



CONSULTATION REPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION

**Outcome of the consultation held between
5 June 2025 to 17 July 2025**

On the proposal to:

Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds

October 2025

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

The Council from 5 June 2025 to 17 July 2025 held a statutory consultation process in respect of the following proposal to:

“Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds”.

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

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

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

2. DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT

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

- Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi
- Governors and Parents/Guardians of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi
- Headteachers and Chair of Governors of Primary Schools in the catchment area
- Local Elected Members
- Local Member of Parliament
- Local Senedd Member
- Regional Senedd Members
- Welsh Government-Sustainable Communities for Learning
- Estyn
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
- MEDR-Commission for Tertiary Education and Research
- Neighbouring Local Authority
- Local Town and Community Councils
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi
- Canolfan Addysg Y Bont
- Church in Wales

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- Catholic Diocesan Authority

3. THE PROPOSAL

The Council consulted on the proposal to:

“Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds”.

3.1 The New Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi’s Proposed Details

The new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi’s proposed details are noted below:

Age range	11-18 years.
Total Places for learners	900 (750 years 7-11 and 150 years 12 -13).
Admission number per academic year	150 (based on year 7-11 only).
Location	Land near Holyhead Leisure Centre, contingent upon successful land acquisition.
Category	Community.
Language Category	T 3 -Transitional Welsh medium. The school is transitioning towards category 3 by September 2029.
Proposed facilities	Sustainable Communities for learning facility to realise the new Curriculum for Wales (CfW).
Anticipated Project Cost	Approximately £66m - with £60.7m to be delivered through the Mutual Investment Model (Welsh Government contributing 81% towards the Annual Service Charge through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme / the Council contributing 19%), with the remaining £5.2m financed through the Council’s capital (35%) and the Welsh Government (65%) Sustainable Communities for Learning .

3.2 Proposed Design

In accordance with the Welsh Government document - Area Guidelines for Schools in Wales Building Guidance, (WG51809) – issued March 2025, it is proposed that the school design for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi shall include:

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Rooms/Areas	Examples
Teaching rooms	Design and Technology Art, Music and Drama and Science Laboratories
Learning Resource Areas	Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and a Library
Staff Administration	Headteacher's Office, Community and other office, Staff Work Rooms
Storage (Teaching)	Instrument stores, PE Stores
Storage (non-teaching)	ALN Appliances, lockers, cleaner's store
Dining Social Areas	Dining Area, Social and sandwich area
Catering Facilities	Kitchen and servery area
Other	Toilets and Pupil Changing Rooms & showers

The Council would provide appropriate help and support for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Should parents/guardians with pupils' who are registered ALN have any questions regarding the support offered, individual meetings can be arranged with the Additional Learning Needs Manager, Email: ffionellis2@ynysmon.llyw.cymru telephone 01286 679007.

4. CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Council's Executive in its meeting held on the 22 May 2025 authorised officers to conduct a statutory consultation in line with the requirements set out in the School Organisation Code (011/2018).

4.1 Methodology

The Consultation was held between 5 June 2025-17 July 2025. During this period stakeholders / interested parties were invited to express their views on the proposal to:

Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds.

The consultation document <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Have-your-say/Consultations/Previous-consultations/Statutory-consultation-Ysgol-Uwchradd-Caergybi.aspx> and impact assessment [Impact assessment YUC - 130525.docx](#)

were made available to all the stakeholders and interested parties listed in section 2.

The consultation document and impact assessment were also published on the Council's website.

The Council raised awareness of the consultation via the Council's social media networks and by displaying posters with QR codes at the local public spaces e.g. library.

An Easy Read version of the consultation document and response form was also produced and was available on the Council website.

Consultees were also advised of the following opportunities to respond to the consultation proposal or ask questions by:

- Sending an email to angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk or
- Completing the online response form or
- Completing a paper response form and posting back to the Programme Manager (Schools Modernisation), Human Resource and Transformation Service, Council Offices, Llangefni, LL77 7TW

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

4.2 Consultation Meetings

The following meetings/sessions were held to present the consultation documents and explain the consultation process to Learners, Staff, Governors, Parents/Guardians and all other interested parties who attended.

