

<b>Isle of Anglesey County Council</b>	
Report to:	The Executive
Date:	18 July 2023
Subject:	Modernising Schools on Anglesey – Reviewing the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Dafydd Roberts
Head of Service / Director:	Marc B. Hughes Director of Education, Skills and Young People
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	Emrys Bebb 2919 <a href="mailto:emrysbebb@ynysmon.llyw.cymru">emrysbebb@ynysmon.llyw.cymru</a>
Local Members:	Councillor Non Dafydd Councillor Dylan Rees Councillor Paul Ellis

#### A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

##### **Reasons**

At its meeting on 17 December 2020, the Executive decided to:

- Approve the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to take pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn.

Other points were agreed at the meeting as shown in the minutes.

The purpose of this report is to review the catchment area of Ysgol Talwrn as mentioned in the bullet point above by assessing options.

##### **Options**

Below are the realistic options that are possible:

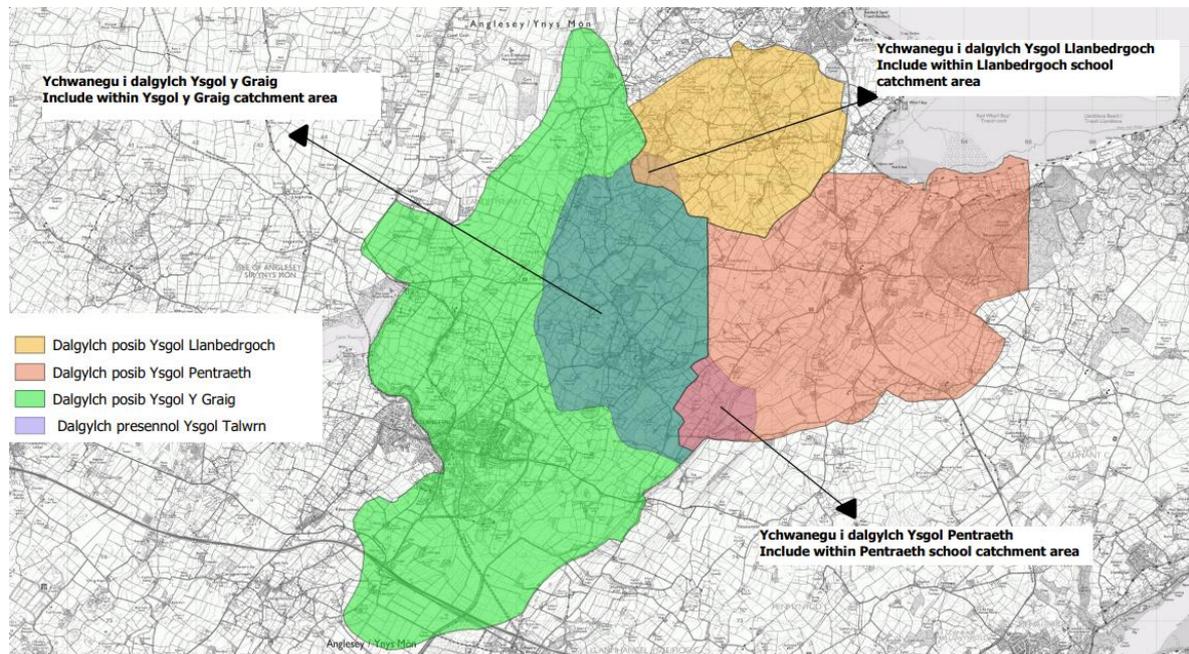
1. There are 3 parts to this option:

- Transfer a stretch in the north of Ysgol Talwrn's existing catchment area (as in the map below in Option 1) to Ysgol Llanbedrgoch catchment. This would mean that any children living in this area would be geographically closer to Ysgol Llanbedrgoch than Ysgol y Graig.
- Transfer a piece in the south east of Ysgol Talwrn's existing catchment area (as in the map below in Option 1) to Ysgol Pentraeth's catchment. This would mean that any children living in this part would be geographically closer to Ysgol Pentraeth than Ysgol y Graig.
- Combine the remainder of Ysgol Talwrn catchment with the Ysgol y Graig catchment area

