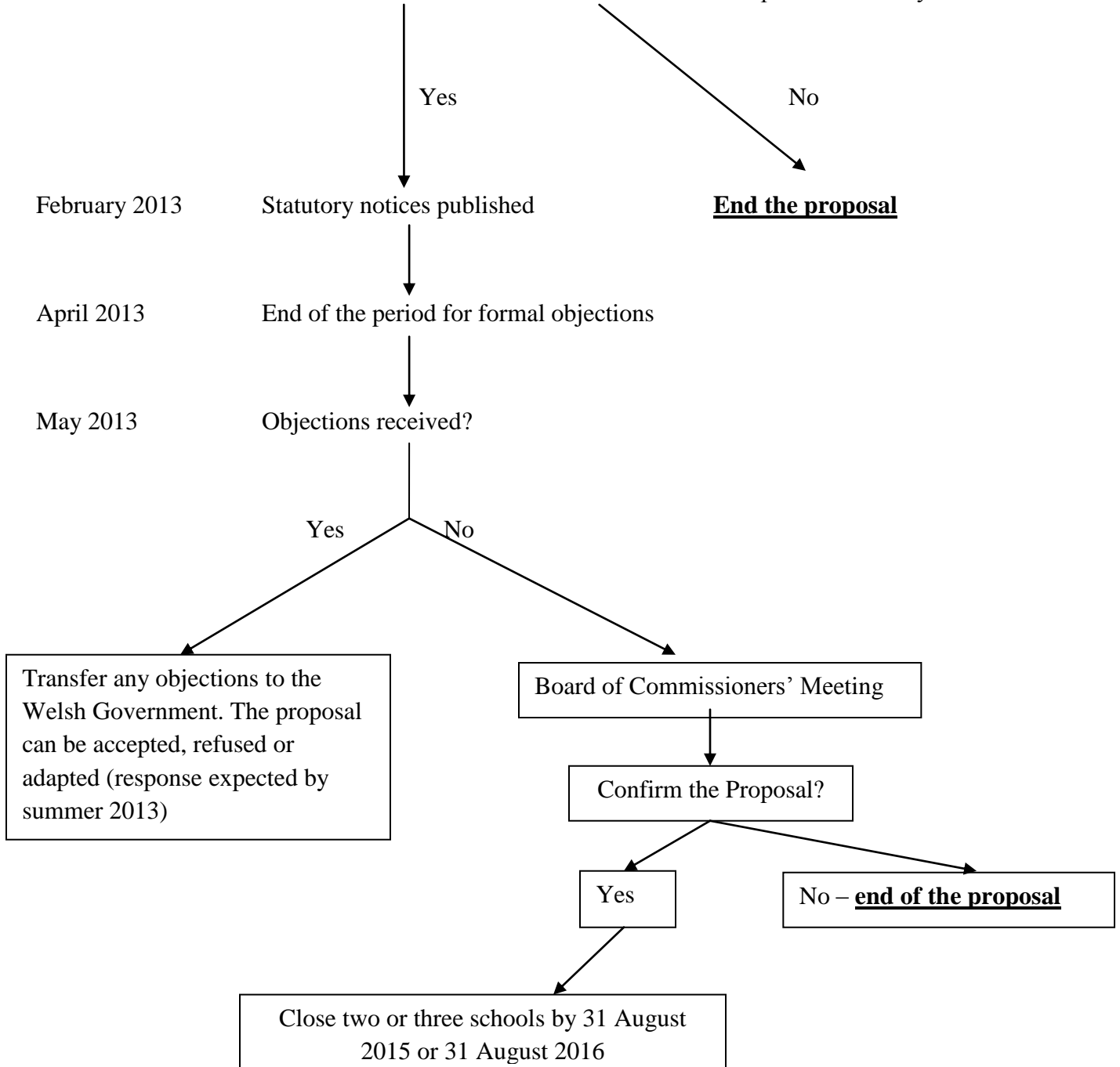
If the Board of Commissioners decides that two schools or three schools should be combined in one school, the Council will have to follow a statutory process:

1. A Statutory Notice to close one, two or three schools would be published and the period for objecting to it would be one month.
2. If there are no objections, the authority will decide whether to implement the proposal or not. If they do decide to implement the proposal, the statutory period will begin.
3. If objections are received, the Welsh Government will make the final decision. The Government will usually require a minimum of 4 months for this stage, so a decision could be expected by about summer 2013.
4. The earliest date when the proposed new school could open would be September 2015.
5. See **appendix 1** for the process in the form of a flow chart.

Appendix 1

(The timetable is an estimate and times can change)

September 2012	Formal consultation document circulated
September/October 2012	Consultation meetings for staff, governors and parents
November 2012	Closing date for receiving comments on the proposal
December 2012	Board of Commissioners' decision on whether to publish statutory notices





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LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT

**YMATEB I ADOLYGIAD YSGOLION CYNRADD
CAERGYBI – YMGYNGHORIAD ANFFURFIOL
(MAI – GORFFENNAF 2012)**

**RESPONSE TO HOLYHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOLS
REVIEW – INFORMAL CONSULTATION
(MAY – JULY 2012)**

Hydref / October 2012

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As part of an informal consultation process conducted recently in Holyhead, a series of consultation meetings were held with parents, governors and staff of the five schools that are part of the consultation listed in Table 1 below. The consultation period began on Tuesday, May 29, 2012 and finished on Saturday, July 14, 2012.

Table 1

Ysgol	Date (in 2012)	Meeting with		
		Staff	Governors	Parents
Y Parc	Tuesday 29 May	4.00	5.30	6.30
Thomas Ellis	Wednesday 30 May	3.45	5.00	6.30
Kingsland	Thursday 31 May	3.30	5.00	6.00
Llaingoch	Tuesday 12 June	3.45	5.00	6.30
Llanfawr	Thursday 14 June	4.00	5.00	6.00

- 1.2 As a reminder, in Table 2 below is a list of the possible options proposed along with possible sites:-
1. Cybi site
 2. Ysgol y Parc site
 3. Ysgol Llaingoch site
 4. Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis site
- 1.3 The views of staff, parents and governors and others were gathered and are summarised in this report.

Table 2

No.	Option	New school to be a 'church school' like Rev Thomas Ellis School?	Effects
1	No change		Present problems getting worse
New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis			
2a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 270	Yes	Disperse some to Llanfawr a Kingsland
2b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 270	No	
3a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 300	Yes	No dispersal
3b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 300	No	
4a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 330	Yes	No dispersal – reduction in others?
4b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 330	No	
5a	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 360	Yes	No dispersal – reduction in others?
5b	New Parc and Parch. Thomas Ellis for 360	No	
New Llaingoch and Parc			
6	New Llaingoch and Parc for 270	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr and Parch. Thomas Ellis
7	New Llaingoch and Parc for 300	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr and Parch. Thomas Ellis
8	New Llaingoch and Parc for 330	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse some to Llanfawr and Parch. Thomas Ellis
9	New Llaingoch and Parc for 360	Not applicable	Possible new school is full, disperse some to Llanfawr
New Parc / Llaingoch / Parch Thomas Ellis			
10a	New Parc / Llaingoch and Parch Thomas Ellis for 480	Yes	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr
10b	New Parc / Llaingoch and Parch Thomas Ellis for 480	No	Possible new school is full, disperse to Llanfawr

2. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL Y PARC

- 2.1 A response was received from one parent. She was in favour of a new school on the Cybi site and felt that Ysgol Y Parc and Ysgol Llaingoch should combine from the viewpoint of reducing the travelling distance to the potential new school.
- 2.2 The Governing Body of Ysgol Y Parc were supportive of a new school but wanted assurances about the following matters:
1. That all the pupils in the school in the year before transferring are assured of their place in the new school.
 2. That the new school is on the Cybi site.
 3. That staff redundancies should be avoided.
- 2.3 The Governing Body was eager to ensure there would be enough space in the school for it to be able to expand.
- 2.4 Concerning the status of the proposed new school, the Governing Body was not for or against the school being a “Protestant Church School” as long as:
1. Children who were not Christians could be excluded from some activities.
 2. Educational standards were not unduly affected.

