#### **CABINET**

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 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 G C Evans, C Hughes and D. Owens.

#### **ALSO PRESENT**

Chief Executive; Corporate Directors: Learning & Communities; Demographics and Wellbeing & Planning; Acting Head of Corporate Governance and the Acting Head of Finance and Assets.

# 1 APOLOGIES

Corporate Director: Business Transformation & Regeneration.

#### 2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet note there were no Declaration of Interests.

#### 3 URGENT MATTERS

There were no Urgent Matters.

#### 4 MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING 26.07.2011

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 were submitted.

**RESOLVED** – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

#### 5 ROUTINE REPORTING ON PERSONNEL

Councillor P.J. Marfleet presented the report on Personnel Statistics which contained information on starters, leavers and absence. It also provided a Headcount Analysis for the period April, 2011 to June, 2011 and a comparison of collated data for Sickness Absence within the Authority between April, 2011 and June, 2011.

The overall headcount had increased by 3 from April to May 2011 and then decreased by 3 from May to June 2011 with the overall FTE having changed from April to June 2011 in relation to the increase and decrease of headcount. Comparisons for the same periods for 2010 and 2011 indicated a headcount reduction of only 9 heads. This could have resulted from senior staff having been replaced by more junior members of staff at a lower cost to meet efficiency savings, or the complex issue of staff having been employed in grant funded posts. Problems relating to the identification of grant aided posts and Agency staff for headcount purposes were highlighted by Councillor D.A.J. Thomas, and the Acting Head of Finance and Assets confirmed that he was currently working with the Payroll Section and HR to address this matter. Councillor Marfleet suggested that in view of the commencement of the next round of service challenges, which would inform the budget setting process for the next financial year, a payroll comparison be undertaken to ascertain if the savings identified had been achieved by the means originally identified.

The starters and leavers figures for each month had been included in the report and it was confirmed that the cumulative average number of working days lost per employee for the Authority as a whole during April 2011 to June 2011 had been included in the report with the target figures.

Councillor Marfleet highlighted areas pertaining to Sickness Absence, these included average working days lost, short, medium and long term absence, absences of one to seven days duration, absence reason analysis, top reasons for sickness absence and occupational health referrals – stress. Comparisons between 2010 and 2011 had identified that the total number of average days lost had increased by 577.02 (6.5%) which was a significant financial issue for the Authority. It was explained that sickness absence was not uniform but service specific and Heads of Service were requested to provide reasons for sickness absence levels. Environment Services had halved sickness absence over past 2 years but this was not likely to improve upon significantly unless there were fundamental changes to Council policies, while sickness absence in Childrens Services had been stress related.

The importance of identifying and understanding the reasons behind sickness absence problems, particular reference being made to stress related illness, and rectifying them were highlighted by Councillor Marfleet. Lead Members were asked to identify any increases in absence within their respective services with a view to gaining an understanding of the problems. Discussions had taken place with HR who had confirmed that the phased times were correct, however, this could be influenced by the type of sickness and seasonality factors.

Members were informed that short term absence in terms of a percentages accounted for 34% of the total days lost, with the top five absence reasons in terms of the number of actual working days lost from April to June, 2011 being:-

Stress Depression Anxiety Mental Health Fatigue Other Musculo Skeletal Surgery Stomach Liver Kidney Digestion Infections - to include Colds Flu

The five absence reasons had been responsible for 62.50% of actual days lost due to sickness absence in April 2011 - June 2011. However, although the overall number of days lost had increased, the percentage of days lost caused by stress related absences had decreased.

Councillor Marfleet again expressed the view that Directorates adopting different targets was unfair and he reminded Members that a recommendation had been made to SLT to consider working towards a standard target. Councillor Marfleet explained that the response had been disappointing and he suggested that a further request be made to SLT asking them to standardise targets and agree a specific time zone. Members were informed that SLT had agreed that the appraisals process would in future be electronic to enable improved control and quality of monitoring appraisals.

Councillor E.W. Williams felt it would be difficult to include schools in the standardisation of days lost as it would be generically difficult to impose or manage as School Governing Bodies were responsible for teaching staff. Councillor Marfleet accepted the points raised and referred to school budgets and the importance of ensuring that schools were aware of their respective duties and the possible implications. The HR and Organisational Development Manager explained that there was an agreed sickness policy with the schools and an agreed set of triggers which differed from the corporate triggers. She confirmed that there was also a mechanism for intervention if required. The Corporate Director; Learning and Communities confirmed that the ability to influence Headteachers had been refined over the past twelve months by providing information relating to the nature of the problem.

The Chief Executive stressed the importance and urgency of identifying the full time staff numbers and highlighted the need to understand, and explain, the dynamics of the situation in respect of the budget savings identified in relation to the staffing figures reported. He was confident that management of sickness within the Authority had improved significantly. However, he felt the sickness management culture in the public sector differed from that in the private sector and to a certain extent encouraged absence. Members were informed that SLT had debated the issue in depth and the majority had expressed the view that it would be wrong to impose a standard target. The Chief Executive explained that further debate by SLT should be encouraged and that schools should be included.

In reply to questions from the Leader regarding future actions, the HR and Organisational Development Manager explained that following the restructuring within HR. The Business Partners would liaise, on a monthly basis, with Heads of Service and the Senior Management Team to discuss sickness absence statistics and ways of addressing sickness related problems within the respective services.

The HR and Organisational Development Manager responded to a question from the Leader and explained that during the past twelve months Denbighshire had achieved the second best sickness absence rates out of the six North Wales Authorities.

### **RESOLVED** that Cabinet

- (a) receives and notes the information in the report, and
- (b) refers the issue of standard targets and agreeing time zones to SLT for further consideration.

#### 6 ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT 2010 - 2011

Councillor J. Thompson Hill presented the report which detailed the performance of the treasury management function and outlined the Council's investment and borrowing activity during 2010/11. It provided details of the economic climate at that time and demonstrated compliance with treasury limits and Prudential Indicators during 2010/11. The Council's treasury management activities and an overview of the economic background for the year had been outlined, which indicated how the reduction in interest rates had continued to have a significant impact on the investment return for 2010/11 which had decreased from £0.6m in 2009/10 to £0.4m in 2010/11.

He explained that Treasury Management was inherently risky but the Council had monitored and controlled these risks, as outlined in the main report, and consulted with its treasury advisers Arlingclose Ltd. It was emphasised that it would be impossible to eliminate these risks completely. Councillor Thompson Hill confirmed that the Council's treasury management strategy and procedures were audited annually and the latest internal audit review had been positive with no significant issues raised.

Councillor Thompson Hill referred to the Annual Treasury Report 2010/2011 which encompassed details pertaining to the economic background, borrowing activity, investment activity and compliance with prudential indicators. He made particular eference to interest rates which were expected to remain low due to the fragile and volatile state of the economy and the Council's objectives of security (credit risk management) and liquidity. Members were informed that the table showing the level of the Council's investments at the start and end of the year referred to the balance at 01/4/2010 to 31/3/2011, and not 01/4/2009 to 31/3/2010 as indicated in the report. Councillor Thompson Hill also provided an outline of Appendix A to the report.

In response to a question from Councillor P.J. Marfleet regarding the Council having taken advantage of low borrowing rates by taking out a new 50 year loan at 3.92%, and

the possibility of taken further advantage of such low rates, Councillor Thompson Hill explained that such rates were limited and often only available for a period of a day. The Acting Head of Finance and Assets confirmed that consideration had been afforded to spreading the risk when deciding on the sum of money to be borrowed as rates could be reduced even further, the payment of interest rates would need to be met from a fixed budget and the risks arising from the instability of Banks and lack of financial security.

The Acting Head of Finance and Assets explained that Internal Audit had undertaken a review of the Treasury Management Team and its functions, and they had been unable to make any recommendations for improvement and no actions had been identified.

In response to a matter raised by Councillor P.A. Dobb in respect of 5.1, "Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions", and the need for clarity and uniformity in reporting, it was agreed that the wording be amended.

The Acting Head of Finance and Assets responded to questions from the Leader regarding the maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing, and in particular reference to prudential and asset borrowing.

During the ensuing discussion Councillor Thompson Hill thanked the external contractors and the Acting Head of Finance and Assets and his staff for their work during the year. Councillor P.J. Marfleet endorsed the views expressed regarding the Treasury Management work undertaken.

#### **RESOLVED** – that:-

- (a) Cabinet note the Annual Treasury Report for 2010/11, and
- (b) the wording in 5.1, "Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions", be amended.

# **7 FINANCE REPORT 2011 - 2012**

Councillor J. Thompson Hill presented the report for Cabinet to note the 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 provided a summary update of the Capital Plan, the Housing Revenue Account and Housing Capital Plan.

The latest revenue budget forecast had been presented as Appendix 1 and indicated a small overspend of £46k on council services which had resulted from cost pressures in Housing (homelessness budgets). All other services continued to forecast balanced budgets. There were variances within some services compared to original forecasts but these were being managed within the services, with schools currently being forecast to be under spent by £150k.

Appendix 2 to the report provided an update on progress against the agreed savings and pressures agreed as part of the 2011/12 budget setting process. In total, net savings of £6.359m had been agreed with £5.710m (90%) having been achieved with £0.589m (9%) still in progress. Savings in relation to the review of day care provision for older people (£60k) were not now thought to be fully achievable in the current financial year. The review was underway but would not deliver the total saving planned for this year. However, the total saving for the project of £120k over two years was thought to be deliverable and this year's budget saving could be included in next year's plan, with the shortfall for this year being covered from in-year cash savings.

A portfolio of evidence was being collected to demonstrate that all savings agreed as part of the service challenge process were those actually delivered, and details of the progress delivering the Capital Plan had been included in Appendix 4 and 5 of the report.

Councillor Thompson Hill provided a summary of the key variances from budget savings targets or potential additional savings that may arise throughout the year, and a general update on the Capital Plan and the Housing Revenue Account, which had been included in the report in respect of:-

Housing Services - The revenue budget forecast to the end of July indicated a projected budget pressure of £46k. The final position for Council funded housing services last year was an over spend of £18k.

Highways & Infrastructure – A one-off transfer of £250k had been made to corporate budgets in 2011/12 to recognise the impact of external grants awarded late in 2010/11. The savings target of £75k against street lighting as part of the collaboration project remained as in progress, however, there were other collaboration work streams progressing ahead of the proposed programme if the street lighting project failed to deliver the full amount this year. Councillor S. Frobisher outlined the problems experienced within the street lighting section following a reduction in staffing numbers and the loss of assets, however, she confirmed that the targets could be achieved through passenger transport savings.

Regeneration, Planning & Public Protection – Pressure on the Building and Development Control income streams had been offset by savings on the staffing and professional fees budgets across the department. The savings target of £40k against a review of Regeneration had now been achieved, as had management savings of £30k within Pest Control.

Adult Services – Budgets were shown as balanced assuming that £348k of Supporting People grant would be utilised to fund pressures within the year. However, the subsidy from Supporting People would be reducing and ultimately removed so underlying pressures would have to be addressed in the medium term. Councillor P.A. Dobb responded to a question from the Leader and she explained that an announcement was awaited from the Welsh Assembly Government regarding the future of Supporting People which was likely to include radical changes. A detailed analysis of current

demand and cost of care packages was being completed and would help to assess the impact of the current financial and service strategy.

Leisure, Libraries & Community Development – Considerable savings were required as part of the 2011/12 budget process in addition to budget pressures inherited from recently transferred services. Supplementary funding of £65k had been provided to support the cost of dual use subsidy arrangements and to recognise other additional managerial costs. Discussions had taken place on changing dual funding arrangements for schools and leisure centres and supplementary funding had been provided to support costs for the current year.

Strategic Human Resources (HR) – The budget forecast was on target and assumed that the savings attributable to the newly implemented restructure of the department would be achieved.

Environment Services - Budgets were forecast to be on target but might improve during the year as the new waste disposal contract effect. The department had one-off costs to fund as part of a restructuring exercise agreed at the service challenge, but could achieve a surplus once the full impact of the restructure was clear.

Customer Services – The savings targets total had been £271k this year, with £126k being in relation to procurement efficiencies, and was thought to be on target. The remaining saving of £145k related to a review of the service and savings of £131k had been delivered to date.

The Capital Plan expenditure to date had been £6m against a plan totalling £43.5m. Appendix 3 indicated a summary of planned capital expenditure and funding sources, and Appendix 4 provided an update of the major capital projects. The latest Housing Revenue Account (HRA) indicated a planned in-year deficit of £1.119m against an original budget of £1.025m. The forecast deficit was currently £94k higher than the budget but would be brought back in line as all HRA expenditure was currently under review. The planned in-year deficit arose as £1.3m of revenue budget was to be utilised to fund capital expenditure as part of the agreed Housing Stock Business Plan for 2011/12. The Business Plan remained viable based on the latest forecast and the HRA balance carried forward would be £891k.

It had been forecast that the Housing Capital Plan would be under spent by £679k compared to the budgeted estimate of £5.969m for the year. A summary of the latest HRA position had also been included in the report.

The Chief Finance Officer Statement and the Economic Commentary and Treasury Management Update had been included in the report.

Councillor Thompson Hill referred to the variance of £46k identified in Appendix 1 for Housing Services. He confirmed that the 90% savings identified in Appendix 2 had been achieved, with the Day Care figure having been deferred. Further reports in respect of the Rhyl Coastal Defence, Foryd Harbour Cycle and Pedestrian Bridge and

Foryd Harbour Quayside Units, Public Square and Extended Wall, included in Appendix 4, would be submitted to the next meeting. With regard to property acquisition and demolition, the sale had been agreed in respect of 8 Brighton Road, Rhyl. Councillor P.J. Marfleet expressed concern regarding the significant health and safety issues emanating from the structural condition of the Honey Club. He explained that the options available were limited as the property had been deemed as being in a Conservation Area. The Acting Head of Finance and Assets confirmed that a Structural Engineer's Report had identified the building as being unsafe and a meeting had been convened to discuss the future of the property. Councillor D.A.J. Thomas referred to the possible financial implications to the Authority and explained that he had requested that all interested parties meet to consider and agree a delivery plan in respect of the property.

The Chief Executive referred to Appendix 2, "Medium Term Financial Plan Update 2011/12", and highlighted the importance of the need for future reporting in respect of this matter to be robust and very explicit. He emphasised that explanations and reasons should be provided in the event of slippage or failure to achieve targets, together with, details of alternative action to be taken or implemented and confirmation of the appropriate authorisation. The Chief Executive felt that the introduction of such measures would help to assist the Authority in the delivery of the budget reductions agreed this year. Members were informed that Cabinet would need to be made aware of flexibilities in the budget if alternative options to achieve savings were available and the Chief Executive agreed with a suggestion that this be highlighted at Full Council on the 20th September, 2011.

The officers noted concerns raised by Councillor P.A. Dobb that reference to the respective months had not been specified in the Report or its Appendix.

The Acting Head of Finance and Assets informed Members that a revised report outlining savings, which would include more detail, would be submitted to Cabinet next month.

**RESOLVED -** that Cabinet note the latest financial position and progress against the agreed budget strategy.

#### 8 ISSUES REFERRED TO CABINET BY THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

**RESOLVED -** No issues had been referred.

#### 9 CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor H.H. Evans presented the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

Members agreed the following amendments to the Cabinet Forward Work Programme:-

- Phase II Construction of the Foryd Harbour Walking and Cycling Bridge be moved from the 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 to the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.
- Discussion on DCC land in Rhyl on Quay Street and Wellington Road Ocean Plaza Development be moved from the 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 to the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.
- Village Green Applications Land known as "The Park" off Ffordd Elan, Rhyl be moved from the 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 to the 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2011.
- Scala Cinema and Arts Centre: Update be moved from 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 to the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.
- Budget Report be included in the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.
- Routine Reporting on Personnel be included in the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

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

#### 10 URGENT ITEMS

There were no Urgent Items.

At this juncture (11.35 a.m.) the meeting adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

#### **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.

## 11 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE TENDER

Councillor S. Frobisher presented the report which sought agreement to award the contract for the Conwy and Denbighshire Children and Young People's Substance Misuse Service to the Organisation identified in the tender evaluation.

Councillor S. Frobisher explained Conwy and Denbighshire SMAT had formed a Task and Finish Group to review current children and young people's substance misuse services. In February 2010 the Group had recommended to the SMAT Strategic and Commissioning Board to decommission the current children and young people's services and commission one single service across Conwy and Denbighshire that would deliver Tier 1-3 services. The SMAT had supported the recommendation.

Details relating to the power to make the decision, resource implications and risk assessments had been included in the report for information purposes.

Following further detailed discussion, it was:-

**RESOLVED** - that Cabinet agree authorisation for the Evaluation Panel to proceed with the recommendation that, a contract for 3 years commencing October, 2011 for Children and Young People's Substance Misuse services in Conwy and Denbighshire be awarded to the Organisation identified in the tender evaluation.

#### 12 ASSET TRANSFER: FREEHOLD OF LLANGOLLEN TOWN HALL

Councillor P.J. Marfleet presented the report for Cabinet which sought approval to transfer the Llangollen Town Hall facility to the Town Council. The Asset Management Group had referred this proposal to Cabinet for decision, given this would involve the transfer of one of the Council assets for zero capital receipt. Asset Management were unable to make a decision on the transfer of a property for less than 50% of the undervalue. The proposal to transfer the Town Hall to the Town Council represented 20% of the agreed £100k efficiency savings target set against the service for Community buildings, with the remaining savings coming from the rest of the portfolio.

Councillor Marfleet explained that officers from Leisure, Libraries and Community Development had informally approached Llangollen Town Council to discuss proposed efficiencies at Llangollen Town Hall, which had been linked to the corporate efficiency medium term plan. It had been agreed that a small working group be established and its Terms of Reference had been set out in Appendix 2. Councillor Marfleet expressed his appreciation for the excellent work and communication undertaken by the officers from Leisure, Libraries and Community Development with the Llangollen Town Council.

Reference was made by Councillor Marfleet to the year on year revenue savings the Authority would achieve, the removal of the liability of repair and maintenance responsibility, the reduction in Denbighshire's carbon emissions by up to 48 tonnes per year and the transfer of the facility ensuring that Denbighshire make the best use of this public asset. A copy of a statement received from Llangollen Town Council, in respect of the transfer of the facility and outlining Llangollen Town Council's business Case, and the Chief Financial Officer statement, had been included in the report.

Councillor P.A. Dobb explained that she fully supported the proposal, however, she expressed caution that the building could in future be utilised to generate income in competition with other County Council owned properties in the area. Councillor Marfleet confirmed that the transfer of the building would be subject to legal conditions.

In response to a suggestion from Councillor E.W. Williams that details of the discussion process would be beneficial for Members, Councillor Marfleet referred to Appendix 2 to the report which included the Workstream Status Report which summarised the work undertaken by the Working Group. He also confirmed that the Local Members for the respective area had been included in the consultation process.

Following further discussion, it was:-

## **RESOLVED -** that Cabinet approve:-

- (a) the proposal for Leisure, Libraries & Community Development to transfer the freehold of Llangollen Town Hall to Llangollen Town Council, subject to property and legal conditions being satisfied which had been set out by the Property and Legal Department in Appendix 1 to the report, and
- (b) the freehold transfer of this asset with no capital receipt to the Authority, subject to property and legal conditions being satisfied which had been set out by the Property and Legal Department in Appendix 1 to the report.

#### 13 ASSET TRANSFER: FREEHOLD OF CORWEN HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

Councillor P.J. Marfleet presented the report for Cabinet which outlined proposals to transfer the freehold of Corwen Healthy Living Centre to the South Denbighshire Community Partnership (SDCP) without acquiring a Capital sum.

The SDCP had been formed in 2009 and registered as a not for profit Company Limited by Guarantee with a view to becoming a registered charity in 2010. A summary of the objectives of the SDCP and particulars pertaining to its Directors had been included in the report.

Councillor Marfleet explained that the transfer of the asset would allow the SDCP to seek grants to modernise/improve the facilities, which would not otherwise be available. The Group had a full Business Plan for the proposed transfer, which highlighted the opportunity to raise revenue from a number of sources.

The SDCP had indicated their determination to secure future grants towards the refurbishment of the facility and operating costs, and had prepared a business case detailing their structure, background, income opportunities and operational model and future strategy. This had been developed in partnership with Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.

Members were informed that the project supported Denbighshire's Corporate Priority of 'regenerating our communities', and the SDCP would be in a much stronger position than the Local Authority to apply for funding to continue to deliver activities and educational programmes to the Community.

Councillor M.M. Jones informed Members that Councillor H.LI. Jones, Local Member, had requested that his support for the proposed transfer of the freehold Centre be conveyed to the meeting. Councillor Jones expressed her appreciation for the work undertaken by the officers in Leisure, Libraries and Community Development.

# RESOLVED - that Cabinet approve:-

- (a) the proposal for Leisure, Libraries & Community Development to transfer the freehold of Corwen Healthy Living Centre to the South Denbighshire Community Partnership subject to property and legal conditions outlined in Appendix 1 to the report and the comments of the Chief Finance Office, and
- (b) the freehold transfer of this asset with no capital receipt to the Authority subject to property and legal conditions outlined in Appendix 1 to the report.

The meeting concluded at 12.05 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM NO: 5** 

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Lead Member: Cllr Eryl Williams – Lead Member for Education

Report Author: Jackie Walley, Head of Modernising Education

Title: Edeyrnion Area Review: Recommendations

following formal consultation

# 1 What is the report about?

This report is on two proposals for school reorganisation in the Edeyrnion area:

Proposal 1 is 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.

Proposal 2 is to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy on 31 August 2012 and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.

# 2 What is the reason for making this report?

On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Cabinet approved formal consultation on two proposals for school organisation in the Edeyrnion area.

This report is to inform Cabinet of the responses received during the formal consultation period. The report details the consultation responses, provides a response from officers to key issues raised and details actions undertaken as a result.

The report is to enable Cabinet to consider the responses, the recommendations from officers and if appropriate to approve the publication of a statutory notice.

## 3 What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Cabinet approve the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal to create a Welsh Medium area school serving the communities of Cynwyd and Lladnrillo on the existing school sites from 1 September 2012 moving to a single site in Cynwyd following the completion of extension & refurbishment works.

- 3.2 That Cabinet approve the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.
- 3.3 That Cabinet agree that the savings generated from the review of primary school provision in the Edeyrnion area is used for prudential borrowing to secure the capital necessary to complete the extension and refurbishment works at the new area school. This would enable the new school to relocate to one site in Cynwyd no later than September 2014.

# 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.
- 4.6 In May 2011, Cabinet approved four recommendations for school organisation in the Edeyrnion area.

Cabinet agreed to commence formal consultation on:-

- Proposal 1 An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo;
- Proposal 2 Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference;

# Cabinet also agreed to:

- Proposal 3 Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern.
- Proposal 4 Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog.

At present Proposals 3 and 4 can only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school. The Governing Bodies have held initial discussions to progress these proposals.

4.7 The formal consultation period for proposals 1 & 2 started on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011. At the request of the local communities the consultation period was extended and finished on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

# Proposal 1 - An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo

4.8 The proposal consulted upon was:

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.

4.9 A consultation document was circulated to parents of all pupils at both schools, governors of both schools, staff at both schools, local county councillors, community councils, local AM's and MP's and the Welsh Language Board.

An initial impact assessment on the Welsh Language and on the community was drafted by the authority and consulted upon as part of this consultation. A hard copy was circulated to the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors.

Electronic copies of these documents were made available on the Denbighshire website and hard copies were made available at every consultation meeting.

4.10 A series of consultation meetings were held in June 2011 and July 2011 as detailed below. Minutes of the staff and governors meetings have been shared with the schools and minutes of the parent and community meetings are available on the Denbighshire website:

www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation

# Ysgol Maes Hyfryd

	Date	Time	Venue
Staff Meeting	14/06/11	16:00	Ysgol Maes Hyfryd
Governors Meeting	14/06/11	18:00	Ysgol Maes Hyfryd
Parent & Community	27/06/11	18:30	Ysgol Maes Hyfryd
Meeting			
Additional parents drop-in	14/07/11	18:30	Ysgol Maes Hyfryd
session			

# Ysgol Llandrillo

	Date	Time	Venue
Staff Meeting	13/06/11	16:00	Ysgol Llandrillo
Governors Meeting	13/06/11	19:00	Ysgol Llandrillo
Parent & Community	21/06/11	19:30	Llandrillo Community Hall
Meeting			
Additional parents drop-in	12/07/11	18:30	Ysgol Llandrillo
session			

4.11 A large volume of responses were received during this formal consultation period, as detailed below:

# Responses to formal consultation

Responses from:	Total Number of Responses	No of responses in favour of proposal	No of responses opposed to proposal
Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Parents / Community	46	2	44*
Ysgol Llandrillo Parents / Community	86	1	85
AM's / MP's	2	0	2
Other	5	1	4

The majority of the responses from the Ysgol Maes Hyfryd community did not object to the creation of an area school on a single site. The majority of objections were based on the fact that the area school would remain on two sites for an undefined period of time with no funding in place for the extension and refurbishment works.

# Responses to initial impact assessment

Responses from:	Overall Welsh Language Impact			erall ity Impact
	Positive Negative		Positive	Negative
Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Parents / Community	1	0	1	0
Ysgol Llandrillo Parents / Community	0	46	0	47

A summary of these responses can be found below. All consultation responses received have been included in Appendix 1,2,3,4,5, 6 & 11.

# 4.12 Responses from Parents / Community of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd

# Opposed to having a school on two sites for an undefined period of time with no guarantee of funding.

Response: Cabinet are being asked to agree that the savings generated from the Edeyrnion area review are used to fund prudential borrowing to enable the extension and refurbishment works at the Cynwyd site to be completed. This would ensure that the area school is able to relocate to one site by no later than September 2014. This would be a maximum of two years on two sites and the authority would where possible seek to work with the local communities to shorten this period.

 Having a school split over two sites / headteacher shared over two sites would result in worse provision for pupils than currently available.

Response: Should funding for the area school be agreed, the school would only operate on two sites for a period of 24 months subject to no adverse issues arising during the construction phase. The authority accepts that this may cause some disruption and will seek to minimise disruption for pupils and support the new school during this transition period.

 There will be a negative impact on community relationships from having a school split over two sites;

Response: The authority accepts that this process has been difficult for both communities and that relationships between the communities have been strained. An agreement by Cabinet to fund the extension and refurbishment works at the Cynwyd site would provide a clear timescale for moving to a single site and the closure of the Llandrillo site. This would remove any uncertainty for both communities on the future of the school.

 Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is an outstanding school – referenced Estyn Inspection 2010.

Response: The authority has been clear from the start that this proposal is not a judgement on current school standards and that the proposal is about safeguarding education provision in the area for the future.

 Need a quick, clear resolution with dates, timescales and funding guaranteed.

Response: Should Cabinet agree the recommendations, funding for the area school would be guaranteed and a clear timescale would be provided on the future of both sites. This information would be included in the statutory notice.

 Opposed to losing their excellent headteacher / headteacher having to apply for the job.

Response: The authority recognises the support from parents and the local community for the current headteacher. Should the proposal be progressed the recruitment of the new Headteacher would be a decision for the Temporary Governing Body. The Temporary Governing Body can appoint internally for the positions of Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher where suitable candidates have requested in writing to be considered for the position.

 Concern about equal representation on new governing body for Llandrillo when only 10-20 pupils at the new school will be from there compared to 70 from Maes Hyfryd.

Response: The authority appoints parent, staff and LA governors to the Temporary Governing Body and will seek to ensure that both communities are represented. Teacher governors and community governors are appointed by the Temporary Governing Body.

 Don't want to lose the name Ysgol Maes Hyfryd – has no connection to Cynwyd.

Response: The name of the new area school would be a decision for the Temporary Governing Body.

 Educational benefits are all for pupils of Ysgol Llandrillo and no benefits to pupils at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.

Response: The authority believes there are significant benefits to pupils from both schools. Pupils currently at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd would benefit from a significant investment into the new area school to improve facilities and replace the existing mobile accommodation. The new area school could also have the opportunity to provide single age classes for certain year groups.

 Impact on the Cylch Meithrin – excellent relationship between the Cylch and current headteacher.

Response: The proposal should not have a negative impact on the Cylch Meithrin. The authority would recommend to the Temporary Governing Body of the new area school that current arrangements are either maintained or strengthened.

# 4.13 Responses from Parents / Community of Ysgol Llandrillo

## Education concerns

# The standard of education at the school is very high.

Response: The authority has been clear from the start that this proposal is not a judgement on current school standards and that the proposal is about safeguarding education provision in the area for the future.

# There is no evidence this proposal will improve education, provide improved facilities or that pupils will benefit.

Response: The authority believes that there are clear educational advantages from this proposal. The new area school will have age appropriate classes with no more than 2 age groups in one class and the opportunity for single age classes. The investment in the new school will provide improved facilities and specific Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 learning environments. Pupils will benefit from interaction with larger peer groups and a larger compliment of staff.

# Disadvantage to pupils from being in larger classes.

Response: The decision on the exact class structure of the new area school will be a matter for the Headteacher and Governing Body to decide upon.

It is likely that class sizes will be higher than presently at Ysgol Llandrillo, however pupils would be taught in age appropriate classes with the opportunity for single age classes for certain year groups. Based on the numbers on roll at both schools, the average class size should be 21.

# There are no plans for nursery provision in Llandrillo.

Response: Nursery provision would be provided at the new area school, initially on both sites but following the move to a single site the provision would be in Cynwyd.

The authority recognises that this could impact on parents who would need to make arrangements for their children to access Nursery provision following the move to a single site.

Should the proposal be progressed the authority would discuss the options for accessing Nursery provision with parents.

A 'Cylch Meithrin' currently exists in Cynwyd and has a close relationship with Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. The authority would suggest to the Governors of the new

area school that this relationship that they maintain a strong relationship with the Cylch. Parents from Llandrillo would be able to access this provision.

Once a decision is made on the future of Ysgol Llandrillo, the Council would also seek to begin discussions with the Llandrillo community and Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin to see if a 'Cylch Meirthin' or 'Ti a Fi' could be set up in Llandrillo. Support for this initiative would be provided by the School Improvement Service.

 Only parents who can drive will be able to access pre and after school activities.

Response: The authority recognises that there will be some parents in the area who may be at a disadvantage as a result of not being able to drive.

Disadvantage of being educated outside community / lack of local identity.

Response: While pupils may not be educated in their own village following the proposal they will be educated in the wider community. The new area school would serve both communities. The authority does not believe the proposal would lead to a lack of local identity for pupils.

Impact of travelling on young children.

Response: Travelling times for children attending the new area school have been estimated at no longer than 30minutes. The authority does not believe this will have a detrimental impact on young children or effect their education.

## Community concerns

- The school is the heart of the community / closing the school will destroy the village.
- Local businesses will suffer, young families will not move to the village and the village will be full of older people.
- School events / concerts will not take place in the village;
- Not worth destroying a community to save £53,000.
- Impact on community relationships, interaction between younger and older generations.
- There will be a generation of people who do not know each other.

Response: Following criticism of the initial impact assessments carried out by the authority and the high level of concern from the local community, the authority commissioned an independent community and Welsh language impact assessment.

The impact assessment was carried out by Dylan Bryn Roberts Consultancy and is available for viewing on the Denbighshire website at <a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation">www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation</a>

The impact assessment concluded that the proposal would have a negative community impact on Llandrillo and a positive community impact on Cynwyd.

The authority accepts that removing a school from any community is going to have an impact on the local community. However, the most important factor when considering the future of a school is the ability to safeguard & sustain high quality education provision. The authority believes that the proposal put forward is the best option to safeguard & sustain a high quality education provision locally.

The impact assessment identifies a number of measures that could be adopted to minimise the impact on the community, including:

- ➤ The Headteacher and Governing Body of the new area school ensure the school plays an important role in both communities, encourages support from both communities, plans to meet the needs of both communities and ensures that activities including concerts are held in both communities.
- The Council works with the local community to develop a community strategy and ensures that there are enough facilities community facilities in Llandrillo. This should include discussions on the future of the school site.

Should the proposal be progressed, the authority is committed to working with the local community and the Headteacher and Governing Body of the new area school to implement some of the measures suggested in the assessment.

# Welsh Language concerns

- The school immerses non Welsh speakers in the language;
- Parents will drive children to English schools if the school closes;
- This will dilute the use of Welsh / less Welsh speakers in the community;
- It reduces the choice of Welsh Medium provision;

Response: Following criticism of the initial impact assessments carried out by the authority and the high level of concern from the local community, the authority commissioned an independent community and Welsh language impact assessment.

The impact assessment was carried out by Dylan Bryn Roberts Consultancy and is available for viewing on the Denbighshire website at <a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation">www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation</a>

The impact assessment identified three main areas of concern:-

- > Access to Welsh Medium education;
- Nursery and Early Years provision;
- Language on the playing field;

The authority recognises that should provision be removed from Llandrillo that this would impact on access for local parents. However the nearest suitable school would be the Welsh Medium area school based in Cynwyd and that free transport would be provided to this school for all pupils meeting the eligibility criteria set out in the Council's School Transport Policy.

The authority accepts that the loss of a Welsh Medium school could be viewed as damaging to the Welsh Language.

However, it is the view of the authority that creating a new Welsh Medium area school with significant investment in facilities will create a sustainable high quality education provision and safeguard Welsh education in the area.

Although Nursery provision will be provided at the area school, the authority accepts that there is concern regarding access to non-statutory Nursery and Early Years provision and is committed to working with parents and the local communities on this matter.

The issue about the language on the playing field is an issue that many Welsh Medium schools face and the authority would expect the Headteacher and the Governing Body of the new area school to put in place measures to encourage the use of Welsh outside the classroom.

#### Other concerns

 Pupils from Llandrillo will not attend the new area school – they will go to Gwynedd.

Response: The authority accepts that many parents from Llandrillo have stated that they would not consider sending their children to the new area school. Parents have a right to enrol their children in any school which has places available and there is always a risk through school re-organisation that some parents may chose to take up this option.

The new area school will be the nearest suitable school for most parents and the Council only provide free transport for those pupils who meet the eligibility criteria to the nearest suitable school.

# The Llandrillo school site is better than the Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site.

Response: The authority recognises that the Ysgol Llandrillo site is a good school site with excellent access. However the school is not in the right location for an area school. Pupils attending the new school will live in Llandrillo, Cynwyd and Corwen. As a result Cynwyd is the most appropriate location for the new area school.

# Ysgol Llandrillo has never flooded.

Response: The authority accepts that although the school is situated in a flood zone, it has never flooded. The authority also accepts that it is possible to build in a flood zone, however this can add significantly to the costs involved. The decision regarding the new school site was made because Cynwyd is a central location based on the geographic area the new school would serve and the current home locations of pupils attending both schools.

# Concern about traffic / health & safety / air quality at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd in particular due to Ifor Williams factory.

Air Quality Response from Senior Environmental Health Officer:

"I can confirm that Ifor Williams Trailers Ltd. is currently permitted under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.

The Permit covers controlling emissions to air, land and water from the galvanising plant. Defra / WAG have set a limit of 15mg/m³ for particulate matter from such a process and in order to demonstrate compliance, emissions from the galvanising plant are monitored continuously and every 2 year manual extractive testing takes place.

Additionally, should the emission limit be breached, the Operator is notified by an alarm so that corrective action can take place. They also have an obligation to record such an incident, and if this is likely to have an effect on the local community, they must report this to the Local Authority immediately.

Generally speaking, the results obtained from emission monitoring are consistently well below the limits set which is one of the reasons why the period for manual extractive testing has been reduced from annually to once every 2 years."

## Health & Safety / Traffic Response:

In response to the comments made regarding health & safety at the present Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site, officers from Corporate Health & Safety (CH&S) and the Principal Highways Safety Engineer visited the school on the 9<sup>th</sup>

September 2011 to observe the situation in the morning 08:15 – 09:15 and in the afternoon from 14:30 – 16:00:

"Based on what we see at other school locations around Denbighshire the highway risk in the vicinity of ysgol Maes Hyfryd is considered by us to be acceptable (us being CH&S and the Principal Highways Safety Engineer). We didn't see a significant amount of through traffic or haulage going to Ivor Williams. In the afternoon we monitored the school and the road at the same time and this gave us no significant concerns.

In general we did not see current traffic management as a significant cause for concern but an increase in numbers should be accompanied by infrastructure improvements."

Should the proposal go ahead the authority would look to improve the access / car park facilities on the site as part of the extension and refurbishment works.

# Consultation has been poor / documentation provided has been poor / criticism of officers at meetings;

Response: Officers have provided extensive documentation, attended numerous meetings and been open and transparent with members of the public throughout this process. Officers have also held a number of additional meetings with members of the local community and have exceeded the statutory requirements for consultation.

# Costs are inaccurate / savings don't justify spending £1m

Response: Annual revenue savings from school reorganisation will always look minimal compared with the capital expenditure required to improve our schools.

However the overall savings in the Edeyrnion area after taking into consideration transport costs would be approximately £92,500 which could raise approximately £1,200,000 in capital through prudential borrowing.

# 4.14 Responses from the Governing Body of Ysgol Llandrillo

The Governing Body of Ysgol Llandrillo submitted a detailed response to the formal consultation. This response is included as Appendix 1.

The Governing Body of Ysgol Llandrillo and the local community are strongly opposed to the proposal.

# 4.15 Responses from AM's, MP's and other stakeholders

# Ken Skates AM

I am writing on behalf of residents in Llandrillo concerning the current review of schools in the Dee Valley.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter from and and concerning this matter and would be very grateful for your observations. I believe a strong argument in favour of Option 3 exists, with the retention of Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd as separate schools.

Given the review of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, many of the arguments in favour of closing Ysgol Llandrillo appear to be compromised as the condition of Ysgol Llandrillo appears to be superior to that of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.

Essentially there is widespread and deep concern that the closure of Ysgol Llandrillo could severely weaken the community and lead to a lesser educational experience for local children.

I would therefore be very grateful if all observations and alternative recommendations could be given urgent consideration.

# Llyr Huws Gruffydd AM

I would like to state my opposition to the plans that will see some primary schools in Edeirnion closing and others being federated.

There is specific opposition to the intention to close Glyndyfrdwy and Llandrillo schools, because of the broader effect such a decision has on the wider community rather than the education of the children. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that one department of the council wants to close the school to save money because of technical reasons (too many surplus places) while another council department sees the need to spend money in the village to sustain it because of the closure.

I believe that the council needs to look at the value of a school in its entirety, as a centre and a valuable heart of the community. Often this is the only meeting place in a village ac it certainly creates a bustle which is lost when a school closes. Therefore there is an added value to a school rather than it being merely an education centre and this community value is impossible to measure purely in monetary terms.

I also fail to understand why the council sees any value in federating Carrog and Corwen while rejecting the same solution in Llandrillo and Cynwyd. Wouldn't this be a better option than closing altogether?

I propose a better option to the intention to close – a choice that has been pursued in a rural area the other side of the Berwyn mountains. Wrexham Council were under pressure to reorganise Dyffryn Ceiriog schools, with a proposal to close two small schools of Pontfadog and Llanarmon and moving everyone to Ysgol Cynddelw in Glyn Ceiriog. It was a wise decision of the council's eventually to keep the three schools open because of the community value each had and because they were able to see beyond the artificial argument of empty places.

Such imagination is necessary to support small village schools where the community want to see them staying open. In the case of Llandrillo and Glyndyfrdwy, the communities want to keep them open.

The recent announcement by the Welsh Government and the Education Minister Leighton Andrews regarding the future of the funding programme for the Schools of the Twenty First Century raise one basic question regarding this whole process of reorganisation. Without the likelihood of funding being available to realise the final plans it could be argued that it undermines the entire value of the consultation. It also creates much anxiety and concern to the communities of Edeirnion which, possibly, is totally unnecessary if there is no funding available to build new schools at the end of the process. Indeed, without extra funding from the Welsh Government it's quite possible that the most cost-effective option would be to keep the schools as they are.

# Welsh Language Board

## **Proposal 1 - Community School for Cynwyd and Llandrillo**

The arguments in the document for the closure of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd (Cynwyd) and Ysgol Llandrillo and establish a new community school on the site of the existing schools from 1 September 2012, and then move to one site in Cynwyd after refurbishment work, are strong ones.

The proposals would deal with the surplus places in Ysgol Llandrillo (58.6% of the total as of January 2011) and lead gradually to a per capita expenditure lower than the current level and after moving to the new site, lower than the county average. A short study by the authority of both sites and pupil distribution shows that Cynwyd would be the better site. Travel time would be reasonable – about 30 minutes per journey, although transport costs would increase. Evidence shows that standards should not suffer in any way. This would be a Welsh medium school and because of the the Welsh language and ethos would be protected.

One strand which is common to both proposals above is the effect that closing Ysgol Llandrillo (Proposal 1) and Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy (Proposal 2) would have on the communities they are part of. Many consider the schools to be the centrepoint of life in the villages, even though there is a community hall in Glyndyfrdwy. It is appropriate that the county discusses further the provision in the future for nursery education and the possibility of keeping the buildings

as a community resource. It would also be good if the county could propose further practical suggestions regarding how it could help sustain viable Welsh communities in these areas should the schools close. That is vital as both areas are ones where the Welsh language and culture are important.

Another subject which needs more attention is primary / secondary progression. It is not clear from the documents what effect the changes, especially in Glyndyfrdwy, would have on the choice of secondary school for pupils and the progression of their Welsh education. Comments on this would help with the process of deciding on the best way forward.

# Mr. Ffred Francis – Welsh Language Society

At the meeting in Llandrillo, I personally gave the response of Cymdeithas yr laith to the proposal to close Llandrillo and Cynwyd schools and create one Area School in Cynwyd. Our response was that the Council – as it has done in other areas – should collaborate with parents and governors to seek compatible solutions. The presence of 200 people at the meeting in Llandrillo clearly demonstrated the commitment of parents, governors and the community to the school and this is a force for good which should be nurtured rather than attempt to defeat it.

There is an obvious compromise available which satisfies a number of the Council's requirements – regarding reducing the numbers of schools and the number of headteachers – namely accepting that the new Area School will be a 2-site school (for the foreseeable future). These are the advantages (for everyone) of having a 2-site School rather than moving towards a one-site School as is the present recommendation of the Council -

- 1) It is a far cheaper option regarding capital developments. It is difficult to see why the taxpayers of Denbighshire generally should pay significantly for developing the Cynwyd site when the present sites are perfectly adequate. To the extent that there is surplus capacity in the Llandrillo site, part of the building should be decommissioned and discuss with other departments of the Council and the throngs of partners how to use the resource to present other public services in the village.
- 2) This would ascertain parent and community support in Llandrillo for the new 2-site Area School and collaboration between the two communities. Implementing the present recommendation (moving to 1 site) on the other hand would be a recipe for "civil war" between the 2 communities and this would be very detrimental to the children's education and to the community support which characterizes excellent education in these rural areas.
- 3) Unanimity in favour of such a compromise would mean that the two schools could begin immediately to prepare for the new structure within 12 months. Otherwise, the uncertainty of Appeal and bad feeling will prevent developments.

4) If the situation changed significantly in the future – regarding numbers etc – the Governing Body could make any decision locally.

In doing so, the Council would have fulfilled a number of its objectives regarding modernising education in Edeirnion AND would have retained community support.

I emphasise again that this model (2 site Area School) is totally different to federation (under the new regulations) as is encouraged for Betws GG and Gwyddelwern schools. The permanent model of a 2-site Area School was not evaluated in the consultation document and this was a fundamental weakness as there is a statutory necessity to "consider all the alternative choices".

One last legal point that I raised in the meeting and an answer was not forthcoming. The present intention of the County Council (unless it is changed as a result of the consultation process) is to create an Area School for Llandrillo and Cynwyd on the 2 present sites initially and then move to one advanced site in Cynwyd when the capital was available. However, by establishing a 2-site Area School one Governing Body will be elected to govern the 2-site School. Would it not then be the decision for the Governing Body rather than the County Council, whether they wish to operate on 2 sites or on one site? I accept that the Council would have a strong influence regarding the funding provided, but on what basis would you argue that moving to a single site would be a decision for the Council, rather than the new Governing Body?

## 4.16 Alternative suggestions presented during the formal consultation period.

Close Ysgol Llandrillo and transfer pupils to Ysgol Maes Hyfyrd;

Response: It is the authority's view that the proposal should be to establish a new area school rather than close one of the schools.

 Delay the closure of both schools until the building work is completed then start new school on one site;

Response: The recommendation to Cabinet is to approve the use of savings from the area review to fund the extension and refurbishment works at the new area school. This will enable the authority to present a clear timescale in the statutory notice for the completion of the works and the closure of the Llandrillo school site subject to no adverse issues arising during the construction phase. This should result in the new area school operating on two sites for no longer that 2 academic years.

# Move the pupils to the Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site before the build is complete – there is room.

Response: While Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has had more pupils on roll in the past, the school is currently operating at capacity. This is a result of the revised capacity guidelines from the Welsh Government.

The authority accepts it may be possible to accommodate additional pupils at the school using the current accommodation; this would not be the authority's preferred solution. This could result in health & safety issues and be detrimental to pupils. It could also impact on the extension and refurbishment works.

# Federate with Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.

Response: The authority accepts that federating the two schools would have less impact on the Llandrillo community than the proposal. However, the authority still believes that there are significant advantages of an area school over a federation, in particular the significant investment in the new school.

Based on the consultation feedback from parents of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd opposed to a long term shared site arrangement, there is unlikely to be support from the Maes Hyfryd community to federate with Ysgol Llandrillo.

# Retain Ysgol Llandrillo as it is;

Response: The authority views retaining the school as a risk to the sustainability of education provision in the area. Pupil numbers are likely to decrease further and this could represent a risk to the quality of educational provision for pupils.

# Use the community to fund / undertake maintenance works and repairs at the school.

Response: The authority welcomes this suggestion from the local community; however the proposal is not just about the school buildings but about sustaining a high quality education provision in the area for the future.

# Edeyrnion Schools Alliance alternative proposal;

Response: The Edeyrnion Schools Alliance proposal was circulated to all Cabinet Members after the initial consultation period and was discussed at the Cabinet Meeting in May 2011. Having considered the report, Members voted to formally consult on the proposals in this report.

It is the view of officers that the proposal, while welcomed does not address a number of key issues and does not represent a sustainable solution for the areas. A number of themes from the report have been take onboard as part of the 'Building Capacity in Schools' project and the authority has written to the Edeyrnion Schools Alliance to thank them for their contribution to this workstream.

A letter from the Edeyrnion Schools Alliance and their proposal are included as Appendix 12 & 13.

# Proposal 2 – To close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.

4.17 The proposal consulted upon was:

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

4.18 A consultation document was circulated to parents of all pupils at the school, governors, staff, local county councillors, community councils, local AM's and MP's and the Welsh Language Board.

An initial impact assessment on the Welsh Language and on the community was drafted by the authority and consulted upon as part of this consultation. A hard copy was circulated to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

Electronic copies of these documents were made available on the Denbighshire website and hard copies were made available at every consultation meeting.

4.19 A series of consultation meetings were held in June 2011 and July 2011 as detailed below. Minutes of the staff and governors meetings have been shared with the schools and minutes of the parent and community meeting are available on the Denbighshire website:

www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation

# Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

	Date	Time	Venue
Staff Meeting	16/06/11	16:00	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
Governors Meeting	16/06/11	18:00	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
Parent & Community	28/06/11	18:30	Glyndyfrdwy Village Hall
Meeting			
Additional parents drop-in	13/07/11	18:30	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
session			

4.20 A large volume of responses were received during this formal consultation period, as detailed below:

# Responses to formal consultation

Responses from:	Total Number of Responses	No of responses in favour of proposal	No of responses opposed to proposal
Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy Parents / Community	28	0	28
AM's / MP's	2	0	2
Other	4	1	3

# Responses to initial impact assessment

Responses from:	Overall Welsh Language Impact		Ove Commun	erall ity Impact
	Positive Negative		Positive	Negative
Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy Parents / Community	0	10	0	10

A summary of these responses can be found below. All consultation responses received have been included in Appendix 7,8,9,10 & 11.

# 4.21 Responses from Parents / Community of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

## **Education**

Quality of education at the school is excellent.

Response: The authority has been clear from the start that this proposal is not a judgement on current school standards and that the proposal is about safeguarding education provision in the area for the future.

 No evidence education will be better at Ysgol Y Gwernant / Benefits could be achieved through federating.

Response: The quality of education at Ysgol Y Gwernant is of a high standard and pupils will benefit from being taught in age appropriate classes with no more than 2 year groups in a class. Pupils will benefit from interaction with larger peer groups and a larger compliment of staff. Pupils will also benefit from the recent investment in the school to improve facilities.

# Children will suffer from being in large classrooms.

Response: The authority accepts that there are advantages to being educated in smaller groups to a certain degree, but there are also advantages to being taught in age appropriate classes and from interaction with a larger group of peers.

# Children will suffer from being transported 12 miles each day;

Response: Travelling times for children have been estimated at no longer than 30minutes. The authority does not believe this will have a detrimental impact on young children or affect their education.

# There is not enough capacity in Ysgol Y Gwernant.

Response: There is capacity at Ysgol Y Gwernant to accommodate all pupils from Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy following the recent extension and refurbishment works. In the future should demand for Welsh Medium education increase further there is scope within the existing school building which is shared with Ysgol Bryn Collen for additional space to be designated for Ysgol Y Gwernant.

# The numbers at the school are growing – thriving Ti a Fi.

Response: The authority accepts that pupil numbers at the school are due to increase. However, the increase is not substantial and the authority has projected the maximum number of pupils at the school at less than 30 pupils. As a result it is the authority's view that the school is not sustainable long term.

## No access to Nursery provision / Impact on current Ti a Fi provision.

Response: Nursery provision would be provided at Ysgol Y Gwernant in Llangollen.

The authority recognises that this could impact on parents who would need to make arrangements for their children to access the Nursery provision.

Should the proposal be progressed the authority would discuss the options for accessing Nursery provision with parents.

A 'Ti a Fi' already exists in Glyndyfrdwy and is currently accommodated in the school building. The Council would seek to ensure that this provision is maintained following the closure of the school. The provision may need to be accommodated in another facility, possibly the existing community hall. Support for this initiative would be provided by the School Improvement Service.

Impact of Transition during the early years.

Response: The authority recognises that transition between educational phases is an important time in a child's education and needs to be managed carefully. The authority does not believe that the transition to Ysgol Y Gwernant for young children would be detrimental to their education. The authority would provide appropriate support for pupils and parents.

## Impact on the Community

- School is the heart of the village.
- Parents able to walk children to school and socialise.
- Loss of Ti a Fi from the community.
- Young parents have moved back to the village because of the school.
- All school events would take place out of the village.
- Children would go to different schools and not know each other could result in a generation of children / neighbours not knowing each other.

Response: Following criticism of the initial impact assessments carried out by the authority and the high level of concern from the local community, the authority commissioned an independent community and Welsh language impact assessment.

The impact assessment was carried out by Dylan Bryn Roberts Consultancy and is available for viewing on the Denbighshire website at <a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation">www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation</a>

The impact assessment concluded that the proposal would have a negative community impact on Glyndyfrdwy.

The authority accepts that removing a school from any community is going to have an impact on the local community. However, the most important factor when considering the future of a school is the ability to safeguard & sustain high quality education provision. The authority believes that the proposal put forward is the best option available and will provide a sustainable high quality education provision for pupils from Glyndyfrdwy.

The impact assessment identifies a number of measures that could be adopted to minimise the impact on the community, including:

➤ The Headteacher and Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant should seek to ensure the school has a presence in Glyndyfrdwy, encourages support from the local community, considers the needs of the Glyndyfrdwy community and

looks to ensure that activities including concerts are held in Glyndyfrdwy as well as Llangollen.

The Council works with the local community to develop a community strategy and ensures that there are enough facilities community facilities in Glyndyfrdwy. This should include discussions on the future of the school site.

Should the proposal be progressed, the authority is committed to working with the local community and the Headteacher and Governing Body of the new area school to implement some of the measures suggested in the assessment.

## Impact on the Welsh Language

- English schools getting priority over Welsh ones (i.e. keeping Carrog open).
- Some parents may choose to go to Carrog because it's closer and lose the language.
- Use of Welsh in the community will suffer.
- Llangollen is a mainly English town, so children's use of Welsh will suffer.
- Welsh will not be the language of the playground in Gwernant.

Response: Following criticism of the initial impact assessments carried out by the authority and the high level of concern from the local community, the authority commissioned an independent community and Welsh language impact assessment.

The impact assessment was carried out by Dylan Bryn Roberts Consultancy and is available for viewing on the Denbighshire website at www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation

The impact assessment identified a number of areas where the proposal could have a negative impact on the Welsh Language:

- Language Demographics;
- > Access to Welsh Medium education:
- Nursery and Early Years provision;
- > Language on the playing field;
- Breakfast & After School Clubs:

Both schools currently have a high percentage of pupils from English speaking homes and a low percentage of pupils form Welsh speaking homes. Should the proposal go ahead, the number of pupils from English speaking homes at Ysgol Y Gwernant could increase. However, given the high proportion of pupils from English speaking homes currently at Ysgol Y Gwernant the authority does not believe this would impact on the quality of Welsh provision available at the school.

The authority recognises that should provision be removed from Glyndyfrdwy that this would impact on access for local parents. However the nearest suitable school would be Ysgol Y Gwernant in Llangollen and that free transport would be provided to this school for all pupils meeting the eligibility criteria set out in the Council's School Transport Policy.

There is always a risk with any school organisation proposal that parents could enrol their children at other schools in the area and that this could result in children moving to English Medium schools. Should the proposal go ahead the authority would work with parents to explain the importance of language continuity.

The authority accepts that the loss of a Welsh Medium school could be viewed as damaging to the Welsh Language. However, it is the view of the authority that Ysgol Y Gwernant provides a sustainable high quality Welsh Medium education provision for pupils from Glyndyfrdwy.

Although Nursery provision will be provided at Ysgol Y Gwernant, the authority accepts that there is concern regarding access to non-statutory Nursery and Early Years provision and is committed to working with parents and the local communities on this matter.

The issue about the language on the playing field is an issue that many Welsh Medium schools face and the authority would expect the Headteacher and the Governing Body of the new area school to put in place measures to encourage the use of Welsh outside the classroom.

The language used at breakfast and after-school clubs is a matter for the Headteacher and Governing Body of Ysgol Y Gwernant. The authority would expect the school to put in place measures to encourage the use of Welsh in these social settings.

## <u>Other</u>

## Parental choice being taken away;

Response: The authority recognises that there will be less choice for parents as a result of the school closing; however parents have a right to send their child to any school in the area providing there are places available. Should both proposals be implemented there will still be 7 primary schools situated within the Dee Valley. The Council's School Transport policy provides free transport for those pupils who meet the eligibility criteria to their nearest suitable school.

# Closing the school is a breach of their human rights;

Response: It is the local authority's responsibility to review the provision of school places. There is a statutory process that all local authorities must follow in

order to close a school. As part of the process, if there are objections during the statutory notice stage, the final decision is made by the Minister for Education and Skills.

# Hardly any financial savings and many hidden costs (e.g. community);

Response: Annual revenue savings from school reorganisation will always look minimal compared with the capital expenditure required to improve our schools. However the overall savings in the Edeyrnion area after taking into consideration transport costs would be approximately £92,500 which could raise approximately £1,200,000 in capital through prudential borrowing.

# Concern over the process and the impartiality of certain Cabinet members;

Response from Denbighshire's Legal Department:

The members code of conduct is now a two stage test (1) personal interest then (2) whether that personal interest is also a prejudicial one - in which case subject to some exemptions within the regulations you leave the room. If it is not prejudicial, then the member can stay and take part in the debate and vote in the usual way, after declaring the personal interest. (The cabinet minutes must reflect the personal interest). Ultimately it is a decision for the Member - it it their responsibility to reach their own decision.

This point was clarified at the start of the Cabinet meeting in May 2011 before Members voted on the recommendations.

# Impact assessment not independent – completed by same team that put forward proposal.

Response: Following criticism of the initial impact assessments carried out by the authority and the high level of concern from the local community, the authority commissioned independent community and Welsh language impact assessments.

The impact assessment was carried out by Dylan Bryn Roberts Consultancy and is available for viewing on the Denbighshire website at <a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation">www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation</a>

# 4.22 Response from the Governing Body of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

The Governing Body of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy submitted a detailed response to the formal consultation. This response is included as Appendix 7.

The Governing Body of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and the local community are strongly opposed to the proposal.

# 4.23 Responses from AM's, MP's and other stakeholders

## Ken Skates AM

I am writing on behalf of the community of Glyndyfrdwy regarding the proposed school closure.

While I recognise the need to ensure value for money in the education system, I believe Glyndyfrdwy's school has a value much greater than its costs imply. It is a hub for local activity and binds together the community.

I have a number of concerns over the proposal. Firstly, there is a plan to provide nursery education in the village hall, but this is a large, period property that does not lend itself to be used as a nursery, particularly during winter months. It is also located on the main road, with no parking provision. Consequently, there are very legitimate concerns over child safety at the site. Furthermore, if the proposal is implemented, children progressing from the nursery to school in Llangollen would be at an immediate disadvantage as they would not know their new teachers and peers.

I understand that 18 children under the age of 2 currently live in the village, whose parents intend sending them to Glyndyfrdwy School. In addition, plans for affordable homes have been passed recently in the village, which will attract more families, provided the school remains open.

Conversely, should the school close, I envisage many families leaving the village in order to be closer to the school attended by their children.

I fear that should the school close, Glyndyfrdwy will fall into a steady but noticeable decline, with a migration of people out of the community and a loss of social cohesion. I would therefore be grateful if the proposal could be reviewed, even if a merger with Carrog is needed. I am aware that similar mergers have taken place in the Ceiriog Valley and I believe such a strategy in the Dee Valley could assist in keeping the local schools and villages alive.

# Llyr Huws Gruffydd AM

I would like to state my opposition to the plans that will see some primary schools in Edeirnion closing and others being federated.

There is specific opposition to the intention to close Glyndyfrdwy and Llandrillo schools, because of the broader effect such a decision has on the wider community rather than the education of the children. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that one department of the council wants to close the school to save money because of technical reasons (too many surplus places) while another council department sees the need to spend money in the village to sustain it because of the closure.

I believe that the council needs to look at the value of a school in its entirety, as a centre and a valuable heart of the community. Often this is the only meeting place in a village ac it certainly creates a bustle which is lost when a school closes. Therefore there is an added value to a school rather than it being merely an education centre and this community value is impossible to measure purely in monetary terms.

I also fail to understand why the council sees any value in federating Carrog and Corwen while rejecting the same solution in Llandrillo and Cynwyd. Wouldn't this be a better option than closing altogether?

I propose a better option to the intention to close – a choice that has been pursued in a rural area the other side of the Berwyn mountains. Wrexham Council were under pressure to reorganise Dyffryn Ceiriog schools, with a proposal to close two small schools of Pontfadog and Llanarmon and moving everyone to Ysgol Cynddelw in Glyn Ceiriog. It was a wise decision of the council's eventually to keep the three schools open because of the community value each had and because they were able to see beyond the artificial argument of empty places.

Such imagination is necessary to support small village schools where the community want to see them staying open. In the case of Llandrillo and Glyndyfrdwy, the communities want to keep them open.

The recent announcement by the Welsh Government and the Education Minister Leighton Andrews regarding the future of the funding programme for the Schools of the Twenty First Century raise one basic question regarding this whole process of reorganisation. Without the likelihood of funding being available to realise the final plans it could be argued that it undermines the entire value of the consultation. It also creates much anxiety and concern to the communities of Edeirnion which, possibly, is totally unnecessary if there is no funding available to build new schools at the end of the process. Indeed, without extra funding from the Welsh Government it's quite possible that the most cost-effective option would be to keep the schools as they are.

# Welsh Language Board

The reasons for this proposal are strong ones. The number of pupils in Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy are very low (2011-16) and unlikely to increase, with surplus places equivalent to 69.8% of the total places. The cost per pupil is much higher than the county average. The schools needs considerable capital investment. It's difficult to appoint a headteacher – the one there currently is temporary. Transfer to the Welsh school Ysgol Gymraeg y Gwernant in Llangollen (established 2004) would not harm the children's Welsh education. There would be substantial revenue savings from closing the school, even after taking into account the additional transport costs.

It's not possible to say, however, that all the parents would wish their children to transfer to Ysgol y Gwernant. All efforts would be needed to ensure that

none of the pupils would lose their Welsh education as a result of the change. It's appropriate that the county speaks to all parents to see which school they would wish their children to go to, and provide transport in accordance with the county's policy. It would certainly be an opportunity to explain the advantages of Welsh education to them.

One strand which is common to both proposals above is the effect that closing Ysgol Llandrillo (Proposal 1) and Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy (Proposal 2) would have on the communities they are part of. Many consider the schools to be the centrepoint of life in the villages, even though there is a community hall in Glyndyfrdwy. It is apporpriate that the county discusses further the provision in the future for nursery education and the possibility of keeping the buildings as a community resource. It would also be good if the county could propose further practical suggestions regarding how it could help sustain viable Welsh communities in these areas should the schools close. That is vital as both areas are ones where the Welsh language and culture are important.

Another subject which needs more attention is primary / secondary progression. It is not clear from the documents what effect the changes, especially in Glyndyfrdwy, would have on the choice of secondary school for pupils and the progression of their Welsh education. Comments on this would help with the process of deciding on the best way forward.

# 4. 24 Alternative suggestions presented during the formal consultation

# Federate with Ysgol Y Gwernant or Ysgol Carrog.

Response: The authority believes that there are significant advantages for all pupils to be educated together at Ysgol Y Gwernant and that these outweigh the advantages of federating.

# Merge with Gwernant and retain school site.

Response: Due to the small numbers on roll at Ysgol Glyndyfrdyw the authority does not believe that there are sufficient educational reasons for retaining the school site as part of Ysgol Y Gwernant. There are greater educational benefits to pupils from being educated together on one site.

# Retain the school as it is;

Response: The authority views retaining the school as a risk to the sustainability of education provision in the area. Although pupil numbers are set to increase slightly, they are not projected to increase sufficiently to provide a sustainable educational provision for the future.

# Use the community to fund maintenance / repairs to the school;

Response: The authority welcomes this suggestion from the local community; however the proposal is not just about the school buildings but about sustaining a high quality education provision in the area for the future.

# Edeyrnion Schools Alliance proposal;

Response: The Edeyrnion Schools Alliance proposal was circulated to all Cabinet Members after the initial consultation period and was discussed at the Cabinet Meeting in May 2011. Having considered the report, Members voted to formally consult on the proposals in this report.

It is the view of officers that the proposal, while welcomed does not address a number of key issues and does not represent a sustainable solution for the areas. A number of themes from the report have been take onboard as part of the 'Building Capacity in Schools' project and the authority has written to the Edeyrnion Schools Alliance to thank them for their contribution to this workstream.

A letter from the Edeyrnion Schools Alliance and their proposal are included as Appendix 12 & 13.

# 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?

# Proposal 1 - An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo

- 6.1 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.
- Replacing the mobile accommodation at the Cynwyd site would save the authority £4,659 per year in revenue.
- 6.3 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. Additional savings could also be realised by moving to a single site through changes to the staffing structure at the school.
- 6.4 Additional costs could be incurred in relation to accessing Nursery provision. However costs cannot be provided until a decision is made on the future of

the school and discussions have taken place with parents on the options available.

- 6.5 The net saving once transport costs have been taken into consideration would be £35,659 per year.
- 6.6 The proposal has the potential to impact on staff at both schools and there may be one off redeployment and redundancy costs associated.
- 6.7 Capital funding would be required to move the new school to a single site. Based on initial design and feasibility work the cost would be approximately £1,200,000. This investment would provide improved facilities and a more energy efficient building. The capital required to extend and refurbish the school would be funded through prudential borrowing.

# 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 Additional costs could be incurred in relation to accessing Nursery provision. However costs cannot be provided until a decision is made on the future of the school and discussions have taken place with parents on the options available.
- 6.11 The net saving once transport costs have been taken into consideration would be £50,500 per year.
- 6.12 The proposal would impact on staff at both schools and there may be redeployment and redundancy costs associated.

# Total Savings from Edeyrnion Area Review

- 6.13 The total net savings once transport costs have been taken into consideration from the Edeyrnion area review would be £92,243. This includes £6,084 that will be saved following the removal of mobile accommodation from Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch. This could fund approximately £1,200,000 in capital through prudential borrowing.
- 6.14 It is proposed that the annual revenue savings of £92,243 is used to fund prudential borrowing to cover the costs of the extension and refurbishment

works at the new area school. Based on initial design and feasibility work the cost would be approximately £1,200,000.

- 6.15 The proposals if both progressed would also result in two school sites being declared surplus. The authority would discuss the future of the school site with the local communities with consideration given in line with the Modernising Education Policy Framework to retaining the sites as a community provision. In such instances the local communities would need to demonstrate their ability to take over responsibility for the site and meet all associated costs.
- 6.16 Should the proposals result in the disposal of the school sites, there would be 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;

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

7.1 Formal consultation has taken place regarding the proposals as detailed in paragraphs 4.10 and 4.17.

The representations received during this time period are summarised in paragraphs 4.11 - 4.14 and 4.19 - 4.20 and are included in Appendix 1-13.

# 8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The review is a fundamental part of Education in Denbighshire. As with all other School Reorganisations savings resulting from these proposals are retained within Education and re-invested into the wider proposals for Modernising Education. Any additional costs will also be contained within existing budgets.

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

- 9.1 Both proposals are likely to receive the one objection required to secure a Ministerial decision. In the event of an objection being received, it could be a further 4-6 months before a final decision is made by the Minister. Should the Minister approve the proposals at this point, the authority may not be able to implement the proposals for September 2012. If this were to occur, the authority would seek discussions with the Welsh Government on a suitable implementation date which could be January or September 2013.
- 9.2 There is a strong possibility that the proposal could result in adverse publicity for the Council and in adverse public comments.

9.3 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)

Cabinet 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Cabinet Report Appendices - Edeyrnion Area Review :

Recommendations following formal consultation

Personal information has been redacted from this document.

Responses from those who did not give the authority permission to publish their responses have also been redacted.

