

**CABINET**

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 26 April 2011 in Conference Room 1, County Hall, Ruthin.

**PRESENT**

Councillors P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing; H H Evans, Leader; S Frobisher, Lead Member for Environment and Sustainable Development; M M Jones, Lead Member for Welsh Language, Children, Young People and Leisure; P J Marfleet, Lead Member for Modernising the Council; D A J Thomas, Lead Member for Regeneration and Tourism, J Thompson Hill, Lead Member for Finance and Efficiency and E W Williams, Lead Member for Education.

Observers: Councillors W L Cowie; G C Evans and D I Smith.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Chief Executive; Corporate Director: Demographics, Wellbeing & Planning; Acting Head of Corporate Governance; Acting Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Modernising Education.

**1 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at the meeting. Councillor M M Jones declared a personal interest in Item 5 Disposal of Pen y Maes Farm, Denbigh including land, house, range of buildings and barn.

***RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the declaration of interests.*

**3 URGENT MATTERS**

There were no Urgent Matters.

**4 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING 29.03.2011**

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 29 March 2011 were submitted.

Item 7 Delivering the Corporate Plan 2009-2012 Year 3: Councillor P A Dobb asked whether the profile of the highways priority had been highlighted sufficiently. Councillor H H Evans agreed to ensure this was carried out.

Item 10 Etape Cymru Cycling Event: Councillor P A Dobb referred to recent reports that the route in Denbighshire had changed. Councillor S Frobisher said the original proposal had been to cross 3 trunk roads and by diverting the route the road closures would no longer be required. Councillor D A J Thomas agreed to ensure that all interested parties be kept up to date with the changes.

Item 15 Update on the Scala Cinema and Arts Centre, Prestatyn: Councillor P A Dobb took the opportunity to inform Members of the latest position. Sales to the end of March had decreased from £19368 to £12807 but the company had cash in the bank. She had received an e-mail from Councillor R W Hughes, Chair of the Scala Board stating that the recent hot weather was causing difficulties within the building as it was either too cold or too hot and this was also having an effect on the equipment. The Acting Head of Finance and Assets agreed to look into the issue and respond accordingly.

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

## **5 TO DECLARE PEN Y MAES FARM, BROOKHOUSE, DENBIGH SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS**

[Councillor M M Jones declared a personal interest in the item.]

Councillor P J Marfleet presented the report seeking Members' approval to dispose of the above property including land, house, range of buildings and barn at Pen y Maes Farm, Brookhouse, Denbigh extending to circa 27.71 ha (68.48 acres) as shown edged black and shaded grey on the plan at Appendix A to the report. The unshaded area edged in black would be sold on the open market at auction whilst the land shaded grey at Appendix A to the report extending to 5.47 ha (13.51 acres) would be exchanged with land owned at Ty'n y Caeau Farm (subject to terms recommended by an independent Valuer). This land would then be incorporated into that holding conditional on other peripheral land at Ty'n y Caeau then being disposed of.

Previously 30% of capital receipts from the agricultural estate had been ring fenced for the agricultural estate but this agreement had ended in March 2011. The sale receipts would form part of the Capital fund. The Capital Strategy Group had allocated a sum of £500k to carry out the backlog of works on the estate.

Councillor E W Williams sought reassurance that the whole site would not be sold as one lot as he felt there was great potential for conversion of the outbuildings. He asked whether the tenant at Tyn y Caeau would lose any land and how the tenant would access the land to be included with Tyn y Caeau. Councillor P J Marfleet said officers would ensure that when the site was sold at auction it would be in the most beneficial way for the Authority as officers always worked on the principles of best value. The tenant at Tyn y Caeau was happy with the proposals as outlined and more than one company would be tendering for the work. The Acting Head of Finance and Assets agreed with Councillor Marfleet's comments and reminded Members that historically such parcels of land sold had been sold in lots.

Councillor H H Evans also supported the officers proposals in dealing with the disposals and said he had every confidence in their handling of disposals for the Authority. He reminded Members that Resources Scrutiny Committee and others had been consulted and they had agreed the strategic policy for the agricultural estate. The Farming Unions were supportive of the disposal, although wherever possible they wished land to remain in agriculture. The Unions understood the Authority's position and the need to invest elsewhere in the estate.

Capital bids for the agricultural estate had been received and Councillor Marfleet informed Members that the Capital Strategy Group had agreed it would not be possible to carry out all the work in the financial year to clear the backlog. He assured Councillor D A J Thomas that although the ring fencing of 30% of receipts from the agricultural estate had ended in March 2011, bids had already been approved. This disposal would also reduce the capital sum required to be spent on the estate.

Responding to queries from Councillor G C Evans, Councillor Marfleet said there was now no policy to ring fence capital receipts as this had been a time limited agreement and the capital policy would fund agricultural estates works in the future. The backlog of works on the agricultural estate would be carried out. He agreed to ensure Councillor Evans was given the necessary information on the access for the tenant of Tyn y Caeau. Councillor H H Evans agreed officers would have discussed and agreed any access issues with the tenant and he asked that Councillor Marfleet inform Cabinet and Councillor Evans on the issue.

***RESOLVED*** that Cabinet approves the disposal of the above property including land, house, range of buildings and barn at Pen y Maes Farm, Brookhouse, Denbigh extending to circa 27.71 ha (68.48 acres) as shown edged black and shaded grey on the plan at Appendix A to the report. The unshaded area edged in black to be sold on the open market at auction whilst the land shaded grey at Appendix A to the report extending to 5.47 ha (13.51 acres) to be exchanged with land owned at Ty'n y Caeau Farm (subject to terms recommended by an independent Valuer). This land would then be incorporated into that holding conditional on other peripheral land at Ty'n y Caeau then being disposed of.

## **6 PROPOSED INFANT AND JUNIOR AMALGAMATION OF YSGOL GWAENYNOG AND YSGOL HEULFRE, DENBIGH**

Councillor E W Williams presented the report seeking formal Cabinet approval to commence the formal consultation exercise with the 2 schools, the community and other appropriate stakeholders, regarding the potential amalgamation of Ysgol Gwaenynog Infants School and Ysgol Heulfre Junior School, Denbigh into a single all through school on their existing sites. He thanked the Modernising Education team for their work in bringing the report to Cabinet earlier than previously anticipated.

The proposed amalgamation of the 2 schools was welcomed by Councillor M M Jones as they were next to each other. The Head of Modernising Education said, if agreed, the process would be completed by September 2012 if no objections were received.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet agree to commence formal consultation regarding the potential amalgamation of Ysgol Gwaenynog Infants School and Ysgol Heulfre Junior School, Denbigh into a single all through school on their existing sites.

## **7 INSURANCE CONTRACT AWARD**

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report seeking Cabinet approval on the award of the insurance contract in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules, on a 5 year Long Term Agreement with an option for the Authority to extend for a further 2 years, as detailed in the report. By agreeing the recommendation in the report, the Authority would save £180k a year over the 5 year agreement.

The Acting Head of Finance and assets said the potential saving was significant for the Authority and he thanked the Insurance and Risk Manager and his team for all their hard work in pushing companies for these savings. Responding to Councillor H H Evans' query, he said there would not be a benefit to all the North Wales Authorities awarding one contract as contracts were awarded based on individual Authority risk.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet award the insurance contract in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules on a 5 year Long Term Agreement with an option for the Authority to extend for a further 2 years (as per the tender document) and as detailed in the report.

## **8 REVENUE BUDGET AND SUMMARY CAPITAL PLAN 2010-2011**

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report for Cabinet to note the latest estimate of the likely outturn figures for the 2010/11 financial year as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report and the summary capital plan performance for 2010/11 as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 attached to the report. Cabinet were also asked to note the latest Housing Revenue Account and housing capital position for 2010/11 as detailed in Appendices 5 and 6 attached to the report.

For consistency with previous budget reports, this report and those reports to the end of the financial year would retain the 4 directorate block presentations whilst those relating to 2011-2012 would be presented using the new corporate structure.

The overall revenue underspend was £881k excluding the schools' delegated budget, this was a net improvement of £661k more than forecast the previous month – the main movement had been an award of additional WAG grants within Children's Services (£165k) and Highways (£607k) of which £357k would affect the revenue outturn with the remainder to be used to purchase road salt.

Lifelong Learning was forecasting an underspend of £388k, with the latest forecast for delegated school budgets having a pressure of £400k – an improvement of £117k from

the previous month. School Improvement & Inclusion was forecasting an underspend of £244k as a result of an ongoing restructure which would form the basis of savings identified. Social Services and Housing was also forecasting an underspend of £120k but there were ongoing pressures with specialist placements in Children's Services but this had been helped by the additional grant funding.

The Environment Directorate was forecasting a £318k underspend as a result of additional grant funding and other underspends. This would mean there would be no requirement to draw funds from the Winter Maintenance Reserve for the year and an additional contribution to the reserve could be made if required. Corporate Governance and Efficiency was forecasting a £55k underspend, which included pressures on the translation budget offset by some additional DWP subsidy received.

Capital expenditure at the end of March was at £25.8m for a plan totalling £28.8m. Payments being processed would be accrued to ensure the planned total was achieved. Officers continued to meet with external Treasury advisers to evaluate the current money market position and review the strategy.

The latest figures for the Housing Revenue Account showed an in year surplus of £304k, an increase of £5k from the previous month. The Authority was on course to achieve the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by the end of 2012 and the business plan was financially viable. Six Council properties sales had been achieved during the year.

Councillor P A Dobb confirmed the Council's share of the Continuing Healthcare funding would be paid in 2010-2011 and that funding matched expenditure.

The Acting Head of Finance and Assets, responding to Councillor D I Smith's query on the £132k previously earmarked as match funding for capital schemes which had been deferred by WAG, said Council would now make a decision on this at the year end.

The Chief Executive said any additional grants from WAG were welcome. However, it was bad practice to defer schemes or to allocate extra funding which had to be spent sometimes within 3 or 4 days of the end of the financial year and this would need to be discussed with WAG. He went on to congratulate Cefndy Enterprises who were an outstanding example of business planning and were doing better than expected.

Councillor D A J Thomas referred to the £385m WAG underspend and asked whether WAG had a policy on this. Councillor H H Evans agreed their financial management should be queried as difficult decisions could have been made by Welsh Authorities which need not have been taken. He agreed this would be discussed with the WLGA. Councillor S Frobisher suggested the issue should also be discussed at the Leaders / CEOs meetings.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- 1 note the revenue projections for 2010/11 as detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report

- 2 *note the Summary Capital Plan performance figures for the 2010/11 financial year as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3 attached to the report*
- 3 *note the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan forecasts as detailed in Appendices 4 and 5 to the report.*

## 9 STRATEGIC YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN AND INSPECTION REPORT

Councillor M M Jones presented the report for Members to recommend adoption of the Conwy / Denbighshire Strategic Youth Justice Plan Review for 2011-2012 to Council under The Crime and Disorder Act Section 38(4) 1998.

The Youth Justice Board oversees the youth justice system in England and Wales and works to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people under the age of 18. To deliver youth justice outcomes youth offending teams have to be effective in 2 key sectors – criminal justice and services for children and young people. The Strategic Manager of the Youth Justice Service said they worked closely with the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership across both Authorities. One of the key challenges was finding alternative provision for young people out of mainstream education, training or employment for those aged 16 plus. Of the 165 open cases across the 2 Authorities, 65% were in Denbighshire and most of those were in Rhyl and Prestatyn.

Councillor P A Dobb found the report refreshing and very interesting. She asked how the budget for the work was funded and how the work was scrutinised. The Strategic Manager said the Youth Justice Board was being abolished and the work would be carried out within the Ministry of Justice. Young people who were a risk to the public were placed on remand in secure childrens' homes but this would result in Denbighshire being penalised for all those on remand. More appropriate provision and accommodation was required but it was difficult as Magistrates took the decision as to whether someone was on remand. Scrutiny is carried out by the Youth Justice Management Board, with the Chief Officer and 2 Lead Members with the Acting Chief Executive of Conwy chairing the Board which met quarterly. As Lead Authority, Conwy scrutinised the finances. The budget had been cut by 15% and the savings had been achieved by not recruiting.

Councillor W L Cowie congratulated staff on their excellent report. He referred to the Risks on page 4 of the cover report and asked whether it should also include Denbighshire. The Strategic Manager confirmed it should include Denbighshire.

**RESOLVED** *that Cabinet recommends adoption of the Conwy / Denbighshire Strategic Youth Justice Plan Review for 2011-2012 to Council under The Crime and Disorder Act Section 38(4) 1998.*

## 10 ISSUES REFERRED TO CABINET BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no issues referred to Cabinet by Scrutiny Committees.

## 11 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor H H Evans presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

It was agreed that Ysgol Heulfre and Ysgol Gwaenynog Amalgamation be presented to Cabinet in July, as would a report on the Capital Plan 2011-2012 whilst a report on HR would be presented in September.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the amended Forward Work Programme.

## 12 URGENT ITEMS

There were no Urgent Items.

## PART II EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**RESOLVED** under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 13 and 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## 13 NEW WORK CONNECTIONS: PROCUREMENT OF MENTAL ILLNESS ELEMENT

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report for Cabinet to appoint a company to deliver services to support people experiencing severe and enduring mental illness into sustainable employment, education or training as part of the New Work Connections Project, funded by the Welsh European Funding Office Convergence Programme.

The New Work Connections project was for the provision of support to various groups facing disadvantage into employment. Many services were directly provided but some elements, such as support for people with mental illness, were being procured. The company being recommended had been through a rigorous pre qualification questionnaire and tender process as well as interview and had demonstrated they had the expertise and capacity to deliver the service.

The Service Manager: Communities said the project also covered Anglesey, Gwynedd and Conwy with Denbighshire being the Lead Authority. The DWP New Work Programme was part of the Government initiative to remove people from benefits over a period of 3 years.

Councillor D A J Thomas thanked the Service Manager: Communities and the Local Manager for the New Work Connections for their hard work. This was a huge project for the Authority and it had taken 2-3 years to put it together - this had only happened as a result of significant work by the Service Manager: Communities.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet appoint the company named in the report to deliver the mental health element of the New Work Connections Project.

#### 14 CAPITAL PLAN

Councillor J Thompson Hill presented the report for Members to note the latest position on the 2010-2011 element of the Capital Plan.

Councillor Thompson Hill referred to the Coastal Defence Scheme which would reduce the flood risk to some 2,000 properties in West Rhyl. Approval for Phase 1 and 2 works had been given by WAG with grant aid being offered at a 100% rate. Phase 3 approval was awaited. Work on the Foryd Harbour Cycle and Pedestrian Bridge was progressing and a report would be presented to Cabinet in June 2011. Work was also progressing on the Foryd Harbour Quayside Units development and officers would need to be vigilant to ensure no cost overruns. Any cost overruns in the Denbigh Flood Risk Management Scheme would be contained within the scheme funding.

Referring to the Phase 3 works in Lenten Pool / Smithfield Road, Denbigh, Councillor W L Cowie reminded Members that the Royal Welsh Regiment were to receive the Freedom of the County on 11 June and he asked that this be taken into consideration in planning the works. Councillor J Thompson Hill undertook to look into the issue and provide Members with an update.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note the latest position on the 2010-2011 element of the Capital Plan.

#### 15 PRESTATYN BUS STATION

Councillor S Frobisher presented the report seeking Cabinet approval for the refurbishment of Prestatyn Bus Station and to approve the mechanism which would allow a developer to procure the bus station works on behalf of the Authority.

Councillor Frobisher informed Members that the Authority had received grant funding for the redevelopment from WAG through the TAIH Regional Transport Plan. Passenger facilities and disabled access were poor at the existing bus station and these problems would be addressed by the new scheme which would see the introduction of new toilets, new shelters, modern passenger information systems and improved facilities for the disabled. The developers had been granted planning permission for the construction of a new shopping park on land in the town centre and one of the conditions of the permission was for them to carry out improvements to the highway network so that the network could accommodate the extra traffic generated by the shopping park. For various reasons improvements to the bus station and adjacent highway would be required – this would minimise disruption to the public. Once the grant funding was spent all other costs would be met by the developer, there would be no capital costs to be met by the Council.



The scheme was welcomed by Councillor J Thompson Hill and he took the opportunity to ask about the consultation carried out and land costs. The Traffic and Transportation Manager said consultation with Prestatyn Town Council and the Business Association had taken place and land costs should not pose any risk to the Council.

***RESOLVED*** that Cabinet approve Prestatyn Bus Station be redeveloped in its current location and for the Head of Highways and Infrastructure to enter into a design and build agreement with the developer named in the report for its redevelopment.

The meeting concluded at 11.35 a.m.

**Report To:** Cabinet  
**Date of Meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
**Lead Member:** Cllr H H Evans, Leader  
**Report Author:** Jackie Walley, Head of Modernising Education  
**Title:** Edeyrnion Area Review – Recommendations

**1 What is the report about?**

This report details the outcome of the initial consultation on the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area with recommendations for formal consultation.

**2 What is the reason for making this report?**

A decision is required on the recommendations for formal consultation on school organisation in the Edeyrnion area.

Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment the authority is undertaking a series of area reviews of primary school provision. These reviews are aimed at tackling a number of issues facing our schools, so that we can provide an educational system that is able to sustain, safeguard and develop further standards of education.

As part of this commitment an initial consultation was undertaken on primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area from November 2010 to March 2011. This report is to inform Cabinet members about the outcome of the initial consultation and about the proposals that have been developed to address the issues facing education in the area.

This report should also be considered within the national context. The Welsh Assembly Government states that local authorities must keep their pattern of school provision under regular review to ensure they have the right number of schools of the right type and size and in the right locations to meet the needs of the pupil population.

In March 2010 the Welsh Assembly Government announced its 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme with the aims of improving learning environments for children and young people, creating a sustainable educational system through better use of resources and providing a standard for schools which would reduce running costs, energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Local authorities are also judged by Estyn on whether they provide “an appropriate range and number of school places”. The last Estyn inspection in 2009 identified “reducing surplus capacity in small rural schools” as one of the problems facing Denbighshire in terms of school organisation.

### 3 What are the Recommendations?

Following the initial consultation and consideration of all responses received, officers have developed four proposals to address the issues in the Edeyrnion area. These proposals should they be implemented would:

- Provide an educational system able to sustain, safeguard and develop further standards of education within the area;
- Retain parental choice through providing a range of school sizes and linguistic options;
- Strengthen Welsh Medium provision;
- Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places across the area by removing 111 surplus places;
- Reduce the number of permanent headteachers required;
- Remove all mobile accommodation from the area;
- Provide a more cost effective and efficient educational system;
- Provide a platform to secure capital investment for schools in the area;

Cabinet are asked to consider the following four recommendations:-

Proposal 1 - To approve formal consultation on the proposed new Welsh Medium area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo. Phase 1 would see the schools operate on the existing school sites in Cynwyd and Llandrillo. Phase 2 subject to securing capital funding would see the school move to a single school site in Cynwyd following expansion and refurbishment works while retaining some early years provision in Llandrillo as appropriate.

Proposal 2 - To approve formal consultation on the proposed closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy with pupils transferring to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference. Some early years provision would be retained in Glyndyfrdwy as appropriate.

Proposal 3 – To recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern, Gwyddelwern\*

Proposal 4 – To recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog\*

\* Proposals 3 & 4 can currently only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school. The authority believes that it would be in the best interests of all stakeholders for these proposals to be progressed by the governors with support from the local authority. The Welsh Assembly Government is currently in the process of providing local authorities with the power to create federations. Should the Governing Bodies decide not to progress the proposals the authority would then seek to use these new powers to create the federations.

## 4 Report details

- 4.1 The Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework in January 2009 to provide a platform to review existing school provision.
- 4.2 Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the council has agreed that modernising the education provision is a priority because it recognises the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.
- 4.3 As part of this ongoing commitment the Council has embarked on a series of area reviews looking at primary school provision. In November 2010 the Council began an initial consultation on the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area.
- 4.4 The review included 7 primary schools in the area – Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch, Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Ysgol Carrog, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo.
- 4.5 The initial consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed across the area including surplus capacity, headteacher recruitment and the use of mobile accommodation. The initial consultation document also highlighted the objectives that school re-organisation within the Edeyrnion area should deliver:
- An educational system able to sustain and safeguard standards of education within the area and provide an opportunity for improvement;
  - Maintain or strengthen Welsh Medium and Bilingual provision;
  - Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places;
  - Reduce the number of headteachers required;
  - Result in the removal of mobile accommodation;
  - Keep transport times for children well within Welsh Assembly guidelines;
  - Reduce the variation in per pupil funding;
  - Assist the authority to attract capital funding to improve school buildings and facilities;
- 4.6 The initial consultation ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011. The consultation generated significant public interest and a large number of responses were received representing all 7 schools. The consultation responses can be summarised in the following categories:-
- Significant support for the local schools and a strong desire for them to remain open;
  - Concern that the review was based on the need to make savings rather than improve education;
  - A willingness to see greater collaboration between schools;
  - Concern regarding the impact of any changes on pupils and parents;

- Concern regarding the impact of any changes on the local communities;
- 4.7 The 'Edeyrnion Schools Alliance' was formed with representation from all 7 schools and presented a report to the authority at the end of the initial consultation period. This report suggested a number of potential informal collaboration arrangements that could be developed between the 7 schools to provide a more efficient way of operating their schools while retaining each school.
- 4.8 Officers have considered the report and are supportive of many of the principles contained within regarding increased collaboration between schools in particular opportunities around a shared bursar and shared administration staff. However, it is the view of officers that these informal collaboration arrangements would not address many of the issues and risks to sustaining, safeguarding and developing education in the area.
- 4.9 Officers have considered the response from the 'Edeyrnion Schools Alliance', individual school responses and all other consultation responses in developing the proposals below. Should these proposals be implemented they would provide a stable platform for schools in the area to collaborate further and the authority would work with schools to develop the recommendations contained within the 'Edeyrnion Schools Alliance' report.
- 4.10 Officers have considered the consultation responses and all the available information and have developed four proposals to meet the objectives set out in section 4.5.

The four proposals are:

1. An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo;
2. Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference;
3. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern\*
4. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog\*

\* At present these proposals can only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school

## Proposal 1 - An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo

- 4.11 The proposal is to close Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo on 31 August 2012 and to establish a new area school serving the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo on the existing school sites from 1 September 2012 moving to a single site in Cynwyd\* following the completion of extension & refurbishment works.

\* The Cynwyd site would be the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site following expansion and refurbishment works.

If the proposal was approved:

- Phase 1 would see Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo both closing on the 31 August 2012 and a new Welsh Medium area school would open on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 initially on the existing school sites in Cynwyd and Llandrillo and utilising the existing buildings.
- All children attending Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo would transfer to the new school subject to parental preference. Whilst the school remains on two sites pupils would continue to be taught on their original school site.
- There would be one governing body, one headteacher and one group of staff. This governing body would represent the communities of both Cynwyd and Llandrillo.
- Phase 2 subject to securing capital funding would see the school move to a single site in Cynwyd following extension and refurbishment work to the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site. This investment has been estimated at approximately £1,000,000 subject to feasibility and design works and would enable the school to move to a single site. Consultation would take place with all stakeholders during the design process.
- The Council has included the Edeyrnion area in its Band A proposals for the Welsh Assembly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. The Council will be in a clearer position regarding overall timescales and funding sources following the announcement on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools funding which is expected following the elections and may be as late as September 2011.
- Following the move to a single site; the authority is committed to providing some early years provision in Llandrillo as appropriate. If the proposal was approved, the authority would undertake discussions with the relevant bodies on the matter. This would include discussions with the Governing Body of the new area school.
- Following the completion of the extension and refurbishment works the Llandrillo school site would be closed and declared surplus. The authority would discuss the future of the school site with the local community. However as there is already a community hall in the village, it is unlikely the building would be retained as a competing community provision.