The Governing Body would support a ‘vote’ by the parents to decide whether or not the new school would be ‘church school’.

- 2.5 A response from one teacher stated that he thought that combining three schools would be the preferred choice.

3. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL Y PARCHEDIG THOMAS ELLIS

- 3.1 A response was received from one parent. She thought it was an opportunity that was “too good to pass up”. She was eager for the New school to be a Church school, a Welsh school and that it should be built either on the present Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis site or on the Cybi site.
- 3.2 A response was received from the Co-ordinator of the Flying Start programme which mentioned the programme’s success as well as the success of language and play sessions and the after school club. The hope is to establish the Flying Start programme in Ysgol y Parc in 2013. She said there was a need to the above provisions i.e. Flying Start, language and play sessions and the after school club would be part of the new school.
- 3.3 Additionally 15 other responses were received:-

Table 3

Responder	No.	Comment
Local church warden (Church in Wales)	2	If combining, the new school should be a Christian school
Holyhead resident	1	Worried about the traffic and lack of pavement
Former teacher at the school	1	Felt things should be left as they are
Former pupil	1	Need a Christian education
Local church members (Church in Wales)	4	Did not agree with exempting St, Mary's School and Ysgol Morswyn from the process. Keen to have a new school and for it to be a church school on the Cybi site and for it to be called Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis
Resident (Holy Island)	4	Need to keep the Christian ethos.
Former Chair of Governors	1	The new school should not lose "its Church in Wales identity".
Rectorial representative	1	Supports the plan to build a new school as long as it is a 'faith' school. Felt the school ought to be named Ysgol y Parchedig Thomas Ellis.

- 3.4 The Governing Body of Ysgol Y Parch. Thomas Ellis said it was supportive of a new school and that it was seeking the following assurances:
1. That the new school would be a Church in Wales school
 2. That the standards of Ysgol Y Parch. Thomas Ellis would continue and
 3. That the current staff should have the chance to continue their vocation in the new school.
- 3.5 The feelings of the school staff were similar to those of the Governing Body in 3.4 above and felt that Cybi site was the most suitable site and that a school for 250-300 would be better than a larger school. A letter was received from the cleaning staff wherein they agreed with the letter from the teachers but they were not supportive of combining three schools on one site. Flying Start and Nursery staff were of the same opinion and stated that if Ysgol Y Parch. Thomas Ellis was part of the new school, the Nursery and Flying Start provision should be part of that.
- 3.6 As Ysgol Y Parch. Thomas Ellis is a Church in Wales (voluntary controlled) school, officers of the Lifelong Learning Department consulted with the Bangor Diocese Statutory Education Board. The Board, the Bishop of Bangor and the Director of Education of the Bangor Diocese Statutory Education Board were eager for the new school to be a Church in Wales (voluntary controlled) school.

4. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL KINGSLAND

Even though closing this school was not an option, 61 responses were received – each one was keen for Ysgol Kingsland to stay open. Letters were received from the Headteacher and Chair of the Board of Governors outlining their reasons for the school to remain open. However, one parent was against building a “super school”.

5. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL LLAINGOCH

A total of 28 responses from school stakeholders were received and 16 or 57% were from parents of pupils of Ysgol Llaingoch. Each one was against the option of closing the school and combining it with an/other school(s). The Headteacher, staff and Governing Body were also against the option. Other comments received in the feedback forms were:-

- Two parents were not in favour of the large school i.e. combining three schools
- Money should spent on Holyhead High School instead
- Llaingoch is a village which is separate from Holyhead and therefore deserves a separate school
- The new school should be on the outskirts of Holyhead
- Why should this school combine with a school that’s been in special measures?
- Walking to the new site would be dangerous
- The Cybi site should not be restored as it is a ruin
- Combining the school with another school would endanger the Welshness of the pupils.

6. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL LLANFAWR

Closing this school was not an option. Two responses were received from parents. One praised the school and said it should not be shut because then, pupils would have to be transported to the other side of the town. The other parent was in favour of a new school “of the right size + 10%” and not to build a “super school”. A formal letter was not received from the Governing Body.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The numbering of the options referred to is as stated in Table 2 above.

The statistics below are based on the situation as regards pupil numbers as of September 2011 and the budgetary allocation is as for 2012/13. It should be noted that the pupil numbers in the three schools are likely to be a little over 500 in future. The statistics are based in the on the presupposition that the pupils would transfer to the option noted.

In the tables below, each nursery pupil is counted as 0.4 when calculating school finances as he or she is only at the school on a part time basis.

In Table 4 below, there are figures for the number of surplus places and the current budgetary allocations:-

Table 4

School	Number for the formula	Number of pupils Jan 2012	Capacity	Surplus places	% Surplus places	Allocation 2012/13	Allocation 2012/13 per pupil
Parc	143	155	228	73	32.0%	£538,161	£3,763
Llaingoch	167.2	184	223	39	17.5%	£558,667	£3,341
Parch Thomas Ellis	105.6	117	162	45	27.8%	£637,633	£6,038
Total	415.8	456	613	157	25.6%	£1,734,461	

7.1 OPTION 1 (No change)

When considering option 1, the figures would remain similar to what they are now in the future and therefore, there would not be any savings resulting from this option. It is forecasted that the number of pupils and surplus places in the three schools would be as follows:-

Table 5

School	Capacity		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Parc	228	Number of pupils	154	149	150	147
		% Surplus places	32.5%	34.6%	34.2%	35.5%
Llaingoch	223	Number of pupils	192	205	213	211
		% Surplus places	13.9%	8.1%	4.5%	5.4%
Parch T Ellis	162	Number of pupils	129	135	141	147
		% Surplus places	20.4%	16.7%	13.0%	9.3%

7.2 OPTIONS 2a-5b

Combining Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol Y Parchedig Thomas Ellis is under consideration in options 2a – 5b.

Table 6

School	Capacity		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Parc & Parch T Ellis	330	Number of pupils	283	284	291	294
		% Surplus places	14.2%	13.9%	11.8%	10.9%

By looking at the forecast numbers in Table 6, it can be seen that space for about 330 pupils would be required by 2014/15 and that the surplus places would be about 10%. It is foreseen that the savings would be as follows:--

Table 7

School	Number for the formula	Number of pupils Jan 2012	Capacity	Surplus places	% Surplus places	Allocation 2012/13	Allocation 2012/13 per pupil	Teacher allocation
Parc	143	155	228	73	32.0%	£538,161	£3,763	6.49
Parch Thomas Ellis	105.6	117	162	45	27.8%	£637,633	£6,038	4.98
Total	248.6	272	390	118	30.3%	£1,175,794	-	11.47
Parc & Parch T Ellis	248.6	272	330	58	17.6%	£1,106,583	£4,451	10.73

Annual savings = £1,175,794 - £1,106,583 = £69,211

Surplus places that could be removed - 60

7.3 OPTIONS 6-9

Combining Ysgol Y Parc and Ysgol Llaingoch is under consideration in options 6–9.