All Cabinet Members were presented with the full document in August 2011

Appendix 1 Appendix 2 Appendix 3	Response from Governors of Ysgol Llandrillo Ysgol Llandrillo Formal Consultation Responses Response from Llandrillo Local Appeal Group
Appendix 4	Ysgol Llandrillo Responses to the initial impact assessments
Appendix 5	Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Formal Consultation Responses
Appendix 6	Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Responses to the initial impact assessments
Appendix 7	Response from Governors of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
Appendix 8	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy Formal Consultation Responses
Appendix 9	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy Responses to the initial impact assessments
Appendix 10	Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy Staff Response
Appendix 11	General Responses
Appendix 12	Letter from Edeyrnion Schools Alliance
Appendix 13	Edeyrnion Schools Alliance Proposal



# **Modernising Education**

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

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

by members of

Llandrillo Community
Llandrillo Parents
The Board of Governors
Amddiffyn Ysgol Llandrillo Group

**July 2011** 

#### A.1 SUMMARY FEEDBACK

This document has been reviewed and edited by a broad section of individuals from across the Llandrillo community, including parents, members of the community and school governors in response to the Denbighshire County Council (DCC) proposal to close (discontinue) Llandrillo school, and create an Area School for Cynwyd and Llandrillo. Due to the numbers of contributors, this sample should be considered statistically relevant, and a fair representation of a significant proportion of the local community. The key messages are:

- 1. A rational yet vehement objection to the proposal derived from a set of informed conclusions, based on the facts available.
  - 22 points are set out below (Section A.2), and referenced within the proposal document
- 2. Significant concern amongst the community of the subjective nature of the current proposal, and the startling lack of substantiating evidence to support many of the recommendations made in the proposal.
  - It is unclear to all members of the Llandrillo community consulted in the review process, how a democratically and respected body i.e. DCC Cabinet, could make decisions, or support such a proposal based on the body of evidence presented by officers in their Modernising Education Edeyrnion Review. Evidence must be informed, objective, and based on relevant facts; a set of criteria lacking from the proposal document as presented to the community for 'consultation'.
  - There are significant concerns around the principles underpinning the business case. The business case itself is vague, and appears to be based on extremely unsound accounting principles. For example, it is understood that the business case is looking to switch revenue funding for key services e.g. teachers, to funding capital investments e.g. new buildings. It is extremely doubtful that many of the key identified revenue 'savings' identified for 'reinvestment' are actually available for reinvestment in reality, resulting in a situation that further reduces funding available for teaching, and actually increases the number of 'empty' pupil spaces available.

# 3. Apparent lack of due diligence in management of the consultation process

It is understood that there is a duty to 'consult' attached to anything that education authorities and proposers wish to do (Law, Regulations and Guidance on School Organisation in Wales; A. Parker; March 2011). Even the general principles under which this duty resides, do not appear to have been followed, resulting in a process that has been clearly flawed:

- Insufficient information has been provided, especially of a factual and quantitative nature
- Insufficient time has been given to allow interested parties to understand, form a view and respond to the proposal
- It has been difficult to find any example of where the parents and community have actually been 'consulted'. The parents and community have not been involved in the process of developing and selecting options, but have rather been driven to accept a single outcome based on the presentation of a 'fete accompli' by DCC. They have been informed of an outcome, and are being driven through a 'change management'

process that has not been managed, so much as inflicted. Key stakeholder expectation management has been amongst the worst ever seen and experienced by most individuals in the community.

- Deliberate exclusion of key representatives from Llandrillo in public consultation meetings. Representatives of the council have already written to apologise and confirm this as an error in the process
- The views of the community will be collated and considered before a
  recommendation is made to DCC Cabinet on whether to proceed to the next stage
  and issue a statutory notice. It is not clear how the community will be involved in this
  process, to ensure that their views are fully and impartially represented.
- The community is informed that they will not be permitted to be present their case at DCC Cabinet meeting which will decide the outcome of this consultation process on the 27th September 2011. There is a lack of confidence that the key messages will be communicated in full to the Councillors at this meeting.
- It is not clear how impartiality and objectivity will be ensured on behalf of the community during this review, especially as 2 of the cabinet members – the Leader being one, are both ward councillors for Betws Gwerful Goch and Gwyddelwern respectively. Their schools are now proposed to remain open.

# 4. The council has put forward a proposal that is not evidence based, not in line with procedures, and thereby <u>not inclusive</u>

There are also widespread views amongst the Llandrillo community that the process has been managed in a way that has driven unnecessary divides between the neighbouring communities. Whilst this is a subjective view, it does represent the views of a significant number of individuals, and is nevertheless unfortunate that it exists at all, and perhaps points to a process that has:

- Lacked inclusiveness of the communities most affected, and been run by individuals
  who should be seen to act with more empathy towards the people and communities
  they serve.
- Significant omissions on the benefits of Llandrillo school site e.g. traffic safety, car
  park, excellent location combined with the creation of negative perceptions of
  Llandrillo through inappropriate use of data e.g. past performance statistics skewed
  by special needs pupils and unsubstantiated pupil performance results.
- Key omissions on the potential significant safety concerns associated with the
  existing Cynwyd school site e.g. siting of a Large industrial manufacturing plant within
  yards of the school, potential health and safety issues through toxic fumes, significant
  traffic safety concerns within an extremely confined space, aligned with the siting of a
  large transport haulier, again within yards of school
- There is a clear lack of any robust and demonstrated business case. The process has been run in a manner that that appears to have lacked essential analytical core competencies and experience required to carry out these types of assessment. Specifically, basic business analysis skills and competencies appear to have been woefully short, replacing objectivity, openness and analysis based on facts, with subjectivity, spin and a fundamental inability to acknowledge any result other than closing Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo as a result of this proposal.

# 5. There is however, a strong desire to work with DCC on developing the RIGHT alternative

The **RIGHT** alternative, would facilitate the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> Educational needs as required by Welsh Government and DCC Education authority, within a financial framework that demonstrates a robust business case to meet the constraints of DCC, whilst also ensuring that Llandrillo retains a valued and essential educational facility, so that it will continue to provide excellent education, proper pre-school facilities and maintain the massive support that the school currently enjoys within the community. It will also then remains a huge asset to the community at large ensuring that parents to be will happily choose to move to Llandrillo because it enjoys great facilities; school, public house, village shop, restaurants, bus links and a sense of community.

In order to achieve this it is critical that DCC involves and engages what is a strong and vibrant community in the pursuit of this aim. The community itself is capable of bringing together many resources not even considered in the DCC Proposal, which is a wasted opportunity. There are several options open that build on the wonderful facility present in Llandrillo. These would include:

- Use of alternative sources of funding to address the immediate capital investment required
- Develop a long term strategy to address capital funding through a formal depreciation and associated funding
- Develop a long term strategy to address revenue funding, e.g. adoption of alternative energy provisions etc. N.B. – the existing condition report costs for Llandrillo are grossly exaggerated, a thorough review required as incorrect figures have been provided.
- We wish to retain an educational establishment within Llandrillo
- Develop a structured and sustainable building plan for the school.
- We wish to adopt the clustered system of schools which will enable one head teacher
  to have increased leadership and management time. This will give further opportunity
  to share recourses, joint staff training, theme days, transport to different venues and
  events, within the Edeyrnion area,
- We wish to harness local skills and dedicated community support.
- Pupil projections are grossly understated; We are aware of a further 13 pupils who
  wish to attend Ysgol Gynradd. Additionally 23 dwellings have been developed
  recently in the village which will naturally encourage further pupil attendance.
  Furthermore, DCC Rural Housing Enabler area survey of 3 July 2007 identified a
  further need for 14 additional dwelling to meet the demand.
- The existing building has more than adequate 'opportunity space' to provide personal development education. The Environmental Agency plans confirm that there are NO realistic threats of flooding to this site.
- We believe that Llandrillo site is far superior in terms of environment, air quality, road safety and access. All the necessary services of water, drainage and electricity are adjacent and of a capacity that affords more economic scope for development.

#### A.2 THE 22 KEY POINTS: THE BASIS OF THE OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSAL

The following points provide a summary of the conclusions based on an analysis of the facts and information available. These points are cross-referenced with the content of the proposal document below:

#### 1. Education of Our children:

There is absolutely no tangible evidence presented that clearly and specifically states that how proposal will improve the education of our children as claimed

- a. There is evidence based on actual achievements of local children that academic achievements may even have suffered as a result of moving schools
- b. Irrelevant achievement data supplied in the proposal e.g. % achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 Consultation document page 5. This has nothing whatsoever to do with the 'matter in hand.'
- c. The results noted on page 5 for Llandrillo school and all the other schools in Edeyrnion, are obtained internally i.e. by the teaching staff of each school, and are not scrutinised externally. The results for Llandrillo in 2009 show explicitly indicates to the reader that the school had poor results. However, the facts behind the result are that of the 6 pupils for that year, 4 were 'Special Needs' pupils who are now receiving their education within the special needs department at Ysgol y Berwyn, Y Bala. The remaining 2 pupils scored a Level 5. The unsubstantiated facts here skew information presenting an unreasonable disadvantage towards Llandrillo.
- d. The Estyn Inspection at each school was undertaken by different Inspection teams and in two different formats, so quantitative comparison is not statistically relevant.
- e. Many of the Foundation Stage Curriculum objectives will not be met:
  - i. Children will not be able to develop an understanding of themselves and the world in which they live, and will have equality of opportunity removed i.e. they live in Llandrillo, not Cynwyd.
  - ii. Settings/schools should develop in every child a sense of personal and cultural identity.
  - iii. Settings/schools in Wales should ensure that all children are engaged as full members of their setting/school communities. (this will not be provided for Llandrillo children who are unable to access it, until they become 5 years of age where they will have to catch up with the others in Cynwyd).
  - iv. They will not be able to learn about their own locality identify natural features, rivers, hills, buildings, people (in Cynwyd or Llandrillo?). If in Cynwyd they will not be able to identify with words like Ceidiog, Camen, Dinam, Cilan. Will know little about Nyrs Gron, Cylch Cerrig, Yr Efail, Y Felin, Cadair Bronwen, Cadair Berwyn and Moel Sych. They will not learn about where the shops used to be in days gone by, or the school, or about the Christmas Day Eisteddfod that occurred in the past, or about how the tenant farmers came to pay the rent twice a year at the Dudley Arms Hotel, or about

the lunch the family was given by the Landowner, and about the traditional entertainment that followed etc. etc.

- f. There is no information about the actual representation from the Llandrillo community in the proposed governing body of the Community School.
- g. In a report published in December 2007 "Denbighshire Children and Young People's Needs Assessment", DCC is not addressing the following points:
  - There needs to be support, investment and sharing of expertise in place so that schools with their local communities can improve learning and wellbeing.
  - The Culture and Arts service promote a Pride in Place to Children and Young People giving them a sense of ownership so they can effectively contribute to, appreciate and value their community
  - Core Aim on Respect respect for the views of the child
  - "the differences and benefits of each welsh language school need to be better promoted and marketed better to parents"

#### 2. Facilities and amenities:

There is absolutely no tangible evidence presented that the proposal will provide improved facilities and amenities as claimed

- a. The only tangible information supplied is that a relatively small sum of £140K is required to complete all the building maintenance requirements at both schools, whereas a capital investment of over £1,000,000 is recommended to merge the schools. Closure will therefore cost £860K more than keeping 2 village schools open.
- b. There is nothing amiss with the structure of Ysgol Llandrillo, but apparently, there is with Ysgol Maes DCC have failed to maintain this property (as stated in the Cabinet meeting), the school hall ceiling collapsed during this last winter and some children are housed in a temporary classroom, which has been there for several years. These are increased maintenance costs in a different school that have escalated through negligence, for which the costs associated with Llandrillo should not be linked.
- c. There is no 'business case' for the closure. All that exists are some high level estimates that subjectively point to a figure of £130K p.a. 'savings', which could be re-routed to funding a loan for around £1.4M capital investment for the new facility. The lack of rigour, and clear documentation associated with the business case is outstanding in its vagueness. No one can say what the tangible benefits of the new facility will be no one can say what the costs will be.
- d. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo and the community will however loose out when a valuable community asset will be liquefied i.e. sold off, and the resulting funds taken into the melting pot, to be distributed across the wider educational community. This is asset stripping at its worse.

#### 3. Social and emotional:

There is absolutely no tangible evidence that pupils would benefit socially and emotionally from the proposal.

# 4. Erroneous Assumptions:

There are errors in many of the fundamental assumptions in the proposal. It is also noted that the majority of assumptions have not been documented, which is extremely poor practice.

- a. For example; an incorrect Assumption: **pupil numbers** would stay the same. Several parents have made it clear that they would not move their children to Cynwyd from Llandrillo.
- b. **Pupil number projections** in Edeyrnion are distorted by the fact that Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Carrog are disproportionately dependent on pupils from outside their catchment area to maintain their numbers.
- c. The projections on future pupil numbers are negatively biased since they do not factor in realistic trends for population within the village. Independent consultations have a significantly higher number than the current projection.
- d. Furthermore, the Standard Pupil Projections do not take into account of inmigration of pupils into the community from outside the Edeyrnion area whereby between the years of 2006 - 2011 years, 26 pupils have attended the school from outside the Edeyrnion area.
- e. Realistic future projections may well emphasise a negative impact on the number of Welsh speakers

#### 5. Teacher: Pupil ratios:

There is continual reference to benefits through access to a 'larger group of teachers', again with absolutely no substantiating evidence to prove this

a. There are no figures available on the proposed staffing to pupil ratios in the proposal

### 6. Priority for Primary School Closure:

The combined proposals recommend the closure of 2 Primary schools in Denbighshire (3% of the schools), and yet:

- a. Nearly 20% of the primary schools in Denbighshire have a worse budget share/pupil ratio than Llandrillo (source 2011 budget summary).
- b. 15% of the primary schools in Denbighshire have fewer numbers than Llandrillo school.
- c. There is no understanding or rationale given, as to why Llandrillo school should be singled out for closure. This demonstrates prejudice against the community.

### 7. Economy of Scale:

Despite continued claims that combining the schools will result in economy of scale, there is clear evidence that larger (pupil numbers) primary schools do not result in economy of scale

a. Based on the available, published budget data (July 2011) nearly 30% Primary schools have a similar budget: pupil ratio to Llandrillo (£4,000 - £5000/pupil), and of these 30% have numbers in excess of 200% of Llandrillo

#### 8. Community impact assessment (CIA):

No CIA for closure of the Llandrillo school has been carried out, despite local authorities in Wales being expected to undertake such (for proposals published from Jan 2010 onwards)

- a. The investigating officers did not demonstrate any understanding of the significant differences and separate qualities of the two communities. Proximity does not define community
- b. Demonstrated no understanding of the impact on village, shops, restaurants, the ageing population
- c. Many of the significant benefits of Llandrillo were not identified in the reports:
  - i. Next to Corwen, it is the largest village by some margin in Edeyrnion
  - ii. As the most remote of Edeyrnion villages, the school being 5 miles from the A5 trunk road, while all the others are less than 2 miles from this highway, it is best placed to suit the needs of the surrounding remote rural communities
  - iii. It has a village shop and Post Office to support unlike Betws G.G. Gwyddelwern and Carrog where no shops exist

# 9. Industrial Safety Assessments:

Despite the facts that limited safety assessment have been carried out on the potential hazards due to industrial scale Steel Galvanising within yards of Cynwyd school, which did recognise that there were emissions from the plant, these facts were not raised at all. These complaints were raised as a result of numerous complaints that had been previously raised by local residents to DCC against this activity. There is no evidence that these have been reviewed since, and this remains a serious source of concern for parents. The presence of industrial scale activity such as this will always present a risk, which should have been openly quantified as part of this proposal.

#### 10. Traffic Safety Assessments:

Even the most basic of traffic safety assessments can highlight the many positive advantages that Llandrillo school has in terms of traffic safety over Cynwyd

a. Llandrillo has the facility and room to accommodate school buses, and traffic in a controlled and safe manner

- b. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is within yards of a major industrial manufacturing plant, the Ifor Williams Trailer Factory is situated almost directly opposite to the road leading to the school gates, and the Williams Haulage Business is based only a few hundred yards away. Neither of these significant aspects is mentioned in the proposal. The drop of zone for pupils is not protected and many vehicles resort to reversing back into the highway an illegal and dangerous traffic manoeuvre.
- c. Reference to the Annual Improvement Report Denbighshire County Council January 20011:

http://www.wao.gov.uk/assets/englishdocuments/Denbighshire County Council AIR Final English.pdf

Refer to section:- Are the road network and flood defences improving? Points 59 to 60 highlight the fact that the condition of non-principle roads worsened more than average in Wales and that improvements are subject to funding. There is no evidence that any costs of road improvements have been included in the proposal.

d. There have been repeated complaints as to traffic volume, noise and fumes from vehicles left running while queuing for access. This of major concern to many future parents who have clearly stated that they WILL NOT SEND their children to Cynwyd.

#### 11. Extra Curricular Activities:

Ysgol Llandrillo does currently operate a significant number of extra curricular activities such as an active Football team for Under 9's and 11's, Urdd and the Church club. They also have after school clubs and breakfast clubs.

- a. The rich variety of extra curricular activities is omitted from the proposal, disadvantaging Llandrillo
- b. To date there has been no clarification on what the proposed 'full curriculum' is exactly, how this differs from today, and what the increased budget pressures actually are.

#### 12. Surplus Spaces:

Since the school was built prior to WAG requirements being specified, it is incorrect to apply a metric of 'surplus spaces' and then use this as a reason to close the school.

- a. This metric can equally be considered as 'opportunity spaces', and a reason to keep the school open, i.e. it is not a relevant metric
- b. Since the school was built in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it would be assumed that normal accounting practices would allow for an annual depreciation. After 150 or so years, it would be expected that the £92K maintenance required would be readily available and points to mismanagement and misadministration of public funds over the years.

### 13. Strong Case for Federalisation:

Despite evidence that there could be tangible benefits through 'federalisation'. There is very little evidence of qualitative and/or quantitative assessment of this option

- a. The attached letter from Dorothy Seleck (OBE, M.Ed.) retired HM Inspector of Schools, puts clear evidence based argument for this approach being a potential option:
- b. Further significant support from key politicians e.g. Llyr Huws Gruffydd, Plaid Cymru's North Wales Assembly Member, has called on DCC to re-think its proposals regarding school closures in the Edeyrnion area stating

'the proposal to close Ysgol Llandrillo will have a huge impact on the community as well as the children and parents..... the council is proposing to federalise schools in Carrog and Corwen to save on administration and share a headteacher, so why is that not an option for Llandrillo and Cynwyd? The community in Llandrillo want the school to continue as a village hub.... Neighbouring councils such as Wrexham have recognised the value of small rural community schools in the Ceiriog Valley and I would ask Denbighshire to take that constructive approach on board'

#### 14. Lack of Head Teachers:

The inability of the education authority to recruit enough head teachers should absolutely not be used as a rationale for closing schools. Why should a community bear the failed recruitment policies of the local education authorities. A school does not necessarily need a head teacher to function perfectly well, as the current situation clearly proves.

a. Llandrillo has an exceptionally capable 'acting' head teacher, who is qualifying at the moment. There is no apparent reference to realising the potential of this individual, other than a recommendation which deprives the children of this valuable resource.

#### 15. Llandrillo 'Flood Zone ':

Use of the 'flood zone' argument as an excuse not to invest in Llandrillo school is again an argument that pays small heed to reality and fact

- a. The school has never been affected by flooding in 164 years. Even in "once in 100 years" events already experienced, the school remained untouched by flood water
- b. Adequate drainage exists, and is proven to exist to adequately mitigate any risk as commented by professional bodies
- c. Precedence exists for simple, cheap precautions should they be deemed necessary e.g. flood barrier recently installed in Eglwysbach school.
- d. It is also noted that Denbighshire County Council has granted planning permission for a number of new houses along Berwyn Street which is in the very centre of this 'flood plain.' Thus setting precedent for future building at the school, which is further supported by the following:

- i. DCC has built a new school at Prestatyn on a flood plain
- ii. DCC has built a Doctor's Surgery at Corwen on a Flood Plain
- iii. given permission for a Railway Station to be built at the same site
- iv. planning permission was granted to build an extension at Islwyn, which is situated between the river and the school. Both houses, Islwyn & Wern have had no difficulty in getting insurance despite being in the' flood zone'

# 16. Negative Impact on Welsh Language:

The proposal would have a negative Impact on the Welsh language

a. The words "maintain" and "strengthen" Welsh medium education appear many times in the proposal. The area school proposal would not improve the provision of Welsh medium education. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo and Cynwyd are not welsh medium (as stated in the consultation paper). Please see definitions on DCC web site:-

http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/www/cms/live/content.nsf/lookupattachments/English~DNAP-8B8GTC/\$File/2011-12%20Denbighshire%20Schools%20Guide%20to%20Parents%20(V2).pdf.

Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo is a Welsh natural school and should remain so. Therefore an area school will provide Llandrillo pupils with no distinct advantage.

- b. The closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and the proposed Cynwyd area school would reduce parental choice of available education in the medium of welsh for their children.
- c. Also refer to Response to Initial Consultation Document by the Board of Governors of Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo 5.4:- 'Welsh is the main medium of teaching and learning. 25% of the pupils come from homes where Welsh is spoken as the main language. However, all pupils can speak Welsh.
- d. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo has been particularly effective in assimilating the children of in-migrants to Welsh-speaking village and has been able to offer the language as a key to accessing the community rather than as just a skill for individual pupils.
- e. The Carrog/Corwen federation does nothing to remove English medium surplus places. It gives English medium educated children a choice between large/small schools that will not be as available to the Welsh medium pupils.

# 17. Contradicting the 'Denbighshire Big Plan':

The proposal contradicts the fundamental ethos behind the 'Denbighshire Big Plan'

- a. <a href="http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/www/cms/live/content.nsf/lookupattachments/English~DNAP-8APEKZ/\$File/The%20BIG%20Plan%20-%20Draft.pdf">http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/www/cms/live/content.nsf/lookupattachments/English~DNAP-8APEKZ/\$File/The%20BIG%20Plan%20-%20Draft.pdf</a>
- b. People in rural areas receive services that are accessible and meet local need Children, young people and vulnerable adults in Denbighshire are safe.

- c. The **right to play will be restricted** CP Strategy quotes the UNCRC Article 32 which states that children have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
- d. Local children attending Llandrillo school have freedom to play before and after school. Activities to include cultural, arts and sport are frequently engaged in by children and their parents and the school has a crucial link to cultural events which engages the whole village encouraging good relationships between young and old and of all backgrounds

It also contradicts a number of points in the Annual Improvement Report, January 2011 [www.wao.gov.uk/assets/englishdocuments/Denbighshire]

- a. In the Annual Improvement Report on Denbighshire County Council, January 2011 in section 74, DCC has failed to listen and understand community needs the proposal to close Llandrillo school illustrates this point
- b. In the same report, section 81 additional proposals, DCC needs to" include children and young people in its consultations and engagement where appropriate " the wishes of the Llandrillo children are being totally ignored
- c. Another area recommended for improvement is "monitor progress on whether it is doing sufficient to address the impact of demographic change and to achieve a more balanced population". A balanced population cannot be achieved while DCC invests in the coastal belt whilst marginalising the rural areas along its boundaries, which therefore has implications on school numbers

In appendix 5 "the council has identified regeneration as a key priority ....reducing the decline in the rural economy" closing a school gives wrong signals to investors/people coming to the area when schools and facilities are closed

# 18. Meeting the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education requirements.

Llandrillo school already meets the needs of the "21st Century Education" requirements

- a. In the consultation paper there is no definition of how the buildings, learning environments and resource should meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century Wales. No statement on how Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo fails to meet these needs. No evidence-based information on supposed benefits
- b. No definition given on the Foundation Phase split (including budgets) between Llandrillo and Cynwyd if the area school goes ahead
- c. Please refer to 'Response to Initial Consultation' Document by the Board of Governors of Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo (5.1):- Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo provides, in partnership with all stakeholders, a quality education and a breadth of opportunities, so that all pupils are able to reach their full potential within a happy, caring, stimulating and secure environment where children will recognise and achieve. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo endeavours to make them proud of their heritage and the Welsh Language so that they can make their best contribution to society.

d. Also the response in the 'Response to Initial Consultation' Document by the Board of Governors of Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo (7.0):- The Welsh Assembly Government has identified seven key priorities for the future of Primary education and 21st Century schooling. All seven priorities have been addressed in this response to the Initial Consultation Document. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo is the right school in the right place. The school is in good condition and is suited to deliver 21st Century education and will meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo can be configured with minimum capital expenditure to respond to changing approaches to teaching and learning and is an outstanding resource for the whole community of Llandrillo In being able to offer a range of co-located facilities.

#### 19. Removal of Mobile accommodation:

Removal of Mobile accommodation is a result of DCC acting against its own policy

- a. Ysgol Maeshyfryd to have mobile classrooms and admit students over and above their capacity DCC has already acted against its own policy of not recognizing the spare capacity of the nearby Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo, a sister Welsh natural school
- b. The specific extracts of DCC policy on mobile accommodation are as follows:
  - i. <a href="http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/www/cms/live/content.nsf/lookupattachment-s/English~DNAP-895AXU/\$File/Policy%206%20-%20Mobile%20Accomodation.pdf">http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/www/cms/live/content.nsf/lookupattachment-s/English~DNAP-895AXU/\$File/Policy%206%20-%20Mobile%20Accomodation.pdf</a>
  - ii. Extract from DCC Policy 6: Mobile Accommodation
    - 1. Mobile provision should only be made in the following circumstances:

'To meet a short or medium term increase in pupil numbers in areas of population growth where there is no spare capacity in an appropriate alternative school in the surrounding area. In such instances the mobile accommodation will be provided for an agreed time period, to be reviewed and/or removed at a certain date. If the increase in pupil numbers is set to be sustained then consideration will be taken by the authority as to whether permanent accommodation needs to be provided.'

2. Mobile provision should not be provided in the following circumstances:

'To enable popular schools to expand to admit out of area children when there are places available in the local area schools.....'.

3. In line with the Modernising Education Agenda:

'Mobile accommodation will be removed where its retention can no longer be justified according to the above principles.......'

iii. We would also refer to 'Response to Initial Consultation' Document by the Board of Governors of Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo 5.3 'Surplus places'

"When organising schools places, DCC should be mindful of the key considerations presented by WAG circular 21/09 School Organisation. Furthermore, WLGA highlights that:- "Planning for school places should not be led by the aim to make financial savings but concentrate on making more efficient use of existing resources".(WLGA: Planning School Places 2007)

# 20. Incorrect calculations for the cost of Transport

- a. To quote the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 p. http://wales.gov.uk/docs/drah/publications/100420rdpmaintext1en.pdf This document recognises Wales' weakness of a 'Relatively poor transport infrastructure' and the threat of an 'Increase in transport costs and oil based fuel'.
- b. The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 as quoted in the DCC document 'Denbighshire Schools -Information for parents, guardians & carers 2010/2011' will also add to costs in the progressive restricted use of school buses and additional costs of health and safety measures which will have the effect of contractors putting up their prices.
- c. To quote the Wales Local Government Association:
   (<a href="http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-perm-leg/bus-committees-third-lc4-gendas.htm?act=dis&id=200259&ds=11/2010-21st October 21010)</a>) in its response to the Welsh Government '8. There is also widespread concern within local government about the costs associated with this proposed Measure. As the Explanatory Memorandum to the Measure states, school transport costs have risen significantly in recent years and these costs continue to rise, reaching £102.2 million in 2007/08.'

# 21. Increasing poverty in Llandrillo

- a. If Llandrillo is to lose its school then it loses its potential to bring services in to the people of Llandrillo. The school has the potential to continue to develop as a Community Focused school
- b. <a href="http://www.endchildpovertycymru.org.uk/areasofwork/childpoverty/endchildpoverty/en
- c. Loss of Breakfast and after school club –The Rural Development Plan for Wales (p.8) suggests that we should look at opportunities to 'Improving ability to return to work and quality of life generally by developing child care, crèche and day care facilities'. Closure of the school fundamentally reduces the availability of these services to the community

#### 22. Removal of Llandrillo Nursery facilities

This proposal is completely unacceptable. The children in Llandrillo are always the first priority, and always will be. Second rate provision, as suggested is not acceptable. Starting school, and joining the 'school family' is the most important time in a child's academic career. This is already provided at Llandrillo School where the nursery pupils are welcomed into the 'family' warmly.

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, articles 12 & 13 state that children and young people should be consulted in all matters affecting them.

- To ensure that the children and young people ... have a safe home and community which support physical and emotional wellbeing.
- Transport. .... Primary schools are generally closed to the homes, so journeys to school or shorted and most can walk to school, benefiting their health and risk of obesity.

The UNCRC, also states the right to have their views respected and to have their best interests considered at all times – as can clearly be seen from the DVD, given to all cabinet members, this is not being considered.[www.direct.gov.uk/en/parents ....]

There is also concern at potential breaching of DCC Strategic aims, as outlined on the webpage of DCC "Bringing the council closer to the community" i.e. providing a high quality customer response Putting the citizen at the heart of what we do

David Robinson

Chair of Committee Amddiffyn Ysgol Llandrillo 28 July 2011 Bryn Roberts

Chair of Governors Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo 28 July 2011

# **Appendix A:**

Modernising Education

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

Proposal 1 – An Area School for Cynwyd & Llandrillo (Referenced)



# **Modernising Education**

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

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

### **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. (A.1.1, A.1.2, A.1.3, A.1.4)

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

- This consultation (A.1.3, A.1.4) 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. (A.1.1, A.1.2)
- 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. . (A.1.1, A.1.2)
- 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. (A.1.3, A.1.4)
- The consultation period will take place between 7 June and 20 July 2011. (A.1.3, A.1.4)
- A series of consultation events will take place during this period, details of which can be found on page 17. (A.1.3, A.1.4)
- 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 by 20 July 2011. (A.1.3)
- 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. (A.1.3)
- 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. (A.1.3)

#### **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 (A.2.1, A.2.3, A.2.5, A.2.11, A.2.16) 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. (A.2.2, A.2.19)

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.(A.2.2)

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.(A.1.2, A1.3).

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 (A.2.2.4, A.2.2.12), headteacher recruitment (A.2.2.14) and use of mobile accommodation (A.2.2.19). 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; (A.1.1, A.2.2.18, A.2.2.19)
- Maintain or strengthen Welsh Medium and Bilingual provision; (A2.2.16)
- Significantly reduce the number of surplus (empty) places; (A.2.2.4, A.2.2.12),
- Address headteacher recruitment issues whilst building leadership capacity in the area; (A.2.2.14)
- Result in the removal of mobile accommodation; (A.2.2.19).
- Keep transport times for children well within Welsh Assembly guidelines (A.2.2.20);
- Reduce the variation in per pupil funding;(A.2.2.6, A2.2.7)
- Assist the authority to attract capital funding to improve school buildings and facilities; ;(A.2.2.6, A2.2.7)

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; (A.2.2.6)
- 2. Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and transfer pupils to Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference; (A.2.2.6)
- **3.** Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Betws Gwerful Goch and Ysgol Bro Elwern\* (A.2.2.13)
- Recommend federation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Ysgol Carrog\* (A.2.2.13)

Further information on the other proposals can be found on the Denbighshire website – www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation

# <u>Current Situation - Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, Cynwyd</u>

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. (A.2.2.16)

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. (A.2.2.8, A.2.2.9, A.2.2.10)

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.

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

<sup>\*</sup> 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
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 by 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

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.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
7	14	10	8	11	10	7	10
	ils (7 part- me)	18 p	upils	21 p	upils	17	pupils

<sup>\*</sup> These proposals can only be progressed by the Governing Bodies of each school

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		
Ysgol Maes Hyfryd	88.9%	100.0%	72.7%	80.0%	100.0%		
Denbighshire Average	71.3%	73.0%	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%		
Wales Average	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
<b>3</b> 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
<b>6</b> 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.

# <u>Current Situation – Ysgol Llandrillo</u>

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.

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

<sup>\*</sup> 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 <a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation">www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation</a>

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)				upils	8 p	oupils

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	
Ysgol Llandrillo	75.0%	100.0%	60.0%	42.9%	75.0%	
Denbighshire Average	71.3%	73.0%	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%	
Wales Average	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	2
interests of learners and the wider community?	
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	3
quality and standards?	
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 activates 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 etender 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 – <a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation">www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation</a>

#### 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 – <a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation">www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation</a>

#### 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.

#### Alternative Option 1 - Federate Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo

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.

	a)	Close Ysgol Llandrillo and extend Ysgol Maes Hyfryd to
Alternative		accommodate the pupils
Option 2	b)	Close Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and extend Ysgol Llandrillo to
		accommodate the pupils

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.

### Alternative Option 3 - Retain Ysgol Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo as separate schools

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.

	Preferred Option	Alternative Option 1	Alternative Option 2a	Alternative Option 2b	Alternative Option 3
	An Area School for	A Federation of Ysgol	Close Ysgol Llandrillo	Close Ysgol Maes Hyfryd	Retain Ysgol Maes Hyfryd &
	Cynwyd & Llandrillo	Maes Hyfryd & Ysgol Llandrillo	and extend Ysgol Maes Hyfryd to accommodate the pupils	and extend Ysgol Llandrillo to accommodate the pupils	Ysgol Llandrillo as separate schools
Educational Standards	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.
Surplus Places	Surplus places significantly reduced.	Significant surplus places at Ysgol Llandrillo.	Surplus places significantly reduced.	Surplus places significantly reduced.	Significant surplus places at Ysgol Llandrillo.
Headteacher Recruitment	Only one headteacher required.	Only one headteacher required.	Only one headteacher required.	Only one headteacher required.	Two headteachers required.
Mobile Accommodation	Mobile accommodation removed.	Mobile accommodation at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.	Mobile accommodation removed	Mobile accommodation removed	Mobile accommodation at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.
Transport Implications	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.
Per Pupil Funding	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
School Buildings	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.
Revenue Savings	£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 20 July 2011**.

The following consultation events will take place during this period:

Staff Consultation Meeting – Monday 13 June 16:00 – 17:00 (Ysgol Llandrillo)

Governor Consultation Meeting – Monday 13 June 19:00 – 20:00 (Ysgol Llandrillo)

Staff Consultation Meeting – Tuesday 14 June 16:00 – 17:00 (Ysgol Maes Hyfryd)

Governor Consultation Meeting – Tuesday 14 June 18:00 – 19:00 (Ysgol Maes Hyfryd)

Parent & Community Consultation Meeting – Tuesday 21 June 19:30 – 21:00 (Llandrillo Community Hall)

Parent & Community Consultation Meeting – Monday 27 June 18:30 – 20:00 (Ysgol Maes Hyfryd)

The authority will also arrange through the schools to meet with pupils to ensure they 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 <a href="mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk">modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk</a> by 20 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.

### **Appendix B:**

Response to Initial Consultation' – March 2011



### **Modernising Education**

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

**Response to Initial Consultation Document** 

March 2011

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#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Denbighshire County Council (DCC) 'Modernising Education' programme aims to make all schools in Denbighshire 'fit for purpose' for the next 15yrs. In order that DCC can obtain funds from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to meet this aim it has to 'bid' for funding with a proposed plan of education provision for the next 5 year period.
- 1.2 DCC have identified number of difficulties which are outlined in the 'Modernisation Education Consultation Document' dated September 2010 (Draft) and November 2010. The main points primarily are as follows:-
  - Surplus Places, translated as to many school places, not enough children
  - Shortage of Head Teachers, especially Welsh speaking Head Teachers
  - School Buildings Maintenance, in need of repair and maintenance

(Source DCC)

1.3 One of the school's strengths is the prominent part it plays in the social life of the village and the numerous visits to places further afield. During the past year, these visits included an international festival, regional theatre, zoo and a musical. After-school clubs refine skills in reasoning and art. There are also opportunities to take part in performances and competitions locally, regionally and nationally.

#### 2.0 Aims

2.1 The aim of this document is to provide a response to DCC 'Modernising Education – Review of Primary School Provision in the Edeyrnion (Dee Valley West) area –Initial Consultation Document – November 2010' (from here on known as the 'initial consultation document').

#### 3.0 Objectives

- 3.1 For Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo area to meet the requirements set out in the initial consultation document issued by DCC November 2010.
- 3.2 For Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo to continue to serve the community in the most appropriate manner so that all pupils are able to reach their full potential within a happy, caring, stimulating and secure environment where children will recognised and can achieve successes in later years.

#### 4.0 Purpose of this document

4.1 This document has been produced by the Board of Governors of Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo and Key stakeholders within the community in response to Denbighshire County Council's Initial Consultation Document (Nov 2010).

#### 5.0 Our Views

#### 5.1 Education Standards

Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo provides, in partnership with all stakeholders, a quality education and a breadth of opportunities, so that all pupils are able to reach their full potential within a happy, caring, stimulating and secure environment where children will recognise and achieve. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo endeavours to make them proud of their heritage and the Welsh Language so that they can make their best contribution to society.

This community primary school serves the small village of Llandrillo, near Corwen, and its surrounding rural area. It provides bilingual education for five part-time pupils and 36 full-time pupils. There has been a reduction of about 20% in the numbers of pupils over the past year.

Welsh is the main medium of teaching and learning. 25% of the pupils come from homes where Welsh is spoken as the main language. However, all pupils can speak Welsh.

DCC draft report clearly states that:

"Overall education standards within the area are good with the majority of the schools receiving positive Estyn inspections in recent years".

(Source: DCC Initial Consultation, Nov 2010)

The Council therefore fails to justify its schools closure proposals on the single most important reason needed for closing. It begs the question what is the motive behind the closure proposals.

#### 5.2 Head teacher Recruitment

The recruitment of potential head teachers has also been hindered by a lack of resources on behalf of the DCC/WAG when advertising for the positions and by a lack of opportunities for potential head teachers to get the necessary training and qualifications in order to apply for a headteacher position. However, DCC have known this for a considerable amount of time.

DCC would have known when Headteachers were approaching retirement age and should have put in place programs to compensate for this. DCC are best placed to identify potential candidates within the county and to promote these candidates for the role. In any large organization the training of staff is paramount as it encourages staff retention which adds to the sustainability of that organization. DCC should explore every possible avenue to fill these positions and cannot rely solely on adverting.

The criteria and role of a Head Teacher in a small school is also substantially different from that at a large school but this is not reflected in the NPQH courses. Also, potential applicants are denied access to training courses because of the constraints of time and location. DCC must adopt a more flexible approach to access training courses for head teachers or otherwise it will be viewed as an attempt to close village school by the back door. The challenge before DCC is to restructure the

arrangements for training head teachers in Denbighshire in order to prepare teachers to undertake a leadership role in our small schools.

From our own experience, it has been very difficult to attract candidates for the permanent post due to this process.

#### 5.3 Surplus Places (Empty Places)

When organising schools places, DCC should be mindful of the key considerations presented by WAG circular 21/09 School Organisation. Furthermore, WLGA highlights that:-

"Planning for school places should not be led by the aim to make financial savings but concentrate on making more efficient use of existing resources".

(WLGA: Planning School Places 2007)

We disagree with DCC standard Pupil Projections which states that between the projected trends of 2010 – 2014 there will be a shortfall of -11 pupils in the school. As part of our consultation with the Community, by 2013 there will be an additional 13 pupils from the village and surrounding area attending the school. Furthermore, the Standard Pupil Projections does not take into account of in-migration of pupils into the community from outside the Edeyrnion area whereby between the years of 2006 - 2011 years, 26 pupils have attended the school from outside the Edeyrnion area.

As part of our process in engaging the community in discussion with regards to the issue of surplus spaces, a prominent factor that has been raised continually is the fact that a significant number of pupils within the community attend other schools within Edeyrnion (Dee Valley West) area. A change in this policy will have a significant impact on surplus spaces in the school.

In reviewing DCC school capacity calculation, in the main the areas on the drawing were correct (although it appears that the Hall 0/006 has been used in the Primary School Capacity Calculation sheet prepared by Denbighshire as opposed to the Classroom 0/023), We have concluded that classroom 0/023 is a major surplus generator. To this, we would propose to review the configuration of the classroom and to reduce the capacity of classroom 0/023.

The Board of Governors believe that the issue of surplus spaces can be easily resolved through the re-organisation of classrooms and finding other income-based uses for the building i.e. training facilities, etc. We have contacted other village groups who are prepared to utilise the school premises for their use. We have also explored the following:

- Creating a "Cylch Ti a Fi" for infants within the village and wider community
  and encourage in-migration to the school. This can be operated from the
  school building by effectively rationalising the current classrooms.
- Evening classes will be offered to the community for ICT skills and Languages.
- The school can be utilised for a "One Stop Shop" and a Library.
- The school already runs an Adult Welsh Learning course.

 We have also had positive comments from Secondary Schools and Colleges with regards to using the facilities on a monthly basis to conduct meetings and seminars.

#### 5.4 Welsh Medium

Welsh is the main medium of teaching and learning. 25% of the pupils come from homes where Welsh is spoken as the main language. However, all pupils can speak Welsh.

Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo has been particularly effective in assimilating the children of in-migrants to Welsh-speaking village and has been able to offer the language as a key to accessing the community rather than as just a skill for individual pupils.

#### 5.5 Mobile Accommodation

This does not apply to Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo and affects only two schools within this consultation process.

#### 5.6 Cost of Provision

Again, the easy option of closing a small village school should not be taken. It is recognised through England and Scotland that small schools are the most costly and are relatively remote, so the easy option of redistributing pupils to larger schools in bigger communities may seem to solve the problem, but it strips out from a village an essential part of its community. Research has highlighted that it is more difficult to tackle surplus places in urban areas and in oversized schools, and it is tempting to take the quick and easy option of closing a smaller school, but DCC need to find a more imaginative solution.

Just because small schools are costly, we should not assume that there are no solutions. There are, and they are being implemented throughout the country.

The cost of provision per pupil in Denbighshire for 2010/2011 is £3,590 with funding for pupils within Edeyrnion area ranges from £3,895 to £9,184 with the average being £4,584 which is £994 more per pupil than the Denbighshire average. From the figure of 2009/2010, Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo has the second lowest Teaching costs and is below the average of the seven schools in the Edeyrnion area.

In considering the cost of provision, DCC have not proven that having less surplus spaces offers costs savings as they have not properly assed the following:

- Cost of closing the school. Our research has proven that the savings generated by closing a rural school have been negligible in adjoining authorities.
- Cost of transporting pupils to other locations. Initial estimates put this in the region of £33,000 to £38,000 per annum. DCC also believe that transport times for children are kept within WAG guidelines a maximum travel time of 45 minutes whilst other authorities (Conwy) states that the maximum transport times should be no longer than 30 minutes.

• DCC have not carried out a Community and Language impact assessment. From all other small schools, Llandrillo has the most to lose as it currently has facilities other schools cannot offer.

#### 5.7 Suitability and Sustainability of schools

The following statement has been extracted from the Estyn report:

"The school is located in a convenient, safe place in the centre of the village. Class rooms are of adequate size for the present number of pupils. The fabric of the school building is generally sound. Together with the yard and grassed area, it is kept generally clean and tidy.

There are sufficient resources in the school and many of them are of good quality. The great majority of resources are managed efficiently and the school provides value for money".

(Source: Estyn, April 2006)

The initial consultation document refers to DCC having a responsibility to ensure the suitability and sustainability of schools in order to provide a stable educational system. It states that this can only be done by reducing the level of empty spaces significantly to attract capital funding and must ensure that the education system within the area is designed to operate with fewer headteachers.

Over the last 10 years the average number of pupils in the school has been 41.27. It has peaked at 48 in 2003 and 2004 and it has been as low as 29 in 2010. At no stage has pupil numbers been raised by DCC as a problem during this period.

5.7.1 School Buildings – Condition, Suitability & Sustainability. The Board of Governors have carried out an assessment of the school building and can confirm that the school is in good physical and structural order. The school is being utilised to meet the needs of pupils and teachers in terms of space requirements and can easily be adapted to address the surplus spaces issue.

By reducing energy costs brings sustainability to life and is a valuable lesson for pupils, teachers and parents on how greener energy can help the environment. We have investigated the following options and have concluded that they will be viable for the school at a relatively low cost.

- Due to the age of the building, air leakage occur through gaps, holes and cracks in the fabric of the building envelope which are not visible. This air leakage affects the building's thermal performance. Making the school building substantially air tight will reduce the amount of fuel needed to heat it. This in turn will reduce the CO2 produced and will also reduce the schools carbon footprint. Air Pressure testing and Thermal Imaging surveys can be carried out for the sum of £475.00 and £882.00 respectively by the National House Building Confederation (NHBC). The works to then remedy the "air leaks" can be carried out at a very low capital cost. (Estimated remedial costs: £800.00)
- Increasing insulation levels in ceilings. This can be achieved by introducing an MF metal grid system to create a 150mm void between the metal grid and the current ceiling. This void will be filled with insulation to

improve the thermal efficiency of the building fabric. (Estimated cost of £7,583).

- Replacing the current inefficient boiler for mains gas boiler This can be done at a relatively low cost and because of the energy efficiency, the new heating system can qualify for an interest free loan from the Carbon Trust. This greatly reduces capital cost, increase operating efficiencies and has minimal maintenance contributing to major saving on running costs and much reduced CO2 and NOx emission levels. (Estimated cost of £11,050). (An alternative to this is Air Source heat pumps which are up to 400% efficient at an estimated cost of £9,000).
- Solar panels and Photovoltaic's (PV) panels can be retro fitted to the building envelop. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo is ideally suited to the installation of Solar & PV panels to supplement the heating system and PV panels can generate power for the school and to trade off the mains supply to the school. This can also be an income thread for the school whereby Energy Company will buy surplus power for the sum of 41p per kW/hour. A four panel Worcester Bosch "Greenskies" solar water heating panels can provide up to 60% of annual hot water requirements. (Estimated cost for the Solar panels: £7,600 (incl. cylinders and controls) and PV Panels £7,843 which can be bought outright or leased).
- Improved window specification will also improve the thermal performance of the building envelope. The existing windows can be replaced by 'A' rated windows in line with the 'A' rating from the BRE Green Guide specification. (Estimated costs to replace all windows £16,800)
- Due to the close proximity of Afon Ceidiog, a member of the community has also explored the use of Hydro electricity to power the school. This has benefits for the school and the wider community and is a viable option.

We are aware that the Draft Initial Consultation Document made reference to the fact that £134,000 was required to be spent on Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo to achieve the required suitability & sustainability. From the above initial estimates, the exiting building can be made more efficient for just over £50,000 which is a considerable saving to DCC and will sustain the school for at least 15 to 20 years. These improvements will also reduce the maintenance costs to DCC.

Reference has been made to the sustainability surveys prepared for WAG by consultants E C Harris. However, during the initial consultation period, the report has not been made available. Therefore it is difficult to draw an accurate conclusion to the accuracy and validity of the report.

5.7.2 School Buildings – Maintenance backlog – The Board of Governors believe that, apart from general "wear and tear" that the school has been well maintained and is fit for purpose for the need of the pupils and teachers. A controlled access door has been installed along with a disability ramp to meet the requirement of the Disability Discrimination Act. The play areas have recently been resurfaced and are in good order. There a relatively few schools who can meet this criteria.

Significant savings can be achieved by using local companies to carry out maintenance works on the school premises than utilising contractors' from DCC approved list. We propose to have our own select subcontractors and will have stringent criteria to be included on the list in terms of Cost, Quality, Time and Health & Safety. To administer this process effectively, we shall implement a "Building Management Handbook" to manage the School's maintenance programme.

#### 6.0 Alternative Proposals

Alternative options have been considered by the Board of Governors and the wider community such as:-

#### School Clusters

Schools work in cluster family groupings in order to share and develop resources. School clusters provide opportunities for schools to strengthen their collaborative working through sharing and developing resources and utilising the curriculum and managerial skills of the staff at the schools.

#### Informal Federations

Schools may work in arrangements similar to formal Federal School arrangements, with the individual school Governing Bodies agreeing to establish a Joint Committee with agreed delegated powers and options for a limited pooled budget. Schools can work closely on governance, management, leadership development, curriculum delivery, staffing and inclusion issues.

However, the structures described above all involve formal arrangements and it would be a pre-condition that that Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo maintains its own identity should these options become viable. There should be opportunities for economies of scale and efficiencies in use and development of resources in such arrangements.

#### 7.0 21st Century schools

The Welsh Assembly Government has identified seven key priorities for the future of Primary education and 21st Century schooling. All seven priorities have been addressed in this response to the Initial Consultation Document. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo is the right school in the right place. The school is in good condition and is suited to deliver 21st Centaury education and will meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning.

Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo can be configured with minimum capital expenditure to respond to changing approaches to teaching and learning and is an outstanding resource for the whole community of Llandrillo In being able to offer a range of colocated facilities.

#### 8.0 Conclusion

The views of all the Board of Governors and the Community of Llandrillo as a whole have been represented in this response to DCC's Initial Consultation Document and our comments and proposals should be given serious consideration. To summarise, we believe that Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo can meet the requirements of 21 Century Schools Programme and deliver Suitability and Sustainability of the school and can offer the following:-

- Pupils are able to access excellent opportunities for learning which enable to maximise their potential.
- The health and wellbeing of pupils is promoted.
- Needs for Welsh medium education, as set out in the Welsh Education Scheme are met.
- Teaching staff are provided with the necessary resources.
- The school is not overcrowded and class sizes are maintained at a reasonable level and in accordance with legislation.
- Best value is achieved in the use of facilities and resources.
- The school is sustainable.
- The school is located centrally in the village and is off the highway. It has amble parking making it a very safe environment.

Delivering education in Llandrillo is fundamental to the sustainability of the village. By taking the school away, there will be no incentive for families to stay and no new inmigration and development will take place despite resources being allocated in the Unitary Development Plan. Our School is also the hub for many other activities and services in the village. If the school is removed, the village will loose all of these facilities.

DCC must recognise the vital role Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo takes within our community to maintain the local culture, language and way of life and should also support our school to develop strong community links that provide opportunities and enrich experiences for our pupils. Opportunities for curriculum enhancement and enrichment can be developed with the school's local community and beyond benefiting both the pupils and members of the community.

When considering the options, DCC must balance educational needs with community development, investment and support needs and not merely look at saving money.

#### J B Roberts

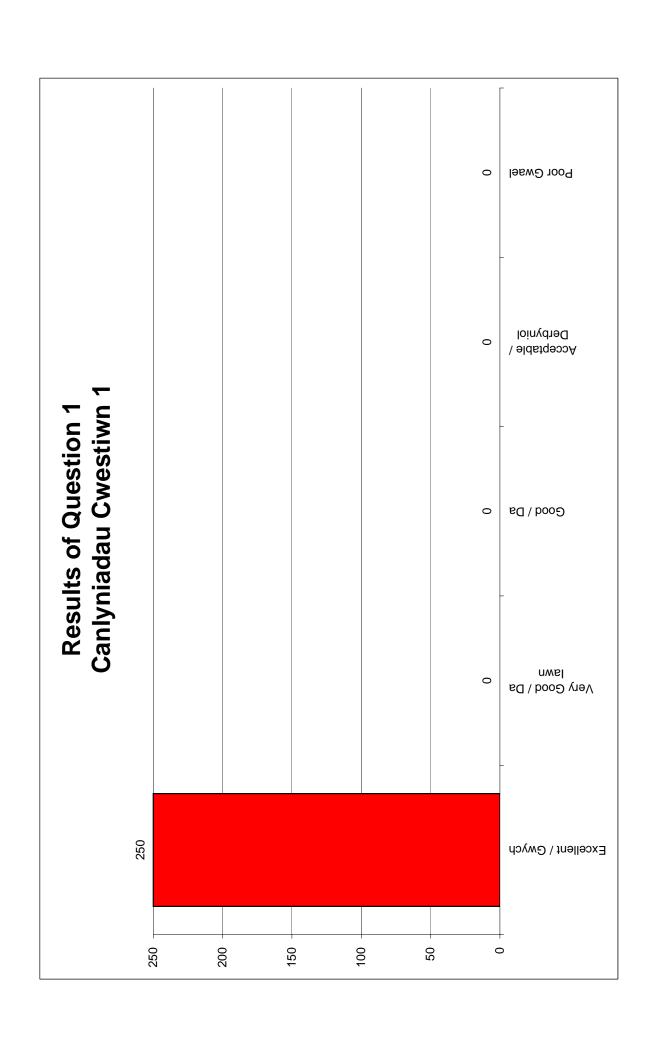
Chair of Governors Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo 10 March 2011

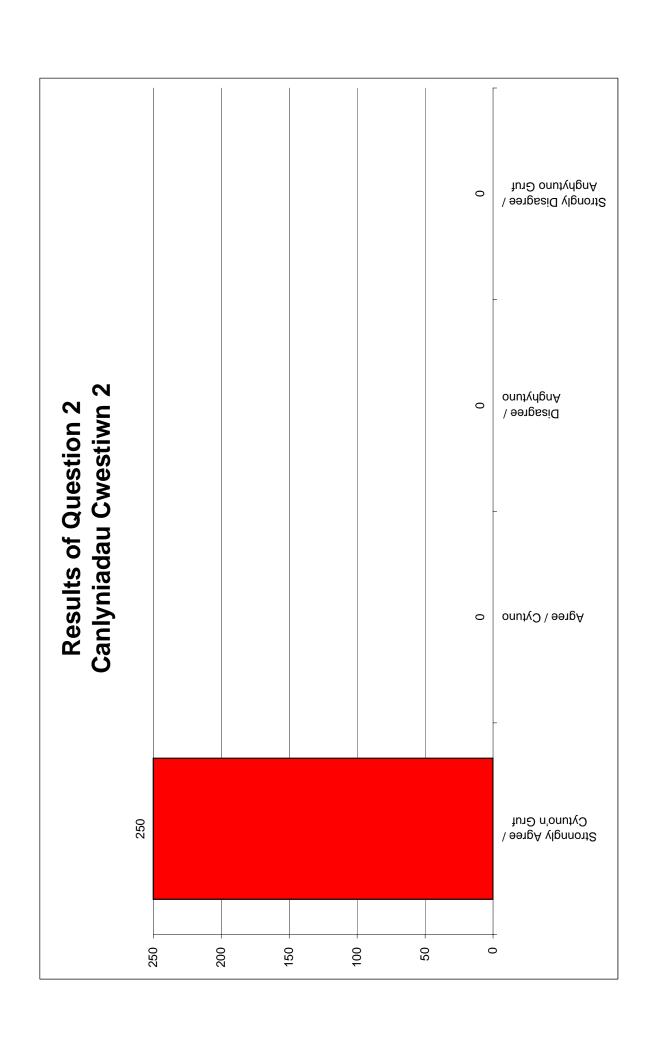
### **Appendix A:**

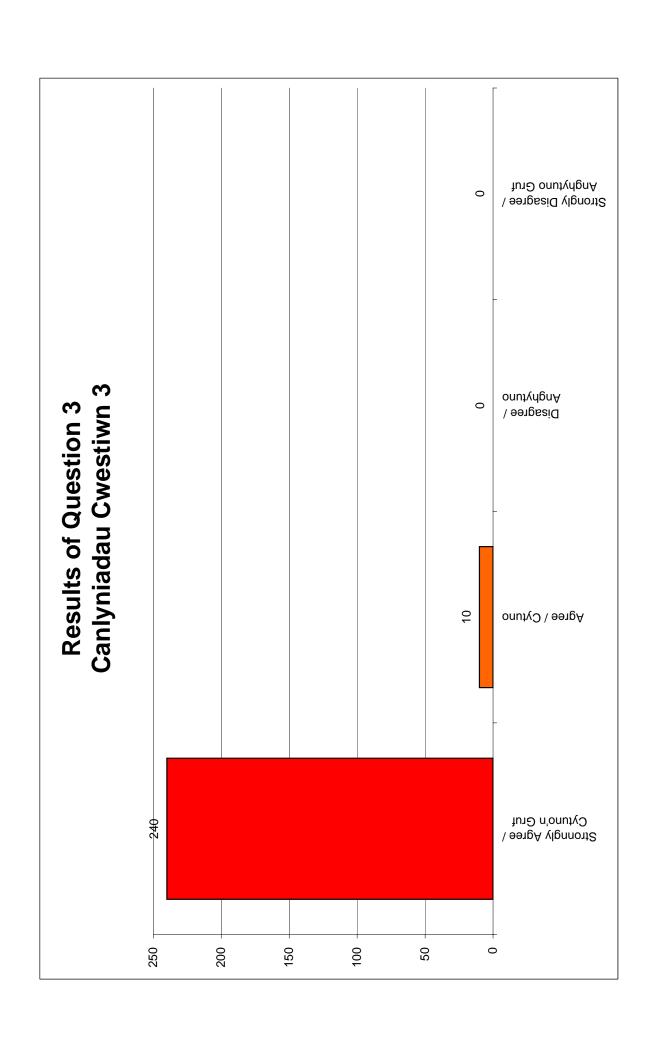
Questionnaire Results

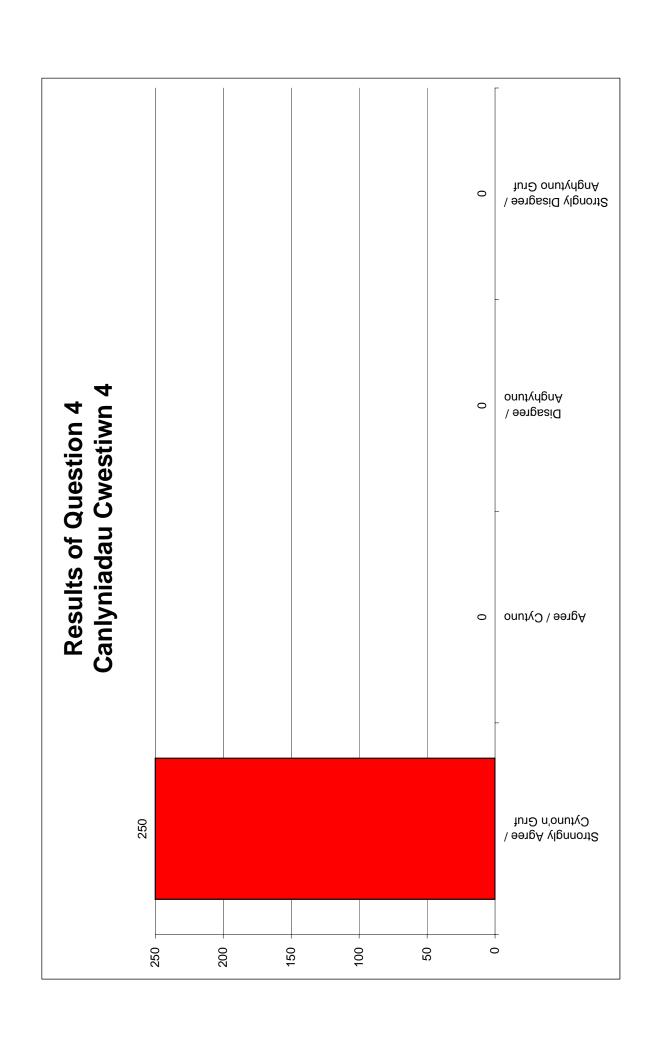
#### Appendix A

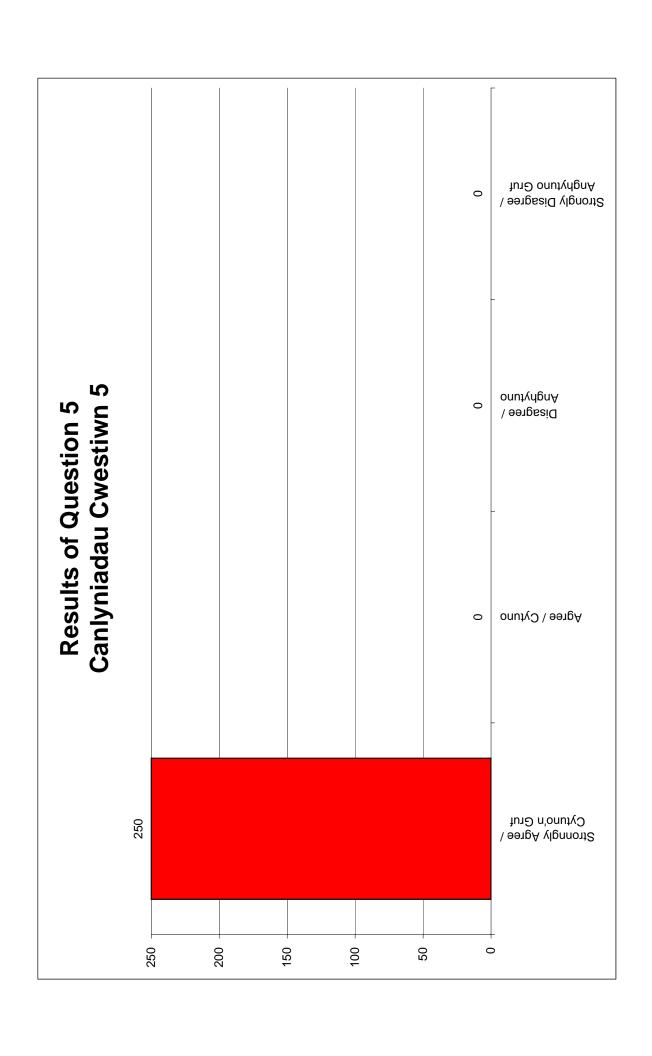
List of question posed to residents of Llandrillo		
Question 1	In your opinion, does Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo provide our children with a standard of education that best reflects your views?	
Question 2	In your opinion, does Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo have a very strong Welsh medium provision with bi-lingual support?	
Question 3	In your opinion, does Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo utilise teacher to pupil ratio to the best advantage of the children?	
Question 4	In your opinion, does Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo provide a building that is safe and secure and capable of delivering education in the 21st century?	
Question 5	In your opinion, does Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo have a safe an convenient access for delivering pupils to school?	
Question 6	In your opinion, does Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo use its budget effectively to give the pupils the best opportunity for learning	

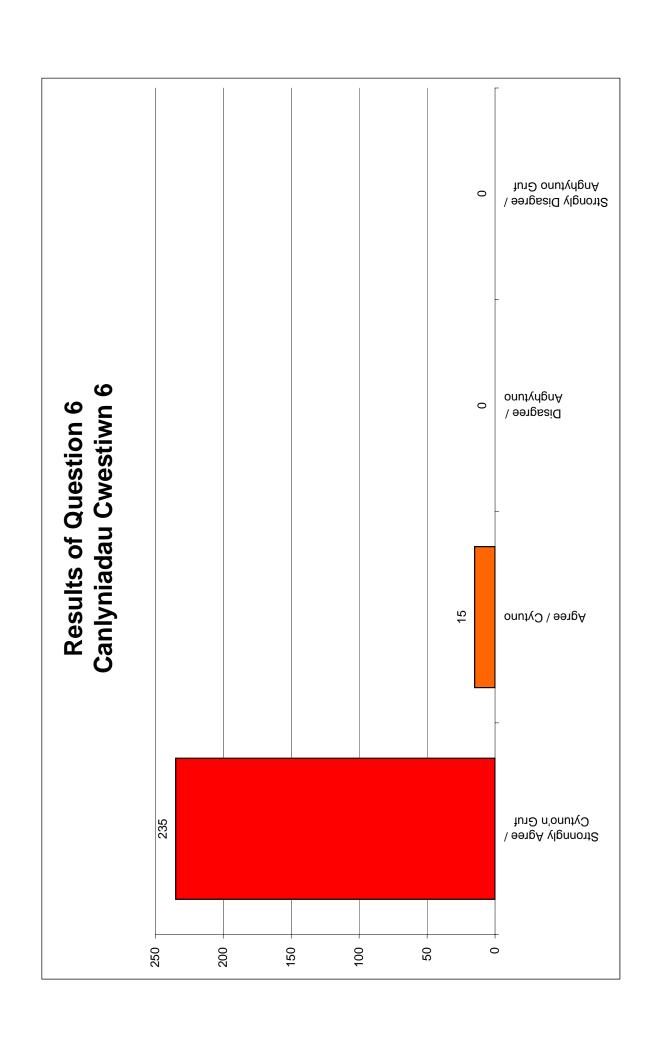












### **Appendix B:**

Petitions



Yr ydym ni y rhai sydd wedi arwyddo isod, yn datgan ein llwyr gefnogaeth i gadw Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo yn ganolfan addysg i blant y pentref a'r ardal. Rydym yn gweithredu yn y modd hyn yng ngwyneb cynlluniau arfaethiedig Cyngor Sir Ddinbych i ad-drefnu adysg gynradd yn Edeyrnion.

We, who have signed below, wish to express out total support for retaining Llandrillo Primary School as a place for learning and education for the children of this village and surrounding area. We take this course of action in the face of Denbighshire County Council's plans to re-organise primary education in Edeyrnion.

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Enw Cyfeiriad Côd-Post



### Yr ydym ni y rhai sydd wedi arwyddo isod, yn datgan ein llwyr **gefnogaeth i gadw**

Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo yn ganolfan addysg i blant y pentref a'r ardal. Rydym yn gweithredu yn y modd hyn yng ngwyneb cynlluniau arfaethiedig Cyngor Sir Odinbych i ad-drefnu addysg gynradd yn Edeyrnion.

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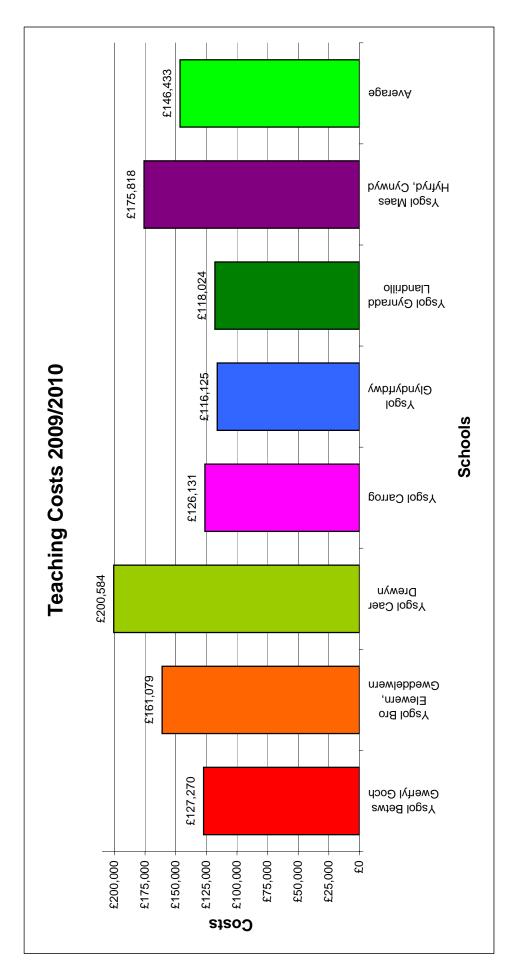
ydym ni y rhai sydd wedi arwyddo isod, yn datgan ein llwyr **gefnogaeth i gadw sgol Gynradd Llandrillo yn ganolfan addysg i blant y pentref a'r ardal**. Rydym gweithredu yn y modd hyn yng ngwyneb cynlluniau arfaethiedig Cyngor Sir dinbych i ad-drefnu adysg gynradd yn Edeyrnion.