What are the benefits of this proposal?

- The Headteacher of the new school is expected to have less of a teaching commitment than the current headteachers which would provide increased leadership and management time to ensure the successful running of the school and increase the headteachers ability to monitor standards and support improvements across the school.
- Pupils would benefit educationally, socially and emotionally from access to a greater range of facilities, increased peer groups and interaction with a larger group of staff.
- The proposal has the potential to sustain and safeguard standards, building on the best elements from both schools and to provide a platform for improvement in the future.
- The new area school would have a larger compliment of teaching staff providing a range of expertise in various curriculum areas. Pupils will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from a larger group of teachers. A broader range of staff also provides increased opportunities for staff to specialise, nurture different experiences and develop their careers for the benefit of children at the school.
- The new area school will move to a single school site following a significant capital investment in the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site to expand and refurbish the site. The authority would consult with the Governing Body, pupils and parents during the design process but the improved learning environments would be expected to include flexible spaces, accessible external learning environments, a range of ICT facilities and an improved foundation phase area.
- Following the move to a single site; pupils will be part of larger peer groups and have more opportunity to learn alongside their peers in groups and participate in group activities.
- The pupils would benefit from an increased range of suitable facilities available at the new school following the move to a single site.
- Following the move to a single site no pupils at the school would be educated in mobile classrooms.
- While there may be implications for some members of staff; a larger school provides greater opportunities for professional development, specialist staffing and the opportunity to be part of a larger leadership and management structure.

*\* Additional information on this proposal is provided in Proposal 1 – Provisional Consultation Document and Proposal 1 – Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments.*

Proposal 2 - Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant subject to parental preference.

4.12 The proposal is to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy on 31 August 2012 and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.

If the proposal was approved:

- Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would close on the 31 August 2012.
- All children attending Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.
- Denbighshire County Council would provide free transport for all full-time pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.
- Transport arrangements for future pupils would be in line with Denbighshire's Transport Policy.
- Nursery provision will be provided by Ysgol Y Gwernant. This provision is currently provided entirely in Llangollen. Future provision could potentially include certain sessions being delivered in Glyndyfrdwy utilising existing community facilities. The authority is committed to providing early years provision in Glyndyfrdwy as appropriate. If the proposal was approved, the authority would undertake discussions with the relevant bodies on the matter.
- The Council would work with the current staff to seek redeployment opportunities. As part of the consultation exercise full consultation will take place with members of staff and appropriate teaching unions.
- The Glyndyfrdwy school site would be declared surplus. The authority would discuss the future of the school site with the local community. However as there is already a community hall in the village, it is unlikely the building would be retained as a competing community provision.

What are the benefits of this proposal?

- Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is a very small school and while there are advantages to teaching in small groups there are significant challenges facing small schools. In particular due to the low pupil numbers at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy the school faces challenges in providing additional activities, providing opportunities for group activities and providing opportunities for developing relationships with peers.
- Pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy transferring to Ysgol Y Gwernant would benefit from an increased range of suitable facilities available at the school. The school is currently subject to extension and refurbishment to provide improved educational facilities.



- As a larger school Ysgol Y Gwernant has a larger compliment of teaching staff, providing a range of expertise in various curriculum areas. Pupils will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from a larger group of teachers. A broader range of staff also provides increased opportunities for staff to specialise, nurture different experiences and develop their careers for the benefit of children at the school.
- Pupils will be part of larger peer groups and have more opportunity to learn alongside their peers in groups and participate in group activities.
- Pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy transferring to Ysgol Y Gwernant would benefit educationally, socially and emotionally from access to a greater range of facilities, increased peer groups and interaction with a larger group of staff.
- Ysgol Y Gwernant provides a very high standard of education. The school's Key Stage 2 performance over the past five years has been consistently above the Denbighshire and Wales averages. The last Estyn inspection in 2007 stated that Ysgol Y Gwernant was "a good school with many strengths"
- The budget at a larger school provides more flexibility. The budget at Ysgol Y Gwernant would increase to reflect the increased number of pupils.
- Funding per pupil at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is £9,248 compared to the Denbighshire average of £3,767. Closing the school and transferring pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant subject to parental preference would result in a more efficient use of resources with per pupil funding estimated to be £3,927.

*\* Additional information on this proposal is provided in Proposal 2 – Provisional Consultation Document and Proposal 2 – Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments.*

Proposal 3 - Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern

4.13 This proposal is to recommend the creation of a formal federation of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern.

If the proposal was implemented:

- At present the proposal could only be implemented with agreement from the governing bodies and to ensure success it should be lead by the governors of each school;
- The proposal would result in a Welsh Medium Federation of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern;
- Each school would retain their own status and ethos but would formally collaborate for the benefit of the children;
- The proposal would result in a single governing body representing both schools and both communities;
- The proposal would result in a single headteacher for the federation;
- The authority will also seek discussions with the Governing Body of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch regarding the removal of a mobile classroom at the school site which would reduce surplus places;
- The authority has determined that federating is the preferred option for these two schools and is encouraging governors to commence discussions on this matter. The authority will provide support and advice to the governors in order to progress this proposal;
- The authority believes that discussions should begin between the governing bodies in June & July 2011 and continue in the Autumn Term 2011. This would allow consultation to take place in the Spring Term 2012 and implementation by September 2012 at the earliest.

Why federation and not an area school?

- The geography and transport links between both schools does not lend itself to the creation of an area school. The distance and quality of roads would result in unreasonable travel times and journeys for young children;
- Both schools through federation would be able to sustain, safeguard and develop further standards of education in the area;
- Both schools provide a Welsh Medium education for children and can not be considered as part of a wider area school solution with Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog. Changes to school organisation must be able

to demonstrate equal or improved educational provision. Moving children from a Welsh Medium school to a developing bilingual setting that could not provide an equal Welsh Medium provision for a number of years would be detrimental to their education;

What are the benefits of the proposal?

- One headteacher for the federation would have increased leadership and management time. The headteacher would be able to ensure the successful running of both schools and would have more time to monitor standards and support improvements across both schools;
- The Federation would see the development of a leadership and management structure across both schools providing increased opportunities for staff development;
- Wider opportunities for enhancing the education of the pupils, e.g. joint school projects, shared teaching and learning resources;
- Pupils able to meet and work as a part of a larger group on occasions;
- Further opportunities to share resources e.g. service providers, joint staff training, themed days, and transport to different venues and events.
- Enhanced staff expertise in specialist areas, raising standards e.g. Teachers working together to plan, prepare and assess;
- Enhanced opportunities for monitoring teaching across the two schools and for teachers to moderate and level pupil work;
- Enhanced community links with the two communities working more closely together;

*\* Additional information on this proposal is provided in Proposal 3 - Discussion Paper.*

Proposal 4 - Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog

4.14 This proposal is to recommend the creation of a formal federation of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog.

If the proposal was implemented:

- At present the proposal could only be implemented with agreement from the governing bodies and to ensure success it should be lead by the governors of each school;
- The proposal would result in a Federation of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog;
- Each school would retain their own status and ethos but would formally collaborate for the benefit of the children;
- The proposal would result in a single governing body representing both schools and both communities;
- The proposal would result in a single headteacher for the federation;
- Following implementation and the creation of the Federation, the authority would support the Federated Governing Body to increase the bilingual nature of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog. Both schools would then provide Welsh Medium education through a dual-stream (Welsh and English taught depending on parental preference) setting.
- The authority has determined that federating is the preferred option for these two schools and is encouraging governors to commence discussions on this matter. The authority will provide support and advice to the governors in order to progress this proposal;
- The authority believes that discussions should begin between the governing bodies in June & July 2011 and continue in the Autumn Term 2011. This would allow consultation to take place in the Spring Term 2012 and implementation by September 2012 at the earliest.

Why federation and not an area school?

- Both schools through federation would be able to sustain, safeguard and develop further standards of education in the area;
- An area school would limit parental preference for those wishing to receive English Medium education to a single large school. The authority has a responsibility to ensure it provides an appropriate range of school places.

- An area school would have to be located in Corwen which would leave no educational provision between Corwen and Llangollen following the proposed closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.

What are the benefits of the proposal?

- One headteacher for the federation would have increased leadership and management time. The headteacher would be able to ensure the successful running of both schools and would have more time to monitor standards and support improvements across both schools;
- The Federation would see the development of a leadership and management structure across both schools providing increased opportunities for staff development;
- Wider opportunities for enhancing the education of the pupils, e.g. joint school projects, shared teaching and learning resources;
- Pupils able to meet and work as a part of a larger group on occasions;
- The proposal would provide a collaborative platform for the development of bilingualism in both schools;
- Further opportunities to share resources e.g. service providers, joint staff training, themed days, and transport to different venues and events.
- Enhanced staff expertise in specialist areas, raising standards e.g. Teachers working together to plan, prepare and assess for Foundation Phase and New Wales Curriculum;
- Enhanced opportunities for monitoring teaching across the two schools and for teachers to moderate and level pupil work;
- Enhanced community links with the two communities working more closely together;

*\* Additional information on this proposal is provided in Proposal 4 - Discussion Paper.*

## Overview

4.14 The four proposals should they be progressed would:

- Provide an educational system able to sustain, safeguard and develop further standards of education within the area.
- Strengthen Welsh Medium provision through the creation of a new Welsh Medium area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo and provide a platform to increase bilingualism in Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog.
- Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places through the closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, the creation of an area school moving to a single site and the removal of mobile accommodation at Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch. This would remove 111 surplus places from the area.
- The number of permanent headteachers required would be reduced by two following the closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and the creation of the new area school for Llandrillo and Cynwyd. Should the recommendation to federate be implemented the number of permanent headteachers could reduce by a further two.
- Once the new area school for Llandrillo and Cynwyd has moved to a single site in Cynwyd there would be no mobile accommodation in the area.
- Although the proposals would result in some pupils having to travel further to school, the travelling times would be well within Welsh Assembly guidelines.
- The variation in per pupil funding across the area is £5,136. The proposals would significantly reduce this variation to an estimated £1,159 and would provide a more efficient educational system.
- The proposal to establish an area school for Llandrillo and Cynwyd subject to securing the necessary funding would enable the authority to invest approximately £1,000,000 to move the area school to a single site. This would result in improved school buildings and learning environments for pupils in the area. The proposals would enable the authority to meet a number of drivers set out in the Welsh Assembly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, would generate savings and potentially capital receipts that could be used as the authority's match funding requirement for the programme.

## **5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The proposals support the Corporate Priority of Modernising Education.

## **6 What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1 There will be costs associated with consulting on these proposals in terms of officer time, venue bookings and printing costs.

### An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo

- 6.2 The creation of a new area school initially on two sites will result in revenue savings of approximately £53,000. The remaining school budgets would transfer with each pupil to the new area school and would lead to a more efficient education system.
- 6.3 Capital funding would be required to move the new school to a single site. This has been estimated at approximately £1,000,000. This investment would provide improved facilities and a more energy efficient building.
- 6.4 Moving the school to a single site would result in additional pupils being transported to school. This has been estimated at an additional £22,000 per year.
- 6.5 Moving to a single site could also result in further savings including potential changes to staffing structures. Replacing the mobile accommodation at the Cynwyd site would save the authority £4,659 per year in revenue.
- 6.6 The proposal has the potential to impact on staff at both schools and there may be redeployment and redundancy costs associated.
- 6.7 The second phase of the proposal would result in the Llandrillo school site being declared surplus. This would result in further savings for the authority:-
- Reduction in schools maintenance backlog;
  - Reduction in the authority's building stock;
  - Reduction in running costs;
  - Reduction in the authority's carbon footprint;
  - Potential capital receipt;

### Proposal 2 - Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant subject to parental preference.

- 6.8 Closing Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would result in revenue savings of approximately £67,500. The remaining school budget would transfer with each pupil to their new school(s) and would lead to a more efficient education system.
- 6.9 Closing the school would result in additional pupils being transported to school. This has been estimated at an additional £17,000 per year.
- 6.10 The proposal would impact on staff at both schools and there may be redeployment and redundancy costs associated.
- 6.11 The proposal would result in the Glyndyfrdwy school site being declared surplus. This would result in further savings for the authority:-
- Reduction in schools maintenance backlog;
  - Reduction in the authority's building stock;
  - Reduction in running costs;
  - Reduction in the authority's carbon footprint;
  - Potential capital receipt;

### Proposal 3 - Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern

- 6.12 The proposal would not result in any revenue savings for the authority. However the proposal would generate savings from having one headteacher. These savings would be retained by the schools within their budgets and reinvested to provide an improved and efficient educational provision.
- 6.13 The proposal would impact on existing headteachers at the schools and there may be redeployment and redundancy costs associated.
- 6.14 The proposal would impact on staff at both schools with changes required to staff contracts and opportunities for increased hours and responsibilities;
- 6.15 Removing the mobile classroom at Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch would result in revenue savings of £6,084 each year.

### Proposal 4 - Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog

- 6.16 The proposal would not result in any revenue savings for the authority. However the proposal would generate savings from having one headteacher. These savings would be retained by the schools within their budgets and reinvested to provide an improved and efficient educational provision.
- 6.17 The proposal would impact on existing headteachers at the schools and there may be redeployment and redundancy costs associated.
- 6.18 The proposal would impact on staff at both schools with changes required to staff contracts and opportunities for increased hours and responsibilities;

## **7 What consultations have been carried out?**

- 7.1 Informal consultation was carried out between 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011.
- 7.2 Consultation meetings were held with the staff at all seven schools in November 2010.
- 7.3 Parent and community consultation meetings were held for all seven schools during January 2011.
- 7.4 A series of five workshops were held with a limited number of stakeholders representing each school. These workshops were above and beyond any requirements for initial consultation. Feedback was received during the initial consultation period that limiting the number of participants was undemocratic. As a result of limited officer resource; it was not possible to hold any additional workshops. However, workshop resources were made available to each school to hold their own sessions.



- 7.5 Should Cabinet approve the proposals formal consultation would take place on proposal 1 and proposal 2. This would be a period of six weeks from 7<sup>th</sup> June to the 20<sup>th</sup> July and would include public consultation meetings. Proposals 3 & 4 would be progressed by the Governing Bodies of the schools involved and would involve public consultation before any changes are implemented. The authority would support the schools during this process at the request of the Governing Bodies.

## **8. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The review is a fundamental part of the future of education in Denbighshire. There are likely to be a number of savings from these proposals, but in light of the Assembly Government's minimum funding requirement for schools, they will need to be reinvested into the education service. Any additional costs will need to be contained within existing budgets.

## **9 What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

- 9.1 There is a strong possibility that the proposal could result in adverse publicity for the Council and in adverse public comments.
- 9.2.1 To minimise this risk the Council will seek to ensure clear communication with all stakeholders.

## **10 Power to make the Decision**

s29 School Standard and Framework Act 1998.

Modernising Education Policy Framework (approved by Cabinet January 2009)

## Modernising Education

### Review of Primary School Provision in the Edeyrnion (Dee Valley West) area

*Provisional Consultation Document – subject  
to Cabinet approval and amendment*

### **Proposal 1** – An Area School for Cynwyd & Llandrillo

June 2011

## **Proposal**

**To close Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo on 31 August 2012 and to establish a new Welsh Medium area school serving the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo on the existing school sites from 1 September 2012 moving to a single site in Cynwyd\* following the completion of extension & refurbishment works.**

\*The Cynwyd site would be the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site following expansion and refurbishment works.

- This consultation is on a proposal to create a new area school serving the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo.
- If agreed, phase 1 would see Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo close on the 31 August 2012. The new area school would open on the 1 September 2012 initially on the existing Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo sites and using the same buildings.
- In phase 2 it is proposed that the new area school would then move to a single site in Cynwyd following the completion of extension and refurbishment works to the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site.
- Pupils, parents, governors and staff of both schools will be consulted on this proposal as well as the local communities, neighbouring schools, local councillors and all other interested parties.
- The consultation period will take place between 7 June and 19 July 2011.
- A series of consultation events will take place during this period, details of which can be found on page 17.
- You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the proposal at these events or to put your views in writings. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Officer, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to [modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk) by 19 July 2011.
- Your views will be collated and considered before a recommendation is made to Denbighshire's Cabinet on whether to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.
- Denbighshire's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this consultation including a recommendation from officers on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

## **Background**

The council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework in January 2009 to provide a platform to review existing school provision.

Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the council has agreed that modernising education provision is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.

We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.

As part of this ongoing commitment the Council have embarked on a series of area reviews looking at primary school provision. In November 2010 the Council began an initial consultation on the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area.

The review included 7 primary schools in the area – Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch, Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Ysgol Carrog, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo.

The initial consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed across the area including surplus capacity, headteacher recruitment and use of mobile accommodation. The initial consultation document also highlighted the objectives that school re-organisation within the Edeyrnion area should deliver:

- An educational system able to sustain and safeguard standards of education within the area and provide an opportunity for improvement;
- Maintain or strengthen Welsh Medium and Bilingual provision;
- Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places;
- Reduce the number of headteachers required;
- Result in the removal of mobile accommodation;
- Keep transport times for children well within Welsh Assembly guidelines;
- Reduce the variation in per pupil funding;
- Assist the authority to attract capital funding to improve school buildings and facilities;

The initial consultation ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011. This proposal is one of four that have been developed by the authority to meet the objectives set out above.

The four proposals are:

1. An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo;
2. Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference;
3. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern\*
4. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog\*

\* These proposals can only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school

Further information on the other proposals can be found on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

## **Current Situation – Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, Cynwyd**

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is a Welsh Medium primary school located in the village of Cynwyd. Cynwyd is approximately 2.3 miles to the south of Corwen in the Dee Valley. The school serves the village of Cynwyd and the surrounding rural area and also provides a Welsh Medium option for children living in the Corwen area.

The school is located to the north of the village, accessed through a housing estate and is bounded by open fields to the north and the west.

As of January 2011 the school had 70 full-time pupils on roll with a further 7 part-time nursery pupils. Pupil numbers have increased over the past five years.

<b>Full-time pupil numbers – January PLASC*</b>				
<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
52	61	61	61	70

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

As of January 2011 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
7	14	10	8	11	10	7	10

The authority's pupil projections indicate pupil numbers should remain fairly steady in the coming years. Based on the standard methodology pupil numbers would be 68 full-time pupils in 2015. The maximum projection for the school in 2015 is 75 full-time pupils.

A copy of the pupil projections document for the Edeyrnion area is available on [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 79 full-time pupils including 18 full-time places provided through mobile accommodation. As of January 2011 the school had 9 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 11.4% of the total capacity.

The current headteacher has been in post since September 1998.

The pupils are split into four mixed year classes; two covering the Foundation Phase and two covering Key Stage 2. The table below indicated the split in pupils as of January 2011.

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
7	14	10	8	11	10	7	10
21 pupils (7 part-time)		18 pupils		21 pupils		17 pupils	

Educational standards at the school are good with the majority of pupils gaining the expected levels over the past five years. However as a result of small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible.

	% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Ysgol Maes Hyfryd</b>	88.9%	100.0%	72.7%	80.0%	100.0%
<b>Denbighshire Average</b>	71.3%	73.0%	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%
<b>Wales Average</b>	74.2%	74.1%	75.5%	77.0%	77.0%

The school's last Estyn inspection was in January 2010. The school received 5 Grade 1's and 2 Grade 2's and was described as a "good school with a number of outstanding features".

Key question	Inspection grade
1 How well do learners achieve?	1
2 How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	1
3 How well do the leadership experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	1
4 How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	2
5 How effective are leadership and strategic management?	1
6 How well do learners and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	2
7 How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	1

Grade 1 - Good with outstanding features

Grade 2 - Good features and no important shortcomings

A recent condition survey conducted as part of the initial consultation process has identified a number of issues to be addressed and a maintenance backlog of £47,566.

The cost of provision based on 2011/12 budget share is £4,102 per pupil, compared with the Denbighshire average of £3,767.

### **Current Situation – Ysgol Llandrillo**

Ysgol Llandrillo is a Welsh Medium primary school located in the village of Llandrillo. Llandrillo is approximately 5.2 miles to the south of Corwen in the Dee Valley. The school serves the village of Llandrillo and the surrounding rural area.

The school sits on a low lying site to the east of the River Ceidiog close to the main river crossing at the centre of the village. The school site is situated within a flood zone.

As of January 2011 the school had 29 full-time pupils on roll with a further 4 part-time nursery pupils. Pupil numbers have fallen over the past five years.

<b>Full-time pupil numbers – January PLASC*</b>				
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
39	39	41	39	29

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

As of January 2011 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
4	1	4	3	7	6	2	6

The authority's pupil projections indicate pupil numbers could continue to fall in the coming years. Based on the standard methodology pupil numbers could be as low as 21 full-time pupils by 2015. The maximum projection for the school in 2015 is 27 full-time pupils.

A copy of the pupil projections document for the Edeyrnion area is available on [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 70 full-time pupils. As of January 2011 the school had 41 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 58.6% of the total capacity.

The previous headteacher retired in August 2010 having been in post since January 1998. The school advertised twice for a permanent headteacher in January and February 2010 and did not appoint. The school advertised for a headteacher/acting headteacher in March 2010. An acting headteacher was appointed and is currently in post.

The pupils are split into three mixed year classes; one covering the Foundation Phase and two covering Key Stage 2. The table below indicated the split in pupils as of January 2011.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
4	1	4	3	7	6	2	6
12 pupils (4 Part-time)				13 pupils		8 pupils	

Educational standards at the school are good but performance has varied considerably over the past five years. However as a result of small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible.

	% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Ysgol Llandrillo</b>	75.0%	100.0%	60.0%	42.9%	75.0%
<b>Denbighshire Average</b>	71.3%	73.0%	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%
<b>Wales Average</b>	74.2%	74.1%	75.5%	77.0%	77.0%

The school's last Estyn inspection was in February 2006. The school received 1 Grade 1 and 5 Grade 2's and 1 Grade 3 and was described as having "a number of good features".

Key question	Inspection grade
1 How well do learners achieve?	2
2 How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	2
3 How well do the leadership experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	2
4 How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	1

5 How effective are leadership and strategic management?	2
6 How well do learners and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	3
7 How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	2

Grade 1 - Good with outstanding features  
Grade 2 - Good features and no important shortcomings  
Grade 3 - Good features outweigh shortcomings

The authority recognises that this inspection was undertaken a number of years ago and should not be used as an indication of current standards at the school.

A recent condition survey conducted as part of the initial consultation process has identified a number of issues to be addressed and a maintenance backlog of £92,467.

The cost of provision based on 2011/12 budget share is £6,067 per pupil, compared with the Denbighshire average of £3,767.

### **Why is this proposal being considered?**

The Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible educational provision for children and young people. This proposal has been developed in line with the Council's commitment to Modernising Education, the School Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential and the Welsh Assembly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme to improve school buildings and facilities.

There are a number of issues facing both schools that could impact on their ability to sustain educational standards and experiences into the future.

- Ysgol Llandrillo currently has an acting headteacher following the retirement of the previous headteacher. Small schools are finding it increasingly hard to appoint permanent headteachers. Not being able to recruit a permanent headteacher could have a major impact on standards at the school.
- Pupil numbers at Ysgol Llandrillo have fallen over the past five years to a low of 29 in January 2011. There are a number of challenges facing small schools including the ability to recruit a headteacher, being able to provide the full curriculum, ability to offer extra curricular activities and increasing budget pressures.
- Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is operating close to capacity as pupil numbers have grown over the past 5 years to a high of 70 in January 2011. The school has a mobile classroom providing 18 full-time places. The Council's policy on mobile accommodation is to replace them with permanent buildings where they are needed.
- Ysgol Llandrillo has significant surplus (empty) places. The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 70 full-time pupils. As of January 2011 the school had 41 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 58.6% of the total capacity.
- Both school buildings while being able to deliver the current curriculum are in need of significant capital investment. The current maintenance backlog of both schools is £140,033. This does not take into consideration any additional capital expenditure to provide improved facilities.