Table 8

School	Capacity		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Parc & Llaingoch	390	Number of pupils	346	354	363	358
		% Surplus places	11.3%	9.2%	6.9%	8.2%

The forecasts show that a school for 390 pupils aged 3-11 would be required.

The savings would be as follows:-

Table 9

School	Number for the formula	Number of pupils Jan 2012	Capacity	Surplus places	% Surplus places	Allocation 2012/13	Allocation 2012/13 per pupil	Teacher allocation
Parc	143	155	228	73	32.0%	£538,161	£3,763	6.49
Llaingoch	167.2	184	223	39	17.5%	£558,667	£3,341	7.46
Total	310.2	339	451	112	24.8%	£1,096,828	-	13.95
Parc & Llaingoch	310.2	339	390	51	13.1%	£1,082,082	£3,488	13.25

Annual savings = £1,096,828 - £1,082,082 = £14,746

Surplus places that could be removed - 61

If the new school, i.e. for 390 pupils ages 3-11 was located at the Cybi site, the school would be opposite Holyhead High School and would give the following advantages:-

- Opportunities to develop staff and to develop expertise in a range of subjects across the curriculum.
- Improve the links between the secondary and primary.
- Share resources e.g. back office resources.

7.4 OPTION 10

In this option, combining three schools i.e. Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llaingoch ac Ysgol y Parch Thomas Ellis is considered. The forecasts for pupil numbers are as follows:-

Table 10

School	Capacity		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Parc & Parch T Ellis & Llaingoch	540	Number of pupils	475	489	504	505
		% Surplus places	12.0%	9.4%	6.7%	6.5%

The forecasts show that a school for 540 pupils would be required by 2015/16 and it is forecast that there would be less than 10% surplus places by that time.

The savings would be as in Table 11:-

Table 11

School	Number for the formula	Number of pupils Jan 2012	Capacity	Surplus places	% Surplus places	Allocation 2012/13	Allocation 2012/13 per pupil	Teacher allocation
Parc	143	155	228	73	32.0%	£538,161	£3,763	6.49
Llaingoch	167.2	184	223	39	17.5%	£558,667	£3,341	7.46
Parch Thomas Ellis	105.6	117	162	45	27.8%	£637,633	£6,038	4.98
Total	415.8	456	613	157	25.6%	£1,734,461	-	18.93
Parc & Llaingoch & Parch T Ellis	415.8	456	540	84	15.5%	£1,570,609	£3,777	17.60

Annual savings = £1,734,461 - £1,570,609 = £163,852

Surplus places that could be removed - 73

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

At its meeting on October 26, 2012, the Scrutiny Committee was asked to make recommendations to the Executive Committee on an option or options for formal consultation from the following:

1. Combine Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol Y Parchedig Thomas Ellis in a new school
2. Combine Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol Llaingoch in a new school
3. **Combine Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llaingoch and Ysgol Y Parchedig Thomas Ellis in a new school**

At its meeting on October 26, 2012, the Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee made the following recommendations to the Executive Committee -

- To recommend Option 10 (merger of 3 schools i.e. Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llaingoch and Ysgol Parch. Thomas Ellis in a new school) to the Executive as the Committee's preferred option for formal consultation subject to affordability and to traffic management and road safety issues being satisfactorily addressed
- To recommend that that new primary school in Holyhead be located on the Cybi site.

DRAFT

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to	Meeting of the Executive Committee
Date	December 10 2012
Subject	Modernising Anglesey Schools
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Goronwy Parry MBE
Lead Officer(s)	Head of Service (Education) Programme Manager – Schools Modernisation
Contact Officer	Programme Manager – Schools Modernisation
Nature and reason for reporting	
<p>To report to the Executive on the informal consultation process held in three schools in the central Anglesey are in June 2012. In January 2012, the Board of Commissioners gave officers of the Education Service permission to visit primary schools in Llangefni and Talwrn.</p>	

A – Introduction / Background / Issues
<p>In January 2012, the Board of Commissioners gave officers of the Education Service permission to visit primary schools in central Anglesey to consult on options for the primary school education provision in the area. After receiving permission and upon completing the consultation, the Education Service has prepared several possible options and is reporting back on these.</p>

B - Considerations
<p>Minutes from the meeting of the Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee held on October 26, 2012.</p> <p>After the consultation period ended, Ysgol Talwrn is full and has 52 pupils, mainly as a result of overflow from Llangefni schools.</p>

C – Implications and Impacts		
1	Finance / Section 151	
2	Legal / Monitoring Officer	Comply with all legal requirements
3	Human Resources	This would be dealt with in the consultation stages.
4	Property Services	Implications to the Property Service would be dealt with at the appropriate level.
5	Information and Communications Technology (ICT)	Any changes would be reflected in the Service Level Agreement between the Education Service and ICT.
6	Equality	Equality assessments will be undertaken as and when required.
7	Anti-poverty and Social	
8	Communication	The Education Service would liaise with the Communications Unit especially during any formal consultation stage.
9	Consultation	An informal consultation period has now ended.
10	Economic	Future provision will take into account the effect of industrial developments on surplus places.
11	Environmental	This would be dealt with as and when required.
12	Crime and Disorder	
13	Outcome Agreements	

CH - Summary

A report is presented to the Executive summarising the informal consultation process held recently in the central Anglesey area. At a meeting of the Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee on October 26, 2012, it was resolved to recommend to the Executive :-

- i. That in light of the current position in relation to pupil numbers in the three schools in central Anglesey, the status quo be retained for the present.
- ii. That subject to the introduction and implementation of the relevant legislation, that authority be given to the Education Officers to review the Llangefni catchment area and,
- iii. that the primary education provision in central Anglesey be revisited at a later stage in the schools modernisation programme pending clarification of the position with regard to the availability of resources, catchment review, school buildings condition and the outcome of the modernisation programme in other areas of the Island.

D - Recommendation

It is recommended :-

- That in light of the current position in relation to pupil numbers in the three schools in central Anglesey, the status quo be retained for the present.
- That subject to the introduction and implementation of the relevant legislation, that authority be given to the Education Officers to review the Llangefni catchment area and,
- that the primary education provision in central Anglesey be revisited at a later stage in the schools modernisation programme pending clarification of the position with regard to the availability of resources, catchment review, school buildings condition and the outcome of the modernisation programme in other areas of the Island.