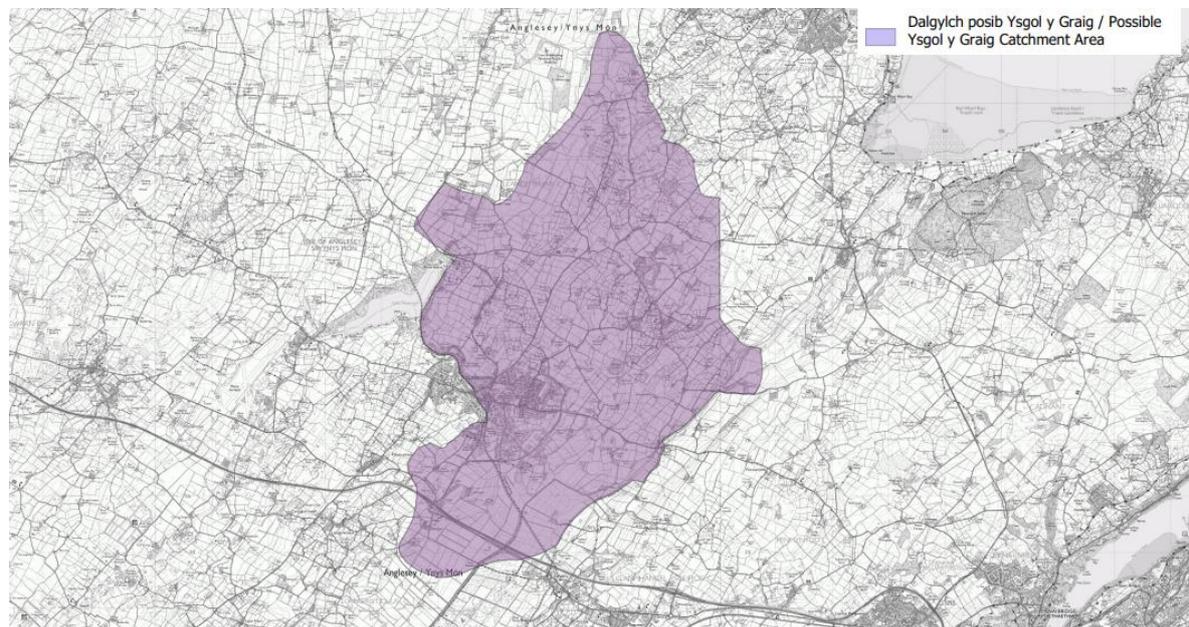
2. Combine the existing Ysgol Talwrn catchment with the Ysgol y Craig catchment.

**A – Recommendation/s and reason/s**

**Option 1 – Slightly change the Ysgol Talwrn catchment area and combine the rest of the catchment area with Ysgol y Graig's catchment area**



**Option 2 - Merge the existing Ysgol Talwrn catchment area with the Ysgol y Graig catchment area**



The statutory notice for the proposal approved by the Executive on 17 December 2020 and on 15 March 2021 says: "Transport arrangements to the expanded school are proposed from the catchment area of the present Ysgol Talwrn." So whichever option is preferred, transport will need to be arranged for Ysgol Talwrn pupils who will transfer to Ysgol y Graig. This will be done in the coming months.