- The authority believes this proposal represents the best opportunity to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future and provide a platform for improvement through significant investment in facilities.
- This proposal demonstrates the authority's commitment to sustaining and developing further standards of attainment and learning opportunities for all children in order for them to fulfil their potential.

### **What is the proposed option?**

This consultation is on the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo and establish a new Welsh Medium area school to serve the communities of Cynwyd & Llandrillo.

### **What would this mean?**

If the proposal was approved:

- Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo would both close on the 31 August 2012.
- A new Welsh Medium area school would open on the 1 September 2012 initially on the existing school sites in Cynwyd and Llandrillo and utilising the existing buildings.
- All children attending Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo would transfer to the new school subject to parental preference. Whilst the school remains on two sites pupils would continue to be taught primarily on their original school site.
- Whilst the school remains on two sites nursery provision would continue to be provided in Llandrillo and Cynwyd on each school site.
- The new area school would have an age range of 3-11 years and would initially provide 149 full-time places with an admission number of 21. Following the move to a single site the capacity of the school would reduce to 105 full-time pupil places with an admission number of 15 pupils each year.
- Following the move to a single site nursery provision could be provided entirely on the school site in Cynwyd or could include some provision in Llandrillo potentially utilising existing community facilities. The authority is committed to providing early years provision in Llandrillo as appropriate. If the proposal was approved, the authority would undertake discussions with the relevant bodies on the matter. This would include discussions with the Governing Body of the new area school.
- There would be one governing body, one headteacher and one group of staff. This governing body would represent the communities of both Cynwyd and Llandrillo.
- The proposal would see the school move to a single site in Cynwyd following extension and refurbishment work to the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site. This investment has been estimated at approximately £1,000,000 subject to feasibility and design works and would enable the school to move to a single site. Consultation would take place with all stakeholders during the design process.

- The Council has included the Edeyrnion area in its Band A proposals for the Welsh Assembly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. The Council will be in a clearer position regarding overall timescales and funding sources following the announcement on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools funding which is expected in July 2011.
- Following the completion of the extension and refurbishment works the Llandrillo school site would be closed and declared surplus. In line with the Modernising Education Policy Framework the authority would discuss with the local community the possibility of retaining the school site/buildings as a community provision.

### **What are the benefits of this proposal?**

- The Headteacher of the new school is expected to have less of a teaching commitment than the current headteachers which would provide increased leadership and management time to ensure the successful running of the school and increase the headteachers ability to monitor standards and support improvements across the school.
- Pupils would benefit educationally, socially and emotionally from access to a greater range of facilities, increased peer groups and interaction with a larger group of staff.
- The proposal has the potential to sustain and safeguard standards, building on the best elements from both schools and providing a platform for improvement in the future.
- The new area school would have a larger compliment of teaching staff providing a range of expertise in various curriculum areas. Pupils will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from a larger group of teachers. A broader range of staff also provides increased opportunities for staff to specialise, nurture different experiences and develop their careers for the benefit of children at the school.
- The new area school will move to a single school site following a significant capital investment in the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site to expand and refurbish the site. The authority would consult with the Governing Body, pupils and parents during the design process but the improved learning environments would be expected to include flexible spaces, accessible external (outside) learning environments, a range of ICT facilities and an improved foundation phase area.
- Following the move to a single site; pupils will be part of larger peer groups and have more opportunity to learn alongside their peers in groups and participate in group activities.
- The pupils would benefit from an increased range of suitable facilities available at the new school, in particular following the move to a single site.
- Following the move to a single site no pupils at the school would be educated in mobile classrooms.
- While there may be implications for some members of staff; a larger school provides greater opportunity for professional development, specialist staffing and the opportunity to be part of a leadership and management structure.

- The budget at a larger school provides more flexibility. The budget at the new area school would be larger than either existing school budget.
- Funding per pupil at Ysgol Llandrillo is £6,067 compared to the Denbighshire average of £3,767. Funding per pupil at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is £4,102 compared to the Denbighshire average of £3,767. It is estimated that funding per pupil in the new area school would be £4,126 while operating on two sites and would result in a more efficient use of resources. Following a move to a single site it is estimated that per pupil funding would be £3,655.
- It is estimated that the initial annual revenue saving from this proposal after accounting for budgets would be £53,000. Following the move to a single site there would be additional transport costs of approximately £22,000 per year. This saving would be retained within the overall education budget and could be used to part-fund the capital investment in the new area school.

### **What are the disadvantages of this proposal?**

- As the new area school will be located on existing school sites in Cynwyd and Llandrillo the initial disadvantages will be minimised. The existing schools will close and would be a loss to their communities in terms of history and community links.
- Closing the existing schools and opening a new school on existing sites would be managed to ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum and should not impact on the children's education.
- There may be further disruption once the school moves to a single site in Cynwyd however this should be minimised with continuity provided for pupils and parents through the Headteacher and Governing Body of the area school.
- There are implications for staff at Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd from creating an area school. The position of the Headteacher may be advertised nationally or appointed internally and a new staffing structure will be developed for the school. Following the move to a single site there would be a need for a new staffing structure which could have further implications for staff. The local authority would work with the Governing Body of the new school during these times and should the need arise would work with the current members of staff at both schools and/or the new area school to seek redeployment opportunities.
- Following the move to a single site the majority of pupils currently attending Ysgol Llandrillo would have to travel further to school subject to parental preference. Transport would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire's transport policy to meet the needs of pupils and to ensure travelling times are not excessive.
- Following the move to a single site the loss of the school site in Llandrillo as a community facility could be a disadvantage. The authority has an agreed policy where consideration would be given to transferring a surplus school site or part of a school site to a community group where they can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site. However consideration would need to be given to existing community facilities in the area which includes a village hall.

## **Site Information**

### **How did the authority decide which site the area school should eventually be located on?**

In order to determine which site the new area school should eventually be located on the authority conducted a brief study of both existing school sites to determine their potential for expansion and looked at where each individual pupil attending both schools live.

- The study identified that the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd school site could be extended to provide a school with a capacity of 140 full-time pupils, well above the capacity of 105 full-time pupils the authority believes is needed for the area school.
- The study stated that the current Ysgol Llandrillo site currently sits within a flood zone (C2 as defined by TAN15). Planning authorities are directed by TAN 15 not to allow highly vulnerable uses such as schools on land falling within this category. As a result it is unlikely any significant extensions for this school site would be approved given the concerns over flooding.
- Pupil distribution over the two schools demonstrates that the Ysgol Maes Hyfryd school site would be the most appropriate due to its central location and the fact that a high proportion of pupils that would be attending the area school are from the Cynwyd area, with smaller proportions from the Llandrillo and Corwen areas.

### **What will happen to the Llandrillo school site once following the move to a single site in Cynwyd?**

- When the area school moves to a single site in Cynwyd, the Llandrillo site would be declared surplus.
- The authority will consider retaining all or part of the school building / site for the local community where there is a community group/organisation willing and able to take over the running and maintenance costs. In such instances the authority will also take into consideration the existence of any other community facilities before making a decision.
- Where the school site or a proportion of the site is not to be retained for the community, the authority would look to sell the site for best possible value. Any proceeds from the sale of the site would be retained within the capital budget for education.

## **What are the transport implications of this proposal?**

### **Split Site**

There are no initial implications in terms of transport. All pupils currently transported to Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd would continue to be transported to the Cynwyd and Llandrillo sites of the new area school subject to parental preference.

### **Following move to a single site**

The authority expects the majority of pupils attending the Llandrillo site of the new school to transfer to the single site in Cynwyd. Transport would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire's Transport Policy which states that free transport is provided for pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school. As the village of Llandrillo is 3 miles away from Cynwyd, the majority of children residing in Llandrillo and its outlying areas would qualify for free transport.

- The additional transport costs\* resulting from this proposal have been estimated at approximately £22,000 each year.
- The travelling time\* for pupils has been estimated at approximately 30 minutes per journey. This distance from Ysgol Maes Hyfryd to Ysgol Llandrillo is approximately 3 miles. The furthest Llandrillo pupil lives approximately 4 miles from Cynwyd.

\* Costs and times are estimates. Should the proposal be approved the authority would follow the e-tender system to secure quality and value for money with regard to the transport arrangements.

### **What are the staffing implications of this proposal?**

- Should the proposal be implemented the new area schools would have only one Headteacher. The Temporary Governing Body of the new area school would need to appoint the headteacher and this could involve national advertisements or an internal appointment.
- The authority, with agreement from the Temporary Governing Body would apply its policies to reassure and clarify the position of staff.
- A staffing structure would need to be developed for the new school taking into account a number of factors including operating initially on two sites, delivering the curriculum, class sizes and budget implications.
- While the school operates on two sites the authority does not anticipate any major changes to the existing staffing structures other than the Headteacher and other leadership positions. However final decisions regarding the new staffing structure would be taken by the Temporary Governing Body and the new Headteacher.
- The authority will recommend to the Temporary Governing Body that all teaching and associate staff posts for the new school should be “ring-fenced” to the staff within the existing two schools.
- As part of this consultation process there will be full consultation with all members of staff and the appropriate teaching unions.

### **What are the financial implications of this proposal?**

#### **Split Site**

- It is estimated that the initial annual revenue savings from the closure of the two schools and opening of a new area school would be £53,000 each year.
- The savings would be retained within the education budget.

#### **Following move to a single site**

- The revenue savings would remain however there would be additional transport costs of £22,000 per year. Moving to a single site could also result in further savings including potential changes to staffing structures.
- The savings would be retained within the education budget.

## **What will the impact be on the Welsh Language?**

The authority has undertaken a Welsh Language Impact Assessment in accordance with the Welsh Assembly's School Organisation Proposals 021/2009 to assess "the effect on the Welsh Language" of this proposal.

A full copy of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment is available on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

### **Summary of Potential Impact on the Welsh Language**

The main positive emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on the educational provision. The proposal represents an opportunity to improve education initially on a split site and eventually on a single site following extension and refurbishment works. Providing improved educational facilities and provision represents an opportunity to strengthen Welsh education in the area and as a result strengthen the Welsh Language.

The main concern is the potential negative impact on access to non-statutory nursery provision and access to pre and after school provision.

Should nursery provision be provided solely in Cynwyd following the move to a single site, this could impact on accessibility for parents and families who live in Llandrillo. However it should be noted that there are many schools in Denbighshire that serve more than one community and this situation would not be unique. There are potential measures to reduce this impact that could be considered by the Governing Body of the new area school.

Accessibility of pre and after school provision is also an area for concern. Moving to a single site has the potential to result in an increased range of provision; however they may not be accessible by all parents and families. Once again this is an issue that a number of schools in Denbighshire already face and there are potential measures to reduce this impact that could be considered by the Governing Body of the new area school.

### **Conclusion**

Overall the proposal has the potential to strengthen the Welsh Language in the area through strengthening the Welsh Medium provision for children.

However it should be noted that there are potential risks that will need to be addressed by both the local authority and the Governing Body of the new area school to ensure that the Welsh language continues to thrive in these two communities.

## **What will the impact be on the local community?**

The authority has undertaken a Community Language Impact Assessment in accordance with the Welsh Assembly's School Organisation Proposals 021/2009 to assess "the impact on local families and the local community" of this proposal.

A full copy of the Community Impact Assessment is available on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

### **Summary of Potential Impact on families and the local community**

The main positive emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on pupils through an improved education provision with improved facilities. The initial impact on the communities from having an area school is minimal as the area school would be based on the existing school sites in the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo.

The potential impact on families and the local community comes from moving to a single site in Cynwyd. This has the potential to have a negative impact on families in Llandrillo and on the Llandrillo community. While there are measures that could be undertaken to reduce the potential negative impact, it is likely that the Llandrillo community would not see these as sufficient to make up for the loss of a school/school site.

The loss of the Llandrillo school site would result in the removal of an informal meeting place for parents within the community; however there is a well utilised community hall in Llandrillo that could be used to host the activities that currently take place at the school and provides another informal meeting place for parents and the wider community.

The role of the new area school in serving both communities will have a vital role in determining the extent of any negative community impact.

### **Conclusion**

Initially the proposal would have minimal impact on families and the local communities when utilising the existing school sites based in both communities.

The proposal would impact positively on parents and children through an improved educational provision for the children. However; the move to a single site based in Cynwyd has the potential to impact negatively on parents from Llandrillo and the Llandrillo community.

However it should be noted that the potential negative impacts from moving to a single site could be reduced by the local authority and the Governing Body of the new area school by the adoption of a number of possible measures to ensure both communities continue to thrive.

The existence of a separate community hall in Llandrillo that already hosts a number of activities and could host activities that currently take place at the school provides a focal point for the community that would continue after the school has been closed. The potential increase in activity at the hall following the closure of the school could improve the long term viability of this community facility.

The local authority is committed to working with local communities and has an external funding advisory service to assist local communities in accessing funding for community projects.

**Have any alternative options been considered?**

The authority has considered a number of alternative options before deciding to consult on this proposal.

The three main alternatives to this proposal are summarised below.

<b>Alternative Option 1 - Federate Ysgol Maes Hyfryd &amp; Ysgol Llandrillo</b>	
The Federation of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo would address a number of issues facing both schools including headteacher recruitment and provide an enhanced educational provision for the children at both schools.	
In this instance the authority believes that an area school model is preferable to a federation as this approach would enable the authority to make a significant capital investment in the new school to provide improved facilities, remove mobile accommodation and reduce surplus places.	

<b>Alternative Option 2</b>	<b>a)</b>	<b>Close Ysgol Llandrillo and extend Ysgol Maes Hyfryd to accommodate the pupils</b>
	<b>b)</b>	<b>Close Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and extend Ysgol Llandrillo to accommodate the pupils</b>
The authority recognises that this option could result in most of the benefits of an area school being realised through having all pupils on a single site.		
However this option is seen as potentially divisive which could impact negatively on the education of children attending the school. It could also exclude parents and residents of one community from playing an important role in the future of the school.		
Option 2b would not be feasible due to restrictions on the Ysgol Llandrillo site which is located within a flood plain.		

<b>Alternative Option 3 - Retain Ysgol Maes Hyfryd &amp; Ysgol Llandrillo as separate schools</b>	
The authority recognises from the response to the initial consultation that this would be the preferred option for parents, governors and the local communities of both school, however retaining both schools as separate entities would not address any of the issues facing either school and would represent a risk to long term educational standards in the area.	

It is the view of the authority that the preferred option will provide the greatest educational benefits, address all the issues identified; enables significant capital investment to be made and represents the best use of resources.

The preferred option also contributes towards addressing the wider issues in the Edeyrnion area. An overview of the options can be found on the next page.



	<b>Preferred Option</b>	<b>Alternative Option 1</b>	<b>Alternative Option 2a</b>	<b>Alternative Option 2b</b>	<b>Alternative Option 3</b>
	An Area School for Cynwyd & Llandrillo	A Federation of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo	Close Ysgol Llandrillo and extend Ysgol Maes Hyfryd to accommodate the pupils	Close Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and extend Ysgol Llandrillo to accommodate the pupils	Retain Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo as separate schools
<b>Educational Standards</b>	Represents the best opportunity to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future while providing an improved educational provision. Pupils would benefit from improved facilities, increased peer groups and benefit from a larger group of teaching staff.	Has the potential to improve the educational provision and address the issue of the acting headteachers. This option would not address the low pupil numbers at Ysgol Llandrillo, mobile accommodation at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd or the need to improve facilities.	Potential to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future while providing an improved educational provision. Pupils would benefit from improved facilities, increased peer groups and benefit from a larger group of teaching staff.	Potential to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future while providing an improved educational provision. Pupils would benefit from improved facilities, increased peer groups and benefit from a larger group of teaching staff.	Retaining the individual schools is a risk to the authority's ability to sustain and safeguard standards in the area.  This would not address any of the issues facing both schools – acting headteacher, mobile accommodation, low pupil numbers and the need to provide improved facilities.
<b>Surplus Places</b>	Surplus places significantly reduced.	Significant surplus places at Ysgol Llandrillo.	Surplus places significantly reduced.	Surplus places significantly reduced.	Significant surplus places at Ysgol Llandrillo.
<b>Headteacher Recruitment</b>	Only one headteacher required.	Only one headteacher required.	Only one headteacher required.	Only one headteacher required.	Two headteachers required.
<b>Mobile Accommodation</b>	Mobile accommodation removed.	Mobile accommodation at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.	Mobile accommodation removed	Mobile accommodation removed	Mobile accommodation at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.
<b>Transport Implications</b>	Additional transport costs of approximately £22,000 per year.	Existing transport arrangements remain. No additional cost.	Additional transport costs of approximately £22,000 per year.	Additional transport costs of approximately £23,000 per year.	Existing transport arrangements remain. No additional cost.
<b>Per Pupil Funding</b>	Reduction in per pupil funding to: a) Split Site – £4,126 b) One Site – £3,655	No reduction in per pupil funding as both schools would retain separate budgets.	Reduction in per pupil funding to £3,655	Reduction in per pupil funding to £3,544	Maes Hyfryd - £4,102 Llandrillo - £6,067 Denbighshire Average - £3,767
<b>School Buildings</b>	Significant capital investment to extend and refurbish Ysgol Maes Hyfryd – approximately £1,000,000	Maintenance backlog of both schools is £140,033. This does not take into consideration any additional capital expenditure to provide improved facilities.	Significant capital investment to extend and refurbish Ysgol Maes Hyfryd – approximately £1,000,000	The school site sits within a flood zone. As a result is unlikely that the planning authority would approve the significant extensions required to develop this site	Maintenance backlog of both schools is £140,033. This does not take into consideration any additional capital expenditure to provide improved facilities.
<b>Revenue Savings</b>	£53,000	None	£48,000	£48,000	None

## **The Consultation Process**

The Council is consulting with pupils, parents, governors and staff of both schools on this proposal as well as the local communities, neighbouring schools, local councillors, local AMs and MPs, the Welsh Assembly Government and all other interested parties.

The consultation period runs until **Tuesday 19 July 2011**.

The following consultation events will take place during this period:

*[To be arranged subject to Cabinet approval]*

Staff Consultation Meeting Ysgol Llandrillo – June

Staff Consultation Meeting Ysgol Maes Hyfryd – June

Governor Consultation Meeting Ysgol Llandrillo – June

Governor Consultation Meeting Ysgol Maes Hyfryd - June

Parent & Community Consultation Meeting Ysgol Llandrillo – June

Parent & Community Consultation Meeting Ysgol Maes Hyfryd – June

Open Consultation Meeting Ysgol Llandrillo – July

Open Consultation Meeting Ysgol Maes Hyfryd – July

Meetings will be arranged with School Councils from both schools to ensure pupils have a clear opportunity to make their views on the proposal known.

You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the proposal at these events or to put your views in writing either through completing the attached response form, by letter or by e-mail.

Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Officer, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to [modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk) by 19 July 2011.

Your views will be collated and considered before a recommendation is made to Denbighshire's Cabinet on whether or not to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.

Denbighshire's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this consultation including a recommendation from officers on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### **What happens next?**

At the end of the consultation period, officers will collate and consider all consultation responses before a recommendation is made to the council's Cabinet on whether or not to proceed to a statutory notice.

Denbighshire's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this consultation including a recommendation from officers on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

If Cabinet decide to proceed to the publication of a statutory notice; there is a formal process that the Council would have to follow:

- Publication of the Statutory Notice would be on 6 October 2011 and it would expire on 6 November 2011.
- If no objections are received, the authority will decide whether or not to implement the proposal.
- If an objection is received, the Welsh Assembly Government will make the final decision. A minimum of 4 months is usually required for the Assembly to consider the proposal and make a decision. A decision would be expected in March 2012.
- The earliest date when Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd could close would be the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 with the new area school opening on existing sites from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.

## Modernising Education

### Review of Primary School Provision in the Edeyrnion (Dee Valley West) area

*Provisional Consultation Document – subject  
to Cabinet approval and amendment*

**Proposal 2** – Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and  
transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant subject to  
parental preference

June 2011

## **Proposal**

### **To close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy on 31 August 2012 and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.**

- This consultation is on a proposal to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.
- If agreed, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would close on 31 August 2012 and pupils would transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen as of 1 September 2012.
- Pupils, parents, governors and staff of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy will be consulted on this proposal as well as the local community, governors of Ysgol Y Gwernant, neighbouring schools, local councillors and all other interested parties.
- The consultation period will take place between 7 June and 19 July 2011.
- A series of consultation events will take place during this period, details of which can be found on page 16.
- You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the proposal at these events or to put your views in writings. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Officer, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to [modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk) by 19 July 2011.
- Your views will be collated and considered before a recommendation is made to Denbighshire's Cabinet on whether to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.
- Denbighshire's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this consultation including a recommendation from officers on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

## **Background**

The council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework in January 2009 to provide a platform to review existing school provision.

Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the council has agreed that modernising education provision is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.

We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.

As part of this ongoing commitment the Council have embarked on a series of area reviews looking at primary school provision. In November 2010 the Council began an initial consultation on the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area.

The review included 7 primary schools in the area – Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch, Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Ysgol Carrog, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo.

The initial consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed across the area including surplus capacity, headteacher recruitment and use of mobile accommodation. The initial consultation document also highlighted the objectives that school re-organisation within the Edeyrnion area should deliver:

- An educational system able to sustain and safeguard standards of education within the area and provide an opportunity for improvement;
- Maintain or strengthen Welsh Medium and Bilingual provision;
- Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places;
- Reduce the number of headteachers required;
- Result in the removal of mobile accommodation;
- Keep transport times for children well within Welsh Assembly guidelines;
- Reduce the variation in per pupil funding;
- Assist the authority to attract capital funding to improve school buildings and facilities;

The initial consultation ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011. This proposal is one of four that have been developed by the authority to meet the objectives set out above.

The four proposals are:

1. An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo;
2. Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference;
3. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern\*
4. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog\*

\* These proposals can only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school

Further information on the other proposals can be found on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

## Current Situation – Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is a Welsh Medium primary school located in the village of Glyndyfrdwy. Glyndyfrdwy is approximately 4.5 miles from Corwen and approximately 5.5 miles from Llangollen in the Dee Valley. The school predominately serves the village of Glyndyfrdwy.

The school is located approximately 500 metres to the east of the centre of the village which is accessibly via a narrow lane which branches off the A5 and leads to a steep access driveway to the school.

As of January 2011 the school had 16 full-time pupils on roll with a further 5 part-time nursery pupils. Pupil numbers have fallen slightly over the past five years.

<b>Full-time pupil numbers – January PLASC*</b>				
<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
19	18	19	18	16

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

As of January 2011 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
5	2	2	1	0	3	7	1

The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 53 full-time pupils. As of January 2011 the school had 37 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 69.8% of the total capacity.

The schools last permanent headteacher retired in August 2009 having been in post since January 1979. The school advertised for a headteacher in February 2009 and failed to appoint. In March 2009 the school advertised for a headteacher/acting headteacher and appointed an acting headteacher in September 2009 who left the school in December 2010 to take up another post. The school advertised for a headteacher/acting headteacher or secondment opportunity in July 2010. An acting headteacher was appointed and is currently in post.

The pupils are split into two mixed year classes; one covering the Foundation Phase and one covering Key Stage 2. The table below indicated the split in pupils as of January 2011.

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Reception</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
5	2	2	1	0	3	7	1
10 (5 part-time)				11 pupils			

The school's last Estyn inspection was in July 2007. The school received 1 Grade 2 and 6 Grade 3's.