Name of author of report

Emrys Bebb

Job Title

Programme Manager – Schools Modernisation

Date

November 30 2012

Appendices:

The original consultation document

Background papers



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

ADRAN DYSGU GYDOL OES
LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT

**ADOLYGIAD YSGOLION CYNRADD
LLANGEFNI – YMGYNGHORIAD
ANFFURFIOL (MEHEFIN – GORFFENNAF
2012)**

**LLANGEFNI PRIMARY SCHOOLS REVIEW
– INFORMAL CONSULTATION
(JUNE – JULY 2012)**

Mehefin 18 / June 18 2012

NUMBER AND CONTENTS

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APPENDIX 1

FEEDBACK FORM

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2012, the Board of Commissioners of Anglesey County Council authorised officers of the Education Service to start the process of reviewing the primary school provision in the Llangefni area.
- 1.2 This document is the basis of **public consultation to review the primary education provision in the Llangefni area i.e. informal consultation**. This is the first stage of the consultation process for reviewing the education provision in Llangefni.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Public expenditure is being reduced everywhere in response to the worldwide economic recession. This reduction has been happening for two years and the financial outlook is unlikely to improve, with similar pressures facing local authorities throughout Wales and Britain. This means every local authority has to face substantial cuts in its budget and this will inevitably affect services.
- 2.2 Since there is 40% less funding for capital projects coming to the Welsh Government from the British Government, the Welsh Government does not have as much money to give to local authorities. Over the next three years, Anglesey Council will have to achieve savings of £11 million, which means making better use of money.
- 2.3 The Education Service's provision is not excluded from these cuts, therefore savings also have to be looked in this provision as well. That can be achieved by reducing the number of schools maintained by the Education Service.
- 2.4 Because the percentage of surplus places in the primary sector in Anglesey is so high (27.7% in January 2011, which is the second highest in Wales) Anglesey Council was heavily criticized by the inspection body, Estyn, for ineffective use of school places. Therefore, the Council needs to reduce the number of surplus places in schools throughout the county in order to make better use of the funding available. Even so, a number of new houses are proposed for Llangefni and developments such as Wylfa B will affect the local population and the number of children attending Anglesey's schools.
- 2.5 There are six primary schools in central Anglesey i.e. Ysgol y Graig ac Ysgol Corn Hir in Llangefni, Ysgol Bodffordd, Ysgol Talwrn, Ysgol Henblas and Ysgol Esceifiog, Gaerwen.
- 2.6 Forecasts show that the number of pupils in Ysgol Esceifiog, Gaerwen will increase over the next three years and by September 2014, there will only be 6% surplus places.
- 2.7 Forecasts also show that the number of pupils in Ysgol Henblas, Llangristiolus will remain fairly constant over the next three years wherein the surplus places will remain constant at about 11%.

- 2.8 Even though the surplus places in Ysgol Bodffordd is higher at 27%, the number of pupils attending the schools will be increasing in the future.
- 2.9 For the above reasons, Ysgol Esceifiog, Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Henblas will not be part of the review. Therefore, the rest of the report offers options in relation to 3 schools namely:-

Ysgol Y Graig

Ysgol Corn Hir

Ysgol Talwrn

3. LLANGEFNI PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- 3.1 The Guidance in Welsh Assembly Government Circular: 021/2009 is as follows:-
“It is important the funding for education is used cost effectively. Resources targeted towards raising standards should be optimised. Some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils, but excessive numbers in unused places, with consequentially excessive numbers of schools, mean that resources are tied up unproductively. Where there are excessive numbers of surplus places in an area, Local Authorities should review their provision and, where feasible, make proposals for school reorganization especially where individual schools have ‘significant’ levels of surplus places, require significant investment, or have a catchment area which is unlikely to provide sufficient numbers of pupils to make it sustainable for the future. Local Authorities should ensure that schools to be retained are of an appropriate number and are located so as to maximise potential engagement with the community. Local Authorities should aim to retain no more than 10% surplus places overall, although levels in individual schools may be higher than this, particularly in more rural areas. In general, Local Authorities should look to reallocate revenue savings made through the removal of surplus capacity within the education portfolio.”*

** “Significant surplus is defined as 25% or more of a school’s capacity and at least 30 unfilled places: for example a small school with a total capacity of 100 places might have 28 unfilled places but this would not be classed as significant surplus.”*

- 3.2 A report entitled “The Structure of Education Services in Wales” (Vivian Thomas – March 2011) recommended a target of 10% of surplus places in schools.
- 3.3 Table 1 shows the figures for surplus places in the three primary schools concerned:-

Table 1

School	Capacity	Pupils (September 2011)	Number of surplus places	% surplus places
Ysgol y Graig	354	348	6	2%
Corn Hir	204	194	10	5%
Ysgol Talwrn	49	36	13	27%
Total	607	578	29	5%

The table therefore shows there is a large percentage of surplus places at Ysgol Talwrn namely 27%. The Welsh Government's guidance is that "Local Authorities should aim to retain no more than 10% surplus places overall." High levels of surplus places means that resources are not being used in the most effective way. The present level of surplus places between the three schools is 5% compared to an average of 27.7% in Anglesey primary schools. Even so, it is foreseen there will be an increase in the population of the two schools in Llangefni over the next few years and that the number of pupils will be more than the capacity of both schools from September 2012 onwards. It is foreseen that the surplus places in Ysgol Talwrn will remain over 20% over the next five years.

- 3.4 Estyn published a thematic report in May 2012 entitled: "*How do surplus places affect the resources available for expenditure on improving outcomes for pupils?*" In the report, Estyn said:
"In the primary sector in Wales in 2011-12, the average cost of a surplus place is £260, whilst, in addition, the average saving that results from closing a school is £63,500". Therefore, on this basis, the cost of empty places in the five primary schools above in Llangefni is £7,540.
- 3.5 The way school buildings are used has changed, and will continue to change. The new curriculum requirements (the Foundation Phase, for example), developments in Information and Communication Technology or ICT (using interactive whiteboards and wireless technology, for example) and the potential for community use means that the county's schools have to change and that the Council needs to be leading on this if it is to meet the needs of modern life.
- 3.6 At present, Anglesey County Council, together with every other local authority in Wales, is reviewing its schools as part of a commitment to modernize education and ensure that its schools provide the best possible learning environment and facilities in accordance with the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme.
- 3.7 The Council will be holding a series of area reviews to achieve this (see below). Political approval was given in January 2012 when the Anglesey Council Board of Commissioners authorized the Education Department's officers to begin the process of reviewing the primary school provision in Llangefni. The review includes the three primary schools listed above.

4. CONDITION OF THE BUILDINGS

4.1 Reviews of condition, suitability and sustainability were carried out in 2009/10 on behalf of the Assembly Government by a company of consultants, E.C.Harris. They looked at a number of factors (in schools throughout Wales) including:

4.1.1 Condition of the school building

4.1.2 Landscape – The aim of surveying the landscape was to determine if the external features of the school could have a direct effect on education. The surveyors looked for things such as :-
External areas where classes could use to work.
Are there spaces to grow food and space for things such as informal playing space.

4.1.3 Sufficiency – The surveyors had to decide if there is sufficient area to maintain a sense of personal space for staff and pupils.

4.1.4 In terms of suitability, the surveyor tried to gather information from every part of the school to see how suitable it was for education. Matters considered were ones such as health and safety, flexibility of space, size and shape of the school, ventilation, lighting, acoustics, location, storage, fixtures and fittings and ICT infrastructure.

4.1.5 In terms of sustainability, the surveyor noted information on the energy efficiency of the heating and lighting equipment, control of the heating system, water conservation, waste recycling and the Display Energy Certificate. The sustainability review looks at those areas affecting the school's environmental, social and economic sustainability (energy, heat, security).

4.1.6 By considering the points under the above headings, a score was calculated from the five headings to give a score out of 100 for the schools.

4.1.7 Table 2 gives a summary of the results of the surveys:-

Table 2

<u>School</u>	Condition¹	Landscape	Sufficiency	Suitability²	Sustainability³	Sgore
Y Graig	A	C	A	A	A	94
Corn Hir	B	C	B	C	C	50
Talwrn	B	D	D	B	C	43

¹*Building Condition Categories*

Category A – Good

Category B – Satisfactory

Category C – Poor

Category D – Very Poor

²*Suitability Categories*

Category A – Good – suitable levels for teaching, learning and wellbeing in schools

Category B – Reasonable – but having a negative effect on behaviour / morale and management

Category C – Poor – impairing teaching methods

Category D – Very Poor – a serious situation and /or unable to teach the curriculum

³*Sustainability Categories*

Category A – Excellent

Category B – Good or Higher than Average

Category C – Poor

Category D – Poor or Nonexistent

- 4.2 The table above shows that Ysgol Talwrn had the lowest score. The building was originally built in 1879 and according to the Education Service, there was re-modelling in 1971, and during recent years there has been significant expenditure on repair and maintenance, including external re-pointing, internal plastering and floor renewal.