Attendees were advised of the importance of responding to the consultation as described in section 4.1 as no formal minutes were taken at the consultation meetings.

A workshop facilitated by the School and Council staff was also held with Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi school council and other learners in person as well as a virtual Teams session with the primary school councils in the catchment area.

The consultation process with Children and Young People was carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code 011/2018.

Date	School/Location	Stakeholders	Time
2 July 2025	Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi	Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi School Council and other learners	2:00pm-3:00pm
2 July 2025	Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi	Staff and Governors	4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
2 July 2025	Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi	Parents/ Guardians	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
8 July 2025	Virtual teams session	Catchment area Primary School Councils	10:00am-11:00am

5. RESPONSES AND COMMENTS

The following section summarises all the responses and comments received by stakeholders to the statutory consultation. Responses were received on -line (response form), and on email.

5.1 Summary of responses from the on-line response form

The Council received a total of 1,023 responses to the statutory consultation via the on-line response form. The following table provides a further breakdown.

Respondent category	Percentage	Response total
Learner / pupil	32.3%	329
School governor	1.2%	12
Staff	6.6%	67
Parent / guardian	22.5%	229
Elected member	1.2%	12
Town and community councillor	0.6%	6
Local resident	42.1%	429
Other (e.g. former pupil) or did not specify	3.4%	35

Some stakeholders responded in more than one capacity e.g. responded as a parent/guardian and a school governor which has been recorded as one response in the overall total of 1023.

No responses were received on the paper response form.

5.2 On-line response form replies

This section provides stakeholders responses to the three questions asked in relation to the proposal.

A further question relating to the Welsh Language was also asked as follows:

We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposal would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there are? How can positive effects on the Welsh language be increased, or negative effects reduced?

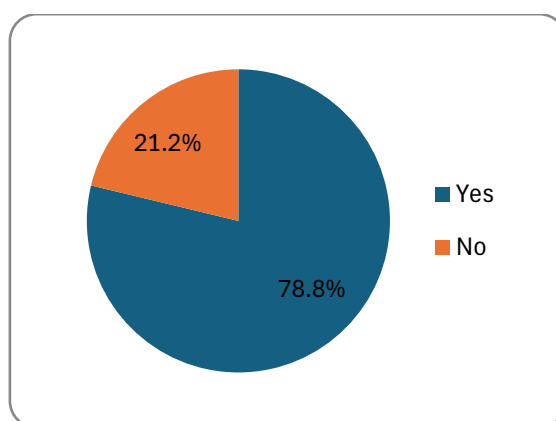
Feedback received in response to this question is available in the updated impact assessment [Impact assessment YUC - 130525.docx](#)

5.2.1. **Question** -Do you agree with the proposal to “Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds”? Yes/ No?

The table below indicates that 79 % of stakeholders who replied to this question on the online response form agree with the proposal with 21% not agreeing to the proposal. 58 of the stakeholder responses did not answer this question.

Answer choice	Response percent	Response numbers
Yes	79%	760
No	21%	205
No reply		58

The graph below indicates the answer choice of stakeholders who responded to this question.



5.2.2. **Question** -Do you wish to make comments regarding the proposal to: “Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds”.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018) the table below summarises the issues raised by the stakeholders together with the Council’s response by means of clarification, amendment of the proposal or rejection of concerns with supporting reasons.

Summary of issues raised by stakeholders	Council's response
Around half of the stakeholders who replied no to the proposal, indicated that the proposed site near the leisure centre was too far	A detailed options appraisal has been completed of potential sites in Holyhead area, and the site near the leisure centre is the only site meeting the requirements. The site has not been confirmed and there may be additional travelling times and costs.