<b>Key question</b>	<b>Inspection grade</b>
<b>1</b> How well do learners achieve?	3
<b>2</b> How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	3

<b>3</b> How well do the leadership experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	3
<b>4</b> How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	2
<b>5</b> How effective are leadership and strategic management?	3
<b>6</b> How well do learners and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	3
<b>7</b> How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	3

Grade 2 - Good features and no important shortcomings

Grade 3 - Good features outweigh shortcomings

The authority recognises that this inspection was undertaken a number of years ago and should not be used as an indication of current standards at the school.

Educational standards at the school have improved recently having varied considerably over the past five years. However as a result of very small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible.

	% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy</b>	83.3%	75.0%	0.0%	50.0%	100.0%
<b>Denbighshire Average</b>	71.3%	73.0%	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%
<b>Wales Average</b>	74.2%	74.1%	75.5%	77.0%	77.0%

A recent condition survey\* conducted as part of the initial consultation process has identified a number of issues to be addressed and a maintenance backlog of £81,040.

\* Condition surveys look at the fabric of the building and identify maintenance works that need to be carried out.

The cost of provision based on 2011/12 budget share is £9,248 per pupil, compared with the Denbighshire average of £3,767.

### **Current Situation – Ysgol Y Gwernant**

Ysgol Y Gwernant is a Welsh Medium primary school located in the town of Llangollen in the Dee Valley. The school serves the town of Llangollen and the surrounding rural area. The school shares a site with Ysgol Bryn Collen, an English medium school serving the town of Llangollen and surrounding rural area.

As of January 2011 the school had 102 full-time pupils on roll with a further 15 part-time nursery pupils.

<b>Full-time pupil numbers – January PLASC*</b>				
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
81	91	102	100	102

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census



As of January 2011 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
15	18	12	18	16	13	14	11

The school was opened in 2005 with a capacity of 105 full-time pupils. In January 2011 the capacity had reduced to 87 full-time pupils with a deficit of 15 places; equivalent to 17.2% of the total capacity. The capacity of the school is currently being increased as a result of an £800,000 investment by the authority in the Bryn Collen & Gwernant site. Once these works have been completed the provisional capacity of the school has been estimated at 123 full-time places. Based on January 2011 pupil numbers this would leave 21 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 17.1% of the total capacity. There is potential to increase this capacity further if required and the local authority would discuss this with the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Bryn Collen and Ysgol Y Gwernant.

The headteacher has been in post since the establishment of the school in September 2005.

The pupils are split into six mixed year classes; three covering the Foundation Phase and three covering Key Stage 2. The table below indicated the split in pupils as of January 2011.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
15	18	12	18	16	13	14	11
2 Classes ( 30 Full-time & 15 part-time)			18 pupils	16 pupils	13 pupils	25 pupils	

The school's last Estyn inspection was in January 2007. The school received 7 Grade 2's and was described as a "good school with many strengths".

Key question	Inspection grade
1 How well do learners achieve?	2
2 How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	2
3 How well do the leadership experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	2
4 How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	2
5 How effective are leadership and strategic management?	2
6 How well do learners and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	2
7 How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	2

Grade 2 - Good features and no important shortcomings

The authority recognises that this inspection was undertaken a number of years ago and should not be used as an indication of current standards at the school.

Educational standards at the school are good and the school has consistently performed above the Denbighshire and Wales average over the past five years.

	<b>% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2</b>				
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Ysgol Y Gwernant</b>	75.0%	100.0%	90.0%	78.6%	80.0%
<b>Denbighshire Average</b>	71.3%	73.0%	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%
<b>Wales Average</b>	74.2%	74.1%	75.5%	77.0%	77.0%

The school is currently subject to an extension and refurbishment works as part of a £800,000 investment from Denbighshire County Council to extend and refurbish areas of the existing Ysgol Bryn Collen / Ysgol Y Gwernant site. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August 2011.

The cost of provision based on 2011/12 budget share is £4,209 per pupil, compared with the Denbighshire average of £3,767.

### **Why is this proposal being considered?**

The Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible educational provision for children and young people. This proposal has been developed in line with the Council's commitment to Modernising Education, the School Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential and the Welsh Assembly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme to improve school buildings and facilities.

There are a number of issues facing Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy that the authority believes represents a risk to sustaining educational standards and experiences into the future:

- Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy currently has an acting headteacher. This is the second acting headteacher at the school since the retirement of the previous permanent headteacher in August 2009. Small schools are finding it increasingly hard to appoint permanent headteachers. Not being able to recruit a permanent headteacher could have a major impact on standards at the school.
- Pupil numbers at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy are very low with only 16 pupils on roll in January 2011. Pupil projections indicate a slight increase in pupil numbers over the next few years; however it is unlikely the school will increase substantially in size. There are a number of challenges facing small schools including the ability to recruit a headteacher, being able to provide the full curriculum, limited opportunity for group work; limited scope for peer interaction and for developing relationships with peers; the ability to offer extra curricular activities and increasing budget pressures.
- Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy has significant surplus (empty) places. The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 53 full-time pupils. As of January 2011 the school had 37 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 69.8% of the total capacity.
- Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy while being able to deliver the current curriculum is in need of significant capital investment. The current maintenance backlog is £81,040. This does not take into consideration any additional capital expenditure to provide improved facilities.

- The authority believes this proposal represents the best opportunity to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future while providing an improved educational provision for pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.
- This proposal demonstrates the authority's commitment to sustaining and developing further standards of attainment and learning opportunities for all children in order for them to fulfil their potential.

### **What is the proposed option?**

This consultation is on the proposal to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.

### **What would this mean?**

If the proposal was approved:

- Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would close on the 31 August 2012.
- All children attending Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.
- Denbighshire County Council would provide free transport for all full-time pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.
- Transport arrangements for future pupils would be in line with Denbighshire's Transport Policy.
- Nursery provision will be provided by Ysgol Y Gwernant. This provision is currently provided entirely in Llangollen. Future provision could potentially include certain sessions being delivered in Glyndyfrdwy utilising existing community facilities. The authority is committed to providing early years provision in Glyndyfrdwy as appropriate. If the proposal was approved, the authority would undertake discussions with the relevant bodies on the matter.
- The Governing Body, Headteacher and staff at Ysgol Y Gwernant would have responsibility for the education of the pupils.
- The Council would work with the current staff to seek redeployment opportunities for existing members of staff. As part of the consultation exercise full consultation will take place with members of staff and appropriate teaching unions.
- The Glyndyfrdwy school site would be declared surplus. In line with the Modernising Education Policy Framework the authority would discuss with the local community the possibility of retaining the school site/buildings as a community provision.

### **What are the benefits of this proposal?**

- Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is a very small school and while there are advantages to teaching in small groups there are significant challenges facing small schools. In particular due to the low pupil numbers at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy the school faces challenges in providing additional activities, providing opportunities for group activities and providing opportunities for developing relationships with peers.
- Pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy transferring to Ysgol Y Gwernant would benefit from an increased range of suitable facilities available at the school. The school is currently subject to extension and refurbishment to provide improved educational facilities.
- As a larger school Ysgol Y Gwernant has a larger compliment of teaching staff, providing a range of expertise in various curriculum areas. Pupils will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from a larger group of teachers. A broader range of staff also provides increased opportunities for staff to specialise, nurture different experiences and develop their careers for the benefit of children at the school.
- Pupils will be part of larger peer groups and have more opportunities to learn alongside their peers in groups and participate in group activities.
- Pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy transferring to Ysgol Y Gwernant would benefit educationally, socially and emotionally from access to a greater range of facilities, increased peer groups and interaction with a larger group of staff.
- Ysgol Y Gwernant provides a very high standard of education. The school's Key Stage 2 performance over the past five years has been consistently above the Denbighshire and Wales averages. The last Estyn inspection in 2007 stated that Ysgol Y Gwernant was "a good school with many strengths"
- The budget at a larger school provides more flexibility. The budget at Ysgol Y Gwernant would increase to reflect the increased number of pupils.
- Funding per pupil at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is £9,248 compared to the Denbighshire average of £3,767. Closing the school and transferring pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant subject to parental preference would result in a more efficient use of resources with per pupil funding estimated to be £3,927.
- It is estimated that the annual revenue savings from the closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy after accounting for the increased budgets of other schools where pupils have transferred to and transport costs would be £50,500. This saving would be retained within the overall education budget.

### **What are the disadvantages of this proposal?**

- Closing the school and pupils transferring to a new school will cause some disruption to pupils and parents. However the process can be managed to ensure that any disruption during this transition is kept to a minimum and should not impact on the children's education.

- There are implications for staff at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy should the school close. The authority would work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy to seek redeployment opportunities. This will include discussions with the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant.
- The majority of pupils attending Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would have to travel further to school should they transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant subject to parental preference. Transport would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire's transport policy to meet the needs of pupils and to ensure travelling times are not excessive.
- The loss of the school as a community facility could be a disadvantage; however there is a community hall in the village.

### **Would all children have to transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant?**

- No. The authority is proposing that all pupils transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant as the next nearest suitable school providing Welsh Medium education. Pupils could attend another school if that school is closer to their home than Ysgol Y Gwernant. After Ysgol Y Gwernant, the next nearest Welsh Medium schools are currently Ysgol Bro Elwern, Gwyddelwern and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, Cynwyd.
- In the future Welsh Medium provision could also be provided at Ysgol Carrog and Ysgol Caer Drewyn. The authority is willing to support both schools in increasing their bilingual nature should they agree to federate. This would not impact on transport arrangement for future pupils until Welsh Medium provision at either school could be verified as the same level of provision that is provided at a Welsh Medium school.
- Parental preference means that parents have a right for their child to attend any school they would like as long as there are places available. However transport is only provided in accordance with Denbighshire's Transport Policy.
- Should the proposal go ahead; the authority would speak with every parent at the school to determine which school(s) they would wish their child/children to attend.

### **What happens to the school site?**

- Once the school is closed the school site would be declared surplus.
- The authority will consider retaining all or part of the school building / site for the local community where there is a community group/organisation willing and able to take over the running and maintenance costs. In such instances the authority will also take into consideration the existence of any other community facilities before making a decision.
- Where the school site or a proportion of the site is not to be retained for the community, the authority would look to sell the site for best possible value. Any proceeds from the sale of the site would be retained within the capital budget for education.

### **What are the transport implications of this proposal?**

- The authority expects the majority of pupils to transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant in Llangollen subject to parental preference. Transport would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire's Transport Policy.
- The additional transport costs\* resulting from this proposal have been estimated at approximately £17,000 each year.
- The travelling time\* for pupils has been estimated at approximately 30 minutes per journey.

\* Costs and times are estimates. Should the proposal be approved the authority would follow the e-tender system to secure quality and value for money with regard to the transport arrangements.

### **What are the staffing implications of this proposal?**

- Should the proposal be implemented the authority would work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy to seek redeployment opportunities for existing members of staff.
- The staffing structure at Ysgol Y Gwernant from September 2012 will have to reflect the increased pupil numbers as well as a number of other factors including the delivery of the curriculum, class sizes and budget implications. The authority will recommend to the Governing Body that any new posts required at the school be "ring-fenced" to the staff of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.
- As part of this consultation process there will be full consultation with all members of staff and the appropriate teaching unions.

### **What are the financial implications of this proposal?**

- It is estimated that the annual revenue savings from the closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy after accounting for the increased budgets of other schools would be £67,500.
- The proposal would result in additional transport costs estimated at £17,000 per year.
- The savings would be retained within the education budget.
- The budget of Ysgol Y Gwernant would increase as a result of more pupils attending the school.

## **What will the impact be on the Welsh Language?**

The authority has undertaken a Welsh Language Impact Assessment in accordance with the Welsh Assembly's School Organisation Proposals 021/2009 to assess "the effect on the Welsh Language" of this proposal.

A full copy of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment is available on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

### **Summary of Potential Impact on the Welsh Language**

The main positive emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on the educational provision. Providing an improved educational provision represents an opportunity to strengthen Welsh education in the area and as a result strengthen the Welsh Language.

The main concern is the potential negative impact relating to access of non-statutory provision and access to pre and after school activities.

Should nursery provision be provided solely in Llangollen this could impact on accessibility for parents and families who live in Glyndyfrdwy.

However it should be noted that there are many schools in Denbighshire that serve more than one community and this situation would not be unique. There are potential measures to reduce this impact that could be considered by the local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant.

Accessibility of pre and after school activities is also an area for concern. The proposal has the potential to result in an increased range of activities; however they may not be accessible by all parents and families.

Once again this is an issue that a number of schools in Denbighshire already face and there are potential measures to reduce this impact that could be considered by the local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant.

### **Conclusion**

Overall the proposal has the potential to strengthen the Welsh Language in the area through strengthening the Welsh Medium provision for children.

However it should be noted that there are potential risks that will need to be addressed by both the local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant to ensure that the Welsh language continues to thrive in these two communities.

### **What will the impact be on the local community?**

The authority has undertaken a Community Language Impact Assessment in accordance with the Welsh Assembly's School Organisation Proposals 021/2009 to assess "the impact on local families and the local community" of this proposal.

A full copy of the Community Impact Assessment is available on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

#### **Summary of Potential Impact on families and the local community**

The main positive emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on pupils through improved education provision. The impact assessment has identified a number of possible areas where the proposal could impact negatively on local families and on the local community.

Losing a school from the community is going to sever links between the school and the local community. Pupils are expected to transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant in Llangollen. There are measures that could be adopted to lessen the impact through fostering close links between the community and Ysgol Y Gwernant, however developing these links will take time and the initial impact will be negative.

The loss of the school would impact on the community activities taking place and the community facilities within Glyndyfrdwy. There is scope for a number of activities currently taking place on the school site to relocate to the community hall and the Council has a policy regarding the retention of any surplus school site within the community which could reduce the negative impact and potentially result in a positive for the community.

The loss of the school would result in the removal of an informal meeting place for parents within the community; however there is a well utilised village hall in Glyndyfrdwy that could be used to host the activities that currently take place at the school and provides another informal meeting place for parents and the wider community.

#### **Conclusion**

The proposal would impact positively on parents and children through an improved educational provision for the children. However the proposal has the potential to impact negatively on parents from Glyndyfrdwy and the Glyndyfrdwy community.

It should be noted that the potential negative impacts resulting from this proposal could be reduced by the local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant by the adoption of a number of possible measures to ensure that the community in Glyndyfrdwy continues to thrive.

The existence of a separate village hall that already host a number of activities and could host activities that currently take place at the school provides a focal point for the community that would continue after the school has been closed. The potential increase in activity at the hall following the closure of the school could improve the long term viability of this community facility.

The local authority is committed to working with local communities and has an external funding advisory service to assist local communities in accessing funding for community projects.



### **Have any alternative options been considered?**

The authority has considered a number of alternative options before deciding to consult on this proposal.

The three main alternatives to this proposal are summarised below.

#### **Alternative Option 1 – Federate with Ysgol Y Gwernant**

The Federation of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and Ysgol Y Gwernant would address a number of issues including headteacher recruitment and provide an enhanced educational provision for the children at both schools.

In this instance the authority believes that closing Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transferring pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant would provide a better educational provision and provide the pupils at Ysgol Glyndyfrwy with improved educational facilities.

Federating with Ysgol Y Gwernant would not address issues including the small number of pupils on roll at the schools or issues relating to the school buildings.

#### **Alternative Option 2 – Federate with Ysgol Carrog**

The Federation of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and Ysgol Carrog would address a number of issues including headteacher recruitment and provide an enhanced educational provision for the children at both schools.

In this instance the authority believes that closing Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transferring pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant would provide a better educational provision and provide the pupils at Ysgol Glyndyfrwy with improved educational facilities.

Federating with Ysgol Carrog would not address issues including the small number of pupils on roll at the schools or issues relating to the school buildings.

#### **Alternative Option 3 - Retain Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy as an individual school**

The authority recognises from the response to the initial consultation that this would be the preferred option for parents, governors and the local community.

It is the authority's view that this option does not provide the best possible educational provision and represents a risk to long term standards in the area.

It is the view of the authority that the preferred option will provide the greatest educational benefits, addresses all the issues identified and represents the best use of resources.

The preferred option also contributes towards addressing the wider issues in the Edeyrnion area. An overview of the options can be found on the next page.

	<b>Preferred Option</b>	<b>Alternative Option 1</b>	<b>Alternative Option 2</b>	<b>Alternative Option 3</b>
	Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant	A Federation of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy & Ysgol Y Gwernant	A Federation of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy & Ysgol Carrog	Retain Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy as an individual school
<b>Educational Standards</b>	Represents the best opportunity to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future while providing an improved educational provision for pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy. Pupils would benefit from improved facilities, increased peer groups and benefit from a larger group of teaching staff.	Has the potential to improve the educational provision and address the issue of the acting headteachers. This option would not address the low pupil numbers at the school or the need to improve facilities.	Has the potential to improve the educational provision and address the issue of the acting headteachers. This option would not address the low pupil numbers at the school or the need to improve facilities.	Retaining Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy as an individual school is a risk to the authority's ability to sustain and safeguard standards in the area due to an acting headteacher and low pupil numbers and the need to improve facilities at the school.
<b>Surplus Places</b>	Surplus places significantly reduced.	No impact on surplus places	No impact on surplus places	Significant surplus places at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.
<b>Headteacher Recruitment</b>	Only one headteacher required.	Only one headteacher required.	Only one headteacher required.	Need to appoint permanent headteacher at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.
<b>Mobile Accommodation</b>	Current mobile accommodation at Ysgol Y Gwernant will be removed following completion of extension and refurbishment works in August 2011.	Current mobile accommodation at Ysgol Y Gwernant will be removed following completion of extension and refurbishment works in August 2011.	No mobile accommodation at either school.	No mobile accommodation at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.
<b>Transport Implications</b>	Additional transport costs of approximately £17,000 per year.	Existing transport arrangements remain. No additional cost.	Existing transport arrangements remain. No additional cost.	Existing transport arrangements remain. No additional cost.
<b>Per Pupil Funding</b>	Estimated funding per pupil at Ysgol Y Gwernant would be £3,927.	No reduction in per pupil funding as both schools would retain separate budgets.	No reduction in per pupil funding as both schools would retain separate budgets.	£9,248 per pupil, compared with the Denbighshire average of £3,767.
<b>School Buildings</b>	Ysgol Y Gwernant is currently subject to an extension and refurbishment works as part of a £800,000 investment from Denbighshire County. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August 2011.	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is in need of significant capital investment. The current maintenance backlog is £81,040. This does not take into consideration any additional capital expenditure to provide improved facilities.	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is in need of significant capital investment. The current maintenance backlog is £81,040. This does not take into consideration any additional capital expenditure to provide improved facilities.	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is in need of significant capital investment. The current maintenance backlog is £81,040. This does not take into consideration any additional capital expenditure to provide improved facilities.
<b>Revenue Savings</b>	£67,500	None	None	None

## **The Consultation Process**

The Council is consulting with pupils, parents, governors and staff of both schools on this proposal as well as the local communities, neighbouring schools, local councillors, local AMs and MPs, the Welsh Assembly Government and all other interested parties.

The consultation period runs until **Tuesday 19 July 2011**.

The following consultation events will take place during this period:

*[To be arranged subject to Cabinet approval]*

Staff Consultation Meeting Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy – June

Staff Consultation Meeting Ysgol Y Gwernant – June

Governor Consultation Meeting Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy – June

Governor Consultation Meeting Ysgol Y Gwernant - June

Parent & Community Consultation Meeting Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy – June

Open Consultation Meeting Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy – July

Meetings will be arranged with the School Council at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy to ensure pupils have a clear opportunity to make their views on the proposal known.

You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the proposal at these events or to put your views in writing either through completing the attached response form, by letter or by e-mail.

Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Officer, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to [modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk) by 19 July 2011.

Your views will be collated and considered before a recommendation is made to Denbighshire's Cabinet on whether or not to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.

Denbighshire's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this consultation including a recommendation from officers on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### **What happens next?**

At the end of the consultation period, officers will collate and consider all consultation responses before a recommendation is made to the council's Cabinet on whether or not to proceed to a statutory notice.

Denbighshire's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this consultation including a recommendation from officers on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

If Cabinet decide to proceed to the publication of a statutory notice; there is a formal process that the Council would have to follow:

- Publication of the Statutory Notice would be on 6 October 2011 and it would expire on 6 November 2011.
- If no objections are received, the authority will decide whether or not to implement the proposal.
- If an objection is received, the Welsh Assembly Government will make the final decision. A minimum of 4 months is usually required for the Assembly to consider the proposal and make a decision. A decision would be expected in March 2012.
- The earliest date when Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy could close would be the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012

## Modernising Education

Review of Primary School Provision in the  
Edeyrnion (Dee Valley West) area

*Provisional Discussion Paper – subject to  
Cabinet approval and amendment*

**Proposal 3** – Recommend formal  
federation to the Governing Bodies of  
Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro  
Elwern

June 2011

## **Proposal**

### **To recommend the creation of a formal federation between Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern**

- This is a discussion paper on the possibility of federating Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern.
- At present the proposal could only be implemented with agreement from the governing bodies and to ensure success it should be progressed by the governors of each school;
- The proposal would result in a Welsh Medium Federation of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern;
- Each school would retain their own status and ethos but would formally collaborate for the benefit of the children;
- The proposal would result in a single governing body representing both schools and both communities;
- The proposal would result in a single headteacher for the federation;
- The authority has determined that federating is the preferred option for these two schools and is encouraging governors to commence discussions on this matter. The authority will provide support and advice to the governors in order to progress this proposal;
- The authority believes that discussions should begin between the governing bodies in June & July 2011 and continue in the Autumn Term 2011. This would allow consultation to take place in the Spring Term 2012 and implementation by September 2012.
- The authority believes that it would be in the best interests of all stakeholders for these proposals to be progressed by the governors with support from the local authority. The Welsh Assembly Government is currently in the process of providing local authorities with the power to create federations. Should the Governing Bodies decide not to progress the proposals the authority would then seek to use these new powers to create the federations.
- The authority will also seek agreement with the Governing Body of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch regarding the timetable for the removal of mobile accommodation from the site which would reduce surplus capacity at the school and result in revenue savings of approximately £6,084 each year for the authority.

## **Background**

The council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework in January 2009 to provide a platform to review existing school provision.

Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the council has agreed that modernising education provision is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century Wales.

We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.

As part of this ongoing commitment the Council have embarked on a series of area reviews looking at primary school provision. In November 2010 the Council began an initial consultation on the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area.

The review included 7 primary schools in the area – Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch, Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Ysgol Carrog, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo.

The initial consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed across the area including surplus capacity, headteacher recruitment and use of mobile accommodation. The initial consultation document also highlighted the objectives that school re-organisation within the Edeyrnion area should deliver:

- An educational system able to sustain and safeguard standards of education within the area and provide an opportunity for improvement;
- Maintain or strengthen Welsh Medium and Bilingual provision;
- Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places;
- Reduce the number of headteachers required;
- Result in the removal of mobile accommodation;
- Keep transport times for children well within Welsh Assembly guidelines;
- Reduce the variation in per pupil funding;
- Assist the authority to attract capital funding to improve school buildings and facilities;

The initial consultation ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011. This proposal is one of four that have been developed by the authority to meet the objectives set out above.