**A –Recommendation/s and reason/s**

The advantages and disadvantages of both options can be seen below:

	<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils living in the parts of Ysgol Talwrn's existing catchment area that can transfer to the catchment areas of Ysgol Pentraeth and Ysgol Llanbedrgoch would then live closer to the secondary school of that catchment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will ensure that children living in the catchment area remain in the same catchment area from primary to secondary school</li> <li>• It will encourage children who have already been attending Ysgol Talwrn to continue attending the same school i.e. Ysgol Y Graig from September 2024</li> <li>• Carbon emissions as a result of transport would be lower (compared to Option 1).</li> </ul>
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There would be additional transport costs to the Council and it may be necessary to provide transport from both parts that can transfer with a potential cost of £60k per annum.</li> <li>• Some children may go to a different secondary school than their friends</li> <li>• Pupils would potentially transfer to a school within a different secondary catchment area to their siblings. This can create problems for parents should their children attend different secondary schools.</li> <li>• Increased transportation would lead to higher carbon emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is anticipated that there would be additional transport costs to the Council of around £30k.</li> </ul>

**It is recommended that the Executive:**

Approve Option 2.

**B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?**

See both options above. Option 2 was chosen, as Ysgol Y Graig is in the same secondary catchment area as Ysgol Talwrn. The pupils will transfer to the same secondary school as their friends, and possibly older siblings. This option is also more cost efficient for the Council and will reduce carbon emissions.

**C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?**

The original proposal was agreed by the Executive and is therefore beyond the delegated powers of officers to decide the future of the catchment area.

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

Yes. The Executive is responsible for school modernisation matters. It is in keeping and consistent with the Anglesey School Modernisation strategy (adopted by the Executive in October 2018).

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

The proposed project was approved after it was amended to reflect the new tendered cost of the project received after re-tendering. This was approved by the Executive on 19 July 2022.

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

**Note** – This decision about the future of Ysgol Talwrn's catchment area is part of a process related to a previous decision which was the proposal to increase Ysgol Y Graig capacity to take pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn was made on 10 December 2020. The effect of that decision is assessed below.

1	How does this decision impact on our long-term needs as an Island?	<p>The proposal ensures the long-term sustainability of education in this part of the Llangefni area and ensures that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs now and into the future.</p> <p>It will also ensure that the new building for Ysgol y Graig is fit for purpose and meets 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and BREEAM standards and will be a Net Zero Carbon building.</p>
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	<p>Yes– The Llangefni area was prioritised as part of the school modernisation programme, due to insufficient school capacity. Any proposal to create additional capacity is likely to lead to additional costs, however the new building for Ysgol y Graig will enable children in the catchment area to attend a local school.</p> <p>The preferred option i.e. building a new Foundation Phase block will develop a new school building which will contribute to the school becoming a “Learning Organisation” (Education in Wales: Our National Mission 2017-2021).</p> <p>Pupils in turn should benefit from experiences at school that will support them in becoming young adults that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives</li> <li>• enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work</li> <li>• healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.</li> </ul>

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

**Note** – This decision about the future of Ysgol Talwrn's catchment area is part of a process related to a previous decision which was the proposal to increase Ysgol Y Graig capacity to take pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn was made on 10 December 2020. The effect of that decision is assessed below.

		<p>The proposal will be financed 35/65 by the Council and Welsh Government through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.</p> <p>The Council's investment will be via a 60 year loan, part financed through the capital receipts.</p> <p>The preferred option will eliminate the current and projected future maintenance spend at Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn and contribute to revenue savings.</p>
3	<p>Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom.</p>	<p>Yes-The following contributed during the statutory consultation process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Elected Members</li> <li>• Local Member of Parliament</li> <li>• Local Senedd Member</li> <li>• Regional Senedd Members</li> <li>• GwE</li> <li>• Estyn</li> <li>• Police and Crime Commissioner</li> <li>• The Welsh Government</li> <li>• Welsh Language Commissioner</li> <li>• Neighbouring Local Authority</li> <li>• Local Town and Community Councils</li> <li>• Teaching and staff trade unions representing Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn</li> <li>• Cylch Meithrin Talwrn</li> <li>• Headteacher Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni</li> <li>• Isle of Anglesey County Council - Senior Officers</li> <li>• Isle of Anglesey County Council-Principal Youth Officer</li> <li>• Other interested parties</li> </ul>
4	<p>Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.</p>	<p>Yes – stakeholders were consulted on the proposal during the statutory consultation held from 6 February 2020 - 20 March 2020. Stakeholder responses to the statutory consultation were included in the consultation report.</p> <p>The citizens of Anglesey have been given the opportunity to present other reasonable alternatives as part of the process during the consultation period noted above.</p>

**Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):**

**Note** – This decision about the future of Ysgol Talwrn's catchment area is part of a process related to a previous decision which was the proposal to increase Ysgol Y Graig capacity to take pupils from Ysgol Talwrn and close Ysgol Talwrn was made on 10 December 2020. The effect of that decision is assessed below.