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### **Appendix C:**

2009/2010 Teaching Costs



Appendix C: Teaching Costs 2009/2010

## **Appendix D:**

Aims of Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo

### **APPENDIX C: AIMS OF THE SCHOOL**

LL	Llandrillo aims to develop a purposeful and happy working atmosphere amongst staff and pupils
A	Also to promote maximum individual development in basic positive learning skills so that every child reaches their full potential
N	Need to promote optimism and cater for the needs of every pupil – even if there are difficulties.
D	Draw out a balance between the formal and the creative in a friendly balanced and homely atmosphere.
R	Reinforce strategies for those with specific educational needs – those who are gifted or need additional attention
I	Introduce and encourage all pupils to show respect for their environment, culture and be courteous in their dealings with people.
LL	Levelling, and regularly monitoring performance at all levels, with view of making changes where necessary.
Ο	Overwhelm with enthusiasm, imagination and desire to learn.

## **Appendix C:**

OBE, M.Ed.) letter to

Leighton Andrews, Minister of Education, The Welsh Government

The Minister of Education:
The Hon.Mr.Leighton Andrews,
The Government of Wales,
Y Senedd,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff.
Dear Mr.Andrews

Please can you help? I wish to support the group of Edeyrnion people, who want to retain their schools within their individual communities.

Between 1953 and 1957 I taught at Glyndyfrwy Primary School, and many of my former pupils are now leaders within the community. Eventually, I taught and lectured in London and South Wales, before becoming Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools for twenty years. During that time I had inspectorial responsibility for the Merionethshire and Denbighshire areas. Consequently, I am familiar with each school, with its unique ambience and the way it serves it varying bilingual clientele. Since the 1870 Education Act, the small schools of this Welsh-speaking area have evolved to serve their individual catchment areas with their particular needs. They differ considerably, and combining them may be detrimental to the children.

Despite moving away from the district, I continue to have close connections with life-long friends in the area, and I take an interest in local activities. These are vibrant Welsh-speaking communities with on-going, rich cultural and sporting developments. At the centre of these interactions are the schools. Staff provide leadership and pupils are involved in carnivals, environmental studies, festivals, sports and eisteddfodau, in all their various aspects. This Welsh community spirit is important in giving children a strong sense of belonging. If the smaller schools close, this precious cultural development will dwindle.

I am aware of the current need to economise, but if these schools are closed, there will be rising transport costs, and additional staffing costs in the receiving school. In severe winter weather, young children will be seriously disadvantaged by problems of transport and intermittent school absences. These are serious educational disadvantages.

In Cornwall and in Scotland, the education authorities have organised small schools into clusters of three to five schools, under the leadership of one head teacher, but with each school retaining its special uniqueness with a teacher in charge. This scheme has worked well. In the small schools of Edeyrnion, there are rich developments in language, science and creative activities, which are enhancing many children's lives. This Welsh-speaking area has unique strengths, which are, not always apparent to strangers, who are unaware of the distinct nuances within each village community. Once the school is closed, such rich cultural characteristics will vanish, and Wales will be the poorer for such actions.

It would be wise for the Denbighshire Education Cabinet to further consider alternative organisational structures, within which, small schools can be maintained locally, but with a shared head, shared teaching expertise and shared resources. Yours sincerely,

(OBE, M.Ed.) retired HM Inspector of Schools.

<sup>\*</sup>Byddwn yn ddiolchgar iawn i chwi am ystyried y ffeithiau hyn yn drylwyr...D.S.

#### Appendix 2 - Formal Consultation Responses - Ysgol Llandrillo / Llandrillo Community

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

Personal information has been redacted from this document.

Responses from those who did not give the authority permission to publish their responses have also been redacted. All Cabinet Members were presented with the full document in August 2011.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
17-6-2011	Parent	Yes	Yes	Education	Although it's a shame for our lovely community, the education, both academic and social CANNOT be moved aside o save a small, ever decreasing school.  So, please close this school sooner rather than later. Let the kids have others around he same age to push and pull each other forward.

Date of	Received	Permissio	Do you	Decision	Comments
Response	from	n to	agree	based on the	Confinents
(received)	110111	publish	with the	impact on?	
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27-6-2011	Parent, Community	Yes	No	Education, Community	Llandrillo School provides education for children entirely from the village and/or from within a small area, this is not the case for any other school and the impact on the community would be for greater.
					The Maes Hyfryd site is accessed through a housing estate with poor access for coaches/buses etc. If Maes Hyfryd is using mobile classrooms and is full and Llandrillo has surplus spaces and a building which would cost a small proportion of the overall modernising budget to repair, why is that not the site for the new school?
					The issue of Llandrillo school being within a flood zone is certainly not something which is born out through home insurance of nearby properties and also raises the question of future use for the school site and buildings, should Llandrillo school close. If the issue of a flood zone is used by the council as a reason why the site is not preferred to Cynnwyd as a base for redevelopment, then presumably the site could not be sold for property development.
					The use of data in the proposal is cynical at best and certainly disappointing. The manipulation of statistics to attempt to sway viewpoint casts doubt upon the quality of teaching. There is little mention of pupil well being or parental satisfaction, despite 'well being' featuring as a core principle of the Foundation phase. The statistics given show only one year (2009) as a being a year when pupils under scored. Any objective observer would reduce that pupil scores are swayed by cohort and no statistics are given for overall pupil improvement. This academic year a Llandrillo pupil achieved 4 <sup>th</sup> place in the North Wales Gem 24 championship and, at least one pupil, will have attained a Level 5 in welsh, despite having no welsh speaking family, hardly a reflection of an under achieving school or staff.
					The difficulty in head teacher recruitment, constantly used as an argument for re-organising schools, reflects a trend across the UK as a whole and has been compounded by the necessity for the applicants to be fluent welsh speaking. This does not in any way indicate why federation should not be an option for Llandrillo primary school.
					There seems to be a notion running through the document, that pupils from Llandrillo will attend the 'new' Cynnwyd school. This is false. Parents would send their children to a number of local schools. Both within Denbighshire and Gwynedd. Our community would be further fragmented by such a move. Pupils living outside the Cynnwyd area would be disadvantaged if they wanted to take part in extra-curricular activities, as there would be no more transportation and they would have to rely on parents collecting them.
					Pupils would in no way benefit socially or emotionally from attending a large school, larger class sizes ensure that quieter, hard working children are overlooked and not nurtured, something I have known from 20 years experience as a teacher and advisor. Pupils will suffer a loss or a sense of community, not know children from their own village, lose contact with older citizens or their own communities etc.
					The proposed does not specifically set out how a large school with a non-teaching head will ensure standards, only puts forth the notion that it will. In fact many or the 'benefits' or the proposal seemingly centre around improved professional development for staff, no doubt ensuring that they will learn new skills and quickly move on.
					Finally the idea that the existing canolfan would make up for the loss of the school as, quote, an 'informal meeting place for parents' does nothing to demonstrate to parents facing increased disruption to the education of their children, the fracturing of their community and the loss of a core resource that Denbighshire council understands the negative impact of the proposal.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
29-6-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	Llandrillo is still a community with shop (Post Office) pub + restaurant + hotel, church + chapel, Village Hall where several 'clubs' etc. meet, to remove our school would seriously affect this. More housing is proposed, which would therefore increase the need for a primary school.  Surely, if necessary, to offset various expenses (school maintenance, teacher, transport etc.) The village can raise enough funds to offset these? We are also the centre for holiday makers, with THREE caravan sites, many of whom decide to move here permanently.
29-6-2011	Parent	No	No	Community	
4-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	The negative effect on the community in Llandrillo has been seriously understated. The School is not only a meeting place for parents but for the whole of the community. It is pensioners, in particular, who really look forward to seeing the children performing in concerts, carol services and attending fund raising events who will miss out. Once closed these events would take place in Cynnwyd and it would be totally impractical and unfair for pensioners to make their way to Cynnwyd. Especially in winter time. In my opinion the alternative of bringing Llandrillo pupils back to the village hall from these events is also a non-starter.  Every village needs 4 essential meeting places to cover fully the social structure of a small community: - A school, a shop, a public house and a church/chapel.  Take one away and eventually the whole will wither and die. Taking the school away will discourage any new young families from moving into the village. As a result the village age range will gradually become unbalanced.  At present the village has a vibrant community spirit and many societies covering the whole age range spectrum, for e.g. Bowling club, Gardening club, Darts teams, Pool teams, W.I club, Young farmers club, Club ceidiog, Junior football club and a carnival organisation. These entire organisations survive not only by individual members but by supporting each other. However once the balance begins to tip towards an even ageing community and it will if this school is closed the junior clubs will disappear and the whole fabric of the community will begin to breakdown.  We know that we are all living longer and are reminded almost daily by politicians that this is a 'ticking time bomb' in terms of long term care and costs and no one has the answer. But if we start to artificially create ageing communities by closing a rural village schools. We will only exacerbate the situation and eventually push up social service costs in these communities.  Instead of closing the school we should be looking to attract more you
6-7-2011	Community	Not	No	Not Provided	Soloto de liaro dello.
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Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
11-7-2011	Parent, Community, Ex-Pupil	Yes	No	Education, Community, Submission of argument	<ol> <li>Flooding- Not proven – useful excuse but not backed up by solid argument</li> <li>Llandrillo site is more conducive for expansion. Located at the eastern end of the village the school would easier manage Cynnwyd's pupils and traffic.</li> <li>Cynnwyd has significant access problems, traffic issues and manufacturing traffic to contend with. H+S issue</li> <li>The location of Cynnwyd school does not provide as much long term protection of the welsh language as Llandrillo</li> <li>Recruitment of the Head Teacher is down to the abilities of the local authorities and governors and is not a reason to close a school. This is a non argument. Continued (No additional document attached)</li> </ol>
12-07-11	Parent	Not provided	No	Education; Community	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
13-7-2011	Community	No	No	Education, Community	
13-7-2011	Parent	No	No	Education, Community,	
				Other	
18-7-2011	Community Council	Yes	No	Education, Community	Projected numbers of pupils have not been taken into account. Longer journeys to school resulting in earlier start for pupils – health and safety issues, especially during the winter months. Funding to implement proposals from Welsh Government has been delayed until July- If no funding is received what happened next?

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
19-07-11	Community	Yes	No	Community;	resident in Llandrillo, I would like to record my desire that you should, in your deliberations of this matter, consider the long-term effect of your proposed action on the whole of the community, rather than apply a short-term economic expedient to resolve financial difficulties which, on a national and international basis, have arisen from widespread miss-management of many local and broader economies. Some twenty years ago, I saw at first hand, the detrimental effect of transporting young children away from their home village for economic educational reasons. Their sense of belonging was diminished with a consequent diminution of respect for the facilities afforded by their home location.  Please make every possible effort to maintain local provision for the young children of this village. I have no objection to
					my views being published.
20-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	I believe the results would be very harmful to the Llandrillo community. In my opinion there is not a strong enough reason for closing the school. Remember that every child in Llandrillo school is from the village in contrast to Cynnwyd or Carrog. The standard of education is good and although spending is required on the building this is not beyond reason. I believe that the lack of investment towards Maes Hyfryd school is behind these recommendations. The cabin should have been gone years ago. And how would the rural strategy work is rural schools were to close.
					It is clear that when any resource is closed in a village, whether it be a Shop, Pub or School, that this is the beginning of the end for community life and spirit in the village.
20-07-11	Community	Yes	No	Education; Community; Poor use of public money;	I know that learning is more about relationship than technology. Although 21 <sup>st</sup> century provision in terms of buildings and ICT can be an excellent aid to learning, they cannot guarantee good learning or a good experience of school for children. Children who are happy, secure and well supported in the classroom learn easily. Being in the heart of their own village community provides the ideal learning environment. Given good staffing and adequate resourcing, this cannot be bettered.
					The amount of individual attention received in a small class can be very beneficial. Although numbers at Ysgol Llandrillo have fallen in recent years, the classes are still very viable teaching units. (The numbers could easily rise again if a small number of families with children move into the village.)
					The school does not lack enrichment: people with varied expertise from the local community come in to help. It would also be possible to create further enrichment by sharing some teaching specialists between Llandrillo and Cynwyd, without closing the existing schools. Fashions in education come and go. Some are based on sound educational research, but more often they fulfil political and financial objectives. In recent years, there has been an increasing tendency to impose what can only be described as a factory model on schools. I for one have many concerns about the Assembly's plans for modernising education. Many people in this locality do not believe that this will bring about improvements in their children's education. Shouldn't we be listened to?
					The ideas about modernising education are based on ideas about buildings and technology that are not educationally sound. The younger the child, the more important it is for education to be relational. Children need much experience of facial expressions, body language, tones of voice, and a whole variety of ways of relating to other human beings, mainly through many speaking, listening and looking activities that a good primary school teacher builds into every lesson. These things support the nurturing of the home, helping children to develop social and emotional intelligence. If ICT becomes the main way of learning, instead of just a tool, this takes time away from the development of these essentially human skills. It is not age appropriate to rebuild primary schools around ITC. In addition to this, technology doesn't sustain motivation, at either primary or secondary

Response (roceived)  n to publish presponse?    Response   Proposal?	Date of	Received	Permissio	Do you	Decision	Comments
Impact on?   Impact on?   Impact on?   Impact on?   Impact on?   Impact on?   Investigation   Intrinsic motivation is developed largely through bring pleasure and pride to others, parents first, but also teachers. The best reward is immediate approval. (The more vulnerable it child, the more important this is. I work with very damaged EBD teenage boys, most of whom have failed totally at school. We us, they succeed in learning, not through of the but through an abundance of good human contact, which they have lacked in it early years.) Recent case studies of "21" century schools "in England indicate that there are problems. Too much open, star space and not enough traditional group (class) rooms can leave primary aged children life aces. The lack of discreet classrooms that are "ours" tends to lead to a lack of care for fearning spaces and makes it impossible for class groups to create the lack of the part of the propose. Small, rural schools give an abundance of human nutrue. The third pulpers is the propose of the propose				_		Confinents
level. Only motivated children learn, and again, this is mainly relational. Intrinsic motivation is developed largely through bring pleasure and pride to others, parents first, but also teachers. The best reward is immediate approval. (The more vulnerable tichild, the more important this is. I work with very damaged EBD tenage boys, most of whom have failed totally at school. We did, the more important this is. I work with very damaged EBD tenage boys, most of whom have failed totally at school. We us, they succeed in learning, not through ICT, but through an abundance of good human contact, which they have lacked in early years.] Recent case studies of century schools in England indicate that there are problems. To omuch open, shar space and not enough traditional group (class) rooms can leave primary aged children ill at ease. The lack of discreet classrooms that are "ours" tends to leak of care for learning spaces and makes it impossible for class groups to cree homely areas where they feel they belong. The tendency has been for the new buildings not to be based on advice from educationalists and many teachers fell vay are not fit for purpose. Small, rural schools give an abundance of human nutrue their pupils. This is something we should cherish and be proud of.  Ysgol Llandrillo helps to make the community cohesive. For example, new families with children quickly become embedded in the community through the school. All parents of necessity meet and se involved, especially as they drop of and collect the community through the school. All parents of necessity meet and se involved, especially as they drop of and collect the seader of volterable families and can be seen as a supportive, advisory figure. A school is not just a place where children is a community of the calculation of the community and the community place a valid is within the wide village community. The comments in the proposal about community soungs maybe using the building in the future do not seen to me to have any area and sound to the pa		110111				
pleasure and pride to others, parents first, but also teachers. The best reward is immediate approval. (The more vulnerable it child, the more important this is. Important this is. (Thu through an abundance of good human contact, which they have lacked in it early years.) Recent case studies of "21" century schools in England indicate that there are problems. Too much open, shar space and not enough traditional group (class) rooms can leave primary aged children ill at ease. The lack of discreet classrooms that are "ours" tedts date to a lack of care for learning spaces and makes it impossible for class groups to cres homely areas where they feel they belong. The tendency has been for the new buildings not to be based on advice from educationalists and many teachers they are not fif for purpose. Small, rural schools give an abundance of human nurture their pupils. This is something we should cherish and be proud of.  Ysgol Landrillo helps to make the community toolosive. For example, new families with children quickly become embedded it the community through the school. All parents of necessisty meet and are involved, especially as they drop off and collect their children each day. In addition to this, families are known to teaching staff, particularly the head teacher, who will always be aware of vulnerable families and neb seen as a supportive, advisory figure. A school is not just a place where children he is a community of teachers, ancillary staff and volunteers, parents, children and governors, and this community plays a vital if within the wider village community. The comments in the proposal about community groups maybe using the building in the further of the school such as a community of teachers, and the promosal about community and programs. There is no way that anything the Council could do would neve a representable facilities and tasks. It is something organic. There is no way that anything the Council could of would compensate for the loss of village community is, it has been as a support of the	(					
			response?	proposal?		classrooms that are "ours" tends to lead to a lack of care for learning spaces and makes it impossible for class groups to create homely areas where they feel they belong. The tendency has been for the new buildings not to be based on advice from educationalists and many teachers feel they are not fit for purpose. Small, rural schools give an abundance of human nurture to their pupils. This is something we should cherish and be proud of.  Ysgol Llandrillo helps to make the community cohesive. For example, new families with children quickly become embedded in the community through the school. All parents of necessity meet and are involved, especially as they drop off and collect their children each day. In addition to this, families are known to teaching staff, particularly the head teacher, who will always be aware of vulnerable families and can be seen as a supportive, advisory figure. A school is not just a place where children learn: it is a community of teachers, ancillary staff and volunteers, parents, children and governors, and this community lays a vital role within the wider village community. The comments in the proposal about community groups maybe using the building in the future do not seem to me to have any relevance at all: being part of a community is essentially about shared life, not about being a member of clubs. Many people have no inclination to take part in organised community activities, either through lack of time or lack of interest. Community is built through sharing essential facilities and tasks. It is something organic. There is no way that anything the Council could do would compensate for the loss of Ysgol Llandrillo. The school is more than an informal meeting place for parents. Losing the school would have a very negative effect on the village. Villages like Llandrillo are still functional communities and I plead with the Council not to pursue policies that are bound to make them less functional. I deplore the closure of small rural schools in general, for the loss to village co

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
25-7-2011	Community, Ex-Pupil, Governor	Yes Yes	No No	Education, Community	Llandrillo School includes a high percentage (17/29) of children who come from a non-welsh speaking home- some from abroad. When these families moved to Llandrillo, the children were sent, naturally, to the village school. These children start in the school completely non-welsh speaking, and with the support and guidance from the school, they quickly become fluent in the language.  As the children develop their Welsh language skills, their parents feel it is their responsibility to learn Welsh with their children, and attend their own welsh lessons. Many of these children have grown to use the Welsh language in their lives and careers as adults.  Since talk began regarding closing the school in the village, I have spoken with many parents who have moved to the village and have become a big part of today's community, about where their children would have gone if they had moved to the village in the present day. If the families had moved into the Village after the School closed, it is certain that they wouldn't attend the welsh speaking school in Cynnwyd, but drive 1 mile up the road to Corwen where they would receive their education in English – their home language and that is their intention if Llandrillo School is closed. This is a big concern for me and others, because if non-welsh families move into the area-where would their children go to school? We would lose the opportunity to create true welsh people.  I understand that the importance of the school in the community is not enough to keep the school open, but it must be emphasised that the school has been at the heart of the community for over 150 years. If the school was to close their would leave several gaps in the village calendar – Summer, Christmas and Easter fairs, Christmas and St.Davids day concerts, competitions in the gardening and carnival show- all of these would have to be hosted in Cynnwyd. The W.I
					work closely with the school and a lot of the members will lose this connection with the school, as they are unable to travel outside of the village.  I have confidence you will re-consider your offer- for saving £53,000 is not worth destroying a community
20-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	In the meeting no questions were answered. Both speakers avoided answering any questions that they were asked.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
26-07-11	Community	Not provided	No	Community;	
26-07-11	Community	Yes	No	Community; Health & Safety	Parents will not be as keen to move here to live without a school in the village for their small children. Without a school, the value of this pleasant village will fall. Only some of the pupils live near the school in Cynwyd. There is traffic, noise, fog, dust and nasty smells. Llandrillo school stands on a safe and healthy site. Children and village residents will not know each other, whereas the community now is very close.
29-7-2011	Community, Grandparent	Yes	No	Education, Community	If Ysgol Llandrillo closes and pupils are moved to another school their education would suffer compared to other pupils as they may have difficulty reaching Cynnwyd.  At the moment most pupils walk to school as they live in the Village and immediate areas. By travelling 6 miles each day the Carbon footprint in this area will rise. The council are always talking about going green, having a giant footprint doesn't appear to be the way to go. If Ysgol Llandrillo closes the heart and soul will go out of the community which will never recover
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	The importance of local identity cannot be overemphasised. The rich history of the area which reinforces the importance of local identity and the power of place allowing us to respect and respond to the particular landscape as nothing is more unique and important than to recognise the cultural history and identity of the area, sites of historical interest, farmsteads, lace names etc. There can be no greater challenge in this modern era of a globalising world than to retain and strengthen local character which makes areas remarkable and coherent so they serve as a basis for pride, affection and continuity which will be lost forever if this proposal is passed.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
29-7-2011	Community	Not provided	No	Community	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education, Community	Pre school children will miss out on the social aspect of school-meeting members of their community/en route et. Local communities will be affected by the school activities being out of their area. Some parents do not have their own transport, bus services are two hours at best. Parking spaces in Cynnwyd are very limited and the school is in a very busy road.  If the pre school children have older siblings in the school how are parents to pick up their children? Again especially if they do not have their own transport. This is worse if any of the children are ill.
29-7-2011	Community, Grandparent	Yes	No	Education, Community	<ol> <li>No education for up to 4½ years old.</li> <li>No contact between parents and teachers</li> <li>The loss of the welsh language with up to 4½ this time is crucial at this age</li> <li>Sending school children to another village with a factory near by giving out Acid fallout</li> <li>Winter months when the road closes how do the children get home</li> </ol>
1-8-2011	Parent	Yes	No	Education, Community	Removing the school will be a step back for the village- we need a local community school to keep the vibrant spirit alive. It is a fact that the village will suffer if it is closed! Most of the families that have moved to the village, wanted a school in the village. I doubt we would have set up a business and settled without an education facility at the centre of the community.  The big question is – will the proposal effect the life and population in the future- possibly the village of Llandrillo becoming a retirement home, young families moving + settling in Cynnwyd instead, Don't close the school!
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	Already there is a lack of affordable housing for local young people and by closing the school it would mean families with young children would be less likely to choose to live in Llandrillo as children would have to travel further to school. This would have a huge effect on the local community. The shop, post office, pubs and other local amenities will also be under threat as the school brings the community together. If the school closes Llandrillo will become a place for retired people and people of an older age.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	-
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education Community	There're several reasons, In Ysgol Maes Hyfryd the road is dangerous with big lorries passing and cars parked everywhere. In Ysgol Llandrillo there is a safer access to the site with a safe parking area. Keeping both schools open keeps both communities safe, if Ysgol Llandrillo were to close the community would be lost. For 158 years the school has been serving the village and community. And there is no saving good enough to lose that. The my children have been taught in Ysgol Llandrillo and they received a brilliant education there.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	As we live in the village it would be a great shame to close the village school. The children are a great asset to village life. They entertain the over 60's with there singing and also for the church. After school activities will also suffer as the children will have to be transported back to there home. So please do not close the school.

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1-8-2011	Ex-Pupil	Yes	No	Community, Education	Llandrillo school is an important part of the community. The school and the neighbourhood are very close to each other and the school makes a deliberate effort to share their activities with the village by hosting concerts to the elderly and to the villagers in general. The community show their support by supporting every occasion which raises money for the school. As far as education is concerned, a small school can offer something very special to a child. Every child is a part of the family, the older children care for the younger children. The pupils are friends with children of different ages, which is far more natural than the order in place in bigger schools where pupils only associate themselves with children of a similar age.
29-7-2011	Community, Grandparent	Not provided	No	Education Community	-
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community Education	Closing our rural schools is killing our communities, villages and also our republic  I know exactly how valuable the school is to the village. I know how valuable the teachers are to the community, their readiness to give their time, knowledge and talent which is so important to the villages work.
25-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education Community	<ol> <li>I would like to see a discounted cash flow for the proposed closure which I do not believe would show a satisfactory return on capital investment. A def rate of return of 15% and time frame of 20 years should be used.</li> <li>The traffic volume in Cynnwyd is of great concern and should be subject to a hazard study. Llandrillo School is on a quiet road which has negligible traffic.</li> <li>The flood risk in Llandrillo is vanishingly small.</li> <li>The spirit and enthusiasm of the Llandrillo school pupils is remarkable. The school is well supported by the community and its closure would be great loss to the village. There are many events, plays, concerts etc, which are well supported by the community.</li> </ol>
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education Community	I don't believe that closing Llandrillo School will improve the education standards of the children. Apart from this, you have failed to consider the bad feelings and tension that you have created between the 2 villages, this will continue for future generations. I don't understand why federalisation has not been offered with one Head Teacher/Head Mistress travelling instead of threatening the safety and well being of children
28-7-2011	Community, Parish Priest	Yes	No	Education, Community, Christian Faith	Ysgol Llandrillo is very involved in, and supported by the village community. Local people regularly visit to help with the teaching of reading and writing and to assist in the teaching of art and design, sharing and passing on their many skills. Others have been involved in the setting up of a vegetable garden, sharing their knowledge and the produce with the children with a grand meal of potatoes organised in school when the qualities of different types of potatoes planted is discussed with the farmers who produce the muck. On St David's Day the villagers are invited to High Tea in the school and entertained by the children and at Christmas time the older children join the pensioners club for their meal, sorting out cards and entertaining them. Elderly people from the community visit the school to tell their stories and to share their experiences of national and local historical events. In these simple ways important links are made and relationships forged across the generations – the children learn to regard their elders with respect and the elderly come to see the youngsters as friends.  I believe that the above reason is why cohesion is high and crime low, if not non existent within the community of Llandrillo. The citizenship skills the children learn through the mutual involvement of school and community and the

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					continuity of a shared background and holistic education is something that should bear serious consideration indeed when proposing to close the school.  I am also concerned for the spiritual welfare of this parish. As Vicar/Rector of the five parishes of Llandrillo, Maerdy Dinamel, Llawr y Bettws (Glanyrafon) and Bettws Gwerfil Goch, I have already experienced the closure of two village schools (Dinamael and Glanyrafon) and witnessed the effect those closures have had on their respective communities and on their churches. In both cases closure was sadly inevitable, but it has left those communities bereft of the opportunities to engage with each other across the generations.  Llandrillo school supports both the chapel and the church, having Harvest/Diolchgarwch services in both and an Advent Christingle service in church. It has been noted that the church runs an after school club, Clwb Trillo, were children of all denominations come to learn about their Christian faith. I am also a regular visitor to the school taking assemblies and attending all the various functions the school provides for the village. As part of their curriculum studies the school visit's the church and I teach them about, and enact the sacraments of baptism and marriage. I have lived in this community for over 10 years and when I walk through the village the children and young people greet me, they know me and I know them. At the moment their children 'own' their church and chapel, but if the school is closed, then I fear both church and chapel will lose an important if not essential contact with them, as has happened in the other villages I have the care of.  Unfortunately I am not the Victor/Rector of Cynnwyd and my involvement with the children of Llandrillo through school cannot be guaranteed to continue if this proposal to close the school goes ahead.  I can see no reason for Llandrillo School to close; no positive gains for the children or the village community, only loss – loss of a sense of belonging to a distinct and cohesive comm
29-7-2011	Community	No	No	Education, Community	The people of Llandrillo have said a resounding and unanimous NO to this proposal. Why are we not being heard?
29-7-2011	Community Grandparent	Yes	No	Education, Community	The closing of Llandrillo school will have a severe detrimental effect on the education, and community of our village, & children. Children under $4\frac{1}{2}$ years will have no access to school as they will not be able to go on buses, taxis etc. They will also lose out on early introduction to the Welsh language when it is easier to pick up at this stage. Our children will lose out on 'breakfast club' 'after school' club and other activities after school as there will be no transport for these (many people have no access to cars). Parents will lose the day today contact with teachers and eventually our village will become a village of pensioners

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29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education Community	With no school there will be an impact on the population people with children will not be attracted. To live in the village. Because most people want to whack their young children school. The village could turn into a dormitory town. Commuters to Wrexham, Chester and beyond. Small schools are better for learning say pupils. Pupils will feel more at ease – The teachers get to know the children better each teacher will know every child in the school – Children at junior school feel secure if they are going to learn.
29-7-2011	Parent	No	No	Education Community	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	The school, like the church is the heartbeat of the community and is beyond any financial consideration.  When I started I was struck at how well adjusted and happy the children were, and how easily they interacted with their teachers. My house is on a direct route to the school and as i watch them going to and from the school I notice that they seem be anticipating the day ahead with pleasant anticipation. All this I put down to a sense of belonging, and of having their roots in M.T.F
29-7-2011	Ex-Pupil Community	Yes	No	Education Community	As an Ex Pupil of this school, and also my family have been going there since it was built. I as a young person hoping to have children of my own would like to send them there as well If you close our school people like me will be forced to move away therefore killing our community!
29-7-2011	Parent Community	Yes	No	Education Community	I feel the proposal doesn't clearly address the reasons for closing the school. Llandrillo children should be educated in Llandrillo. It concerns me that my daughter will not be able to travel to the nursery.  I feel she will miss out on bonding with other children. I also feel the road down to Cynnwyd school is unsafe for transporting children with all the heavy Ifor Williams traffic & lorries.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	Closing Llandrillo School will be a terrible loss to the village and community of Llandrillo. But most of all the children.  Heavy traffic from the Ivor Williams is a danger to the safety of the children, please think again about closing our school
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education, Community	Evidence for educational improvement seems to be totally absent.  The local community will suffer if the school closes. The make up of the population will change. The number of families will change. Potential incomers with children will be deterred by the lack of a village school, which is at the heart of the community. The population will rapidly become an ageing one.

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29-7-2011	Community, Ex Parent	Yes	No	Education Community	I have indicated the quality of education as children of this school age will not relax enough to take in what they are being taught. These children are too young to be leaving their locality especially when there is a perfectly good school here. This village is obviously being turned into a retirement village, as if there is no school persons with children will not come here to live.  The excuse of a 100 year flood plain is ridiculous for the water board and there has been 3 in the past 12 years nowhere near the school. My husband's family have lived here for years before the school was built and have been in that school, no talk of floods anywhere.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	First of all I find it difficult to understand the economics of spending thousands of pounds to enlarge the school. Building at Cynnwyd to accommodate the children of Llandrillo when there is a perfectly good school building at Llandrillo. I'm quite sure that the quality of teaching and care at Llandrillo is excellent.  I would like to ask whoever in the Denbighshire County Council that is responsible for suggesting or demanding that this change should take place, would print and publish accurate figures as to the costs of conveying the pupils from quite a large area like Llandrillo or Cynnwyd, also the cost of enlarging Cynnwyd school. How can they justify these costs against the damage that this change will do to the community of Llandrillo.
27-7-2011	Community, Former Governor	Yes	No	Education, Community, Health and Safety	Welsh medium education is naturally supported by daily communication with community members of all ages in making Welsh the national medium. We found this to be of no particular benefit where children from a non welsh speaking family background were able to become fluent and proficient speakers not just within the educational bubble. Education will be lost to additional travel and days lost when travel is not possible in inclement weather; there are inherent health and safety and environmental concerns in bussing children unnecessarily.  Loss of sense of community, loss of local knowledge in geography and history and a loss of the sense of community that helps to create good citizens and is an essential adjunct to school based education  We currently have excellent facilities in Llandrillo for children of pre-school ages which will be completely lost.  Travel time and the separation of the school from its true community will make both pre and after school activities much more difficult to attend. Separating the school from the home community will seriously limit the conversations in Welsh which will take place between pupils and community will seriously limit the conversations in Welsh which take place between pupils and community during travel to and from school and between parents, staff and community generally at fund raisers, concerts etc; this will naturally lead to the loss of support for school events; the current strong bond of support that this excellent community provides to the school will be lost. The school is at the heart of our village, current plans will rip that heart out and deprive the pupils of the many wonderful examples of what can be achieved when a community pulls together; surely that is an essential part of their education?  Stop seeking to waste tax payers money on vanity building projects and maintain the current excellent arrangements; what goes on inside the school and its' relations to its community are far more important than the building itself.

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					may well lead to an increase on pupil numbers in the short term. Llandrillo is one of the largest villages in terms of population and there seems to be no logic in removing such an essential element form the heart of the community.  If the school goes it will greatly reduce the likelihood that young families will settle the village. Our community will then deteriorate with an increasingly ageing population and will ultimately become a 'grey' ghetto. The economic and social consequences of this closure will be disastrous over time, Denbighshire County Council need to reconsider this matter and have the humility to admit that they were wrong to propose this.
27-7-2011	Community, Former Governor	Yes	No	Education, Community, Health and Safety	The consultation format chosen by the authority seems to be deliberately exclusive and designed to discourage responses; it is difficult for many people to deal with as it requires significant detailed analysis and written skills. Contrast this with the professionally led survey currently being invited by Denbighshire in tick box format. Assuming that this latter method is of value and benefit (as tax payers we certainly hope it is) then why could something similar not been provided for the residents to respond to the school closure proposal which impacts our daily lives so profoundly?  It is our views that negative responses are being actively discouraged by the officers responsible who seem determined to impose their will on this community. It has rarely been our misfortune to be presented with such a blatantly unfair and deceptive piece of work. Which also lacks cogent educational or cost benefit analysis; it is sloppy work and we hope not representative of what goes on at DCC as a whole.  There does not appear to be any understanding of humanity or community in this proposal and the relative merits and problems with the two sites are grotesquely skewed and unbalanced. One can only hope that the elected representatives will take the trouble to fully acquaint themselves with both sites and communities before making such a fundamental decision.  Llandrillo is a vibrant community with a large range of societies, activities and facilities of shop, pub, two restaurants, bowling green, playing field etc. The school is generously supported by the community, both financially and with the gift of volunteer time. All this will be lost, what a waste of resources.  Llandrillo is the larger of the two villages with a rapidly increasing housing stock which we earnestly hope will encourage young families to settle here and continuously re-generate the community. Our own children, now with school age kids of their own had planned to move back, without the school they will not. We chose to settle here 30 years ago and one of
					The smaller school is a more welcoming environment for pre-school age groups and provides an easier transition to full school life in a familiar environment. The children learn community values, local history and topography which form the basis for a stable community and good citizenship. The financial arguments in your report are thin to say the least. We are very familiar with the school in Llandrillo and some of the repair/renewal figures quoted are clearly exaggerated to make a case. The proposal to spend over one million pounds at this stage of the economy when we have two viable buildings also beggars belief; just because you can borrow money at low interest it does not confirm the financial and

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28-07-11	Llandrillo Community Council	Yes	No		educational sense of so doing.  We are told there are no drawings or draft proposals for us to examine or comment on and yet you are starting this process in just over one year. This raises more questions:  Is the land available and from whom?  Will there be more than one access route?  On what are the cost estimates based?  Traffic survey – have you analysed the additional risks in Cynnwyd?  Air quality and industrial process in Cynnwyd – what work has been done to determine the risks implicit in this?  What will be done with the Llandrillo site, our guess is you will sell it and re-distribute the proceeds in the North of the county depriving our rural area?  School maintenance budgets can be more carefully estimated and managed and you really should allow the community to contribute more in time and money. As a minor example, we manage our own public toilet facilities in the village which DCC would otherwise have closed; you will have a legion of willing volunteers to help maintain and improve the school from basic cleaning to micro-generation projects reducing running costs.  In our view, a better standard of education can be provided with federated or amalgamated arrangements which will keep a school establishment within each community. If Head Teacher recruitment is such a problem then why not consider expenditure and maintain a rural community facility which is highly valued by all residents.  Here is the response from Llandrillo Community Council to try to change the mind of Denbighshire County Council to closing Llandrillo Primary School.  The quality of education is extraordinary and the children are happy being educated in their own village. Moving to another area would be damaging for them as they are not in their own habitat.  The school should remain open. It has been open for a 150 years and it would be the greatest shame to close it.  The quality of education is extraordinary and the children are happy being educated in their own village. Moving to another area would be damaging for them as they
					6. When children are collected from school it is an opportunity for young families in the area to communicate, to get to

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					<ul> <li>know each other and discuss everything that's relevant to the community.</li> <li>7. The Welsh Government wants rural communities to thrive – therefore the first step is to ensure that primary schools remain open.</li> <li>There is talk that you want to close Ysgol Llandrillo and Cynwyd. Then build a new school on the Cynwyd site. Where is</li> </ul>
					Denbighshire County Council going to get the money to build this? The Council would have to make further cuts to other services to do this. Leave our rural schools alone.  THE MESSAGE FROM THE LLANDRILLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL IS LEAVE THE SCHOOL OPEN TO SAVE THE COMMUNITY. THE SCHOOL IS THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY.
28-07-11	Community	Yes	No	Community;	These are my comments and observations on the proposal to close Ysgol Llandrillo and incorporate it into an enlarged school at Cynwyd.  To put this into context I have had only peripheral involvement in the campaign in Llandrillo, neither from lack of conviction nor interest, but because of other commitments. Nevertheless I did attend the meeting in Llandrillo Ganolfan where Hywyn Williams (HW) and Jackie Walley (JW) presented their findings and proposals.  As a Denbighshire resident and council taxpayer I was shocked and appalled at the apparent lack of preparation that must be the reason why they were both totally ill equipped to answer any question posed in a logical, reasoned and coherent manner. As an aside I hope these two officers do not represent the quality of the generality of DCC officers since council taxpayers would be receiving very poor value for their outlay if this is the case.
					The elements that, for me, emerged from the public meeting on 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2011, and I have subsequently explored, were:  Costs  I have examined the cost data produced by DCC and, even as a trained accountant, found the information to be impenetrable. One cannot even be certain that data is produced on a strictly comparable basis. In any event it is incumbent on DCC to support rural communities as stated in a number of official strategies. Supporting rural schools will inevitably produce cost differentials between schools.  Quality of Education  Throughout the evening JW in particular made comments like "there are clear educational arguments which illustrate the benefits for all pupils." However, those arguments were never made despite repeated demands that we hear them. One can only conclude she was making unfounded assertions.  Should the scheme proceed young children will be subject to increased travelling time which will tire them and reduce their capacity to learn.

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			-   -   -   -   -   -   -   -   -		Community and Language Impact Assessment
					That these assessments were done in house without any experienced or independent input renders the conclusions worthless. JW admitted that the basis was what I would term "suck it and see."
					The loss of the school is likely to have catastrophic consequences for Llandrillo as we lose younger population to villages where there is primary provision.
					Federalisation
					I note that it is proposed to federate Ysgol Betws GG and Ysgol Bro Elwern. At the meeting JW was asked why federate those and not Cynwyd and Llandrillo. Yet again we received no explanation and got assertion after assertion.
					When one considers the geographic locations of the two situations it is clear that communication and transport between Cynwyd and Llandrillo is superior giving a much better case for federation.
					CS AMP Conditions Data
					I am not sure to what extent this report will influence any decision regarding the future of the school.
					I have seldom seen a report based on such a woolly basis with costs that have no grounding in either reality or current pricing a few examples of which are:- Redecorate oil tank - £900 Replace 3 wcs, 1 urinal, 3 basins and 1 drinking fountain - £5,000
					Replace 4 wcs, 3 basins and 1 drinking fountain - £5,000
					I do have both expertise and experience in these areas having run a house building company for fifteen years and recently supervised the refurbishment of a barn. In the latter skilled local craftsmen were employed who produced excellent work for a fraction of the prices quoted in DCC's report.
					One thing is certain, the current school building is a well built substantial structure that has stood for over a hundred years and with modest maintenance costs (not those in your report) phased over a number of years the building will be good for at least another hundred years.
					Conclusion
					The proposals to close Llandrillo School have no merit. The projected development at Cynwyd is likely to be of inferior quality (most modern school buildings are inferior) to that existing in Llandrillo. Bussing young children to Cynwyd will increase the length of their school day and inevitably expose them to more potential danger from road accidents. DCC maintain their proposed changes will improve education provision; that is an assertion that is not backed up by a coherent strategy. It is not clear that when comparing capital and revenue costs over an extended period there will be any saving whatsoever.

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					DCC should reconsider and implement either the federalisation of Cynwyd and Llandrillo schools or preferably back Llandrillo School by recruiting a head teacher which will inevitably increase pupil numbers when excellence in education is in place.
28-07-11	Community	Not provided	No	Health & Safety;	
29-07-11	Community	Yes	No	Education; Community;	and comment on the proposal to close Llandrillo School below. DCC are at liberty to make both my comments and identity public. I am also the mother of two children who attended the local schools, both primary and secondary.  The process by which this proposal has been formulated is entitled "modernising education" whereas the proposal is a wholly retrograde step.  The current standard of education at Ysgol Llandrillo is good. To remove the pupils from their community would have a detrimental effect on their educational progress.

from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
				Closing the village school would have a significant impact on the use of the Welsh language since former pupils will not choose to raise their families where they cannot walk to attend the school their parents and grandparents were educated. Non Welsh speaking families will not choose to live in an area that has no school; this will have a highly negative effect on the population growth of Llandrillo removing the potential for developing the number of Welsh speakers.  The costs of the proposals are considerable. To build a new area school of sufficient quality to guarantee a significant rise in educational quality from "good" to "outstanding" with a long term future (50 years +) use will be immense. Added to which there will be the continued cost of transport and the pay of the more highly qualified teachers that will clearly need to be recruited to achieve this raise in outcome.  Llandrillo School is a substantial building that requires low maintenance to continue to stand for another 100 years or more. It is also idyllically sited on an open area away from traffic and with excellent access.
				The community has traditionally raised considerable sums to benefit their children and there is significant interaction between pupils and all age groups of villagers that greatly enhances both their educational experience and sense of well being. All this will cease with the loss of the school from the village. There will be a knock on effect of deteriorating health, mental and physical, throughout the community with the loss of social interaction and physical activity.  There is the possibility of subsequent loss of all sporting facilities attendant with school closure and sale to raise income which DCC will spend elsewhere.
				Llandrillo is a seriously deprived area on the Denbighshire/Gwynedd boundary – any remaining children of Welsh speaking families are likely to choose to cross the county border to attend the new "super" school that is being built in Bala alongside the secondary school they will move up to. English speaking families who might arrive will undoubtedly also choose this school because it will be dual streamed and therefore meet their needs better than the Welsh Medium school that is proposed at Cynwyd. Likewise parents of the children from the dozen or more homes that lie within Gwynedd that have attended Llandrillo School would undoubtedly not be inclined to take them to Cynwyd thus losing further funding from Denbighshire.  I believe the proposal to close Llandrillo School is fundamentally flawed and that the school should be retained with DCC putting its full commitment into the school. Whilst federation could be a possibility, closure will be a disaster for our village
				and community.
Community	Yes	No	Education, Community	This proposal is a very unfair response to a problem faced by the area as a whole. There is already a high standard of education provided at the school, all subject specialisations are catered for, and there is no reason to suppose that this will not be possible in the future. The invidious comparisons of data are meaningless and have caused a great deal of stress for staff, who work extremely hard and take their responsibilities very seriously. No account was taken of children with special needs in this data. Similarly, the inspection data for Llandrillo is dated and now irrelevant as staff members have changed. Making decisions based on this data is unprofessional.  Children in Llandrillo are all pushed to aim high and to achieve as well as they can, including those with special needs.
Cc	ommunity	ommunity Yes	ommunity Yes No	

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					6s will be yet another excellent one. Crude raw data does not give the correct impression of the school.
					The Head is on the NPQH course and is doing a brilliant job. All the staff are happy there, which cannot be said for other schools. The proposal would have a hugely detrimental effect on the education of the children, who are thriving in the friendly atmosphere of small classes and teachers who know them, their parents, and their grandparents. Larger classes would not be so effective, as all of us who have taught in them know. Similarly, the quality of life for children in small schools is far superior. Children who are happy at school learn more effectively.
					The staff always have time for a friendly chat with parents who walk to pick up nursery children at lunchtimes and the older children after school. Any small problems can be ironed out before they become large ones. The teachers understand how the children learn and can adapt lessons to suit the children.
					I would argue that young people and children have not been consulted to the extent they should be in this proposal. This is required under the Welsh assembly Government Circular 021/2009. Similarly, the Community and Language Impact Assessment has been carried out in-house and is not a thorough look at the area. It was simply a desk research exercise with a very selective use of data, rather than a proper survey.
					One of the key principles of the purpose of schools in Wales is to: 'provide or facilitate education so that schools contribute to meeting the needs of the community and engage the community as partners to ensure that all schools are community focused.' Llandrillo School does this very well – will an area school fulfil this role to the same extent?
					Many from Llandrillo will chose to send their children to Gwynedd schools if this proposal goes ahead, throwing all the plans into disarray. A survey of parents as part of the Community Impact Assessment would have found this out.
					Many have suggested that closing Carrog School would be a far better idea, and I agree with this. The pupils could be accommodated at Caer Drewyn with no extra building costs. The impact assessment for Carrog School did not stipulate, as it should according to Circular 021/2009 (pg. 33) how many children come from outside the area. I believe that the numbers of children from Carrog itself are as low as 9 or 10. Closing Carrog School would have a lesser effect on the community than closing Llandrillo School.
					The building maintenance and repair costs earmarked for Ysgol Llandrillo are inflated. Getting rid of the cabins at Cynwyd seems to be a priority- but it is very unfair to close Llandrillo School in order to get over this problem.
29-07-11	Parent / Community	Yes	No	Education; Community;	I don't believe the proposal is based on fact or evidence and will not achieve any benefit and that the Cynwyd site has potential health and safety risk for children. My comments are as follows:
					I am writing in response to Proposal 1 that is published on the Denbighshire County Council website http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en-gb/DNAP-8HLGX9
					I urge you to reject this proposal completely as the proposal is ill thought-out and will not save our council any money. It will only cause community disruption and loss.
					There is absolutely no evidence presented in the proposal that states how it will improve the education of our children. My children and grandchildren have and are pupils of the school and I only have praise for their education at Ysgol Llandrillo which

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		•			is extremely important to our community.
					I would like to draw your attention particularly to:-
					1. I am concerned about the future safety of our children:
					Steel Galvanising within yards of Cynwyd school. The presence of industrial scale activity such as this will always present a risk, which should have been considered as part of this proposal.
					Traffic - Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is within yards of a major industrial manufacturing plant, the Ifor Williams Trailer Factory is situated almost directly opposite to the road leading to the school gates, and the Williams Haulage Business is based only a few hundred yards away. Neither of these significant aspects is mentioned in the proposal. The drop off area for pupils is not protected and narrow. There is much traffic volume, noise and fumes from vehicles left running while queuing for access. This of major concern to many parents.
					Flood zone - Use of the 'flood zone' argument as an excuse not to invest in Llandrillo school is again an argument that pays small heed to reality and fact. Ysgol Llandrillo has never been affected by flooding in 164 years. Even in "once in 100 years" events already experienced, the school remained untouched by flood water. Adequate drainage exists, and is proven to exist to adequately mitigate any risk as commented by professional bodies. It is also noted that Denbighshire County Council has granted planning permission for a number of new houses along Berwyn Street which is in the very centre of this 'flood plain.'
					2. Community:
					This proposal will increase poverty in Llandrillo. Closing a school gives wrong signals to investors/people coming to the area when schools and facilities are closed.
					If Llandrillo is to lose its school then it loses its potential to bring services in to the people of Llandrillo. The school has the potential to continue to develop as a Community Focused school
					http://www.endchildpovertycymru.org.uk/areasofwork/childpoverty/endchildpovertynetwork/index.html quotes 'that the Welsh Assembly Government emphasized the importance of attending after school clubs'. But that 'accessing such clubs in rural areas is very difficult for most children and young people especially if they come from low-income households and/or are disabled'. Closure of the school will affect the ability of children to attend after schools clubs.
					Loss of Breakfast and after school club –The Rural Development Plan for Wales (p.8) suggests that we should look at opportunities to 'Improving ability to return to work and quality of life generally by developing child care, crèche and day care facilities'. Closure of the school fundamentally reduces the availability of these services to the community
					Removal of Llandrillo Nursery facilities. This is completely unacceptable. Ysgol Llandrillo does currently operate a significant number of extra curricular activities such as Football, Urdd, Church club. They also have after school clubs and breakfast clubs. The rich variety of extra curricular activities is omitted from the proposal, disadvantaging Llandrillo.
					3. Welsh language:
					The words "maintain" and "strengthen" Welsh medium education appear many times in the proposal. The area school proposal would not improve the provision of Welsh medium education. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo and Cynwyd are not welsh medium (as stated in the consultation paper). Please see definitions on DCC web-page:- http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/www/cms/live/content.nsf/lookupattachments/English~DNAP-8B8GTC/\$File/2011- 12%20Denbighshire%20Schools%20Guide%20to%20Parents%20(V2).pdf . Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo is a Welsh natural school

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					and should remain so. Therefore an area school will provide Llandrillo pupils with no distinct advantage. Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo has welcomed children of in-migrants who have become part of our Welsh-speaking community.
					4. Contradicting the 'Denbighshire Big Plan':
					The proposal contradicts the fundamental ethos behind the 'Denbighshire Big Plan'
					a. http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/www/cms/live/content.nsf/lookupattachments/English~DNAP-8APEKZ/\$File/The%20BIG%20Plan%20-%20Draft.pdf
					People in rural areas receive services that are accessible and meet local needChildren, young people and vulnerable adults in Denbighshire are safe.
					The right to play will be restricted – CP Strategy quotes the UNCRC Article 32 which states that children have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
					Local children attending Llandrillo school have freedom to play before and after school. Activities to include cultural, arts and sport are frequently engaged in by children and their parents and the school has a crucial link to cultural events which engages the whole village encouraging good relationships between young and old and of all backgrounds
					Mobile accommodation:
					Allowing the development of too much mobile accommodation and the increase in surplus spaces is a result of DCC acting against its own policy
					By allowing Ysgol Maeshyfryd to have mobile classrooms and admit students over and above their capacity DCC has already acted against its own policy of not recognizing the spare capacity of the nearby Ysgol Gynradd Llandrillo, a sister Welsh natural school
					The specific extracts of DCC policy on mobile accommodation are as follows:
					http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/www/cms/live/content.nsf/lookupattachments/English~DNAP-895AXU/\$File/Policy%206%20- %20Mobile%20Accomodation.pdf
					Extract from DCC Policy 6: Mobile Accommodation
					Mobile provision should only be made in the following circumstances:
					To meet a short or medium term increase in pupil numbers in areas of population growth where there is no spare capacity in an appropriate alternative school in the surrounding area. In such instances the mobile accommodation will be provided for an agreed time period, to be reviewed and/or removed at a certain date. If the increase in pupil numbers is set to be sustained then consideration will be taken by the authority as to whether permanent accommodation needs to be provided.
					Mobile provision should not be provided in the following circumstances:
					To enable popular schools to expand to admit out of area children when there are places available in the local area schools
					In line with the Modernising Education Agenda:

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					Mobile accommodation will be removed where its retention can no longer be justified according to the above principles
					Cost of Transport
					The transport costs in the proposal is obviously not calculated with the expected future increases of oil based fuel in mind.
					To quote the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 p. http://wales.gov.uk/docs/drah/publications/100420rdpmaintext1en.pdf This document recognises Wales' weakness of a 'Relatively poor transport infrastructure' and the threat of an 'Increase in transport costs and oil based fuel'.
					The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 as quoted in the DCC document 'Denbighshire Schools -Information for parents, guardians & carers 2010/2011' will also add to costs in the progressive restricted use of school buses and additional costs of health and safety measures which will have the effect of contractors putting up their prices.
					To quote the Wales Local Government Association (http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-perm-leg/bus-committees-third-lc4-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=200259&ds=11/2010 - 21st October 21010) in its response to the Welsh Government '8.There is also widespread concern within local government about the costs associated with this proposed Measure. As the Explanatory Memorandum to the Measure states, school transport costs have risen significantly in recent years and these costs continue to rise, reaching £102.2 million in 2007/08.'
					Thank you for considering my views.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education; Community; Other;	If Other, please indicate:Health and Safety/Traffic/ Galvanising Plant in Cynwyd  My comments are as follows:
					PROPOSAL IS WRONG – IT WILL REDUCE EDUCATION PROVISION, HARM WELSH LANGUAGE, AND DESTROY COMMUNITY
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education; Community; Other;	If Other, please indicate: _Cabinet members having vested interests in schools in their ward. Hugh Evans , leader of cabinet has a clear conflict of interest and the whole process is therefore undemocratic. Ditto, Eryl Williams.  My comments are as follows:
					The Consultation Document – Proposal 1 is not a reasoned document, it simply tries to justify a decision to close Llandrillo school without a proper, thorough and equitable decision making process being undertaken. The Cynwyd site has been selected prior to any Impact on quality of education or Impact on the local communities being It starts with the <a href="Proposal">Proposal</a> that Ysgol Maes Hyfryd will close – this is a play on words to give the reader the impression that fair play is being achieved. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd does not close at all.
					Over the years there has been no meaningful works to upkeep Ysgol Llandrillo. Corwen school was demolished and a brand new school was built to serve the migrant workers who demanded an English medium education in Corwen. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd also has a brick built extension but Llandrillo school has been mismanaged so that it now has a 'reported' maintenance backlog of circa £90,000. As a chartered surveyor – I challenge these figures. Jackie Walley has not demonstrated the source of these figures despite being asked.

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					Background - Surplus capacity can be addressed by reconfiguration of existing classrooms – schools do not have to close. Mobile Accommodation has been situated in Cynwyd for a length of time which is greater than the Planning law allow – this has been ignored by the Council. Why is this allowed to happen?	
					<u>Current situation</u> – again this is biased towards Cynwyd. What relevance have the figures, why is their headteacher mentioned and Llandrillo's not. This is a leading statement. Why are facts such as the classroom ceiling collapsing last winter and 2 separate occasions of children absconding without the teachers knowing their whereabouts mentioned? This does not demonstrate effective leaders and management.	
					The flood plain zone is another misnomer – has the school flooded? Is not Prestatyn high school not built on a flood zone. Another example of the 'rubbishing' of Llandrillo to promote the Councils pre determined choice of Cynwyd without proper consultation.	
					Why is proposal being considered – Llandrillo has a headteacher, pupil numbers have been affected by English parents seeking English medium education for their children at Carrog school – currently 9 children. Why is there no cognisance of this in the report. The Council's proposal does not demonstrate the authority's commitment at all.	
					What are the benefits – How will the pupils benefit educationally, socially and emotionally. The proposal will create inequality within one school – Llandrillo children living with the stigma that they are second class to Cynwyd. The Welsh Assembly have stated that capital funding is now strictly limited – however Denbighshire now say they have their own funds. This is a complete 360 degree turnaround – and again points to a lack of reasoned thinking. Initially it was capital funding from the Welsh Assembly that was the driver – now DCC say they have their own funds. But no funds to maintain the schools?	
					<u>Disadvantages of the proposal –</u> How can the disruption to the Llandrillo children be minimised with 'continuity provided through the Headteacheretc' This is pure fiction on DCC's part – where are the <u>facts</u> to support this. Who is the author of this Proposal 1 and are they qualified to make such generalisations.	
					<u>Transport Implications</u> – The Cynwyd site is already a logistic nightmare – vehicles reversing into the main road etc, articulated lorries heading for Ivor Williams' factory. Chaos – yet DCC intend to make this worse. No traffic impact assessments carried out – why not?	
					Site Information – The infrastructure at Llandrillo is more suited to expansion. The reference to the flood plain is misleading and negligent of DCC. They have already built a school on the flood plain in Prestatyn. This report tries to 'rubbish' Llandrillo as a site when a precedent has already been set with Prestatyn school. The report is therefore misleading the reader.	
					<u>Transport / Financial</u> – the true saving is £53k - £22k transport = £31k. This is less than the annual repayments on the proposed capital borrowing.	
					Impact on Welsh Language – the Welsh language will suffer as the move Eastwards into the County sees less Welsh	

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					spoken ie Cynwyd, Corwen, Llangollen are all more Anglosised than Llandrillo, Llanderfel, Bala etc. The authority has undertaken an <u>Initial</u> Impact Assessment – this is not in accordance with the Welsh Assembly's School Organisation Proposals 021/2009. Again the report misleads the reader.	
					Impact on local community – Why is the Ysgol Isa community hall in Cynwyd not mentioned. The report makes a big issue of Llandrillo's community hall but does not acknowledge that Cynwyd has one.	
					My conclusion is that the Proposal is a poorly thought out Proposal which seeks to justify a decision already made between the modernising department prior to proper consultation.  How can the Cynwyd site be chosen without proper processes being undertaken first. This is undemocratic and this is compounded by the presence of Council cabinet members voting on the future of their own ward schools. Both the leader of the cabinet – Hugh Evans and cabinet member Eryl Williams had vested interests, thus ensuring a undemocratic process was in place	
					I believe a vote of no confidence should be registered in the whole process and a judicial review be sought.	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	Well the high levels of traffic through Cynwyd, lorries Ifor Williams all the workers travelling there. And if one of the parents doesn't have a car when a pupil is sick or injured how will they be able to pick their children up from school. Buses are every two hours and the another two hours back, and another thing three pupils escaped and one went home with more children how would they cope and what if they were kidnapped?	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	_	
29-7-2011	Community, Ex Pupil	Yes	No	Education, Community Health and Sfaety	Consider my child's 40 minute journey every day to school and needing to change taxi!  The children will not be learning about their local area of Llandrillo. Everything will be focused on Cynnwyd. The relationship between the elderly and young people will suffer. The children will not have the opportunity to get to know and be aware of the elderly people in their community.	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education, Community	Llandrillo is a lively place with everyone in the community helping each other; I myself was raised in a small village with a closed school. My sisters children have moved and the Welsh language is diminishing in the village. I have counted over 30 young adults in the village who work and could all have children in the next 5 years. Think about this, if the village was to become a place for only elderly people, how much would this effect the welsh language?	
29-7-2011	County Councillor	Yes	No	Community	I feel strongly that to close our village school would be a great loss to out village. The school and its pupils share such a lot with our community in many ways. The children take part in everything and share a lot with the community. They take part in everything that goes on in the village and as a past member of the school I worked in the kitchen as school cook for 19 years.	
					I know how much they give to the village in concerts, Urdd, Eisteddfods etc. And everyone looks forward to these taking place and once the school closes it will have a disastrous effect on the community. So please don't let this happen!	

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29-7-2011	Community, Ex Pupil	Yes	No	Education, Community	I'm writing to you to express my opinion regarding the proposed closure of Llandrillo school. The school has been an important part of children's lives in the village and I cannot understand the idea of closing the school completely and not offering federalisation?  I am a teacher who is on the verge of federalising in the Wrexham area and I'm very disappointed that this county is not attempting to keep rural schools open, especially rural schools who offer a good standard education through the welsh language. Don't close the school!	
29-7-2011	Parent	Yes	No	Community	We as parents have got no transport, and if one of our kids fall ill in school we cannot reach them  I have a new born daughter that will need the school in time to come. And the kids like us to walk them to school and fetch them from school and play in the park with their friends after school.	
29-7-2011	Parent	Yes	No	-	I as a parent think if this school closes it would leave us with stress and worry  But another problem is that we have no transport to take our children to school and that if we want to send our kids to Bala o'r Fridd-y-Llyn we can't because it's a different county so that leaves us with only 1 choice. And that is Cynnwyd school  If the school closes it will be like a ghost village that's the end of the community, and eventually the shop will also close.	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education Community	A village without a school is a village without a future. The impact of school closures is a death knell to our busy, happy welcoming village	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education, Community	The best place t educate any child is in an environment where they feel comfortable and safe. The villages of Cynnwyd and Llandrillo are quite different in their attitudes and actions. I have lived in both, 10 years in Cynnwyd, and 17 years in Llandrillo. I believe that children, particularly the very young, will feel uncomfortable and even unwanted, in a strange village.  Because of the daily travelling some children will be unable to take part in both after school activities, and in home village activities, and this must have an effect on their educational progress.	
29-7-2011	Community, Grandparent	Yes	No	Community, Education	In our opinion closing Llandrillo school would deter young people from closing to live here. Once the children will disappear from Llandrillo it will only be a matter of time before the shop and part time post office and hotel will close. Llandrillo has always had very well educated pupils for decades.  In our view joining two schools together does not automatically turn out better pupils. We are not all together happy with the site of Cynnwyd school, with Ifor Williams trailers situated opposite the school entrance with heavy lorries passing the entrance to the school daily. Also school taxis and parents dropping and picking up pupils have to reverse back into the main road; this is an accident waiting to happen.	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	There won't be an opportunity for the children to have an equal chance, only those with transportation will be able to take part in after school activities. In Llandrillo every one has the opportunity to participate in these events. In Cynnwyd it will	

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					be difficult for parents to collect their children after the extra curricular events have taken place.	
					The welsh language in the village will suffer due to the children travelling straight to school on the bus, they won't have time to visit the shop or play in the park.	
3-8-2011	Community Ex Pupil	Yes	No	Education Community	The school provides a complete education to its pupils, there in no need to waste money by transporting them to Cynnwyd or any other location. All the children and staff are happy in the school	
					The village will become a village for the elderly, who would want to buy a house or come and live in a village without a school? Young children will migrate away from the area.	
29-7-2011	Parent	Yes	No	Education Community	I do not think the proposal will improve our children's education in another school our children learn more in their own environment which is their own community, moving the children will be disruptive.	
					The galvanising dust form Ivor Williams is a huge concern for me as the health impact on our children could be huge.	
29-7-2011	Community, Grandparent	Yes	No	Education Community	<ol> <li>Cynnwyd School is not a suitable site- dangerous access, no room for expansion.</li> <li>Children from 3 years of age to be transported</li> <li>Divisive – puts 2 communities against each other</li> <li>Llandrillo is centrally marginalised</li> </ol>	
29-7-2011	Grandparent	Yes	No	Education, Community, Loss of foundation class	Loss of the high standard of education given at Llandrillo. The unknown teacher ratio if the schools are combined. Llandrillo School has always been an active member of the community and I feel this will be lost if the schools combine as the pupils will identify with Cynnwyd. I feel the way this ahs been handled by the offices of Denbighshire County Council has been at a very low standard	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community, Education	Having attended the meeting in Llandrillo, I was very disappointed with the council staffs that were present. They didn't seem to know much about the points they were asked by parents. Do these two members of the council that were present have a background in education? I'm guessing not and that the council have employed two women who are doing work that is above their station.	
1-8-2011	Parent	Yes	No	Education, Community	The quality of our children's education will be seriously reduced. No provision will be made for breakfast clubs/after school clubs for children travelling from outside the area. Children will not play after school as they will be straight on a bus. Larger class sizes communities – especially Llandrillo will suffer – families will not move to a village without a school. Families will move away from a village without a school. A school in a small village is not just a place for education. It is the centre of the well-being of a village. A price cannot be put on that.	
1-8-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education	-	
3-8-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community, Education	As a former pupil of this marvellous school. I went forward like many pupils to pass our exams. To the Bala Girls Grammar School and also the boys to their Bala Grammar School. I feel it would spoil the community and affect the children that are involved. There is a great deal of young people living at Llandrillo, in time they are going to have children of their own. And use this good school here in the village; there is non need to close it, its safe to take children there and	

1	publish	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	from school, as there is plenty of room for the cars morning and afternoon. Just decide very carefully what you are doing to this village community. Every village needs a school, especially such a good school as the one in Llandrillo.	
				from school, as there is plenty of room for the cars morning and afternoon. Just decide very carefully what you are doing to this village community. Every village needs a school, especially such a good school as the one in Llandrillo.	
	Yes	No	Education, Community	<ul> <li>Consideration should be given to federalise Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo for a period before going ahead and closing Ysgol Llandrillo.</li> <li>There will be a negative effect on the community if you were to close Ysgol Llandrillo</li> <li>Classrooms will contain more pupils and this will have a negative effect on the pupils education</li> <li>Members of the community will lose their jobs</li> <li>Young pupils will have to travel further in order to receive their education</li> </ul>	
		No	Education		
imunity I	No	No	Education		
ent	Yes	No	Education, Community	A community impact assessment has not been completed with regards to the closure of the school at Llandrillo. It concerns me greatly that the local authority/Welsh Assembly Government have not taken into account the financial and social implications of closing our community school. It is fact that house prices will decrease, the population will decrease, and businesses will close. A decrease in population will mean a reduction in services available such as transport. The social implications will be huge and this in turn will cost the government more money.  It is important for the community that the school remains, that the children learn about their own community, not one that is three miles down the road. I feel from the consultation process that the officers do not understand the great differences between the two villages. It seems that because they see the 2 villages as being so close tin proximity that they don't see it as a big issue for children to be transported there. However, it is a big issue. Children need to feel they belong and a community need children. Our children play outside together, they support each other; it is one of few communities that have this wonderful mix of young and old. Children from the community who go to schools outside the village are hardly known. They stay indoors and don't play outside (I know this for a fact as I live opposite to one of the families who chose to send their children elsewhere). I know families who have regretted the decision they made to send their children elsewhere). I know families who have regretted the decision they made to send their children elsewhere). I know families who have regretted the decision they made to send their children elsewhere) are substituted to their community and to thrive within it.  If proposed area school is to go ahead, I disagree that Cynnwyd should be the option for the area school. Having spent much of my childhood in Cynnwyd and being very particular with that plot (I have a cousin who owns the first house near the school	
f III	upil	munity No	publish response? with the proposal?  Yes No  upil No No No munity No No	yes No Education No No Education Education No No Education No No Education No Education No Education No Education No Education No Education	

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					highest level it could be. Children don't do well in school just because of facilities or nice buildings; children do well because the fell safe, happy. Children from Llandrillo will not fell as secure and happy at a school outside of their community and this will only damage education standards, not improve them.
					One of the reasons given for considering closure is due to the difficulty of recruiting Head Teachers. As the officers explained at consultation, the Welsh Assembly Government has changed they way they recruit Head Teachers which has made the process more difficult. Also many of the advertisements for Head Teachers are at schools where there is a threat of closure. Why can't WAG make the process easier for teachers to train as Head Teachers, which would surely alleviate the difficulty of recruitment?
					Llandrillo school do operate extra curricular activities such as football, Urdd, Church club. They also have after school clubs and breakfast clubs. I would appreciate clarification on what you feel a 'full' curriculum is exactly and what the increased budget pressures are.
					The surplus spaces that you indicate are based on your own figures of what they should be. The school was not originally built in line with new WAG requirements and it is irrational to use this as an excuse to close down a school and build a new one 3 miles away. Populations change and parents have choices; this is what living in a democratic society should be. Surplus spaces based on a figure drawn up by WAG are a completely unfair justification for closing a school.
					<ul> <li>What evidence have you to suggest that pupils would benefit educationally, socially and emotionally from a new school at Cynnwyd. Both of my children could not have benefited from being moved from their community to another one, certainly not socially or emotionally and probably not educationally (based on the evidence provided to you of my daughter's achievements). Where are the facts behind what you have said?</li> <li>Where is the evidence in relation to the fact that children will benefit from having a larger group of teachers?</li> <li>What 'increased' range of facilities' will be available at the new school? And what evidence do you have to show this will increase the children's education?</li> </ul>
					<ul> <li>Whilst it might sound emotive, using budget pressure as an excuse to close down a school it is not the right action to take. Has the local authority looked at other places within their budget that they can save money?</li> <li>Why were Llandrillo and Glyndyfrdwy chosen as the two schools to close, why did the officers not consider federalisation for these two schools as an option?</li> </ul>
					<ul> <li>The consultation process has already driven a divide between the communities of Cynnwyd and Llandrillo and this will increase if the proposal goes ahead. Most of the existing parents at Llandrillo are considering not sending their children to Cynnwyd school therefore this needs to be taken into account when you are looking at the possible annual saving as the cost of pupil will of course increase per head should your figures not match up.</li> </ul>
					The school within Llandrillo is the glue that holds the community together. I have lived in the community for four years and it is the only thought the school that I have built up a supportive social network. This would never have happened if the school was outside the village. The community has a completely different role within the village. Please please strongly consider our feelings, view and the facts. Don't destroy our village and our community. Listen to our voice. For the sake of our children and our future.