The four proposals are:

1. An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo;
2. Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference;
3. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern\*
4. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog\*

\* These proposals can only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school

Further information on the other proposals can be found on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

### **What are the benefits of the proposal?**

- One headteacher for the federation would have increased leadership and management time. The headteacher would be able to ensure the successful running of both schools and would have more time to monitor standards and support improvements across both schools;
- The Federation would see the development of a leadership and management structure across both schools providing increased opportunities for staff development;
- Wider opportunities for enhancing the education of the pupils, e.g. joint school projects, shared teaching and learning resources;
- Pupils able to meet and work as a part of a larger group on occasions;
- Further opportunities to share resources e.g. service providers, joint staff training, themed days, and transport to different venues and events.
- Enhanced staff expertise in specialist areas, raising standards e.g. Teachers working together to plan, prepare and assess;
- Enhanced opportunities for monitoring teaching across the two schools and for teachers to moderate and level pupil work;
- Enhanced community links with the two communities working more closely together;
- The proposal includes the removal of mobile accommodation at Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch which would reduce surplus (empty) places across the area by 20 places.



### **What would happen to the children at both schools?**

- Pupils would continue to be taught at Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern;
- There would be no need for any full-time pupil to re-apply for their place at either school. Nursery pupils are required to apply for a place in Reception classes.

### **What would be the travelling implications for children?**

- Pupils would continue to be educated at their current school site with existing transport arrangement remaining in place;
- Any travel between schools for pupils would be a decision for the Governing Body and the Headteacher who may wish to bring pupils together for certain events or group activities;

### **What would be the implications for staff?**

- There would be one headteacher for the Federation;
- A senior teacher would need to be appointed at each school to take responsibility for pupils and the school site in the absence of the headteacher;
- There may be opportunities for increased hours and/or responsibilities as a result of the proposal;

### **What would be the financial implications?**

- There would still be two school budgets; however the Governing Body would be able to combine these budgets where appropriate for the benefit of the children;
- Savings resulting from having one headteacher would be retained within the federation to be used to improve the education provision for the children;

### **What would happen to the school sites?**

- Both schools would continue to operate on their current sites in Betws Gwerful Goch and Gwyddelwern;
- The authority would work with schools to identify any capital investment requirements. Any requirements would have to be considered within the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme and the availability of capital funding.

### **Creating a Federation – Points to consider**

The Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern, are being asked to consider the formation of a federation.

The ability for schools to form formal federations in Wales was established under ‘The Federation of Maintained Schools and Miscellaneous Amendments (Wales) Regulations 2010’.

The regulations can be found through using the link below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/638/contents/made>

In discussing whether or not to form a federation governors should consider the implications on a number of areas:-

- The Curriculum and education of children in both schools;
- Standards and performance at both schools;
- Potential leadership and management structures including the role of the headteacher (s) in the federation;
- Potential staffing structures across both schools;
- Financial implications;
- Potential impact on Welsh and bilingual education;
- Ethos of the federation;
- Implications for governors and existing governing bodies;
- Implications on the local communities

The authority is willing to provide support, guidance and assistance to both schools in this process.

Further information on federations and example case studies from England are available on the Denbighshire website using the following link:

[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

At present there are no federations in Denbighshire under the new regulations. However the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, Llandyrnog and Ysgol Gellifor have recently finished consulting on a proposal to form a federation from September 2010.

The authority is happy to facilitate discussions between schools on federations.

### **Why federation and not an area school?**

The authority considered a number of alternatives before suggesting this proposal including different combinations of federations and the creation of area schools.

The key reasons the authority is suggesting a federation over an area school in this instance are set out below:

- The geography and transport links between both schools does not lend itself to the creation of an area school. The distance and quality of roads would result in unreasonable travel times and journey for young children;
- Officers believe that both schools through federation are able to sustain, safeguard and develop further standards of education in the area;
- Both schools provide a Welsh Medium education for children and can not be considered as part of a wider area school solution with Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog. Changes to school organisation must be able to demonstrate equal or improved educational provision. Moving children from a Welsh Medium school to a developing bilingual setting that could not provide an equal Welsh Medium provision for a number of years would be detrimental to their education;

### **Consideration of alternative proposals**

The three main alternatives to this proposal are summarised below.

<b>Alternative Option 1 – Federate Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch, Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog</b>
<p>A federation of these four schools would address the same issues as the two proposed federations.</p> <p>However the authority is of the view that because of the geographical location of all four schools and the different nature of all four schools including linguistic nature it would be difficult for all four schools to operate under a single headteacher and a single governing body.</p> <p>The proposal would represent a risk to sustaining, safeguarding and developing standards in the area.</p>

**Alternative Option 2 – An area school for Betws Gwerful Goch and Gwyddelwern**

An area school for Betws Gwerful Goch and Gwyddelwern would realise many of the same benefits in terms of leadership and management, staff development and curriculum enrichment opportunities.

Pupils would also benefit from increased peer groups and increased opportunities for group working.

This proposal would require capital investment in one of the school sites or a new site which would result in improved facilities.

However the geography and transport links between both schools does not lend itself to the creation of an area school. The distance and quality of roads would result in unreasonable travel times and journey for young children;

**Alternative Option 3 – An area school for Betws Gwerful Goch, Gwyddelwern, Corwen and Carrog**

A larger area school would realise many of the same benefits in terms of leadership and management, staff development and curriculum enrichment opportunities.

Pupils would also benefit from increased peer groups and increased opportunities for group working.

This proposal would require capital investment in one of the school sites or a new site which would result in improved facilities.

However Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern provide a Welsh Medium education for children and can not be considered as part of a wider area school solution with Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog. Changes to school organisation must be able to demonstrate equal or improved educational provision. Moving children from a Welsh Medium school to a developing bilingual setting that could not provide an equal Welsh Medium provision for a number of years would be detrimental to their education;

The proposal would have significant transport implications.

It is the view of the authority that the preferred option will provide a platform to sustain, safeguard and further develop standards of education in the area, would address a number of issues including headteacher recruitment and surplus places and represents a more efficient use of resources.

The preferred option also contributes towards addressing the wider issues in the Edeyrnion area.

## Modernising Education

Review of Primary School Provision in the  
Edeyrnion (Dee Valley West) area

*Provisional Discussion Paper – subject to  
Cabinet approval and amendment*

**Proposal 4** – Recommend formal  
federation to the Governing Bodies of  
Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog

June 2011

## **Proposal**

### **To recommend the creation of a formal federation between Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog**

- This is a discussion paper on the possibility of federating Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog;
- At present the proposal could only be implemented with agreement from the governing bodies and to ensure success it should be progressed by the governors of each school;
- The proposal would result in a Federation of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog;
- Each school would retain their own status and ethos but would formally collaborate for the benefit of the children;
- The proposal would result in a single governing body representing both schools and both communities;
- The proposal would result in a single headteacher for the federation;
- The authority has determined that federating is the preferred option for these two schools and is encouraging governors to commence discussions on this matter. The authority will provide support and advice to the governors in order to progress this proposal;
- The authority believes that discussions should begin between the governing bodies in June & July 2011 and continue in the Autumn Term 2011. This would allow consultation to take place in the Spring Term 2012 and implementation by September 2012.
- The authority believes that it would be in the best interests of all stakeholders for these proposals to be progressed by the governors with support from the local authority. The Welsh Assembly Government is currently in the process of providing local authorities with the power to create federations. Should the Governing Bodies decide not to progress the proposals the authority would then seek to use these new powers to create the federations.
- Following implementation and the creation of the Federation, the authority would support the Federated Governing Body to increase the bilingual nature of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog. Both schools would then provide Welsh Medium education through a dual-stream (Welsh and English taught dependant on parental preference) setting.

## **Background**

The council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework in January 2009 to provide a platform to review existing school provision.

Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the council has agreed that modernising education provision is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century Wales.

We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.

As part of this ongoing commitment the Council have embarked on a series of area reviews looking at primary school provision. In November 2010 the Council began an initial consultation on the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area.

The review included 7 primary schools in the area – Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch, Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Ysgol Carrog, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo.

The initial consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed across the area including surplus capacity, headteacher recruitment and use of mobile accommodation. The initial consultation document also highlighted the objectives that school re-organisation within the Edeyrnion area should deliver:

- An educational system able to sustain and safeguard standards of education within the area and provide an opportunity for improvement;
- Maintain or strengthen Welsh Medium and Bilingual provision;
- Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places;
- Reduce the number of headteachers required;
- Result in the removal of mobile accommodation;
- Keep transport times for children well within Welsh Assembly guidelines;
- Reduce the variation in per pupil funding;
- Assist the authority to attract capital funding to improve school buildings and facilities;

The initial consultation ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011. This proposal is one of four that have been developed by the authority to meet the objectives set out above.

The four proposals are:

1. An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo;
2. Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference;
3. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern\*
4. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog\*

\* These proposals can only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school

Further information on the other proposals can be found on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

### **What are the benefits of the proposal?**

- One headteacher for the federation would have increased leadership and management time. The headteacher would be able to ensure the successful running of both schools and would have more time to monitor standards and support improvements across both schools;
- The Federation would see the development of a leadership and management structure across both schools providing increased opportunities for staff development;
- Wider opportunities for enhancing the education of the pupils, e.g. joint school projects, shared teaching and learning resources;
- Pupils able to meet and work as a part of a larger group on occasions;
- Further opportunities to share resources e.g. service providers, joint staff training, themed days, and transport to different venues and events.
- Enhanced staff expertise in specialist areas, raising standards e.g. Teachers working together to plan, prepare and assess;
- Enhanced opportunities for monitoring teaching across the two schools and for teachers to moderate and level pupil work;
- Enhanced community links with the two communities working more closely together;
- The proposal would provide a collaborative platform for the development of bilingualism in both schools;



### **What would happen to the children at both schools?**

- Pupils would continue to be taught at Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog;
- There would be no need for any full-time pupil to re-apply for their place at either school. Nursery pupils are required to apply for a place in Reception classes.

### **What would be the travelling implications for children?**

- Pupils would continue to be educated at their current school site with existing transport arrangement remaining in place;
- Any travel between schools for pupils would be a decision for the Governing Body and the Headteacher who may wish to bring pupils together for certain events or group activities;

### **What would be the implications for staff?**

- There would be one headteacher for the Federation;
- A senior teacher would need to be appointed at each school to take responsibility for pupils and the school site in the absence of the headteacher;
- There may be opportunities for increased hours and/or responsibilities as a result of the proposal;

### **What would be the financial implications?**

- There would still be two school budgets; however the Governing Body would be able to combine these budgets where appropriate for the benefit of the children;
- Savings resulting from having one headteacher would be retained within the federation to be used to improve the education provision for the children;

### **What would happen to the school sites?**

- Both schools would continue to operate on their current sites in Corwen and Carrog;
- The authority would work with schools to identify any capital investment requirements. Any requirements would have to be considered within the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme and the availability of capital funding.

### **Creating a Federation – Points to consider**

The Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern, are being asked to consider the formation of a federation.

The ability for schools to form formal federations in Wales was established under ‘The Federation of Maintained Schools and Miscellaneous Amendments (Wales) Regulations 2010’.

The regulations can be found through using the link below:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/638/contents/made>

In discussing whether or not to form a federation governors should consider the implications on a number of areas:-

- The Curriculum and education of children in both schools;
- Standards and performance at both schools;
- Potential leadership and management structures including the role of the headteacher (s) in the federation;
- Potential staffing structures across both schools;
- Financial implications;
- Potential impact on Welsh and bilingual education;
- Ethos of the federation;
- Implications for governors and existing governing bodies;
- Implications on the local communities

The authority is willing to provide support, guidance and assistance to both schools in this process.

Further information on federations and example case studies from England are available on the Denbighshire website using the following link:

[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

At present there are no federations in Denbighshire under the new regulations. However the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, Llandyrnog and Ysgol Gellifor have recently finished consulting on a proposal to form a federation from September 2010.

The authority is happy to facilitate discussions between schools on federations.

### **Why federation and not an area school?**

The authority considered a number of alternatives before suggesting this proposal including different combinations of federations and the creation of area schools.

The key reasons the authority is suggesting a federation over an area school in this instance are set out below:

- Officers believe that both schools through federation are able to sustain, safeguard and develop further standards of education in the area;
- An area school would limit parental preference for those wishing to receive English Medium education to a single large school. The authority has a responsibility to ensure it provides an appropriate range of school places.
- An area school would have to be located in Corwen which would leave no educational provision between Corwen and Llangollen following the proposed closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.

### **Consideration of alternative proposals**

The three main alternatives to this proposal are summarised below.

<b>Alternative Option 1 – Federate Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch, Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog</b>
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<p>A federation of these four schools would address the same issues as the two proposed federations.</p>
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<p>However the authority is of the view that because of the geographical location of all four schools and the different nature of all four schools including linguistic nature it would be difficult for all four schools to operate under a single headteacher and a single governing body.</p>
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<p>The proposal would represent a risk to sustaining, safeguarding and developing standards in the area.</p>
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### **Alternative Option 2 – An area school for Corwen and Carrog**

An area school for Corwen and Carrog would realise many of the same benefits in terms of leadership and management, staff development and curriculum enrichment opportunities.

Pupils would also benefit from increased peer groups and increased opportunities for group working.

This proposal would require capital investment in one of the school sites or a new site which would result in improved facilities.

However this option would limit parental preference for those wishing to receive English Medium education to a single large school. The authority has a responsibility to ensure it provides an appropriate range of school places.

The proposal would also result in no education provision between Corwen and Llangollen following the proposed closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.

### **Alternative Option 3 – An area school for Betws Gwerful Goch, Gwyddelwern. Corwen and Carrog**

A larger area school would realise many of the same benefits in terms of leadership and management, staff development and curriculum enrichment opportunities.

Pupils would also benefit from increased peer groups and increased opportunities for group working. This proposal would require capital investment in one of the school sites or a new site which would result in improved facilities.

However Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern provide a Welsh Medium education for children and can not be considered as part of a wider area school solution with Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog. Changes to school organisation must be able to demonstrate equal or improved educational provision. Moving children from a Welsh Medium school to a developing bilingual setting that could not provide an equal Welsh Medium provision for a number of years would be detrimental to their education;

The proposal would have significant transport implications.

It is the view of the authority that the preferred option will provide a platform to sustain, safeguard and further develop standards of education in the area, would address a number of issues including headteacher recruitment and surplus places and represents a more efficient use of resources.

The preferred option also contributes towards addressing the wider issues in the Edeyrnion area.

## Modernising Education

### Proposal 1 – An Area School for Cynwyd & Llandrillo

### Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessments

April 2011

## **Table of Contents**

1. Introduction
2. National Context
3. Local Context
4. Background
5. Ysgol Llandrillo
6. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, Cynwyd
7. Welsh Language Impact Assessment
8. Community Impact Assessment

PROVISIONAL DRAFT

## 1. Introduction

Denbighshire County Council is proposing to close Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo and to establish a new area school serving the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo initially on the existing sites. The area school would move to a single site in Cynwyd\* following completion of extension and refurbishment works.

\*The Cynwyd site would be the current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site following expansion and refurbishment works.

## 2. National Context

The Welsh Assembly Government Circular 021/2009 on School Organisation Proposals requires local authorities to conduct a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment when proposing changes to school organisation.

The Circular stipulates that local authorities need to consider:

- “the impact that proposals may have on local families and the local community, through preparation of a community impact assessment”
- “the effect of the Welsh language through the preparation of a language impact assessment if any school affected is Welsh medium or bilingual”

## 3. Local Context

Denbighshire is committed to modernising education in the county to ensure children and young people receive a first class education.

We recognise the importance of having modern and fit for purpose buildings that meet the needs of modern day education. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience to make sure that children and young people have the best opportunities available to them and that they are able to reach their full potential.

The council adopted the Modernising Education Policy Framework on the 27 January 2009. The policy framework is a collection of 10 policies developed to provide the basis for the modernising education agenda.

### Area Reviews:

The policy framework commits the Council to reviewing primary school provision on an area basis in recognition of the fact that changes to a school will have an impact upon neighbouring schools.

### Community Use of Schools:

One of the policies contained within the framework relates to ‘Community Use of Schools’ and highlights Denbighshire’s commitment to community focused schools. The policy also stipulates that the authority will conduct community impact assessments when considering changes to school organisation.

## Promoting Bilingualism:

The framework also contains a policy on promoting bilingualism. Denbighshire County Council recognises how important bilingualism is in 21st Century Wales. It is the Council's aspiration that all children and young people leave full time education being competent and confident using both Welsh and English languages. This aspiration is in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Iaith Pawb: A National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales'.

The Council is committed to expanding the provision of Welsh medium education throughout the County to meet this aspiration. All schools in the County have been categorised according to the expected language outcome for pupils. There is an expectation that schools will increase and strengthen the bilingual nature of their school over time and will work towards moving up through the categories so that more pupils have the opportunity to be fully bilingual.

## **4. Background**

The council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework in January 2009 to provide a platform to review existing school provision.

Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the council has agreed that modernising education provision is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.

We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.

As part of this ongoing commitment the Council have embarked on a series of area reviews looking at primary school provision. In November 2010 the Council began an initial consultation on the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area.

The review included 7 primary schools in the area – Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch, Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Ysgol Carrog, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo.

The initial consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed across the area including surplus capacity, headteacher recruitment and use of mobile accommodation. The initial consultation document also highlighted the objectives that school re-organisation within the Edeyrnion area should deliver:

- An educational system able to sustain and safeguard standards of education within the area and provide an opportunity for improvement;
- Maintain or strengthen Welsh Medium and Bilingual provision;
- Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places;
- Reduce the number of headteachers required;
- Result in the removal of mobile accommodation;
- Keep transport times for children well within Welsh Assembly guidelines;
- Reduce the variation in per pupil funding;
- Assist the authority to attract capital funding to improve school buildings and facilities;



The initial consultation ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011. This proposal is one of four that have been developed by the authority to meet the objectives set out above.

The four proposals are:

1. An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo;
2. Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference;
3. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern\*
4. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog\*

\* These proposals can only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school

Further information on the other proposals can be found on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

This document is concerned with considering the potential impact of 'Proposal 1 – An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo' so that Cabinet members can make an informed decision on whether to proceed to formal consultation.

Consideration has been given to the potential impact on the Welsh Language and on the local communities resulting from the proposal.

#### Sources of Information

The following sources of information have been used as part of the Impact Assessments:-

- Impact Assessment Questionnaires returned by each headteacher;
- PLASC January 2011 Data;
- Statistical data stored by Denbighshire County Council;
- Census Information;
- Denbighshire's Welsh Education Scheme 2010-13;
- Initial consultation responses;

## 5. Ysgol Llandrillo

### School Details

Name of School:	Ysgol Llandrillo
Location:	Llandrillo
Age Range:	3-11
Language Designation:	Welsh Medium School

Ysgol Llandrillo is a Welsh Medium primary school located in the village of Llandrillo. Llandrillo is approximately 5.2 miles to the south of Corwen in the Dee Valley. The school serves the village of Llandrillo and the surrounding rural area.

### Other schools in the area

School	Location	Age Range	Language	Approximate distance by road
Ysgol Maes Hyfryd	Cynwyd	3-11	Welsh Medium	3 miles
Ysgol Ffridd Y Llyn	Cefnddwysarn	3-11	Welsh Medium	5.4 miles
Ysgol Caer Drewyn	Corwen	3-11	English Medium	5.8 miles

The proposal would have a direct impact on Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and could potentially have an impact on Ysgol Ffridd Y Llyn and Ysgol Caer Drewyn.

### Number of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* returns)		
	January 2009	January 2010	January 2011
<b>Ysgol Llandrillo</b>	41	39	29

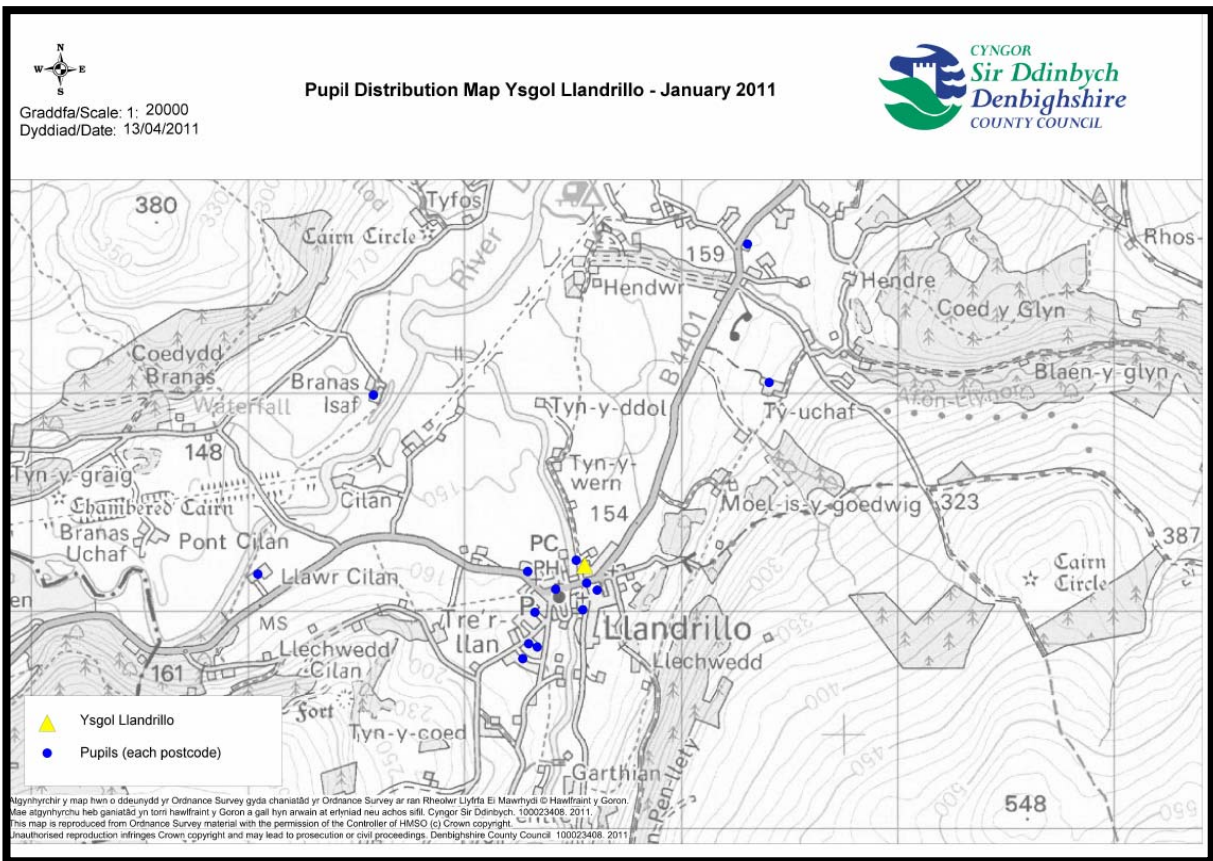
\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

### Nearest Suitable School

Denbighshire County Council does not use catchment areas when determining school admissions. Schools are simply referred to as the 'nearest suitable school' which takes into account language and faith based preferences. However parental preference means pupils can attend any school so long as there are places available.

	Number of pupils	Percentage of School Population
<b>Attending their nearest suitable school</b>	28	96.5%
<b>Not attending their nearest suitable school</b>	1	3.5%

- Information taken from PLASC Return January 2011



\* Map includes Full-time & Part-time pupils

Fluency of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* 2011 return)		
	Fluent in Welsh	Can speak Welsh but not fluent	Cannot speak Welsh
<b>Ysgol Llandrillo</b>	25 (86.2%)	4 (13.8%)	0

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census  
 - % figures are percentage of total full-time pupils at the school

Home language of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* 2011 return)		
	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not Applicable (cannot speak Welsh)
<b>Ysgol Llandrillo</b>	8 (27.6%)	21 (72.4%)	0

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census  
 - % figures are percentage of total full-time pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils (Impact Assessment Questionnaire)		
	From Welsh speaking homes	From English speaking homes	From Bilingual* homes
<b>Ysgol Llandrillo</b>	7 (24.1%)	13 (44.8%)	9 (31.0%)

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire  
 \* In this instance a bilingual home refers to a home where 1 parent speaks Welsh and 1 parent speaks English

## Governing Body Details

Total Number of Governors	10
Total Number of Welsh Speaking Governors	10
Language of Governing Body Meetings:	Welsh
Minutes of Governing Body Meetings:	In Welsh

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire

## Additional School Provision

Breakfast Club:	Provided
After School Club:	3 nights until 4:30pm
Holiday Club:	No provision

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire

## Childcare / Pre-School Provision

According to the questionnaire returned by the headteacher there is no childcare or pre-school provision in the village.