from the current site and the town centre. Here are comments that reflect the issues raised: • The proposed location is out of the way for many pupils • Much too far out for children to walk to school	However, it is anticipated that some transport costs may well be reduced because those learners who wish to access Welsh-medium, fully bilingual provision should be able to remain within their school catchment area and not be transported to the nearest Welsh-medium secondary school. Furthermore, other learners may decide to remain within their catchment area because of having access to a new school building and modern resources. The Council has a duty to provide travel assistance in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The Council provides free school transport for full time secondary school learners residing 3 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside (except for 6th form learners / further education students). Further information available from the school transport policy: https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/School-transport/School-Transport-Policy.aspx The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is linked to the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The Act sets a clear ambition to improve walking and cycling routes to help us satisfy our environmental and health objectives. If the proposal is accepted, active travel plans will be reviewed and prepared in accordance with the Act for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building once the new site is confirmed.
A minority of stakeholders suggested updating the current building / rebuilding on the current site.	The Council has already considered and discounted refurbishing the current building as an option as highlighted in the consultation document. The current site area would not meet the Welsh Government - Area Guidelines for Schools in Wales Building Guidance (WG51809). The current school site area is 27,000m² and the Gross Site Area required for new school without playing fields is 31,625m². A further appraisal of rebuilding on the current site is available below in 5.2.3.
Very few commented about the high cost of the proposed new school building.	The proposed cost is estimated at £66million, the majority of which will be funded through a mutual investment model Mutual Investment Model.

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	The Council's contribution (estimate) towards annual service cost for 25 years (MIM) is £1,238,218 which is considered affordable.
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5.2.3. **Question**-Do you wish to suggest other reasonable alternatives that addresses the key challenges that Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi faces?

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018) stakeholders were given an opportunity to make representations regarding the alternatives identified by the Council as well as the main proposal.

Stakeholders were also given the opportunity to suggest other alternatives which would address the key challenges Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi faces which the Council is seeking to address.

Many of the stakeholders in response to this question suggested refurbishing the current building / rebuilding on the current site. The Council has already considered and discounted refurbishing the current building as an option as highlighted in the consultation document.

The Council has further considered rebuilding from new on the current site and has rejected this option with reasons in the table below.

Additional option for consideration	Main reasons for rejection
Rebuilding from new on current site	Site • The current site area would not meet the Welsh Government's- Area Guidelines for Schools in Wales- Building Guidance (WG51809). • The current school site area is 27,000m². Gross Site Area required for new school without playing fields is 31,625m².
	Cost • Estimated Demolition Costs for phased demolition and disposal of material off site is £1,307,040. • Estimated cost of new Site Construction and Development as demolition proceeds is £60,697,000. • Total Cost of Option is therefore £62,004,040 (as compared to £66.million for the new site).
	Challenges • A phased demolition and reconstruction programme would be required over a 5-6 year period. • Large number of learners would need to be taught remotely or relocated to other buildings for very long periods. • Impact on learners, staff and all users during the period. • Huge impact during demolition regarding noise and dust impacting all site users and nearby residents. • Huge impact during construction regarding noise and dust impacting all site users and nearby residents. • Minimal external play and social areas available over the construction period potentially impacting pupil's wellbeing.

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	• Impact on the availability of on-site staff and visitor parking over the construction period. • Limited available area on site for contractor's compound for welfare facilities and material storage. • Likely disruption to services during demolition / re-construction. • Most of the new building would likely need to be a 4 storey structure creating possible accessibility issues. • Limited available space for any temporary classroom accommodation on site during construction.
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5.3 Summary of a response received by email

Stakeholder/ interested party	Summary of their response	Council's response
RhAG /Parents for Welsh Medium Education	RhAG noted that they “appreciate the challenges the school has faced recently regarding the buildings, and it is good to see that there has been a positive response in order to see the learning community receiving suitable buildings”. Most of the response relates to the school transitioning over the next 4 years to a category 3 Welsh-medium school. It calls on the Council to ensure that increasing Welsh language education opportunities is a central consideration of this proposal.	Response noted. The Council explained in the consultation document (5.4.8) that the change of language category is independent of the proposal. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is the key strategic driver for developing Welsh language education locally. Appropriate measures as in place to support Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi (YUC) to become a category 3 Welsh-medium school with an agreed timeframe. This proposal does not impact / impair those measures. The points raised by RhAG will be given consideration as part of the YUC language category transition plan.

5.4 Estyn's Response

In accordance with the School Organisation code (011/2018) Estyn's response to the consultation is set out in full in section 7. (The bold letters have been inserted by the Council).