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29-7-2011	Ex Pupil	No	No	Education		
27-5-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	-	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Community	-	
29-7-2011	Parent	Yes	No	Education, Community, Impact on the Welsh language	I urge you to consider the proposal carefully, as it is misleading and subjective. The information must be considered suspect, as it cites no sources. The impact assessment is also wrong in many place, e.g. we have two restaurants, one being the highest rated restaurant in the Good Food Guide in Wales. The shop hosts the post office. There are 3 caravan/camping sites, there is a sawmill - which provides employment for a large number of local people. The church and chapels.	
					There are also a number of activities missing- the bowling club, the football team, the village cricket team, the quilters, the gardening club, the carnival, cwmni theatre, children's Sunday schools. Llandrillo is a dynamic village – for example, we took on the village public toilets – now run by volunteers, and very successfully too- you only have to look at the letters on display.	
					There is another aspect you must consider, you are assuming Llandrillo children will go to Cynnwyd – not so, many parents, and parents are their primary education.	
					Finally consider Leighton Andrews' statement earlier this week on welsh education now is not the time to make a decision on closing our school, especially the effect of DDC having to find more for capital investment. DCC proposals should all be halted and re-examined in light of all the latest developments. Please do not close our school.	
22-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education, Community	Quality of education – There has been no evidence of how the proposal will improve education.	
					Impact on the local communities – The one positive aspect of DCC's proposal has been to unite the community in their efforts to fight the council's plans. This can be used positively by the council to use their ideas & experience in their efforts to keep the school open.	
					Families of children effected – The lack of facilities to help working parents in the new proposal will cause families more hardship as no pre/after school facilities proposed.	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	No	Education Community	The children will not be educated in their own environment. It will not be about their own history and geography. It will not be an equal footing with the Cynnwyd children because it is not their community. They will not be as confident as Cynwyd Children and will lose a sense of belonging which is so important. The school is the centre of the community and all manner of activities stem from it e.g. concerts, coffee mornings, sports days, etc. Without the school the village will die. Because of the recession more houses are for sale, people need to move into smaller accommodation. These houses could have new families (just like our coming here in the early 80's). But if there is no school, the village will not attract new people. That was the main reason we came here to be part of a community where our children could walk to school. You could end up with a mostly elderly population; ultimately a breakdown of the village without a generation there will be	

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					no future.  Llandrillo school is a much safer area, children can walk to school. Cynwyd has heavy traffic because of the industry across the road from the school. In my opinion, Llandrillo is a far better site; it has never flooded and is still standing since Victorian times. Cynwyd's present school has only been built in the 80's and I believe it was leaking last winter? So much for modern buildings. I think each village needs their own school, each village is different and that is what's important. We don't want to be turned out like sausages, we are not machines to all end up the same.	
29-7-2011	Parent	Yes	No	Education, Community, Impact on the Welsh Language	Overall Denbighshire County Council have proposed an area school which will attempt to attract a WAG funding and not much else. They cannot demonstrate how it will provide a better education for our children or provide actual figures that it will be more cost effective and save money. They have not given good enough consideration to providing a pre school education for the children of Llandrillo and once again cannot provide actual figures as to the cost implications of either transporting these younger pupils to Cynnwyd or providing facilities within the community. They do admit that the proposal will have a negative effect on the community of Llandrillo – this is an understatement! Our village school is the epicentre of our community; it provides our children with an excellent standard of education in a safe, family atmosphere. It connects the different generations of the community through the provision of school concerts, fair and church services. It provides extra-curricular and social activities for children and adults alike and promotes the Welsh language. Without a village school, the prospect for Llandrillo will be one of an ageing demographic – families with young children will not be encouraged to move to the community and it will have a knock on effect to other services within the community.  Ysgol Llandrillo is fed purely from the children of the village, its numbers are not inflated by pupils from outside the community, unlike Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Carrog and so would prove to have a greater impact on our community than these others. Denbighshire County Council went against its own policies by introducing mobile accommodation at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, when there were sufficient places at Llandrillo to take any overspill of pupils – Llandrillo now has to pay the price for their poor decision making and actions. The pupil numbers a Ysgol Maes Hyfryd are inflated by pupils that attend from the Corwen area, who would likely attend a Welsh unit at Caer Drewyn that was proposed and for completion by 20	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
					In the Welsh Assembly Governments School Organisations Proposal publication it stated, 'whether alternatives such as establishing a multi site school or promoting the federation of school governing bodies in locality would be more appropriate (This is of great relevance in more rural areas)'. Yet during the initial consultation period, Denbighshire County Council played down the federation of schools, saying that it was only a short term solution. Since then, they have now submitted a proposal that sees 4 schools federated within the area (Betws GG and Gwyddelwern and Ysgol Caer Drewyn and Carrog) and Jackie Whalley stated in a meeting with parents that these were log term federations. This option was unviable for Llandrillo, though specific reasons as to why this was the case were not given. I feel that Denbighshire did not consider Llandrillo for federation as it would impede their application for funding.
					In the same document under section 2, it states that 'ministers would not normally be prepared to approve closure of a popular and effective school unless evidence is presented that the alternative proposed would offer at least equivalent quality and diversity of education at total lower cost than would have been available had the school remained open'. Denbighshire County Council have not proved this to be the case. They cannot provide figures as to how much the total cost of initially running the school on 2 sites, extending the Cynnwyd site, transportation of Llandrillo pupils to the new area school and either provision or transportation of early young pupils, will be. How then can they state that this proposal will be at a total lower cost than that of keeping our school open? There is also the issue of the carbon footprint that that closing Ysgol Llandrillo, etending Cynnwyd school and then transporting the pupils via bus, will have. Surely it is better for the environment and our children's health that they are able to walk to their local community school?
					Denbighshire County Council in my opinion, are relying on the allocation of the million pound funding from the Welsh Assembly Government, which conditions that the issue of surplus places is addressed – funding that is now unlikely to no longer be available. Without this funding, Ysgol Llandrillo should not be proposed for closure, as although the % of surplus places seems high, with the closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, there is no sufficient capacity available at another Welsh medium site.
					Denbighshire's residents paper, the county voice outlines their new initiative to develop 'The Big Plan' – one of the main outcomes of this plan is that the 'needs of our rural communities are recognised and met'. Denbighshire are not recognising the needs of our community, for a community based on education, to maintain and strengthen the success of a thriving village into the future. It also stated that one of the main outcomes will be that 'people and places in Rhyl benefit from regeneration activity' - Denbighshire County Council need to realise that our small communities are just as important and should receive just as much investment and support as the coastal areas within their county. As a community, I feel we have been let down by Denbighshire County Council. We are the forgotten communities of this county, being last in line for advancements and investments in our services and having to fight for our way of life.
					In a year that has seen Denbighshire reveal its 'Big Plan', the re-launch of David Cameron's 'Big Society' – an ideal to encourage people to maintain and support their local area and the country as a whole, it seems ironic that we are having to fight for the very sae ideals! May this year saw National Walk to School Week – a daily occurrence by the majority of pupils at our rural village school. A daily occurrence that will be lost forever if Denbighshire County Council's proposal to close Ysgol Llandrillo is accepted.
					We live and bring up our children in our small communities because we chose to, not because we have to. Because we

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permissio n to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?		
					want our children to live in a community where people matter, where neighbours know, help and support one and other and where we learn to act in a way that benefits the community rather than ourselves. It may not be everyone's ideal, especially the number crunchers in Westminster, Cardiff and our local Council Offices, but it is ours and no price can be put on that. We don't just live in a community, it is our way of life and by closing our school, you are changing our way of life – the threat to Llandrillo is that we will no longer be a community, simply a collection of houses.	
					We need the Council, Westminster and Welsh Assembly Government ministers to see past the figures and realise the devastating that this school closure will have on our community.	
					Our small local school plays a huge role in everyday life for a large proportion of our community – young and old like. It gives parents a chance to meet and discuss local news, personnel issues and even the weather! Provides social events for the children and adults alike. Brings entertainment in the form of schools and concerts. Promotes the Welsh Language. Supports local clubs and organisations. Works with the local chapels and church. Helps support s parents back to work, with the breakfast and after school clubs. Provides early learning opportunities for 3-5 year olds and generally holds the community together. Our local school is the heart of our community and as residents of this community, we want to promote and enhance our school, not close it. I feel that Westminster, Cardiff and Denbighshire should be supporting us in this and investing in our schools, rather than targeting small, vulnerable communities with what is, essentially, cost cutting.	
					We have already had to fight to keep our Post Office and bus services, though for how long – what chance of a 'Big Society' if there id no community left?	



June .2011

Annwyl Gynghorydd / Dear Councillor,/Swyddogion Y Sir/Council Officials

<u>Modernising Education</u>

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

Consultation Document

PROPOSAL 1 - an Area School for Cynwyd and Llandrillo June 2011

'De ni'n ymddiheuro am ysgrifennu yn Saesneg ond gan fod ein sylwadau'n hirfaith, a chan bod pob Cymro/raes yn gallu'r iaith fain fe arbedwn dipyn o amser a gwaith, am y tro yma'n unig.

We write again to you re the above which is of great concern to us personally and to the whole community, and which has now gone forward to a formal consultation. At the Cabinet Meeting held at Rhuthun on May 24, at which many of the residents of Llandrillo were present both outside the County building and inside the meeting, but not allowed to speak or challenge any statements, 'facts' or proposals put forward by Ms Jackie Walley and Ms Karen Evans. We feel that you should hear the other side of the argument and the fears and the wishes of the residents of Llandrillo. Following this meeting we have also had a meeting at the Ganolfan, Llandrillo, where over 300 people attended and were not pleased with what they heard. This is our reply to the County's Consultation Paper re the proposed closure of Ysgol Llandrillo.

<u>Page 2 - Last paragraph</u> - "As part of this commitment, the council has agreed that modernising education provision is a priority because we recognise the importance of having <u>school buildings</u>, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Wales"

There is nothing amiss with the structure of Ysgol Llandrillo, but apparently, there is with Ysgol Maeshyfryd - the council have failed to maintain this property,( as we heard at the Cabinet meeting) the school hall ceiling collapsed during this last winter and some children are housed in a temporary classroom, which has been there for many many years. Surely the council should have addressed this problem before now. We feel that they are sacrificing Ysgol Llandrillo to catch up on maintenance at Ysgol Maeshyfryd.

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) should not have allowed the school to become overcrowded, necessitating the use of a mobile classroom (which is contrary to DCC policy). If there were too many pupils from outside the natural catchment area, wishing to have their children educated in a Natural Welsh School then they should have passed the overflow on to the next available Natural Welsh School - Gwyddelwern or Llandrillo. (Policy of DCC) By doing this the problem would have been solved.

Page 4 - Current Situation - Ysgol Maeshyfryd, Cynwyd - "the school is situated in the village of Cynwyd. Cynwyd is approximately 2 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 west." There is no mention here of the traffic situation in Cynwyd. To reach the school you not only have to negotiate the ordinary early morning traffic and a very limited, and potentially hazardous dropping off area outside the school gates, but also the heavy articulated lorries, many from overseas, which constantly use that road to reach the Ifor Williams Factory and the Williams Heavy Haulage Business further on. The Committee of 'Amddiffyn Ysgol Llandrillo' have conducted our own traffic survey for both school locations over a period of 5 school days and the result is quite alarming. Moreover we are surprised and concerned that only 2 ordinary school traffic signs are located at each end of Cynwyd village no extra warnings re the school location on such a busy and dangerous road, such as traffic calming humps, flashing lights, pedestrian/school crossings.
- We still have no information as to what happened to the Welsh Stream that was opened in Ysgol Caer Drewyn, by Mr Mohamed Mehmet.

10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2003 Report by Scrutiny Support Officer (i) The Welsh Education Scheme Targets 2 PRIMARY EDUCATION

c) To establish a Welsh	To work in consultation	2004
Medium Unit at Ysgol	with MYM in order to	
Caer Drewyn, Corwen.	establish a flourishing	
	Nursery Group in the	
	town.	
	Discussions with the	Sept 2004
	Head and the Governers	On Sept 2005
	To establish a Welsh	
	Medium Language Unit.	

- If that was still open this too would have eased the overcrowding at Cynwyd, and there would be no need for a Temporary Classroom at Cynwyd
- "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......
   What is this 'methodology'. We would appreciate having access to the paperwork as regards this matter.

# <u>Page 5 -</u>

• % achieving Level 4 + at Key Stage 2. -

We fail to see why this information is included in the Consultation Document - it has nothing whatsoever to do with the 'matter in hand.' We should however point out that the results noted here, and also for Llandrillo school and all the other schools in Edeyrnion, are obtained internally i.e. by the teaching staff of each school, and are not scrutinised externally. If you look at the results for Llandrillo in 2009 you will see that the result presented baldly to anyone reading this paper is poor. However, the fact behind that result is that of the 6 pupils for that year, 4 were 'Special Needs' pupils and who are now receiving their education within the special needs department at Ysgol y Berwyn, Y Bala. The remaining 2 pupils scored a Level 5. So you see how bald facts can be skewed to the advantage of the people preparing the consultation paper. We are a retired teacher and a retired headteacher, of over 30 years experience, and we know, as does every teacher that there is always a top, a middle and bottom range of abilities within every class. Another point to bear in mind is that the Estyn Inspection at each school was undertaken by different Inspection teams and in two different formats.

• <u>Current Situation</u> - Ysgol Llandrillo - "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 is situated within a flood zone."

The school has stood on this site for 164 years and there is no mention in any of the School Log Books of any flooding. There was a flooding incident along Berwyn Street in 2000, that came nowhere near the school building. That was due to the lack of maintenance by Denbighshire County Council as regards one of the culverts. The matter is now rectified. However, by looking at the map as provided by the environment agency, as regards to this 'flood plain' we have here in Llandrillo, it seems that the information on that map has not deterred Denbighshire County Council from granting planning permission for a number of new houses along Berwyn Street which is

in the very centre of this 'flood plain.' We are of the opinion that the risk of flooding to Llandrillo School is minimal compared to the risk of transporting children from the village to the 'hazardous traffic situation' in Cynwyd.'

What the paper presented to you does not say about Ysgol Llandrillo is that the school at Llandrillo is situated within a very pleasant open space, known as the 'Wern' (common land). Within this space is the village playground; a large car parking space; a lovely picnic area; the village bowling green; well kept Public Toilets (run by the village) and the large flat school playing field. Have you been to the two school sites? Have you stayed to observe the traffic situation between 8.15 am - 9.15 a.m in Llandrillo (early start because of the Breakfast Club) and between 8.30 a.m - 9.15 a.m. at Cynwyd? Or between 3.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. at both sites? We formally ask that you do so, to judge for yourselves, rather than meekly accept what DCC are handing you on paper. Friday afternoon at Cynwyd (3.00p.m. - 3.30 p.m.) is particularly bad as the Ifor Williams Factory closes at 3 p.m. on a Friday, and the exodus is horrific. Actually driving along the whole of the B4401 between Corwen and Y Bala at that particular time is quite nerve wracking.

# Page 6/7 - Current situation - Ysgol Llandrillo -Why this proposal is being considered

- "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 core school building at Llandrillo is Victorian, built to accommodate large class numbers, with an extension added during the 1970s -In comparative terms, Cynwyd is a fairly new school but poorly built (collapsing ceiling) to accommodate the number of children anticipated to attend from the traditional catchment area of Cynwyd. The school population is an artificial one here, a significant number on the roll reside outside the traditional catchment area. In the past the traditional school catchment areas were -
- ✓ <u>Llandrillo</u> from Crogen (border with Gwynedd C.C.) to Rhydyglafes,
- ✓ <u>Cynwyd</u> from Rhydyglafes to Eglwys Llangar.
- ✓ <u>Corwen</u> from Eglwys Llangar to the Eastern extremity of Corwen town.

Today, as these catchment areas have gone by the board, the early mornings and afternoons in this area is a mish mash of children by-passing their local school to the school of their choice. If Corwen and Carrog schools had been allowed to keep their bi-

lingual status the problem of numbers in each village school would not arise. Llandrillo has some families, who have moved into the area, and who are boycotting the Welsh medium education in favour of an English medium education at Carrog School! These families contribute absolutely nothing to our community but they are more than eager for their children to take part in after school activities at Llandrillo (regardless of the language 'barrier'!)

## Page 8 - What would this mean

Nursery Provision - "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."

This proposal is completely unacceptable. The children in Llandrillo are always our first priority, and always will be. We will not accept second rate provision. Starting school, and joining the 'school family' is the most important time in a child's academic career. This is already provided at Llandrillo School where the nursery pupils are welcomed into the 'family' warmly.

- Where is this second rate provision to be? The Ganolfan (village hall) is not suitable. It has been used in the past for Welsh medium pre school provision but was deemed unsafe, and inappropriate.
- How will this 'provision' be funded and staffed?
- "as appropriate" what exactly does this mean?

See also Page 10 - "this <u>could</u> impact on accessibility for parents and families who live in Llandrillo." This sentence should read "this <u>will</u> impact........" the rest of the paragraph is of no interest to the parents in Llandrillo. We are not interested in other parents in other areas of the County accepting a second rate education for their children. We demand equality. It will be a little late to sort out the dilemma after the new school is built. Parents want to know <u>now</u>, <u>exactly</u> what the situation will be.

# Foundation Stage Education - Curriculum 2011 Areas of Study

- 1. Personal and Social Development, Well being, and Cultural Diversity.
- 2. Language and Literacy and Communication Skills
- 3. Mathematical Development
- 4. Welsh Language Development
- 5. Knowledge and Understanding of the World.
- 6. Physical Development
- 7. Creative Development

"BACKGROUND - The Learning Country 2/ Delivering the Promise WAG 2006

- ✓ To have a flying start in Life, and the best possible basis for their future. (only for the lucky few apparently).
- ✓ To have a safe home and a community that supports physical and emotional well being (in another village)
- ✓ Are not disadvantaged by any type of poverty (if this proposal goes ahead then many children will have been failed in this respect by DCC as they will not have access to the provision at Cynwyd).

### CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK (Page 4)

Foundation Stage promises <u>equality of opportunity</u>. First hand experiences allow children to develop an understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. (the important words here are 'equality of opportunity' there is no equality of opportunity here; does their 'world' refer to the world at Cynwyd or the 'world' at Llandrillo?)

### INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN (Page 7)

Settings/schools should develop in every child a sense of personal and cultural identity (in Cynwyd as opposed to home ?).

Settings/schools in Wales should ensure that all children are engaged as full members of their setting/school communities. (this will not be provided for Llandrillo children who are unable to access it, until they become 5 years of age where they will have to catch up with the others in Cynwyd).

Page 8 ...... and understand the Welsh Heritage i.e. the heritage in their own community to begin with. (Cynwyd or Llandrillo?)

#### PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Should become aware of Traditions in their environment and of the people and work there (again Cynwyd or Llandrillo?)
- 2. Should develop a positive image and a sense of belonging as part of different communities (Confusion again which community?)
- 3. Develop an understanding about dangers in the home and in the outside environment. (his/her natural environment will not be explained because he/she will be in a different environment).

#### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

i.e. Learn about their own locality - identify natural features, rivers, hills, buildings, people (in Cynwyd or Llandrillo? If in Cynwyd they will not be able to identify with words like Ceidiog, Camen, Dinam, Cilan. Will know little about Nyrs Gron, Cylch Cerrig, Yr Efail, Y Felin. They will not learn about where the shops used to be in days gone by, or the school,; they will not

learn about the Christmas Day Eisteddfod that occurred in the past, they will not learn about how the tenant farmers came to pay the rent twice a year at the Dudley Arms Hotel, and about the lunch the family was given by the Landowner, and about the traditional entertainment that followed etc etc. All gone! Sold down the road to Cynwyd! Shame on DCC! Page 3 Background

"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."

We are of the opinion that DCC IS UNABLE TO DELIVER THIS MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE CURRICULUM, therefore they are not offering a better education for our children, not even an equal one.

Page 8 "There would be one governing body, one head teacher and one group of staff. This governing body would represent the communities of both Cynwyd and Llandrillo."

In what proportion would this be? What about the parents from the Corwen area whose children also attend the school- will they be represented on the governing body? They most certainly are not part of the Cynwyd community.

# Page 9 - What are the benefits of this proposal?

√ "Pupils would benefit educationally, socially and emotionally........"

this already happens within the area as schools are clustered (Llandrillo, Maeshyfryd, Gwyddelwern, Betws Gwerful Goch and Glyndyfrdwy) and there are ample opportunities both for staff and pupils, to integrate academically and recreationally, with pupils and staff from other schools.

✓ The new school would have a larger compliment of teaching staff........

How many?

✓ "While there may be implications for some members of staff....."

In all rural schools throughout the country, since time immemorial, staff have had to turn their hand to each and every aspect of teaching, be it professional development, specialist teaching, administration, first aid, etc and mostly without any financial benefit paid for their expertise. They do it, because it is their job. They are not second rate teachers, but they are penalised by not being deemed 'suitable' to undertake the 'Headteacher Training Scheme.

# Page 10 - What are the Benefits of this proposal?

√ "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 additional transport costs of approximately £22,000 per year.....

.What about the cost of the 'second class' Foundation Stage you are intending to provide at Llandrillo. How much is this going to cost? - staffing, accommodation (much alterations and extensions to the Ganolfan would be necessary)

Insurance, heating etc?

- √ "Following the move to a single site the loss of the school site in Llandrillo as a community facility <u>could</u> be a disadvantage....."

  This should read <u>will be</u> a disadvantage.

## Page 11 - Site Information

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

The study identified that the current Ysgol Maeshyfryd 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." - Is

Denbighshire County Council creating more 'surplus places,' having just closed Ysgol Llandrillo for having too many surplus places?

✓ "The study stated that the current Ysgol Llandrillo site sits within a flood zone (C2 as defined by TAN15)."

We cannot believe that Denbighshire County Council could list this 'flood plain' as a legitimate reason. There has never been a flood here. Denbighshire County Council know this perfectly well, as they have granted planning permission for numerous new houses to be built on the this 'flood plain.'

√ "Pupil distribution over the two schools demonstrates that the Ysgol Maeshyfryd school site would be 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 area."

How many exactly? We would like to see the numbers please, and how they were obtained - you must justify such statements with actual numbers and the source from which those numbers were obtained.

✓ "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." -

A welcome source of revenue for Denbighshire County Council to make up the shortfall in creating this area school that no-one in Llandrillo wants. But it won't be suitable for new housing obviously because of its position on the flood plain.

DCC has built a new school at Prestatyn on a flood plain.

DCC has given planning permission for a Doctor's Surgery to be built at

Corwen on a Flood Plain and have now given permission for a Railway Station
to be built at the same site.

Where is the sense in this?

#### Conclusion -

√ "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."

A village without a school has never thrived and will never thrive. What exactly are these measures - can we have a few examples please?

√ "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 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 Ganolfan is more than viable now and is used to capacity, with the overflow of activities held at or on the school site. However, without children based activities in the community, the Ganolfan will become a focus for adult orientated activities – our Community will grow old, wither, and die. There will be no purpose or future to it – after it has been sold down the road to Cynwyd by DCC.

√ "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."

No matter what funding we receive we will never get the children back. Children are the future of this community and every other community - if they receive their primary education in Cynwyd, they by instinct become 'Cynwyd' children.

Page 15 - Have any other options been considered

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

"Alternative Option 1 -Federate Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maeshyfryd."

We are of the opinion that it is Ysgol Maeshyfryd that needs the capital investment (collapsing ceiling), and this is being funded by closing Ysgol Llandrillo.

### "Alternative Option 2 -

- a) "Close Ysgol Llandrillo and extend Ysgol Maeshyfryd to accommodate the pupils."
- b) "Close Ysgol Maeshyfryd and extend Ysgol Llandrillo to accommodate the pupils." this option would not be feasible due to restrictions on the Ysgol Llandrillo site which is located within a flood plain."

The argument that Ysgol Llandrillo is ruled out as being an unsafe site is ridiculous, and we would contend, that should there to be an accident of any kind, it would be more likely be a traffic accident at the Cynwyd site rather than a flood at Llandrillo.

# "Alternative Option 3 - Retain Ysgol Llandrillo and Ysgol Maeshyfryd as separate schools."

We are not aware that there are any issues facing Ysgol Llandrillo, other than some surplus places. Methods of Teaching have changed, children no longer sit their desks all day. We do however query 'the space per child' provided by DCC. It is flawed and needs to be corrected.

The curriculum demands that pupils become investigative in many fields of study, so the extra space is a bonus in that these investigative activities can be set up in and around the school, rather than having to get out the equipment every time it is needed. Here we can have the '21<sup>st</sup> Century Vision of Education' openly available to all pupils - e.g a library, a food technology area, a quiet area, a scientific area, a musical area, physical development area for when the weather is bad in the Winter etc.

The building and site are sound, the Estyn Reports are good, the children are happy and confident, and the staff are hardworking, dedicated, forward thinking, and community orientated. Two of our School Governors (Quantity Surveyors) have surveyed the building and produced a paper that would be of assistance to Denbighshire County Council to reduce costs in running the school site, and at the same time make it more environmentally friendly. This report has been forwarded to Denbighshire County Council. Have any of you Councillors been offered this paper to read? If not, why not? We are of the opinion that it is a very relevant document. We also have a piece of paper in our possession (originating from the Property Department of Denbighshire County Council) stating that not one of the 7 schools involved in this upheaval have been structurally surveyed prior to this study. So where did the costings for upkeep and maintenance come from? We are still waiting for a breakdown of these 'figures' i.e. how much for Ysgol Llandrillo and how much for Ysgol Maeshyfryd.

Ysgol Maeshyfryd on the other hand is in a poor state of repair (collapsing ceiling and who knows what other problems exist), overcrowded because children are being bussed in, rather than receiving Welsh Language education within their own town of Corwen, which for some unknown reason did have a new Welsh stream opened there in 2004, by Mr Mohamed Mehmet, but that mysteriously disappeared overnight. Can any light be shed on this at all?

We hope that this fairer and fuller version of the Consultation Document has opened your eyes to many issues which need clarification, investigation, evidence, and the production of some hard facts.

We are totally committed to saving our school and our community, for without the first the second will not survive. At our meeting with Mr Hywyn Williams and Ms Jackie Walley in the Ganolfan on June  $21^{st}$ , one of our speakers referred to Edeyrnion as now being referred to as 'Deadeyrnion.' To the residents of Llandrillo, DCC is the Pied Piper of Hamelin - stealing our children, our culture and our heritage - and we all know what happened to the town of Hamelin.

Yn gywir /Yours Truly

# Appendix 4 - Responses to the initial impact assessments (Ysgol Llandrillo / Llandrillo Community) Proposal 1: An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo

Personal information has been redacted from this document.

Responses from those who did not give the authority permission to publish their responses have also been redacted. All Cabinet Members were presented with the full document in August 2011.

Specific Impact on:

## **Welsh Language Impact Assessment**

Date of

Received Permission Overall

Response (received)	from	to publish response?	Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific impact on:		Comments
20-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Neutral	Travelling to school on a bus will mean some children cannot participate in after school
				Educational provision / standards	Neutral	activities, as they will have no transportation home if their parents/carer do not own a car.
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative	
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact  1. Withdraw the offered proposal
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	Offer extra transportation so the children can attend activities which take place after school hours
				Other	-	
				Access to Welsh Medium	Negative	
7-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education		There is already a degree of animosity between the two communities at parent level because
			Educational provision / standards		Negative	of this ill thought out proposal. Moving a very small number of pupils to a different school may be possible but large numbers up to 30 is unacceptable. The us or them attitude will fester
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative	over the next few years with the uncertainty and bad feelings will multiply. This will leave 2 separate factions at the school, encouraging bullying and other anti social behaviour. All this
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	will lead to negative impact of all aspects of their education both in language and standards.
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact Maintain a split site if necessary with one Head teacher.
				Other	Negative	
11-7-2011	Parent	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Negative (1)	Llandrillo is less likely to be tainted by the influence of non welsh speaking Corwen
				Educational provision / standards	Negative (2)	Are likely to become diluted and less community orientated.     Transport will become an issue
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative (3)	Lack of a central education (village) with impact in pre and post school activities making timetabling more difficult
				Pre / After school activities	Negative (4)	Influence of non welsh speaking areas closer to Cynnwyd will have a negative impact on use of welsh in the community – Llandrillo community impacting on

Comments

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			Language:	Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative (5)	Llandrillo children <u>Suggestions to reduce the impact</u> Do not progress with proposal.
19-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Neutral Negative Negative Negative Negative	You have not stated how, by building this school education will be improved. You have not stated the new teacher to pupil ratio at this proposed new school. It might end up being the same as it is now and therefore not an improvement.  Accessibility for nursery provision and after school. Clubs will be limited to those parents with transport and therefore restricting access to only those with cars.  Suggestions to reduce impact How about getting rid of the mobile classroom in Cynnwyd and sending the excess pupils to Llandrillo. You also seem to be missing out an important line in your proposal 'subject to capital funding' Can the Local Authority come up with 50% of the costs now that funding has been reduced.
27-7-2011	Community , Former Governor	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities  Other - Damage to the social cohesion between school and community	Negative (1) Negative (2) Negative (3) Negative (4) Negative (5) Negative (6)	<ol> <li>This is best handled within the home community in which the school is central; the Welsh Medium education is then naturally supported by daily communication with community members of all ages making Welsh the natural medium. We found this to be of particular benefit where children from a non Welsh speaking family background were able to become fluent and proficient speakers not just within the educational bubble</li> <li>Provision will certainly be impacted by the additional travel and the days that will be lost when travel is not possible in inclement weather. I see nothing in this proposal that actually improves standards and opportunities which are currently adequately provided</li> <li>We currently have excellent facilities in Llandrillo; the proposals have woefully neglected this issue for the children from Llandrillo who should not be expected to travel any further than present</li> <li>Travel time and the separation of the school from its true community will make both pre and after school activities much more difficult to attend and will naturally lead to the loss of support for events such as concerts and coffee mornings from the general community in Llandrillo</li> <li>Separating the school from the home community will seriously impact on the conversations in Welsh which take place between pupils and community during travel to and from school and between parents, staff and community, generally at fund raisers, concerts etc. MOST DAMAGING</li> <li>A) The current strong bond of support that this excellent community lends to the school will be fractured. Local volunteers who freely give their time for such things as football will not be willing or able to travel. The community and the many community organisations have always been extremely generous with providing funding for</li> </ol>

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			Welsh		various school projects and activities – all this will be lost.  B) There is an increased risk of accident befalling children inherent in transporting them and it would make much too long a day for pre-school age groups  Suggestions to reduce the impact  Nothing but a fundamental rethink, the proposal is extraordinarily damaging to the school community and the general community. Stop seeking to waste tax payers money on vanity building projects and maintain the current excellent arrangements; what goes on inside the school and its relations to its community are far more important than the building. In any event there is little that is wrong with the school in Llandrillo, some of the improvement figures prepared by the authority are laughably exaggerated and the flood risk is absolutely minimal. The comment that the flood plain prevents further development at Llandrillo is ridiculous, the LA grants planning in similarly affected areas and the school has not flooded since it was built more than 150 years ago!  If you insist on creating a new school then it should be in Llandrillo which has a much safer location than opposite a major factory and haulage depot where traffic densities are very high at the key opening and closing hours and where multiple complaints have been made as to air quality, fumes and dust.  The nature of comments in the officers report are blatantly biased, I can only conclude that the wording in your report is intended to confuse many of the issue because the officers responsible are determined to ram road this through whatever the local community thinks.  The description of the Llandrillo school site as 'located on a low lying site' is equally misleading. It is sited at least 150m above sea level on a flattish site at a virtually identical height to the Cynnwyd site. It is 40 meters to the river ceidiog which has not flooded the school site since it was built on and seems extremely unlikely to do so given that the general
					slope of the land is gently down towards the river dee at least 10 meters lower and several hundred meters away.
					Pupil projections have not been taken into account currently vacant housing stock which we believe will bring more families to the village.
					All in all this report is a shoddy, self serving and misleading document.
					The alternative solution is to retain our pupils in Llandrillo under a federated, amalgamated or clustered arrangement with one Head managing both or several sites; that way you will retain community backing for the school and the sense of community we value so highly.

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29-7-2011	Parent	Yes Yes		Access to Welsh Medium Education  Educational provision / standards  Non-statutory provision (early years)  Pre / After school activities  Use of Welsh within communities  Other	Neutral/ Negative Negative Negative Negative	Access to Welsh medium education and non-statutory provision (early years)  Although access to Welsh medium education would not affected for existing pupils, due to the proposed area school being of Welsh medium, the possible impact pf non-provision of Welsh medium pre school education in the village of Llandrillo could be huge.  Denbighshire County Council do not provide transport for children under the age of 4, which could discriminate against families who do not drive, or do not have access to transport at the times needed because of work commitments, etc. 86.2% of Ysgol Llandrillo's pupils are fluent in Welsh, yet 72.4% do not speak Welsh at home and almost 50% come from English speaking homes. If there is no early year provision in Llandrillo, due to Denbighshire's transport policy, which restricts the transport of children under the age of 4, this would mean that children will miss out on 18 months of early exposure to the Welsh language and could result in parents opting for a bi-lingual education instead of a Welsh medium one. Furthermore, children could be at an educational disadvantage if enrolled in a Welsh medium school, because of lack of exposure to the Welsh language in the early years.  If Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing a Welsh medium, pre school education for the children of Llandrillo by transporting them to the proposed area school, no cost has been factored into their financial figures and proposed savings. If they are committed to providing a Welsh medium, pre school education in the village of Llandrillo, Denbighshire County Council has not stated where it will be housed or at what cost, Again, these costs have not been factored into their financial figures or proposed savings.  Educational provision/standards  The proposal to merge Llandrillo and Cynnwyd schools into one area school will result in class sizes almost doubling. Factor in a high number of SEN pupils which currently attend Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and inevitably teachers will not be able to give the individua

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(received)		response?	Welsh		
			Language?		to contact them with any matters of concern, diminishing the connection between parents and
					their child's education and school environment.
					This proposal would have a detrimental effect on current inter-village competitions, sport days, eisteddfods and swimming galas – the closure of the 2 proposed schools, will decrease the number of participating villages and dampen the healthy competition that occurs due to these events. There will be less opportunity for children to represent their own community, which gives a sense of belonging and a strong connection to their community.
					This proposal is already creating a rift between the communities of Llandrillo and Cynnwyd and as a parent of a child who will directly affected by these changes, I feel that by the time this process is carried through and decision made, there will be so much ill feeling between these communities that I will be unable to send my child to Cynnwyd, for fear that he will be excluded or bullied because of where we live. Llandegla and Bryneglwys schools were merged and the division is still apparent between both communities and pupils. Denbighshire County Council's proposal is not of an 'area school', but an extension to Cynnwyd school that Llandrillo children will attend. It is my opinion that it will take many years for the two communities o coexist on a single site, if it all and that Llandrillo children will be seen as outcasts, in what will essentially still be, Cynnywd School. The result of this will be that many parents will have no option but to send their children across the border to Ysgol Fridd y Llyn or Bala, to ensure that their children have a happy school experience, leaving Denbighshire County Council with a million pound investment in a school which then has excessive surplus places.
					How can being disconnected from your own community, outcast from your peers, in a school where larger class sizes mean that children's individual needs are less likely to be identified be an improvement in educational standards?
					Pre/after school activities Ysgol Llandrillo offers a breakfast club every morning 8.15-8.45am, helping parents back into a work environment and providing an extra social activity for the children of the village. There is no breakfast club provision at Cynnwyd and without this, there is a possibility that some parents may have to alter their work arrangements, or even have to give up employment due to the lack of provision of childcare for this extra time. Currently Ysgol Llandrillo offers after school activities for 3 nights a week, until 4.30pm, plus the village church holds a children's club on one afternoon – this provides the children of the village with an opportunity for extracurricular social activities and extended learning. Children congregate after school to play together in the park and school playing fields, this in itself is an extra-curricular activity, which helps children develop social skills and promotes healthy play. If the proposal of closing Ysgol Llandrillo goes ahead, parents will have to provide transport for any extra-curricular activities that they wish to attend, again discriminating against those families that do not have access to transport at the time needed.
					<u>Use of Welsh within the community</u> Llandrillo has the 3 <sup>rd</sup> highest proportion of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire and this proposal

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						would have a huge impact on the use of Welsh in the community – as stated beforem the possibility of non-provision of Welsh medium pre school education could result in generations of children opting for bi-lingual education rather than a Welsh medium one, diluting and reducing the use of Welsh within our communities.  With the closure of Ysgol Llandrillo, children would not learn about their own environment and community or have a strong community presence via school concerts, fairs, church services and other community interaction. This would sever the connection that the children have with the older generation of the community, where there is inevitably a higher portion of Welsh speakers and the Welsh language is used more frequently.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Neutral  Negative (1)  Negative (2)  Negative (3)	1. Early year provision is very important, especially for non welsh speaking homes. All the children in Llandrillo school speak welsh even though their parents do not. The early introduction to the language is essential  2. I cannot see how parents can support Pre/After school activities due to transport difficulties. Bus or parking, Most children in Llandrillo meet pensioners no their walk to school. Concerts, Coffee mornings and other fund raising events are well supported by this community  3. This is a very mixed community and the children are wonderful in speaking welsh or English confidently. I fear that this would not be the case when they did not know people from outside the village  Suggestions to reduce the impact  A fundamental rethink is needed. I think that this proposal is damaging to the school and to the general community. The present school is in good condition and it would seem to be a waste of money.
29-7-2011	Community, Grandparent	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities  Other – Travelling time for younger children will be tiring	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	<ol> <li>As there will be no provision for nursery (under 4½) transport, children will miss out on early education to welsh communication as is now in the school</li> <li>Standards will be impacted by larger classes and loss of local community knowledge</li> <li>There are no statutory provisions for early years if the school is situated out of Llandrillo</li> <li>As a grandmother of 2 who attended Ysgol Llandrillo I know that without the breakfast clubs and after school clubs this would impact greatly on their mother going to work</li> <li>We want to keep Welsh in our village and taking the children to another village would 'Kill our village'</li> <li>Suggestions to reduce the impact We need primarily to keep our village school open. It is the hub of the community where staff, mothers and children have contact personally – not by putting young children on a bus and</li> </ol>

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						not being able to discuss your child's progress on a day to day basis. It is also a very dangerous road in Winter months and can close due to drifts in less than an hour. Why is it that Llandrillo has to be scrapped when small schools can be federated?
29-7-2011	Community	-	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Neutral Neutral Negative Negative Negative	
29-7-2011	Grandparent	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	Llandrillo is natural welsh whereas Cynnwyd is taught Welsh i.e. old bilingual. There is no provision in Cynnwyd for this and your officers have been unable to answer or unwilling to say if this is going to be addressed.  Again this has not been addressed as again your officers could not answer this point when raised at the meetings. As the children will not be spending much time in the community. I feel this will be lost over time.  Suggestions to reduce the impact Short of not closing Llandrillo school, it should consider federalisation as has been proposed in the other areas.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Neutral  Negative  Negative  Negative  Neutral	We believe it will have a negative impact because —  1. Bigger classes with more English pupils will be less encouraged to speak welsh 2. Because there will be more pupils attending the school it will be less likely that the pupil will speak Welsh in the playground 3. Larger classes will not help in any way for pupils or teachers  Suggestions to reduce the impact 1. In the current climate of reducing our carbon footprint – how would making 4-11 year olds children travel 6 miles to school help the climate 2. Sending a 4 year old on a bus to Cynnwyd every day would make the day a lot longer for the child

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29-7-2011	Community	No	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative (1) Negative (2) Negative (3) Negative (4) Negative (5)	4.
29-7-2011	Community	No	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Neutral Negative Negative Negative Negative	
29-7-2011	Community , Ex Pupil	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	As an employed teacher of Denbighshire County Council I am aware of the variants involved in the provision of Special Educational Needs. I feel that closing Llandrillo school would result in bigger classrooms, and would therefore minimise the time teachers have with their pupils on a one to one level. By closing the school the village's history will not be presented to the children as they will not be educated there! In Cynnwyd school the 'In our local area' section of the geography curriculum will naturally be focused around the Cynnwyd area, and Llandrillo will children will not have the chance to familiarise and be educated n local matters which are relevant to their own community. All activities will be hosted in Cynnwyd again pulling the children form their village and this will lead to the children becoming less involved and not as likely to stay in their local community long term.

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						Suggestions to reduce the impact Give consideration to the community's desires; listen to the people and the children. Don't close a good school that cares and gives a good foundation for the people of the future. Do not close Llandrillo School.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	There is no problem with the Welsh education being provided in Llandrillo primary School, there is a good standard of education and the parents are happy. There is no mention of early years education. Will it be possible for children whose parents do not drive attend after school activities? The children perform a Christmas concert in Llandrillo school for the elderly; this is important for the community and would be greatly missed.  Suggestions to reduce the impact Don't close the school.
29-7-2011	Community	No	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	
29-7-2011	Community	No	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	- Negative Negative Negative	

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1-8-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Neutral Neutral Neutral Negative (1) Negative (2)	After school activities will be affected as children whose parents do not have available transport won't be able to attend the events.      There will be less use of the welsh language in the community
1-8-2011	Ex Pupil	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	A district school will have the same loyalty as a village school and because parents will be looking at a bigger range of schools. An education in a bigger sized school isn't suitable for every child. Pre and after school activities are important and if they aren't local they are difficult to attend. In a smaller school the use of welsh is natural to the children.  Suggestions to reduce the impact The only negative the authority could change is the pre/after school activities by assuring there is safe and flexible transport provided without any financial cost being made to the parent.
5-8-2011	Ex Pupil	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Neutral Negative Negative Negative	Every child should be able to receive their education in their local community whatever their age, not travel miles and there needs to be pre and after school activities or they will lose connection with their local area.
29-7-2011	Parent	-	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities	Neutral Negative Negative Negative	We don't believe that education will be any better at Cynnwyd. Our baby daughter will not be able to have pre school education. We have no car to take her to Cynnwyd. This is discrimination. We have no access to Cynnywyd for after school activities. This is discrimination again.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
				Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative	Access to Maes Hyfryd school heavy goods vehicles passing to Ifor Williams plus cars parked everywhere as for Llandrillo school good access to the school and staff parking. As for Llandrillo located within a flooded plain and for the 158 years has never stopped parents taking their children to and from school what happens if one of the pupils falls ill and vice versa and our four children have had a good education and support from the staff.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education  Educational provision / standards  Non-statutory provision (early years)  Pre / After school activities  Use of Welsh within communities Other	Neutral Negative Negative Negative Negative	
22-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other – Community ownership of school;	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	The impact for Welsh language in this area is negligible. This is due to current excess school capacity in the area. Any actions that ignore their long tem effects can only be described as irresponsible. When infant school populations increase again the long term effect of the Councils actions in this case will prevent Children from Welsh speaking families form being taught in their own language.  Education standards — No tangible indication of how school education will be improved e.g. improved teaching techniques, equipment etc.  Non-statutory provision- Assume this means breakfast club.  Pre/after school activities or after school care allowing waiting parents to attend work knowing children are being cared for by qualified people.  The school in Cynnwyd is 2 miles from Corwen. Many of the pupils who attend Cynnwyd

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						school live in Corwen where there are no welsh speaking schools. The reduction in Welsh speaking school places available in the area is bound to have long term effects on the future of the welsh language. This will occur when pupil number increase beyond councils planned capacity levels.
						My proposal is to maintain both Cynnwyd and Llandrillo schools whilst removing temporary accommodation for Cynnwyd. This will give a cost saving of £4,695 per annum and the school capacity will be reduced by 18 welsh speaking pupils instead of the 44 proposed by the council making the welsh speaking pupils total of 71% instead of the proposed 87% of total capacity loss. However the pupils should be transferred to Llandrillo school which is the closest welsh speaking alternative school with sufficient capacity to accommodate them.
						The councils proposal to reduce capacity defies their statement to strengthen welsh medium provision. The council should consider their actions very carefully and any actions that close Welsh Speaking schools such as Glyndyfrdwy should be avoided. This action I responsible for removing 47% of welsh speaking places from DCC's target of 111 places.
						Community ownership of school – doesn't happen when school is not in village.
						Suggestions to reduce the impact Nothing that would be accepted by parents or village community. General feeling is that Cynnwyd school would not provide safe place to attend school due to location of school and lack of pre/after school activities also outside space for play not sufficient.
				Access to Welsh Medium	Namativa	
27-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education Educational provision / standards	Negative Negative	I believe it will be detrimental to the welsh language because the children will be out of their own community. How long would they wait for the bus. Taxis to and from school for extra curricular activities. I presume the council will not allow standards to fall already.
				Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school	Negative Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact Cynnwyd school already needs repair and removal of cabin teaching as a new estate is n the
				activities	ivegative	process of being built it may be stretched.
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	Perhaps to share 1 Head Teacher with less Teaching Assistants would improve finances.
				Other		
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Negative	Suggestions to reduce impact
				Educational provision / standards	Negative	Fight to keep Llandrillo school open.
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative	
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	

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			Language?			
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	
				Other		
29-7-2011	Community,	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Negative	Non provision or limited access to Welsh medium pre school education could result in more
	Grandparent			Educational provision / standards	Negative	parents opting for a bi-lingual education. With almost 50% of Llandrillo school pupils coming from English speaking families, the main exposure to the language is through their school life,
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative	and the early years are vital in the foundation for a welsh medium education.
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	Closure of Llandrillo school would sever the connection between different generations within the village, children would have no interaction with the older generation of the community who
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	inevitably have a higher portion of welsh speakers and the welsh language is used more frequently, so their access to conversing in the language would become limited.
				Other		
				Access to Welsh Medium	Negative	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education		I cannot understand why people come to Llandrillo to live and yet send their children to
				Educational provision / standards	-	English medium schools outside the village. A village without a school dies slowly. Young families will not move into a village without a school.
				Non-statutory provision	-	
				(early years)		It's better to keep the children here than to transport them outside the village the Cynnwyd. In
				Pre / After school	-	the winter months the weather can affect vehicles and the children will miss school days.
				activities		
				Use of Welsh within	Negative	
				communities		
				Other – The village's	Negative	
				future		
				Access to Welsh Medium	Negative	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education	rtoganto	Welsh is better learnt in your own community. More relaxed and friendly. The community is
				Educational provision /	-	like an extended family. The facilities at Llandrillo school are very good for pre school + there
				standards		are many after school activities like football and church clubs. There is also breakfast club
				Non-statutory provision	Negative	before for working mothers.
				(early years)		Our month and the desired the form of
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact It is going to be very difficult to substitute all that the local community can offer. The site at
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	Llandrillo school is much safer than the site at Cynnwyd.
				Other	-	
			•	•		
				Access to Welsh Medium	-	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education		-
				Educational provision /	-	

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				standards		
				Non-statutory provision	-	
				(early years)		
				Pre / After school	-	
				activities		
				Use of Welsh within communities	-	
				Other	_	
				Guici		
				Access to Welsh Medium	Negative	
29-7-2011	Community	-	Negative	Education		As younger families are moving out of the area because of the closure of the school the
				Educational provision /	Negative	provision for teaching welsh will be nonexistent.
				standards Non-statutory provision	Negative	
				(early years)	ivegative	
				Pre / After school	Negative	
				activities	rioganio	
				Use of Welsh within	Negative	
				communities		
				Other	Negative	
	T			Access to Welsh Medium	Negative	
29-7-2011	Community, Grandparent	Yes	Negative	Education	Noganio	Denbighshire County Council has not shown that education will be improved; more Llandrillo children speak Welsh than in Cynnwyd. Early years provision would not be effective, becaus
				Educational provision /	Negative	
				standards	_	of above the children would be in a larger group of unknown children. Children here mix well
				Non-statutory provision	Negative	before they get to school.
				(early years)		After school or before school activities would have to be curtailed because of time taken for
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	travelling.
				Use of Welsh within	Negative	i tavoning.
				communities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact
				Other	Negative	Withdraw your proposal; work with Llandrillo school to overcome your perceived negatives.
						They are not ours.
				Access to Welsh Medium	_	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education		The children would be arriving later at home and the casual playing on the journey would be curtailed. Also many parents would be a bit dubious at letting their children onto a school coach especially the smaller ones and in more rugged weather conditions.
				Educational provision /	-	
				standards		
				Non-statutory provision	-	
				(early years)		
				Pre / After school	Negative	
				activities Use of Welsh within	_	
				communities	_	
				Other	_	
	1	1	1	1 0 0 101	l	I

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	Llandrillo is a very busy village where everyone is willing to work together to help each other. Currently in Llandrillo we have a Church, 2 chapels, a shop, Pub and 2 restaurants all of a high standard which are always very busy. We have club ceidiog for the elderly and club camen for the younger people. Which do a lot of brilliant work for the community. We have an excellent carnival every year which also raises money to help several good causes in the school. If the school was to close, soon enough there will not be the sound of children playing; we won't have activities to go with the school. We will not have children participating in our clubs and chapels. Llandrillo will become a very poor, quiet village full of villagers and immigrants. Very Sad.
6-7-2011	Community	Yes	-	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other		
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Neutral Negative Negative Negative	<ul> <li>A) The school is the focal point of the community and to the language the children speak with each other, on the way to school in the morning and on the way home. They can visit the park with their parents and here the non welsh speaking children can begin to understand the language outside the school</li> <li>B) What happens in winter when the buses cannot reach the village due to the weather. Last year there were no public transport services for nine days over 4 weeks due to the weather. </li> <li>C) There is excellent provision at Llandrillo and nothing of the sort in Cynnwyd</li> <li>D) The proposed travelling time for children is completely unnecessary</li> <li>E) Separating the school from the community will destroy the use of the language whilst going to and from the school. Co-operation between the parents and the school staff will also suffer greatly.</li> <li>Suggestions to reduce the impact</li> <li>The council have not done their work properly as there is no common sense in the written proposed paper. What will happen to the school building? The community will suffer and their needs to be investment in the school and not closure. The figures given by the community are laughable and whoever has come up with these figures should be promptly sacked as they are simply ridiculous.</li> </ul>

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh	Specific Impact on:		Comments
			Language?			
	I	I		Access to Welsh Medium	Negative	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education	Negative	-
			rioganie	Educational provision /	Negative	
				standards	3	
				Non-statutory provision	Negative	
				(early years)		
				Pre / After school	Negative	
				activities	Nissation	
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	
				Other		
				Guici		
				Access to Welsh Medium	Negative	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education	3	In the early years of school children need to be near to home. The school goes and the field
				Educational provision /	Negative	goes. School sold, houses built, more people and children (no school) they must now travel.
				standards		
				Non-statutory provision	Negative	
				(early years)	NI II	
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	
				Use of Welsh within	Negative	
				communities	Negative	
				Other		
	1					
				Access to Welsh Medium	Negative	
11-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education		Being a welsh speaking village. It is very important that the children learn Welsh as their first
				Educational provision /	Negative	language.
				standards	Nissation	
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative	
				Pre / After school	Negative	
				activities	riogative	
				Use of Welsh within	Negative	
				communities	3	
				Other		
				Access to Welsh Medium	Neutral	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education	ineutial	A bus journey up to 30 minutes is unsuitable for very young unaccompanied children
_J-1-ZUII	Johnnanty	163	Negative	Educational provision /	Negative	especially under fives. An extra hour added to the school day may have a deleterious effect
				standards		on young children.
				Non-statutory provision	Negative	1
				(early years)		If parents decide to drive to Cynnwyd there will be more traffic and more pollution.
				Pre / After school	Negative	

Date of	Received	Permission	Overall	Specific Impact on:		Comments
Response	from	to publish	Impact on	opecine impaction.		Comments
(received)	110111	response?	Welsh			
(10001100)		Tooponoo .	Language?			
			_agaage:	activities		
				Use of Welsh within	Neutral	
				communities		
				Other	-	
				Access to Welsh Medium	Negative	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Education		Non Statutory provision (Early Years)
				Educational provision /	Neutral	Taking young children out of their village environment will make them insecure, and therefore
				standards		less able to absorb such teaching.
				Non-statutory provision	Negative	
				(early years)		After school activities
				Pre / After school	Negative	Will be almost impossible without additional transport.
				activities		
				Use of Welsh within	Negative	Welsh in Community
				communities		Llandrillo is a truly WELSH SPEAKING village, Cynnwyd is not.
				Other		Suggestions to reduce the impact
						Access to welsh medium education. Because Cynnwyd has many non welsh speaking
						children, the teaching in welsh will be reduced.
						ormateri, the teaering in weish will be reduced.
				Access to Welsh Medium	Not	
18-07-11	Community	Not	Not	Education	provided	
		provided	provided	Educational provision /	Not	
				standards	provided	
				Non-statutory provision	Not	
				(early years)	provided	
				Pre / After school activities	Not provided	
				Use of Welsh within	Not	
				communities	provided	
				Other	provided	
				Other		
1		I	I	I	I	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
20/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education  Educational provision / standards  Non-statutory provision (early years)  Pre / After school activities  Use of Welsh within communities  Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	If children have to travel some distance to school, instead of having a short walk to get there, some English speaking families may think they might as well send their children to an English medium school. At present, most parents are aware of the value of sending their children to the village school, even if they are not committed to bi-lingualism.  Your figures show that Ysgol Llandrillo is succeeding very well in ensuring that children from non-Welsh-speaking homes become fluent in Welsh. Generally speaking, education within a home community has many advantages. A new school in Cynwyd would not be a community school: it would serve three communities, Cynwyd, Llandrillo and Corwen.  Ysgol Llandrillo is within easy walking distance for most families. There is no separation between school and the rest of village life. The presence of strongly Welsh speaking organisations within the village helps maintain the importance of the language here. We can't afford to lose any of these groups.  This is a predominantly Welsh speaking community. The community needs to be kept vigorous. Anything that weakens the community is likely to have an adverse effect on the language.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
						Suggestions to reduce the impact  Don't close Ysgol Llandrillo.
29/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	Most parents who are able to will opt to send their children to Gwynedd schools rather than send them to Cynwyd. Parents who have no choice because of lack of transport would have to send their children to Cynwyd. Most parents in Llandrillo feel that children in Cynwyd are more likely to speak English to each other socially rather than Welsh. Llandrillo is historically more allied to the old Meirionethshire than the Edeyrnion area.  If they are not going to their own village school, most parents would rather send their parents to Gwynedd schools where children are more likely to speak Welsh naturally. Also, most children from here go on to Ysgol y Berwyn in Bala, therefore it makes more sense to go towards Gwynedd.  Many Llandrillo children would not be able to access after-school clubs which are conducted wholly in Welsh- some parents or grandparents don't drive or can't afford to do so very often. This would impact on the children's language skills as many do not speak Welsh at home. There is no breakfast club in Cynwyd, and if there was, most Llandrillo parents would not use it if they had to drive their children there, because of the time and costs. Children currently eat breakfast there and speak Welsh while doing so, and many do not speak Welsh at home.  Eating a proper breakfast has a huge effect on children's ability to learn, so this also has an educational effect.  Suggestions to reduce the impact  Not possible- the only way is not to progress the proposal.
29/07/11	Community	No	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	
29/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Negative	Welsh is strong in Ysgol Llandrillo. I see no change in this by moving to Cynwyd. Educational standards will not improve. Smaller classes are better for children – more individual time with

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
				Educational provision / standards	Negative	the teachers.
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative	Before and after school clubs for children from Llandrillo would be difficult for parents.
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	It is a bad idea to close Ysgol Llandrillo. YOU CAN'T SEE PAST YOUR OWN NOSE!
				Other		
29/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Negative	As above
				Educational provision / standards	Negative	
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative	
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	
				Other		
30/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Negative	If Other, please indicate:The Proposal fails to recognise the cultural significance of Edeyrnion's largest village. Its unique Welsh status and its historical affiliation to the old shire
				Educational provision / standards	Negative	of Meirionethshire – Sir Meirionydd.
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative	The strength of the Welsh language is strongest to the West of Llandrillo – ie Bala.  Cynwyd, Corwen etc are to the East and are more Anglosised – their primary school pupils in
				Pre / After school activities	Negative	the main continue their secondary education at Dinas Bran, Llangollen – a primarily English medium school. This proposal will be the death knell to both the language (by its dilution) and
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative	to the community ( no inward migration due to no school to attract families).
				Other	Negative	The Proposal 1 is attempting to stop the secondary education route of Llandrillo children to attend Ysgol Y Berwyn, Bala – a Welsh medium school by attempting to integrate them into 'Cynwyd life' by closing Llandrillo school.
						To close the school and transport the children to Cynwyd will dilute the use of Welsh in the life's of the children. The language on the school playground in Llandrillo is Welsh – it is English in Cynwyd.
						Historically, Llandrillo has been a part of Sir Meirionydd – the school was owned by Sir Meirionydd before Llandrillo became a part of South Denbighshire. The Impact Assessment fails totally to appreciate / understand the true 'Welshness' of Llandrillo and our association to the Welsh stronghold of the town of Bala as opposed to 'little England in Wales' which the town of Corwen is with its migrant workers brought into the area in the late 1970's to work at

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:	Comments
					the town's factories – ie Shelleys etc  The Initial Impact Assessment is a biased document which has clearly been prepared 'in house' by DCC and not by an independent organisation.  The Welsh Assembly Government circular 021/2009 requires local authorities to conduct a Welsh Language Impact Assessment and not a Initial one. The whole consultation process is flawed due to this.  The proposal states that 'Welsh education and Welsh language' will be given the opportunity to strengthen. However it does not state how.  I would challenge the Authority that it does not have the means or ability or intention to address the safeguarding of the Welsh language.  I have no confidence in Denbighshire and their proposal to close Llandrillo School.  Suggestions to reduce the impact  The authority should be ashamed of itself. The have made their plans / decisions prior to the Consultation and are now trying to make their 'proposals' fit their plans.