## Parent & Teacher Association (PTA)

The Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo Parent and Teacher Association meet regularly every half term. These meetings are held bilingually.

## Community Facilities

The following community facilities were listed by the headteacher when completing the Impact Assessment questionnaire:-

- Community Hall;
- Shop;
- Pub;
- Restaurant;
- Community Room (located in the school – available out of school hours)

## Community Activities – School Building

The following community activities taking place within the school building were listed by the headteacher when completing the Impact Assessment questionnaire:-

<b>Activity (e.g. Evening Lessons, Welsh Lessons, Local Interest Clubs, Youth Club etc)</b>	<b>Frequency (e.g. Weekly, Monthly, Annually)</b>	<b>Language (Welsh / English / Bilingual)</b>
Welsh Lessons	Weekly	Welsh / Bilingual
Trillo Club (Church Club)	Weekly	Bilingual

### Community Activities – Other

The following other community activities were listed by the headteacher when completing the Impact Assessment questionnaire:-

<b>Activity (e.g. Evening Lessons, Welsh Lessons, Local Interest Clubs, Youth Club etc)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Frequency (e.g. Weekly, Monthly, Annually)</b>	<b>Language (Welsh / English / Bilingual)</b>
Merched y Wawr	Community Hall	Monthly	Welsh
Camen Club	Community Hall	-	Welsh
Ceidiog Club	Community Hall / School	2 times a month	Welsh

PROVISIONAL DRAFT

## 6. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, Cynwyd

### School Details

Name of School:	Ysgol Maes Hyfryd
Location:	Cynwyd
Age Range:	3-11
Language Designation:	Welsh Medium School

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is a Welsh Medium primary school located in the village of Cynwyd. Cynwyd is approximately 2.3 miles to the south of Corwen in the Dee Valley. The school serves the village of Cynwyd and the surrounding rural area and also provides a Welsh Medium option for children living in the Corwen area.

### Other schools in the area

School	Location	Age Range	Language	Approximate distance by road
Ysgol Caer Drewyn	Corwen	3-11	English Medium	2.8 miles
Ysgol Llandrillo	Llandrillo	3-11	Welsh Medium	3 miles
Ysgol Carrog	Carrog	3-11	English Medium	4.2 miles
Ysgol Bro Elwern	Gwyddelwern	3-11	Welsh Medium	4.3 miles

The proposal would have a direct impact on Ysgol Llandrillo and could potentially have an impact on Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Ysgol Carrog and Ysgol Bro Elwern.

### Number of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* returns)		
	January 2009	January 2010	January 2011
<b>Ysgol Maes Hyfryd</b>	61	61	70

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

### Nearest Suitable School

Denbighshire County Council does not use catchment areas when determining school admissions. Schools are simply referred to as the 'nearest suitable school' which takes into account language and faith based preferences. However parental preference means pupils can attend any school so long as there are places available.

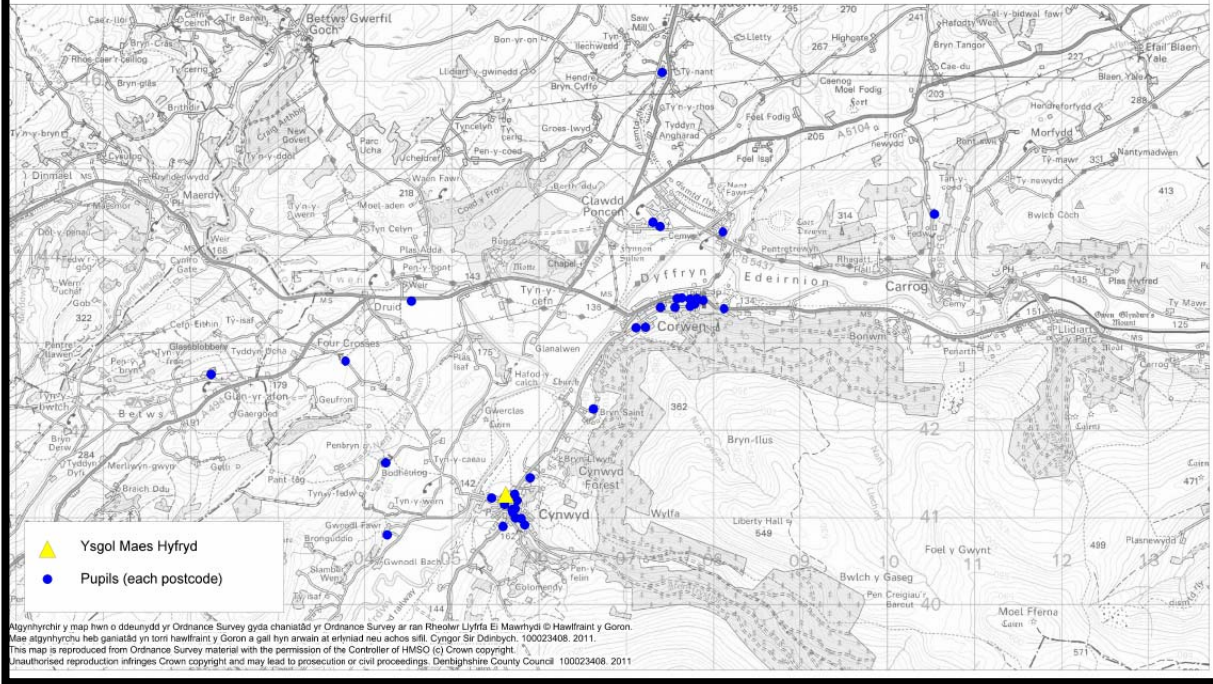
	Number of pupils	Percentage of School Population
<b>Attending their nearest suitable school</b>	64	91.4%
<b>Not attending their nearest suitable school</b>	6	8.6%

- Information taken from PLASC Return January 2011



Graddfa/Scale: 1: 50000  
Dyddiad/Date: 13/04/2011

Pupil Distribution Map Ysgol Maes Hyfryd - January 2011



\* Map includes Full-time & Part-time pupils

Fluency of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* 2011 return)		
	Fluent in Welsh	Can speak Welsh but not fluent	Cannot speak Welsh
<b>Ysgol Maes Hyfryd</b>	55 (78.6%)	14 (20.0%)	1 (1.4%)

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census  
- % figures are percentage of total full-time pupils at the school

Home language of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* 2011 return)		
	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not Applicable (cannot speak Welsh)
<b>Ysgol Maes Hyfryd</b>	28 (40.0%)	41 (58.6%)	1 (1.4%)

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census  
- % figures are percentage of total full-time pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils (Impact Assessment Questionnaire)		
	From Welsh speaking homes	From English speaking homes	From Bilingual* homes
<b>Ysgol Maes Hyfryd</b>	25 (35.7%)	18 (25.7%)	27 (38.6%)

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire  
\* In this instance a bilingual home refers to a home where 1 parent speaks Welsh and 1 parent speaks English

### Governing Body Details

Total Number of Governors	10
Total Number of Welsh Speaking Governors	10
Language of Governing Body Meetings:	Welsh
Minutes of Governing Body Meetings:	In Welsh

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire

### Additional School Provision

Breakfast Club:	No provision
After School Club:	No provision
Holiday Club:	No provision

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire

### Childcare / Pre-School Provision

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Language</b>
Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin	Welsh provision
Private Childminders x 2	Welsh provision

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire

### Parent & Teacher Association (PTA)

The Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Parent and Teacher Association meet regularly on a monthly basis with additional meetings held when necessary. These meetings are held bilingually.

### Community Facilities

The following community facilities were listed by the headteacher when completing the Impact Assessment questionnaire:-

- Community Hall (attached to the school – community use after school hours);
- Community Room – Ysgol Isaf;
- Shop / Post Office;
- Hairdressers;
- 2 Pubs;
- Local factory producing trailers;
- Printhouse;
- Transport company;
- Garage;



## Community Activities – School Building

The following community activities taking place within the school building were listed by the headteacher when completing the Impact Assessment questionnaire:-

<b>Activity (e.g. Evening Lessons, Welsh Lessons, Local Interest Clubs, Youth Club etc)</b>	<b>Frequency (e.g. Weekly, Monthly, Annually)</b>	<b>Language (Welsh / English / Bilingual)</b>
None as community hall is attached to the school. Occasionally when there is a show or a concert the community will use part of the school by opening the removable wall between the hall and the classroom.		

## Community Activities – Other

The following other community activities were listed by the headteacher when completing the Impact Assessment questionnaire:-

<b>Activity (e.g. Evening Lessons, Welsh Lessons, Local Interest Clubs, Youth Club etc)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Frequency (e.g. Weekly, Monthly, Annually)</b>	<b>Language (Welsh / English / Bilingual)</b>
Merched y wawr	Community Hall / School	Monthly	Welsh
Woman's Institute	Community Hall / School	Monthly	Bilingual
Community Council	Community Hall / School	Monthly	Welsh
Football League Summer & Winter	Community Hall / School	When needed	Bilingual
Parent & Teacher Association	Community Hall / School	When needed	Bilingual
Bowling Club	Community Hall / School	When needed	Bilingual
Young Farmers	Community Hall / School	Occasionally	Welsh
Cultural Society	Community Hall / School	Monthly – In Winter	Welsh
Gardening Committee	Community Hall / School	Occasionally	Bilingual
Gardening Show	Community Hall / School	Annual	Bilingual
Choir Practise	Community Hall / School	Weekly – In Winter	English

## 7. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

This Impact Assessment is to consider the potential impact on the Welsh language of the proposal to close Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and to establish an area school serving the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo initially on the existing school sites before moving to a single site following completion of expansion and refurbishment works.

Due to the nature of the proposal any potential impact needs to be considered in two stages:-

- a) As the new area school operates on a split-site
- b) Once the area school moves to a single site in Cynwyd

In order to assess the potential impact on the Welsh Language consideration has been given to the following areas:-

- Language of the school;
- Access to Welsh Medium education;
- Education Provision / Educational standards;
- Access to non-statutory provision;
- Access to pre / after school activities;
- Use of Welsh within the community;

### Census Data

The following data is taken from the 2001 Census and provides information on the proportion of Welsh speakers within the Cynwyd and Llandrillo communities.

	<b>Number of people aged 3+</b>	<b>Number of Welsh Speakers</b>	<b>Proportion of Welsh Speakers</b>
<b>Cynwyd</b>	514	348	67.7%
<b>Llandrillo</b>	575	353	61.4%

The Census data demonstrates that both communities have a strong proportion of Welsh speakers well above the Denbighshire (26.1%) and Wales (21%) average. At the time of the 2001 census the proportion of Welsh speakers in Cynwyd was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Denbighshire and the proportion of Welsh speakers in Llandrillo was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in Denbighshire.

As a result of the high proportion of Welsh speakers in both communities it is suggested that the impact of any potential change is given careful consideration.

Impact Criteria	Stage	Comments	Impact (positive, neutral or negative)	Measures to reduce negative impact	Residual Impact
Language of the school	a) Split Site	Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd are Welsh Medium schools.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
	b) Single Site	The proposed new area school would be a Welsh Medium school.			
Access to Welsh Medium education	a) Split Site	All pupils currently attending Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd would transfer to the new area school and continue to be educated on their current school site.  The new area school would have an age range of 3-11 years and would initially provide 149 full-time places with an admission number of 21. Following the move to a single site the capacity of the school would reduce to 105 full-time pupil places with an admission number of 15 pupils each year. Based on current pupils and pupil projections this would meet local demand for Welsh medium provision.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
	b) Single Site	All pupils at the area school would be educated on a single site in Cynwyd.  Transport for future pupils to attend the school would be in accordance with Denbighshire's Transport policy which states that free transport is provided for pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school. As the village of Llandrillo is 3 miles away from Cynwyd, the majority of children residing in Llandrillo and its outlying areas would qualify for free transport.			
Education Provision / Educational standards  Education	a) Split Site	Officers from Denbighshire County Council state that although standards at both schools are good at present there are long term risk to sustaining and safeguarding these standards.  An area school initially on split sites provides an opportunity to improve the education provision through a headteacher with more leadership and management time, access to a greater range of facilities and access to a larger team of staff.	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A

Provision / Educational standards	b) Single Site	Moving the school to a single site provides would provide access to improved facilities and would provide an opportunity to improve the education provision through interaction with a larger team of staff and through larger peer groups providing increased opportunities for group learning and developing relationships with peers.	<b>POSITIVE</b>	N/A	N/A
Non-statutory provision	a) Split Site	It is assumed that nursery provision would remain on both sites however this would be a decision for the new Governing Body of the area school.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A
	b) Single Site	If nursery provision were only to be provided in Cynwyd there would be benefits from access to an increased range of suitable facilities, a larger compliment of staff and be part of larger peer groups.  However this could impact on the accessibility of nursery provision for children living in Llandrillo as free transport is not provided for nursery pupils.	<b>NEGATIVE</b>	The local authority and the Governing Body of the new area school could consider providing some early years provision in Llandrillo – potentially utilising an existing community facility.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
Pre / After school activities	a) Split Site	It is assumed that pre / after school activities would remain as they are currently. There is no pre / after school provision at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and limited after school provision at Ysgol Llandrillo.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	The Governing Body of the new area school could consider providing an increased range of provision / activities.	<b>POSITIVE</b>
	b) Single Site	Pupils would have access to an increase range of suitable facilities, a larger compliment of staff and be part of larger peer groups.  A larger school provides opportunities for a greater scope of activities.  The ability of parents to collect children from these activities in Cynwyd represents a potential negative impact. However the ability of parents to collect children from the existing schools is an unknown factor and is a challenge for the majority of schools/parents in Denbighshire.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	The Governing Body of the new area school could consider ways of ensuring after school provision is as accessible as possible for all pupils.	<b>POSITIVE</b>

Use of Welsh within the communities	a) Split Site b) Single Site	<p>Both communities have a strong proportion of Welsh speakers.</p> <p>A new Welsh area school would continue to serve both communities.</p> <p>A high proportion of pupils attending Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd are non-Welsh speaking homes and do not speak Welsh at home.</p> <p>The new area school have a similar percentage of pupils from non-Welsh speaking homes and could through improved education provision and extra curricular activities increase the use of Welsh outside the school.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	<p>The new area school could play an important role in the use of Welsh in both communities.</p> <p>The Governing Body of the new school could consider ways of promoting the social use of Welsh through out-of-school activities.</p>	<b>POSITIVE</b>
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Overview – Potential initial impact on Welsh Language

		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact*	a) Split site	1	5	0
	b) Single Site	1	4	1

\* This does not take into account any measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

Overview – Potential residual impact on Welsh Language

		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact*	a) Split site	3	3	0
	b) Single Site	3	3	0

\* This takes into account measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

## Summary of Potential Impact on the Welsh Language

It should be noted that attempting to gauge the potential impact from school organisation on the Welsh Language is a difficult undertaking.

The main positive emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on the educational provision. The proposal represents an opportunity to improve education initially on a split site and eventually on a single site following extension and refurbishment works. Providing improved educational facilities and provision represents an opportunity to strengthen Welsh education in the area and as a result strengthen the Welsh Language.

The main concern is the potential negative impact on access to non-statutory nursery provision and access to pre and after school provision.

Should nursery provision be provided solely in Cynwyd following the move to a single site, this could impact on accessibility for parents and families who live in Llandrillo. However it should be noted that there are many schools in Denbighshire that serve more than one community and this situation would not be unique. There are potential measures to reduce this impact that could be considered by the Governing Body of the new area school.

Accessibility of pre and after school provision is also an area for concern. Moving to a single site has the potential to result in an increased range of provision; however they may not be accessible by all parents and families. Once again this is an issue that a number of schools in Denbighshire already face and there are potential measures to reduce this impact that could be considered by the Governing Body of the new area school.

## Conclusion

Overall the proposal has the potential to strengthen the Welsh Language in the area through strengthening the Welsh Medium provision for children.

However it should be noted that there are potential risks that will need to be addressed by both the local authority and the Governing Body of the new area school to ensure that the Welsh language continues to thrive in these two communities.

## 8. Community Impact Assessment

This Impact Assessment is to consider the potential impact on families and the local community of the proposal to close Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and to establish an area school serving the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo initially on the existing school sites before moving to a single site following completion of expansion and refurbishment works.

Due to the nature of the proposal any potential impact needs to be considered in two stages:-

- a) As the new area school operates on a split-site
- b) Once the area school moves to a single site in Cynwyd

In order to assess the potential impact on families and the local community consideration has been given to the following areas:-

- School Designation;
- School links to the local community;
- Impact on neighbouring schools;
- Impact on parents and families;
- Travelling Implications for pupils/parents;
- Impact on community activities;
- Impact on community facilities;
- Impact on community demographics;

PROVISIONAL DRAFT

Impact Criteria	Stage	Comments	Impact (positive, neutral or negative)	Measures to reduce negative impact	Residual Impact
School Designation	a) Split Site	The new area school would be a community primary school with an age range of 3-11 providing Welsh Medium education.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
	b) Single Site				
School links to the community	a) Split Site	The new area school would be serving both communities and would initially continue to be located in both communities.	NEUTRAL	The Governing Body of the new area school would be responsible for maintaining strong links with both communities. There is potential to strengthen community links with the school and between both communities.	POSITIVE
	b) Single Site	The new area school would be serving both communities and be expected to retain strong links with both communities.  There is potential for the move to a single site to be seen as a negative from the Llandrillo community.	NEUTRAL		POSITIVE
Impact on neighbouring schools	a) Split Site	The new area school would be a replacement school for Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. Pupils attending both schools would transfer to the new school subject to parental preference. The proposal is not expected to have a major impact on neighbouring schools.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
	b) Single Site				
Impact on pupils	a) Split Site	The proposal could have a positive impact on pupils through an improved education provision, access to improved facilities and a greater range of activities.	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A
	b) Single Site	Pupils would benefit from interacting with a larger group of children and larger peer groups.			
Impact on parents and families	a) Split Site	There should be no major impact on parents and families due to the area school utilising the existing school sites.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A



		<p>There may be some practical implications from having a new school uniform etc that may have financial implications for parents/families. In most instances new schools have undertaken measures to negate this impact on parents.</p> <p>Parents would be part of a wider school community that could lead to increased interaction between parents of the existing two schools.</p>			
	b) Single Site	<p>There is potential for a greater impact on parents and families of existing Ysgol Llandrillo pupils from moving the school to a single site in Cynwyd. The transport implications are considered below.</p> <p>The loss of the school site in Llandrillo as an informal social environment for parents to interact would have an impact on parents.</p> <p>However there could be potential benefits to parents and families from potentially accessing a greater range of services and being part of a wider school community.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	<p>The retention of some non-statutory provision or after school care in Llandrillo would provide an informal social environment for parents.</p> <p>Activities at the community hall could also provide an informal social environment for parents.</p>	<b>POSITIVE</b>
Travelling implications for pupils/parents	a) Split Site	There should be no major travelling implications for pupils and parents due to the area school utilising the existing school sites.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A
	b) Single Site	<p>Moving to a single site in Cynwyd would result in pupils from the Llandrillo area having to travel to school. However some pupils are already travelling to attend Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. Transport would be provided to all pupils attending the Llandrillo site in accordance with Denbighshire's Transport Policy.</p> <p>Parents from Llandrillo would also need to travel to collect their children from any additional after-school activities. It is recognised that a number of parents may already have to travel to collect their children from these activities.</p>	<b>NEGATIVE</b>	<p>Transport would be provided for future pupils in accordance with Denbighshire's Transport Policy.</p> <p>The Governing Body of the new area school could consider ways of ensuring after school provision is as accessible as possible for all pupils.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
Impact on community activities	a) Split Site	There should be no initial impact on community activities due to the area school utilising the existing school sites.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A

	b) Single Site	The community activities currently taking place at Ysgol Llandrillo would need to find a new venue in order to continue unless the school site was retained for the community.	<b>NEGATIVE</b>	The community activities could relocate to the community hall in Llandrillo or be retained at the school site should it be taken over by the community.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
Impact on community facilities	a) Split Site	There should be no initial impact on community facilities due to the area school utilising the existing school sites.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A
	b) Single Site	The Ysgol Llandrillo school site would be declared surplus. The Council has a policy where it would consider transferring a surplus school site or part of a school site to a community group where they can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site. This could have positive implications for the local community.  It should be noted that a separate community hall exists in Llandrillo. Use of the community hall instead of the school building could also strengthen the hall as a community facility.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A
Impact on community demographics	a) Split Site	Feedback from the initial consultation has highlighted a fear by many that the loss of the school from the community would result in fewer families moving to the area and an ageing demographic.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A
	b) Single Site	It should be noted that demographics are changing and that in Denbighshire the percentage of the population over 65 is projected to increase dramatically over the coming years.  While access to local educational facilities is a key factor for parents / young families, other key considerations include affordable housing and the availability of work.			

## Overview – Potential initial impact on families and the local community

		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact*	a) Split site	1	8	0
	b) Single Site	1	6	2

\* This does not take into account any measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

## Overview – Potential residual impact families and the local community

		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact*	a) Split site	2	7	0
	b) Single Site	3	6	0

\* This takes into account measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

## Summary of Potential Impact on families and the local community

It should be noted that attempting to gauge the potential impact from school organisation on families and the local community is a difficult undertaking.

The main positive emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on pupils through an improved education provision with improved facilities. The initial impact on the communities from having an area school is minimal as the area school would be based on the existing school sites in the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo.

The potential impact on families and the local community comes from moving to a single site in Cynwyd. This has the potential to have a negative impact on families in Llandrillo and on the Llandrillo community. While there are measures that could be undertaken to reduce the potential negative impact, it is likely that the Llandrillo community would not see them as sufficient to make up for the loss of a school/school site.

The loss of the Llandrillo school site would result in the removal of an informal meeting place for parents within the community; however there is a well utilised community hall in Llandrillo that could be used to host the activities that currently take place at the school and provides another informal meeting place for parents and the wider community.

The role of the new area school in serving both communities will have a vital role in determining the extent of any negative community impact.

## Conclusion

Initially the proposal would have minimal impact on families and the local communities when utilising the existing school sites based in both communities.

The proposal would impact positively on parents and children through an improved educational provision for the children. However; the move to a single site based in Cynwyd has the potential to impact negatively on parents from Llandrillo and the Llandrillo community.

However it should be noted that the potential negative impacts from moving to a single site could be reduced by the local authority and the Governing Body of the new area school by the adoption of a number of possible measures to ensure both communities continue to thrive.

The existence of a separate community hall in Llandrillo that already hosts a number of activities and could host activities that currently take place at the school provides a focal point for the community that would continue after the school has been closed. The potential increase in activity at the hall following the closure of the school could improve the long term viability of this community facility.

The local authority is committed to working with local communities and has an external funding advisory service to assist local communities in accessing funding for community projects.

PROVISIONAL DRAFT

## Modernising Education

Proposal 2 – Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference

Community and Welsh Language  
Impact Assessments

April 2011

## **Table of Contents**

1. Introduction
2. National Context
3. Local Context
4. Background
5. Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
6. Welsh Language Impact Assessment
7. Community Impact Assessment

PROVISIONAL DRAFT

## **1. Introduction**

Denbighshire County Council is proposing to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.