There is a mobile unit on site but the unit has not been taken into consideration in the capacity assessment as it is not regularly used. The unit is maintained but it does not have a long life expectancy.

Even though the building has improved over recent years the building and site is deficient in many respects. The 40m² room is used as a hall and the dining room is small and does not have storage for dining furniture or PE equipment. As a result many of the school's public events are held in the village hall, which is over 0.5 miles from the school. The school site is along a narrow road and approx ½ a mile from the village.

The capacity of the school is 49 without taking the mobile unit into account. Based on current pupil numbers, the surplus places is 27% and it is likely that this percentage will not change much.

The building is in a reasonable condition. The Council's Property Department's surveyors conducted a condition survey on the school last year and it was put in category C but without taking into account fit for purpose expenditure.

The school does not have a playing field, Estyn said in its Inspection Report on Ysgol Talwrn 2011: "The school does not have playing fields therefore the village playing field

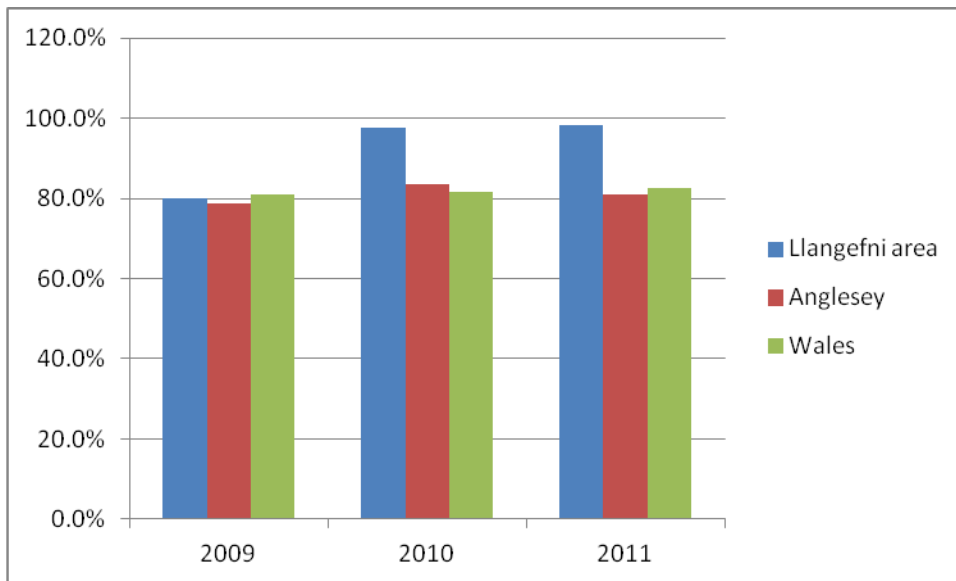
is used. Although this is an excellent resource, its usefulness is limited due to its distance and the need to travel there.”

- 4.3 Anglesey County Council has a substantial backlog of maintenance work on schools, and this is a problem common to most other local authorities in Wales. What it means is that maintenance or repair work that should have been done in the past has not been done, for a number of reasons. This in turn leads to a backlog of maintenance work. A backlog of maintenance work is an integral characteristic of a large and varied stock. In theory, there is an ideal time to carry out each task when considering them individually, but it is more economical and practical to do some of the work as a ‘package’ and prioritize the work in accordance with the funding available. Therefore, there will always be some amount of maintenance backlog.
- 4.4 The total amount of maintenance backlog at the three schools under consideration is about £550,000. This is a substantial sum, and it is unlikely the authority will be able to afford to make any substantial investment to deal with this backlog in the present economic climate.
- 4.5 The £550,000 is the cost of maintenance work only, not improvement work. Dealing with the backlog of maintenance work at these schools would not provide the facilities in terms of teaching and environment suited to the 21st century, nor would it meet the Welsh Assembly Government requirements for 21st Century Schools.

5. EDUCATION STANDARDS

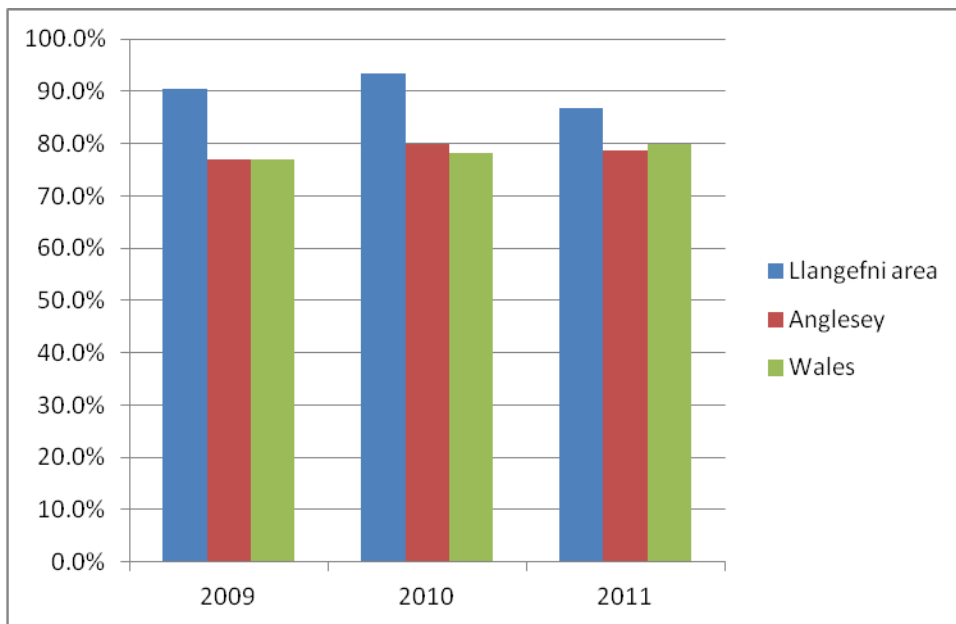
- 5.1 The indicator used by the Welsh Government for education standards is the End of Key Stage performance indicator. This happens at the end of Key Stage 1 (7 years old) and the end of Key Stage 2 (11 years old) i.e. the percentage of the school’s pupils attaining the expected levels or higher (Level 2+ for KS 1 and Level 4+ for KS2) in Mathematics, Welsh, English and Science. For Key Stage 1 in 2011 at the three schools concerned, this level was 98.3%, which compares to an average of 80.9% for Anglesey and 82.7% for the whole of Wales. Graph 1 below shows the pattern over the last three years.

**Graph 1 – Percentage reaching Level 2+ at the end of Key Stage 1
(Foundation Stage from September 2011 onwards)**



For Key Stage 2, at the three schools concerned in 2011, this level was 86.9%, which compares to an average of 78.6% for Anglesey and 80.0% for the whole of Wales. Graph 2 below shows the pattern for the last three years.