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code, and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

5.4.1. Council's response

The Council wishes to clarify /respond to some matters identified within Estyn's response as follows:

Estyn's response	Council's response
The school will be built near Holyhead Leisure Centre, and it appears that the scheme will cost £66 million, with 65% of the cost being a contribution from Welsh Government and 35% being a contribution from the Council.	The cost of the proposal at present, depending on the outcome, is estimated to be £65.9m if delivered as a MIM scheme; it is proposed that this will be part funded by the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. Welsh Government invites Councils to use the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) to fund new build projects of significant value. Mutual Investment Model The Welsh Government intervention rate for funding Sustainable Communities for Learning MIM projects is 81%, with the remaining 19% funded by the Council. Most of the expenditure associated with the new building is likely to be eligible to be delivered and funded using the Mutual Investment Model. Any costs not eligible to be funded via MIM, would be funded as Capital expenditure. The Welsh Government intervention rate for capital costs is 65%, with the remaining 35% funded by the council.
If the proposal is implemented, it appears that the current leadership and management structure may need to be reviewed. If it is on a larger site, more site management is likely to be required. It is not clear from the proposal if the leadership team will receive support and guidance from the local authority to	The Council confirms that the leadership team will receive support and guidance to manage the new site.

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ensure that best practices in leadership and management are adopted.	
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5.5 Summary of response from learners

In this section feedback from the learners' sessions at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi and the virtual Teams session held with the primary schools is provided. Both sessions/ consultation process with learners was carried out in accordance with Section 3.5 of the School Organisation Code 011/2018.

Officers explained that the Council are responsible for schools on Anglesey and that the Council has the ambition of ensuring that all our children and young people, despite their background and circumstances, achieve their full potential, enabling all learners to develop towards the four purposes of the curriculum to be:

- Ambitious, capable learners,
- Venturous, creative contributors,
- Principled, knowledgeable citizens,
- Healthy, confident individuals.

Learners were reminded of Article 12: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child i.e. 'Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account'.

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

5.5.1. Learners' session at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi 2 July 2025

Council officers visited Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi, to find out their views on the proposal. Over 30 learners representing the school attended the session.

Learners were asked to provide their comments based around the questions included in the consultation document:

Their **summarised** responses are noted **below in their own words.**

	Questions discussed	Responses
1.	Do you agree with the proposal to "Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds"?	All pupils that attended the session agreed with the proposal. However, whilst in agreement with the proposal, some said: • It might be difficult for pupils who walk to school to get access to transport to go to the new location as its going to be outside the town centre. • May be challenging for those with physical disabilities to get there. Council's response The Council has a duty to provide travel assistance in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The Council provides free school transport for full

		time secondary school learners residing 3 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside (except for 6th form learners / further education students). Further information available from the school transport policy: https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/School-transport/School-Transport-Policy.aspx The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is linked to the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The Act sets a clear ambition to improve walking and cycling routes to help us satisfy our environmental and health objectives. If the proposal is accepted, active travel plans will be reviewed and prepared in accordance with the Act for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building once a new site is confirmed. The Council will provide appropriate assistance and support for the learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and a disability. Individual needs of ALN and disabled learners will be assessed at the time of transferring to any school.
2.	Do you wish to make comments regarding the proposal?	Learners gave their comments as well as, what they would like in the new school building. Summary of comments • The situation with RAAC has affected learners education. The new school will be a better environment for pupils to learn in, and I think that the money won't be wasted. • As the new school building is proposed to be next to the leisure centre, then we can use the facilities there as well. • More focus on after school clubs and community involvement at the new site. Could rent /charge for the hall use. • The structure of the school will be more secure and safe, helping learners feel more comfortable in their school environment. • I think it is better if the current building was renovated and stayed where it is. Summary of what they would like in the new school building • More outside space and would like a canopy for outside learning. Would like a football and rugby pitch as well. • A large common room for students and social activities.
3.	Do you wish to suggest other reasonable alternatives that addresses the key challenges that Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi faces?	