## **2. National Context**

The Welsh Assembly Government Circular 021/2009 on School Organisation Proposals requires local authorities to conduct a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment when proposing changes to school organisation.

The Circular stipulates that local authorities need to consider:

- “the impact that proposals may have on local families and the local community, through preparation of a community impact assessment”
- “the effect of the Welsh language through the preparation of a language impact assessment if any school affected is Welsh medium or bilingual”

## **3. Local Context**

Denbighshire is committed to modernising education in the county to ensure children and young people receive a first class education.

We recognise the importance of having modern and fit for purpose buildings that meet the needs of modern day education. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience to make sure that children and young people have the best opportunities available to them and that they are able to reach their full potential.

The council adopted the Modernising Education Policy Framework on the 27 January 2009. The policy framework is a collection of 10 policies developed to provide the basis for the modernising education agenda.

### Area Reviews:

The policy framework commits the Council to reviewing primary school provision on an area basis in recognition of the fact that changes to a school will have an impact upon neighboring schools.

### Community Use of Schools:

One of the policies contained within the framework relates to ‘Community Use of Schools’ and highlights Denbighshire’s commitment to community focused schools. The policy also stipulates that the authority will conduct community impact assessments when considering changes to school organisation.

## Promoting Bilingualism:

The framework also contains a policy on promoting bilingualism. Denbighshire County Council recognises how important bilingualism is in 21st Century Wales. It is the Council's aspiration that all children and young people leave full time education being competent and confident using both Welsh and English languages. This aspiration is in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Iaith Pawb: A National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales'.

The Council is committed to expanding the provision of Welsh medium education throughout the County to meet this aspiration. All schools in the County have been categorised according to the expected language outcome for pupils. There is an expectation that schools will increase and strengthen the bilingual nature of their school over time and will work towards moving up through the categories so that more pupils have the opportunity to be fully bilingual.

## **4. Background**

The council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework in January 2009 to provide a platform to review existing school provision.

Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the council has agreed that modernising education provision is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.

We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.

As part of this ongoing commitment the Council have embarked on a series of area reviews looking at primary school provision. In November 2010 the Council began an initial consultation on the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area.

The review included 7 primary schools in the area – Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch, Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Ysgol Carrog, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo.

The initial consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed across the area including surplus capacity, headteacher recruitment and use of mobile accommodation. The initial consultation document also highlighted the objectives that school re-organisation within the Edeyrnion area should deliver:

- An educational system able to sustain and safeguard standards of education within the area and provide an opportunity for improvement;
- Maintain or strengthen Welsh Medium and Bilingual provision;
- Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places;
- Reduce the number of headteachers required;
- Result in the removal of mobile accommodation;
- Keep transport times for children well within Welsh Assembly guidelines;
- Reduce the variation in per pupil funding;
- Assist the authority to attract capital funding to improve school buildings and facilities;



The initial consultation ended on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011. This proposal is one of four that have been developed by the authority to meet the objectives set out above.

The four proposals are:

1. An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo;
2. Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference;
3. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern\*
4. Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog\*

\* These proposals can only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school

Further information on the other proposals can be found on the Denbighshire website – [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)

This document is concerned with considering the potential impact of 'Proposal 2 – Closing Ysgol glyndyfrdwy and transferring pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference' so that Cabinet members can make an informed decision on whether to proceed to formal consultation.

Consideration has been given to the potential impact on the Welsh Language and on the local communities resulting from the proposal.

### Sources of Information

The following sources of information have been used as part of the Impact Assessments:-

- Impact Assessment Questionnaires returned by each headteacher;
- PLASC January 2011 Data;
- Statistical data stored by Denbighshire County Council;
- Census Information;
- Denbighshire's Welsh Education Scheme 2010-13;
- Initial consultation responses;

## 5. Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

### School Details

Name of School:	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
Location:	Glyndyfrdwy
Age Range:	3-11
Language Designation:	Welsh Medium School

Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is a Welsh Medium primary school located in the village of Glyndyfrdwy. Glyndyfrdwy is approximately 4.5 miles from Corwen and approximately 5.5 miles from Llangollen in the Dee Valley. The school predominately serves the village of Glyndyfrdwy.

### Other schools in the area

School	Location	Age Range	Language	Approximate distance by road
Ysgol Carrog	Carrog	3-11	English Medium	3 miles
Ysgol Y Gwernant	Llangollen	3-11	Welsh Medium	5.6 miles
Ysgol Caer Drewyn	Corwen	3-11	English Medium	6.1 miles

The proposal would have a direct impact on Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen and could potentially have an impact on Ysgol Carrog and Ysgol Caer Drewyn.

### Number of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* returns)		
	January 2009	January 2010	January 2011
<b>Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy</b>	19	18	16

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

### Nearest Suitable School

Denbighshire County Council does not use catchment areas when determining school admissions. Schools are simply referred to as the 'nearest suitable school' which takes into account language and faith based preferences. However parental preference means pupils can attend any school so long as there are places available.

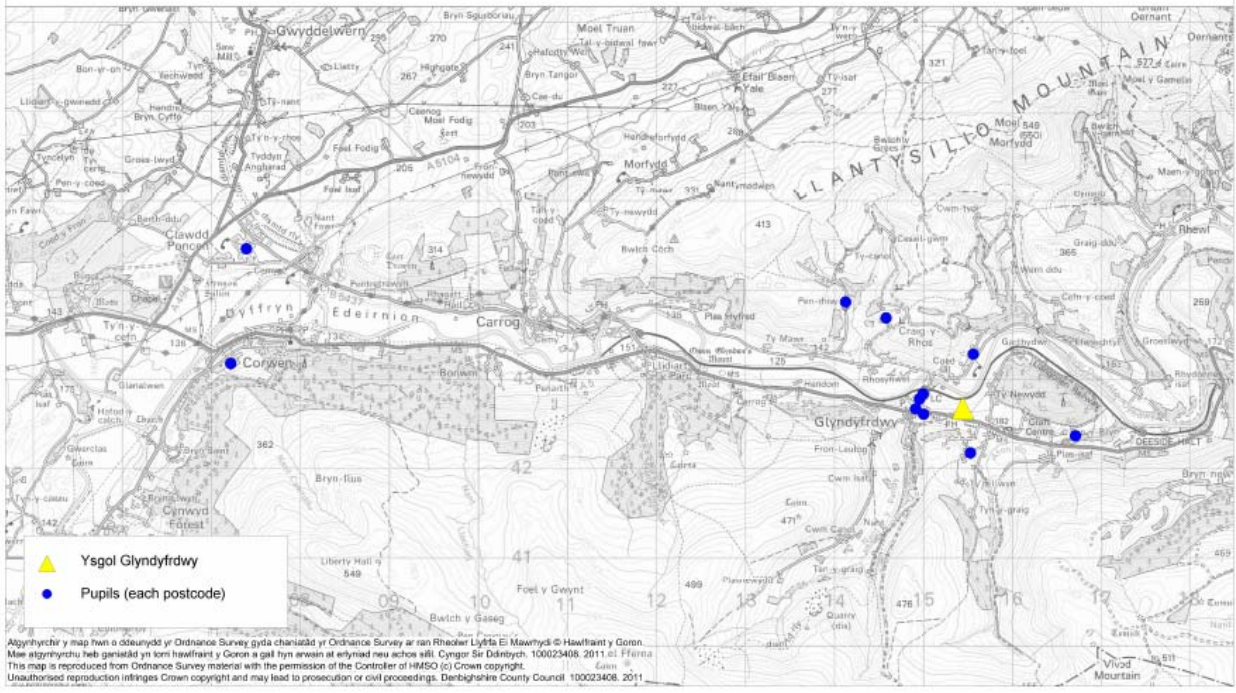
	Number of pupils	Percentage of School Population
<b>Attending their nearest suitable school</b>	15	93.75%
<b>Not attending their nearest suitable school</b>	1	6.25%

- Information taken from PLASC Return January 2011



Graddfa/Scale: 1: 50000  
 Dyddiad/Date: 13/04/2011

**Pupil Distribution Map Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy - January 2011**



\* Map includes Full-time & Part-time pupils

Fluency of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* 2011 return)		
	Fluent in Welsh	Can speak Welsh but not fluent	Cannot speak Welsh
<b>Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy</b>	5 (31.3%)	11 (68.8%)	0

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census  
 - % figures are percentage of total full-time pupils at the school

Home language of pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* 2011 return)		
	Speaks Welsh at home	Does not speak Welsh at home	Not Applicable (cannot speak Welsh)
<b>Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy</b>	11 (68.8%)	5 (31.3%)	0

\* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census  
 - % figures are percentage of total full-time pupils at the school

	Full-time pupils (Impact Assessment Questionnaire)		
	From Welsh speaking homes	From English speaking homes	From Bilingual* homes
<b>Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy</b>	6 (37.5%)	4 (25.0%)	6 (37.5%)

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire  
 \* In this instance a bilingual home refers to a home where 1 parent speaks Welsh and 1 parent speaks English

### Governing Body Details

Total Number of Governors	10
Total Number of Welsh Speaking Governors	4
Language of Governing Body Meetings:	Bilingual
Minutes of Governing Body Meetings:	English

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire

### Additional School Provision

Breakfast Club:	No provision
After School Club:	No provision
Holiday Club:	No provision

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire

### Childcare / Pre-School Provision

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Language</b>
Private Childminder	English Provision

- This information was provided by the headteacher while completing the impact assessment questionnaire

### Parent & Teacher Association (PTA)

The Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy Parent and Teacher Association meet every term. These meetings are held bilingually.

### Community Facilities

The following community facilities were listed by the headteacher when completing the Impact Assessment questionnaire:-

- Village Hall;
- Village Shop;
- 2 Pubs;
- Butchers Shop;
- Post Office;
- Church Services;
- Train Station;
- Publishing Business;
- Workshop/ Shop;
- Primary School;

### Community Activities – School Building

The following community activities taking place within the school building were listed by the headteacher when completing the Impact Assessment questionnaire:-

<b>Activity (e.g. Evening Lessons, Welsh Lessons, Local Interest Clubs, Youth Club etc)</b>	<b>Frequency (e.g. Weekly, Monthly, Annually)</b>	<b>Language (Welsh / English / Bilingual)</b>
Hog Roast	Annual	Bilingual
Cylch Ti a fi	Twice a week	Welsh
Welsh Lessons by Coleg Llysfasi	Weekly	Welsh
Gratitude Service (Diolchgarwch)	Annual	Welsh
St David's Day Service	Every other year	Welsh
Tempest Photo Shop (open to the public)	Annual	Bilingual
Parents Society Meetings	Termly	Bilingual
Work day for the community	Annual	Bilingual
Santa's Visit	Annual	Welsh

### Community Activities – Other

The following other community activities were listed by the headteacher when completing the Impact Assessment questionnaire:-

<b>Activity (e.g. Evening Lessons, Welsh Lessons, Local Interest Clubs, Youth Club etc)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Frequency (e.g. Weekly, Monthly, Annually)</b>	<b>Language (Welsh / English / Bilingual)</b>
Dathlu Dydd Gwyl Dewi	Village Hall	Annual	Welsh
Mother's Day Service	Sant Thomas Church	Annual	Bilingual
Sunday School	Sant Thomas Church	Monthly	Bilingual
"Race Night"	Village Hall	Annual	English
Remembrance Sunday	Cofeb Y Pentre	Annual	Bilingual
Carols By Candlelight	Village Hall	Annual	Bilingual
Car Boot Sale	Village Hall	Termly	Bilingual
Election / Count	Village Hall	When needed	Bilingual

Gwledd Priodasau	Village Hall	When needed	Bilingual
Funeral Tea	Village Hall	When needed	Bilingual
Bingo Night	Village Hall	Monthly	Bilingual
Women's Institute	Village Hall	Monthly	Bilingual
Good Companions	Sant Thomas Church House	Monthly	English
Snooker Club	Church House	Weekly	Bilingual
Youth Club	Travelling Bus	Weekly	Bilingual
Darts Club	Village Hall	Weekly	Bilingual
Carnival	Playing Field & Village Hall	Annual	Bilingual
Quiz Night Noson Quiz	Village Hall	Termly	English
Christmas Service / Nativity Gwasanaeth Nadolig / Nativity	The Church	Annual	Bilingual

## 6. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

This Impact Assessment is to consider the potential impact on the Welsh language from the proposal to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant subject to parental preference.

In order to assess the potential impact on the Welsh Language consideration has been given to the following areas:-

- Language of the school;
- Access to Welsh Medium education;
- Education Provision / Educational standards;
- Access to non-statutory provision;
- Access to pre / after school activities;
- Use of Welsh within the community;

### Census Data

The following data is taken from the 2001 Census and provides information on the proportion of Welsh speakers within the Corwen, Llantysilio and Llangollen areas.

	<b>Number of people aged 3+</b>	<b>Number of Welsh Speakers</b>	<b>Proportion of Welsh Speakers</b>
<b>Corwen</b>	2,327	1,197	51.4%
<b>Llantysilio</b>	458	117	25.5%
<b>Llangollen</b>	3,346	641	19.2%

Glyndyfrdwy is part of the Corwen community which also includes the town of Corwen and the village of Carrog. As a result it is difficult to compare the Glyndyfrdwy community with the Llangollen community in terms of number of and proportion of Welsh speakers.

Impact Criteria	Comments	Impact (positive, neutral or negative)	Measures to reduce negative impact	Residual Impact
Language of the school	<p>Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is a Welsh Medium school.</p> <p>The proposal would see pupils transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen which is also a Welsh Medium School.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A
Access to Welsh Medium education	<p>All pupils on roll at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy are expected to transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant in Llangollen subject to parental preference.</p> <p>Free transport will be provided in accordance with Denbighshire's Transport Policy.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Gwernant is currently undergoing extension and refurbishment works that once completed will provide sufficient capacity to accommodate current and projected future pupils from Glyndyfrdwy.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A
Education Provision / Educational standards	<p>Pupils would benefit from an increased range of suitable facilities that are currently being refurbished at Ysgol Y Gwernant.</p> <p>Pupils would have access to a larger group of teaching staff providing a range of expertise.</p> <p>Pupils will be part of larger peer groups and have more opportunities to learn alongside their peers in groups and participate in group activities</p>	<b>POSITIVE</b>	N/A	N/A
Non-statutory provision	<p>Pupils would have access to an increased range of suitable facilities, a larger compliment of staff and be part of larger peer groups.</p> <p>However this could impact on the accessibility of nursery provision for children living in Glyndyfrdwy as free transport is not provided for nursery pupils.</p>	<b>NEGATIVE</b>	The local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant could consider providing some early years provision in Llandrillo – potentially utilising an existing community facility.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>



Pre / After school activities	<p>Pupils would have access to an increase range of suitable facilities, a larger compliment of staff and be part of larger peer groups.</p> <p>A larger school provides opportunities for a greater scope of activities.</p> <p>The ability of parents to collect children from these activities in Llangollen represents a potential negative impact. However the ability of parents to collect children from the existing schools is an unknown factor and is a challenge for the majority of schools/parents in Denbighshire.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	<p>The local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant could consider ways of ensuring after school provision is as accessible as possible for all pupils.</p>	<b>POSITIVE</b>
Use of Welsh within the communities	<p>Glyndyfrdwy is part of the wider Corwen community which is a strong Welsh community with a high proportion of Welsh speakers. The proportion of Welsh speakers within the Llangollen community is smaller but growing.</p> <p>Welsh education would still be provided for the children of Glyndyfrdwy. An improved educational provision and access to an increased range of activities could increase the use of Welsh outside of school and within the community.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	<p>The local authority and Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant consider ways of promoting the social use of Welsh through out-of-school activities.</p>	<b>POSITIVE</b>

Overview – Potential initial impact on Welsh Language

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Overall Impact*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

\* This does not take into account any measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

Overview – Potential residual impact on Welsh Language

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>
<b>Overall Impact*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

\* This takes into account measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

## Summary of Potential Impact on the Welsh Language

It should be noted that attempting to gauge the potential impact from school organisation on the Welsh Language is a difficult undertaking.

The main positive emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on the educational provision. Providing an improved educational provision represents an opportunity to strengthen Welsh education in the area and as a result strengthen the Welsh Language.

The main concern is the potential negative impact relating to access of non-statutory provision and access to pre and after school activities.

Should nursery provision be provided solely in Llangollen this could impact on accessibility for parents and families who live in Glyndyfrdwy.

However it should be noted that there are many schools in Denbighshire that serve more than one community and this situation would not be unique. There are potential measures to reduce this impact that could be considered by the local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant.

Accessibility of pre and after school activities is also an area for concern. The proposal has the potential to result in an increased range of activities; however they may not be accessible by all parents and families.

Once again this is an issue that a number of schools in Denbighshire already face and there are potential measures to reduce this impact that could be considered by the local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant.

## Conclusion

Overall the proposal has the potential to strengthen the Welsh Language in the area through strengthening the Welsh Medium provision for children.

However it should be noted that there are potential risks that will need to be addressed by both the local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant to ensure that the Welsh language continues to thrive in these two communities.

## 7. Community Impact Assessment

This Impact Assessment is to consider the potential impact on families and the local community language from the proposal to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant subject to parental preference.

In order to assess the potential impact on families and the local community consideration has been given to the following areas:-

- School Designation;
- School links to the local community;
- Impact on neighbouring schools;
- Impact on parents and families;
- Travelling Implications for pupils/parents;
- Impact on community activities;
- Impact on community facilities;
- Impact on community demographics;

PROVISIONAL DRAFT

Impact Criteria	Comments	Impact (positive, neutral or negative)	Measures to reduce negative impact	Residual Impact
School Designation	<p>Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is a community primary school with an age range of 3-11 providing Welsh Medium education.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Gwernant is a community primary school with an age range of 3-11 providing Welsh Medium education.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A
School links to the community	<p>The closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would remove the school from the community.</p> <p>Ysgol Y Gwernant is based in Llangollen and does not have any existing links to the Glyndyfrdwy community.</p>	<b>NEGATIVE</b>	The local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant should attempt to foster closer links between the school and the community of Glyndyfrdwy.	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
Impact on neighbouring schools	<p>The proposal would have an impact on Ysgol Y Gwernant with pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy transferring to Ysgol Y Gwernant subject to parental preference.</p> <p>The proposal is not expected to have any immediate impact on other neighbouring schools.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	N/A	N/A
Impact on pupils	<p>The proposal could have a positive impact on pupils through an improved education provision and access to a greater range of activities.</p> <p>Pupils would benefit from interacting with a larger group of children and larger peer groups.</p>	<b>POSITIVE</b>	N/A	N/A
Impact on parents and families	<p>There is potential for a greater impact on parents and families from Glyndyfrdwy if their pupils transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant in Llangollen.</p> <p>The loss of the school as an informal social environment for parents to interact would have an impact on parents.</p> <p>However there could be potential benefits to parents and families from potentially accessing a greater range of services and being part of a wider school community.</p>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>	<p>The retention of some non-statutory provision or after school care in the village would provide an informal social environment for parents.</p> <p>Activities at the community hall could also provide an informal social environment for parents.</p>	<b>POSITIVE</b>

<p>Travelling implications for pupils/parents</p>	<p>Closing Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would result in pupils having to travel further to school. The most probably destination is Ysgol Y Gwernant in Llangollen and free transport would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire's transport policy.</p> <p>Parents from Glyndyfrdwy would also need to travel to collect their children from any additional after-school activities. It is recognised that a number of parents may already have to travel to collect their children from these activities.</p>	<p><b>NEGATIVE</b></p>	<p>Free transport would be provided for future pupils in accordance with Denbighshire's Transport Policy.</p> <p>The local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant could consider ways of ensuring after school provision is as accessible as possible for all pupils.</p>	<p><b>NEUTRAL</b></p>
<p>Impact on community activities</p>	<p>A number of community activities currently take place either with the school or on the school grounds. Following the closure of the school these activities could no longer take place unless the school site was retained for the community.</p> <p>The Council has a policy where it would consider transferring a surplus school site or part of a school site to a community group where they can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site. This could have positive implications for the local community.</p>	<p><b>NEGATIVE</b></p>	<p>The community activities could relocate to the community hall in Glyndyfrdwy or be retained at the school site should it be taken over by the community.</p>	<p><b>NEUTRAL</b></p>
<p>Impact on community facilities</p>	<p>The Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy school site would be declared surplus. The Council has a policy where it would consider transferring a surplus school site or part of a school site to a community group where they can demonstrate a need and ability to take over the running of the site. This could have positive implications for the local community.</p> <p>It should be noted that a separate community hall exists in Glyndyfrdwy. Use of the community hall instead of the school building could also strengthen the hall as a community facility.</p>	<p><b>NEUTRAL</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Impact on community demographics</p>	<p>Feedback from the initial consultation has highlighted a fear by many that the loss of the school from the community would result in fewer families moving to the area.</p> <p>It should be noted that demographics are changing and that in Denbighshire the percentage of the population over 65 is projected to</p>	<p><b>NEUTRAL</b></p>		

	<p>increase dramatically over the coming years.</p> <p>While access to local educational facilities is a key factor for parents and young families, other key considerations include affordable housing and the availability of work.</p>			
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Overview – Potential initial impact on families and the local community

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
<b>Overall Impact*</b>	1	5	3

\* This does not take into account any measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

Overview – Potential residual impact families and the local community

	Positive	Neutral	Negative
<b>Overall Impact*</b>	2	7	0

\* This takes into account measures that could be undertaken to reduce negative impact

## Summary of Potential Impact on families and the local community

It should be noted that attempting to gauge the potential impact from school organisation on families and the local community is a difficult undertaking.

The main positive emerging from the impact assessment is the impact on pupils through improved education provision.

The impact assessment has identified a number of possible areas where the proposal could impact negatively on local families and on the local community.

Losing a school from the community is going to sever links between the school and the local community. Pupils are expected to transfer to Ysgol Y Gwernant in Llangollen. There are measures that could be adopted to lessen the impact through fostering close links between the community and Ysgol Y Gwernant, however developing these links will take time and the initial impact will be negative.

The loss of the school would impact on the community activities taking place and the community facilities within Glyndyfrdwy. There is scope for a number of activities currently taking place on the school site to relocate to the community hall and the Council has a policy regarding the retention of any surplus school site within the community which could reduce the negative impact and potentially result in a positive for the community.

The loss of the school would result in the removal of an informal meeting place for parents within the community. However there is a well utilised village hall in Glyndyfrdwy that could be used to host the activities that currently take place at the school and provides another informal meeting place for parents and the wider community.

## Conclusion

The proposal would impact positively on parents and children through an improved educational provision for the children. However the proposal has the potential to impact negatively on parents from Glyndyfrdwy and the Glyndyfrdwy community.

It should be noted that the potential negative impacts resulting from this proposal could be reduced by the local authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant by the adoption of a number of possible measures to ensure that the community in Glyndyfrdwy continues to thrive.

The existence of a separate village hall that already host a number of activities and could host activities that currently take place at the school provides a focal point for the community that would continue after the school has been closed. The potential increase in activity at the hall following the closure of the school could improve the long term viability of this community facility.

The local authority is committed to working with local communities and has an external funding advisory service to assist local communities in accessing funding for community projects.