5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	See the Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	See the Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	See the Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Incorporated in this report.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Incorporated in this report.
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Incorporated in this report.
4	Human Resources (HR)	No comments were received.
5	Property	Incorporated in this report.
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	No comments were received.
7	Scrutiny	N/A
8	Local Members	Local members are aware of the situation.
9	Any external bodies / other	The governing bodies of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn are aware of the situation.

**F - Appendices:**

Consultation report

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

1. Minutes of the Executive's meeting for 10 December 2020 and 15 March 2021.
2. Statutory Consultation Documents
3. Minutes of the Executive's meeting on 19 July 2022.
4. School Organisation Code 2018.
5. Equality Impact Assessment for the proposal



## CONSULTATION REPORT

### SCHOOL MODERNISATION - LLANGEFNI AREA

#### Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol y Graig

Outcome of the consultation undertaken between

6 February 2020 to 20 March 2020

On the proposal to:

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

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

December 2020

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

Hard copies of this report is available on request by sending an email to [angleseyschools@ynysmon.gov.uk](mailto:angleseyschools@ynysmon.gov.uk)

**CONTENTS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT</b> .....	3
<b>3.</b>	<b>THE PROPOSAL</b> .....	4
3.1	The expanded Ysgol Y Graig’s proposed details .....	4
<b>4.</b>	<b>CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS</b> .....	6
4.1	Methodology .....	6
4.2	Consultation Meetings .....	7
4.3	Consultation With Children and Young People .....	7
<b>5.</b>	<b>RESPONSES AND COMMENTS</b> .....	8
5.1	Summary of responses .....	8
5.2	Summary of comments .....	9
5.3	Specific comments by the Welsh Language Society (Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg) ...	21
5.4	Response by the Governors of Ysgol Y Graig .....	25
5.5	Response by a Governor of Ysgol Talwrn .....	29
5.6	Letter from Ysgol Talwrn Staff .....	37
5.7	Views of children and young people .....	38
5.8	Estyn’s Response .....	42
<b>6.</b>	<b>COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF THE REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED</b> .....	47
6.1	Reasonable alternatives to the proposal .....	47
6.2	Reasonable alternatives proposed by stakeholders .....	63
6.3	Additional Reasonable Alternatives Suggested by Stakeholders that require further evaluation .....	71
<b>7.</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	80

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 2. DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONSULTATION REPORT

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

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

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

### 3. THE PROPOSAL

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

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

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

#### 3.1 The expanded Ysgol Y Graig’s proposed details

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 4. CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

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

##### 4.1 Methodology

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

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

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

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

- Sending an email to [angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk](mailto:angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk) or
- Completing the on line response form or
- Completing a paper response form by email to [angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk](mailto:angleseyschools@anglesey.gov.uk)