		• A room / area where we could always go for support to make students feel confident and secure in themselves and their education (Like Ystafell Pawb in YUC) • Basic first aid training taught to all students and teachers. • Would like a theatre and professional stage with props and costumes. • More accessible for pupils with disabilities. • Better parking at the new site. • Revision rooms /quiet spaces/library for GCSE. • More information on how to access college, what GCSE's you need etc. Or more help on how to study at university and giving support on how to get a place there. • Lockers for students. • More subject options available for Years 12-13. • Cleaner, more hygienic environment to learn in. • Additional resources (e.g. sensory room) for those with additional needs. • Having solar panels will be good. Council's response All the comments have been noted and included in the overall response to the consultation. Their summary of what they would like within a new school will be considered when appropriate at later time.
4.	We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposal would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. • What effects do you think there would be? • How can positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?	• More Welsh lessons and less English lessons, so we become fluent in Welsh earlier. • More Welsh language lessons in the new school building as I feel the Welsh language is currently limited in our school. • Hire more Welsh teachers and add more Welsh lessons with more Welsh focus. • All staff to be bilingual • I think the Welsh language should be used more often in all lessons and outside of lessons as children are speaking less and less Welsh. • Improve the amount of Welsh speaking and teaching in the school • Have Welsh signs across the new school • Have Welsh posters around the school Council's response Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi is on a journey to transition to a Welsh-medium secondary school, irrespective of the proposal to relocate learners to a new school building. However, the responses are noted and will be included in the updated impact assessment going forward.

5.5.2. Virtual learners' session with primary schools 8 July 2025

Council officers held a virtual session over TEAMS with the school council from six schools in the Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi catchment area namely:

- Ysgol Cybi
- Ysgol Kingsland
- Ysgol Llanfawr
- Ysgol Rhosneigr
- Ysgol Santes Fair
- Ysgol Y Tywyn

Learners were given an age appropriate PowerPoint presentation about the proposal. They were asked to give their opinions comments on the proposal as follows:

Their summarised responses are noted below **in their own words**.

	Questions discussed	Responses
1.	What do you think about getting a new building? Agree/ Disagree?	All six schools agreed that a new school building is required and made the following observations as well: • An excellent idea. It is going to help with costs and eco issues. • Good idea to have a new school. But it must be ensured that there is access for everyone because YUC building is not suitable now. • Good idea to have a new school building as the current school has a lot of problems.
2.	Is there anything else you want to say about the plan to move YUC children to a new school building?	Learners gave their comments as well as what they would like in the new school building. Summary of comments • Like the idea of a new school but some reservations about the location • Would like a sensory room in the new school building • Would like to see a wildlife park/play area on the old school site. • Would like a garden/ forest garden on the new site. • Give the school a new name rather than YUC, naming it after someone historically famous/significant from Holyhead. • New school building – give it Welsh language branding to encourage use of the language.
3.	Do you want to suggest other ideas that can help YUC?	
4.	Will the changes help children use the Welsh language more or less? If less, what would help to use the language more?	

Questions asked	Council response
Where will the school location be?	The proposed (although not yet confirmed) site is near the current Holyhead Leisure centre. A detailed options appraisal has been completed of potential sites in Holyhead area, this is the only site meeting the requirements.
Can we use the sports centre?	If the school is built near the leisure centre, then there would be discussions regarding using their facilities as part of the plan.
If the new school uses the Leisure Centre wouldn't that limit the use by the public/primary schools?	Discussions will need to take place to make the best use of the leisure centre for all concerned to make sure that no one is disadvantaged.
How long will it take to build the school?	The whole project (when a new school building opens) will take up until September 2030.
How much will the building cost?	Estimated costs are £66 million.
How will pupils go from the town to the new school? Will you need a bus?	The Council has a duty to provide travel assistance in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The Council provides free school transport for full time secondary school learners residing 3 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside (except for 6th form learners / further education students). Further information available from the school transport policy: https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/School-transport/School-Transport-Policy.aspx
Will there be enough bike / scooter racks there, for the pupils who want to go by bike instead of walking/bus?	The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is linked to the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The Act sets a clear ambition to improve walking and cycling routes to help us satisfy our environmental and health objectives. If the proposal is accepted, active travel plans will be reviewed and prepared in accordance with the Act for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building once a new site is confirmed.
Are 900 places enough? more children will want to come to a new school	The Council has made its calculations based on future learner number projections and have also considered birth rates as per 2021 census. It is important to note

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		that projections are difficult as some learners attend the schools from other catchment areas.
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6. CONCLUSION

The proposal consulted on was to Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018) this section explains the proposal assessment, how the assessment differs from any earlier assessment (if at all), assessment of any other reasonable alternatives and confirmation whether to implement the original proposal (wholly or partly).