Graph 2 – Percentage reaching Level 4+ at the end of Key Stage 2



6. POSSIBLE OPTIONS

6.1 Table 3 shows the possible options for the future:

Table 3

No.	Option	Savings?	Effects
1	Leave things as they are		Present problems would continue
	Corn Hir		
2	Install mobile classroom on the site	None	Cost to the Local Authority. Consider 'life expectancy' of the mobile classroom
3	Extend Ysgol Corn Hir	None	Cost to the Local Authority and possible effects on schools nearby
	Y Graig		
4	Extend Ysgol Y Graig	None	Cost to the Local Authority and possible effects on schools nearby
5	Extend Ysgol Y Graig and close Ysgol Talwrn, move pupils to other schools	Yes	Cost of extending for the Local Authority
	Ysgol Talwrn		
6	Federate with another school	Yes	Additional costs therefore no savings. No effect on surplus places
7	Options that arise locally		

- 6.2 **Option 1** – Since there is a need to reduce surplus places in Anglesey schools as outlined above, keeping things as they are is not an option – the primary school provision in Llangefni needs to be changed.
- 6.3 **Options 2 and 3** revolve around Ysgol Corn Hir. At the moment, there are about 194 pupils aged 4-11 in Ysgol Corn Hir and the estimates show that pupil numbers will go above the capacity which is 204 from September 2012 onwards if things remain as they are.
- 6.4 **Options 4 and 5** revolve around Ysgol y Graig primarily but Ysgol Talwrn could be involved here as well. As the number of pupils in Ysgol y Graig is set to increase above its capacity of 354 pupils, something needs to be done to increase the capacity. At the moment, there are 348 pupils aged 3-11 in Ysgol y Graig and forecasts show that the numbers will increase to 370 by September 2014.
- 6.5 Looking at **Option 6**, an option regarding federating Ysgol Talwrn is presented. However, this does not lead to any savings nor does it reduce surplus places.

7. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 7.1 The Council will consult with parents, governors and staff at the five schools that are part of this proposal, as well as with the local communities, local councillors, the Assembly Member, Member of Parliament and the Government of Wales and other stakeholders. The consultation period will end on **Thursday, July 26, 2012**.

A number of meetings have been arranged during this time period, as shown in Table 4:-

Table 4

School	Date (in 2012)	Meeting with		
		Staff	Governors	Parents
Talwrn	Monday June 18	3.45	5.00	6.00
Y Graig	Wednesday June 20	3.45	5.00	6.00
Corn Hir	Tuesday June 26	3.45	5.00	6.00

- 7.2 You are welcome to ask us questions and you can send your views on the proposals either by letter, email or by completing the response form attached. Your responses should be sent to:

Programme Manager (Schools Modernisation),
The Education Service,
Park Mount,
Glanhwfa Road,
Llangefni,
Anglesey
LL77 7EY.

The email address is
angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk

You should ensure your response reaches Anglesey Council by July 26, 2012.

The Council will gather your views and consider them before making a recommendation to the Anglesey Council Board of Commissioners regarding how to proceed. The Anglesey Council Board of Commissioners will consider a report on the results of this consultation and consider recommendations from officers at its meeting in September or October 2012.

Your contributions to the process as members of the community are all-important.

8. THE NEXT STAGES

This is the initial and informal consultation. At the end of this consultation period, officers will collate all the responses and information before a recommendation is made to the Board of Commissioners. In September or October 2012, the Board of Commissioners will consider reports on the results of this consultation, including the recommendation from Council officers.

If the Board of Commissioners decides that one school should be closed, the Council will have to follow a statutory process:

1. A Statutory Notice to close one school would be published and the period for objecting to it would be one month.
2. If there are no objections, the authority will decide whether to implement the proposal or not. If they do decide to implement the proposal, the statutory period will begin.
3. If objections are received, the Welsh Government will make the final decision. The Government will usually require a minimum of 4 months for this stage, so a decision could be expected by about summer 2013.
4. See **appendix 1** for the process in the form of a flow chart.

Appendix 1

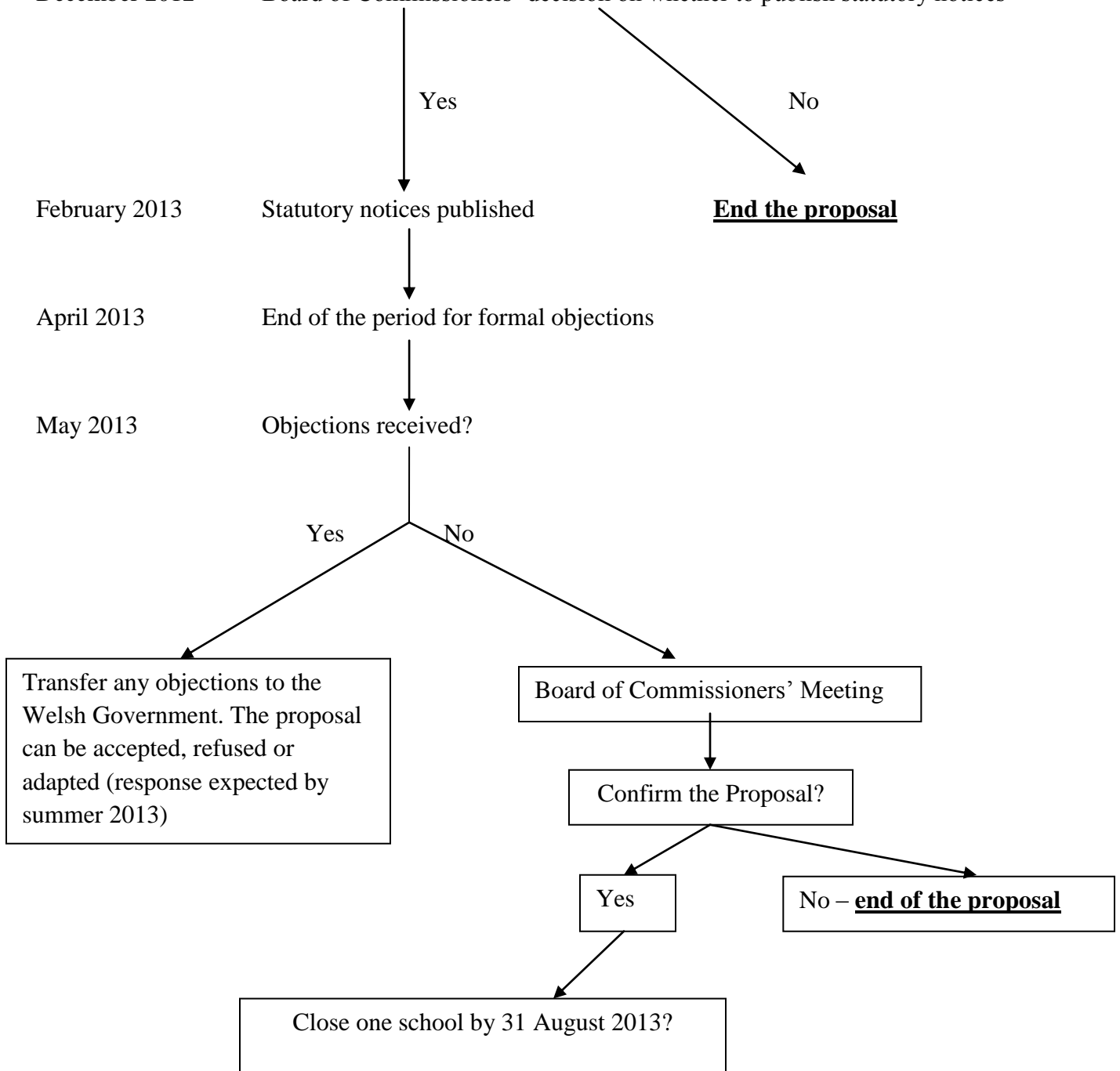
(The timetable is an estimate and times can change)