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

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

## 4.2 Consultation Meetings

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

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

## 4.3 Consultation With Children and Young People

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

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

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

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

## 5. RESPONSES AND COMMENTS

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

### 5.1 Summary of responses

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

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

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

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

Yes – 5	No – 52
---------	---------

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5.2 Summary of comments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No.	Theme	Council's response						
5.2.10	<p><b>Miscellaneous</b> Less than 5 (9%) responders stated one or more of the following as reasons why they did not agree with the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The proposal does not address the challenges faced by Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni.</li>   <li>▪ The estimated cost to address the current and projected future maintenance cost at Ysgol Talwrn has been overstated.</li>   <li>• Pupils at Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn come from different social backgrounds. It would be easier to merge with schools from a similar background, or with schools of similar size, e.g. Llanbedrgoch and / or Pentraeth.</li> </ul>	<p>The key challenges and reasonable alternatives including Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni were considered within the proposal paper. The Council concluded that there was no reasonable alternative that addressed the needs of Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni and the primary schools within the area. The only significant challenge facing Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni was the condition of the existing building. This will therefore be reconsidered when Anglesey will be identifying their schemes for Bands C and D of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme.</p> <p>If anything, the costs contained within the Consultation Document were understated. The current and projected future maintenance costs of £360,000 can be broken down as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="805 1097 1388 1198"> <tr> <td>Internal works</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£29,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>External works</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£80,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New temporary classroom</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£250,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>A quotation for a similar sized temporary classroom was received in August 2019 by the Council and the estimated price was £308,000 in total (£185k for the mobile classroom, £11k for additional equipment and £112k for foundation works and connecting the mobile classroom to utility services)</p> <p>Pupils attend schools based on catchment areas not on social backgrounds. Ysgol Pentraeth is in a different secondary school catchment area to Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Talwrn – this could lead to pupils from the same primary school going to a different secondary school which, in turn would make it more difficult for Year 6 pupils when they move to secondary school. Ysgol Llanbedrgoch and Ysgol Pentraeth are not part of the current consultation but could well be considered in the School Modernisation Programme in the future. This option will therefore not be considered further.</p>	Internal works	£29,500	External works	£80,500	New temporary classroom	£250,000
Internal works	£29,500							
External works	£80,500							
New temporary classroom	£250,000							

No.	Theme	Council's response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="352 264 791 667">▪ Risk that if Ysgol Y Graig was operating from two separate buildings, that the school could be seen as two separate schools. There was also concern that two separate buildings could cause logistical problems for parents, needing to pick up pupils from more than one site. These comments were made by staff from Ysgol Y Graig.</li>   <li data-bbox="352 969 791 1070">▪ Pupils from Talwrn will be unable to walk or cycle to Ysgol Y Graig.</li>   <li data-bbox="352 1238 791 1305">▪ The proposal does not provide value for money.</li> </ul>	<p data-bbox="807 264 1391 936">The senior leadership team at Ysgol Y Graig will be responsible for overseeing the teaching approaches, and for ensuring Key Stage 2 teachers have a good understanding of Foundation Phase pupil development levels. The senior leadership team could also arrange activities that bring the foundation phase and key stage 2 teachers and pupils together, to make the transition from foundation phase as seamless as at any other school. The new foundation block would be located within approximately 90 meters of the Key Stage 2 building, which will make it easier to manage 2 separate buildings, and will reduce the logistical problems for parents. Monitoring and support from the Council's Education Service would continue and the regional education service, GwE would also continue its monitoring of standards at the school.</p> <p data-bbox="807 969 1391 1205">The Council has acknowledged this disadvantage within the proposal paper, the consultation document and the impact assessment. The effects of which will be mitigated as far as possible, by providing a free transport for eligible pupils in accordance with the school transport policy.</p> <p data-bbox="807 1238 1391 2011">There is a lack of school capacity within the Llangefni area, which must be addressed. Any scheme to create additional capacity will require a significant capital investment by the Authority. The investment required by the Authority has been significantly reduced, as Welsh Government's contribution through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme will fund 65% of the capital costs. The costs for this proposal are in line with the suggested costs in Welsh Governments 'Standard Cost and Size' document, after accounting for abnormal costs, such as costs to purchase additional land, and costs to resolve parking issues at the current site. It is anticipated that the proposal would have a net cost of about £33,000 per annum for the Authority for 50 years. Should the authority not capitalise on the current opportunity available through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, the net annual cost would be far greater in future years.</p>

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

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

**Table 5.2.11**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The following points were raised by Cymdeithas yr Iaith:

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

#### **School Organisation Code requirements**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Council reply

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

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

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

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

- **Evaluation of reasonable alternatives**

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

**Council reply**

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

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

- **Cefni federation**

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

#### **Council reply**

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

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

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

The Council therefore rejects this proposal as a reasonable alternative.