## **Community Impact Assessment**

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
20-7-2011	20-7-2011 Community Yes	Yes	Negative	Pupils  Parents and families  Community activities	Negative (1) Negative (2) Negative	<ol> <li>It makes it a very long day for the children, and they will have less leisure time</li> <li>Creates more strain on the families who must guarantee their children catch the bus on time</li> <li>The school presently plays a huge part in the community activities within the village,</li> </ol>
				Community facilities	(3) Negative (4)	<ul> <li>if the proposal goes ahead this will suffer greatly</li> <li>4. The school closing would result in the village losing an important communal facility</li> <li>5. Not having the school would be a great loss to the community, it has been essential to the community for generations</li> </ul>
				Community (general)	Negative (5)	Suggestions to reduce the impact Don't allow the proposal to go ahead in the first place.
7-7-2011	7-7-2011 Community Yes	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Parents and Grand parents and other pensioners would miss out on school
				Parents and families	Negative	concerts, Christmas carol services etc. Due to travelling conditions especially in winter
				Community activities	Negative	2. At present the numerous community clubs have junior sections/members e.g. gardening, bowling clubs, young families, football, darts, snooker/pool, W.I, Merched
				Community facilities	Negative	y Wawr, church clubs. With no school younger families would disappear and eventually the ageing population would see a decline in these community clubs
				Community (general)	Negative	<ol> <li>The school field would be sold leaving no football club and the annual well supported carnival venue would disappear</li> <li>The ever ageing population would get less and less support from younger families and the village would require more and more support from outside social support pushing up welfare costs for other council debts</li> <li>As highlighted in 2002 when H.R.H Prince Charles visited this special village. He opened the bowling green but insisted on visiting the school, the public house, the shop and the church</li> </ol>
11-7-2011	Parent	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative (1)	Loss of village identity
				Parents and families	Negative (2)	More transport issues     Activities likely to become dysfunctional and difficult to manage
				Community activities	Negative (3)	<ol> <li>Loss of a core operation will always affect the community</li> <li>Community loses its focus. All communities require children as the starting blocks</li> </ol>
				Community facilities	Negative (4)	Suggestions to reduce the impact
				Community (general)	Negative (5)	Do not progress with proposal.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community	Specific Impact on:		Comments
19-7-2011	Parent	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	You have never stated what the improved education provision or improved facilities will be.
				Parents and families	Negative	Interacting with larger groups is not necessarily beneficial. During this messy changeover pupils, especially welsh speaking, will move to Bala school from both Llandrillo and Cynnwyd
				Community activities	Negative	as most progress to Bala when they are 11. This new school will become an expensive white elephant Our school is the heart of our community.
				Community facilities	Neutral	Suggestions to reduce the impact
						Build the new school in Llandrillo. Your assessment of the flood plain is incorrect, revenue saving of £48,000 pupil, pupil funding reduced to £3,544.
			Community (general)	Negative	The site in Cynnwyd is potentially dangerous with the amount of heavy traffic (we have conducted a survey over 5 days) and the air quality is also potentially dangerous because of the proximity of the galvanising plant only 300-400m away. This would concern me more than a flood that has never happened yet!	
18-07-11		Not provided	Negative d	Access to Welsh Medium Education	-	
				Parents and families		
				Community activities		
				Community facilities		
				Community (general)		

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community	Specific Impact on:		Comments
27-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative (1)	Loss of sense of community, loss of local knowledge in geography and history and a
	, Former Governor			Parents and families	Negative (2)	loss of the sense of community that helps to create good citizens and is an essential adjunct to school based education. Volunteers will be unavailable for reading,
				Community activities	Negative (3)	football.  2. Much less involvement with the school, the PTA, the Governors and loss of
				Community facilities	Negative	community support for the school and its pre and post school activities. Travel difficulties to school events and collection of children should they fall ill and need to
	Community (general)  Negative (5)  Negative (5)  Negative (5)  I am aware o stage to return of the community.	<ul> <li>be sent home.</li> <li>Attendance at school activities will naturally be less well attended; many are not car owners and will find it difficult to attend at Cynnwyd.</li> <li>We are fortunate in having a thriving Ganolfan in Llandrillo so a redundant school building would not be useful and will be a drag on community spirits. The playing field is regularly used by children playing at any time and for other events like the village carnival, this space provides an essential facility for village life.</li> <li>Llandrillo is an extraordinarily vibrant community with many thriving local societies and a wonderfully inclusive ethos, welcoming incomers while maintaining its Welsh language heritage. To date the village has grown steadily in terms of housing stock, and there are at least 6 three and four bedroom family homes available for sale in the near future which may well lead to an increase on pupil numbers in the short term. Llandrillo is one of the largest villages in terms of population and there seems to be no logic in removing such an essential element form the heart of the</li> </ul>				

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
						will then deteriorate with an increasingly ageing population and will ultimately become a 'grey' ghetto. Is this really what the Authority want for us?  Whenever funds need raising our school events require support this splendid community can be relied on to fully play its part. The school is at the heart of our village, current plans will rip that heart out and deprive the pupils of the many wonderful examples of what can be achieved when a community pulls together; surely that is an essential part of their education?  Please see sense before you damage Llandrillo irredeemably.  Suggestions to reduce the impact The only option is to retain a school community within Llandrillo, in the worst case scenario as part of a federated arrangement to save on administration costs. I would suggest moving the school community from Cynnwyd to Llandrillo which is obviously the better and safer site but this would not be neighbourly. Each community deserves its school.
29-7-2011	29-7-2011 Parent Yes Neg		Pupils	-	-	
			Parents and families	-		
				Community activities	-	
				Community facilities	-	
				Community (general)	-	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils  Parents and families  Community activities	Negative (1) Negative (2) Negative (3)	Impact on pupils – Extra travelling time     Parents with more than one child at school and perhaps a baby would find it difficult to transport all of them. Even worse if the children in school start/finish at different times     Community would not be able to support school activities as much
				Community facilities	Negative (4)	Community would not be able to support sorted activities as mach     Community facilities would suffer if school closed     The impact on the community in general would be a feeling of great loss
				Community (general)	Negative (5)	Suggestions to reduce impact Jut rethink!
29-7-2011	Community,	Yes	s Negative	Pupils	Negative	Four generations of my family have attended Llandrillo school. All have succeeded and grown
	Grandparent		- 9	Parents and families	Negative	to be responsible people. To close Llandrillo will be devastating for parents, pupils and families. We will lose our after school club, the village children's football field, the local

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
				Community activities	Negative	knowledge will be lost to the children i.e. Roman Circle etc.
				Community facilities	Negative	Keep our school open by any means. It will have a devastating effect on our village community, socially and educationally, to close it. Our village will become a village of
				Community (general)	Negative	pensioners as families will move nearer schools in other towns/villages.  Suggestions to reduce the impact Keeping the school open is much more important than a new school miles away. We need to keep this community alive, with a school in the village where children will continue to play and grow in the same community as their peers.
29-7-2011	Community	Not	Negative	Pupils	Negative	
20 / 2011		provided	Nogalivo	Parents and families	Negative	
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
29-7-2011	Grandpare	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Pupils will now identify with Cynnwyd. Parents will have to wait with children and meet them
20 / 2011	nt	100	rvegative	Parents and families	Negative	on and off transport in all types of weather and who takes responsibility for them if no one is there to meet them. The pupils take part in Christmas shows and plays and sporting activities.
				Community activities	Negative	3 m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
	•				•	
29-7-2011	29-7-2011 Community Yes	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	The impact on pupils having additional provisions when they have been used to it.
				Parents and families	Negative	2. You state that transport would be provided; would you like your 4 year old to go on a bus, and what happens if someone has a child of 4 years old and on of 7 years old
				Community activities	Negative	are they going to provide transport to bring the 4 year old home at midday and the 7 year old at 3.30?
				Community facilities	Negative	3. The children of Llandrillo School have entertained us with concerts, school fairs and other things where the community can go and enjoy a couple of hours in the
				Community (general)	Negative	evening.  4. If the school is closed as I have already said the shop and post office and hotel will go.  5. It would become a pensioner's village and without the shop + P.O and Pub how long would it survive.  Suggestions to reduce the impact Not an option. And if it goes ahead I hope that Denbighshire County Council will not regret their decision to close Llandrillo School.
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Not being educated in their own community is going to have serious impact, there are
				Parents and families	Negative	children with special needs who need there parents near by; this is going to cause a lot of uncertainty. As said before there are many activities associated with the school that will
				Community activities	Negative	cease, the school will be only an empty building but no doubt the county council will sell it for their own needs. The days of the use of the building will break the heart not to hear the
				Community facilities	Negative	children playing in the playground and this will be a great shame for the whole community. A lot of life will be lost.
				Community (general)	Negative	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community	Specific Impact on:		Comments
						Suggestions to reduce the impact Nothing without spending a lot of money on rebuilding a community, how will it do that? If the proposal progresses perhaps you could have a proper look at the community safety Llandrillo is by far the safest, Denbighshire County Council has already changed relationships between the two villages and building a new school in Cynnwyd is not going to help heal that damage, Perhaps in future communities should be listened to a the end of the day they know best what is right in their community.
				Pupils	Negative	
29-7-2011	2011 Community No Negati	Negative	Parents and families	Negative	-	
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
			I	I D ::	T	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	es Negative	Pupils	Negative	The move will increase the children's journey to school. We live 10 minutes from Llandrillo,
	, Ex Pupil			Parents and families	Negative	and the total journey time for my child to and from the new school would be 40 minutes every day. This is not fair on him. The community enjoys watching the school's concerts and closing
				Community activities	Negative	the school will bring this to an end.
				Community facilities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact I would like you to consider the intensive effect closing Llandrillo School will have on my child.
				Community (general)	Negative	He will spend 40 minutes every day travelling to and from work. Is this fair on my 4 year old child? He will have to change taxi in Llandrillo. Who will be responsible for supervising and controlling my child's movement form one taxi to another? It is simply cruel to force a 4 year old child to spend 40 minutes every day travelling to and from school.
			T	Pupile	T	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	All residents of Llandrillo know the children through the activities that take place in the
				Parents and families	Negative	community. If the school was to close how would this happen? Would the children come back to the village to perform? The community raises money for the school and I'm sure this is a
				Community activities	Negative	benefit to the pupil's education, and the pupils give great pleasure to the community.  Llandrillo children have worked hard over the years to raise money to improve the school's
				Community facilities	Negative	resources.
				Community (general)	Negative	If the school closes would the shop close? Would house prices decrease? I hope that Llandrillo does not become a place for visitors and pensioners.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
						Suggestions to reduce the impact I cannot even think about the school closing, or have anything positive to say about the possibility of improving the situation. Look at the villages which have lost their schools ad the devastating knock-on effect this has on the community, which is so important to the area's health.
				Pupils		
29-7-2011	Community	mmunity No Negative	Negative		Negative	
				Parents and families	Negative	
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
				Pupils		
29-7-2011	Community	No	Negative	Negative		
				Parents and families	Negative	
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
1-8-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative (1)	The effect on pupils of closing the school and having to travel miles to school     The effect on families of the strain of having to move school and travel to the new
			Parents and families	Negative (2)	school	
				Community activities	Negative (3)	<ul> <li>3. Closing the school will mean one less activity in the community</li> <li>4. Closing the school will close one of the village's main essential facility for the</li> </ul>
				Community facilities	Negative (4)	community 5. Close the school = close the community. There will be less activities in the
				Community (general)	Negative (5)	community as people in the area will not socialise and mix with each other as much
1-8-2011	-8-2011 Ex Pupil Yes Negative	Negative	Pupils	Negative	The school is a crucial part of the community. The pupils take great pride in their school as do	
1 0 2011		rtoganvo	Parents and families	Negative	their parents. Os a village school there are many generations within the community who take great pride in the school and are readily available to support any activity/event that takes	
				Community activities	Negative	place in the school.
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
5-8-2011	Ex Pupil	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	The effect will be negative on all options; the main effect will be the loss of connection and
3 0 2011		100	ivogative	Parents and families	Negative	information wit the local area. The elderly nor people without transport to travel o activities i.e. coffee nights which have great support at the moment. There is no need to change anything,
				Community activities	Negative	everything needed is here already.
				Community facilities	Neutral	
				Community (general)	Negative	
29-7-2011	Parent	arent - Negative	Negative	Pupils	Negative	The county have not given consideration to Health and Safety. We are very worried about
				Parents and families	Negative	their safety in the taxis/bus. We are worried about the traffic between Llandrillo and Cynnwyd and about the traffic around the school. The village will be starved of community activities

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
				Community activities	Negative	especially the Christmas concert. If the school closes everything will close starting with the shop and Post Office. Please please thing again we are a family and we want the best for our
				Community facilities	Negative	children.
				Community (general)	Negative	
				T = "		
29-7-2011	29-7-2011 Community Yes Neg	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	_
			Parents and families	Negative		
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
29-7-2011	29-7-2011 Community \	ity Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	If we lose our school at Llandrillo. It will be a great loss to the community. We will miss going
				Parents and families	Negative	to the summer fair, Welsh tea, Harvest time and Christmas concert's in all parts of the village.  Also the village shop will close. The school is the life and soul of the village. When you hear
				Community activities	Negative	the children on the yard playing!
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
22-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Impact on pupils and impact on parents and families. Travel to and from Cynnwyd school n a
				Parents and families	Negative	bus/car is essential means parents with one car can't take young children and would not want to use public transport (school bus). Impact on community activities + Impact on community.
				Community activities	Negative	No breakfast club may require parents to give up work. No ownership of school due to its location.
				Community facilities	Neutral	
				Community (general)	Negative	
27-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Suggestion to reduce impact
			- 9	Parents and families	Negative	If Llandrillo school were to close it would be a massive loss to the young people and children

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community	Specific Impact on:		Comments
						of the village as they spend so much of their time playing on the football fields, where would
				Community activities	Negative	they go if the school was sold?
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
				Pupils		
29-7-2011	2011 Community Yes	Negative		-		
				Parents and families	-	-
				Community activities	-	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
				Pupils		
29-7-2011	-2011 Community, Yes	Negative		Negative	Llandrillo may only be 3 miles from Cynnwyd, but the Carbon Footprint will certainly mount	
	Grandparent			Parents and families	Negative	up. Plus in bad weather such as we had this winter they would not be able to reach Cynnwyd.  Meaning their schooling would fall behind offer pupils, which no-one wants. Llandrillo school
				Community activities	Negative	have a Breakfast club which is a boost to working parents.
				Community facilities	Negative	Llandrillo school pupils are taken out round the village and leave more about the village past.  They take part in Harvest services in Church and Chapel. Perform concerts at the pensioners
				Community (general)	Negative	club. The schools summer and Christmas fetes are always well supported by the young and older generations, they all give the pupils a chance to mix with the older generation, which would be missed by all if there is no longer a school in Llandrillo.
				Pupils		
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative		Negative	_
				Parents and families	Negative	
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
	•			T		
				Pupils	Negative	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community	Specific Impact on:		Comments
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Parents and families  Community activities  Community facilities	Negative Negative	Children with special needs – will be too great a distance for parents to respond in an emergency. You never know when a child will have an asthma attack – these things do not seem to have been taken into consideration.  We have got a village hall but the activities e.g. coffee mornings, fund raising events, summer fair – all these things will not exist if the school was closed. The village carnival and football
			Community (general)	Negative	takes place in the school field.  Suggestions to reduce impact The proposal in not going to help – to continue the present community spirit of the village which may well be lost. If the proposal progressed there is little that can be done to retain the community spirit the village will become more like suburbia, where nobody really cares about their next door neighbours and the elderly population will suffer accordingly.	
				Pupils	<u> </u>	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	·	-	-
				Parents and families	-	
			Community activities	-		
				Community facilities	_	
				Community (general)	-	
				Pupils	Negative	
29-7-2011	Community	Not provided	Negative	Parents and families	Negative	
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
				Pupils		Taking young children out of their environment cannot be good. For parents and families their
29-7-2011	Community, Grandparent	Yes	Negative		Negative	will be an increase in stress – having to meet the bus, what happens if a child is ill in school.
	Grandparent			Parents and families	Negative	Community activities would have to be curtailed because of travel times – therefore leaving less time for activities. They are our children; we want them to be an integral part of our

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community	Specific Impact on:		Comments
				Community activities	Negative	village.
				Community facilities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact Withdraw it, and instead of being dictational engage and work positively with the school and
				Community (general)	Negative	Re-examine the facts – you have been selective in your interpretation.  You have ruined a number of activities in Llandrillo – the bowling club, the football team, cricket team, the gardening club, carnival, cwmni theatre ceidiog, children secondary schools. You also ruined the fact we have 2 restaurants, 1 being the highest rated restaurant in the Good Food Wales Guide. The shop hosts the P.O, there are 3 camping/caravan sites. And a sawmill which provides employment for a large number of local people. There is a church + 2 chapels still in use.  Llandrillo is a dynamic village- e.g. we took over the public toilets after DCC closed shut them, it is now run by a team of volunteers and very successfully too – you only have to look at the letters on display. You just do not know Llandrillo at all do you!
29-7-2011 Community Yes	Vaa	os Nogativo	Pupils	Negative	Devents would be warried about the tuine a day trip to and from asheel not all of them would	
29-7-2011	7-2011 Community Yes Neg	Negative	Parents and families	Negative	Parents would be worried about the twice a day trip to and from school not all of them would be able to ferry them to school – many of them work and many don't have a car. This sets up a chain reaction of instability which is the very thing that we want to avoid.	
				Community activities	-	
				Community facilities	-	
				Community (general)	-	
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Llandrillo is a very busy village. Currently we have a Church, 2 chapels, a shop and 3
				Parents and families	Negative	restaurants of a high standard. We have clwb Ceidiog for the elderly and club camen for the younger people. Which do a lot of brilliant work for the community? We have an excellent
				Community activities	Negative	carnival every year which also raises money to help several good causes in the school. If the school was to close, soon enough there will not be the sound of children playing; we won't
				Community facilities	Negative	have activities to go with the school. We will not have children participating in our clubs and chapels. Llandrillo will become a very poor, quiet village full of villagers and immigrants. Very
				Community (general)	Negative	Sad.
			1	Pupils		
6-7-2011	Community	Yes	-	ι αριιο	-	
				Parents and families	_	Suggestions to reduce the impact

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments		
				Community activities	-	Llandrillo has always been at the end of which ever county we have been in. In Clwyd and now Denbighshire nobody cares. we have had to fight to keep our Post Office open, a fight to keep our toilets open and now our school the heart of our village but we will fight. We need		
				Community facilities	-	our school to remain alive.		
				Community (general)	-			
29-7-2011	Community Yes Negative Pupils Negative A) The loss of feeling a part of a community.	A) The loss of feeling a part of a community						
20 7 2011	Community	,	Negative	Parents and families	Negative	B) There will be a loss of support towards the school and to the pre and after school activities.		
				Community activities	Negative	C) Losing volunteers who help with the parents to arrange youth football games and many other things which are arranged for the children		
				Community facilities	Negative	D) Llandrillo is the biggest village in Ederynion and houses are always being built every year so there is an obvious need for a school in the village.		
	Community (general)  Negative  Suggestions to a Re-think and characteristics and the conscious and the	Suggestions to reduce the impact Re-think and change the decision and write down on paper the truth of what is going ahead There needs to be investment in the school and not closure. There is nothing wrong with the school and the council figures which have been made public are laughable and look as if they have been made by school children.						
	T	I		Duraile	T			
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	-		
			J	Parents and families	Negative			
				Community activities	Negative			
				Community facilities	Negative			
				Community (general)	Negative			
		.,		Pupils	Negative			
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Parents and families	Negative	To take the young away from the community is to take the heart and future away. 11 year olds plus ok, they are at the age where travel is good for them, they can learn from it more,		
				Community activities	Negative	even short distances, large classes when young miss dyslexia, and is not helped. I know dyslexia was not known very much when I was young, but now it is and can be spotted quicker and help can be given sooner. (Carbon Footprint) travelling 3 miles each way = 6		
				Community facilities	Negative	miles per day over 5 days = 30 miles, 30 miles per week, danger whilst travelling, bad weather unable to get to school. Children here walk to school in all weather conditions.		
				Community (general)	Negative	The second secon		

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community	Specific Impact on:		Comments
						Cost new building in Cynnwyd = X, travelling cost = Y, sale of Llandrillo school = Z. But don't forget less cost of Llandrillo teachers ZI, Are XY covered by ZZI, I don't think so.
11-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	A school is at the heart of the community – especially in a rural area like this.
				Parents and families	Negative	
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
				Pupils	Negative	
29-7-2011	7-2011 Community Yes Neg	Negative	Parents and families	Negative	I see nothing good in the closure of our school despite it's small size. The village school is at the heart of activities even for those who have to move children there. Community support	
				Community activities	Negative	could well decrease of the extra journey is taken into account.  Suggestions to reduce the impact
				Community facilities	Negative	The earning environment is more than the school; it is the environment in which the child lives. Present transport time is nil, future transport time 1 hour!
				Community (general)	Negative	Llandrillo school has not, to my knowledge, even flooded. Comparing inspection form 5 years ago seems fruitless. Staff recruitment will suffer when potential closure is threatened. £1,000,000 compares unfavourably with the cost of updating the two present schools, particularly in the present financial crisis.
						'Potential measures to reduce the impact' sounds delightfully vague.
		I		Pupilo		
29-7-2011	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Impact on pupils. Teaching 'Out of village' will separate teaching from every day life.
				Parents and families	Neutral	Community activities will be reduced because pupils will be mainly out of the village.
				Community activities	Negative	Facilities. Will be less provided because their will not be children to play there.
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Neutral	
				Pupils	Not	
18-07-11	Community	Not	Not		provided	
		provided	provided	Parents and families	Not	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
					provided	
				Community activities	Not	
				0	provided	
				Community facilities	Not provided	
				Community (general)	Not provided	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
20/07/11	20/07/11 Community Yes Negat	Negative	Pupils	Negative	I have already commented at some length in my response to the consultation document, so will only summarise my reasons here.	
	,			Parents and families	Negative	Pupils are currently in a very secure, nurturing environment at the heart of their own village.
				Community activities	Negative	This is the best possible environment for learning. There is no separation between school and the rest of life.
				Community facilities	Negative	There is natural and easy communication between parents and school. Most families are just
				Community (general)		a short walk away. This makes for involvement. Families are also well-known to the head teacher, who can be supportive in parenting issues. Removing the school to the next villag would end this easy contact, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable families. Also, parents drop off and collect their children for school and after school activities, there is a sense of mutual support and belonging. Meeting at the school gate has many benefits. The children are part of the community, and activities for them in the heart of the village driin families and others. This would be lost.  The presence of the school is in itself the most important community- building aspect of the village. Communities are neither built nor maintained through organised activities, but throw a shared life.  The closure of Ysgol Llandrillo would take the heart out of the community.
29/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	The proposal would split the community into those who can afford to take their children to
				Parents and families	Negative	Gwynedd schools daily and those who cannot. This would mean that those who have a strong belief in the importance of the Welsh language would send their children to Gwynedd
				Community activities	Negative	schools. This may also be a social class divide, with more middle class and able children going to Gwynedd schools.
				Community facilities	Negative	This would split the community into two groups of children who rarely play together and who don't know all the adults in the community. We have already seen the effects of this in
				Community (general)	Negative	Llandrillo. The children who go to Carrog school are rarely seen out and are not known to most of us. They do not use the Welsh language socially. This is not good for the children or the area.  The children would not mix with older people in Clwb Ceidiog as they currently do, to the educational benefit of all. Parents and grandparents would not see teachers daily to discuss progress and any problems as they currently do. People currently feel that they can 'pop in' to the school for all sorts of reasons. It is truly a community school, and this creates a huge

Date of	Received	Permission	Overall	Specific Impact on:		Comments
Response (received)	from	to publish response?	Impact on the Community ?			
						amount of goodwill locally.
						The proposal would hasten rural depopulation. What incentive is there for young people currently at University to return to a village without a school when they have finished their education and are ready to start a family? If their children are going to an anonymous larger school in a different village, they may as well stay away. My own four teenagers feel this way.
						I moved back to Llandrillo, my home village, after 10 years at University and working in Cardiff in order for my children to grow up in a small village and to be educated in the village school.
						Many of the families with children currently in the school have moved to Llandrillo from England in order for their children to be educated in a small, friendly village school. They firmly believe that their children would not have thrived as much in a larger school.
						Regarding nursery provision- would parents have to drive children there and back? Some don't drive and there would be increased costs for those who do. Children would not be able to walk around and learn the stories of their own village as they do now. This could have a huge effect on community cohesiveness.
						The lack of a breakfast club that would be easily accessible for Llandrillo parents would have a huge effect on parents' ability to work. Similarly for after-school clubs- grandparents currently walking to school to pick up children after school would not be able to do so.
						Suggestions to reduce the impact
						Nothing- the only answer is not to progress the proposal.
				Pupils	Negative	
29/07/11	Community	No	Negative	Parents and families		
					Negative	
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
29/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils  Parents and families  Community activities  Community facilities  Community (general)	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	By closing Ysgol Llandrillo you would be removing the heart of the village. It will impact on everyone's lives – from the smallest baby to the oldest individual!  Suggestions to reduce the impact Leave Ysgol Llandrillo alone and save money. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH YOUR PROPOSAL AT ALL!
29/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils  Parents and families  Community activities  Community facilities  Community (general)	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	As above
30/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils Parents and families Community activities Community facilities  Community (general)	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	Impact on pupils would be devastating: Those whose parents can afford to take their children to Bala daily and those who cannot.  This would mean that those who have a strong belief in the importance of the Welsh language would send their children to Gwynedd schools. This may also be a social class divide, with more middle class and able children going to Gwynedd schools. Other parents reliant on the free transport provision would have no alternative but to send their children to Cynwyd.  Socially, this would split the community into two, children who go to Bala and those who go to Cynwyd.  We have already seen the effects of this in Llandrillo – children who go to Carrog school who are rarely seen out and are not known to most of us.  They do not use the Welsh language socially – since their parents have sought English medium education for their children.  Their parents have prevented their children speaking Welsh and have by their actions reduced the pupils numbers in Llandrillo school to the benefit of Carrog school.  The proposal would hasten rural depopulation. What incentive is there for young people currently at University to return to a village without a school when they have finished their

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:	Comments
					education and are ready to start a family? If their children are going to an anonymous larger school in a different village, they may as well stay away.  Many of the families with children currently in the school have moved to Llandrillo from England in order for their children to be educated at a local, friendly school. They firmly believe that their children would not have thrived as much in a larger school.  Regarding nursery provision- would parents have to drive children there and back? Some don't drive and there would be increased costs for those who do. Children would not be able to walk around and learn the stories of their own village as they do now. This could have a huge effect on community cohesiveness.  The lack of a breakfast club that would be easily accessible for Llandrillo parents would have a huge effect on parents' ability to work. Similarly for after-school clubs- grandparents currently walking to school to pick up children after school would not be able to do so.  Suggestions to reduce the impact  DCC has not carried out a proper community assessment — only a half baked attempt to justify their proposals.

## Appendix 5: Formal Consultation Responses – Ysgol Maes Hyfryd Proposal 1: An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo

Personal information has been redacted from this document.

Responses from those who did not give the authority permission to publish their responses have also been redacted. All Cabinet Members were presented with the full document in August 2011.

Date of	Received	Permission	Do you	Decision	Comments
Response	from	to publish	agree	based on the	
(received)		response?	with the	impact on?	
			proposal?		
24/06/11	Community	No	Yes	Education;	-

Date of	Received	Permission	Do you	Decision	Comments
Response (received)	from	to publish response?	agree with the proposal?	based on the impact on?	
29/06/11	Parent	Yes	Yes	Education	I very much feel that the overall scale/timetable is far too long and overshadows the whole process with a level of uncertainty not only for the pupils but for the relevant communities. I also feel that the process has failed to reassure the communities what can be assured. Wy understanding of the meeting is that the only thing that can be assured is that we may lose our headmistress. If this was to happen I have no doubt that Denbighshire County Council would be held to account by the people of Cynwyd and the area Maes Hyfryd serves.  Dear Ms Walley, Firstly I wanted to take the time in thanking you and your colleagues for your input tonight in Cynwyd. I have to say that I have been extremely impressed by the way you conduct yourself at each meeting, when having to deal with such a sensitive matter. As I am sure you have gathered on each of your school visits, each community feels very strongly about the possibility of their school closing, which I am sure is borne out by the intense, but passionate feedback you receive.  All four of my children have either attended Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, or are currently attending the school. The school, like many in the area, provide a level of teaching that is far superior to the education I received a primary school. The children are taught in a loving and professional manner, but with discipline being very much evident throughout the learning environment. Each child in the school, whatever their overall ability, is loved and nurtured for whom they are, ensuring that the very best is brought out from each child. The school thrives on its ability to harness the strengths of each child, whilst identifying and overcoming the weaknesses. This ethos harvests the best in each child, which goes a long way to explain why the school continues to outperform many in the area.  Though for me, the status quo of schooling in the area would be the preferred option, I recognise that things need to change for the future to ensure that education remains focused and relevant to our children's ne
11/07/11	Parent	Not provided	No	Education;	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
15/07/11	Governor	Yes	No	Education	I disagree with the closure of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd as there are no surplus places and the standard of education is very high as reported in the Estyn inspection 18/01/10.  If Ysgol Llandrillo were to close then those pupils would be welcome to join the existing school. I acknowledge that an extension would be required to accommodate them and this should be given priority.  I believe the proposed "2 site" Area School for an estimated 3 years would have a detrimental effect on the quality of education at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd:-  > Headteacher away from the site hald the time;  > Staff morale would drop because of job insecurity, impacting on standards and commitment.  > Loss of school identity for the pupils results in less motivation to "achive".  Ysgol Maes Hyfryd should not be punished or sacrificed because of the "Modernising Education" team (policy) have proposed the closure of Ysgol Llandrillo.
18/07/11	Staff	Yes	No	Education;	Enormous impact on quality of children's education.  Been through an Inspection (2010) as member of staff with high praise.  Enormous impact on education in Edeyrnion area.  Head on 2 sites doesn't work – staff and children's education will suffer.  Community harmony will lapse, and ill feeling will develop between communities.  Feeling that why change existing name on school – the name should stay the same.

Date of	Received	Permission	Do you	Decision	Comments
Response (received)	from	to publish response?	agree with the	based on the impact on?	
, ,		•	proposal?	·	
18/07/11	Community	Yes	No	Education; Community:	There is a lack of clarity to the current proposal. There is no date or target for the programme of restructure and building. There is no certainty that funding is going to be available, and there is no detail on the implied educational improvements. The first part of the proposal because of timing means federating Cynwyd and Llandrillo without any certainty about how long this would last and this would create a great deal of uncertainty for pupils and parents about the future. The most important quality of an education establishment is the teachers and quality and number of staff and their leader who manages, to a large degree the success or failure of the pupils. The document does not refer to any increase or decrease in the number of staff teaching in the area school on one site. What exactly does modernising education mean? Is saving money or improving education the purpose of this proposal? The savings are clear to see as £53,000 but the educational outcomes are not clearly noted.  If there is to be an area school in Cynwyd it would be better to do it straight away to remove any uncertainty and have an opportunity to establish a new educational community before rifts and arguments develop between both communities. The other choice would be to leave both schools as they are for now without change and then call it an area school after the development work has been completed.  I ask that you consider my opinion for the welfare of the children in addition to the contentment of the village surrounding it.
19/07/11	Community	Yes	No	Community	The school is the heart of the community; The village hall is part of the school; Playing field is shared by both; The headteacher works well with the community;
19/07/11	Parent	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education;	
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education; Community;	At present we in Cynwyd are fortunate to have the best Headteacher we have ever had in our village. If she was split between two schools, this would put her and staff under much more pressure and therefore would not be able to give her best, resulting in poorer standards of teaching.  It would also cause ill feeling between the two villages of Cynwyd and Lladnrillo and is something we certainly do not want.
21/07/11	Staff	Yes	No	Education;	Ysgol Maes Hyfryd had excellent comments regarding the leadership and the way the whole staff worked as a successful team after the inspection in 2010. Leadership received a Grade 1 and it is not possible to improve on this, therefore why change something that works?  I believe that having a headteacher on site all the time is important for the staff, pupils and parents in order to discuss / organise / answer questions and solve problems immediately.  Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has an excellent reputation in the area and it is important to keep it.
21/07/11	Ex-pupil	No	No	Education; Community;	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
21/07/11	Ex-pupil	No	No	Education; Community;	
21/07/11	Parent / Governor	No	No	Education; Community;	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education; Community;	Whatever decision DCC decide to make it should be a clear and final decision whether to keep Llandrillo School open or to shut it. We feel that it is not good for Llandrillo pupils or community relationships at large for a school to face an undecided future. We as parents, pupils etc of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd believe that splitting a headteacher between 2 schools would be damaging to the education of the pupils in both schools.  The standard of teaching in Ysgol Maeshyfryd was described as 'outstanding' in the Estyn 2010 report and this is a true portrayal. The teachers are all friendly and caring and the pupils thrive. With this proposal we feel that the pupils of Llandrillo have more to gain than the pupils of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and feel that our children will be at a loss educationally. Even though we understand that this is not the ideal option, we feel we can accommodate the numbers and this would be preferable to the children's education than operating on a split site for an indefinite period of time.  Ysgol Maeshyfryd also has a very successful relationship with the Cylch Meithrin which is run in the Community Hall next to the school. This close link allows for a natural development for each child allowing the two teaching staffs to have an understanding of what is required in regard to children entering the school.  As a whole, we are against this proposal, we feel that DCC are driving a wedge between two small communities who have until now been very close and some of us feel that the blame is being shifted on us when DCC are the ones to blame. There is no guarantee that funding will become available and this proposal is leading both schools into a false sense of security. It has also been seen in other schools around the area that a proposal such as this hasn't always worked. In Llandegla and Bryneglwys for example, two communities have been ripped apart by it and in Llanarmon yn lal they are on their 3 <sup>rd</sup> head due to stress of a split site. I cannot understand how this will work – If this is about cost cu
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education	The Headteacher would be split between both schools during the development of the area school with no guarantee of timescale, this situation would seriously affect the children's education long term.  A decision needs to be made as soon as possible otherwise bad feeling is created between both sets of school parents.  No benefit in changing the name of Ysgol Maeshyfryd  Include Llandrillo pupils in the current Maes Hyfryd building until funding is available, this would benefit pupils i.e staff based in one building and the headteacher would only manage one school.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
21/07/11	Grandparent	Yes	No	Education	I think the education of the children at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is being scarified to try to lessen the impact on the community and pupils at Ysgol Llandrillo with this proposal. It is delaying the inevitable for the Llandrillo pupils instead of giving them a definite decision from the start.  The split site proposal has no definite timescale, the children's education will likely suffer from having a shared headteacher for an indefinite period of time. The option to close Ysgol Llandrillo would benefit both sets of pupils in the long term & Ysgol Meas Hyfryd could cope with pupil numbers on the current site. This appears to be much more feasible and economic option.
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education	I would agree to the proposal as long as the school was not split over two sites for even a temporary amount of time.  Either close Llandrillo and move the children to the one site prior to any extensions being built or keep the schools as they are for an extra year and build the new extension at Cynwyd and on completion close Llandrillo.  I am also concerned that a proven good school with excellent leadership should lose their headteacher who would have to apply for her job at the new school in Cynwyd.
21/07/11	Grandparent	Yes	No	Education	Having attended a meeting at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July I was concerned to hear that definite funding was, as yet, not in place to enlarge the buildings at Maes Hyfryd. Surely this should be secured first before any attempt is made to change from the present system.  I am given to understand from the teaching staff that to operate a single school on two sites is undesirable and may be unworkable and will probably have an adverse effect on the children's education.  Before any merger is attempted, funds for the new building work at Maes Hyfryd need to be in place with work started or about to start. I am not against the merger but disruption should, as I am sure you would agree be kept to an absolute minimum for all concerned.
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education	The proposal does not benefit the children of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. It jeopardises their education by removing the headteacher for much of the week as her managerial role would remove her from teaching. The school faired so well in the last Estyn report on the hands on approach of the headteacher and how this had a positive effect on the children's education. The option to close Ysgol Llandrillo and keep Ysgol Maes Hyfryd open would benefit both sets of children's education in the long term. The funding to extend the proposed 'area school' does not appear to have been secured and I feel it is a huge gamble of our children's education to run the two schools indefinitely.  The current Ysgol Maes Hyfryd building can cope with accepting the current Ysgol Llandrillo pupils. The pupils of Ysgol Llandrillo would at least feel definite about the future and the two communities could move forward if the decision to close the school was made now instead of drawing the process out over long indefinite period which would harm both the children's education and the division of the communities. It is my understanding that the 'split site' approach has been quite disastrous between the communities of Bryneglwys and Llandegla which must have had an effect on the children and this is not something that we would want to happen in our community.

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					This does not make sense to jeopardise my child's education when the option to close Llandrillo and use Ysgol Maes Hyfryd to serve the area makes so much more financial and educational sense.  I would like to take this opportunity to say that the attitude of J Walley was very disappointing. The comments of "I've heard it all before" were not acceptable when discussing the gamble you are proposing for my child's education. You have not heard my views before and I would appreciate it as a local tax payer, home owner, council tax payer, you would respectfully listen to my opinions in regards to my child and her education.
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education; Community;	<ol> <li>We feel that having the headteacher split between these two schools will impact on our children's education, we cannot stress how important it is to have a key link between teachers, parents and pupils.</li> <li>We also feel that the split site proposal will have a negative on the high standard of education within Ysgol Maes Hyfryd – Estyn 2010 – "Outstanding".</li> <li>Changing our school name and uniform is a complete waste of tax payers money also.</li> <li>By including pupils from Ysgol Llandrillo to Maes Hyfryd until funding is secured, this would be preferable to the children's education rather than operating on a split site for an indefinite amount of time.</li> <li>Communities – By dragging out the process – will only divide these two communities which is happening alreadyleading to the next point as it is our understanding that a split site approach has been attempted between Llandegla and Bryneglwys leading to a serious break down between the two communities.</li> <li>Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has an excellent and long successful relationship with the Cylch Meithrin which operates next door (Community Hall). This allows a close link and a great level of understanding of what is required in regards of the children entering the school.</li> <li>We strongly advise you to consider both sets of pupils when you make your decision, as we feel that there will be an overall loss of standards through their education.</li> </ol>
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education	<ol> <li>I feel very strongly that the children of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd have nothing to gain from the initial proposal. It will have a negative effect on the currently 'outstanding' (Estyn 2010) standard of education at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, something that the school works so hard to maintain.</li> <li>Ysgol Llandrillo have more to gain from the proposal educationally than Maes Hyfryd pupils do. I feel the proposal will be at the educational loss of Maes Hyfryd pupils, and there will be a measurable overall loss of standards throughout their education. You must consider both sets of pupils when you make your decision.</li> <li>Having the headteacher situated on one site, allows a 'hands on approach' to teaching, the key link between the teachers, parents and the pupils. Splitting the headteacher between two sites will damage the children's education.</li> <li>Include the pupils from Ysgol Llandrillo to Maes Hyfryd in the current building until funding is secured. Whilst this is not an ideal option, Maes Hyfryd can accommodate the numbers and this would be preferable to the children's education than operating on a split site for an indefinite period of time.</li> <li>Whatever decision Denbighshire County Council decide to make it should be a clear and final decision on whether to keep Ysgol Llandrillo open or to shut it. It would remove uncertainty for the school. It is not good for Ysgol Llandrillo pupils or community relationships to have a school facing an uncertain future.</li> </ol>

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21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education;	<ol> <li>The Headteacher will be split between two sites which is not good because the quality of education will not be so effective.</li> <li>Will not benefit Cylch Meithrin and have a knock on effect at the school when they go into mainstream.</li> <li>The standard of education will be greatly affected.</li> <li>The children are all very settled and nobody is thinking about the children.</li> </ol>	
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education	After much consideration of the proposal, I have to think of the future of my children and I disagree completely with how the Council have dealt with the situation and I believe it will have a detrimental affect on our children's education because:  1. The headteacher being split between two sites — If I ever have a problem then I would want to see the head straight way. I would not want to make an appointment or see a deputy. The head is the link that holds the school together and I know how important this is, in my children's education.  2. The 2 communitieis have most definitely been affected by this proposal, and by dragging out the process it is not allowing us to deal with the problem.  3. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has had outstanding results (Estyn 2010) and I am extremely worried that the split site will have a negative effect on my children's education.  4. I can not see the sense in changing the school name from Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. I can not see the benefit in doing this and surley it is not just a waste of time and money. Maes Hyfryd is a unique name and have no connection with Cynwyd.  5. My youngest child is a member of the Cylch Meithin, which operates next door to the school, my son has progressed so much as he has close links with the school, he has developed confidence and will certainly help him starting full-time education.  6. Having spoken to parents that have the "split site" approach in there schools, they have not mentioned many positive reasons to back the proposal, not only do they mention that it has affected their child's education but also has had contributed to a serious break down between the local communities.  7. I do feel the children of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd have nothing to gain from the initial proposal and I strongly believe it will affect my children's education. It should be that both sets of pupils have consideration.  8. If the closure of Ysgol Llandrillo is inevitable, then I strongly feel it would be much better decision that the children joined Ysgol Maes Hyfryd have nothing to ga	

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21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education;	I disagree with the above proposal because:  1. Splitting a Headeacher between 2 sites from 2012 has not worked in other schools – causing friction between communities.  2. It would cause a drop in educational standards for Maes Hyfryd by not having a constant headteacher.  3. Estyn Report 2010 – states that leadership is scored a No1 resulting in a well run school with happy staff and pupils – I feel this would suffer.  4. There are no benefits for the pupils of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd as they are already benefiting from existing standards that are high and have good access to ICT facilities and different learning environments.  5. No definite timescale regarding how long the headship would be shared or if Maes Hyfryd would get funds for extension.  6. Changing the name of the school "stands for the area the school is in" will always be known as that.  7. I feel that Maes Hyfryd could house pupils from Llandrillo, without having the head travel between schools – Numbers have been above 90 in the past and merger would be possible on Cynwyd site – maintaining class sizes below 30, creating a settled environment for all the pupils from both communities.  8. I therefore agree with an area school on Cynwyd site – but not to have a period where there is a shared head between the two schools.	
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education	I feel my children's education will suffer if the merger goes ahead.  Ysgol Maes Hyfryd should stay open and the children from other areas should transfer here. Surely there is enough room to cater for them.	
21/07/11	Parent / Staff	Yes	No	Education	Community relationships – We feel that the quickest resolution possible would be best for both communities not by dragging out the process, we feel living in these communities you are not allowing use to deal with the problem and move on.  There are poor examples in the County on the split site approach like the village of Bryneglwys and Llandegla, leading to a serious breakdown between local communities. We also know of another area locally where this proposal has been unsuccessful.	
21/07/11	Parent / Staff	Yes	No	Education	<ul> <li>1 – The headteacher will be split between two sites. Having the headteacher situated on one site allows a "hands on approach" to teaching the key link between teacher, pupil and parents! I cannot stress enough the damage we feel this proposal will do to our children's education.</li> <li>2 – Standards of teaching. We feel that the split site proposal will have a negative effect on the currently outstanding (Estyn 2010) standard of education with Maes Hyfryd, something that the school works so hard to maintain.</li> <li>3 – We feel that there is no real benefit and a waste of tax payers money to lose Maes Hyfryd name which has no connection to the village but to an area.</li> </ul>	

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21/07/11	Staff	Yes	No	Education;	I was part of the team that was successfully inspected in 2010 and received high praise for staff working well together as a strong team. If the Headteacher had to be split over two sites this would have a big impact on the education of the children. I know from experience how the children react if the headteacher is not at the school, the children are delighted when she is at the school site providing leadership for them. After receiving a grade 1 in the inspection for her leadership why change the situation. This is Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and why change it.	
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education;	Having a headteacher split between two sites will have a detrimental effect on the children's education.	
					The split site proposal will have a negative effect on the currently outstanding standard at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and on the community.	
					No benefit to changing school name and at huge cost to taxpayers.	
					Ysgol Maes Hyfryd pupils will be at a loss educationally if this proposal goes ahead. They have nothing to gain.	
					Cylch Meithrin – has a long and successful relationship with the school and will also suffer.	
21/07/11	Parent	No	No	Education; Community;		
21/07/11	Staff	Yes	No	Education;	I feel that the change is going to have a big impact on the quality of education at Maes Hyfryd. I was part of the team that went through the Estyn inspection. As Estyn said – they praised the way that all the staff worked together as one under the leadership of the headteacher and her leadership of the team received a Grade 1. By being on one site, problems can be sorted out straight away – if we had to be on two sites problems could not be sorted out as effective or as quickly. Therefore why change something that clearly works! I am aware that this situation has not worked between Bryneglwys and Llandegla because both communities have been split.	
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education;	1 – The education of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd children will undoubtedly suffer if the headteacher is split between two sites.	
					2 – Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has children attending from Corwen, Glanrafon, Glyndyfrdwy and the village of Cynwyd because the education is so good and results are always very high.	
					3 – It has very good support for those less fortunate than ourselves with key workers on hand at all times.	
					4 – I feel very strongly that the proposed closure of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and merger with Llandrillo will undoubtedly cause a rift between two villages that have always had a good relationship with each other.	

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21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education; Community: Current relationships with the school;	The headteacher will be split between two sites – which in my opinion will only damage the education of the children at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and will most definitely confuse the younger pupils who in their early years come to rely and trust the head as well as the teacher and in my opinion building that element of trust is vital to a child's education. I also feel that by splitting the headteacher to two different sites would cause confusion and friction between parents from both sites i.e. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo and would therefore also lead to a community breakdown.  Standard of teaching would be affected as in my opinion Mrs Owain, headteacher of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is regarded by both fellow teachers, parents and most importantly pupils as one of the most outstanding, if not the best headteacher in our area and strongly feel that by splitting her to run two sites would have a major impact on the standard of teaching at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. You only have to look at the Estyn Report 2010 to see what an outstanding role that both Mrs Owain, headteacher and her staff at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd have on our children's education. But must make it clear that at this current time both headteachers and teachers at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd not only go beyond their roles of teacher s for their pupils they also go that extra mile for parents as well and are always there on hand for us as parents with any worries we may have with regards to our children and feel that by splitting the two sites, relationships will start to break down and also the vital line of communication between headteacher, teachers, pupils and parents.  Close relationship with the Cylch Meithrin:- As a parent who has already had a child attend Cylch Meithrin and then hopefully going on to Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, feel quite strongly about the close link that the Cylch Meithrin and then hopefully going on to Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, feel quite strongly about the close link that the Cylch has with the School, it gives our children an early understanding of school life	
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education;	<ul> <li>1 - Mrs Owain (Head) will be split between two sites. This is not ideal as the pupils will suffer dramatically - (1<sup>st</sup> hand experience as 4/5 years ago Mrs Owain took personal leave and my son's Welsh speaking floundered because of her absence). Mrs Owain has a hands on approach being in charge of Years 1 and 2, the most influential years of school life - My youngest is currently in her class. It is of paramount importance Mrs Owain remains in Cynwyd only.</li> <li>2 - Community Relationships - The Council need to give both the residents of Cynwyd and Llandrillo closure on this matter NOW. You are dragging out an issue which there is already a solution too - close Llandrillo and bring pupils to Cynwyd and be done.</li> </ul>	

3 — Standard of Teaching — Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has received "Outstanding" (Estyn 2010) — What are Llandrillo's credentials? On the math's — close Llandrillo, bring the children to Cymwyd, save money all round.  4 — Changing the name of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd — what is the point? Cymwyd is not mentioned at all, so it is only the Llandrillo children who need to buy a new jumper not all 17-odd children at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd currently. I have 3 children to buy for, this is not practical what so ever.  5 — Benefit to Ysgol Llandrillo pupils — Pure and simple fact, the children of Maes Hyfryd will suffer educationally / morally and socially if you allow the debacle of running Llandrillo alongside Maes Hyfryd. Close Llandrillo, the children will all benefit from the excellent achievements sustained by Maes Hyfryd over the years.  You know, if this was the private sector (I come from a banking background) the worst performer would be cut loose — no questions — I feel a loof repeating myself, but I will write it as many times as necessary — close Llandrillo — bring the children to Maes Hyfryd — all the pupils will have an education to be proud of.  6 — Close relationships with Cyclic Metithria — I am the Chairman of Cymyd Clych Metithria and without a shadow of a doubt, its 100% beneficial for the youngsters to see 1% hand what their school will be like eventually. Currently Mrs Owain allows the debryn 9-12 education, they are lauded unch then go straight through to Cyclo — If Mrs Govain is removed this most certainly will cease to be an arrangement. Corven allows 2 ½ hours for their nursery pupils which is inconvenient to parents.  7 — Poor examples elsewhere in the County — It is our understanding that a 'split site' approach has been attempted between the villages of Llandegila and Bryneglwys, leading to a serious break down between the local communities. We also know of another are as locally where the opposed has been unsuccessful.  8 — There is nothing to gain for Ysgol Maes Hyfryd pupils. I believe this is the most impor	Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments	
				proposal?		credentials? Do the maths – close Llandrillo, bring the children to Cynwyd, save money all round.  4 – Changing the name of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd – what is the point? Cynwyd is not mentioned at all, so it is only the Llandrillo children who need to buy a new jumper not all 70-odd children at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd currently. I have 3 childrent o buy for, this is not practical what so ever.  5 – Benefit to Ysgol Llandrillo pupils – Pure and simple fact, the children of Maes Hyfryd will suffer educationally / morally and socially if you allow the debacle of running Llandrillo alongside Maes Hyfryd. Close Llandrillo, the children will all benefit from the excellent achievements sustained by Maes Hyfryd over the years.  You know, if this was the private sector (I come from a banking background) the worst performer would be cut loose – no questions – I feel a fool repeating myself, but I will write it as many times as necessary – close Llandrillo – bring the children to Maes Hyfryd – all the pupils will have an education to be proud of.  6 – Close relationships with Cylch Meithrin – I am the Chairman of Cynwyd Clych Meithrin and without a shadow of a doubt, its 100% beneficial for the youngsters to see 1st hand what their school will be like eventually. Currently Mrs Owain allows the derbyn 9-12 education, they area allowed lunch then go straight through to Cylch – If Mrs Owain is removed this most certainly will cease to be an arrangement. Corwen allows 2 ¼ hours for their nursery pupils which is inconvenient to parents.  7 – Poor examples elsewhere in the County – It is our understanding that a 'split site' approach has been attempted between the villages of Llandegla and Bryneglwys, leading to a serious break down between the local communities. We also know of another area locally where this proposal has been unsuccessful.  8 – There is nothing to gain for Ysgol Maes Hyfryd pupils. I believe this is the most important point of all – our children will be put to huge disadvantage whatever the decision you decide. I want wha	

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21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No No	Education;	Whatever decision Denbighshire County Council decide to make it should be a clear and final decision on whether to keep Llandrillo open or to close it. I feel it would remove uncertainty for the school. It is not good for Llandrillo pupils or community relationships at large for a school to face an undecided future.  After consultation within the Cynwyd community and the parents of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd we have collectively decided not to support this proposal for the reasons outlined below:  1 – The Headteacher (Mrs Owain) will be split between two sites. Having a headteacher situated on one site allows a hands on approach to teaching. The key link between the teachers, parents and pupils which was a positive point for our Estyn 2010 report. I feel that splitting a head between sites will allow a negative effect on my children's education.  2 – Community relationships. I feel that the quickest resolution possible would be best for both communities. We need to deal with this and move on.  3 – Standard of Teaching. The split site proposals will have a negative effect on the currently 'Outstanding' Estyn 2010 standards of education within Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.  4 – Changing the name of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. There will be no real benefit to changing the name of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. It would be a waste of tax payers money. The name Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has no connection to the village of Cynwyd but to the area.  5 – Benefits to Ysgol Llandrillo pupils. The pupils of Ysgol Llandrillo have so much more to gain from the current proposal educationally than Maes Hyfryd pupils do. We feel that the proposal will be at the educational loss of Maes Hyfryd.  6 – Poor examples elsewhere in the County. I understand that a 'split site' approach has been attempted between the village of Llandegla and Bryneglwys, leading to a serious breakdown between the local communities.  7 – Nothing to gain for Ysgol Maes Hyfryd pupils. The children of Ysgol Maes hyfryd have nothing to gain from the initial proposal, there will be a real and and measurable

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21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education;	It is a difficult time in all sectors which are government funded, however I feel that the proposal of an area school, following an unclear period of what sounds like 'federation' will be disruptive to my children's quality of education at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. It has been suggested at a meeting between parents and DCC at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd on 14/07/11 that it may be possible to leave things as they are, complete the new build at Cynwyd and then close Llandrillo. Thus Ysgol Maes Hyfryd would at that point become the area school. This is a preferable option. I feel the new buil; must happen first as going into 2012/13, the then years 5+6 will be substantial and may need to be taught as two separate groups, rather than one which is the current practise. I have to question what you are doing in the region, as went into it on the assumption that DCC want to reduce costs, update buildings, deal with the issue of surplus places and address the problem of headteacher recruitment. With other schools in the region forming federations, I fail to see how the majority of the original goals have been met.  Ysgol Maes Hyfryd has had an excellent Estyn report and at the meeting at the school in early July with DCC it was stated that the quality of education was the most important aspect. As it stands this will not be achieved by your current proposal.	
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education; Community;	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
22/07/11	Parent	No	No	Education		

Date of Received Fermissi to publis response	h agree	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments	
26/07/11 Staff Yes	No	Education	l agree with the recommendation of an area school in one sites because that will secure education of a high quality for pupils and will safeguard and develop Welsh education in the area.  I completely disagree with the recommendation of establishing this area school on two sites under the leadership of one headteacher. This decision will have a major negative impact on the education of pupils at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. According to the Estyn report 22.03.2010 "The positive leadership of the headteacher is purposeful and intelligent. Leading through example by igniting the enthusiasm of staff and pupils and this has a positive impact on the wrk of the school and the relationship between the school and the community. There is a feeling of a strong team within the school."  In my opinion sharing the headteachers time between the two sites would lead to a deterioration in the exceptional standards found here at present. This would be a step back in the history of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and would also mean that the standards of education for children would deteriorate.  I would recommend that the way forward would be to keep the status quo until the extension is completed to ensure the success of the area school and to sustain high educational standards that already exist in Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.  Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is an especially happy school with a constructive environment, pleasant and suited to the children's work. There is evidence of this time after time from daily visitors. The inspectors in their recent inspection also stated that there was a "caring, warm and homely ethos and pupils felt they were appreciated and supported" in the school.  Are you as Education Officers / Councillors willing to gamble these things through sharing a headteacher in two!!  A ship without a captain will get lost quite quickly.  What evidence do you have that creating an area school on two sites would "provide a better education provision for children?" Everyone knows about the complete mess that exists in Ysgol Dyffryn lal. Why create the s	

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27/07/11	Staff	Yes	No	Education	I agree with the suggestion of an area school in the Edeyrnion area on the Maes Hyfryd site. However I am very concerned that the area school would be operating on two sites for an undefined period, therefore I disagree with this.  I am a member of staff that was part of a team that received one of the best inspection reports in the whole of Denbighshire. As you know, we received five grade 1's out of seven questions, with grade 2's in the other questions. We secured these grades because we all work together as a team.  I strongly believe that educating the children on two sites would impact on the quality of education for the children. The welfare of the children and the morale of all the staff are the reasons for this. Too many changes (educating on two sites for an undefined period, and then moving everyone to the site in Cynwyd) would hold back the education of a high percentage of the children because of the need to adapt, in particular for those with needs. Children do not adapt overnight! I feel that one firm change, which would be opening on one site would provide consistency and a feeling of belonging for the children which is important for their welfare.  I feel it would be a massive challenge for one headteacher and the staff to keep the happy ethos that exists in the two schools at this time knowing that a clear rift has developed between both communities since the consultation started.  I am aware of the negative effect a similar situation has had on the communities of Llandegla and Bryneglwys.
31/07/11	Parent / Governor	Yes	No	Education; Community;	I don't support the closure of any school. Rural schools don't just provide an education, often they are the central heartbeat of the village. Whatever decision Denbighshire County Council decides to make it should be a clear and final decision whether to keep Ysgol Llandrillo open or to close it. It is not good for the pupils or the community at large for a school to face an uncertain future. After consultation within the Cynwyd community and the parents of Maes Hyfryd, we have collectively decided not to support this proposal for the reasons outlined below:  Having the head teacher split between two sites whilst awaiting the completion of the extension to Ysgol Maes Hyfryd (possibly up to 2 years) will have a detrimental effect on our children's education. With the head teacher situated on one site allows a 'hands on approach' to teaching, the key link between the teachers, parents and pupils.  We feel the split site proposal will have a negative effect on the current outstanding standards of education at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. The school received 5 Grade 1's and 2 Grade 2's in the Estyn inspection in January 2010, and was described as a 'good school with a number of outstanding features'.  It is our understanding that a split site approach has been attempted in the villages of Llandegla and Bryneglwys, leading to a serious breakdown between the communities. We also know of another area locally where this proposal has been unsuccessful.  We feel that there is no real benefit and a waste of taxpayers' money to lose the name of the school, which has no connection with the village of Cynwyd but to an area.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments	
					<ul> <li>We feel that the children of Ysgol Maes Hyfryd have nothing to gain from the initial proposal, and that there will be a real and measurable overall loss of standards throughout their education. We ask you to consider both sets of pupils when you make your decision.</li> <li>There should be a fair representation on the board of Governors.</li> </ul>	
01/08/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education	I disagree with closing any school. These are my reasons:- The headteacher will be split between two sites which is not good because she's the key link between the teachers, parents and the pupils. I cannot stress enough the damage I feel splitting a head between two sites will have on my children's education. We had an outstanding Estyn report in 2010 and I want this to carry on. It is my understanding that a split site approach has been attempted in Denbighshire and these have been unsuccessful. Is there a need to change the name of the school? I feel there is no benefit and a waste of tax payers money. We need the quickest resolution for both communities. By dragging our the process its very unfair on everyone.	
01/08/11	Parent	No	No	Education		
01/08/11	Staff	Yes	No	Education	I agree with the idea of an area school – there are only positive virtues to the plan. However the idea of removing the headteacher from Ysgol Maes Hyfryd is completely foolish and detrimental to the quality of education for pupils at the school. You should not consider raising the standard of education for children of Ysgol Llandrillo to the detriment of children at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd. I don't know of any successful example of federating in Denbighshire, in fact the complete opposite.	
01/08/11	Staff	No	No	Education	I agree with the recommendation of an area school in the Edeyrnion area on the Ysgol Maes Hyfryd site but am concerned that this school would operate on two sites for a period. We received a good inspection at Ysgol Maes Hyfryd recently because we all work well together as a team in the school. I therefore believe strongly that educating the children on two sites would have a negative impact on the quality of education for the children.  In addition a clear rift has developed between the two communities since this consultation started and I'm aware of the negative impact a similar situation has had on Llandegla and Bryneglwys. As a result I feel educating the children on two sites for an unspecified period of time would impact on the pleasant ethos of both schools at present and would be transformed completely because the children would have to adapt to a number of small changes instead of one certain change.	
					Every child has needs, some more than others and as a teacher it is my job to ensure that the welfare of the child comes	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
					first. Too many changes over a long period of time would hold back the education of some children because of the need to adapt to the situation.  I feel that having one change and opening a new school on one site would give more consistency and less work to adapt to the constant changes for children.

## Appendix 6 - Formal Consultation - Responses to the initial impact assessments (Ysgol Maes Hyfryd) Proposal 1: An area school for Cynwyd and Llandrillo

Personal information has been redacted from this document.

Responses from those who did not give the authority permission to publish their responses have also been redacted. All Cabinet Members were presented with the full document in August 2011.

### **Welsh Language Impact Assessment**

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
29/07/11	Parent	Yes	Positive	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Positive	Having moved to Wales to ensure all my children received a Welsh education, I am sure that a Welsh area school will benefit many in the area, however please don't lose sight of the fact
				Educational provision / standards	Positive	that English is equally important if not more so. It's important that even though the schools first language will be Welsh, a focused an relevant approach is maintained for the English
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Neutral	Language.
				Pre / After school activities	Positive	
				Use of Welsh within communities	Positive	
				Other		

## **Community Impact Assessment**

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
29/07/11	Parent	Yes	Positive	Pupils	Positive	To closing of the village school will always be very upsetting for any community for some time, Llandrillo will feel both angry and aggrieved. It's important that if these proposals go
				Parents and families	Positive	ahead that they are welcomed with the love and affection expected and that families are consulted at every opportunity.
				Community activities	Positive (Negative for Llandrilo)	Suggestions to reduce impact  The authority must try and maintain some hand of stability for the children involved. New
			Community facilities	Positive (Negative for Llandrilo)	members of staff are a complete no, no and I can not stress enough the negative effect this will have on the children within the school.  My biggest fear is that you will collectively not listen to the worried of the parents involved and	
				Community (general)	Positive (Negative for Llandrilo)	will steam roller ahead with your plans. A fundamental mistake.

Appendix 7

MODERNISING

. 1 AUG 2011

**EDUCATION** 

### Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

Response to the FORMAL Consultation Document: Modernising Education – Review of Primary School Provision in the Edeyrnion (Dee Valley West) A rea

The Governors of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy would like to raise the following points in objection to the formal proposal to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.

The document is split into three sections:

Section 1 - General Topics Pages 1 to 4

Section 2 - The Educational Argument in response to notes from Karen Evans
Pages 5 to 8

Section 3 – Appendix One – a snapshot of two successful year groups Page 9

### 1. General Topics

### A. Conflict of Interest

The Impact Assessment has been carried out by the same team proposing closure of the school. There is clearly a major conflict of interest and failure of process.

### **B.** Community Impact

Following criticism of the initial impact assessment, a promised revised version has yet to be published. Therefore these comments relate to the first published document.

The community impact will be severe as Denbighshire acknowledges, and is unlikely to be mitigated by measures outlined in the consultation document to minimise this impact, as Denbighshire's Community Impact Assessment is superficial, lacking robust and costed proposals.

Primarily, it cites the village hall as being the main alternative provision for an informal meeting place for parents and other members of the community. In doing so, it completely neglects to appreciate that most activities in the Village Hall are "outreach" from the school or focused around the school community. The loss of the school deprives the Village Hall of many of its events as the focus will shift to Llangollen.

Nursery education in a deprived community will cease. Denbighshire County Council has no secure and robust plans for alternative provision.

Access to after-school provision is a proposed advantage of the pupils transferring to a larger school. Access to this facility would be outside of Denbighshire's School Transport Policy and thus be inaccessible to many parents lacking a car or money for taxis. There is no suitable bus service for returning from after school activities.

### C. Equity of Process and Language Issues

Other than surplus places, the general arguments for closing Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy (head teacher issues, advantages of a bigger school, maintenance costs) apply to 3 other schools in the review, yet only one has been selected for closure. The proposed educational advantages to pupils of closing Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy (Consultation Document, June 2011, page 9) apply to all of the small schools in the area, albeit with a larger financial saving with Glyndyfrdwy – what therefore is the argument for closing just a single school?

The disadvantages of closing Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy are not robustly assessed.

The advantages of federating Ysgol Caer Drewyn with Ysgol Carrog are not robustly assessed.

Denbighshire's preference to maintain Ysgol Carrog's English provision is illogical when the largest English language school in the area (Corwen) is 2.5 miles from Carrog and the majority of Carrog's pupils travel past it to get to Carrog.

The closure of this Welsh Language School leaves no Welsh educational provision between Llangollen and Cynwyd, a distance of some 14 miles. It is unlikely that Ysgol Carrog will provide a Welsh Language education; it has declined to do so in the past and Denbighshire's education team is aware that many parents travel to Carrog to avoid Welsh language education.

We believe that there is no evidence to suggest that a large area school will "increase Welsh Medium/Bi-lingual provision" as previously claimed by the Council.

### **D. Financial Savings?**

Only the direct costs have been assessed. Indirect or "hidden costs" have not, e.g. economic and social costs to the community. There will a further cost due to the additional impact on parents who wish their children to access out of school activities in Llangollen but who will have to provide transport.

At no time have detailed costed options been provided. The Council states this is not a financial decision although many comments and suggestions point to it being the major factor. Cost comparisons should be provided for the Cabinet members prior to any final decision and should include the increased level of transport required to bus 200+ children around the area, the building and maintenance costs of the proposed extensions/new build to Caer Drewyn and Gwernant and any costs of retaining and maintaining existing school buildings and converting them to "community centres" as has been suggested. This development may come from another funding stream but in times of increased pressure on funds it is sensible and honest to look at all costs both obvious and hidden.

Can the Council accept the future regeneration costs associated with another declining community in the County?

### E. Provision in Llangollen

We welcome the fact that children from Glyndyfrdwy will be able to go to school in Llangollen should Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy close.

However we believe the site at Gwernant lacks the required capacity to accommodate the children now and in the future.

This view is supported by the Governors of Ysgol Gwernant

- If the numbers increase in Llangollen as they are due to in Glyndyfrdwy there will
   NOT be room for all the children without considerable extension
- Funding for any proposed extension is not readily available.
- Access to the Llangollen site is by a road which narrows to a single file entry for a
  considerable length, the congestion on which will only be aggravated by an
  increased number of cars/taxis
- Access to the site is up a hill which has in the past been shut due to snow and ice. In such circumstances children will be unable to attend school
- We are concerned by the recent Estyn report of Gwernant's sister school which is not up to standard. This is a concern on such a shared site.

### F. Funding

In our response to the informal consultation phase and following a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010 with Hywyn Williams and Hedd Vaughan Evans the Governing Body raised the following point:

"We question the perceived reliance on funding through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, which has recently been severely axed in England. As mentioned at the meeting with the October spending review and potential change of government next May, funding streams are uncertain. Any proposal involving future new build should consider a range of funding options with the Council borrowing money as a last resort. The county residents do not want to see Council Tax payments increasing to fund interest payments in the future".

Subsequently the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools funding has been severely curtailed in Wales with only 66 of the existing proposals to be funded (ref TES Cymru dated 22.07.11). Closing Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy will save relatively little and no funding will be readily available to expand Ysgol Gwernant. Can the council promise our children will not end up in portacabins?

### G. Existing school site

In our response to the informal consultation phase and following a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010 with Hywyn Williams and Hedd Vaughan Evans the Governing Body questioned the description of the existing school sites which suggested that their was no potential for expansion in Glyndyfrdwy (Page 30 - the third bullet point in each box).

Ysgol Caer Drewyn

"Largest school site within the area - significant potential for expansion"

Ysgol Maes Hyfryd

"Some potential for expansion based on school site"

Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, Ysgol Llandrillo

"Location unsuitable for further expansion"

Ysgol Bro Elwern

"Some potential for expansion based on school site"

Ysgol Carrog

"No potential for expansion on current school site"

We believe that no visit was made to Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy with a view to assessing the site for expansion. The existing grounds are considerably larger than Ysgol Carrog and land adjacent owned by the Chapel and a local farmer could be made available for expansion.

### H. Transport issues in adverse weather

The provision of village schools means that despite bad weather conditions many children can still get into school by walking or by shared suitable transport. This is unlikely to be the case if children have to travel to Llangollen, Cynwyd, Corwen or elsewhere.

### I. Pupil Numbers

We understand and appreciate the explained difficulties in projecting **long term** future pupil numbers but have provided information to show the increased pupil numbers expected in Glyndyfrdwy are double that of the Counties estimate.

Has any estimate been made of possible increased pressure on Ysgol Gwernant due to increased housing and population in and around Llangollen?

### J. Analysis of where parents currently send their children

We believe that the level of local attendance at all the schools in the review i.e. families that live in a village locality and send their children to the village school should be highlighted to Cabinet members. Closing a school will have an increased adverse effect on villages like Glyndyfrdwy where most or all children in the school come from the village and surrounding locality in which the school has many links and a high profile. This adverse effect will have long term hidden costs.

It should be noted that despite rumours and lack of robust and clear communication from the County, Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy has lost no pupils and all parents and prospective parents remain committed to keeping the school open

### **K. Cabinet Members**

We question the integrity and legality of the Cabinet voting process when it is acknowledged that three of the 8 cabinet members represent areas in which schools under discussion are located. There is a major conflict of interest for the Lead member for Education who represents Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch. We believe this member abstained from voting on the federation option related to Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch but did vote to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy. This could be seen as using the closure of another school to save the one in his own locality.

### **SECTION 2 - RESPONSE TO THE EDUCATIONAL ARGUMENT**

In the last open meeting held in Glyndyfrdwy village hall Hywyn Williams stated that any credible response needed to address the educational argument for the proposed closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy. Below are extracts taken directly from notes by Karen Evans sent by Hedd Vaughan Evans on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Karen's notes are in black with our response in blue

We wish to highlight that the notes are very general and provide no concrete evidence or logical argument for the closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.

A recognised interview technique is for a successful candidate to provide evidence of previous experience in order to show the ability to do the job in the future. Therefore in Appendix One we provide a snapshot of two classes who have gone on to a mix of higher education and careers, evidence that Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy produces well rounded individuals capable or succeeding in life.

### Karen Evans - Consultation Notes

Denbighshire is committed to securing effective foundation for raising standards through:

- provision of high quality education; already provided at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy as per Estyn Inspection and current grading predictions
- provision of high quality leadership and management; our acting head is providing excellent leadership under the circumstances ref Ann Jones, School Improvement Officer
- provision and analysis of relevant data to support self evaluation; already provided and used
- facilitation of cross-phase co-operation, information transfer and partnership; Glyndyfrdwy is already working with neighbouring cluster schools
- provision of highly trained teaching staff; GB minutes provide evidence of the numerous training courses attended by staff

Whilst Denbighshire is committed to the above and despite the importance and financial priority given to education, sustaining school buildings and other educational resources is a substantial challenge. There are increasing demands on staff, the need to narrow the attainment gap and reduce variation and the importance of leadership at all levels continues to present unavoidable challenge.

Overall education standards within the Edeyrnion area are good with the majority of the schools receiving positive Estyn inspections in recent years.

Denbighshire's Modernising Education Policy Framework clearly states that any change to school organisation must be able to deliver equal or improved educational standards. We believe the proposal does not do this due to points raised in section one

Within this context there are key educational drivers which must be considered if standards are to be maintained, safeguarded and developed further:

### **Workload Agreement**

The remodelling of the school workforce as a result of the implementation of the Teachers' Workload Agreement has impacted on the management and organisation of schools. Remodelling the workforce has brought an increase in the number and range of adults in school and has meant that leaders manage more people. For many schools, this has meant focusing teachers' time on teaching and learning and using suitably qualified professionals from outside to take on other roles. The elements of the Workload Agreement seek to enable leaders to lead, provide teachers with time for preparation and assessment, to focus teachers' energies and expertise on teaching and learning by directing a number of tasks to support staff.

Whilst this provides opportunities to develop a structure for support staff within school undertaking learning and classroom support, administration and clerical duties there is evidence that the initiatives are of benefit for teachers but has created more pressures for headteachers given that funding for implementation has been inadequate This must also be considered in the

context of the delivery of the National Curriculum. Headteachers fulfil a significant management function whilst, in small schools in particular, accomplishing a considerable teaching commitment. The workload agreement has to date caused <u>no problems</u> in Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and can therefore not be used as a reason for closure. This is therefore not a valid argument to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

### The Foundation Phase

The implementation of the Foundation P hase with the greater emphasis upon learning by doing and structured play for 3 to 7 year old pupils requires not only the adoption of a new curricular approach but also will have an impact upon the need to provide adequate facilities in terms of school buildings and premises. The increasing demand for educational facilities appropriate for current learning practices.

At no time has Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy been deemed inadequate for the delivery of the Foundation Phase. It has substantial grounds and a fenced outdoor learning area. It also uses a local woodland and Denbighshire Countryside Services site for local walks and visits as well as having benefited from two 6-week Forest School programmes. This is therefore not a valid argument to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

### **Accessibility Policies**

The LA has a responsibility to adopt and implement accessibility policies in order to comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act* such that learners with disabilities have access to facilities. Again, not a problem to date at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy. An accessibility audit has been done and all reasonable changes made. Ramps are available on loan from the village hall and past Estyn Inspections have been satisfied with arrangements. This is therefore not a valid argument to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

### **Headteacher Recruitment**

Whilst the Welsh Government have reinstated the NPQH programme there still remains a recruitment issue which is a local, regional and national issue.

Headteacher recruitment is recognised as a national issue. In Denbighshire we are seeing a reduction in the numbers of suitable senior teachers and deputy headteachers applying for Headship. The problem is greater when seeking headteachers for smaller schools, in particular smaller Welsh Medium schools.

Headteachers of smaller schools often have to combine leadership and management responsibilities with a large teaching commitment which can make it harder to recruit headteachers. In Welsh medium sector this problem is exacerbated by having a smaller pool of Welsh speaking teachers to draw from.

A number of schools within the area have experienced difficulty recruiting permanent headteachers in recent years; a situation that is not expected to improve. Being unable to recruit a permanent headteacher can have a significant impact upon a school, particularly in terms of educational achievement.

Denbighshire is committed to developing future headteachers through the 'Leadership and Development Programme', however we recognise the fact that schools may be forced to operate with fewer headteachers in the future. Evidence of this is the fact that within this area three of our schools currently have Acting Headteachers in post.

Have these 3 acting heads been approached to undertake Denbighshire's 'Leadership and Development Programme'? It also must be acknowledged that Glyndyfrdwy had a headteacher in Mr Gethin Jones who was then offered headship at Ysgol Tremeirchion. At this time the County told the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors not to advertise for a new head. Under such pressure and with potential closure suggested in the press is it any wonder it is hard to recruit? This is therefore not a valid argument to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

### National Agenda of increased delegation and autonomy for individual schools

The current context is one which will require schools to take on board more responsibility for all issues relating to leadership and management in order to meet the demands of this agenda schools will be expected to work collaboratively and flexibly. Is there any evidence to suggest Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is not able to do this?

### Key Challenges in the smaller school setting:

- Implementation of the Workforce Agreement; not currently a problem as stated above
- The payment of teaching and learning allowances within the context of the pay and conditions document, this can be a challenge for smaller schools; Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy always returns within budget
- Ensuring that staff have the appropriate range of specialism's and expertise; Staff regularly attend training and implement what has been learnt
- Ensuring that pupils have appropriate opportunities to socially interact on wider and more
  diverse groups; The children at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy are part of the wider village
  community and regularly interact with all age groups within the village and with other
  schools through joint projects and visits. When they move up to secondary school they
  join siblings and older children who they have known for years and who "look out" for
  them as has happened for years.