September 2012 Formal consultation document circulated

September/October 2012 Consultation meetings for staff, governors and parents

November 2012 Closing date for receiving comments on the proposal

December 2012 Board of Commissioners' decision on whether to publish statutory notices





CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

ADRAN DYSGU GYDOL OES
LIFELONG LEARNING DEPARTMENT

YMATEB I ADOLYGIAD YSGOLION CYNRADD
ARDAL CANOL MÔN – YMGYNGHORIAD
ANFFURFIOL (MEHEFIN 2012)

RESPONSE TO CENTRAL ANGLESEY PRIMARY
SCHOOLS REVIEW – INFORMAL CONSULTATION
(JUNE 2012)

Hydref / October 2012

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DRAFT

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As part of the informal consultation in the Central Anglesey area, a number of consultation meetings were held with parents, governors and staff of the three schools involved in the consultation, as shown in Table 1 below. The consultation period began on Tuesday 26th June, 2012 and ended on Thursday 26th July, 2012.

Table 1

School	Date (in 2012)	Meeting with		
		Staff	Governors	Parents
Talwrn	Monday 18 th June	3.45	5.00	6.00
Y Graig	Wednesday 20 th June	3.45	5.00	6.00
Corn Hir	Tuesday 26 th June	3.45	5.00	6.00

- 1.2 As a reminder, Table 2 shows a list of the possible options offered:

Table 2

Number	Option
1	Leave things as they are
	Corn Hir
2	Mobile classroom on the site
3	Extend Ysgol Corn Hir
	Y Graig
4	Extend Ysgol y Graig
5	Extend Ysgol y Graig and close Talwrn, moving children to other schools
	Ysgol Talwrn
6	Federalize with another school
7	Options raised locally

- 1.3 The views of staff, parents, governors and others were collected and they are summarized in this report.

2. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL TALWRN

2.1 These are some of the points raised at the meeting with staff (*responses in italics*):-

- When would the school close once the decision had been made?
 - *This was discussed and the statutory timetable explained – the possibility would be September 2014*
- Cardiff wanted to cut surplus places, and if there was a federation the surplus places within those schools would have to be looked at.
- If people objected to it, would the decision then have to go down to Cardiff?
- If there were a large number objecting, would there be a chance the school would remain open?
 - *The reasons for keeping the school open would have to be looked at, and the need to educate children in the Talwrn area over the next 50 years.*

2.2 Some of the points raised at the meeting with governors are shown below:-

- Why are only some areas being considered?
 - *It was explained as being due to surplus places – this is the priority for the Education office – not small schools.*
- It was stated as fact that an application to federalize with Ysgol y Graig had been refused during this process the last time.
- There was a planning application to build more houses near Ysgol y Graig, and it was agreed that would affect Ysgol y Graig.
- JLDP – It was possible there would be growth in that area if the planning went ahead.
- Federalization with Graig – this would bring the surplus places below 15%
- It was discussed that Secondary schools could be federalized with Primary ones.
- Did the Government know how the future of planning applications would affect school numbers?

Other points raised:

- Emphasize the standard of the education here at Talwrn.
- Was Graig happy to take Talwrn children?
- There was discussion regarding establishing a nursery class and also the effect that would have on the cylch meithrin nursery group.
- It was asked how the authority calculated the future numbers at the schools – *according to births etc.*

2.3 Some of the points raised at the meeting with the parents:-

- The future size of Ysgol y Graig & Corn Hir must be considered.
- In the document, there is an emphasis on the condition of the school, will this affect the decision?

- A number were concerned about parents if the school was to close in 2013, parents need to know what the decision will be because it affects the future education of their children and parents might want to move their children earlier.
- It was said in 2009 that building one classroom would cost £300k + and two classes are needed.
- Could the authority sell the building?
- What priority would there be for Talwrn children at other schools?
This would have to be part of planning other schools in the catchment area.
- Ysgol y Graig is easier in terms of location for a number of parents.
- Would it be easier to ask now which school the parents would wish to send their children to?
This has not been done because we wanted discussion with the community.
- The feeling is that we do not want Talwrn to close.
- There is no room for Talwrn children at Ysgol y Graig, an extension would have to be provided.
- Is anything other than money going to affect the decision?
- Meeting of the Community Council 17/7/12, a copy of any comments would be needed so that the Community Council could reflect the feelings of the community.
- It was important that Talwrn people could keep their children here or the school would close itself.
- Would it be possible to have spending / an extension at Talwrn in order to remove the pressure from Graig – doing this as part of federalizing the two schools?
- It would be better to be told now whether the authority is going to spend money or not.
- If the school were to federalize, would that mean a site would not need to be closed?
No, consultation would be needed on closing a site.
- The comments coming in must be strong ones.
- Ysgol y Graig and Corn Hir need to decide regarding the maximum number of children to be accepted at the school.
- A parent proposed that all the parents should come together again to respond to this document.
- Parent : “I have been through the process before in Capel Coch and I don’t want to go through this again. Also parents will move children from schools once a question mark is above it”

- 2.4 Responses were received from ten parents after the meeting and within the consultation period and these are summarized below:-

Table 3

Number	Comment
1.	A proposal to combine the school with the village hall. Emphasizing that he opposed the 'proposal'.
2.	Asking how the projections of pupil numbers were calculated and whether a mobile classroom from Ysgol Corn Hir would be moved to Ysgol y Graig.
3.	Stating that part 6 of the document was incomplete and that a linguistic and community study had not been carried out (this is part of the formal consultation). Stating that the document was insufficient and rejecting it.
4.	Not enough time to see the document beforehand. Opposed to the idea of closing the school.
5.	"The paper is weak in substance". A feeling that a linguistic assessment was required, and rejecting the document.
6.	A feeling that more options are required, that the document is unclear and that an assessment of the effect on the Welsh language is required.
7.	Rejecting the document because it contained insufficient information. Options regarding federalization are incomplete. Asking the council to look again at the document.
8.	Not enough time to see the document beforehand and feeling that the options are not sound if Ysgol Talwrn is to be closed. Rejecting the document.
9.	An email was received from a parent, inviting the Education Commissioner at the time and a representative of the Education Department to meet with parents on 16 th July 2012 to discuss how to move forward.

- 2.5 An e-mail was received from a member of Llanddyfnan Community Council, stating that he felt the direction of the consultation was towards closing Ysgol Talwrn and that the document should be withdrawn. He also felt that the table of options was insufficient.
- 2.6 A letter was received from the Welsh Language Society, expressing their dissatisfaction with the document.
- 2.7 No response to the consultation document was received from the Governing Body of Ysgol Talwrn.