## **5.4 Response by the Governors of Ysgol Y Graig**

### **5.4.1 Concern the school could become 2 schools Council reply**

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

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

### **5.4.2 Traffic and parking situation Council reply**

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

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

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

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

#### **Council reply**

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

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

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

##### **Council reply**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

##### **Council reply**

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

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

##### **Council reply**

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

#### **5.4.7 Reasonable alternative – build a third primary school in Llangefni**

##### **Council reply**

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

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

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

This reasonable alternative would mean that:

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

The Council therefore rejects this proposal as a reasonable alternative.

#### 5.4.8 Would the proposed new primary school fill up quickly?

##### Council reply

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5.5 Response by a Governor of Ysgol Talwrn

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **In reply the Council states -**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **In response to this claim the Council notes -**

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

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

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

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

The table below reflects the current and projected maintenance spend for the 8 primary school buildings on Anglesey that have an area of less than 600m<sup>2</sup> (for the purpose of this table the cost associated with the Portacabin at Ysgol Talwrn has been removed):

<u>School</u>	<b>Pupil Numbers PLASC 2019</b>	<b>Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Current and projected future maintenance spend</b>
Bodffordd	70	470	£134,000
Talwrn	45	302	£110,000
Carreglefn	23	224	£46,500
Llanbedrgoch	24	320	£168,500
Llangoed	69	572	£114,000
Henblas	86	533	£138,000
Pencarnisiog	69	575	£98,000
Rhosybol	58	551	£96,500
<b>Average</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>£113,250</b>

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

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

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

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

**The Council's reply states that -**

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

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

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

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

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

##### **The Council reply is as follows -**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**In reply the Council states:**

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

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

**Council reply**

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

**5.5.8 Alternative option – federate with Ysgol Llanbedrgoch**

**Council reply**

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

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

**The Council strongly disputes this claim and draws attention to -**

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

These requirements are outlined in the table below:

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

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

**The Council reply states that:**

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

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

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

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

“It was RESOLVED that the Council:

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

**5.5.11 Environmental concerns****Council reply**

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

**5.5.12 Design of the potential new Foundation Phase block**

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

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

**Council reply**

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

**5.5.13 Class sizes**

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

**Council reply**

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

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

#### 5.5.14 Transport

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

##### Council reply

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

#### 5.5.15 Consultation

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

##### Council reply

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5.6 Letter from Ysgol Talwrn Staff

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

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

### Council reply

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

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

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

## 5.7 Views of children and young people

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

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

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

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

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

The children were asked the following questions:

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

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

### Ysgol Talwrn, March 5 2020

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

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

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

### Ysgol Y Graig – 27 February 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Description and benefits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ysgol Talwrn - October 2018

Ysgol y Graig - January 2019

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

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

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

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

**Council reply**

These matters have been addressed in section 4 of the Impact Assessment - Appendix 1.

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

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

**Council reply**

These matters have been addressed in section 4 of the Impact Assessment - Appendix 1.

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

**Council reply**

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

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

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

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

**Council reply**

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

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

**Council reply**

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

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

**Council reply**

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

The possible impact of the proposal on the Welsh language is described in the section 3 of the Impact Assessment Appendix 1.