Estyn has suggested that the way forward in terms of addressing these challenges will include the need to:

- re-think staffing structures in terms of fitness for purpose; what does this exactly mean? The County needs to provide evidence that Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy's staffing structure is not fit for purpose.
- manage diverse staff roles to support pupil achievement; the current curriculum at Ysgol
   Glyndyfrdwy provides rich learning opportunities with links to the Urdd, church, village carnival plus extra music provision and art on top of the core curriculum subjects
- adopt structures across schools in order to establish effective leadership and management which are not sustainable as individual units in the traditional sense. Again not an argument to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy when it could be federated to reach this stated outcome. Where is the evidence for federation not being a realistic option?

### Positives of a larger school setting:

When Hywyn Williams was asked for researched evidence for some of these statements which he made at the last open meeting he was forced to admit there isn't any.

- Sharing of staff expertise will be reflected in improved planning and preparation of schemes of work, quality of provision and monitoring of subjects; this can be done and is done via the cluster of schools
- Greater opportunities for learning with pupils of the same age; this can be done via the cluster of schools.
- Improved opportunities for participating in social, cultural and sporting activities with peers;
   this is done via the cluster of schools e.g. cross country events, Urdd, athletics matches etc (see GB minutes for evidence). The added benefit of a small school is that everyone gets to participate
- Increased opportunities to access links with the wider community; having provide the county with the list of linked community events already in existence we challenge the County to identity where this could be improved

### Staff

• Improved professional development and increased opportunity for leadership for teachers; how? It is the role of the County to provide professional development whatever the school size. If the overall number of schools reduces surely the opportunities for leadership reduce too?

Improved teacher morale due to reduction of workload; Has the County done any formal evaluation of the morale of staff in the small schools in question compared to say staff in some of the problem ridden large schools in North Denbighshire? Without evidence how can these statements cannot be used as an argument close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

- there is no evidence provide to support this statement in the case of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
- More consultation, shared decision making and teamwork; this can be done and is done via the cluster of schools and could be done after federation
- Sharing of experience and expertise; this can be done and is done via the cluster of schools and could be done after federation
- Models of good practice to improve teaching and learning and inclusion; this can be done and is done via the cluster of schools and could be done after federation

### For the heads

- Improved work-life balance; there is no evidence to suggest this a is a particular issue with small schools
- Less sense of isolation increased support and joint decision making; there is no
  evidence provide to support this statement in the case of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
- Less stress; there is no evidence provide to support this statement in the case of Ysgol
   Glyndyfrdwy
- Enhanced professional stimulation and enjoyment; there is no evidence provide to support this statement in the case of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
- Saving on planning and administrative time; there is no evidence provide to support this statement in the case of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

### For the school:

- Cost effectiveness economies of scale; agree this could be the case but without detailed costings to compare cannot be used as an argument to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
- A greater base of expertise and knowledge to draw upon for school development; this can be done and is done via the cluster of schools
- Different perspectives on difficult issues promote better decision-making; this can be done and is done via the cluster of schools
- More creative and collaborative leadership; this can be done and is done via the cluster of schools
- Immediate head teacher cover in case of illness or absence; this is covered now by existing and supply teachers and has not been a problem in the past
- Retaining experienced head teachers whilst attracting more new head teachers; the recent loss of head teachers is due to retirement not lack of interest. There is a shortage of heads throughout Wales regardless of school size so this is not a valid argument to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
- Developing individuals whilst sustaining continuity of leadership; size of school doesn't create this so this is not a valid argument to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

# Year 6 leaving in 2003

Name	Secondary	Currently	Future Aspiration
	School	(where known)	(where known)
	Ysgol Dinas Bran	Ysgol Dinas Bran   Spent a year travelling and wool wrapping and will be going to Trinity	Welsh language television
		college Carmarthen in September to study Drama	presenter
	Ysgol Dinas Bran	About to start second Year BA in History at Swansea University	Diplomatic Service
	Ysgol Dinas Bran   Small Animal C	Small Animal Care at Llysfasi	Veterinary Assistant
	Ysgol y Berwyn	NVQ in Care Work	Care Worker
	Ysgol y Berwyn	NOT KNOWN	NOT KNOWN
	Ysgol Dinas Bran	Child Development at Yale College	NOT KNOWN
1	Ysgol Dinas Bran	About to start second Year BSc Honours degree in Physiotherapy at	Qualified Physiotherapist
		Manchester Metropolitan University	

# Year 6 leaving in 2002

Z Z	Name	Secondary School	Currently	Future Aspiration
		Ysgol Dinas Bran	About to start second year of BSc in Countryside Management at Harper	Taking over family farm
J		Ysgol Dinas Bran	Electrical and Mechanical Engineering course at Yale College successfully completed	Electrical and Mechanical Engineer
		Ysgol Dinas Bran	Qualified plasterer following completion of course at Yale College, now working with local builder	Establishing own business
		Ysgol Dinas Bran	Studying nursing degree in Chester	Qualified Nurse
		Ysgol y Berwyn	About to start third year of Environmental Earth Sciences BSc degree at University of Wales Aberystwyth	Working in the environmental field
		Ysgol y Berwyn	About to start third year of Sports Sciences BSc degree at University of Wales Aberystwyth	UNKNOWN
		Ysgol Dinas Bran	About to start third year of Pure Maths BSc degree at University of Wales Aberystwyth	Secondary Maths teacher
		Ysgol y Berwyn	About to start second Year BSc Honours degree in Sports Science at Chester University	PE Teacher
ļ				

Signed on behalf of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy Board of Governors:

Mrs Janet Gaskell, Chair

Dr Neil McAndrew, Vice Chair

27<sup>th</sup> July 2011

## Appendix 8: Formal Consultation Responses Proposal 2: To Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference

Personal information has been redacted from this document.

Responses from those who did not give the authority permission to publish their responses have also been redacted. All Cabinet Members were presented with the full document in August 2011.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
23/05/11	Parent	Not given	No		

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
13/06/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education; Community: Children	It has been proven that the council will save no money by closing the school and transporting them to Llangollen so why continue?  Children's safety will be put at risk. The community will suffer. Children will suffer.  The population of Glyndyfrdwy is on the increase – fact!  Children will lose their identity and become another number in a classroom. Why can't Glyndyfrdwy federate with Llangollen?  English schools are getting priority over Welsh schools in Wales. This is not right and the council should acknowledge this and respond.  Parental choice is being taken away from us.  Children from the village will attend different schools and be strangers to one another.  I don't think DCC has any intention of sending our children to Llangollen.  The views and human rights of people in rural locations are being ignored.
15/06/11	Parent	Not given	No	-	
17/06/11	Governors of Ysgol Carrog	Yes	No	Community;	If Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy closes the parents should have a choice — a bilingual small village school or a town Welsh Medium school. The bilingual village school in Carrog is only 2 miles away and would provide a "similar" education to the one in Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy i.e mixed age classes, Welsh speaking staff, a village environment and close links to the community. If children from Glyndyfrdwy transferred to Carrog this would strengthen Carrog's appeal to change the category of the school. Glyndyfrdwy parents need to know that there is a welcome for their children in Carrog if Glyndyfrdwy closes.
21/06/11	Parent	Yes	No	Community; Language of School;	It has a big impact on the community. It will destroy it eventually. Ti a Fi will have to stop as the cost of hiring the village hall would be £70 a week as the group of 21 kids meet twice a week. The village hall is not adapted for children, its not a safe environment and it next to the bust A5 road. The pre school children will not have an early education due to transport not all families have cars or even afford to drive or catch a bus every day. If you don't live in a village you don't understand how much closing our school will effect everyone from toddlers to the elderly.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
21/06/11	Ex-pupil	Not given	No		
21/06/11	Parent	Not given	No	-	

Data of	Doogless	Dormicsiss	Dover	Decision	Comments
Date of Response	Received from	Permission to publish	Do you agree	Decision based on the	Comments
(received)		response?	with the	impact on?	
,		•	proposal?	•	
24/06/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education; Community:	Having read the consultation document I felt it does not fully explain the true impact closing the school will have on the community; clearly the people who have put together this proposal seem to think a slightly dilapidated village hall is a worthy replacement for a lovely little school. When the last formal meeting was held parents were assured that the decisions made were nothing to do with pupil numbers, but clearly this is the biggest argument for closing the school. And the figure quoted of £81,040 for repairs to the school I find inflated and would like to see the surveyors report on this.  I am extremely concerned of the impact on the village, were the school to close, and get the feeling the Council are being a blasé on the matter. House prices would be affected and the population in the village would become older; what young family would buy a house in a village with no school? I believe it's every child's right to walk to school, not ferried around in a minibus.  I attended Glyndyfrdwy school as a child and moved back to the in 2008 and the main reason for this was so my son could have the idyllic childhood and high level of education I had.  I attended Glyndyfrdwy school as a child and moved back to the in 2008 and the main reason for this was so my son could have the idyllic childhood and high level of education I had.  I attended Glyndyfrdwy school as a child and moved back to the in 2008 and the main reason for this was so my son could have the idyllic childhood and high level of education I had.  I attended Glyndyfrdwy school as a child and moved back to the in 2008 and the main reason for this was so my son could have the idyllic childhood and high level of education I had.  I attended Glyndyfrdwy school as a child and moved back to the in 2008 and the main reason for this was so my son could have the idyllic childhood and high level of education I had.  I attended Glyndyfrdwy school as a child and moved back to the in 2008 and the main reason for this was so my son could have the idyllic chil
05/07/11	Community	No	No	Impact on Welsh Language	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
07/07/11	Community	Yes	No	Small children travelling & environment	I do not believe that Denbighshire County Council will save money by transporting Glyndyfrdwy village children the 6 miles to Ysgol Y Gwernant every day. Because there are now 18 babies and toddlers in the village, the pupil numbers are going to double over the next couple of years. So providing taxis and/or minibuses for these children will be very expensive and not E.C.O. friendly. Just because our children have a Victorian school building does not mean they don't receive a 21 <sup>st</sup> Century education. We have every confidence in the acting Headmistress and her staff.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
07/07/11	Parent	Not given	No		
18/07/11	Corwen Community Council	Yes	No	Education; Community;	Projected pupil numbers have not been taken into account.  Longer journey to school results in earlier start for pupils – health and safety issues, especially during the winter months.  Funding to implement proposals has been delayed until July – if no funding is received what happens next?  Pupils currently speak Welsh on the yard at Glyndyfrdwy school – this will not happen in Llangollen, resulting in the loss of the Welsh language.
19/07/11	Other	No	No	Education;	
19/07/11	Community	Yes	No	Community;	I am writing on behalf of the members of 'Sefydliad y Merched Glyndyfrdwy'. We disagree with the proposal to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy.
19/07/11	Community	Yes	No	Community;	My concern is that at present the Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy budget pays for the maintenance of the village sport/football field and the village children's play area. What will happen if this proposal goes through? Regardless of the strong community feeling.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
19/07/11	Community	Yes	No	Education; Community;	I am extremely disappointed and distressed on hearing the news of the planned closure of Ysgol Gyrradd Giyndyfrdwy. I was a student at the school and feel that I had an excellent start there. I feel that closing the school due to the current economic down turn we find ourselves in is a big mistake and extremely short sighted.  We have an excellent community here at Glyndyfrdwy with the school being at the heart of it. It is a desirable place to live for this very reason. I feel that closing the school is as good as closing this very community. Without the school and community, the area becomes as less desirable place to live. This effects house prices and leads to more undesirable people moving to the area. In the long term, crime rates increase and drugs become a problem. At tev years down the line Glyndyfrdwy will be another forgotten, run down, drug ridden area where the council will have to spending vast amounts of money due to increased crime and have to inject vast amounts of money into the area to try and improve it.  It goes without saying that it costs more to educate a child in a rural area than it does in an urban area. But in rural areas we also pay high council tax for services which are to a far lower standard than they are in urban areas including health care, police, fire brigade etc. I work as a Senior Meat Hyglene Inspector for the Food Standards Agency in the Shropshire area. I personally have made a choice to build a house and live in Glyndyfrdwy, a good community and it is a nice place to live like I said, there is currently a good community and it is a nice place to live I am getting married early next year and plan to start a family which will add to the increasing number of children which are attending Glyndyfrdwy school. I want them to have the same start and opportunity as I did and for them not to be disadvantaged by sending them to a school in another town. I skow and my proportunities are suffered to the proportunities of them to the decisional proportunities of them to the decision

Date of Response	Received from	Permission to publish	Do you agree	Decision based on the	Comments
(received)		response?	with the proposal?	impact on?	
21/07/11	Parent	Yes	No	Education; Transition;	There are many objections which I have regarding the Closure of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, but as I am sure you have received many letters and emails on the subject, I have decided to focus my letter on what I believe will be the most damaging for the children. Transition can have a lifelong influence on an individual.  The present system at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy has a Ti a Fi group, which is held twice a week. Currently this group has 21 children from the village, with ages ranging from birth to pre-school. This group allows the children to become familiar with the school, teachers and their peers from an early age in the safe knowledge their parents are only a few feet away.  I believe the smooth transition has been purely down to the Ti a Fi group held at the school, and this has benefited her social and emotional development and has set her up for a positive learning experience.  Your proposal suggests at nursery age these children will either be educated within the village in a setting away from their peers, or be sent by taxi to Ysgol Y Gwernant. This school currently has no pre-school facilities to allow the children to slowly become familiar with the setting over a long period of time with their parents present, nor does it seem there is any room to accommodate these facilities in the future. It may be argued that Llangollen has pre-school facilities within the town where the children may socialise with other children who will attend the school, but in our defence many parents from the village do not drive or own a car so the only access would be via public transport, which in our area is very infrequent and expensive. So with the above in mind, the first time these children will attend the school will be on their first day of nursery class after being put on a taxi from their homes seven miles away. There is research and evidence to prove this can have a detrimental feet on these children. As Anna Klenig argues, 'the beginning of pre-school education are sit will be processed adjustment requires meeting the demand

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
(received) 21/07/11	Parent		with the	Education; Community;	I strongly oppose the recommendation that Ysgol Glyndfrdwy should close for the following reasons:  1. The school is currently providing an excellent education for our children and they all appear confident and happy. Generations of children have attended this school and have done very well for themselves. I do not accept that moving children to a bigger school will be of any benefit to them. As far as I am aware there is no evidence to support the statement that children will do better in a larger school. In reality they will probably do worse and could well have problems in later life. Could you let me know of evidence, if any, that demonstrates that pupils do better in a larger school?  2. As you are aware, we have an increasing number of pre school children living in the area. There are 23 children living in the area who wish to attend Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy, with at least two other families of pre school children showing an interest in attending our school, making a total of 27 to date. As you know, most of these children would be able to attend the nursery provision at Ysgol y Gwernant. We do not accept your suggestion that separate provision could be provided in the village as they would be isolated from their peer group and would not have the advantage of body integrated rinto the school. The latest suggestion of providing transport for these children to attend Ysgol y Gwernant is ludicrous. Parents would not allow their three year olds to be put on taxis to travel over six miles for their nursery provision. This would be very traumatic and damaging to the young children. The process of correct transition into school life is so important and if managed badly could have a detrimental affect on these children for life. Legal advice is being sought about the Human Rights issues involved both with this matter and other issues involved unough children should this proposal go ahead. Also, has the cost of it is suggestion been thought through? Taxis would need to be provided for five or more children each year. Eac
					5. I am concerned that our school has been earmarked for closure when two schools in the area situated within two miles of

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
					each other are being kept open. The larger of the two schools has sufficient capacity for all the pupils concerned. Also, both schools are being funded to enable them to attain bilingual status. The smaller school's pupil population is dropping significantly. This trend looks set to continue as there are almost no pre school children living in that area. We are told that both schools are being kept open to allow parents the 'choice' of a large or a small bilingual school! This is totally unacceptable as the parents in Glyndyfrdwy are not being given the choice! Surely Welsh schools in the area should be given the same consideration with the parents being given the same choices? I would like a response to this please.  6. We are told that there is a shortage of head teachers. Other schools in the area are going to be federated and share the same head. As our pupil numbers are on the increase would it not be a better solution to federate our school with Ysgol y Gwernant? This would solve the problem of recruiting a head teacher for Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy. Also, it would enable parents to choose between a large and a small Welsh school. If the pupil numbers for Ysgol y Gwernant continues to rise there would also be room in Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy for any 'overspill'.  7. We are told that the cost of maintaining school buildings is high. We have several qualified people living in the area who would be willing to provide their skill and expertise to undertake repair work etc. This would be at a far cheaper rate than the current cost. Also, mention is made in the proposal of the poor access to the Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy site. I would like to point out that the access to our school is far easier than the one to Ysgol y Gwernant and also many other schools in the area. In fact, the school is situated in a very safe area away from any traffic etc with plenty of space for the children to run around in.  8. It is felt that our village school is being sacrificed in order to show the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) that efforts are being m
25/07/11	Community	Yes	No	-	I would like to express my concern about the proposed closure of Glyndyfrdwy School. I was once a student at this school and feel it served me very well in my life and provided me with a wonderful childhood experience with the friends I grew up with. The school provided me with a sound education  The school has always been one of the focal points of the community and is fundamental in maintaining a cohesive community. I have watched the Glyndyfrdwy community suffer a drastic decline over the course of my life with the community not knowing each other. There has been a decline in the shops in the area and community organised events. Closing the school could possibly lead a generation of people who are detached from each other and lead to even more neighbours who don't know each other. Glyndyfrdwy is not a retirement community, it has a healthy generation of young kids who need the support of their local authority to create a community that is worth living in.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
28/07/11	Community	Yes	No	Community;	The community of Glyndyfrdwy occupies a strategic position in the Dee Valley midway between Llangollen and Corwen. The position of a school at this point should be seen as a great opportunity for Denbighshire County Council to show its rural credentials.  This school lies as the heart of the community of Glyndyfrdwy, both physically and in the mind set of local people, most natives actually attended the school.  The closure can be seen as Denbighshire County Council (i.e. the Council in its entirety, not just the Education Service) withdrawing from Glyndyfrdwy.  I think the County Council needed a wider approach to its Modernising Education Agenda when it comes to closures. It needs to look at what it can put into place to compensate the community for any change. Most modern organisations have some package to help organisations cope with change e.g. currently the renewable companies.  I suggest that the County Council take another look at the school and investigates all options on the basis of a wider approach.  The Menu below follows a logical order to look at the schools future. It would also illustrate that Denbighshire County Council cares for the community of Glyndyfrdwy.  Can we keep a Welsh School Yes or No  Can we Federate as a Welsh School Yes or No  Can we federate as a bilingual school Yes or No  Can we keep a bilingual school Yes or No  Can we involve other parts of Denbighshire County Council (beyond the Education Service) in the future of the school either as a school or another Council use for the benefit of the community e.g. Economic Development  Can we find an alternative community use for the school  Can we give/lease the school premises to the community to determine its future as an asset in the future  What else can Denbighshire county council do for the community?
29/07/11	Parent	Not given	No	Community;	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
29/07/11	Parent	Yes	No No	Education; Community;	We disagree with this proposal to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy. This school is a true community school bringing together the vast majority of the children within the village and teaching them to respect and support each other, no matter what their backgrounds, so that each child can fulfil their potential.  The particular concerns/reasons for our disagreement are as follows:  1. Nursery Provision  If the proposal goes ahead the nursery children will not currently be entitled to transport. Even if they were given transport to Ysgol Gwernant, this would involve a twelve mile round trip for children aged 3-4yrs. How would this transport be organised and how would it be supervised? What happens if a child is unwell and needs colleging form school? A number of the parents of the under 5s in the village to not have transport. It has been suggested that some form of nursery education could continue in the village. Where? The village hall is right next to the A5 trunk road and children can run straight out not the road. Inside, the building is afro mid deal. There are no storage facilities and the building is used by others so may not be available at appropriate times. It has also been suggested that nursery education could continue at the current school. Well why not keep the school open for everyone?  If no provision is available in the village (which looks likely) and transport is not provided we will end up with a two tier system. Those children with parents who can afford their own private transport will be able to take their children who would most benefit from a nursery education will not be able to access it.  2. Transport Issues.  Transporting children over 4 years still has some of the same difficulties. Again, what if children are ill and their parent/guardians have no transport? Will the staff at Ysgol y Gwernant from the A5 in Llangollen is single file at one point. What effect will the extra transport have on the traffic in the area?  3. Improved Education  We keep being told both in this document and at consu

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
					4. <u>Headteacher recruitment</u> This is another argument given to close the school and yes there have been difficulties in the last two years. This is not however just a local problem. Nationally we understand that larger schools are having similar problems. Whilst in many cases there are numerous applications for non-head teacher teaching posts often there are few, if any, for head teacher posts. This presumably is due to the increasing pressures/workload of the posts. On top of this Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy has been under threat for a number of years, so it is hardly surprising that there has been a reluctance to take on a school in this position. We also understand that until recently teaching staff were not being supported (including financially) do to the head teachers certificate which they need to apply for a post, so this cannot have helped to increase numbers eligible for such posts.
					5. Community Most importantly, as we said at the start, this school is a true community school. The children all live in the village or immediate area. Many walk to school. They come from all walks of life. Some come from English speaking home, some bilingual and some Welsh. Most meet first at the Cylch Ti A Fi which is held at the school twice per week. The same children then move into the nursery together and on up through the school. Yes you can argue that the numbers in each year group are small and this may limit competition for some children. However the closeness of this school provides numerous other benefits. The children all mix together, they learn to mix with younger and older children. They look after each other and this continues in to high school and on into later life.  We moved into the village in 2001 when our older son was nearly 3 years. If it hadn't been for the school we would not have met the other parents in the village. The activities and social contacts will all transfer to Llangollen and Glyndyfrdwy will cease to exist as a separate entity if the next generation of both children and parents do not get the opportunity to meet and mix via the school.
					6. Welsh Education Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is a Welsh Medium school yes, but perhaps more importantly it educates children on the whole Welsh ethos/culture. Because of the smaller numbers, all the children participate in all events, be it Nativity plays, Eisteddfods etc. All children are encouraged and supported even the shiest, so that they have the courage to stand up and sing/recite/play an instrument. The opportunities for this would be more limited in a larger school and probably only the most able would get the same chances.  In summary, we disagree with the proposal as it will impact in a negative way both on the local community and on the education of the children.
29/07/11	Headteacher & Staff	Yes	No	Education; Community; Pupils personal and social education;	* See attached response from Headteacher & Staff at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy in Appendix 10

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
Response (received)  30/07/11	Parent	to publish response?  Not provided	agree with the proposal? No	based on the impact on?	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
30/07/11	Parent	Not provided	proposal? No		

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
30/07/11	Staff	Not provided	No		

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
30/07/11	Governor		No		I'm writing to you to convey our concerns regarding the situation of the school here in Glyndyfrdwy. As staff here at the school we are totally agreed that the standard of the children comes first and the school is an asset to the local community and to all the children of the village. Although we are a school with the lowest number of children in your view as a council, but the children who attend the school live within a stone's throw of it, and 95% of them walk to the school. This shows that the economic situation of the school regarding transport is very low.  The number attending the Ti a Fi Group, which is held twice a week shows very strong potential, and with the building of new houses in the village the number of children will be increasing. Again the children who attend the Group walk to the school, and our concerns are that they will not be getting this early education if there isn't a school here to support them. It would not be possible to hold a session here within the village as the Church building is close to being sold and the Village Hall costs too much to hold it twice a week. These are the children of our future and it's important that we care for them and support them during their early years.  Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy is a Welsh Community School and this is strongly substantiated in the village with the support the school receives from the parish residents when an activity is held. The profit from every activity that is held always astounds our peers in our neighbouring schools and it also keeps the village alive. If there wasn't a school in Glyndyfrdwy the village wouldn't exist. Is this Denbighshire's way forward – killing our heritage and our countryside?  We really hope that you will look very closely at the situation o Glyndyfrdwy Welsh Community School and we importune that you as a Council leave the school as a community school in its own village and parish for the sake of the parish children who attend it and for the children to come to attend in the forthcoming years.
01/08/11	Community / Parent of former pupil	Yes	No	Education; Community;	Impact on education – Whilst Ysgol Y Gwernant has an acknowledged good standard of education; children from the village will not get the same supportive staff / pupil ration and may suffer being immersed into a much larger class size.  Impact on local community – The village is a growing community with plans for building of affordable housing. There is at present a large percentage of young parents with children in Nursery and Ti a Fi. Although the present pupil numbers are small there is significant growth potential. If the school is closed young couples will eventually move to where the school is. Couples with children will not consider living here. Some current families may take the nearer English Medium options. The village will become a dormitory population of mostly English speaking families. It will alter the whole nature and ethos of the village.
01/08/11	Governing Body of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy	Yes	No	Education; Community;	* See attached response from Governors of Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

# Appendix 9: Formal Consultation - Responses to the initial impact assessments Proposal 2: To Close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference

Personal information has been redacted from this document.

Responses from those who did not give the authority permission to publish their responses have also been redacted.

All Cabinet Members were presented with the full document in August 2011.

#### **Welsh Language Impact Assessment**

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments		
24/06/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Neutral	Although inspection reports on Ysgol Y Gwernant are excellent, I firmly believe that learning in a small class with a higher level of attention from the teachers is extremely important. The		
				Educational provision / standards	Negative	use of Welsh in the village in my opinion will decrease as children who go to Llangollen will socialise more with English/bilingual people. The impact of not providing 3 year olds with a		
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative	whole year of nursery in the school for which they are due to attend is terrible. This year is invaluable to preparing them and spending 2 hours a day in a village hall is no substitute.		
				Pre / After school activities	Neutral			
				Use of Welsh within communities	Negative			
				Other	-			
07/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative Access to Welsh Medium Education		Neutral	1 – The teacher pupil ration will vastly increase, so children will not have individual attention (large class sizes).		
				Educational provision / standards	Negative (1)	2 – Many parents do not have transport to get to Nursery classes. If you do have a car, where do parents go while the child is in Nursery for two hours? By the time you've come home it		
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative (2)	will be time to collect your child again.  3 – Glyndyfrdwy children will miss these activities because transport arrangements will be		
				Pre / After school activities	Negative (3)	impractical. 4 – Evening classes would be chopped as travelling to Llangollen or further is difficult		
				Use of Welsh within communities	Neutral	especially in winter.		
				Other (Weekly Welsh lessons in the school would stop)	Negative (4)	Suggestions to reduce the impact The authority could inform us what the phrase 'parental preference' actually means. It seems to me that we have no choice in this matter.		
19/07/11	Corwen Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Negative	Pupils currently speak Welsh on the yard at Glyndyfrdwy school – this will not happen in Llangollen, resulting in the loss of the Welsh language.		
	Council			Education  Educational provision / standards				
				Non-statutory provision (early years)	Negative			
				Pre / After school activities	Negative			

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
				Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative	
18/07/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other (Nativity, Thanksgiving, Coffee mornings, carnival will all be effected).	Negative Neutral Negative Neutral Negative Negative	There is a thriving 'Ti a Fi' in the village and these toddlers will miss out if school closes – over 20 at the moment.  The Welsh Language will suffer if school closes due to children going to other schools. Housing in the village will be effected because no families will want to move here.  Why close a school when numbers are on the up?  Carbon footprint will be effected due to parents having to collect children from schools 6 miles away after the children have been to after school clubs etc and the cost of transportation to other schools will be significant for Denbighshire County Council and with us in the Edeyrnion cluster of schools we should have a choice of going to Gwyddelwern or Cynwyd but you say we won't be funded for transport as we would be sending children to Llangollen which in my view is not as 'Welsh' as the above two schools. I do not want my children's Welsh to suffer after all we are in Wales.  Suggestions to reduce the impact  They would need to find a safe walking distance building for the Ti a Fi group so the children of the future would be able to continue to get together in a safe and Welsh environment.
28/07/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative -	Glyndyfrdwy School is a Natural Welsh School.  We want children from Glyndyfrdwy belong to their own community.  After school activities are going to be disrupted, for example swimming lessons, piano lessons, all of them in Corwen area.  The majority of pupils at our school comes from not Welsh speaking families, but we are proud that all of them will be leaving our school speaking Welsh. We don't think that this could be achieved in a Llangollen school.  so I think that the use of Welsh within the community is going to be weak, even more with young people. We disagree strongly in sending our children to the most deprived area of Llangollen. We know what is best for our children not you.  For me personally is sad to think that Cymdeithas Cymru – Ariannin is throwing money in Patagonia trying to save the language and here, the authority is killing it.
29/07/11	Headteacher & Staff	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school	Negative  Neutral  Negative  Negative	* See attached response from Headteacher & Staff at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
				activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative -	
01/08/11	Community / Parent of former pupil	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Neutral Neutral Negative Negative Negative	<ol> <li>Early Years – No satisfactory proposal has been made as to how this will be provided for the twenty or so children at present receiving it. The school building would be and remains the purpose built option. However the whole purpose of this provision is to provide integration of experience into the school. This would not happen.</li> <li>Pre / after school activities – At present, these are spontaneous and within the village. A good choice of options would be available at Ysgol Y Gwernant but these would be away from the village and would only allow parents with their own transport.</li> <li>Glyndyfrdwy is a Welsh / Bilingual speaking community. Llangollen is an English / Bilingual speaking community. Here the children play and converse naturally in Welsh – This would not happen in Llangollen. Only those from Welsh speaking homes would be unaffected.</li> <li>Suggestions to reduce the impact</li> <li>The proposal should be reconsidered against the more positive proposal of the Edeyrnion Alliance put to the Council in Feb 2011. The present proposals option of involving Ysgol Y Gwernant in providing Nursery Provision is unrealistic. If they have the capacity in this area it would be better served in federating and maintaining the present school as a satellite of Y Gwernant. The proposals put forward to alter the Neg / Potential effects to Neutral / Postivie are for the most part unrealistic statements to enhance the proposal. If Ysgol Y Gwernant is already running at capacity how can it find the extra capacity to take on board these concerns.</li> </ol>
01/08/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative Negative Negative Negative Negative	Closing Glyndyfrdwy natural Welsh school is an insult on the community who have struggled to maintain the Welsh culture for generations. Taking children as young as four years old a minimum of 13 miles per day & some up to 20 miles per day being shuttled from farm to an environment alien to them could have a dramatic physiological effect on small children.  Here at Glyndyfrdwy school the majority of pupils walk to school in harmony speaking both languages, the caring mothers area a picture to see with them as they are proud of the bilingual achievement of their sons and daughters. Therefore why destroy what is profoundly established, hence expose small humans unnecessary to the dangers of roads just because the Council wants to save money. The Glyndyfrdwy school is a success and the proof is in the pudding. The Denbighshire County Council's report has many errors, the Glyndyfrdwy school is a natural Welsh school not a Welsh medium school as they claim in the report. Success so we are meant to believe by the Council comes from children in large classrooms, it is not so here at the village of Glyndyfrdwy. The Glyndyfrdwy school could have approximately 40 children is parental right to chose a school didn't exist. The parents that live

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:		Comments	
						in our community and take their children to nearby schools don't contribute anything to any community what so ever but ruin the one that the live in. In this report too, it is mentioned the importance of the Welsh Language though in the latest meeting we had at our own village school the Council sent three English speakers to deal with arising matters, therefore why doesn't the Council practise what they preach? N.B. When my wife tried to have a Welsh copy of this in the One Stop Shop at Llangollen they failed to produce one.  Suggestions to reduce the impact Children from small communities and educated in small schools have a profound sense of identity and belonging that of which can help them physiologically later on in life to understand the real world and make better parents, educating children in large classrooms in big schools is somewhat like battery hens when let loose to the natural environment they run away from a fly. I personally will not give you the chance to effect my children like what your intentions are by sending them to Llangollen's school situated in the most deprived areas of the town with some bullies some with methadone in their veins. The only word of Welsh they know in Llangollen is Eisteddfod that which is used incorrectly.	
03/08/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education Educational provision / standards	Negative Negative	Lack of Nursery provision in the community will have a negative effect because youngsters will be sent elsewhere for early years education and therefore stay elsewhere for the remainder of their education. Also parents who are unable to drive will be forced to leave the community completely.	
				Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school	Negative Neutral	As the school is first language Welsh the closing of the school will clearly have a negative effect on the use of the language in the community.	
				activities Use of Welsh within communities Other	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact  Youth Club;  Summer Holiday Lessons;  Welsh Language Lessons;  New location for Meithrin;	
						Although this will all cost money which you are trying to save.	
03/08/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Access to Welsh Medium Education	Negative	We have heard that Llan cannot take any pupils in their Welsh school so where would we send out little girl to learn Welsh?	
				Educational provision / standards	Negative	The class sizes may be too big and effect the amount of time each child has with teacher.  Educational provision/standards will drop, I am not happy for my daughter to be taught in a	
				Non-statutory provision (early years) Pre / After school	Negative	portable cabin.  Pre and afterschool activities should benefit own community, if we wanted our child to go to school in Llangollen, we would have moved there.	
				activities Use of Welsh within	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact	
[				communities	Negative	Do not close Glyndyfrdwy school you have no right to do so. It is our community and you	

Date of Response (received)	to publish response?	Overall Impact on Welsh Language?	Specific Impact on:	Comments
			Other	should look at cutting your executive costs first not do school closure. In a few years some other bright spark will have a new idea and want to change things again, it doesn't work. Look at what's happened to North East Wales NHS merging hospital services, it's a mess. Don't mend what isn't broken, working on cutting costs in other ways.

#### **Community Impact Assessment**

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
24/06/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Neutral	No school and nursery provision will definitely deter young families from moving into the village; it is discriminating against families who are unable to drive to Llangollen, as any family
				Parents and families	Negative	with a 3 year old will be forced to drive to Llangollen. Any nursery provision provided, will be inadequate; families will not socialise and the whole fabric of the village will be destroyed. I
				Community activities	Negative	can see no way that closing the school will benefit our children; they will get less attention and the upheaval will be enormous. The school building itself was built using charitable
				Community facilities	Neutral	donations during the Victorian age for children of the village, and should be kept as a school, not sold off for development to the highest bidder.
				Community (general)	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact
						Parents of Glyndyfrdwy children are always going to be seen as outsiders when compared to the parents of Llangollen children. Any events held in the village will never be attended by Llangollen parents, which is why we need to keep our own community alive. I believe if the school was to close, the impact would be huge, and not much could be done to improve it. Would the Council fund transport for nursery age children to Ysgol Y Gwernant because not allowing children of the village to attend the school part-time before they start full-time is against their human rights.
07/07/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative (1)	1 – Pupils will try to learn in classes of 35+ children.
				Parents and families	Negative (2)	2 – There will be no young families living in the village within five years.
				Community activities	Negative (3)	3 – School trips would all depart from Llangollen. School events – it would be difficult to mix as we would be the "outsiders".
				Community facilities	Positive – possibly (4)	4 - Perhaps the dangerous approach and exit to the Village Hall could be rectified.

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments		
				Community (general)	Negative (5)	5- The Glyndyfrdwy community in general would suffer greatly if the school were to close. House prices locally would fall as families wouldn't want to move here. The village would become a dormitory for commuters and pensioners (as stated in the demographics chapter on page 17).  Suggestions to reduce the impact  The authority should recommend to Cabinet that this proposal should not proceed any further. We put the educational needs of our children first and the provision of a local school is more important than short term financial savings that the authority may or may not gain.		
19/07/11	Corwen Community Council	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative			
	Courion			Parents and families	Negative			
				Community activities	Negative			
				Community facilities	Negative			
				Community (general)	Negative			
18/07/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	If children were sent to other schools they would be doing their activities at that school and anything in the village would not be supported. The cost of taking our children will be		
				Parents and families	Negative	enormous plus there are a lot of parents that do not have cars therefore the children will miss out if they were still at school everyone would walk there. At the moment old, young mix very		
				Community activities	Negative	comfortably together.		
				Community facilities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact		
				Community (general)	Negative	The village will die and the authority will be responsible.		
28/07/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Glyndyfrdwy is a small community, the school is the heart and centre of everything for us. We		
				Parents and families	+ -	have our Christmas play, and thanksgiving at our local Church, all the children participate, not one is left without a part. We also have the annual carnival, and Hog Roast, all the community		
				Community activities	Negative	take part in these events. Closing the school is going to kill everything that keeps the community together. Children will have to travel between 13 and 17 miles daily, don't forget		
				_	Negative	we are talking about of 4 years old. Population of Glyndyfrdwy is growing.		
				Community facilities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact		

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments
				Community (general)	Negative	Closing small schools like Glyndyfrdwy is not good for the Welsh Language or community life. If the authority wants to save money, because that is the bottom line, they should start by reducing the number of people that works within the Council. At the first meeting they sent 6 people to do the job of 1 or 2 people. I feel that the Council sending persons like Jaci Wallie to treat this kind of problems is a mistake, she is a person with a top job in Wales, with English views and does not appear to understand our mentality. We understand the amount of money that you are going to save is a minimal amount.
00/07/44	l la adta a abau		T KI II			
29/07/11	Headteacher & Staff	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	* See attached response from Headteacher & Staff at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
				Parents and families	Negative	
				Community activities	Negative	
				Community facilities	Negative	
				Community (general)	Negative	
			1			
01/08/11	Community / Parent of	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Impact on pupils – The effect of transport/time on young children added to their school days and being immersed into a much larger class they would get less one to one
	former pupil			Parents and families	Negative	attention. May have social needs where the attention in a smaller environment is greatly beneficial.
				Community activities	Negative	2. Parents and families – Most of the families would need to use the proposed transport and would not have access to the school or its extra curricular activities.
				Community facilities	Negative	3. Community activities – Some community activities like W.I., Quiz nights, etc would be unaffected. But the main social events of the village centres around the school input, the
				Community (general)	Negative	<ul> <li>Hog Roast, Carrols by Candle Light, the Harvest service, the Carnival these would be dramatically affected.</li> <li>4. Community activities – Some community activities could relocated but the Village Hall is already well used and with the impending sale of the Church House it would not be possible to accommodate all of these.</li> <li>5. General Impact – The Village is a vibrant well integrated balanced community, however if the school closed then the social structure of the next generation will be fragmented. There will be less families with children moving into the village and the village would go into gradual decline.</li> <li>Suggestions to reduce the impact</li> </ul>
						If the County were to adopt a more proactive and more imaginative approach to maintaining

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:		Comments		
						and promoting the present school then more families would be attracted to move into the village (and proposed new housing) and the village would grow and with it the County's revenue.		
						The County at present uses the smaller terraced houses in the village for social housing. The proposal to close the school would have a direct impact on the future of this option.		
01/08/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	No sense of belonging and no sense of identity.  Tiredness, parents will become aliens in their own community and become like the ones that		
				Parents and families	Negative	don't contribute anything to their own community at present.  Losing identity and belonging, efforts will become half hearted.		
				Community activities	Negative	Businesses will suffer, Church activities the same, village will gradually die.  Local gossip prevents crime which is practically nil, this local knowledge is also of assistance		
				Community facilities	Negative	to police investigations.  Could provoke the unexpected. Glyndyfrdwy school should be kept open and assist other		
				Community (general)	Negative	parents who would like to be given the chance to bring their children here.		
03/08/11	Community	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	Pupils will be sent to schools outside the community which will clearly have a negative effect on community spirit.		
				Parents and families	Negative	Having a local school is very easy and convenient for parents – this privilege will be taken		
				Community activities	Negative	away.		
				Community facilities	Neutral	Suggestions to reduce the impact This is a stupid question, the only way the authority could reduce the impact if the proposal was progressed is to NOT close the school.		
				Community (general)	Negative	In your proposal you've quoted that it is going to cost £17,000 to transport pupils to other schools with the population the community growing this going to cost more. Why spend this amount of money on transport when the children don't need to be transported in the first place??		
03/08/11	Parent	Yes	Negative	Pupils	Negative	The school is the heart of the village, it will kill Glyndyfrdwy's community. There will be no community activities.		
				Parents and families	Negative	Travel is not good for young children.  Environment – we can walk to school, saving the environment.		
				Community activities	Negative	The parents won't bond as well with each other if the school is in Llangollen, breaking down the community further.		
				Community facilities	Negative	Suggestions to reduce the impact		
				Community (general)	Negative	The school should be kept open and we should have a funding committee to organise		

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Overall Impact on the Community ?	Specific Impact on:	Comments
					activities for fundraising to bring more money into the school. This works in Rossett near Wrexham where I work.  A community programme should also be put in place.  If the school is closed, they will only regret it in a few years time when they see the new system is not working. This is what NHS keeps doing.  You would be breaching human rights closing the school.



## **Ysgol Gymuned Glyndyfrdwy**

Glyndyfrdwy Corwen Denbighshire LL21 9HH



01490 430214

glyndyfrdwy@sirddinbych.gov.uk

Acting Headteacher: Mrs. Non Jones

July 27th 2011

Dear Modernising Education Officers,

# **Formal Consultation Response Form**

Proposal to close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy on August 31, 2012 and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental choice.

I'm writing on behalf of the Staff at Ysgol Gymuned Glyndyfrdwy to oppose your plans to close Ysgol Gymuned Glyndyfrdwy. I have several points to raise and I'm asking you to consider them carefully.

"Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing first class education to all of the children and young people of the county."

- and yet disregarding the Personal and Social Education of Glyndyfrdwy children. You intend to move children from a rural background to a large urban school. Their class circumstances will change completely. They will not have older peers in the class as they have at the moment so that they can confide in them and nurture relationships with children of all ages.
- There is no evidence that Welsh Education will improve. Glyndyfrdwy children already receive "a first class education". How can moving children to a Specific Welsh School improve their language? Glyndyfrdwy is a Naturally Welsh School with only 25% speaking English at home, i.e. 75% of the pupils having the opportunity to speak Welsh in the home. The nature of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Gwernant is totally different with the majority of the children possibly coming from non-Welsh speaking homes. We did not get these details from the school PLASC information.

# "Full-time pupils (Impact Assessment Questionnaire) From homes where English is spoken - Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy (25.0%)

"Conclusion

<sup>-</sup> This information was obtained from the Headteacher when completing the impact assessment questionnaire

<sup>\*</sup> In this case a bilingual home refers to a home where one parent speaks Welsh and one speaks English"

#### Appendix 10 – Response from staff at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

Overall the proposal has the potential to strengthen the Welsh language in the area by strengthening the Welsh Education provision for children."

This conclusion from the Initial Effect on the Welsh Language is totally incorrect for Glyndyfrdwy. There is no evidence to support this view and we totally oppose it.

Indeed your data on families in Llangollen shows that that is where there is the smallest population who can speak Welsh. We do not accept that the Welsh Education of children will improve.

"... committed to providing first class education" with classes of up to 30 children! You must have failed to see the evidence that children learn better in smaller classes. If parents wanted their children to be in large classes they would have moved their children there well before now. Indeed, some parents in Denbighshire are moving their children from large schools to small schools and have seen considerable improvement in their education regarding behaviour and personal and social development. Children from small communities need small classes. These are our expectations.

"the Council has agreed that modernising the education provision is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, teaching environment and resources that satisfy the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century Wales."

- If Denbighshire County Council continued to support <u>school buildings</u>, with the minor work of maintaining buildings (and there is no point in referring to your Property Survey cs amp condition Data which states that £81000 of maintenance work needs to be done, this states your own weaknesses for underachieving in your responsibilities to maintain the buildings) there is a possibility that parents from other schools will be choosing to send their children to a Small Rural School like Glyndyfrdwy.
- Glyndyfrdwy has <u>learning environments</u> which are second to none. The school is in an ideal location regarding child safety, far from the A5 road, and the hill that you refer to has not posed any problems to anyone so far. It seems that Glyndyfrdwy people accept difficulties and solve them themselves. The yard and the playing field are extensive offering an excellent location to support a school garden and a wildlife area. Who will be teaching Glyndyfrdwy children about safety regarding Rivers, Railways and the A5 road in the future? These are specific issues for Glyndyfrdwy children. In a village like Glyndyfrdwy the local residents are willing to come with us on nature trails and share their knowledge about local history. For us this is more important than learning about the Tudors and Stewarts despite how important this is too.

#### Appendix 10 – Response from staff at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

• Isn't it the parents and the children who are most suited to decide how to "satisfy the needs of 21st century Wales." I know that we have an Education Minister who alleges that he knows better than the parents, but the wishes and choices of rural people must be considered, and what is important to them. Education in their home environment is what "provides the best learning experiences so that children and young people can achieve their full potenial." We are of the opinion that we offer the best possible opportunities to Glyndyfrdwy children in Glyndyfrdwy

#### • Maintaining Standards:

It is only Language, Mathematics and Science that is measured by the Assembly Government, by means of test assessments. It is also possible to measure the Personal Education and Social Development of children. Isn't it your duty to do this, and there you would see how ruinous the intention is to move Glyndyfrdwy children from their local environment. In large classes it is very difficult for a teacher to "know" every child and their family circumstances. The Assembly lays considerable emphasis on Nurturing the Overall Development of the child.

 The only Naturally Welsh School between Corwen and Llangollen to be closed:

You have other proposals which give the parents the choice to have an English education in a large urban school (Corwen) or in a small rural school (Carrog). Why aren't Glyndyfrdwy parents given the same choice? There is considerable injustice in what Denbighshire is presenting. If you go ahead and close Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy no choice is what the parents will have, only being pushed into a hole, where free transport is offered at the moment, but for how long? We support bilingual education, it's better than non-Welsh education, but it is not as good as an education in a Naturally Welsh School. How many of the Carrog children live in the village - 8 possibly and the rest travelling past other schools to get an English education? Who don't you have a questionnaire to discover why parents choose their schools?

#### Transport

Some children already travel for half an hour to get to school. If they were forced to go to any other school their travelling time will be way above that which is acceptable to you at Denbighshire County Council. Although you

#### Appendix 10 – Response from staff at Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy

promised to provide transport for every pupil, sharing a taxi still means that children take half an hour to complete a 10 minute journey because they go around several farms/small holdings and then wait for secondary pupils to share the same car. What will you do in 2/3 years, having spent your savings, and when the piggy bank money comes to an end? You are digging a hole for yourselves.

• This is the last point...Nursery Education.

Shouldn't you be assessing the demand for nursery education hand in hand with this consultation? There are 3 or 4 nursery children who intend to come to Ysgol Gymuned Glyndyfrdwy every year for the next three years. If there weren't a school available to them in the village, wouldn't the offer of "free education" for 3 year old children be false? Are they expected to travel to Llangollen or Corwen to get a "free education" and that would be more often than not on public transport/bus? Otherwise if you are considering providing nursery education in the village of Glyndyfrdwy, why spend on fixed resources when the school building is fit for purpose?

As there is a considerable increase in progress here in Glyndyfrdwy, and those are village children - an increase of 50% annually, which is far higher than the Denbighshire County Council average, we ask you to consider your timetable very carefully. Give us the opportunity to federate temporarily with Ysgol Y Gwernant from August 2012 onwards for 2 or 3 years with the opportunity to review the situation subsequently.

To show fairness, if you are offering the option of federating to Carrog and Caer Drewyn, shouldn't you be considering it for us in Glyndyfrdwy to federate with Ysgol Y Gwernant?

What we need is the option to FEDERATE with Ysgol Y Gwernant.

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to voice our opinion and we trust that you will listen and carefully consider our wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Non Jones and the staff of Ysgol Gymuned Glyndyfrdwy

#### **Appendix 11: Formal Consultation Responses – General public responses to both proposals**

Personal information has been redacted from this document.
Responses from those who did not give the authority permission to publish their responses have also been redacted.
All Cabinet Members were presented with the full document in August 2011.

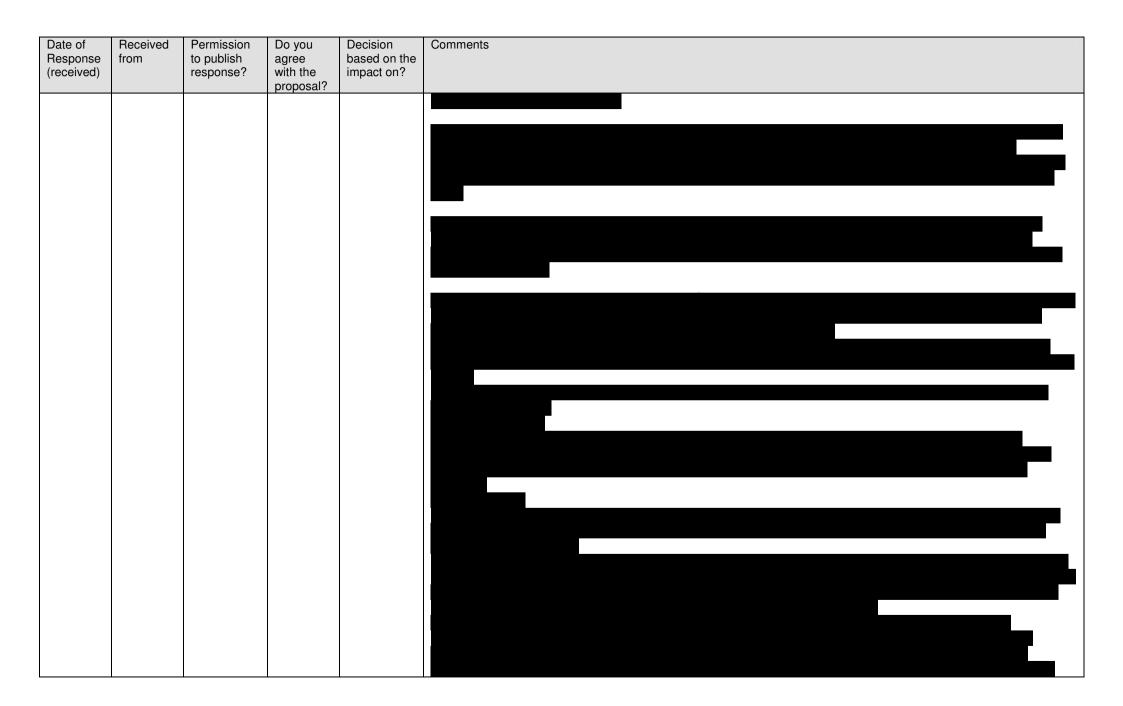
Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
19/07/11	Edeyrnion Communit y Member	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	

Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
31/07/11	Edeyrnion Communit y Member	Not provided	Not provided	Not provided	

D-+- (	D	D: :	D	D:-:	Oppose
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Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments



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Date of Response (received)	Received from	Permission to publish response?	Do you agree with the proposal?	Decision based on the impact on?	Comments
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#### Appendix 12 – Letter from Edeyrnion Schools Alliance

Edeyrnion Schools Alliance Corwen 17/7/11

Dear Ms Walley

I write to you on behalf of the Edeyrnion Schools Alliance (ESA).

In open meetings you, as an officer of DCC, publically stated that you and DCC did not know what changes you wished to make to the education provision in the Edeyrnion area. This was repeatedly given as the reason for the 'initial consultation' which focused on the 'initial consultation document' issued to schools in 2010.

Due to this apparent lack of direction from DCC you requested the schools and communities provide proposals for how the issues set out in the 'initial consultation document' should be met. In direct response to your request the seven communities in the Edeyrnion area presented a proposal (ESA Proposal) to address the issues, in your office, before the end of the 'initial consultation period', for which you signed a receipt, which I have in my possession, and can make available on request.

To date the ESA, or any individual community or school, has had no formal response to this ESA Proposal, despite several requests, and despite the ESA complying fully with the process of consultation you set out during the 'initial consultation' period. We feel that the lack of a formal response, and the lack of any consultation with ESA on the ESA Proposal is a breach of your own process by you.

At the Cabinet meeting where you presented the DCC proposal, nothing from the ESA Proposal was included, the DCC proposal was presented as the only option. Faced with only one option the Cabinet can vote for only one proposal – this is not democratic, and for now we still live in a democratic country. Cabinet members were copied on emails with the ESA Proposal, their constituents do know this or will be made aware of this fact. They have a choice of proposals, but we as the ESA or the individual schools have been barred from presenting alternatives by the procedures at DCC. Some constituencies have been disenfranchised as their council member is unable to represent their views due to being a Cabinet Member, leading to a conflict of interest, again this is not democratic, is an ill conceived process which constituents will remember as they will the lack of representation.

The ESA met to decide what action to take following the Cabinet Meeting and the presentation of the DCC proposal. At a meeting which had standing room only in the hall it was unanimously decided that:-

- ESA should remain as one representative body, acting on behalf of all seven schools
- To remind you as the DCC officer in charge of this process that the ESA Proposal had been
  presented, and received formally by yourself. Furthermore that the DCC proposal was not
  accepted in its current form and you and DCC should look at the ESA Proposal as the consistent
  and considered response from the affected communities.

These actions were taken, I will remind you of the phone call you made to me to see how the meeting went and I informed you of the above unanimous decisions taken by the seven schools.

#### Appendix 12 – Letter from Edeyrnion Schools Alliance

Despite this consistent stand point, and a second presentation of the ESA proposal, no formal response has yet to be received from you or your office. At a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011, the ESA decided on the following actions before the end of the 'formal consultation period' on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2011:-

- 1. Reject the DCC proposal in its current form
- 2. Formally resubmit the ESA Proposal as a working alternative
- 3. Ask for justification of funding, with full financial breakdown of the 'savings' made for the proposed expenditure of £1M, and including the additional transport costs. The information provided to date is vague, inaccurate, incomplete, as does not take into account the capital expenditure, or transport costs, and so a meaningful cost justification has yet to be made.
- 4. Each school to review the calculation of surplus places, which was given as the leading factor in securing funding from WAG for the next funding period. Some schools have shown that DCC figures are wrong and have had these corrected, although disputes still exist with other schools.
- 5. Request that an extension to the 'formal consultation period' be agreed, due to the timing of the school holidays this would mean recommencing the consultation in September 2011 for an agreed period sufficient for proper consultation with the communities affected.
- 6. Issue a press release from the ESA stating the facts of the case, how the ESA/schools/communities are acting in a right and proper manner to engage with DCC, and detailing the difficulties the communities are experiencing in doing so.

It was discussed at the ESA meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> that DCC had made the 'initial consultation period' a long and involved affair. It was also noted the formal consultation period was relatively short, which is important in view of the fact DCC will not take into account the hundreds of suggestions questions and objections made in the 'initial consultation' unless they are represented between July 7<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>. We assume this is also the fact for the limited number of 'workshops' that you held with only 10% for those who wanted to attend, making that difficult and fruitless process null and void. **Please can you confirm this as the case.** 

This very important fact only came to light through a direct question from a parent and is seen by many as a tactic by DCC to exhaust the time, energy, and resources of the communities on a process that would have no formal influence, allowing DCC to make the claim that no objections were raised at the final stage of consultation. This was a claim made in relation to the process carried out in Rhyl, which was questioned at the time, and assurances given by you that full and open consultation would be undertaken. Full and open consultation has not taken place, and communities feel man-handles and manipulated.

We believe that DCC have failed to secure the requested funding from WAG following their submission in December 2010. The reported funding secured is dramatically less than that requested. **ESA request** that you advise the effect this will have on the Modernisation of Schools inititive.

#### Appendix 12 – Letter from Edeyrnion Schools Alliance

The ESA have always, and continue to request only two things from DCC:-

- Full and proper consultation on the ESA Proposal
- And that decisions are made based on accurate and validated data

ESA as the body representing the views of the affected communities, formally request these two points are met by you and your office as the civil servants charged with the duty to serve these communities.

**Judicial review** – we have previously made DCC aware that ESA may seek judicial review if ESA continue to feel that DCC are not consulting in a meaningful manner. As we are now entering the formal consultation period, and ESA feel DCC are ignoring the requests of the communities, we are making formal enquiries to the ombudsman, with a view to seeking 'judicial review'.

ESA urge you as the DCC officer in charge of this process, to engage with ESA to find a solution which will meet both DCC and community needs. We hope you will see that we are simply asking to be consulted properly, and look forward to finding that solution in consultation with you.

Yours Sincerely
Graeme Lewis
(for and on behalf of ESA)

# Edeyrnion Schools Modernisation of Education Supporting 21<sup>st</sup> Century Villages

February 2011

Cynghrair Ysgolion Edeyrnion

Proposal

**Edeyrnion Schools Alliance** 

Produced for and on behalf of the Governing Bodies of all the schools in the Edeyrnion Area

# **Proposal Development History**

**Meeting 1 – 21/2/11** - Initial meeting of the Governors from ALL 7 schools, or their nominated representatives. This meeting was held at the Owain Glyndwr Hotel in Corwen at 7pm, where an initial concept was presented to the group and developed by the group. Minutes of this meeting were taken.

Meeting 2 – 3/2/11 – A development meeting was held by Governors from ALL 7 schools, or their nominated representatives. This meeting was held at the Corwen Sports Pavilion at 7pm, where the concept discussed at 'Meeting 1' was developed, and views and input taken from all who contributed.

### Document Issue Log - Blue Text indicates this Issues additions and alterations

Issue:	Issued:	Description of Change:	By:
1	24/2/11	Initial issue — input from all school representatives	GDL
2	25/2/11	Wording changes to several sections (DJ) Add funding of Bursar (AC) Add Management Meetings (AC) Add office space for Bursar (AC) Add Cynghrair Ysgolion Edeyrnion (GDL) Add Edeyrnion Schools Alliance (GDL) Add 'visits by trainers, theater groups' (AC) Add Environmental Considerations (AC Intro,change poor school buildings to maint (GDL) Added Chairs bibliography (GDL) Change 'ratified' to 'acknowledged and initially approved by' in the Introduction (JE) Replaced 'forced' with 'have' in Welsh Medium Provision section (JE) Structure Education Provision Section, in the example, the names of the schools have been removed, and replaced with 'some schoolswhere the language status may change' (JE) Added statement about 'greater consultation' in Introduction (JE) Remove reference to 'Wind Farms' in Transport and Environmental section (AC)	GDL

#### **Bibliography of Initials Used in Document Issue Log**

GDL – Mr Graeme David Lewis (Governor at Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch)

AC – Mr Ashton Crawley (Chair of Governors at Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch)

DJ - Mr David Jones (Chair of Governors at Ysgol Carrog)

JE – Mr Jeff Eggington (Chair of Governors at Ysgol Caer Drewyn)

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# **Introduction**

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) 'Modernising Education' programme aims to make all schools in Denbighshire 'fit for purpose' for the next 15yrs. In order that DCC can obtain funds from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to meet this aim it has to 'bid' for funding with a proposed plan of education provision for the next 5 year period.

DCC face a number of difficulties which are outlined in the 'Modernisation Education Consultation Document' dated September 2010 (Draft) and November 2010. Primarily DCC face issues with:-

- Surplus Places, translated as to many school places, not enough children
- Shortage of Head Teachers, especially Welsh speaking Head Teachers
- School Buildings Maintenance, in need of repair and maintenance

(source DCC)

The standard of education is high within Edeyrnion schools, and so does not feature as a deciding factor. A school closure can only be forced onto a community if the school is failing to deliver the required educational standards. None of the schools in the Edeyrnion area are failing to deliver educationally.

There are some serious challenges to overcome to make all Edeyrnion Schools 'suitable', 'sustainable' and 'fit for purpose' as we head into the '21st century'. DCC use these terms within their documentation, but are unable to provide any form of definitions. Despite not providing such definitions, which would allow schools to comply, DCC are pressing on with the consultation timeframe, forcing the Edeyrnion schools to make assumptions in respect of these terms.

This document has been compiled by all 7 schools in the Edeyrnion area, and has been acknowledged and initially approved by the Chair of Governors at each school. The Edeyrnion schools are presenting a collective proposal, and all subsequent negotiations between the Edeyrnion schools and DCC must be directed at the Edeyrnion schools as a group and not at individual schools. This ensures, as far is as reasonably practicable, individual schools are not disadvantaged by decisions made by, or forced on, other schools in the Edeyrnion group. The proposal set out in this document will require greater consultation.

A constitution will be developed by the Edeyrnion schools, approved by all Governing Bodies, until that time the following guidelines are in place. These guidelines will assist in the process of Modernisation of Education in ALL the areas served by the Edeyrnion schools. They will allow each school to contribute positively, while ensuring that any proposals are assessed by the group for impact on individual schools and on the group as a whole.

- **Negotiations with DCC will be done as a 'group' of 7 schools**. This will protect the interests of ALL schools, and result in the most positive outcome for the children and communities in the area.
- Any school can withdraw from the group at any time, but must inform the other schools that they intend to do so, allowing the remaining schools time to review this proposal.
- All decisions will be made by the group in a democratic fashion, the details of how this will be done will be included within the constitution of the group once it has been developed.
- A formal consultation must be held with the 7 schools in the group before any changes to the number or status of an individual school.

# **Aims**

The aim of this document is to provide a response to DCC 'Modernising Education – Review of Primary School Provision in the Edeyrnion (Dee Valley West) area –Initial Consultation Document – November 2010' (from here on known as the 'initial consultation document'). No document reference is provided by DCC.

## **Objectives**

- 1. For ALL schools in the Edeyrnion area to meet the requirements set out in the initial consultation document issued by DCC to all schools in the group in November 2010.
- 2. For ALL schools to become sector leaders in primary school education.
- 3. For ALL schools to continue to serve their communities in the most appropriate manner for that community.

# **Purpose of this Document**

This document provides a proposal to DCC <u>from the group of 7 schools</u>, known as the Edeyrnion Schools, in response to the initial consultation document. It is intended that the solution fits the needs of the Edeyrnion Schools, rather than the Edeyrnion Schools fit the solution.

# **Assumptions**

- Educational standards are not a feature in this initial consultation source DCC
- All schools and the communities they serve have an equal right to contribute, and to contribute on an equal footing. This is to ensure that ALL schools have a strong negotiating position with DCC through the Edeyrnion Schools group.
- The 'Modernising Education' process is in place to improve the provision of primary Education in the Edeyrnion Schools area the children are the focus, now and into the future.
- DCC will meet their responsibilities as educational service providers to ALL communities, without bias or favour, or reference to 'preferred options' or 'recommendations' already published and distributed by them to governing bodies and members of the council. DCC will do so with the aims and objective set out above as a driving principle.
- DCC will correct on request an incorrect information already published, or yet to be published, if evidence can be presented to illustrate that the information in question is incorrect.
- DCC will allow the Edeyrnion Schools to contribute to the process of 'Modernising Education' in a positive and proactive manner.

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# **Proposal**

#### **Alliance**

The following 7 schools have formed an alliance

- Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy
- Ysgol Bro Elwern
- Ysgol Carrog
- Ysgol Caer Drewyn
- Ysgol Maes Hyfred
- Ysgol Llandrillo
- Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch

#### **Vision**

These schools will share a vision to become 'sector leading', in both educational and organisational disciplines. This will develop the already very high educational standards further. Organisational success between the schools will ensure operational management success at all schools, creating a supported and protected environment for children and teachers alike, which in turn will allow educational excellence to develop unhindered.

#### Structure - Management of Schools

Schools will retain individual school status.

Management of the school will be shared between the schools, with a role of 'Bursar' co-ordinating this inter school management. This will increase efficiency in administration, reducing duplication of effort, and developing a skill base in educational administration and management that is currently lacking.

This structure in management arrangements will benefit both the schools and DCC, as the administration will be carried out in a timely manner, without adding to the workload of the already overworked Head Teachers. The skill base will allow a professional approach and relationship to be developed at an administration level, building on the good work already done by school secretaries, who have been bearing this load along with Head teachers in many schools.

**Bursar** - The role of the Busar will be one of management of the administration of the school. This role will be closely linked with the roles and responsibilities of the individual Head Teachers. The Head Teachers status will remain as it is now, they will not report to the Bursar, rather the Bursar will be a resource to the Head Teachers, looking for economic and organisational efficiencies across the 7 schools.

The role of Bursar will be funded by the 7 schools, from savings made by reducing the amount of cover by 'supply' Teachers for Head Teachers administration days. DCC published figures of between £150 to £250 per day for 'supply' Teachers.

A permanent office space will be found in one of the 7 schools, from where the Bursar will rotate around the 7 schools on a predetermined schedule. To minimise costs, environmental impact and travel time, the Bursar will travel to a school, and spend the working day at that school. This will not prevent him from being accessible to all schools, but will allow each school to receive an equal amount of 'face to face' access to the Bursar.

The Bursar will have the same professional development opportunities as do the teaching staff, developing his or her skills in the administration and management of educational establishments. See 'Skills Sharing and Continuous Professional Development (CPD)' below.

**Management Meetings** - A 'Management Team' will be formed with representatives from each of the 7 schools. This Team will meet monthly, and be the 'Board' to which the Bursar reports. It is this Team who will be charged with the responsibility to ensure that the financial and functional aspects of the alliance are met.

**Financial Management** – at present DCC provides financial information provides fiscal information retrospectively. This delayed information makes it very difficult for Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors to manage budgets in a proactive manner. The Bursar would be in a position to advise the Management Team of the current financial position of each school without any such delay.

#### <u>Structure – Educational Provision</u>

The Governing Bodies of each school will retain control over their own staff.

An analysis of skills will be carried out to identify those teachers who posses skills that can be useful across the alliance. It will not and must not be used in a negative manner, and when setting up this skills analysis, the full involvement of the teaching staff must be sought. It is about viewing the skills held in the alliance as a whole, and then using this to help deliver the best possible education at every school from that skills pool. This approach will also, if managed well, minimize the need for supply teachers, so increasing the effective utilization of teaching resource across the 7 schools. This reduction in 'supply' costs is one area of economic efficiencies, which will come from this collective system.

This positive approach offers teachers the opportunity to act as 'peer to peer' mentors to other teachers, coaching them in their area of expertise. This will be more about 'approach' and style than 'content' in most cases, and it is entirely possible that two teachers could be coaching each other in different subject areas at the same time. This synergy in development has a long track record in other sectors, and is a fresh, supportive and meaningful approach to achieving excellence and becoming sector leaders.

This 'peer to peer' mentoring and coaching is not a top down approach, it is about excellence, not position or status, and as such allows freedom for professional development at all levels, without fear of being judged or compared. This must be clearly set out in any constitutional and management documents put in place as a framework for this system.

As an example – some schools have applied for Bi-Lingual and/or Dual Stream status, in these schools the language status may change. This will require considerable investment under the current management arrangements for the Edeyrnion area. When the management arrangements described in this proposal are applied, the Welsh Medium schools can 'share' Welsh speaking teachers now, making it a very time efficient move from English Medium to Bi-Lingual or Dual Stream, and at a fraction of the cost.

There are challenges with this system, as there are with all systems, but in terms of efficient management of staff and skills this 'shared' arrangement is an extremely robust and cost effective solution. Once established will be self sustaining, as it is less dependent on the skills of individual teachers, and more on the skills possessed by the group. This will remove / reduce the stress and difficulties faced by individual small schools (that's all 7 schools) when a member of staff leaves, in basic terms there is wider cover, and lower cost to the group.