3. YSGOL Y GRAIG RESPONSES

3.1 The following points were discussed at meetings with the staff, governors and parents:-

- Discussion on federalization – it was said to be a long process and that the problems with the building at Talwrn would still be there.
- The pupil numbers at Ysgol Talwrn were discussed, and how many children at the school lived in Talwrn village.
- The matter was discussed of where Ysgol Talwrn children would go if it were to close. Would they all come to Ysgol y Graig? What about Ysgol Pentraeth?
 - *This was discussed and it was explained that if the school closed then parents would have the choice.*
- When would the decision be made?
 - *It was explained that it was hoped to come to a decision by Christmas 2012.*
- What if large numbers of people objected?
 - *It was explained that if many people objected the decision would have to go to the Education Minister in Cardiff. The Minister would have 4-6 months to decide.*
- What is happening at the moment with the after school club?
 - *It was explained that the Education Department was aware of the situation and that the Children and Young People's Partnership was looking for a new location.*
- What are the options for opening the school early and keeping it open later?
 - *It was explained this option was only available in England at the time.*

3.2 No formal response to the consultation document was received from the Governing Body of Ysgol y Graig.

4. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL CORN HIR

4.1 The following points were raised at the meeting with staff:-
Why were September 2011 figures used?

If the children need a certain amount of space, does it mean there will have to be fewer children in each class?

It is not fair to compare us with Ysgol y Graig.

This is all the more reason to improve this school, a request that it should be high on the council's list of priorities.

Point 4.4.: £550,000, what is the breakdown between the 3 schools concerned?

Is adding an extension to Ysgol y Graig and to Corn Hir an option?

Table 3/point 5: would this affect a number of nearby schools?

Surplus places are a local problem, how far do you expect people to travel within the Island?

4.2 Below are some of the comments made at the meeting with the Governors:-

Where will Ysgol Bodffordd be in terms of surplus places by 2014?

Why is Ysgol Bodffordd not included in the consultation; you are aiming for 10% but Bodffordd has 27%?

The LEA has decided that the problem remains at Ysgol Corn Hir and that people take their children to Ysgol Bodffordd.

Every option needs to be looked at anew.

Schools should have room to expand by up to 10%

Concern that the LEA has not considered whether Ysgol Corn Hir should have the extension, Ysgol Bodffordd will not benefit and maybe fewer will go there and more will want to move back to Corn Hir.

If Corn Hir gets the extension, there will be fewer at Ysgol Bodffordd, so they should also be included in this discussion – they should not lose out.

In other counties, consultation is area by area (Ireland/India)

It might be clearer if everything were on the table, the whole catchment area and with a long term plan of 15 - 20 years in place.

Corn Hir is a good school, there is an option there of establishing it as an area school.

A task and finish group should be established to look at it openly.

Modernization Board: there should be representation from governors and parents on it, they are the voice of the school.

This is informal consultation, is there a possibility you will rethink regarding which schools to consider. Every school needs an opportunity, to be fair.

So much mention of how much money the Council has put into a new school in Holyhead. The final sentence of the statement causes concern; the money saved going back into the central pot. It's important this is available if work is required on the schools.

Vivien Thomas notes that 10% is needed in terms of space.

A concern that an "ivory tower" could be created in one area, with another area suffering as a result.

Traffic problems at Ysgol y Graig.

This is an opportunity to develop Ysgol Corn Hir and provide specialism for the school and for Ysgol y Graig

In terms of scoring, Ysgol y Graig will be way ahead, no hope that other schools might catch up, there are more resources there.

Every child in Llangefni needs to be considered, not just one area – everyone needs the same opportunity, things should be fair.

Readapting a building changes the image e.g. Llangefni library. This could be done at Ysgol Corn Hir. Other people's vision is needed. This can be an opportunity to create a comprehensive, open group, with open meetings.

It's important to think about the staff: how would they feel if Ysgol y Graig received better resources etc. The children here have had fantastic experiences.

It's important to raise the standard of the resources here.

Teachers work with difficult and limited conditions/resources. Facilities and resources need to be improved to meet these requirements.

Energy Island – if children are moved to other schools, traffic movements will increase.

Why give more money to schools that reach 80%? The money needs to be given to schools that score 40%.

We have not been compared fairly here – the class needs to be of a particular size and we are being compared to Ysgol y Graig

Landscape: why have Ysgol Corn Hir and Ysgol y Graig come out badly.

The grounds and buildings of Ysgol Corn Hir come out badly from the report, and this is a cause of concern for us.

An official request for a breakdown of the £550,000 between the 3 schools.

A clear picture is needed of what needs to be done here.

Table 3: disappointing, it looks as if the decision has already been made. This needs to be restarted, any comment on Ysgol y Graig should be exactly the same for Ysgol Corn Hir. It could be an option to have an extension for Ysgol Corn Hir and move the Talwrn children here.

Parents have the option of moving children to any school.

The possibility of looking at the catchment area e.g. Talwrn as part of the whole Llangefni catchment.

Avoid overfilling schools that are already full.

Transport is already a problem at Ysgol y Graig – no traffic problem here.

Has anyone asked the Talwrn parents where they would like their children to go if the school were to close? If no one asks, they will then move automatically to the school with the extension.

What is the timetable for deciding – a timely plan of where the money will go.

Ysgol Corn Hir is down to 5% by now, not a good place to be.

Could we have the prospects up to 2014 for Ysgol Corn Hir (this has already been done for Ysgol y Graig) – a request that the document be adapted to include this.

The Governing Body is keen to invite Mr Gareth Jones (Commissioner) to attend one of the meetings.

Do not overemphasize the catchment area – Llangefni is a good, central area.

Facing the same problem again in 3 years.

Expanding the 2 schools would be an option.

There is a need to provide whatever is required for the schools already here.

4.3 Some comments from the meeting with parents:-

The consultation period is short.

Do they look at statistics at the beginning of September – families moving after the beginning of term.

Not economically feasible to keep Ysgol Talwrn open, it should be closed.

Is there room at Ysgol Corn Hir/Ysgol y Graig.

How many children from Talwrn (village) are already at Ysgol y Graig.

Parents tend to move children once there is talk of closing a school.

How many extensions are you talking about.

There are plans to build more houses in Llangefni, so more places will be needed here – this will need to be considered if Ysgol Talwrn is to be closed.

There is nothing to say that they will come to Llangefni.

Concern, if a school is too small that is not good, if a school is too large that is not good either.

A friendly atmosphere is important.

Is there space for an extension on the Ysgol Corn Hir site.

If the mobile classroom is put on the site, the children's play area will become smaller still.

Building an extension is going to cost more than closing a school.

Has ACC sold the schools that are already closed.

What is the timetable.

This is an opportunity to get schools that are fit for purpose.

An opportunity for investment in Ysgol Corn Hir – an opportunity to invest in a good school the other side of Llangefni.

The catchment area would then be more fairly divided in Llangefni.

Enough space is needed at a school so that brothers and sisters can attend the same school.

- 4.4 One response from a parent was received. It emphasized the need for the authority to process data in accordance with the law.
- 4.5 After the meeting at the school, a member of Ysgol Corn Hir Governing Body asked for more information on the maintenance needs and the prospects for pupil numbers during the coming years. The information was sent to the Head Teacher. Even so, no response to the consultation document was received from Ysgol Corn Hir Governing Body.
- 4.6 It should be noted that by September 2012, Ysgol Talwrn is over capacity with 50 children attending (capacity is 49).

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

At its meeting on October 26, 2012, the Scrutiny Committee was asked to recommend an option or options for formal consultation to the Executive Committee.

At that meeting on October 26, 2012, the Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee resolved to recommend to the Executive:-

- That in light of the current position in relation to pupil numbers in the three schools in central Anglesey, the status quo be retained for the present.
- That subject to the introduction and implementation of the relevant legislation, that authority be given to the Education Officers to review the Llangefni catchment area and
- That the primary education provision in central Anglesey be revisited at a later stage in the schools modernisation programme pending clarification of the position with regard to the availability of resources, catchment review, school buildings condition and the outcome of the modernisation programme in other areas of the Island.