**Report To:** CABINET

**Date of Meeting:** 24<sup>TH</sup> May 2011

**Lead Member / Officer:** COUNCILLOR S FROBISHER, LEAD MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Report Author:** Susan Cordiner/Robert Humphreys

**Title:** Foryd Harbour Walking and Cycling Bridge – Bridge Scheme Section 106(3) Highways Act 1980

**1. What is the report about?**

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for the making a scheme and seeking its confirmation by the Welsh Assembly Government (“WAG”) under Section 106(3) of the Highways Act 1980.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

Construction of the Foryd Harbour Walking and Cycling Bridge (“the Bridge”) will have temporary and permanent effects on the space available for navigation beneath the Bridge and statutory powers contained within Section 106(3) Highways Act need to be utilised to authorise the restriction on navigation by the making of a Bridge Scheme.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the making of a scheme under Section 106(3) of the Highways Act 1980 and thereafter the submission of the scheme to the Welsh Assembly Government for confirmation
- 2) Authorise the Acting Head of Corporate Governance to take all necessary action to achieve confirmation of the above scheme and to obtain the above consent
- 3) Approve the completion of an agreement with Conwy County Borough Council (“Conwy CBC”) pursuant to Section 8 of the Highways Act 1980 to enable Denbighshire County Council to submit the Bridge Scheme referred to above

**4. Report details**

The Bridge features on the Foryd Harbour Redevelopment Master Plan and will link the proposed developments on both sides of the harbour and close the gap in National Cycle Route 5. The building of the Bridge is to be funded via funds from Sustrans with the remaining balance made up by WAG.



Members will recall that Dawnus the winners of the “Design and Build Competition are working on a detailed design and will be awarded the construction contract subject to the design being affordable and buildable.

Members will be aware that Denbighshire County Council (“DCC”) owns the land on which the bridge is to be constructed on both sides of the River Clwyd but Conwy CBC are the planning and local highway authority for the land on the Kinmel Bay side of the River.

Since the date of the last report referred to above, planning permission has been granted by both Conwy and Denbighshire County Council and in terms of timeline the Bridge Scheme needs to be made by the Council and submitted to WAG for confirmation. It is intended that Denbighshire County Council make the Bridge Scheme and submit it for approval by WAG. This will require agreement from Conwy CBC pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 Highways Act 1980. This provides for adjoining highway authorities to enter in agreement to provide for specified functions of one local authority to be exercised by another local authority. To facilitate this process the recommendations suggested in this report are sought.

#### **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The Bridge will provide a safer route for pedestrians and cyclists and avoid the busy A548 over the Foryd “Blue” Bridge

#### **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

There is no DCC capital contribution and the costs associated with it are covered by existing staff resource and monies allocated to the building of the Bridge.

#### **7. What consultations have been carried out?**

There has been no specific consultation on the principle of the Bridge Scheme which is a legal step which needs to be taken to facilitate construction of the Bridge. There has been wide consultation on the principle of building the Bridge itself as outlined in the information report to Cabinet dated 1<sup>st</sup> March which has included public consultation, attendance at Foryd Harbour Users Forum and pre planning applications to Conwy CBC and Denbighshire CC Planning Committees.

#### **8. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

There are no obvious financial implications arising from this report, however failure to obtain the consent in a timely manner could have a significant impact on the financial viability of the project.

**9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The Council needs to obtain the necessary consent to avoid delay to the project if the necessary consent is not in place. Any delays will jeopardise the project delivery timetable and the ability to complete by the target date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 which is the date when WAG and Sustrans funding must be drawn down.

**10. Power to make the Decision**

Sections 8 and 106 Highways Act 1980.

**Report To:** CABINET  
**Date of Meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
**Lead Cabinet Member:** Councillor Julian Thompson-Hill  
**Lead Officer:** Paul McGrady, Acting Head of Finance & Assets  
**Title:** Finance Report

**1 What is the report about?**

The report gives the latest forecast position for the council's revenue budget and performance against the budget strategy for 2011/12 as defined in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The report also gives a summary update of the Capital Plan and of the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan.

The report has been revised to reflect the restructures that have taken place within the Council. It has also been amended to include the following:

- An appendix showing all the proposed savings included in the service challenges,
- An appendix showing progress on key capital projects

This is the first time the report has been presented in this format and it is important that members comment on whether it is appropriate.

**2 What is the reason for making this report?**

The report advises members of the latest financial forecasts in order to deliver the agreed budget strategy for 2011/12.

**3 What are the Recommendations?**

That members note the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

That members note CET's decision to purchase 30 Abbey Street, Rhyl.

**4 Report details**

**Revenue Budget** - This section of the report will generally detail any significant movements on departmental forecasts however at this early stage in the year departments are forecasting balanced budgets. The forecast does not account for the impact of the final revenue position for 2010/11 so for example, the impact of any carried-forward balances or other year-end adjustments has not been included. However, no significant new pressures or savings have been reported during April. The summary initial revenue budget forecast is presented as Appendix 1 and shows a balanced position.

Appendix 2 to this report gives an update showing progress against the agreed savings and pressures agreed as part of the 2011/12 budget setting process. In total, net savings of £6.359m were agreed and so far, £3.644m

(57%) have been achieved as shown in Appendix 2. The remaining £2.715m (43%) are in progress and thought to be achievable at this stage – these are shown as 'On Target' in Appendix 2. If agreed savings are not achievable, these will be flagged and departments will be expected to offer alternative proposals. At this stage however, there is no deviation from the agreed savings plan.

**Capital Plan** – An update of the capital plan is enclosed as Appendix 3. The agreed plan for the year totals £40m and so far, £0.5m has been spent. Appendix 4 gives a summary of the major schemes within this year's plan. Further detail will be presented in future reports.

CET has approved the acquisition of **30 Abbey Street, Rhyl** as part of a wider scheme to create a green space/urban square within the heart of West Rhyl in line with residents' aspirations. This wider proposal is fundamental to the strategy to reduce deprivation in West Rhyl. Strategic Regeneration Area (SRA) funding has been by approved by the SRA project board, and a formal grant offer is awaited which should cover the total cost of this and other acquisitions, demolitions and temporary landscaping; a total of around £500k.

However, the current owner of 30 Abbey Street indicated that he was in a 'chain' to purchase a property and therefore, unless the Council was able to exchange contracts by 17 May the purchase would probably not proceed. Without 30 Abbey Street the rest of the scheme could not proceed.

Although the scheme had received approval by the SRA board, it needed the WAG Minister to sign the grant offer letter and due to the elections there would be no Minister in post in time to make the offer. The proposal was reviewed by the Capital and Asset Strategy Group who recommended that the Council should purchase 30 Abbey Street ahead of the formal grant offer and CET agreed that the risk of WAG not supporting this was low and the risk of the sale falling through was high. It is therefore proposed to fund this purchase from the existing capital budget for acquisitions in Rhyl, pending receipt of a formal grant offer from the Welsh Assembly Government. The total cost of the transaction is less than £150k.

**Foryd Harbour** will be the subject of a separate report to the next Cabinet meeting

**The Housing Revenue Account (HRA)** – The Housing Revenue Account summary position is also included in Appendix 1 for information but this is a separate fund and not part of the council's revenue budget. The HRA is forecast to be on budget, achieving a planned in-year deficit of £1.025m. The deficit arises as £1.3m of revenue funding is to be used to fund capital expenditure as part of the agreed Housing Stock Business Plan for 2011/12. The Business Plan remains viable. The Housing Capital Plan is forecast to be in line with the budgeted estimate of £6.0m.

- 5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**  
Effective management of the council's revenue and capital budgets and delivery of the agreed budget strategy underpins activity in all areas, including corporate priorities.
- 6 What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**  
There are no cost implications arising from the report.
- 7 What consultations have been carried out?**  
The revenue budget was recommended by cabinet and agreed formally by council after an extensive round of service challenges. The capital plan was approved by council following scrutiny by the Capital & Assets Strategy Group and recommendation by cabinet. The Housing Revenue Account has been approved following consultation with elected members and tenant federation representatives.
- 8 Chief Finance Officer Statement**  
It is crucial that the agreed financial plan for the year is delivered and so any additional cost pressures or savings that may not be achieved must be reported early and corrective action taken. The forthcoming round of service challenges will be used to give a detailed assessment of progress against current and future savings targets.
- 9 What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**  
This is the most challenging financial period the council has faced and failure to deliver the agreed budget strategy will put further pressure on services in the current and future financial years. Effective budget monitoring and control and early reporting of variances will help ensure that the financial strategy is achieved.
- Specific risks are apparent when dealing with capital projects and can include expenditure or time overruns, funding issues and other non-financial considerations. A robust approval mechanism and close financial monitoring and reporting, along with effective project management procedures, help to minimise these risks.
- The HRA is undertaking a considerable capital investment to improve the housing stock and using borrowing and grants to fund the works. Any borrowing must be affordable and the regular monitoring and annual approval and viability assessment of the Housing Stock Business Plan ensures that this is so.
- 10 Power to make the Decision**  
Local authorities are required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs.

	Budget			Projected Outturn			Variance			Net	Variance Previous Report
	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net	Expenditure	Income	Net		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Business Planning & Performance	2,510,492	-1,866,687	643,805	2,510,492	-1,866,687	643,805	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Corporate Governance	2,217,552	-540,614	1,676,938	2,217,552	-540,614	1,676,938	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Finance & Assets	14,593,874	-7,383,610	7,210,264	14,593,874	-7,383,610	7,210,264	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Highways & Infrastructure	19,381,471	-8,670,021	10,711,450	19,381,471	-8,670,021	10,711,450	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection	6,063,107	-2,518,791	3,544,316	6,063,107	-2,518,791	3,544,316	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Adult & Business Services	46,474,597	-14,182,364	32,292,233	46,474,597	-14,182,364	32,292,233	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Children & Family Services	9,374,548	-820,733	8,553,815	9,374,548	-820,733	8,553,815	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Housing Services	2,134,471	-1,762,893	371,578	2,134,471	-1,762,893	371,578	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Leisure, Libraries & Community Development	9,843,879	-4,574,631	5,269,248	9,843,879	-4,574,631	5,269,248	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Strategic HR	1,575,960	-370,088	1,205,872	1,575,960	-370,088	1,205,872	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Customer Services	3,576,248	-838,370	2,737,878	3,576,248	-838,370	2,737,878	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Environment	16,154,667	-3,609,738	12,544,929	16,154,667	-3,609,738	12,544,929	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Modernising Education	1,301,671	0	1,301,671	1,301,671	0	1,301,671	0	0	0	0.00%	0
School Improvement & Inclusion	7,226,323	-2,678,794	4,547,529	7,226,323	-2,678,794	4,547,529	0	0	0	0.00%	0
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>142,428,860</b>	<b>-49,817,334</b>	<b>92,611,526</b>	<b>142,428,860</b>	<b>-49,817,334</b>	<b>92,611,526</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0</b>
Corporate	5,961,114	0	5,961,114	5,961,114	0	5,961,114	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Precepts & Levies	4,549,039	0	4,549,039	4,549,039	0	4,549,039	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Capital Finance/Interest received	12,103,961	0	12,103,961	12,103,961	0	12,103,961	0	0	0	0.00%	0
CONTINGENCY for Further Pressures	650,000	0	650,000	650,000	0	650,000	0	0	0	0.00%	0
Contribution to Reserves	270,000	0	270,000	270,000	0	270,000	0	0	0	0.00%	0
<b>Total Corporate</b>	<b>23,534,114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,534,114</b>	<b>23,534,114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,534,114</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Council Services &amp; Corporate Budget</b>	<b>165,962,974</b>	<b>-49,817,334</b>	<b>116,145,640</b>	<b>165,962,974</b>	<b>-49,817,334</b>	<b>116,145,640</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Schools Delegated</b>	<b>65,845,332</b>	<b>-6,845,972</b>	<b>58,999,360</b>	<b>65,845,332</b>	<b>-6,845,972</b>	<b>58,999,360</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Council Budget</b>	<b>231,808,306</b>	<b>-56,663,306</b>	<b>175,145,000</b>	<b>231,808,306</b>	<b>-56,663,306</b>	<b>175,145,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Housing Revenue Account</b>	<b>12,327,082</b>	<b>-11,301,859</b>	<b>1,025,223</b>	<b>12,327,082</b>	<b>-11,301,859</b>	<b>1,025,223</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0</b>

**Medium Term Financial Plan Update 2011/12**

<b><u>Ref</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Saving</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b><u>General</u></b>			<b><u>£'000</u></b>	<b><u>£'000</u></b>
A1	Workforce Budget Reduction 1%	On Target	125	
A4	Reduce staff advertising	On Target	150	
A5	Procurement savings	On Target	200	
A7	Costs of Democracy	On Target	25	
A8	Review of Senior Management & Exec PAs	Achieved	365	
A9	Reduce budget for Major Events	Achieved	40	
G1	Removal of one-off Budget 2010/11	Achieved	2,185	3,090
<b><u>Asset Review</u></b>				
B1	Office accommodation	On Target	80	80
<b><u>Support Services Review</u></b>				
C1	HR review	On Target	50	
C12	Insurance Tender	Achieved	50	
C2	Property services - phase 1	On Target	100	
C3	Legal services - phase 1	On Target	42	
C4	Democratic support	On Target	52	
C5	ICT/IM	On Target	145	
C6	ICT/IM	On Target	126	
C7	Finance - Financial Management	Achieved	70	635
<b><u>Service Challenges</u></b>				
<b><u>Leisure, Libraries &amp; Community Development</u></b>				
Da1	Leisure services- Management System	On Target	40	
Da2	Back office co-located with Youth	On Target	20	
Da5	Remove subsidy by increasing income	On Target	50	
Dk2	Merger of N Wales Bibliographic Services	On Target	20	
Dk3	Running Costs / Income	On Target	27	
Dk4	Family Info and Archives review	On Target	35	
Dk5	Review of housesbound service	On Target	10	202
<b><u>Environmental Services</u></b>				
Db11	Outsource Propagation	On Target	30	
Db13	Cemetaries charging -	On Target	34	
Db16	Countryside staff reduction	On Target	24	
Db17	Tourism Service Redesign	On Target	20	
Db18	Regeneration Service Redesign	On Target	23	
Db2	Renegotiate recycle and disposal contracts	Achieved	220	
Db5	Regional Waste Project Procurement Budget	Achieved	94	
Db8	Reduce Overtime (Street Cleansing)	On Target	20	
Db9	Fleet Efficiency	On Target	50	
Db1/12	Other	On Target	26	
Db14	WAG Waste Target Pressures	On Target	-247	
Db15	Free School Meals Cost Pressures	On Target	-130	164
<b><u>Planning, Regeneration &amp; Regulatory Services</u></b>				
Dc1	Review of Regeneration	On Target	40	40
<b><u>Highways &amp; Infrastructure</u></b>				
Dd1	Road Safety	On Target	45	45

		<b>Status</b>	<b>Saving £,000</b>	<b>Total £'000</b>
<b>Adult &amp; Business Services</b>				
Df1	Cefndy Healthcare,	On Target	60	
Df10	Restructure part of service	On Target	53	
Df16	Administration Rationalisation	On Target	47	
Df17	Systems Thinking and Vacancy Control	On Target	40	
Df19	Workforce Development Review	On Target	30	
Df6	Day care - review and rationalise	On Target	60	
Df8	Impact of investment in reablement	On Target	75	
Df9	Residential Care - Impact of Extra Care	On Target	60	
Df99	Compensating savings within the services	On Target	566	
Df5,12-15	Other	On Target	51	
P1/4/6	Loss of Grant	On Target	-294	
P2/3/5	Demographic Change	On Target	-272	476
<b>School Improvement &amp; Inclusion</b>				
Dh1	Service Restructure	On Target	261	261
<b>Children &amp; Family Services</b>				
Dj1	Management Changes	On Target	105	
Dj10	TAPP Team change in funding	On Target	93	
Dj3/6/9/13	Other Savings	On Target	56	
Dj5	Re-shaping Suoervised Contact Service	On Target	33	
Dj2	Admin Rationalisation	On Target	40	
Dj20	Legislative	On Target	-14	
Dj16/17	Social Worker & Staffing Pressures	On Target	-117	
Dj18	In-house Fostering	On Target	-62	
Dj19	Direct Payments	On Target	-24	110
<b>Schools</b>				
DS1	Reduction in School Roles	On Target	340	
DS2	Removal of Unused Pay Budget Provision	Achieved	620	960
<b>Housing Services</b>				
Dz1	Various small savings	On Target	31	31
<b>Regional/Collaboration Projects</b>				
EC11	Street Lighting	On Target	75	
EC14	Street Works	On Target	20	
EC16	Winter Maintenance	On Target	10	
EC21	Review Pest Control	On Target	30	
EC22	Review Development Control	On Target	20	
EC25	Review of CCTV service	On Target	20	
EC26	Review of Pollution Control	On Target	30	
EC27	Review of Trading Standards	On Target	60	265
<b>Total Savings 2011/12</b>				<b>6,359</b>
<b>Summary:</b>				
Savings Achieved			<b>3,644</b>	<b>57</b>
Savings On Target			<b>2,715</b>	<b>43</b>
Savings Not On Target			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Total			<b>6,359</b>	



**Denbighshire County Council - Capital Plan 2010/11 - 20013/14**

**APPENDIX 3**

**Position as at April 2011**

		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
		£000s	£000s	£000s
<b>Capital Funding:</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>General Funding:</b>			
	Unhypothecated Supported Borrowing	11,761	4,445	4,431
	General Capital Grant	1,936	1,565	1,369
	General Capital Receipts	1,550		
	Earmarked Capital Receipts	167	0	0
		15,414	6,010	5,800
<b>2</b>	<b>Prudential Borrowing</b>	11,490	0	0
<b>3</b>	<b>Reserves and Contributions</b>	1,163	0	0
<b>4</b>	<b>Specific Grants</b>	12,609	8,452	
	<b>Total Finance</b>	40,676	14,462	5,800
	<b>Total Estimated Payments</b>	-39,776	-8,462	0
	<b>Contingency</b>	-900	-1,000	-1,000
	<b>Earmarked Contingency</b>			
	<b>Unallocated Reserve</b>	0	0	0
	<b>Funding available</b>	0	5,000	4,800

## Appendix 4 Major Capital Projects Update

### Rhyl Coastal Defence

Budget	£10.0m
Funding	WAG Grant
Expenditure to Date	£2.290m
Comments	<p>This 100% Welsh Assembly Government funded £10m coastal defence scheme will reduce the flood risk to some 2,000 properties in West Rhyl. Approval for £7.04m of works for phases 1 &amp; 2 has been given by the Welsh Assembly Government. These are the works to the inner harbour and river training wall.</p> <p>Works will commence in June 2011, and will take approximately 12 months to complete.</p> <p>Approval for phase 3 of the works, the stepped revetment towards the drift park is still awaited. The Welsh Assembly Government has asked the Environment Agency to carry out a review of the design which will therefore delay the start of this phase.</p> <p>Overall completion of the scheme is estimated to take 2 years.</p>
Forecast Expenditure 11/12	£5.2m

### Foryd Harbour Cycle & Pedestrian Bridge

Budget	£4.2m
Funding	WAG Grant
Expenditure to Date	£0.320m
Comments	<p>It is anticipated that the construction cost estimate will be known by the end of May 2011, with approval to proceed to construction being sought from Cabinet in June .</p> <p>We await approval by the Welsh Assembly Government Marine Consents Unit and there is also a requirement to gain a Section 106 licence to cross a navigable watercourse from the Welsh Assembly Government.</p> <p>It is hoped to commence on-site construction early in 2012, with target completion by December 2012.</p>
Forecast Expenditure 11/12	£2.0m

### Foryd Harbour Quayside Units, Public Square & Extended Wall

Budget	£4.8m
Funding	WAG Grant
Expenditure to Date	£0.100m
Comments	<p>Outline design of the project has now been achieved and is the subject of consultation with interested associates and users.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment continues to be compiled and an ecological survey has been carried out to assist with this assessment. A detailed report will be presented to Cabinet in June.</p>
Forecast Expenditure 11/12	£2.5m

## Apollo Cinema

Budget	£2.5m
Funding	£1.6m SRA Grant, £0.9m Private Finance
Expenditure to Date	£0.450m
Comments	Investigative procedures into the structural integrity of the cinema to accommodate the internal improvements have been carried out, but have led to a delay in the implementation of works. Cinema proposals have been erected on the hoardings and also an exhibition is in situ in the White Rose Shopping Centre.
Forecast Expenditure 11/12	£2.0m

## Property Acquisition & Demolitions

Budget	£1.6m
Funding	£1.6m SRA Grant
Expenditure to Date	£1.4m
Comments	<p>Council have previously approved the purchase of a number of properties in Rhyl with a view to demolition and the provision of public realm works:</p> <p><b>Abbey Street</b> The buildings demolition has been completed and suitable fill is being sourced to re-instate the site.</p> <p><b>Brighton Road</b> The buildings demolition has been completed and enhancement works to the adjacent property is progressing well. The public realm works are also underway.</p> <p>Both schemes are on programme and within budget.</p>
Forecast Expenditure 11/12	£0.200m

**CABINET: FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

<b>21 JUNE 2011</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Final Accounts 2010-2011	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Medium Term Financial Plan	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Annual Council Reporting Framework (ACRF) – The Statutory Director of Social Services will be responsible for publishing an annual report setting out her assessment of the effectiveness of social care services and priority areas for improvement in the year ahead	Councillors P A Dobb / M M Jones S Ellis / C O’Gorman
Opportunities for Renewable Energy Technology and Large Scale Energy Efficiency Projects	Councillor P J Marfleet P McGrady / H Burkhalter
To review changes to the Residents’ Survey	Councillor H H Evans S Ellis / E Walters
New Work Connections: Training and Education - Procurement of accredited training courses across the project – up to 1620 people could be involved in the training e.g. a one day confidence building course or an NVQ Level 4 course.	Councillor P A Dobb Gwynfor Griffiths / Carina Edwards 708307
Routine Report on Personnel to include Sickness Management	Councillor P J Marfleet L Atkin / G Humphreys
Arrangements for Childrens’ Services and Safeguard	Councillor M M Jones S Ellis
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Officers
<b>26 JULY 2011</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Capital Plan 2011-2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
HR / People Strategy	Councillor P J Marfleet L Atkin
Village Green Applications - land known as "The Park" off Ffordd Elan, Rhyl	Councillor S Frobisher S Cordiner
Proposed Infant and Junior Amalgamation of Ysgol Gwaenynog and Ysgol Heulfre, Denbigh	Councillor E W Williams H Williams / JWalley
People and Places Board Report on Demographic change	Councillor P A Dobb S Ellis
Child Protection	Councillor M M Jones S Ellis / Leighton Rees
Phase II Construction of the Foryd Harbour Walking and Cycling Bridge	Councillor S Frobisher / Councillor D A J Thomas S Davies / Bob Humphreys
North Wales Purchasing Partnership Collaborative Spares Supply Contract – Part II	Councillor S Frobisher G Taylor
Selection of Preferred Bidder - N E Wales Regional Food Waste Treatment Project	Councillor S Frobisher S Parker / J Espley

Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Officers
<b>6 SEPTEMBER 2011</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2011 -2012 (OR on 27.09.2011)	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Treasury Management Update	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
DCC Annual Report 2010-2011	Councillor H H Evans A Smith / T Ward
Routine Report on Personnel to include Sickness Management	Councillor P J Marfleet L Atkin / G Humphreys
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Officers
<b>27 SEPTEMBER 2011</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2011 -2012 (OR on 06.09.2011)	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Proposed Joint Conwy & Denbighshire Adoption Panel	Councillor M M Jones Julie Moss, Corporate Parenting
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Officers
<b>25 OCTOBER 2011</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Scala Cinema and Arts Centre: Update	Councillor P A Dobb P McGrady
<b>22 NOVEMBER 2011</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
<b>13 DECEMBER 2011</b>	
Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Destination Management - Tourism Partnership North Wales have offered to work with the Council to undertake an audit of the experience which a visitor gets when they come to the County and this item will provide an opportunity for Cabinet to receive the results of the audit and consider actions which need to be taken to improve the experience	Councillor D A J Thomas G Boase / M Dixon