**Transport and Environment** - Teachers who move between schools for the purpose of teaching in a specific subject or topic would be scheduled to do so for 'full days' and not partial days to ensure best use of their time, and limit travel costs, and carbon footprint. Moving a teacher in a car will impact on the environment much less than moving children by bus to locations where teachers reside.

**Timetabling challenges**, and changes to that timetable due to sickness training etc would need to be carefully planned, and a system for cover put in place. This would generate revenue savings by reducing 'supply teachers' requirement and associated cost.

#### **Welsh Medium Provision**

Welsh medium provision currently does not meet the demand. In the Edeyrnion area this demand can be met extremely quickly by the system outlined here. All other systems considered have a much more pronounced impact on schools, as parents with children currently in Welsh medium schools have made it clear they will not send them to a Bi-Lingual or Dual Steam school, which they will have to do if that is the nearest school, and no capacity is available in a Welsh Medium school. As Welsh Medium education is under resourced in the area, and in neighbouring areas, there will not be the capacity currently, and so parents may well have to send children to Bi-Lingual or Dual Steam schools. This proposal prevents this, and supports Welsh Medium education across the area with minimal disruption to schools and communities.

The **alliance** will support and develop the Bi-Lingual status of Carrog and Cear Drewyn, not just in name, but through the concept of sharing specialist teachers, and mentoring new and developing teachers, and pushing for continuous improvement, and professional development of teachers interested in this area – our vision is to be leaders in this sector.

#### **Pupil Inclusion and Value of Small Schools**

In small schools every child's contribution to school events is important, and every child is involved. In larger schools through necessity, this 100% inclusion is not possible, depriving some with a lower level of achievement of the important experiences of a shared activity. This is a great strength of a small school, and children with special needs, or specific challenges are well supported, not only by staff but also by pupils. Team games can be supported, both interschool, and across the schools, and activities such as international exchanges, visits by sports stars and trainers, theater groups and other organisations can be better organised with larger numbers, and the administrative resource available in the role of Bursar.

Small schools can bring value added services and amenity to the community. For those who use these services they are very important, and some allow parents to work rather than stay at home, which adds to the rural economy and the socioeconomic development of the area. Examples of how schools can add value to a community are listed below, but this is not an exhaustive list.

- Breakfast and afterschool clubs help working parents
- Pre-school inclusion ('Ti a Fi') supports early development and social interaction
- Nursery provision locally, provides important introduction to school life
- Community values / social responsibility is well supported in a small community

# **Skills Sharing and Continuous Professional Development (CPD)**

Under this system of sharing skills across all 7 schools, an environment to develop a CPD system is created. This integrates with the 'peer to peer' coaching, but goes further to looking at developing teaching staff in a more structured manner. The CPD system across the schools would start with the 'peer to peer' coaching, but then the administration structure would assist teachers to gain recognized CPD in the area of interest to that teacher. This approach would support and develop an environment of continual improvement within and across the 7 schools, and would lead to a 'show case' organisation in rural education.

# **Super Head or Super System**

Current models require a 'Super Head' to be appointed in the top down approach. This may and does work, but significantly affects the ethos of the individual schools, and requires a 'Super Head' to be found and paid. Having a 'Super System' as described in this proposal is much less expensive, meets the wishes of the communities and the schools, and achieves the aims of Modernising Education at a very low cost.

#### **Shared Amenities**

In line with the ethos and practical application of sharing skills and staff across schools, the amenity pool will also be shared. This is not a huge step from the current situation, and when viewed as a wider community consideration removes or reduces the capital expenditure in the local areas, as development of individual sites in not necessarily required. This does not remove the desire for these local amenities, and these can still be considered now and in the future, but it does reduce the amount of capital required during 'Modernising Education', and removes the need to sell schools to raise funds via prudential borrowing.

# <u>Asset Management in Edeyrnion Schools - Use</u>

Currently school buildings are an underutilized resource for the community, this proposal will change that shortcoming.

In many cases to transform these community assets into useful and accessible community resources will take only organisation, not money, or input from DCC. Rural communities want more public space, and will once they can see it is available use it. Looking across rural areas of the world will generate creative ideas for the uses that these community assets can be used for, as well as asking the local population what they would like.

Before the telephone was invented no one could see the need for such a device. Now many of us live our lives constantly available to everyone via our mobile phones. The analogy is simple, show people the schools are indeed a community asset and can be accessed simply, and the community will use them, supporting those communities and the concept of 21<sup>st</sup> century schools for 21<sup>st</sup> century villages.

**Example - Shops and Business Development**— some schools could offer a small shop facility. This could be an extension of a village store who worked in partnership with the school to provide the years 5 and 6 with an opportunity to run a small business concern, so developing their understanding of turnover, profit and loss, book keeping, stock control, planning, sales and marketing, customer service, quality control, developing and maintaining relationships with suppliers / customers, team work, as well as looking for and learning skills from each others.

**Community Support of School Leavers** - In the modern rural and national economy developing skills outlined in the example above will be important when so many young people leave school and enter a world of high youth unemployment. With these skills and a 21<sup>st</sup> century community behind them, and access to a community asset such as a room in the school with IT and office facilities, they may even start new businesses, contributing to the GDP of the area and the nation.

Other ideas include – library services, meals on wheels, care in the community for those with specific challenges which accompany advancing years or medical conditions. Marriage guidance satellite services could be offered, as could citizens advice services. Once you have a community space and a bit of commitment and creativity the community will enrich itself.

#### <u>Asset Management in Edeyrnion Schools – Maintenance</u>

Currently all maintenance services are managed by or via DCC Estates Management team. With the push to reduce central costs at DCC, and in line with the proposed devolvement of funds to the schools, maintenance of the Asset Register of the 7 schools will become the responsibility of the Head Teachers.

This is unrealistic. Head Teachers have a skill set developed for educational development of young people, and although they could manage the assets if they were not already overloaded with administrative and none educational work, it was never their career intention to become facility managers.

With this in mind the responsibility of maintaining the Asset Register will be part of the role of the Bursar. Like all Asset or Facility Managers the Bursar does not have to be an expert in all aspects of each asset type, they would simply need to know where to find a suitable resource and to understand the subject enough to determine best value, urgent need etc...

They would look to manage, among other facilities Buildings & Estates, Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) services, IT systems, school equipment, musical equipment, and the associated Health and Safety and Environmental (HS&E) responsibilities for each. This is a wide remit, but no wider than any other Facilities Manager covers in the wider world.

In terms of Approved Contractors, an 'Approved Contractors List' would be developed listing suitably qualified and competent *local* providers in each of the required disciplines. In order to access this 'Approved Contractors List' service suppliers would need to able to clearly demonstrate both 'trade' and 'business' competence, with suitable evidence based HS&E achievement, Quality systems, suitable insurance, and fulfill any child protection requirements in terms of CRB, systems of work and other related arrangements.

Local providers would be sought where possible, provided they delivered a quality service at competitive prices. Where local services could not be provided then regional or national services would be accessed, but would have to meet the same strict controls before commencing any work or service.

It is envisaged that this would be a transitional change, with a blend of services obtained from the existing DCC 'Approved Contractors List' and indeed from DCC own staff where appropriate. But as DCC shrinks its operation / services, the transfer to the Edeyrnion Schools 'Approved Contractors List' would develop. The key outcome is cost effective maintenance and improvement of the Asset Register, without which the community asset would diminish.

# **Facilitating Rural Development**

This proposal looks wider than simply managing the DCC Education budget. It focuses on the children and the wider community. No DCC employee could be as motivated to maintain the schools as a community asset than those within the community. The hard truth is if the communities do not support the schools as an important part of the community and cannot demonstrate a material need for the schools as a community asses then the schools should close. This is not the case however, as this proposal and the huge public outcry in support of the schools demonstrates.

Modernising Education presents an opportunity to local communities and local businesses. Integrating the school into the community in the areas of public service, and leisure is only one element of 'facilitating rural development'. Providing the community with IT services, business advice, reference material, meeting facilities, and more will significantly contribute to developing the rural economy and halting the slow decline of rural communities, too which school closures are a major contributing factor.

#### **Head Teachers**

The perceived lack of Head Teachers must be investigated to understand if it is real or imaginary, and what difficulties are involved if this shortage is real.

Discussion was more around 'attracting' Heads to a supported, structured, and purposeful working environment, rather than the overloaded positions currently on offer. The **alliance** would manage much more of the administration of the school, via the Bursar, leaving the Heads to focus on educational excellence, and pushing schools to be sector leaders.

Validation for this model can be found in the business world, and as such has a significant track record, as bankruptcy swallows those who do not succeed. Eliminating waste in manufacturing is known as 'Lean Thinking' and has been developed by Toyota, it shares some of the principles we have set out here, and it would be arrogant to think we could not learn something from other sectors in our search for a solution to a difficult problem.

A more stable and supported working environment for Head Teachers will attract candidates with the qualities we seek as a group of schools.

**Trainee Head Teachers** – it is proposed that those Temporary Head Teachers, and those employed in future to lead a school, are called Trainee Head Teachers, and are paid in line with the pay scales for Deputy Head Teachers. These Trainee Head Teachers will be subject to and have access to the same 'peer to peer' coaching, mentoring, and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) as other Teachers in the group. After 2yrs or more of building their CPD portfolio these Trainee Head Teachers should be supported to take the NPHQ qualification required for all Head Teachers now.

This approach does a number of important things.

- It will attract those who wish to gain experience in a senior role within a school, and support them through their early development.
- It will ensure a flow of new head teachers into the group, some will stay some may leave, but if the Trainee Head Teacher role is made attractive in terms of support, replacement candidates will not pose significant problems.
- Managing the change faced at a school if a Trainee Head wishes to move once qualified will be
  less traumatic to that school because they will be in the group of 7 schools, and so be supported
  during the change, in short the impact of individual teachers leaving a school will be reduced.

# **Addressing Surplus Places**

With 'surplus places an important aspect in these consultations we propose the following:-

- 1. All schools to look at the calculations using WAG guidance on 'school capacity' (available from YBGG). Determine if the DCC figures are accurate (errors have been found in more than one school), and look carefully at how the guidelines can apply to your school to minimise the 'surplus places'
- 2. Share information on how individual schools dealt with the guidelines, and how they reduced their surplus places
- 3. Carry out work on population trends, rural communities have a cyclic nature based on generation, this overlays the school populations, and has more marked effect than in urban areas.
- 4. Schools to obtain from their communities more accurate population figures for expected pupil numbers now, mid and longer term. This can be / must be done in a sensitive and none intrusive way (advice available from YBGG on how they are doing this).
- 5. Challenge the concept of surplus places, and its validity as a measure of 'need' for education in the community, when viewed against / with all other factors.
- 6. Look at using parts of the school building for other community activities / purposes local libraries, small convenience stores/ food co-ops, senior citizen support, meals on wheels, community and local events.
- 7. All schools currently looking at surplus places, and will respond accordingly.

#### **Transport and Environmental Considerations**

Transport is both costly, and environmentally unfriendly. This proposal maintains the low level of transport of children by buses, because it maintains the number of children who walk or cycle to school. Where Teachers have to be shared, they will travel by car, for the day, so adding insignificant amounts of carbon to the atmosphere, when viewed against their normal trip to work, in some case it will be less, depending on location of school in relation the Teachers residence.

Environmentally schools lend themselves to 'solar heating', 'passive heat pumps', and 'active heat pump', as well as, but more controversial domestic scale wind energy. In line with the sector leading teaching and management arrangements, the Alliance will endeavor to become sector leading in Environmental issues, integrating this work with pupil awareness and projects.

#### **Maintenance of the Proposed Structure**

The key duties that need to be carried out to facilitate the operations of the **alliance** will be defined against a specific named 'role'. The description of this 'role' will include the 'target competencies' of the person fulfilling the role. It is unreasonable to expect all those who come forward to have the required competency when they take on the role, but by identifying what they do have, they can be supported to achieve the rest in a reasonable time frame.

This structure of 'roles' and not 'individuals' is key to the long term success of the **alliance**, and protects the **alliance** against the departure of individuals to some degree.

It is possible also that those who undertake a specific role in the **alliance** may not have the competencies themselves, but can call on others outside the group who may have and are willing to help. It is possible, if data protection and policy allows, to use the electoral role to find out what skills we have within the community that may be of use. Any approach via this route would have to be agreed by the Chair of Governors for the school in question, o r by all Chairs if it was related to something that may/would affect the **alliance**.

# **Confidence of Communities and DCC in this Structure**

Significant challenges face this Edeyrnion Schools in terms of making this proposal a reality. Some of these have been explored, and solutions suggested, others will emerge from the continued consultation with DCC.

An important point is the degree of 'confidence' the Governors, Head Teachers, Teachers, Parents and the wider community have in the proposal. Equally important is gaining the confidence of DCC who are responsible for providing education provision throughout the county.

The confidence of all involved can only be achieved through meaningful, transparent and open dialogue will all parties. Decisions have to be based on fact, and where facts are unclear they must be clarified as far as is reasonably practicable. The process of developing a lasting solution will be challenging, but the communities should remain resolute and focus on the required outcome — high quality education for the children of the Edeyrnion area, delivered in a safe supportive and inclusive atmosphere.

# **Legal Framework , Sustainability and Cost**

Whatever the solution, it has to work in a sustainable manner.

Sustainability in terms of structure, cost, quality, and buildings, among other has to be at the heart of the solution. In order to achieve this is it recognized that a 'Legal Framework' will need to be identified, or created to support this proposal.

#### **More Development and Future**

It is recognised that this proposal provides a starting point, rather than a complete solution, and much more work is required. The Edeyrnion community is well motivated, and ready to develop this proposal along with DCC to make this area a sector leader in rural education. Wider discussion is required, along with research into how other rural areas in Scotland, Northern Ireland, USA, Canada the more parts of England and even in the developing world, where innovation and creativity are a necessary part of life. Research into how private schools arrange themselves may help solve some problems.

It is clear that much work is required, but with the interests of the children and the communities at risk, there is a willing workforce that needs to be guided and helped to contribute to this very important process.

# **Closing Comment**

The views of all the schools and the communities they serve have been represented in this proposal, without bias or favour to any political party, view or ethos. We the electorate, of the Edeyrnion area, wish to present this proposal to DCC for serious consideration, and consider this proposal to be the most appropriate solution to deliver the requirements of both DCC and the communities the authority serves.

**End of Document** 

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Lead Member / Officer: Morfudd Jones, Lead Member Children &

**Young People** 

Report Author: Julie Moss, Operational Manager, Children &

**Family Service** 

Title: Proposed Joint Conwy & Denbighshire

**Adoption Panel** 

# 1. What is the report about?

The report seeks Members' agreement to merge the Council's Adoption Panel with the Adoption Panel of Conwy County Borough Council. The merged panels to be known as the Conwy & Denbighshire Adoption Panel.

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

- 2.1 The North Wales Adoption Service was established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, a partnership agreement is in place with the six North Wales local authorities. It was agreed at the time of establishment that action would be taken to rationalise the number of Adoption Panels being held in North Wales.
- 2.2 The primary aim of the North Wales Adoption Service is to provide improved and more effective arrangements for adoption within the region, in a cost efficient manner. Part of this process involves a reduction in the number of adoption panels from the current level of six to initially three and, at a later stage, possibly two.
- 2.3 To achieve this aim, it is proposed that neighbouring authorities covered by the Partnership agreement merge their adoption panels. In the case of Denbighshire County Council this would involve a merger with Conwy.
- 2.4 The merged panel will be compliant with regulation and its effectiveness overseen by CSSIW through a process of regular inspection.
- 2.5 The Council's interests will be represented by the inclusion of one of its elected members on the panel.

#### 3. What are the Recommendations?

Members agree to the merger of the Council's adoption panel with that of Conwy County Borough Council and to the continued nomination of a Council member to represent the Council within the new panel

# 4. Report details.

- 4.1 Under regulation, every local authority is required to operate an Adoption panel to consider and make recommendation on the following:
  - The appropriateness of any plan that a child should be adopted
  - The suitability of adults who wished to be approved as adoptive parents
  - The matching of adoptive parents to children who should be adopted

The recommendation of the Adoption panel is a key feature in decisionmaking relating to the adoption process.

4.2 Regulation allows for two, but not more than three local authorities to share a single adoption panel which should be independently chaired and contain a number of independent members. As a local authority panel, the Council is required to appoint one of its elected members

and a social worker to form part of such a panel.

- 4.3 Currently, the Adoption Panels in both Denbighshire and Conwy are chaired separately by the same person and it is proposed that in the interim period to ensure both consistency and continuity this person be appointed to chair the new panel.
- 4.4 The new panel will be established with eleven members, as allowed under regulation, to include an elected member from each authority. Independent members and social worker representatives will be appointed in the week beginning 26 September 2011. Legal advice would be a shared responsibility between the two counties and undertaken on a rota basis.
- 4.5 Professional advice will be provided by the Operational Manager of the North Wales Adoption Service. Individual departmental advice will be provided by Denbighshire and Conwy's respective Service Managers with responsibility for looked after children.
- 4.4 The role of Agency decision-maker would be retained by the nominated officer in each authority. In Denbighshire this is the Head of Service, Children and Family Services.

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

5.1 The provision of adoption services is a key service responsibility for the authority, providing placement choice and stability is seen as an ongoing developmental need for a growing number of children looked after by the authority.

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

- 6.1 **Budget:** implementation of the proposal will be cost neutral and achieve cost avoidance in the longer term
- 6.2 **Legal:** the new service will be compliant with all current legislative and regulatory requirements.
- 6.3 **Diversity (Equalities):** the policies relating to the provision of adoption services have been equality impact assessed.

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

Consultation has taken place with relevant departments of Denbighshire and Conwy and partner agencies; including CSSIW and BCUHB.

#### 8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The financial impact of the proposal should be neutral. Any longerterm implications will have to be considered as part of the medium term financial plan for the service.

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

Management of risk has been considered by lead officers within the Authority and partner agencies during the establishment of the North Wales Adoption Service.

## 10. Power to make the Decision

The Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007 The Adoption Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005

Agenda Item No. 7

REPORT TO: CABINET

LEAD MEMBER: CIIr Pauline Dobb Social

Care, Health and Wellbeing Cllr Morfudd Jones for Welsh

Language, Children, People & Leisure

REPORT AUTHOR: Sally Ellis, Director of Demographics,

**Wellbeing and Planning** 

DATE: 27<sup>TH</sup> September, 2011

TITLE: Regional Commissioning, Procurement and Monitoring Hub Collaboration Project

## 1. What is the report about?

For Cabinet to agree to the development of a Full Business Case for the Regional Commissioning Hub for high cost low volume residential placements.

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

An Outline Business Case for the Hub was developed by Tribal (Capita) between March and July 2011. The Regional Social Services and Health Programme Board agreed on July 28th that a Full Business Case should be developed based on the evidence in the OBC. However, this requires local political/partner approval.

#### 2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 Working to the regional Social Services and Health Programme Board, the North Wales Social Services Improvement Collaboration (NWSSIC) commissioned Tribal (now Capita Group) to develop an outline business case on behalf of Social Services, education and health in North Wales to explore options for developing a regional commissioning, procurement and monitoring hub for high cost low volume residential care in the following service areas:
  - Children's services
  - Learning disabilities
  - Physical disability and sensory impairment
  - Mental health.
- 2.1.2 This was in part a response to dissatisfaction with current arrangements. High cost placements can include substantial elements of profit, sourcing placements can be time intensive and not use regional provision to best advantage, providers may charge different rates to different authorities, and the potential to get better quality and choice with tighter placement and market management was apparent. It was also a response to the financial pressures

facing public services and built on the success of the current Regional Learning Disabilities Project in North Wales. The 'hub' also addresses the Welsh Government's policy and strategy for social care and health services, and for increased collaborative working. The recent Welsh Government's paper Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action and the Simpson Review (Local, Regional, National – What Services are Best Delivered Where?) places a requirement for Local Authorities to work closely together to deliver social care services, specifically referencing regional commissioning hubs as key developments.

2.1.3 Tribal/Capita have previous experience of developing hubs, particularly in health settings. In addition, the current Regional Learning Disabilities Project in North Wales has already made progress and the approach taken to producing individual learning disabilities placements has delivered a number of benefits including significant savings across the region (approximately £300k in each of 10/11 and the two subsequent years).

### 2.2 Approach

2.2.1 A project board was established to oversee the development of the outline business case. Each Local Authority was represented, and a mix of Adult Services, Childrens services, Education and Finance ensured, plus representatives from two Clinical Programme Groups within BCUHB and the North Wales Procurement Partnership.

The outline business case consisted of three elements:

- Developing a baseline
- Development of options
- Final outline business case
- 2.2.2 A large amount of data was collated which was used to develop the baseline pack. This contained detail around what packages were being purchased, from who, how they were being funded and how much the placements cost.
- 2.2.3 Workshops were held focussing on both the strategic approach considered right for North Wales along workshops on each of the service areas in scope. The workshops included Lead members. They provided valuable insight and allowed stakeholders' views about what would and wouldn't work to be aired and discussed.
- 2.2.4 The data collation and workshops enabled Capita to develop a range of options for consideration.
- 2.2.5 A core concept behind all the options was that a shared detailed knowledge of cost data and placement patterns could be used to identify standard costs and structure a systematic and intelligent approach to negotiations with providers. This is the approach used in the Learning Disabilities project and has generated better value in the use of resources both in terms of cost efficiencies and quality.

#### 2.3 Baseline data

Table 1: Regional Summary of total care packages

	Total number of packages	Number of jointly funded packages	Annual cost
MH	233	66	£17.0m
PDSI	88	21	£4.0m
LD	250	50	£23.8
Children	147	82	£18.0m
Total	957	228	£62.1m

The total of £62.1m delivers 718 care packages.

Data accuracy was a continuous issue through development of the Outline Business Case and there is still work to be done to cleanse data further (eg removal of instances of double counting)

#### 2.4 Options

- 2.4.1 Capita identified five potential options for delivery of a Regional Hub (see Appendix I).
- 2.4.2 These vary in scope, ambition and cost from essentially a Status Quo option, to a fully integrated hub which would procure all placements, monitor quality and commission new services on behalf of all providers.
- 2.4.3 The options are set out in Appendix I. Projected savings ranged from 0% to 12% for the different options, though the Project Board have been critical of the robustness of Capita's evidence for associating a particular saving with a particular model/structure.
- 2.4.4 Even at low/mid-range assumptions, however, and using local experience as a guide (both from the learning disability project and from procurement specialists), savings of 5% against an annual outlay of around £400k (Option 4) seem realistic. Most savings would be made in the first 2 to 3 years and the nature of the hub would need to be reviewed at that point. The overall financial business case for this collaboration therefore does appear to stack up, though it needs to be understood that given the differences in current placement volumes and fees paid, the savings identified are unlikely to accrue equally to all partners.
- 2.4.5 Almost all options also identify improved <u>quality</u> in expected outcomes either through improved and streamlined arrangements for contract monitoring or better management of the market to meet needs.

#### 2.5 Consultation on options

- 2.5.1 The outline business case was circulated extensively to officers within Social Services, education and health during July and the options were discussed at various professional network meetings e.g. North Wales Procurement Partnership's operational board meeting, BCUHB Children's services, BCUHB Mental Health services, Heads of Inclusion, Directors of Education.
- 2.5.2 Feedback indicated support for taking forward most of the **functions** outlined for an Option 4 Hub with a view to possibly include some of the functions of option 5 but a strong belief, based on local experience in North Wales, that the option as outlined by Capita was unnecessarily staff heavy. For example, as presented in the Capita option, there would be a separate Commissioning Officer for Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Services, which only accounts for £4m of total spend. In addition, it was felt proposed resourcing levels needed to be scaled back to take into account that, following an initial surge of work, the throughput of new placements would be modest. There could also be scope to extend the functions to other areas such as foster care and EMI.
- 2.5.3 Respondents also liked the approach to sharing functions across local and regional settings to maximise local ownership and operational effectiveness which is more a feature of Option 3.
- 2.5.4 Finally, there was strong feedback that a systematic approach to contract monitoring should be developed through the hub.
- 2.5.5.The Project Board therefore recommended to the Social Services and Health Programme Board, which met on July 28<sup>th</sup>, that a full business case should be developed for an option that sits between Option 3 and 4, the precise remit and staffing structure to be finalised as part of the Full Business Case process.

#### 2.6 Full business case

- 2.6.1 The Social Services and Health Programme Board accepted the recommendation of the project board that a full business case be developed for a Hub that would be an amalgam of Options 3 and 4. A project management team of local staff would be established, with work streams ensuring finalised proposals in the following areas:
  - Finance robust set up costs and sharing of operational costs;
     modelling of potential winners and losers from procurement activity and proposing system for sharing benefits
  - Governance overall governance of the collaboration; decision-making protocols; clinical governance/quality assurance; safeguarding systems
  - HR issues precise team profile and skills required; potential secondments to team
  - Data Update or further cleansing of data plus data governance policies. IT requirements
  - What sits locally/regionally
  - Engagement of providers
  - Communications/training needs.

Milestones proposed are for production of the Full Business Case for consideration by political process in January 2012, with the Hub fully up and running by mid 12/13 at the latest.

#### 3 Power to make the Decision

s.3 Local Government Act 1999 the duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way functions are exercised having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and the power in s. 111 Local Government Act 1972 in that a local authority shall have the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge or any of its functions

#### 4 What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

#### 4.1 Cost implications

Potential savings from the Hub and potential costs are set out in para 2.4.4 above and in Appendix I. On the basis of information in the Outline Business Case and local experience, potential savings could be in the order of 5% or £3m of current total projected spend of £62m. Annual expenditure for the Hub is currently estimated at approximately £400k. Most savings would be made in the first 2-3 years of operation. The Full Business Case will enable cost implications to be assessed more fully. It should be noted, however, that given the differences in current placement volumes and fees paid, the savings identified are unlikely to accrue equally to all partners.

#### 4.2 Staffing/accommodation implications

Staffing and accommodation implications will depend on the final configuration for the Hub proposed as part of the full Business Case. However, the number of staff involved will be small (probably in the order of 5/6 staff). These staff will need to have strong links with local delivery and some may be based locally using hotdesking arrangements to ensure effective team working at regional level. Detailed HR arrangements, including job roles and descriptions, and the distribution of functions regionally and locally will be considered as part of the full Business Case, as set out in para 2.6.1. The Governance workstream within the full Business Case work will also be considering employment options for how staff in the Hub (eg lead authority/partner).

#### 4.3 IT implications

National and local experience suggests that the IT requirements of this collaboration are modest. While the spend involved is high, the numbers of records and care packages involved is limited. However, this does need to be bottomed out and robust links with national initiatives (like the Children's Commissioning Support Resource) made explicit. In addition, there are a range of data security and governance policies to be developed as part of this initiative.

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

#### 5.1 Risks associated with not agreeing the recommendation/s

The financial case for this collaboration looks credible and there is agreement across North Wales authorities and the Health Board that savings are possible from this source. The Efficiency Plan assumes savings from collaborations. Regional Commissioning Hubs will almost certainly be a key component within the Compact between Welsh Government and local authorities. If the recommendation is not agreed, Denbighshire faces risk to its reputation as well as needing to find credible alternatives to this potential efficiency saving.

### 5.2 Risks associated with agreeing the recommendation/s

The risks associated with each of the five potential options are set out in Appendix I.

Despite considerable effort, data quality has been a risk throughout development of the Outline Business Case. There is a risk that, together with an incomplete evidence base for calculating savings, that current savings projections are overstated. This is a complex collaboration involving multiple partners with different agendas and priorities as well as common cause. There are risks around finding resilient solutions to challenges such as how the financial benefits of the collaboration should be shared- to ensure that all partners remain engaged. This will be necessary to generate maximum purchasing power. There is a risk that governance arrangements will not be sufficiently robust to enable progress at regional level but with flexibility to respond to individual partner or sub-regional priorities. Workstreams within the development of the Full Business Case have been designed to address these risks.

#### 6 Chief Finance Officer Statement

The development of the outline business case has been hampered by data quality issues and work needs to continue to improve this during the completion of the full business case.

The consultants laid out a range of up to 10% for the possible savings that could be achieved from the preferred option; however their arguments for savings at the upper end were not convincing and experience with a similar project for Learning Disabilities has shown that savings of around 5% are more likely. Members should therefore use this level when considering potential savings.

The costs associated with establishing the procurement hub seem reasonable.

No mechanism for sharing either costs or savings has yet been established and will prove to be difficult. The costs of the services are not simply driven by procurement but by the care packages that are commissioned. This is done differently within each Council. Denbighshire's current cost of providing these services is currently below average and therefore means that we cannot assume that savings will be split evenly across partners and that in some services we may see little or no savings.

Unlike other collaborations, this one involves the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. They currently account for around half of all expenditure in this area and so any savings will be shared with them as well.

A method of apportioning costs and savings will be developed during the Full Business Case preparation.

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

See Section 2.5 above

#### 8 Implications

## 8.1 Assessment of impact on Corporate Priorities

Supports Council's aim of Improving the Council- specifically through collaboration and generation of efficiency savings

# 8.2 Assessment of impact on the Vision, Community Strategy, Equalities and Sustainability

Supports the Council's vision of developing joint services across social services and health.

# 8.3 Assessment of impact on Climate change- mitigation and adaptation

None

#### 8.4 Assessment of the impact on NERC Act Biodiversity Duty

None

#### 9 Action Plan

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/DATE BY WHICH ACTION TO BE COMPLETED	ACTION TO BE REVIEWED AND MONITORED BY
1 Project Team established for	Sally Ellis	Regional
development of Full Business Case	September 2011	Commissioning Hub
		Project Board
2 Project plan, workstreams and key	Bethan Jones Edwards	Regional
deliverables established for	and Cathy Roberts-	Commissioning Hub
development of Full Business Case	Project Managers	Project
	September/October	Board/Project

	2011	Sponsor
3 Resource requirements for	Project Managers and	Regional
Finance and Governance work	Workstream leads	Commissioning Hub
identified and addressed	September 2011	Project
	-	Board/Project
		Sponsor
4 Reports to Project Board	Project Managers-	Social Services and
	monthly	Health Programme
		Board
5 Full Business Case completed	Project Managers-	Project Board,
	January 2012	Programme Board
		and partners

# 10 What are the Recommendations?

- 10.1That Cabinet agrees to the development of a Full Business Case for the Regional Commissioning Hub for high cost low volume residential placements.
- 10.2 That a further report is submitted in January 2012 when the full business case has been completed.

# Appendix I Options for Regional Commissioning, Procurement and Monitoring Hub

	-					
Options	Staffing Arrangements	Outcomes	Governance	Costs	Financial benefits	Risks
Authorities share information but are free to choose whether or how to use this	No additional staffing	Improved Regional benchmarking. Identify opportunities for collaboration. Improved local market management.	Develop framework that sets out what information will be shared and how.  Partners free to choose whether to use information or not.	Virtually zero	benefits to accrue in LD. Expenditure £38.5m Estimated savings	Contracts to be checked re: sharing commercial information.  Data collection & management varied per organisation – may hinder capacity to benchmark Level of collaboration may not meet emerging WAG requirements  Low potential savings  Little different to status quo
Authorities work together, different authorities take the lead in different areas of care	to be provided	Improved regional/sub-regional market management from better benchmarking and lead commissioning. More effective commissioning. Lower placement costs. Improved monitoring.	to degree of collaboration to evolve and develop but partners need to comply with a greater degree of collective agreement for this option.	shaping.	No additional benefits to accrue in LD. Expenditure £38.5m	As Option 1 plus: Collaborative contract monitoring will depend on effective reciprocal arrangements to provide all partners, service users and carers with necessary assurances. No defined structure or tangible legacy to ensure benefits are achieved.

	Staffing Arrangements	Outcomes	Governance	Costs	Financial Benefits	Risks
A regional resource across all services in scope is established to	Commissioning Manager O.5 x Resource Officer (in addition to current regional LD Team)	such as a database and negotiating tools available for partners — individually or collaboratively.  Establish Regional commissioning strategy	More formal than Option 1 & 2 Clear funding & partnership arrangements. Clear lines of accountability for staff. Clear process for determining priorities and work programme Clear delegation of responsibilities. Regional activity by a shared resource on behalf of partners.	(in addition to regional LD Team)  Staffing £67k Hosting Costs - £7k Implementation costs - £7k	2 – 7% savings to include additional savings in LD Expenditure - £62.1m  Estimated savings £1.24m to £4.347m	As options 1 & 2 above plus:  Partners may be reluctant to fund posts without assurance of how benefits will be distributed.  Savings may not be realised.  Partners may be vulnerable as there is only 1.5 additional posts with a heavy workload.

Options	Staffing Arrangements	Outcomes	Governance	Costs	Financial Benefits	Risks
Authorities work together with regional posts for each of the services in scope to drive out costs and work as a hub taking the lead in agreed areas on behalf of the region or sub regions	Manager/Analys t	by partners – individually or collaboratively.  Regional commissioning strategy can be established  Market management will significantly improve  Savings will be realised in some services  A more co-ordinated	partnership arrangements.  Clear lines of accountability for staff.  Clear process for determining priorities and work programme.  Clear delegation of responsibilities.  Regional activity by a shared resource on behalf of partners.  Political & organisational approval process to be set out.  Delegated authority to the hub to allow a quick response to	(includes regional LD Team staffing)  Staffing £353k Hosting costs £30k Implementation costs £28k	5 – 10% savings to include additional savings in LD  Expenditure £62.1m  Estimated savings £1.928m - £5.033m	<ul> <li>As Option 3 above plus:</li> <li>Impact of hub will be limited if partners opt out</li> <li>Data security problems through sharing information between different systems</li> <li>Benefits in terms of reducing costs for partner organisations' remaining commissioning teams not been currently addresses to date.</li> </ul>

		service users through market management.				
	Staffing Arrangements	Outcomes	Governance	Costs	Financial Benefits	Risks
Fully integrated hub developing to undertake analysis, procurement and monitoring functions, and to shape provision and early interventions	Commissioning Manager 3 x Commissioning Managers 2 x Development Officers 1 x Contract Monitoring Officer 2 x Data Manager/Analyst 3 x Resource Officers	collaboratively.  Regional commissioning strategy can be	partnership arrangements.	Staffing £564k Hosting Costs £50k Implementation Costs £40k	£3.086m to £5.570m	Complexity of bringing staff together. Local partners disempowered. Large step for partners to deal with. Political and corporate agreement required. Net benefits not significantly greater than Option 4. Staff recruitment. Savings may not be realised. Robust performance management indicators. Impact of model limited if parties opt out.

appropriate blend of services that will increase potential for more people to live in more independent settings	
Improved standards and outcomes for service users	
Enhanced approach to service development	

# **Contact Officer:**

Sally Ellis, Corporate Director Demographics Wellbeing and Planning Tel: 01824 706149

e mail: sally.ellis@denbighshire.gov.uk

Report To: CABINET

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Lead Cabinet member: Councillor Sharon Frobisher

Lead Officer: Angela Loftus – Policy, Research and Information

Manager.

Title: Update on progress on Denbighshire's Local

**Development Plan and proposal to establish a Local** 

**Development Plan Steering Group** 

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

1.1 The report provides an update on progress on Denbighshire's Local Development Plan and outlines proposals to establish a new Local Development Plan Steering Group to provide leadership and guidance in taking forward the Local Development Plan through Examination to formal adoption, and to focus on the delivery of the LDP strategy and policies.

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

2.1 To update Members on progress with the Local Development Plan and seek support for the forthcoming Examination and advise Members of proposals to establish a new Local Development Plan Steering Group, comprising officers and Members.

#### 3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 To endorse the establishment of the Local Development Plan Steering Group, with terms of reference as attached as Appendix 1.

#### 4. Background

#### **Local Development Plan update**

- 4.1 At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May, Full Council agreed to formally submit the Local Development Plan to Welsh Government and the Planning Inspectorate for Examination. The Council also agreed a number of Focussed Changes to the emerging Local Development Plan. These are intended to provide further clarification, update policy to reflect updated guidance and to respond to comments received.
- 4.2 Consultation began on the Focussed Changes on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011. There will be an 8 week consultation period with consultation finishing on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011. Guidance from Welsh Government makes it clear that any comments made at this stage must relate only to the focussed changes being proposed and not to other areas of the Local Development Plan, and this has been emphasised in all publicity material. The Local Development Plan Team

has sent notification letters to everyone on the Local Development Plan database, all Councillors, all Town & Community Councils; notices have been placed on the Council's website and in local papers, and copies of all the relevant documents are available to view in all the County's libraries and One-Stop-Shops. Comments forms have also been made available.

- 4.3 All representations received in response to the Focussed Changes consultation will be logged, scanned and made available to view via the Council's website. All comments will then be passed on to the Planning Inspector.
- 4.4 The Local Development Plan was submitted on 25<sup>th</sup> August and the Planning Inspectorate has confirmed receipt and has notified us that two Planning Inspectors have been appointed to conduct the Examination. Mr Anthony Thickett has been appointed as lead Inspector and Mr Gwynedd Thomas has been appointed to assist him. It is anticipated that the Examination will start on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and continue on until the end of February. The timetable and agendas for the Examination will be determined by the lead Inspector.
- 4.5 The Inspector will hold a "Pre-hearing meeting" on 8<sup>th</sup> November, which will be open to anyone to attend and will be an opportunity for him to outline how he proposes to conduct the Examination. Anyone who has made a valid objection to the Local Development Plan has a right to speak at the Examination, but the Inspectorate do emphasise that equal weight is given to written submissions. The Hearing sessions will be public and are likely to be held in a number of venues, including Rhyl Town Hall and the meeting rooms in Caledfryn.
- 4.6 A Programme Officer has been appointed to assist in taking the Examination forward. The Council are required to appoint a Programme Officer and her role will be to act as a point of contact between the Council, representors and the Inspector and will ensure that the Examination runs smoothly. The Local Development Plan Programme Office is based in Caledfryn.
- 4.7 The Planning Inspectorate has agreed to report back to the Council by August 2012. The Inspectors' report will be binding on the Council and formal adoption of the Plan is anticipated in September 2012.

#### Proposal to establish a Local Development Plan Steering Group

- 4.8 Following the resolution of Full Council on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011, to support the progress of the LDP through to formal submission, it has become necessary to review the Local Development Plan Working Group, with a view to ensuring that it focuses on the delivery of the Local Development Plan The Group has served a useful purpose in helping to develop emerging Local Development Plan policies, however the primary role of the Local Development Plan Working Group had been to support Officers and the Lead Member for Environment & Sustainable Development in progressing the Local Development Plan in line with the Delivery Agreement to the 'Deposit' stage. This has been successfully achieved and it is now opportune to review the group.
- 4.9 It is proposed to establish a new Local Development Plan Steering Group, made up of members and officers. The prime role of the Local Development Plan Steering Group will be to support the delivery of the Local Development Plan, in

ensuring that the Plan proceeds to formal adoption together with supporting the delivery of the Plan Strategy.

- 4.10 The Local Development Plan Steering Group will over-see management of delivery of the Local Development Plan and the production of the suite of Supplementary Planning Guidance required to ensure that policies are implemented and community benefits achieved. The Local Development Plan Steering Group will have a non-executive role but will report back and make recommendations to Cabinet and/or Full Council as appropriate. Regular update reports will be taken to People & Places Board and to Scrutiny as required.
- 4.11 Membership of the Group will comprise officers and Members, with the aim of achieving a political and geographical balance as far as is reasonable and practical and the level of officer support required to drive this project forward. Membership of the Group will have to be revisited after the Elections in May 2012. Attached as Appendix 1 is the draft Terms of Reference and proposed membership. Nominations will be sought from the relevant committees and Area Member Groups, once endorsed by Cabinet.

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

5.1 Agreeing the recommendation and progressing the Local Development Plan has an indirect positive impact on corporate priorities of Regeneration and Responding to Demographic Change as progressing a sound Local Development Plan will enable the provision of housing, employment, community facilities and environmental protection throughout the County.

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

6.1 There are no additional direct cost implications resulting from agreeing the establishment of a new Local Development Plan Steering Group.

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

7.1 Consultation has been carried out with Corporate Executive Team and Senior Leadership Team and their comments built into the report.

#### 8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The cost of the implementation of the LDP and the establishment of an LDP Steering Group should be contained within existing resources. The Council has been building a specific reserve within the accounts to contribute to the costs of producing the Plan.

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

9.1 Not agreeing the proposed arrangements for the establishment of a new LDP Steering Group carries the risk of not providing the clear Member & officer leadership required to progress the LDP and to develop the associated guidance required.

# 10. Power to make a decision

10.1 Local Government Act 2000, Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Appendix 1: Draft Terms of Reference for proposed Local Development Plan Steering Group

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

# **Terms of Reference**

The establishment of this group is intended to replace the Local Development Plan Working Group.

#### **Role and Purpose:**

- The prime role of the LDP Steering Group is to support the delivery of the LDP, in ensuring that the Plan proceeds to formal adoption and to support the delivery of the Plan Strategy.
- The LDP Steering Group will receive regular feedback on the LDP Examination and discuss any issues arising.
- The LDP Steering Group will over-see management of delivery of the LDP and the production of the suite of Supplementary Planning Guidance required to ensure that policies are implemented and community benefits achieved.
- The LDP Steering Group will have a non-executive role but will report back and make recommendations to Cabinet and/or Full Council as appropriate. Regular update reports will be taken to People & Places Board and to Scrutiny as required.
- To meet periodically as and when required, initially every 2 months
- Papers will normally be passed to members of the Group 1 week prior to the meeting
- Members will be expected to report back to their political groups and Area Member Groups, to ensure information is shared.
- Meeting notes will be produced for each meeting and distributed to the group.

#### Timescale:

- The LDP Steering Group will support progression of the LDP for adoption by September 2012, in accordance the approved Delivery Agreement.
- Following adoption, the Steering Group will oversee preparation of the Annual Monitoring Report before formal submission to Welsh Government.

#### Attendance:

- To maintain continuity all Steering Group Members are encouraged to attend all meetings wherever possible;
- Attendance at meetings will be restricted to members of the Group and there will be opportunities for wider political involvement through Cabinet, Scrutiny and Area Member Groups.
- Members of the public will not be able to attend the meetings.

#### **Support:**

 Technical and admin support for the group will be provided by Planning, Regeneration & Regulatory Services.

#### **Distribution of Papers:**

To be distributed to all Members/CET/Heads of Service

#### Membership:

- The meetings will be chaired by the Lead Member for Environment & Sustainable Development, or by a member of the LDP Steering Group nominated by the Lead Member.
- Membership of the Group will include officers and Members. Only elected Members will be able to vote.
- Membership of the Group should ensure a political and geographical balance of Councillors as far as is reasonable and practical.
  - 1. Chair Lead Member for Environment & Sustainable Development
  - 2. Chair or Vice Chair for Planning Committee
  - 3. Lead Member for Regeneration & Tourism
  - 4. Chair or Vice Chair for Communities Scrutiny
  - 5. Chair or Vice Chair for Corporate Governance Committee
  - 6. Additional Member representing those Area Member Groups not represented by the above to ensure geographical balance
  - 7. Additional Member representing those Area Member Groups not represented by the above to ensure geographical balance
  - 8. Corporate Director for Demographics, Wellbeing and Planning
  - 9. Corporate Director for Business Transformation & Regeneration
  - 10. Head of Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services
  - 11. Head of Housing Services
  - 12. Policy, Research & Information Manager
  - 13. Head of Legal Services
    - & other officers as required

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 27 September 2011

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Hugh H Evans / Alan Smith

Report Author: Ewan McWilliams

Title: Monitoring Corporate Plan Performance, Quarter 1

2011 – 12

## 1. What is the report about?

1.1. This report provides a summary of current performance in 2011-12 against the 2012 Indicators and each outcome within the Corporate Plan. It also provides an analysis of our current targets for the 2012 Indicators in light of the recently published all Wales data for 2010-11.

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

2.1. The reason for the report is to enable Cabinet to carry out a performance management function in relation to the Corporate Plan 2009-12. Performance management of the Corporate Plan is essential to ensure that the council is able to take action to address specific performance issues.

#### 3. What are the recommendations?

- 3.1. That Cabinet consider the current likelihood of achieving the outcomes detailed in our Corporate Plan, and follow up performance related issues with the appropriate Head of Service where specific concerns are raised, or where improvement could prove difficult.
- 3.2. That Cabinet approve the proposed Action Plan to address issues identified within this report (see paragraph 25 for details).

#### REPORT DETAILS

#### 4. 2012 Indicators

4.1. The 2012 indicators are the set of national performance indicators chosen by the council to act as a proxy to evaluate whether we are on track to becoming a "High Performing Council". We will use this set to compare our performance against other local authorities in Wales to establish whether we have become a high performing council by 2012. The set now consists of nineteen indicators, as BNF004 (time taken to process Housing Benefit and Council

- Tax Benefit new claims and change events), has now been deleted from the national performance measurement framework.
- 4.2. We have the ambition to perform within the top half (top 2 quartiles) of authorities in Wales for all of the 2012 indicators. However, for those indicators where we were already in the top half at the start of the Corporate Plan, our aim is to improve this position to be in the top quarter of authorities. For those indicators where we were already in the top quarter at the start of the Corporate Plan, our aim is to maintain that position. It should be noted that these are aspirational targets, and it may be possible to demonstrate that we have become a 'high performing council' even if we don't manage to achieve all of these targets.
- 4.3. Our performance for 2010-11 has been updated to reflect our actual position using the recently published all Wales data. In the first year of our Corporate Plan (2009-10), we exceeded our expectations by performing in the top half of authorities in Wales for 75% of our 2012 indicators, and the top quarter of authorities in Wales for 65%. In 2010-11, we were able to improve further by performing in the top half of authorities in Wales for 84% of the indicators, and the top quarter of authorities in Wales for 68%. As in 2009-10, Denbighshire again had more of the 2012 Indicators in the top quarter of authorities (13), than any other council in Wales. We were ranked first in Wales for 6 of the 19 Indicators.
- 4.4. The release of the all Wales data for 2010-11 has resulted in some amendments to the expected levels of performance required to meet our ambitions for 2012. Some slight amendments are therefore required to our 2011-12 targets for the 2012 Indicators, and these are outlined in Appendix III. Figure 1, below, summarises our performance in relation to 2012 Indicators since the start of the Corporate Plan.

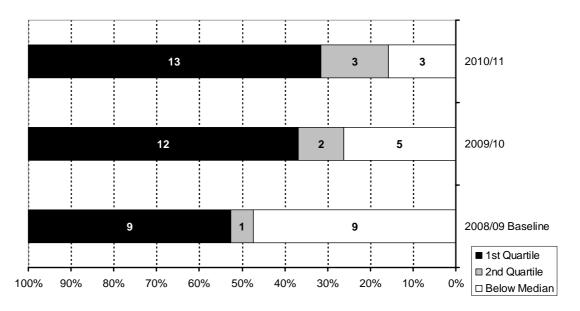


Figure 1 Shows our performance against the 2012 indicators.

- 4.5. There are three indicators where we currently look unlikely to achieve performance above the Wales Median for 2011-12. These are the same three indicators which performed below the Wales Median in 2010-11:
  - EDU002i The percentage of all pupils, including those in LA care, in any LA maintained school, leaving compulsory education, training or workbased learning without an approved external qualification. This indicator has shown steady improvement in recent years, but performance has never put the authority in a position where it is above the Wales median. Although our performance for 2010-11 was the closest it has been to the Wales Median since the start of the Corporate Plan, the Wales Median threshold is expected to improve again in 2011-12. The data for this indicator in the academic year 2010-11 (financial year 2011-12) is currently being processed and provisional data will be available for the Quarter 2 performance report.
  - EDU002ii The percentage of pupils in LA care, in any LA maintained school, leaving compulsory education, training or work-based learning without an approved external qualification. This indicator, which is based on a small cohort, fell below the Wales Median for the first time in 2010-11 due to a single occurrence where a LAC left without an approved qualification in the academic year 2009-10. The data for this indicator in the academic year 2010-11 (financial year 2011-12) is currently being processed and provisional data will be available for the Quarter 2 performance report.
  - **EEF002** The percentage change in carbon dioxide emissions in the non domestic public building stock. This indicator fluctuates year on year as it is based on a percentage change from one year to the next. Our carbon emissions increased in 2010-11, and we performed within the 4<sup>th</sup> quartile. We will have to improve our performance considerably in 2011-12 in order to perform above the Wales Median.
- 4.6. There are a number of other 2012 indicators which have currently been assigned a medium risk in terms of achieving our ambition for 2011-12 (see Appendix I for details). This is either due to the volatile nature of the indicator (because of the small cohort size), or expected improvements in the Wales Median threshold for 2011-12.
- 4.7. In order to achieve our ambitious targets in relation to the 2012 set, services will need to address any specific performance issues relating to the indicators currently at risk of being below the Wales Median. This has to be done in conjunction with maintaining the necessary performance in those other indicators where we are already high performing.
- 4.8. Further details of the 2012 Indicators, and the likelihood of achieving our ambitions for 2011-12, can be found in Appendix I.

# 5. The Council's Improvement Objectives

- 5.1. The council currently has five Improvement Objectives, four of which relate to our Corporate Priorities (Demographic Change; Regeneration; Modernising Education; and Roads and Flood Defences). The fifth Improvement Objective (Improving the Council) is based on the work of the Business Transformation Programme, and progress is therefore monitored by the Business Transformation Programme Board.
- 5.2. The council has pledged to delivery nine community-focused outcomes associated with our four corporate priorities. A summary of performance against these nine outcomes is provided below, with further details contained within Appendix II.

# 6. Improvement Objective: Adapting service delivery to address demographic changes

- 6.1. There are three outcomes relating to our "Demographic Change" Improvement Objective:
  - Older people are able to live independently for longer.
  - People with learning disabilities are able to live independently for longer.
  - Community initiatives meet the needs of an increasing population of older and disabled people

#### 7. Outcome 1: Older people are able to live independently for longer

- 7.1. This outcome is about enabling older people to live safely and independently in their community, without the need for service provision. To do this we focus on services that promote independence (i.e. intermediate care).
- 7.2. The current status of the outcome, following the revision and redefinition of the indicators for 2011-12, is unclear due to uncertainties about the quality of some data. We are able to say that we are on track to meet our target for care home placements, but our rates do remain high compared to most authorities in Wales (20th in Wales for 2010-11). Performance for the percentage of people who no longer require care following the involvement of the reablement and intake team is currently estimated. There is an issue with our IT system not always registering where care is provided, which inflates performance for this indicator. As this indicator is a local measure for Denbighshire, and does not impact on the day to day operation of the system, it has not been allocated a high priority by the IT provider. The service will continue to work with the provider to reach a resolution.
- 7.3. Data validation and accuracy checks need to be performed on the indicator "The percentage of clients who are supported in the community during the year aged 65+". Currently the indicator shows worsening performance, but there is evidence that not all services have been recorded on the system during the first quarter of 2011-12. This will be investigated by the service prior to the quarter 2 reporting period. It is therefore recommended that this

- indicator be omitted from the discussion until the problem has been rectified and the appropriate validation checks can be undertaken.
- 7.4. Two currently reported performance measures for this outcome are below target (the number of older people receiving Telecare services and the percentage of carers of adult service users who were offered an assessment in their own right during the year). These issues are being reviewed by the Performance and Quality Management Group within the service, and actions have been identified to secure future improvements.
- 7.5. The number of people receiving a service from the newly established reablement and intake service has exceeded the target and looks like it will surpass the annual target.
- 7.6. Since the publication of the Corporate Plan Year 3 Delivery Document, significant work has been undertaken (led by the People & Places Board) to develop new preventative initiatives to reduce the number of people who require support from social services. These initiatives also have performance measures to enable the council to evaluate success. These initiatives and associated performance measures, which were not available for inclusion in Year 3 of the Corporate Plan, are clearly linked to the outcome of older people being able to live independently for longer. It is therefore proposed that Adult & Business Services work with the Corporate Improvement Team and the Programme & Project Team to identify suitable measures from the People & Places Programme to supplement this outcome prior to the quarter 2 reporting period.

# 8. Outcome 2: People with learning disabilities are able to live independently for longer

- 8.1. This outcome aims to enable people with learning disabilities to live safely and independently in their community. To do this we aim to shift the balance from those requiring support in care homes by offering the necessary support to those individuals who can benefit from independent living in their own home.
- 8.2. The current status of the outcome, as defined by the indicators, is generally positive. The trend for the rate of adults with learning disabilities supported in a care home is showing a decline, and this continues to be an improvement from our baseline performance at the start of the Corporate Plan.
- 8.3. The trend for the rate of adults with learning disabilities supported in the community is showing a significant drop in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011-12, compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010-11. The reduction in the rate of people supported compared to 2010-11 reflects, in the main, the end of short term interventions, e.g. a number of people have been provided with equipment that enables them to live independently at home without the need for ongoing direct care support. Lower performance for this indicator in quarter 1 is a recurring annual trend, and performance normally improves as the year progresses. It is therefore advisable to monitor this situation to ensure that performance follows the recurring pattern of improvement as the year develops.

- 9. Outcome 3: Community initiatives meet the needs of an increasing population of older and disabled people
- 9.1. This outcome is about the council delivering community initiatives to meet the needs of an increasing population of older and disabled people.
- 9.2. This outcome has been re-developed for 2011-12 to allow for a significant increase in the number of indicators, performance measures and activity. They centre on the delivery of a number of key community initiatives with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of residents, with a particular focus on older and disabled people.
- 9.3. The overall status for the outcome, as defined by the indicators, is presently unclear due to a significant proportion of the indicators being annual and newly established. The New Work Connections (NWC) project is now an important element of this outcome. Monitoring for the NWC project was not established until the database monitoring system was completed. This database is in the process of being updated. As the database incorporates historic data (prior to database) the picture of performance will change until this process has been completed. This is expected to be completed by the next reporting period, where cleansed and more accurate reports will be available. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet discuss the impact of the NWC project against the indicators and performance measures in the Quarter 2 performance report.
- 9.4. The NWC project initially suffered from a delayed start due to recruitment and procurement issues. The project was then invited, by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO), to submit a re-profile as a result of the delayed start. Following submission of re-profiled project, WEFO advised that the delayed start re-profile submitted was no longer being considered, and that the project end date remained at February 2014. The NWC project Denbighshire Delivery Plan was revised following implementation of the Department of Work and Pensions Work Programme. WEFO have informally advised Denbighshire of their acceptance of the revised Denbighshire Delivery Plan which commenced on 01 September 2011. The targets for the indicators and performance measures relating to the NWC project in the Corporate Plan have been aligned to the revised delivery plan.
- 9.5. The indicator identifying the number of participants in disability sport sessions has encountered data collection difficulties. This is a known issue and work is currently underway to put in place necessary collection and reporting procedures to rectify future data collection. This will be completed for the Quarter 2 performance report.
- 10. Improvement Objective: Reducing deprivation, and growing Denbighshire's economy sustainably, by strategically targeting resources
- 10.1. There are three outcomes relating to our "Regenerating Our Communities" Improvement Objective:

- Pockets of high socio-economic deprivation in the northern coastal strip, particularly those in Rhyl, will be tackled to allow them to catch up with other parts of Wales.
- We will support sustainable economic growth by: increasing the number and quality of job opportunities; improving opportunities for business growth and start-ups; and ensuring that housing of the required quality and quantity is available.
- The rate of decline in the rural economy will be reduced.
- 11. Outcome 4: Pockets of high socio-economic deprivation in the northern coastal strip, particularly those in Rhyl, will be tackled to allow them to catch up with other parts of Wales
- 11.1. This outcome aims to bridge the gap between the most deprived communities in Rhyl and the rest of Wales by focussing on three areas: economy; education; and environment. The current status of this outcome, as defined by the indicators, is positive because the indicators that we are able to monitor quarterly are achieving their targets.
- 11.2. The percentage of JSA claimants in each LSOA area in Rhyl is reducing at a faster rate than Denbighshire, closing the gap slightly; however the gap remains larger than our expectation. We also continue to provide the necessary support to those living in poverty through the work of the Welfare Rights Team.
- 11.3. A number of education indicators have been introduced to this outcome for 2011-12, e.g. the average points score for pupils in Rhyl at ages 15 and 17. These indicators are available annually on the academic timetable, and should be updated towards the end of 2011.
- 11.4. As discussed within the previous Quarterly Performance Report, the indicator relating to the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) taken through the licensing scheme required an amended target as 50 was agreed to be unrealistic. A revised target of 30 has been proposed by the service, and current data shows that 8 additional HMOs were processed under the licensing scheme during the first quarter of the year.
- 11.5. The Forydd Harbour Phase 2 project (commercial units, square and quay wall extension) is currently over budget. Consultation with the Welsh Government (WG) and the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) has indicated that there is support for Denbighshire to continue delivery of the scheme, and to work up more affordable options for delivery. This has been discussed at Cabinet Briefing, and a review of the project is currently underway with the Major Projects Group with a view to a further report being presented to WG and WEFO in September 2011.

- 12. Outcome 5: We will support sustainable economic growth by: increasing the number and quality of job opportunities; improving opportunities for business growth and start-ups; and ensuring that housing of the required quality and quantity is available
- 12.1. This outcome is all about what the council can do to support sustainable economic growth in a wider economic climate through targeted activity.
- 12.2. The overall status of this outcome, as defined by the indicators, is positive where the current picture from a general economic perspective (JSA claimants) shows a favourable gap between Denbighshire (3.4%) and Wales (3.8%). This positive picture is also reflected in the relative reduction in economic inactivity, where Denbighshire is now at 25.5% compared to Wales at 27.4%.
- 12.3. The improvement activity (projects and actions), which aim to influence the performance measures for this outcome, are all reported as on track and on schedule.
- 13. Outcome 6: The rate of decline in the rural economy will be reduced
- 13.1. This outcome focuses on what the council is doing to improve the condition of the rural economy through the delivery of specific improvement activity.
- 13.2. This outcome is closely aligned to the delivery of projects in the Rural Development Plan. The Rural Key Fund and Micro Business Grant projects were completed on 31 August 2011, and each looks to have achieved their final outputs and targets. From this we can infer that the associated indicators and performance measures, although annual, are likely to achieved.
- 14. Improvement Objective: Modernising the education service to achieve a high level of performance across the county
- 14.1. There is one outcome relating to our "Modernising Education" Improvement Objective:
  - Denbighshire will be within the top 10 performing authorities in Wales for educational attainment.
- 15. Outcome 7: Denbighshire will be within the top 10 performing authorities in Wales for educational attainment
- 15.1. This outcome is all about improving educational attainment for children and young people in Denbighshire to enable them to reach their full potential.
- 15.2. The current status for the outcome, as defined by the indicators, has seen no change since the last reporting period. The indicators for this outcome are annual, but work on the academic calendar rather than the financial calendar. The provisional data from the school exams in June 2011 will be available before the end of 2011, and there will be no change in the reporting for this outcome until then.

- 15.3. The data for 2010-11 has been validated upon the release of the all Wales data and our position is now confirmed for that period. In addition, we have used this data to amend the projected threshold for top 10 performance in 2011-12.
- 15.4. Our trend for attainment during the period of the Corporate Plan has been one of improvement, and performance for all Indicators has improved since the baseline year (2008-09). However, in some cases, the rate of improvement has not been as good as the general rate of improvement throughout Wales, and we have not yet achieved our ambition of being within the top 10 performing authorities in Wales for Key Stage performance.
- 15.5. The majority of planned activity for this outcome is underway but is yet to be reported. The updates for this activity will be included in the Quarter 2 performance report.

# 16. Improvement Objective: Securing a Sustainable Road Network and Flood Defences

- 16.1. There are two outcomes relating to our "Roads and Flood Defences" Improvement Objective:
  - Residents and visitors to Denbighshire have access to a safe and well managed road network
  - Properties have a reduced risk of flooding

# 17. Outcome 8: Residents and visitors to Denbighshire have access to a safe and well managed road network

- 17.1. This outcome reflects our ambition to provide residents and visitors with a safe and well managed road network. The outcome has been extended for 2011-12 to include improvements in road safety and management as well as improving the overall quality of our road network.
- 17.2. A number of the new indicators and performance measures for this outcome have now been clearly defined, and methodologies have been established for collecting the data and calculating the indicator or measure. This work is almost complete, with only one performance measure requiring some additional work to finalise the methodology for calculation (see paragraph 17.4 for details). This will be resolved by the Quarter 2 Performance Report. The process of defining the indicators has resulted in a proposed number of changes to this outcome. The main change is the replacement of "the number of fixed penalty notices issued for street works which fail to comply with agreed criteria" with "the percentage of Category C (Streetworks) inspections that are carried out within the prescribed timescale". This replacement is more meaningful because the council would become responsible for the defect if we do not carry out this inspection within the defined timescale. The full changes to the outcome are detailed in Appendix IV.
- 17.3. **Road Network Quality:** The quality of our road network quality is determined by the national indicator, "The percentage of principal (A) and non-principal (B)

roads that are in overall poor condition", and the local performance measure, "Road Condition Index". The national indicator (THS012) has changed definition, offering no comparable historic median or quartile data. However, from the recently published 2010-11 data, we can see that our relative position in Wales was 14<sup>th</sup> in Wales for the condition of 'A' roads, and 17<sup>th</sup> in Wales for the condition of 'B' roads. "The percentage of roads that have an overall poor Road Condition Index" is only fully updated on a 6 month cycle (due for completion end of September). Once all the data is available we will have a good indication of road condition where prioritised work is required that will help form part of the capital bidding process. This performance measure will be updated for the Quarter 2 performance report.

- 17.4. **Road Network Safety:** The safety of our road network is determined by our measures for accidents on our highways, skid resistance and insurance claims. We have identified our baseline for the number of accidents involving injury per km of highway and the number of accidents involving serious or fatal injury per km of highway, and we are monitoring these on a quarterly basis. Both accident indicators show a positive picture as they are both below target for the first quarter of 2011-12. The skid resistance performance measure is annual and provides an indication of the percentage of our road network in the lowest 2 categories for wet road skidding resistance on the surface. The insurance claims performance measure is the final indicator that requires some additional work to finalise the methodology for calculation. This will be resolved by the Quarter 2 performance report.
- 17.5. **Road Network Management:** The key network management relates to our enforcement activity for on street infringements; the timeliness of streetworks inspections; the speed of repairs to street lamps; and planned maintenance expenditure. Current data show that we are achieving our targeted performance for our enforcement activity for on street infringements. Other data is annually reported, although it should be noted that our performance for speed of repairs to street lamps in 2010-11 was the best in Wales.

### 18. Outcome 9: Properties have a reduced risk of flooding

- 18.1. This outcome is entirely related to our flood defence works, where we seek to protect an increased number of properties from the risk of frequent flood events.
- 18.2. The success of this outcome for 2010-11 (based on the original target completion dates for the flood schemes) was to be determined by the completion of the Corwen Flood Scheme. It is already known that we will not achieve our planned target for 2011-12 because the Corwen Flood Scheme timetable has changed significantly from the proposal in the original business case. The delay is due to government grant funding being withheld this financial year to carry forward other commitments. We are still fully committed to delivering the project, and the Corwen Flood Scheme remains a high priority for government grant funds. We therefore still expect to deliver the benefits from this scheme, only later than our originally expectation.

18.3. Significant progress is being made with the Rhyl Flood Scheme and a contractor was appointed in February 2011. The site compound and offices are now complete, and access onto the beach began in June 2011.

### 19. How does the decision contribute to the Improvement Objectives?

19.1. The information in this report is an overall progress update of the indicators and activity that make up the Corporate Plan. The end result is an evaluation of the likelihood of success for each outcome, and by association, each Improvement Objective. Further detail relating to the performance of each Improvement Objective is attached at Appendix II.

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

- 20.1. Any additional resource requirement (staffing or financial) will be determined and met by the service responsible for carrying out the activity.
- 20.2. The Corporate Plan 2011-12 has been equality impact assessed, highlighting the need for additional equality impact assessments to be undertaken on specific projects and actions.

#### 21. What consultation has been carried out?

21.1. A draft of this report was distributed to SLT for consultation on 26 August 2011, prior to it being discussed at a SLT meeting on 01 September 2011. The revised report was then agreed by the Leader and Head of Business Planning and Performance before being submitted to Cabinet.

### 22. Chief Financial Officer Statement

22.1. While there are no immediate financial implications contained within the report, performance in certain areas may affect grants and other funds available to the Council.

### 23. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

23.1. Slippage against the council's targets within the Corporate Plan creates a number of risks, including: financial risk from inefficient delivery; risk to the community through a failure to deliver quality services; and reputation risk from poor comparative performance with other authorities and regulatory reports. There are no risks associated with agreeing the recommendations.

### 24. Power to make the Decision

24.1. Performance management and monitoring is a key element of the Wales Programme for Improvement 2010 which is underpinned by the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government "Wales" Measure 2009.

### 25. Action Plan

ACTION	By Whom	By When	Lead Member
Outcome 1. Data validation and checks need to be performed on the indicator "The percentage of clients who are supported in the community during the year aged 65+".	Adult & Business Services	30 Sept 2011	Cllr Pauline Dobb
Outcome 1. Update on continued work with the I.T. supplier to arrive at a solution for data accuracy.	Adult & Business Services	30 Sept 2011	Cllr Pauline Dobb
Outcome 1. Suitable measures from the People & Places Programme are identified to supplement this outcome.	Adult & Business Services / Business Planning & Performance	30 Sept 2011	Cllr Pauline Dobb
Outcome 3. The NCW programme historic data to be input into the database	Adult & Business Service	30 Sept 2011	Cllr Pauline Dobb
Outcome 3. Appropriate data collection and reporting procedures need to be put in place for the indicator "the number of participants in disability sport sessions".	Leisure, Libraries & Community Development	30 Sept 2011	Cllr Pauline Dobb & Cllr Morfudd Jones
Outcome 8. The highways related insurance costs performance measures needs further definition to clarify the methodology and data	Highways & Infrastructure / Corporate Improvement Team	30 Sept 2011	Cllr Sharon Frobisher



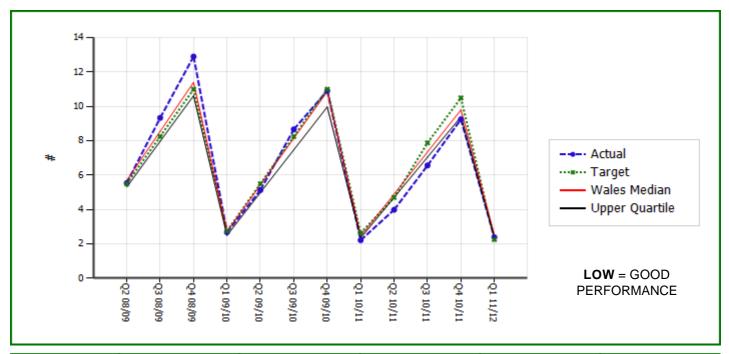
# Becoming a 'High Performing Council'

2012 Indicators

CHR002: The number of working days/shifts per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employee lost due to sickness absence

Head of Service: Linda Atkin Lead Member: Cllr Paul Marfleet

**Explanation:** Measuring the levels of sickness absence within a local authority will help to ascertain the robustness and effectiveness of absence management policies within local authorities. It will also assist in establishing how effective a local authority has been in reducing loss; and will provide a basis on which to evaluate the status and morale of the workforce.