6.1 Confirmation whether to implement the original proposal (wholly or partly)

After considering all the feedback as summarised in accordance with the school organisation code (11/2018) in section 5 above, the Council concludes that the most appropriate response is to build a new school building for Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi (the original proposal).

Feedback from the majority of stakeholders (79%) to responded to the on-line response form agrees with the proposal and the Council has responded to the summary of issues raised by those who replied “no “in section 5.

6.2 Recommendation to the Executive

After considering the responses from all stakeholders, the Council is of the opinion that its further assessment of the proposal “To Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11-18 year olds” does not differ from the initial assessment made. In this respect the Council confirms the most appropriate response is to ask the Executive for the authority to publish a statutory notice to proceed with the proposal.

The benefits of the proposal are:

- A new school building with latest technology and learning resources, suitable for the latest and most modern methods of teaching and learning, should have a positive effect on staff and learner wellbeing and experience.
- Well-designed and thoughtfully developed school grounds enrich opportunities to learn and play. Connection and contact with nature create more positive emotions and feelings of vitality, and less negative emotions; it also offers a release from mental fatigue, and the ability to concentrate for longer.
- Having purpose-built community resources in the new school building and access to modern facilities would be expected to attract increased community use. The proposal would enable the Council and the potential new school to be a Community Focused School, building strong partnerships with families, engaging with the wider community and collaborating effectively with other sectors and services. This would be in line with Welsh Government’s latest guidance. By being a Community Focused School, the new location can also act as a community hub to help support and encourage Welsh speaking in the wider community.
- As there could be a new school building, the Council would avoid having to conduct work to address the current and projected future maintenance cost of almost £29

million (2024) on the current building.

- The proposal would lead to a saving in the central repairs & maintenance budget for the next 25 years (if the scheme is delivered via the Mutual Investment Model (MIM))
- It would address those urgent current mitigations taken in 2023/24 due to Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in 30% of the school building because of changes to UK Government guidance in August 2023.
- The potential new school site would have its own playing fields on the same site as the school building.
- Surplus places at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi would be reduced.
- Increased likelihood that learners will remain within their catchment area because of having access to a new school building and modern resources.
- No additional transport costs are foreseen to the Council associated with the proposal.
- The new school building will be net zero carbon, with broader biodiversity enhancement opportunities on the proposed site.

7. ESTYN REPORT

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Estyn's response to the proposal to relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi learners to a new school building for 11–18-year pupils.

This report was prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code, and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. **Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.**

The proposal is to relocate learners at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to a new school building for 11–18-year-old pupils.

Summary / Conclusion

Estyn considers that the proposal is at least likely to improve the standard of educational provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

The local authority has outlined a clear rationale for its proposal, namely, to relocate learners at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to a new school building for 11–18-year-old pupils by 2030. If the proposal is approved, the school will be built on land near Holyhead Leisure Centre, subject to successful land acquisition.

It appears that Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi's current building is in poor condition (Grade C according to the Welsh Government's building condition categorisation scale), with £29 million worth of repairs required, along with significant accessibility issues. Currently, it appears that there are 29% surplus places and a lack of suitable playing fields for learners. It also appears that the school in its current form is very energy-reliant and is one of the top ten for carbon emissions among the Council's assets.

The local authority provides an appropriate description of the proposal, which includes an expected timetable for the statutory procedures. It proposes to build a new school for 900 pupils, with 750 pupils in Years 7 to 11, in addition to 150 spaces for post-16 provision. **The school will be built near Holyhead Leisure Centre, and it appears that the scheme will cost £66 million, with 65% of the cost being a contribution from Welsh Government and 35% being a contribution from the Council.**

The proposer identifies the expected advantages and disadvantages clearly and fairly, compared to the status quo. One of the main advantages is that it would address the current emergency mitigation work completed in 2023-2024 due to Reinforced

Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC) being present in 30% of the school's current building. The proposal is also likely to lead to a saving in the central repair and maintenance budget for the next 25 years. The proposer states that the new school building will be net zero carbon and that the current and projected maintenance cost of the current building is almost £29 million.