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

**Council reply**

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

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

**Council reply**

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

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

**Council reply**

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

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

**Council reply**

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

## **6. COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF THE REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reasonable alternatives presented by the Council	Comments received from stakeholders during the consultation	Council Response - clarification, amendment to the proposal, rejection of concerns with Council's supporting reasons									
		<b>that Ysgol Talwrn faces and is rejected and not considered further.</b>									
<p><b>6.1.8 Establish a multi – site school, Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig</b> Based on approx. £3.4m cost to extend both schools. (An extension to both schools would be required to provide sufficient capacity).</p>	No responses were received for this suggestion.	<b>This reasonable alternative was discussed in section 6.3.8 of the Consultation Document and there were numerous disadvantages to the alternative. As this reasonable alternative does not meet the key challenges that Ysgol Talwrn faces, it is rejected and not considered further.</b>									
<p><b>6.1.9 Address current and projected future maintenance spend at Ysgol Talwrn</b></p> <p>Based on borrowing of £360k over 20 years.</p> <p>The current and projected future maintenance costs of £360,000 can be broken down as follows:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="193 1294 552 1534"> <tr> <td>Internal</td> <td>works</td> <td>£29,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>External</td> <td>works</td> <td>£80,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New</td> <td>temporary classroom</td> <td>£250,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>A quotation for a similar sized temporary classroom was received in August 2019 by the Council and the estimated price was £308,000 in total (£185k for the mobile classroom, £11k for additional equipment and £112k for foundation works and connecting the mobile classroom to utility services)</p>	Internal	works	£29,500	External	works	£80,500	New	temporary classroom	£250,000	15 responders provided comments to suggest they would prefer this option to the proposal	<p>This option does not address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age ranges of more than 2 years at Ysgol Talwrn.</li> <li>• Significant specific teaching commitment for the headteacher of Ysgol Talwrn</li> <li>• Difficult to tailor the teaching in a school of Talwrn's size to target the needs of all pupils including pupils with Additional Learning Needs and the Most Able and Talented pupils.</li> <li>• Does not provide a suitable environment to deliver the new curriculum for Wales</li> <li>• Does not address the need to provide sufficient places in the school.</li> <li>• If the current and projected future maintenance spend was funded through unsupported borrowing, the annual repayment cost would be approximately £28k. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lose the opportunity for significant capital investment at a time of financial constraint.</li> <li>▪ Does not address the variation in the cost per pupil and equality or provision as smaller schools receive a</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Internal	works	£29,500									
External	works	£80,500									
New	temporary classroom	£250,000									

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From the section above, reasonable alternative:

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

is considered further in section 6.3.

## 6.2 OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED BY STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These are considered further in section 6.3 below.

### 6.3 Additional Reasonable Alternatives Suggested by Stakeholders that require further evaluation

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

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

Based on approx. £11m cost over 50 years

AND

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

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

Total cost £13.6 m

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

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

Based on approx. £11m cost over 50 years

AND

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

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

Total cost £13.6 m

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

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

Based on approx. £11m cost over 50 years

AND

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

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

Total cost £13.6 m

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

This option would not address:

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

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

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

AND

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

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

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

**6.3.2 Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (with increased capacity of 150) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate the pressure of the over subscription of pupil places in Llangefni  
AND  
Leave Ysgol Y Graig as it is. Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig.**

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

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

**6.3.2 Relocate Ysgol Talwrn (with increased capacity of 150) to a new building on the outskirts of Llangefni in order to alleviate the pressure of the over subscription of pupil places in Llangefni AND Leave Ysgol Y Graig as it is. Review the catchment areas of Ysgol Talwrn and Ysgol Y Graig.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ysgol Gyfun to accommodate years 7-13.**

**Including improvement works to Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to bring them up to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Standard.**

Based on cost of:

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

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

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

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

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

**Ysgol Gyfun to accommodate years 7-13.**

**Including improvement works to Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to bring them up to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Standard.**

Based on cost of:

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

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

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

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

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

**Ysgol Gyfun to accommodate years 7-13.**

**Including improvement works to Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to bring them up to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Standard.**

Based on cost of:

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

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

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

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

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

**Ysgol Gyfun to accommodate years 7-13.**

**Including improvement works to Ysgol Bodffordd and Ysgol Talwrn to bring them up to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Standard.**

Based on cost of:

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

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

This option could make it more difficult:

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

This option could also mean:

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

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

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

## 7. CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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