Period	RAG	Actual	Target	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	Green	9.25	10.50	36259.55	3920.00
Q4 09/10		10.91	11.00	42573.99	3902.12
Q3 10/11	Green	6.56	7.88	25965.39	3956.36
Q3 09/10	☑ Amber	8.67	8.25	33513.35	3866.00
Q2 10/11	Green	3.98	4.70	15708.18	3941.91
Q2 09/10		5.13	5.50	20232.35	3942.00
Q1 11/12	☑ Amber	2.39	2.25	9440.18	3956.65
Q1 10/11		2.21	2.63	8845.16	3997.00

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	Our performance is a little up when compared to Q1 in 2010/11. We hope that continued improvement throughout the year will ensure that we maintain our position as a high performing authority.

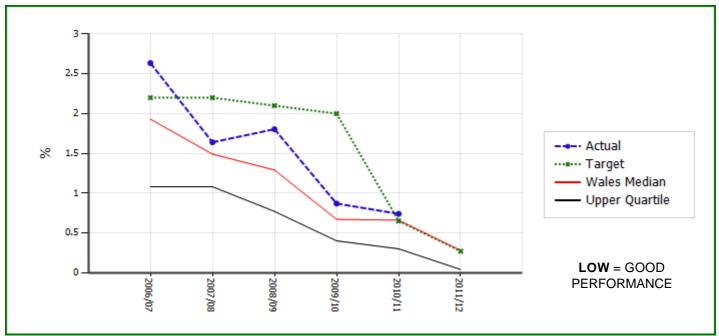
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Low Risk.** We moved into the upper quartile for this indicator in 2010-11. Although performance in quarter 1 for 2011-12 is slightly worse than our target, current performance is still likely to be above the Wales Median.

**EDU002i:** The percentage of all pupils (including those in Local Authority care), in any Local Authority maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August and leave compulsory education, training or workbased learning without an approved external qualification

Head of Service: Karen I Evans Lead Member: Cllr Eryl Williams

**Explanation:** The new approach to education for 14-19 year olds will allow for greater variation in what is taught and should reduce the number of pupils, especially those in local authority care, leaving education without a recognised qualification. This indicator measures the effectiveness of this new agenda from the educating authority's perspective. The influence of the corporate parent on education will be picked up in the Social Care – Children's Services indicators.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
2011/12		0.27			
2010/11	<b>▼</b> Red	0.65	0.74	10	1352
2009/10		2.00	0.87	12	1381
2008/09	Green	2.10	1.80	25	1386
2007/08		2.20	1.64	24	1464
2006/07	<b>↑</b> Red	2.20	2.64	36	1366
2005/06	<b>▼</b> Red	2.19	4.31	59	1368
2004/05	Red	2.19	2.69	35	1303

Period	Comment
2011/12	

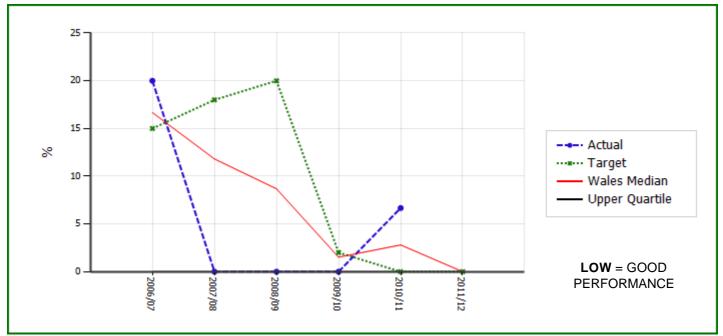
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**High Risk.** Our performance in 2010-11 was just below the Wales Median. It was also the closest it has been to the Wales Median since the start of the Corproate Plan. However, there were eight councils below 0.5 for this indicator, and the Wales Median is expected to fall again to below 0.3 for 2011-12.

**EDU002ii:** The percentage of pupils in Local Authority care, in any Local Authority maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August and leave compulsory education, training or workbased learning without an approved external qualification

Head of Service: Karen I Evans Lead Member: Cllr Eryl Williams

**Explanation:** The new approach to education for 14-19 year olds will allow for greater variation in what is taught and should reduce the number of pupils, especially those in local authority care, leaving education without a recognised qualification. This indicator measures the effectiveness of this new agenda from the educating authority's perspective. The influence of the corporate parent on education will be picked up in the Social Care – Children's Services indicators.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
2011/12		0.00			
2010/11	<b>▼</b> Red	0.00	6.67	1	15
2009/10	Green	2.00	0.00	0	7
2008/09	Green	20.00	0.00	0	13
2007/08		18.00	0.00	0	11
2006/07	<b>☑</b> Red	15.00	20.00	2	10
2005/06		18.87	20.00	3	15
2004/05	Red	18.87	30.77	4	13

Period	Comment
2011/12	

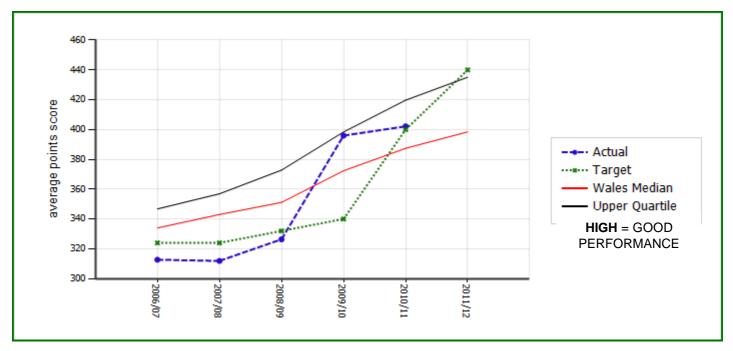
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**High Risk.** We performed in the 3rd quatile for this indicator in 2010-11 due to a single occurrence where a LAC left without an approved qualification in the academic year 2009/10. The difficulty with this indicator relates to the small number of people that it covers, and is dependant on the robustness of a school's pastoral system.

**EDU011:** The average point score for pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31 August, in schools maintained by the Local Authority

Head of Service: Karen I Evans Lead Member: Cllr Eryl Williams

**Explanation:** Educational attainment is an important national priority, linking as it does to many other strategic objectives such as reducing unemployment and social exclusion. This indicator is based on points and recognises the performance of more pupils in a wider range of qualifications



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
2011/12		440.00			
2010/11	☑ Green	400.00	402.13	543684	1352
2009/10		340.00	395.94	546790	1381
2008/09		332.00	326.39	452372	1386
2007/08	☑ Amber	324.00	311.90	456625	1464
2006/07	Amber	324.00	312.70	427147	1366

Period	Comment
2011/12	

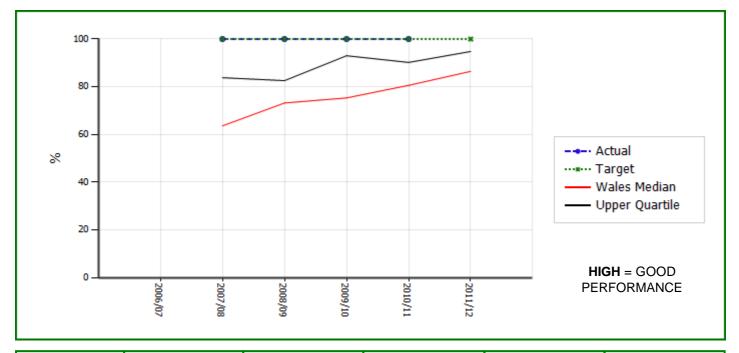
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Medium Risk.** In 2010-11 we performed in the 2nd quartile for the second consecutive year. However, our rate of improvement in 2010-11 was slightly less than the rate of improvement in the Wales Median.

EDU015a: The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks, including exceptions

Head of Service: Karen I Evans Lead Member: Cllr Eryl Williams

**Explanation:** This indicator will provide a measure of the responsiveness and efficiency of the LEA in meeting the statutory timescales for issuing Special Educational Need (SEN) Statements. A child is classed as having a special educational need if they have a learning difficulty that calls for special educational provision to be made for them.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
2011/12		100.00			
2010/11	Green	100.00	100.00	40	40
2009/10	Green	100.00	100.00	28	28
2008/09	Green	100.00	100.00	25	25
2007/08	Green	100.00	100.00	37	37

Period	Comment
2011/12	

### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

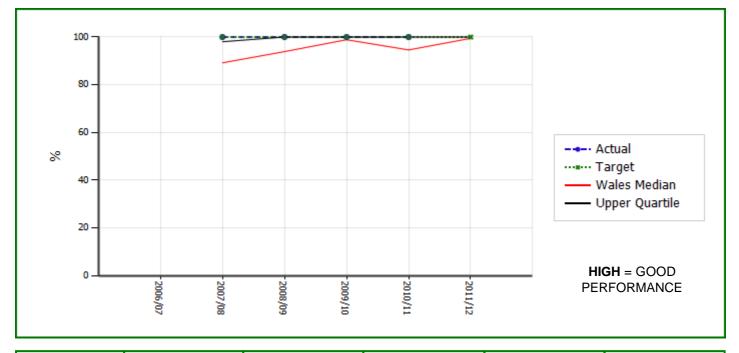
**Low Risk.** The service expects to issue all SEN statements within the 26 week period and the process is being monitored accordingly. We have achieved 100% for this indicator for the past four consecutive years.

EDU015b: The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks, excluding exceptions

#### Head of Service: Karen I Evans

Lead Member: Cllr Eryl Williams

**Explanation:** This indicator will provide a measure of the responsiveness and efficiency of the LEA in meeting the statutory timescales for issuing Special Educational Need (SEN) Statements. A child is classed as having a special educational need if they have a learning difficulty that calls for special educational provision to be made for them.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
2011/12		100.00			
2010/11	Green	100.00	100.00	38	38
2009/10	Green	100.00	100.00	24	24
2008/09	Green	100.00	100.00	24	24
2007/08	Green	100.00	100.00	33	33

Period	Comment
2011/12	

### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

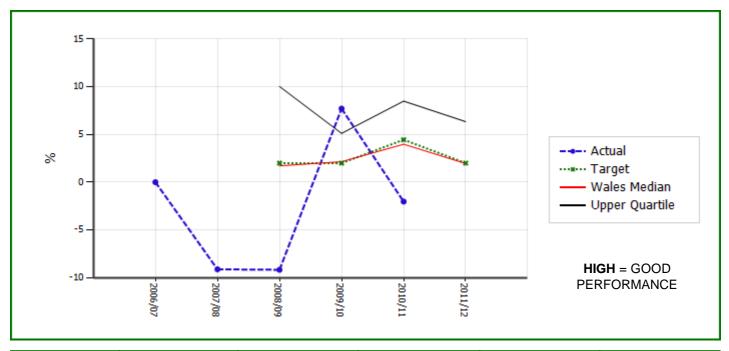
**Low Risk.** The service expects to issue all SEN statements within the 26 week period and the process is being monitored accordingly. We have achieved 100% for this indicator for the past four consecutive years.

EEF002: The percentage change in carbon dioxide emissions in the non domestic public building stock

Head of Service: Paul McGrady

Lead Member: Cllr Paul Marfleet

**Explanation:** This indicator measures the improvement in the energy efficiency in the non-domestic public stock. Carbon dioxide emissions are those emissions of carbon dioxide generated as the direct result of the combustion of hydrocarbon fuels e.g. gas, oil and coal based fuels and the use of electricity.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
2011/12		2.00			
2010/11	<b>型</b> Red	4.45	-2.03	-0.88	43.48
2009/10		2.00	7.71	3.63	47.11
2008/09	Red	2.00	-9.18	-3.96	43.15
2007/08			-9.12	-4.07	44.66
2006/07			0.01	0.00	44.66
2005/06			-16.98	-6.48	38.18

Period	Comment
2011/12	As this indicator is based on the % change our poor performance in 2010/11 should, in theory, make it easier to improve on this position in 2011/12. Our current energy monitoring can only provide accurate data annually (6 months at best due to billing issues). This has the potential to move to quarterly if the billing data improves but more frequent reporting (monthly) is a long way off and we do not have the staffing resources to carry this out.

### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**High Risk.** We performed in the 4th quartile for this indicator in 2010-11. This indicator is volatile, as it is based on the percentage change in carbon emissions from one year to the next. We will have to improve considerably in 2011-12 to perform above the Wales Median.

**HHA013:** The percentage of all potentially homeless households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months

Head of Service: Peter McHugh

Lead Member: Cllr David Thomas

**Explanation:** This indicator measures the extent to which local authorities (and organisations they may work in partnership with, including those that they fund) are able to prevent homelessness for those households where the local authority considers that they are likely to become homeless, unless the local authority intervenes.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	☑ Green	96.75	98.10	206	210
Q4 09/10	Green	80.00	99.00	199	201
Q3 10/11	☑ Green	96.75	98.20	164	167
Q3 09/10	Green	80.00	98.74	157	159
Q2 10/11	☑ Green	96.75	99.07	106	107
Q2 09/10	Green	80.00	98.08	102	104
Q1 11/12	☑ Amber	98.10	94.59	35	37
Q1 10/11	☑ Green	96.75	100.00	61	61

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	Despite the challenges due to government austerity measures and changes to Welfare and Housing Benefit entitlement, housing prevention staff have performed exceptionally well and are still maintaining Denbighshire County Council Performance for this PI within the top quartile in Wales. This is providing a good customer service to residents of Denbighshire both in terms of prevention of homelessness and sustainability of local communities.

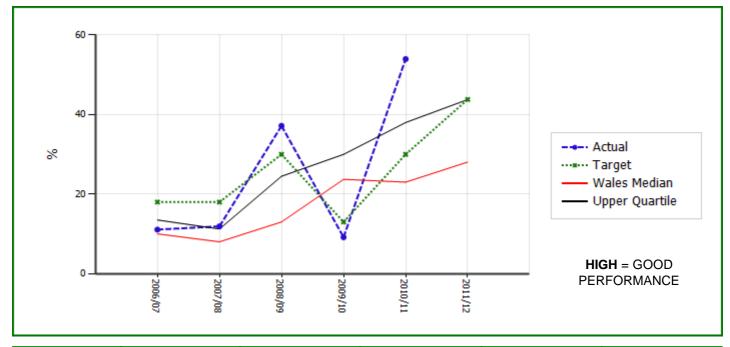
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Medium Risk.** We have performed in the top quartile for this indicator for the past three years, and we were ranked 1st in Wales in 2010-11. In order to provide a clearer indication of top quartile status the target has been amended slightly. Performance in quarter 1 of 2011-12 has declined compared to previous years, and will need to improve again in order to remain in the top quartile.

**PLA006:** The number of additional affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all new housing units provided during the year

**Head of Service:** Graham Boase **Lead Member:** Cllr David Thomas

**Explanation:** National planning policy enables local planning authorities, where the need for affordable housing has been demonstrated, to require an element of affordable housing as part of new private sector housing developments. In addition local planning authorities are responsible for considering applications for planning permission for new housing and for conversion of existing buildings for housing purposes, whether such applications are submitted for purposes of affordable housing, private housing or a mix of housing.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
2011/12		43.80			
2010/11		30.00	53.97	140	252
2009/10	<b></b> Red	13.00	9.16	12	131
2008/09		30.00	37.17	71	191
2007/08	Red	18.00	11.90	32	269
2006/07	Red	18.00	11.08	43	388

Period	Comment
2011/12	

### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Low Risk.** We were ranked second in Wales for this indicator in 2010-11. The target has been revised to reflect our ambition to remain in the top quartile. The completion of the Ruthin Extra Care Housing project in 2011/12 will likely have a significant positive impact on this indicator and will likely be the sole factor for us achieving our targets.

PSR002: The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant

**Head of Service:** Graham Boase **Lead Member:** Cllr David Thomas

**Explanation:** This indicator measures the quality of the service provided when authorities utilise mandatory DFGs in order to complete adaptation works. The indicator should provide an accurate representation of how long the process takes from the client's perspective.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	Green	324.00	283.34	31451	111
Q4 09/10	<b>☑</b> Red	325.00	381.01	38101	100
Q3 10/11	Green	324.00	285.55	24272	85
Q3 09/10	Green	325.00	266.12	15435	58
Q2 10/11		324.00	272.55	11992	44
Q2 09/10	Green	325.00	273.66	10399	38
Q1 11/12	Green	235.00	206.32	5158	25
Q1 10/11		324.00	294.94	4719	16

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	We are awaiting a Report from the Wales Audit Office clarifying whether Denbighshire is recording this PI in the same manner as other authorities in Wales. The National Guidance is not clear. If we have to change the way we record against this PI then our performance will increase (i.e. it will take longer to deliver a Disabled Facility Grant).

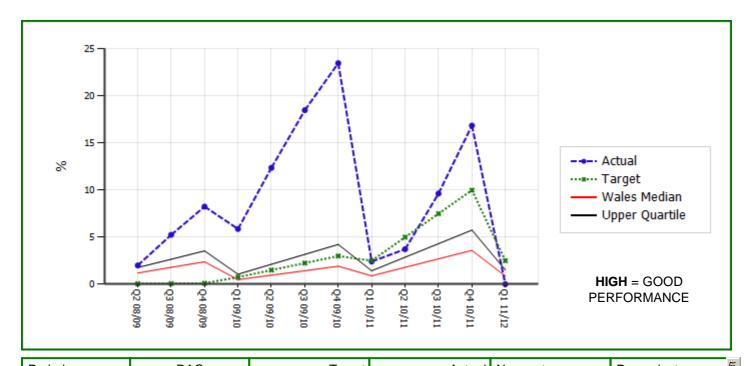
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Low Risk.** We were ranked fourth in Wales in 2010-11, and our performance has continued to improve during the 1st quarter of 2011-12. The target for 2011-12 has been revised to reflect our ambition to remain in the upper quartile.

**PSR004:** The percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 April that were returned to occupation during the year through direct action by the Local Authority

**Head of Service:** Graham Boase **Lead Member:** Cllr David Thomas

**Explanation:** This indicator measures the extent to which local authorities are bringing dwellings that have been vacant for long periods of time back into occupation.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11		10.00	16.87	154	91
Q4 09/10	Green	3.00	23.50	188	80
Q3 10/11		7.50	9.64	88	91
Q3 09/10	Green	2.25	18.50	148	80
Q2 10/11	☑ Amber	5.00	3.72	34	91
Q2 09/10	Green	1.50	12.38	99	80
Q1 11/12	<b>☑</b> Red	2.50	0.00	0	140
Q1 10/11	☑ Amber	2.50	2.41	22	91
Period	Comment				
Q1 11/12	The estimated figure of long term empty homes as at 1st April 2011 is 1405 (denominator). This figure comes directly from the Council Tax department and is likely to decrease once the data is 'cleansed'. Council Tax often have some properties marked as empty when they are not empty anymore. We will be sending out surveys to establish some facts about these empty properties and amend the figure of empty homes during the year if necessary. The denominator is quite a bit higher that the 913 for 2010/2011, despite the work of the Denbighshire Empty Homes Project. We are currently carrying out some analysis to try to understand the reason for the increase. The Empty Homes Officer post has been vacant since December 2010 and the post has only been filled since mid June 2011, therefore we have no data for the first quarter.				

### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

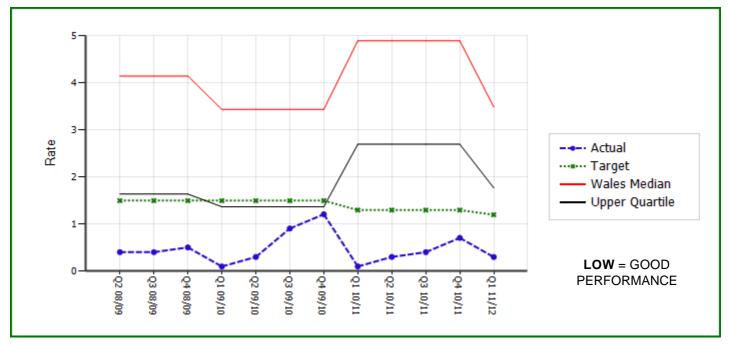
**Low Risk.** We were ranked third in Wales for this indicator in 2010-11. Although we have no data for the 1st quarter of 2011-12 (due to the vacant Empty Homes Officer post), we remain confiden in retaining our upper quartile position due to the significant gap between our performance in 2010-11 and the threshold for upper quartile performance.

SCA001: The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1000 population aged 75 or over

#### **Head of Service:** Helena Thomas

Lead Member: Cllr Pauline Dobb

**Explanation:** This indicator measures the extent to which the authority contributes to delayed transfers of care. A delayed transfer of care is experienced by an inpatient in hospital that is ready to move on to the next stage of care but is prevented from doing so. The "next stage of care" covers all appropriate destinations within and outside the NHS, i.e. those patients who are unable to be discharged from NHS care, and also patients who are unable to be transferred within the NHS to a more appropriate bed.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	☑ Green	1.30	0.71	7	9914
Q4 09/10	Green	1.50	1.21	12	9914
Q3 10/11	Green	1.30	0.40	4	9914
Q3 09/10	Green	1.50	0.91	9	9914
Q2 10/11	Green	1.30	0.30	3	9914
Q2 09/10	Green	1.50	0.30	3	9914
Q1 11/12		1.20	0.30	3	9885
Q1 10/11	Green	1.30	0.10	1	9914

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	We are on track to meet performance and sustain our position as one of the top performers in Wales for this indicator. This success is achieved through sustained focus and energy to effectively manage performance.

### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Low Risk.** We were ranked second in Wales for this indicator in 2010-11, and performanc ein the first quarter on 2011-12 remains ahead of our target.

SCA019: The percentage of adult protection referrals completed where the risk has been managed

Head of Service: Helena Thomas Lead Member: Cllr Pauline Dobb

**Explanation:** Safeguarding vulnerable adults is a key responsibility for Social Services. An adult protection referral refers to the point at which a concern or allegation is first logged. This may be as a result of a new referral regarding an individual not previously known to the service which has been occasioned specifically because of adult protection concerns, but it often involves existing clients where abuse has been alleged.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11		77.00	92.68	152	164
Q4 09/10	Green	65.00	82.22	148	180
Q3 10/11		77.00	71.74	132	184
Q3 09/10	Green	65.00	76.80	96	125
Q2 10/11	☑ Green	77.00	80.53	91	113
Q2 09/10	Green	65.00	81.40	70	86
Q1 11/12	Amber	100.00	88.24	30	34
Q1 10/11	■ Green	77.00	82.89	63	76

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	Performance is on track to meet our year end target.

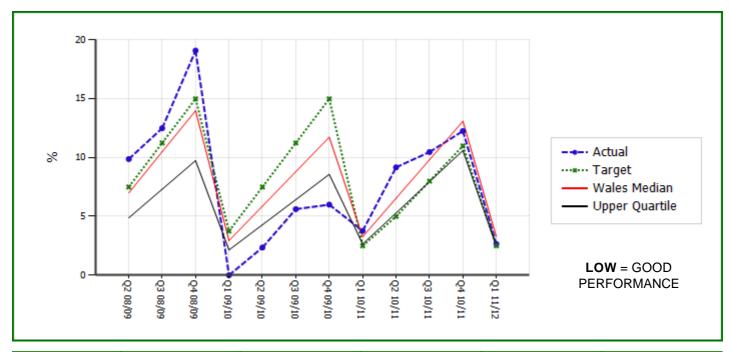
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Medium Risk.** We performed in the top quartile for this indicator for the third consecutive year. However, the upper quartile threshold has improved significantly over the past three years, and is now projected to be close to 100% in 2011-12. We may therefore need to improve our performance again to remain in the upper quartile for 2011-12.

**SCC002:** The percentage of children looked after at 31 March who have experienced one or more changes of school, during a period or periods of being looked after, which were not due to transitional arrangements, in the 12 months to 31 March

Head of Service: Leighton Rees Lead Member: Cllr Morfudd Jones

**Explanation:** This indicator measures the extent to which local authorities are able to place children with minimum disruption to their education and school life, thus providing a certain degree of stability.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	<b>™</b> Red	11.00	12.26	13	106
Q4 09/10	Green	15.00	6.00	6	100
Q3 10/11	Red	8.00	10.48	11	105
Q3 09/10	Green	11.25	5.62	5	89
Q2 10/11	Red	5.00	9.17	10	109
Q2 09/10	Green	7.50	2.35	2	85
Q1 11/12	Amber	2.50	2.65	3	113
Q1 10/11	<b>☑</b> Red	2.50	3.77	4	106

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	3 children have experienced school moves during the first quarter of the year. The cohort for this indicator is very small and performance will continue to be monitored closely to ensure that moves are minimisied. However, there will always be circumstances where a school move is a positive way forward for a child/young person.

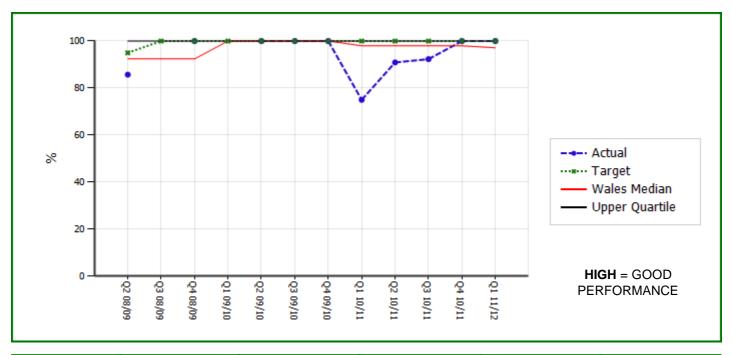
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Medium Risk.** We performed in the 2nd quartile for this indicator in 2010-11, and the Wales Median for this indicator is fairly static. Our performance for this indicator in 2011-12 if continued should ensure 2nd quartile status for 2011-12. However, this indicator remains volatile due to the small size of the cohort.

SCC033a: The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact at the age of 19

Head of Service: Leighton Rees Lead Member: Cllr Morfudd Jones

**Explanation:** For the transition to independence continuing contact, appropriate accommodation, education and employment are important to improving outcomes for young people leaving care.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	Green	100.00	100.00	12	12
Q4 09/10	Green	100.00	100.00	8	8
Q3 10/11	Red	100.00	92.31	12	13
Q3 09/10	Green	100.00	100.00	5	5
Q2 10/11	Red	100.00	90.91	10	11
Q2 09/10	Green	100.00	100.00	5	5
Q1 11/12	Green	100.00	100.00	2	2
Q1 10/11	<b>☑</b> Red	100.00	75.00	3	4

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	We were in contact with all young people for this indicator during the first quarter of 11/12.

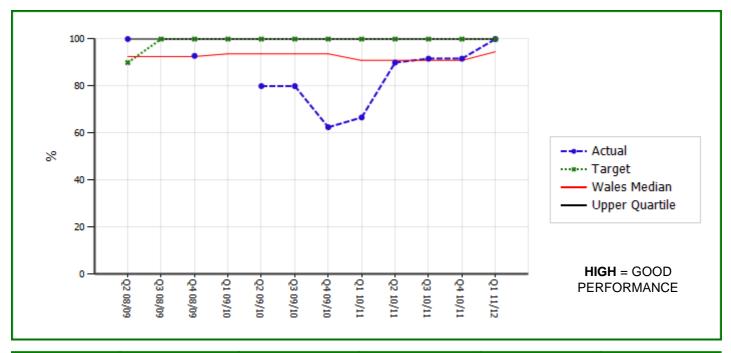
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Medium Risk.** There is a medium risk to achieving top 2 quartile status due to the relatively small cohort meaning that 100% performance is required in order to be successful. However, we have acheived 100% for the past three years.

**SCC033b:** The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be in suitable, non-emergency accommodation at the age of 19

Head of Service: Leighton Rees Lead Member: Cllr Morfudd Jones

**Explanation:** For the transition to independence continuing contact, appropriate accommodation, education and employment are important to improving outcomes for young people leaving care.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	Red	100.00	91.67	11	12
Q4 09/10	Red	100.00	62.50	5	8
Q3 10/11	Red	100.00	91.67	11	12
Q3 09/10	Red	100.00	80.00	4	5
Q2 10/11	Red	100.00	90.00	9	10
Q2 09/10	Red	100.00	80.00	4	5
Q1 11/12		100.00	100.00	2	2
Q1 10/11	Red	100.00	66.67	2	3

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	All the young people in this cohort were in suitable, non emergency accommodation during the first quarter of 11/12.

### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Medium Risk.** We performed in the 2nd quartile for this indicator in 2010-11. However, we expect the Wales Median to increase in 2011-12, and we therefore require an increase in our performance to retain our 2nd quartile status. Performance in quarter 1 in 2011-12 was 100%.

**SCC033c:** The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be engaged in education, training or employment at the age of 19

Head of Service: Leighton Rees Lead Member: Cllr Morfudd Jones

**Explanation:** For the transition to independence continuing contact, appropriate accommodation, education and employment are important to improving outcomes for young people leaving care.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	Green	72.00	91.67	11	12
Q4 09/10	Red	72.00	62.50	5	5
Q3 10/11	Green	72.00	83.33	10	12
Q3 09/10	Red	72.00	20.00	1	2
Q2 10/11	Green	72.00	100.00	10	10
Q2 09/10	Red	72.00	20.00	1	5
Q1 11/12	<b>☑</b> Red	100.00	50.00	1	2
Q1 10/11	Green	72.00	100.00	3	3

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	There were 2 young people in this cohort during the first quarter of 11/12. One young person was NEET which results in performance of 50%. There is a risk that this indicator will not be met as there are a number of young people who will become 19 during the year who are currently NEET. We are looking at how we manage this position.

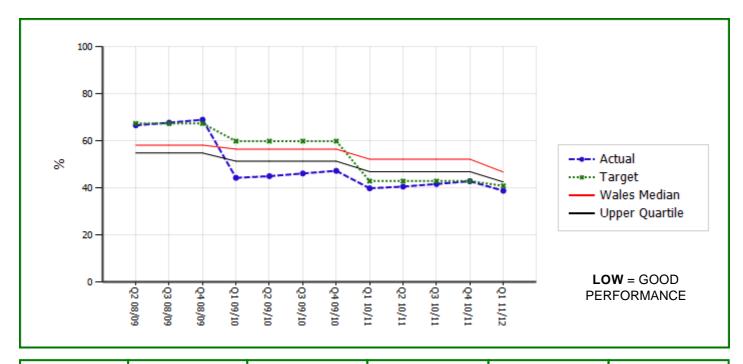
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Medium Risk.** We were ranked 1st in Wales for this indicator in 2010-11. However, the cohort for this indicator is small, and the Service has identified a current risk within that cohort. We performed below the Wales Median for this indicator at the start of the Corporate Plan, and therefore may only need to perform within the top two quartiles to demonstrate an improvement.

WMT004: The percentage of municipal wastes collected by local authorities sent to landfill

Head of Service: Steve Parker Lead Member: Cllr Sharon Frobisher

**Explanation:** Reducing the amount and percentage of local authority collected municipal waste sent to landfill is a national priority, as detailed in the Wales Waste Strategy. This indicator will allow us to monitor trends in the diversion of waste away from landfill disposal.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	☑ Green	43.00	42.94	18892.14	43997.39
Q4 09/10	Green	60.00	47.36	21042.64	44427.53
Q3 10/11	☑ Green	43.00	41.75	13894.50	33278.69
Q3 09/10	Green	60.00	46.25	15756.50	34071.09
Q2 10/11	☑ Green	43.00	40.65	9582.92	23575.26
Q2 09/10	Green	60.00	45.09	10800.66	23952.52
Q1 11/12		41.00	38.90	4375.77	11248.51
Q1 10/11	☑ Green	43.00	39.93	4799.72	12018.84

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	We currently send less to landfill than the target or allowance. We expect to maintain this and our upper quartlie position.

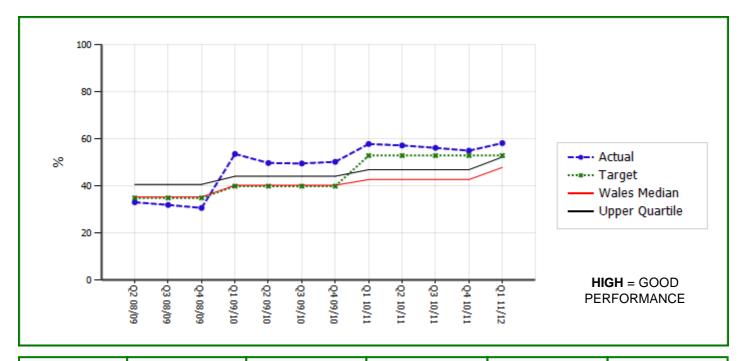
### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Low Risk.** We were ranked fourth in Wales for this indicator in 2010-11. Although we expect the upper quartile threshold to improve in 2011-12, our target is still appropriate to meeting that challenge. Performance for quarter 1 in 2011-12 also exceeds our target.

**WMT009:** The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated biowastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way

Head of Service: Steve Parker Lead Member: Cllr Sharon Frobisher

**Explanation:** Waste reduction, recycling, re-use and composting are key national priorities, as detailed in the Wales Waste Strategy. This indicator measures how well authorities are performing overall in these areas.



Period	RAG	Target	Actual	Numerator	Denominator
Q4 10/11	Green	53.00	55.08	23958.47	42390.02
Q4 09/10	Green	40.00	50.34	42177.34	83789.15
Q3 10/11	Green	53.00	56.28	18609.47	31984.02
Q3 09/10	Green	40.00	49.65	20483.19	41256.12
Q2 10/11	Green	53.00	57.32	13476.33	22479.39
Q2 09/10	Green	40.00	49.84	15697.19	31496.12
Q1 11/12		53.00	58.31	6165.60	10573.32
Q1 10/11	Green	53.00	57.93	6608.86	11414.41

Period	Comment
Q1 11/12	We are currently in the upper quartile and above the Wales Median. We expect to maintain this performance in the future.

### 3rd party evaluation of likelihood to achieve top 2 quartile status in 2012:

**Low Risk.** We were ranked first in Wales for this indicator for 2011-12. Although we expect the upper quartile threshold to improve in 2011-12, our target is still appropriate to meeting that challenge. Performance for quarter 1 in 2011-12 also exceeds our target.



# Corporate Plan 2011 - 2012

**Summary Report** 

# Corporate Plan 2011 - 2012



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# Older people are able to live independently for longer

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
	Actual	Ū	KAG
The percentage of Extra Care flats occupied		95.00	
Outcome Indicators: Quarterly			
Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The percentage of clients who are supported in the community during the year aged 65+	76.00	87.00	▼ Red
The percentage of people no longer needing a social care service following involvement from the reablement and intake service	55.00	55.00	Green
The rate of older people (aged 65 or over) whom the authority supports in care homes per 1000 population aged 65 or over at 31 March	25.68	25.75	
Performance Measures: Annual			
Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The number of additional Extra Care Flats		21.00	
Performance Measures: Quarterly			
	Actual	Target	RAG
Title			
Title  The number of older people receiving telecare services	50.00	55.00	☑ Red
	50.00 386.00	55.00 125.00	<ul><li>☑ Red</li><li>☐ Green</li></ul>
The number of older people receiving telecare services			
The number of older people receiving telecare services  The number of people receiving reablement and intake service  The percentage of carers of adult service users who were offered an	386.00	125.00	Green
The number of older people receiving telecare services  The number of people receiving reablement and intake service  The percentage of carers of adult service users who were offered an assessment in their own right during the year (SCA018a)  The percentage of older people having their needs and care plan	386.00 73.47	125.00	Green

Title	RAG
Enhance the range of services available to carers that promote informal care arrangements and prevent breakdown	Green
Further develop reablement in Extra Care Housing	Amber
Further develop reablement in sheltered housing	Green
Further develop reablement with housing support providers	Green
Further develop reablement with independent sector providers	Green
Open Llys Awelon (Ruthin Extra Care)	Amber/Green
Progress Plans for Extra Care Housing in Denbigh	Amber
Re-launch Direct Payments	Green
Review and reconfigure day services to support the delivery of options that both promote independence and are cost effective	Green
Strengthen the focus and timeliness of reviews to actively consider the appropriateness of reducing care packages and/or replacing services with those that promote independence	Amber



People with learning disabilities are able to live independently for longer

### **Outcome Indicators: Quarterly**

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The rate of adults aged 18 - 64 with a learning disability who are supported in a care home reduced	0.43	0.55	
The rate of adults with learning disabilities helped to live at home increased	3.81	4.20	<b>▼</b> Red

### **Performance Measures: Quarterly**

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The number of adults aged 18 - 64 with a learning disability who are supported in a care home reduced	24.00	32.00	■ Green
The numbers of adults with learning disabilities helped to live at home increased	214.00	240.00	<b>▼</b> Red

### **Improvement Activity**

Title	RAG
Build an Intensively Supported Independent Living scheme in Henllan for disabled people	O Amber
Increase commercial activity of in-house work opportunity businesses	
Subject to the outcome of Citizen Directed Support pilot roll out of this approach across the learning disability service	Green



# Community initiatives meet the needs of an increasing population of older and disabled people

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The number of people involved in New Work Connections who feel more involved in the community			
The number of people involved in New Work Connections who identify that they are looking after themself better			
The number of people involved in New Work Connections who feel more confidence generally			
The number of people involved in New Work Connections who identify that they take more pride in themself			
The number of people involved in New Work Connections who can relate better to others			
The number of people involved in New Work Connections who are introduced to healthier activities			
The number of people involved in New Work Connections who feel more organised in day to day life			

### **Outcome Indicators: Quarterly**

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
New Work Connections: The number of people who were economically inactive and unemployed who have been supported into Employment, Education or Training	15.00	30.00	■ Red

### **Performance Measures: Annual**

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
Benefit and tax credit gains confirmed (£)		7000000.00	
Debts resolved (£)		15000000.00	
The number of communities engaged in developing sustainable support networks for older people		6.00	
The number of individuals taken above the UK and Welsh Assembly Government poverty lines		1000.00	
The percentage completion rate for the 16 week National Exercise Referral Scheme intervention programme		41.00	



### Continued ...

### **Performance Measures: Quarterly**

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
New Work Connections: The number of people gaining qualifications	3.00	20.00	Red
New Work Connections: The number of people helped into paid employment	3.00	7.00	Red
New Work Connections: The number of people helped into volunteering	4.00		
New Work Connections: The number of people participating	71.00	25.00	Green
The number of adults aged 18 - 64 with a learning disability who are supported in a care home reduced	24.00	32.00	Green
The number of disabled people (including mental health and age related) who participate in disability sport sessions		2125.00	
The number of older people (aged 50 or over) enrolled on the "First Click" programme	153.00	100.00	
The number of people involved in the "tele-buddies" scheme		40.00	
The rate of older people (aged 65 or over) participating in physical activity and wellbeing opportunities through day centres, and other community based settings	0.00		

### **Improvement Activity**

	1
Title	RAG
Community Initiative: Citizen Empowerment Model (provide a framework for older people to enable people over 50 to move from where they are in their lives to where they want to be)	Amber
Community Initiative: Free Swim (implement the national free swim agenda for young and older people)	Green
Community Initiative: New Work Connections (provide opportunities for older people to become mentors to help people find employment)	Green
Community Initiative: Tele-Buddies (pilot a telephone befriending service)	Green
Community Initiative: Telecare (roll out a personal care response service)	Green
Ensure that older people have a direct say in the priorities for our annual training programme	Green
Evaluate the impact that extra care and reablement have on people's sense of wellbeing	Amber
First Click: Computer Skills for Older People	Green
Implement our Older People's Development Strategy and WAG Dignity programme for older people	Green
National Exercise Referral Scheme	Green
Protection of Vulnerable Adults guidance and implementation	Green
Recruit and train up to 6 older people from the citizens of Denbighshire and support them to promote and cascade the messages of the WAG Dignity in Care programme to other older people	Green
Review person centred planning and to assess the appropriateness of developing this approach for people with disabilities	Amber
Work in partnership with communities and the third sector to encourage independence (this will include developing six new community based initiatives)	Amber
Work with Leisure Services to promote and develop opportunities for older people to participate in leisure activities linked to our reablement strategy	



Pockets of high socio-economic deprivation in the northern coastal strip, particularly those in Rhyl, will be tackled to allow them to catch up with other parts of Wales

Outcome Indicators: Annual			
Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The average points score for pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31 August in schools maintained by the local authority (Rhyl)		410.00	
The average points score for pupils aged 17 at the preceding 31 August in schools maintained by the local authority (Rhyl)		810.00	
Outcome Indicators: Quarterly			
Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The incidence of criminal damage in Rhyl	41.00	61.00	Green
The relative reduction in Job Seekers Allowance claimants in each LSOA area in Rhyl	3.63	3.46	Red

### **Performance Measures: Annual**

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
Reduce the number of people below the 60% poverty line		732.00	
The additional number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) taken through the licensing scheme		30.00	
The percentage of year 11 pupils who continue in full time education in Rhyl		80.00	

### **Improvement Activity**

Title	RAG
Apollo Cinema Refurbishment	Amber/Green
Bee and Station Office Scheme	Green
Completion and publication of Rhyl Strategic Regeneration Framework	Green
Delivery of Rhyl Town-Scape Heritage Initiative	Green
Forydd Harbour Cycle and Pedestrian Bridge	Green
Forydd Harbour Phase 2: commercial units, square and quay wall extension	Red/Amber
Project NEET: Rhyl	Green
Purchase of properties within Strategic Regeneration Area	Green



We will support sustainable economic growth by: increasing the number and quality of job opportunities; improving opportunities for business growth and start-ups; and ensuring that housing of the required quality and quantity is available

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The ratio of average house prices to average earnings		6.84	
Outcome Indicators: Quarterly			
Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The relative reduction in economic inactivity	25.50	27.40	Green
The relative reduction in Job Seekers Allowance claimants in Denbighshire	0.40	0.21	Green
Performance Measures: Annual			
Title	Actual	Target	RAG
Reduce the number of people below the 60% poverty line		732.00	
The number of social enterprises assisted		18.00	
The total number of businesses receiving assistance from the			

Title	RAG
Celtic Authentic Niche Tourism Advancing the Atlantic Area CANTATA II Project	Green
Denbighshire County Council Business Grants	Green
Denbighshire County Council Community Grants	Green
Skills Forum	Green
Wales Ireland Network for Social Enterprise (WINSENT) Project	Green
Welsh Housing Quality Standards	Green



# The rate of decline in the rural economy will be reduced

Outcome Indicators: Annual			
Title	Actual	Target	RAG
Reduce decline in rural businesses: total number of micro enterprises receiving assistance		7.00	
Reduce decline in tourism sector: gross number of additional visitors		3000.00	

### **Performance Measures: Annual**

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The gross number of jobs created in rural micro businesses	21.00	13.00	Green
The number of new and existing micro rural enterprises (<10 employees) financially assisted	34.00	29.00	Green
The number of village facilities improved		12.00	

### **Improvement Activity**

Title	RAG
Denbighshire Rural Key Fund	Green
Destination Denbighshire Project	Green
Grants for Micro Business	Green
Green Tourism Project	Green
Rural Denbighshire Business Creation and Development Project	Green



# Denbighshire will be within the top 10 performing authorities in Wales for educational attainment

#### **Outcome Indicators: Annual** Title Actual **Target RAG** The average point score for pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31 August, in schools maintained by the local authority 440.00 The percentage of pupils achieving level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and Maths 52.50 The percentage of pupils achieving level 2 threshold or vocational 66.00 equivalents The percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator at 83.50 Key Stage 1 The percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2 79.50 The percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage $\ensuremath{\mathbf{3}}$ 66.50 The percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator at 50.00 Key Stage 4

#### **Performance Measures: Annual**

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The number of school days lost due to fixed-term exclusions (5 days or fewer) during the academic year, in secondary schools			
The number of school days lost due to fixed-term exclusions (6 days or more) during the academic year, in secondary schools			
The percentage attendance (school sessions) by pupils of compulsory school age during the academic year, in all maintained secondary and special schools			

### **Improvement Activity**

Title	RAG
Complete formal consultation for the Edeyrnion Review	Green
Inclusion: Establish professional learning communities at regional, local and school level in order to promote and disseminate good practice across all Key Stages	
Inclusion: Review systems of tracking attendance and exclusion, set realistic targets, review use of lesson monitor to ensure that attendance is accurately monitored	
School Performance: Conduct a review of Foundation Phase	
School Performance: Conduct a review of the welsh teacher advisory service in order to ensure that there is parity across the Key Stages	
School Performance: Conduct an annual school self assessment and evaluation process in all schools	
School Performance: Undertake termly performance reviews with secondary schools and provide secondary governing bodies with termly updates on school performance	
School Performance: Work with secondary schools to ensure that the curriculum offer is fit for purpose	

**Outcome Indicators: Annual** 

Traffic Scheme Programme

Work with partners to reduce road casualties on the county road network to achieve government targets

## **Corporate Plan Outcome 8**



Residents and visitors to Denbighshire have access to a safe and well managed road network

Actual	Target	RAG		
	8.50			
Actual	Target	RAG		
81.00	50.00	Green		
71.78	70.00	Green		
0.07	0.19	Green		
0.01	0.03	Green		
Actual	Target	RAG		
	1.00			
87.00				
35.00				
The total amount of highways related insurance costs (£s) per km of local authority road network				
e Actual Ta				
Improvement Activity  Title				
Bridges Maintenance Programme				
Continue programme of Kerbcraft training and cycle training				
Develop and expand use of the Highways Asset Management System				
Highways Asset Management: Implementation of symology as a complete Highway Asset Management software package				
Roads and Highways Capital Maintenance Programme				
Task & Finish Group looking at residential parking policy				
Task & Finish Group review of parking enforcement				
	Actual 81.00 71.78 0.07 0.01 Actual Actual	Actual Target 81.00 50.00 71.78 70.00 0.07 0.19 0.01 0.03 700.00 110.00 1.16 87.00 35.00 Actual Target		

Green

Green

# **Corporate Plan Outcome 9**



## Properties have a reduced risk of flooding

Outcome Indicators: Annual			
Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The number of properties with a reduced risk of flooding as a result of programmed work	580.00	665.00	<b>1</b> Red
The percentage of properties at high risk of flooding where the risk of flooding has been reduced	3.92	4.49	■ Red

#### **Performance Measures: Annual**

Title	Actual	Target	RAG
The number of people accessing information via electronic means e.g. the website		1200.00	
The number of people engaged in public events / leafleting		1000.00	
The number of pupils participating in flood awareness activities in schools		500.00	

### **Improvement Activity**

Title	RAG
Coastal Defence Strategy	Amber
Contractor appointment	Green
Schools flood awareness project	Green

## **Appendix III: Revised Targets for 2012 Indicators**

Code	Description	2009-10 Outturn	2010-11 Outturn	2010-11 Median	2010-11 Upper Quartile	Current Target	Revised Target
CHR002	The number of working days / shifts per full time equivalent (FTE) local authority employee lost due to sickness absence	10.9	9.20	9.80	9.40	9.00	9.00 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
EDU002i	The percentage of all pupils (including those in LA care), in any LA maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August and leave compulsory education, training or workbased learning without an approved external qualification	0.87	0.74	0.66	0.30	0.35	0.27 <sup>1</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quartile
EDU002ii	The percentage of pupils in LA care, in any LA maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August and leave compulsory education, training or workbased learning without an approved external qualification	0.00	6.70	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.00 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
EDU011	The average point score for pupils aged 15 at the preceding 31 August, in schools maintained by the local authority	396	402	387.40	419.70	440	440 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quartile
EDU015a	The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks, including exceptions	100	100	80.60	90.20	100	100 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
EDU015b	The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks, excluding exceptions	100	100	94.60	100	100	100 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
EEF002	The percentage change in carbon dioxide emissions in the non domestic public building stock	7.71	-2.03	3.98	8.50	4.45	2.00 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quartile
HHA013	The percentage of all potentially homeless households for whom homelessness was prevented for at least 6 months	99.0	98.10	74.60	88.60	98.0	98.1 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
PLA006	The number of additional affordable housing units provided during the year as a percentage of all new housing units provided during the year	9.16	54.0	23.00	38.00	41.0	43.81 <sup>1</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
PSR002	The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant	381	283	347.00	306.00	285	235 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile

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 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  It has not yet been confirmed that the service is happy with the proposed revised target.

## **Appendix III: Revised Targets for 2012 Indicators**

Code	Description	2009-10 Outturn	2010-11 Outturn	2010-11 Median	2010-11 Upper Quartile	Current Target	Revised Target
PSR004	The percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 April that were returned to occupation during the year through direct action by the local authority	23.5	16.87	3.59	5.75	10.0	10.0 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
SCA001	The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1000 population aged 75 or over	1.21	0.71	4.90	2.70	1.20	1.20 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
SCA019	The percentage of adult protection referrals completed where the risk has been managed	82.2	92.68	85.39	92.65	85.0	100 <sup>2</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
SCC002	The percentage of children looked after at 31 March who have experienced one or more changes of school, during a period or periods of being looked after, which were not due to transitional arrangements, in the 12 months to 31 March	6.00	12.30	13.10	10.60	10.0	10.0 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quartile
SCC033a	The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact at the age of 19	100	100	98.00	100	100	100 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
SCC033b	The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be in suitable, non-emergency accommodation at the age of 19	62.5	91.70	90.90	100	100	100 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
SCC033c	The percentage of young people formerly looked after with whom the authority is in contact, who are known to be engaged in education, training or employment at the age of 19	62.5	91.70	50.00	63.00	100	100 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
WMT004	The percentage of municipal wastes collected by local authorities sent to landfill	42.6	42.94	52.31	47.01	41.0	41.0 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile
WMT009	The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated biowastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way	51.0	55.08	42.79	46.98	53.0	53.0 1 <sup>st</sup> Quartile

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 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  It has not yet been confirmed that the service is happy with the proposed revised target.

## Roads and Flood Defences

# Outcome 8: Residents and visitors to Denbighshire have access to a safe and well managed road network

This outcome reflects our ambition to provide residents and visitors with a safe and well managed road network. The outcome has been extended for 2011-12 to include improvements in road safety and management as well as improving the overall quality of our road network.

#### **Road Network Quality**

#### Indicator

The percentage of Principal (A) and non principal (B) roads that are in overall poor condition (THS012)

#### **Performance Measure**

The percentage of roads that have an overall poor Road Condition Index

#### **Road Network Safety**

#### Indicator

The total number of accidents involving serious or fatal injury per km of highway

The total number of accidents involving Injury per km of highway

#### **Performance Measure**

The percentage of highway in red/yellow bands of SCRIM measure (skid resistance)

The total amount of highways related insurance costs (£s) per km of local authority road network

The numbers of participants in Pass Plus where the Council has subsidised

The number of participants (age 9-11) in Cycle Training

The percentage take up of children's Traffic Club (age 3-4.5)

#### **Road Network Management**

#### **Indicator**

The percentage of total penalty charge notices issued that relate to on street infringements

The percentage of Category C (Streetworks) inspections that are carried out within the prescribed timescale

#### **Performance Measure**

The average number of calendar days taken to repair street lamp failures during the year (THS009)

The percentage of the annual structural maintenance expenditure that was spent on planned structural maintenance

#### Agenda Item No. 10

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 27 September 2011

**Scrutiny Chair:** Councillor Bobby Feeley

Report Author: Scrutiny Coordinator

Title: Recommendation from Performance Scrutiny

**Committee: Estyn Self Evaluation Report (SER)** 

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

The Performance Scrutiny Committee's recommendations with respect to the preparations for the forthcoming inspection of the Local Authority's Education Services for Children and Young People, scheduled for spring 2012.

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

To draw to Cabinet's attention Performance Scrutiny Committee's recommendations with respect to the production of the Authority's self-evaluation report (SER) and the arrangements for challenging and scrutinising its contents.

#### 3. What are the Recommendations?

#### That Cabinet:

- 3.1 considers and supports Performance Scrutiny Committee's recommendations with respect to the production and scrutiny of the Authority's self-evaluation report in preparation for the forthcoming inspection of the Local Authority's Education Services for Children and Young People; and
- 3.2 comments on the Committee's recommendations and approach to the process, and outlines any other relevant issues it would wish to see scrutinised by the Working Group/Committee.

#### 4. Report details.

- 4.1 At its meeting on 8 September 2011 Performance Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the 'Arrangements for the Estyn Inspection of Spring 2012: Estyn Self Evaluation Report (SER) and Inspection Preparation'. A copy of the report and appendix are attached at Annex A.
- 4.2 Following detailed discussion on the report, the planned areas for inclusion in the SER and the proposed arrangements for identifying

areas of weakness within the SER, the Committee resolved to endorse the proposals put forward by officers, and to recommended further measures with a view to enhancing the challenge process and ensuring that the SER is as robust as possible.

- 4.3 In addition to the recommendations set out in the report the Committee recommended that a Working Group, consisting of Performance Scrutiny Committee members and a representative from amongst the statutory education coopted members on scrutiny, be established for the purpose of working with officers on challenging and scrutinising the self-evaluation report (SER).
- 4.4 The Committee determined that the Working Group's objectives will be to support the process by robustly challenging the contents of the SER and the process undertaken, with a view:
  - to ensuring that all aspects and dimensions of the Council's Education Services for Children and Young People are covered within the SER;
  - to identifying any omissions or areas of weakness and make sure that plans are in place, or in hand, to address any omissions or weaknesses identified;
  - to ensuring that all necessary steps have been taken to embed the importance of education across the Authority; and
  - to ensuring that the education, welfare, and well-being of the County's children and young people are considered at all times, and form an integral part of the Council's policy development
- 4.5 The following members have been appointed to serve on the Working Group:

Councillor Gwilym C Evans

Councillor Bobby Feeley (Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee)

Councillor Colin Hughes

Councillor Lucy Morris; and

Dr Dawn Marjoram (statutory education coopted member, representing Parent Governor Special Educational Needs Sector)

4.6 The Committee has also requested, following the conclusion of the Working Group's work that the final version of the SER is presented to Performance Scrutiny Committee for consideration prior to its submission to Estyn.

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

The provision and delivery of education services to the children and young people of Denbighshire as well as safeguarding their welfare and well-being are statutory duties of the Council. Effective scrutiny of these services will assist the Authority to deliver its Modernising Education corporate priority and improve outcomes for the county's children and young people. Utilising the services and expertise of elected members, along with a statutory coopted

member, in the process should ensure that all aspects of the Council's services to children and young people are considered when compiling the SER.

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

See Annex for details of the Inspection's costs. The costs entailed with the establishment of the Working Group and servicing its meetings will be minimal, largely relating to officer time, and will have to be resourced from within the Service's budget. The advantages of having effective scrutiny of the SER should justify any costs.

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

See Annex for details of consultation with Council services and officers to date. Consideration of the attached report formed the initial consultation with Scrutiny on the preparations for the inspection. The presentation of this report to Cabinet represents Performance Scrutiny Committee's consultation with the Executive on its recommendations with respect to the production and scrutiny of the SER.

#### 8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no incremental costs associated with the arrangements and additional work is being absorbed within existing resources.

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

See relevant section in Annex for details of risks to the Authority. Effective scrutiny of the SER and input from elected members and statutory education coopted members should assist to mitigate any risks and ensure that areas of weakness are identified and addressed.

#### 10. Power to make the Decision

Article 6.3 of the Council's Constitution makes provisions for the Council's scrutiny committees to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet, or Council, in connection with the discharge of their functions or on issues arising as an outcome of the scrutiny process.

#### **Contact Officer:**

Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01824 712554 **Report To:** Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 8 September 2011

Lead Member: Eryl Williams

Report Author: Jackie Walley/Karen Evans

Title: Arrangements for the Estyn Inspection of Spring 2012:

Estyn Self Evaluation Report (SER) and Inspection

**Preparation** 

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

The Denbighshire Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People (LAESCYP) Estyn inspection which is scheduled to take place during the Spring term of 2012.

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

To inform the Committee about the inspection and to bring the Self Evaluation Report (SER) to their attention.

#### 3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee takes on board the findings of Estyn's recent inspections of local authorities as listed here:-

- partnership work
- challenging schools more robustly
- use of data
- improve the function of scrutiny arrangements in relation to holding the Council Executive to account for the performance of local authority services and holding headteachers to account for the performance of individual schools
- improve provision for learners with additional learning needs by:
  - · establishing clear criteria for allocating support; and
  - making robust use of performance data to inform and plan provision strategically

(further recommendations from Estyn can be found in Appendix 1)

and ensures that Denbighshire is not given similar recommendations. The forthcoming inspection covers the whole of the authority and not just Education.

The SER is a live, working document. It is very much in a draft format as officers are adding to it on a daily basis. Once all the information has been input it will be edited to around 50 pages long with hyperlinks in the right hand column to relevant documents.

#### 4. Report details

The SER will be key to the inspection and the inspectors will identify their lines of enquiry from it. The SER has been prepared by officers throughout Denbighshire and will be completed in October.

From analysing data, the following list contains anticipated lines of enquiry which Estyn may pursue within the authority:-

- CSI KS4
- Level 2 including English and Welsh
- Science
- Progress of vulnerable groups
- Outcomes for SEN students
- Teacher assessment/moderation
- How we challenge poor performing schools in the secondary sector

It is therefore important that these areas are focused upon prior to the inspection in order to close down Estyn's lines of enquiry at the earliest opportunity.

Areas of sector leading practice, such as the joint Local Service Board (LSB), specific literacy projects and the departmental restructure within the context of the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF), will also be highlighted in the SER.

Following the SER's completion in October, professionals from other local authorities will carry out a peer review and identify any areas of weakness. This will give us adequate time to address these prior to submission.

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

It emphasises the requirement for officers at all levels to be aware of the inspection and for objectives in performance appraisals and service business plans to reflect their contribution to Modernising Education as a corporate priority.

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

The forthcoming Estyn inspection is not just an inspection of Education but of the whole Authority. The input and involvement of all services is a crucial part of the process. No specific costs have been identified for the inspection.

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

Over the last 6 months most services and senior officers have been engaged at some point in consultation to contribute to the SER.

# 8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The reputational and political risks to the authority are potentially significant if the outcomes from the inspection are negative. The risk has been minimised by a significant investment of resource into in the SER by nearly all service areas across the Authority and co-ordinated through Education.

#### 9. Power to make the Decision

No legal requirements but local authority inspections are mandatory.

# Recommendations from recent LA Inspections (November 2010 – June 2011)

#### Wrexham

R1 clarify the objectives for education within the council's priorities and reflect these within its plans;

R2 make sure that the roles of executive board and scrutiny support effective decision-making to improve services to children and young people;

R3 improve the quality and consistency of evaluation of services to better inform planning;

R4 develop consistent arrangements for reporting performance in education services and across the Children and Young People's Partnership;

R5 reduce surplus places in secondary schools in line with the council's realigned strategy for school reorganisation; and

R6 improve the effectiveness of arrangements to tackle secondary school budget deficits.

#### **Neath Port Talbot**

R1 improve the accuracy of end-of-key-stage teacher assessments at all key stages;

R2 further refine and strengthen scrutiny arrangements;

R3 improve joint strategic planning and the impact of the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP); and

R4 reduce surplus places in schools in line with key principles in the strategic school improvement programme (SSIP).

#### **Rhondda Cynon Taff**

R1 improve attendance in schools through better targeted and focused interventions;

R2 ensure better and more effective sharing of data and information across services in order to improve standards and outcomes for all learners;

R3 improve impact measurement and analysis of outcomes in order to plan for improvements and prioritise actions; and

R4 continue to address the challenge of the inappropriate school buildings and surplus places.

#### Cardiff

R1 improve the strategic leadership of joint working between the authority and the Children's and Young People's Partnership;

R2 improve the effectiveness of partnership planning for outcomes in priority areas;

R3 improve the scrutiny of partnership working;

R4 continue to raise standards at key stage 4, improve attendance, reduce exclusions and reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training;

R5 improve performance management processes to ensure a consistent approach in delivering objectives; and

R6 improve the information, advice and support for all parents of learners requiring the statutory assessment of pupils' special educational needs.

#### **Powys**

R1 improve the challenge to schools, particularly in relation to evaluating leadership and management, and use its full range of powers to improve schools more quickly;

R2 improve the consistency and accuracy of teacher assessment at key stages 1 and 2;

R3 make sure that all schools' additional learning needs (ALN) services are planned and monitored strategically, and make best use of staff expertise; R4 improve performance management, including the analysis of the impact of services and resources on all learners and then using the information to plan and prioritise service delivery for the future;

R5 take effective action to reduce school budget deficits; and R6 maintain the momentum of the modernising education programme.

#### Conwy

R1 continue to develop quality improvement measures to ensure that strategic evaluations show how well provision meets learners' needs;

R2 evaluate the impact of increased delegation of funding to schools on outcomes for pupils with additional learning needs;

R3 ensure that clear and transparent criteria are used for the allocation of schools to different categories of performance within the authority; and R4 improve the monitoring of training for child protection and safeguarding

#### **Blaenau Gwent**

R1 implement improvement strategies and specific actions to raise skills levels and secure better outcomes for learners at all key stages and in the youth support service;

R2 develop a clearly communicated strategy to challenge schools more robustly and provide prioritised support for schools according to need; R3 improve the use of data and management information to:

- identify and challenge underperformance in schools; and
- evaluate the effectiveness of provision both within the education service and across partnerships serving children and young people;

R4 increase pupil attendance rates in all schools;

R5 work with partners to secure sustainable improvements in the percentage of post 16 learners in full time education, training or employment;

R6 improve the function of scrutiny arrangements in relation to holding the Council Executive to account for the performance of local authority services and holding headteachers to account for the performance of individual schools:

R7 improve provision for learners with additional learning needs by:

- establishing clear criteria for allocating support; and
- making robust use of performance data to inform and plan provision strategically; and

R8 work with the Local Service Board to secure appropriate accountability from all partners.

#### **Pembrokeshire**

R1 undertake a comprehensive and rigorous evaluation of all safeguarding work within the education department and its schools, including taking urgent steps to remedy deficiencies in the governance and management of safeguarding, including associated functions in human resources; R2 raise standards in schools particularly at the end of key stage 4; R3 increase attendance rates in primary and secondary schools by the end of the academic year 2011-2012;

R4 improve the working of the overview and scrutiny committee through:

- the provision of full, relevant and transparent information from officers to inform elected members; and
- training for elected members to ensure that they can be more effective in challenging the performance of the authority's services and its schools and safeguarding arrangements in order to hold officers to account.

  R5 improve the accuracy and rigour of the authority's own evaluations of how well the council and its partners perform, in relation to how services and partnership working are impacting on outcomes for learners; and R6 improve the 'access to mediation' services for parents and carers.

### AGENDA ITEM NO: 11

### CABINET: FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

25 OCTOBER 2011	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Capital Plan 2011-2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Waste Project - 2nd Inter Authority Agreement which sets out the respective rights and obligations of each Council for the implementation and operational phases of the project – Part II	Councillor S Frobisher S Parker / J Espley / S Thompson
Waste Project – Final Business Case – Part II	Councillor S Frobisher S Parker / J Espley / S Thompson
Discussions on DCC land in Rhyl on Quay Street and Wellington Road - Ocean Plaza Development	Councillor P J Marfleet P McGrady / C Davies / K Bowler
Village Green Applications - land known as "The Park" off Ffordd Elan, Rhyl	Councillor S Frobisher S Cordiner
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
22 NOVEMBER 2011	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Community Capital Grants	Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon / Brian Evans
Denbigh Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon
Regional Support Services Project	Councillor P J Marfleet B E Jones
HR / People Strategy	Councillor P J Marfleet L Atkin
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
Rhyl Going Forward Delivery Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas Tom Booty
Options for Prestatyn Library Relocation Part II	Councillor P J Marfleet J Groves
Phase II Construction of the Foryd Harbour Walking and Cycling Bridge	Councillor S Frobisher / Councillor D A J Thomas S Davies / Bob Humphreys
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
13 DECEMBER 2011	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady

Destination Management To store Destroyable	O
Destination Management - Tourism Partnership	Councillor D A J Thomas
North Wales have offered to work with the	G Boase / M Dixon
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	
Ruthin Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas
	M Dixon
DCC & CCBC Highways and Infrastructure	Councillor S Frobisher
endorsement of the consultation process	B E Jones /
ondercoment of the concanation process	2 2 301100 7
Monitoring Performance Against the Corporate	Councillor H H Evans
Plan	T Ward
Scala Cinema and Arts Centre: Update	Councillor P A Dobb
Scala Gillettia aliu Arts Gentre. Opuate	
Douting reporting on Dorsonnel	P McGrady / J Groves
Routine reporting on Personnel	Councillor P J Marfleet
	Linda Atkin
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
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24 JANUARY 2012	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	Councillor J Thompson Hill
	P McGrady
Corwen Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas
	M Dixon
Prestatyn Town Plan	Councillor D A J Thomas
	M Dixon
Budget Report	Councillor J Thompson Hill
	P McGrady
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator
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21 FEBRUARY 2012	
Finance Report 2011 -2012	A 1-1 1
	Councillor J Thompson Hill
	Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
·	P McGrady
Rhuddlan Town Plan	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas
Rhuddlan Town Plan	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon
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Rhuddlan Town Plan  St Asaph Town Plan	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas
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Rhuddlan Town Plan  St Asaph Town Plan  Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas
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Rhuddlan Town Plan  St Asaph Town Plan  Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees  20 MARCH 2012	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas Scrutiny Coordinator
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Rhuddlan Town Plan  St Asaph Town Plan  Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees  20 MARCH 2012  Finance Report 2011 -2012	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas Scrutiny Coordinator  Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady
Rhuddlan Town Plan  St Asaph Town Plan  Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees  20 MARCH 2012	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas Scrutiny Coordinator  Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas
Rhuddlan Town Plan  St Asaph Town Plan  Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees  20 MARCH 2012  Finance Report 2011 -2012  Corwen Town Plan	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas Scrutiny Coordinator  Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon
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Rhuddlan Town Plan  St Asaph Town Plan  Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees  20 MARCH 2012  Finance Report 2011 -2012  Corwen Town Plan  Llangollen Town Plan	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas  Scrutiny Coordinator  Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon
Rhuddlan Town Plan  St Asaph Town Plan  Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees  20 MARCH 2012  Finance Report 2011 -2012  Corwen Town Plan	P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas  Scrutiny Coordinator  Councillor J Thompson Hill P McGrady Councillor D A J Thomas M Dixon Councillor D A J Thomas

Supporting People Strategy Update and	Councillor P A Dobb
Operational Plan 2012 - 13	Gary Major
Recommendations from Scrutiny Committees	Scrutiny Coordinator