It appears that the new building would have a wealth of state-of-the-art resources, science and technology laboratories suitable for the latest teaching methods. It is likely that this, in turn, would have a strong effect on learners' well-being and outcomes. It is also proposed that the new school site would have its own playing fields, which will provide valuable opportunities to foster learners' well-being, physical skills and learning continuously. It will be modern, accessible to all learners and it is noted that there will also be offices and spaces to meet the needs of staff and learners. A multi-use games area (MUGA) is likely to be available to learners, which will encourage participation in sports and leisure purposefully.

Another advantage is the increased likelihood that learners will stay within their catchment area as a result of having access to a new school building, larger class sizes and modern resources to support their well-being and learning. There will be no additional transport cost associated with the proposal and, currently, learners between the ages of 16 and 18 travel for extended periods during the school day as some subjects are taught by alternative providers. The proposer outlines the expectation of having purpose-built community resources within the new school building and access to modern facilities to attract more community use. As a result, it appears that the proposal would enable the Council and the proposed new school to be a community-focused school, fostering strong partnerships with families, providing meaningful opportunities to engage with the wider community and cooperate effectively with other sectors and services. The new setting could also serve as a community hub to help support and encourage people and learners to use the Welsh language in the wider community.

It appears that there are a few disadvantages to the proposal along with associated risks, and clear and achievable measures to mitigate these are described in response to the proposal. It is likely that there will be some uncertainty for learners and staff. The proposer outlines openly that, as a result of reduced capacity, fewer staff will be required. Continuous communication with staff and unions will need to be ensured to keep them fully informed of developments. The proposer also identifies the need to bring learners together into a new site in a sensitive and careful manner to ensure continuity in their teaching and learning. In terms of well-being, care and health, pupils who are already used to the new building may find it difficult to move to a new school. In addition, if the distance is greater than the current distance for some learners, this may have a detrimental effect on attendance rates. There may also be delays in terms of the funding and construction of the new school and the possibility of opposition to the new build from residents, environmental groups or other stakeholders. Another disadvantage seems to be if the number of applications exceeds the school's capacity, there may be more admission appeals. In terms of the likely financial challenges, it appears that there will be an additional cost of approximately £26,000 through the school's delegated budget.

The local authority has considered five alternative options, identifying a clear rationale for not selecting them. It appears that relocating learners at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi is the preferred option to address the key drivers for change and the key challenges for Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi. The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the impact of the changes on pupils' travel arrangements and on the accessibility of provision. The current situation is that 42.5% of learners who live in the catchment area attend other schools on the island or in Gwynedd. It is anticipated that transport costs may decrease because those learners who wish to access Welsh-medium, fully bilingual provision will not need to be transported out of their school catchment area to the nearest Welsh-medium secondary school. Free transport is provided for full-time secondary school learners who live 3 miles or more from the school in whose catchment area they reside, with the exception of sixth-form learners. If the proposal is accepted, it is anticipated that active travel plans will be prepared in line with the Act for the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building.

The local authority has demonstrated the effect of the proposal on surplus places appropriately. Since September 2024, the number of learners who attend the school from outside the catchment area is low at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi (4.5% of learners). The proposer outlines clearly the projections for the next five years in terms of surplus places, which may potentially reach 37.4% by September 2029. The projections confirm that the number of learners at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi is expected to decline. The authority also estimates that around 80 learners may also attend the school as a result of the construction of new houses. It is likely that should all housing provision be realised, there would still be sufficient places at the new Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi building.

The proposal also gives appropriate consideration to the effect of the proposal on Welsh-medium provision within the local authority. The proposer states that the proposal would protect and promote the Welsh language within Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi and its catchment area, as eight of the nine primary schools in the catchment area have been designated as Welsh-medium. The proposer states that the proposal would lead to encouraging learners to stay within their catchment area to receive a fully bilingual education rather than attending an alternative neighbouring secondary school. It is anticipated that learners will no longer need to travel to a nearby Welsh-medium secondary school when the new building opens in 2030. It is likely that any new staff recruited would be Welsh speakers, in line with the Welsh language policy and would be trained through the medium of Welsh. The proposer theorises further by stating that when learners leave the school, they will be fully bilingual which, in turn, will contribute purposefully to preserving the Welsh language within their communities. It is also proposed that it will provide opportunities for learners to use the Welsh language during after-school activities, in addition to the childcare and pre-school breakfast clubs.

Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi is currently categorised as a school that teaches through the school is in this transitional category and has begun the ambitious process of transferring to category 3 within a five-year plan, which is Welsh as the main language of teaching. The proposer states clearly that the change of category separate to this proposal but, if the proposal is agreed, it appears that it will increase the provision of Welsh-medium education over time.

The local authority has given appropriate consideration to the financial implications of the proposal. It appears that the estimated cost is £65.9 million and that this will be funded partly by the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. However, the current and projected maintenance costs at the current building are almost £29 million. It is assumed that the sale of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi will release capital receipts towards the cost of constructing the new school building. It is proposed that there will be no additional transport costs, and, in addition, there will be a saving of approximately £45,798 against the central Repair and Maintenance budget for the next 25 years. However, the proposer anticipates an additional cost of £26,000 through the school's delegated budget.

Another potential financial challenge outline in the proposal is that if the scheme were to be delivered through the Mutual Investment Model (MIM), the Council's contribution (estimated at 17%) towards the Annual Service Charge would result in an additional revenue cost of approximately £1.3 million per annum for the Council to fund for years 1-25 and approximately £94,000 to £141,000 for years 26-60. The delegated schools budget requirement is likely to increase by approximately £26,000 per annum if the proposal is implemented. In terms of short-term transitional costs that will need to be funded, the proposer states that these could include an additional one-off cost to release a member of the school's senior leadership team prior to the opening of the new school building. There are also likely to be premises costs for the closed building until it has been disposed of. It is estimated that the transitional cost will be around £8,000 per annum from 2025-26 – 2027-28, around £19,000 in 2028-29, around £177,000 in 2029-30 when the new school building opens, and around £115,000 per annum from 2030-31 until the existing school property is transferred from the Council's ownership.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The authority considers the effect of the proposal on the quality and standards of educational usefully. The proposer states that the new school would meet the 'Sustainable Community' standards and would be an inspirational learning environment for learners. It is also likely that the new school would be designed to deliver Curriculum for Wales purposefully. It appears that the existing school has limited outdoor learning environments to promote learners' independent learning. Standards are expected to at least be maintained or improved in the new building. A new school building could likely provide additional specialist modern resources and outdoor green spaces to meet the needs of the curriculum and enrich provision and learners' experiences. In line with their arrangements with other schools in the authority, it appears that the new school will receive the usual challenge and support in terms of teaching, learning and leadership.

In terms of well-being and attitudes to learning, the proposal states that the new school environment, together with dedicated outdoor green spaces, would be likely to improve the physical and emotional well-being of learners, in addition to improving staff's well-being.

It is likely that there will be no significant change in provision and arrangements for care, support and guidance for pupils. The Estyn report in February 2025 stated in part, 'There is a strong culture of safeguarding at the school. Many pupils feel safe, and nearly all know where to go for support if needed.'

If the proposal is implemented, it appears that the current leadership and management structure may need to be reviewed. If it is on a larger site, more site management is likely to be required. It is not clear from the proposal if the leadership team will receive support and guidance from the local authority to ensure that best practices in leadership and management are adopted.

A useful description is provided of the effect of the proposal on the community and on vulnerable groups, including children with additional learning needs (ALN). It appears that the proposal would lead to a change in the learning environment of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi so that disabled learners and staff are able to have full access to the whole of the proposed building. However, it is acknowledged that the change could be more challenging for some learners with ALN, but the proposer states that it will endeavour to ensure as little disruption as possible and support learners during the transition to the new provision. It is also noted that the authority will seek advice from specific teams to identify and implement relevant strategies to ease the transition. The proposal highlights that a needs assessment would be undertaken to identify the level and type of support needed to facilitate the transition process for learners with additional learning needs. It is likely that any learners with additional learning needs who currently attend Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi would continue to receive the level of support needed to meet their individual educational needs in the new school building.