



## **Modernising Education Programme**

### **Review of Primary School Provision in the Ruthin Area**

# **Formal Consultation Document**

**Proposal for a new Area School to replace  
Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog**

**September 2013**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Denbighshire County Council has completed an Informal Consultation with eleven primary schools in the Ruthin Area.
- 1.2 As a consequence of the informal consultation exercise Denbighshire County Council wish formally to consult with all interested parties on a proposal which they consider would strengthen future provision.
- 1.3 The proposal that:

**Denbighshire County Council would close Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014; and establish a new Area School on the existing sites from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2014.**

## 2. Summary of proposal

### First Phase

- 2.1 This formal consultation relates to a proposal to create the New Area School to serve both Clocaenog and Cyffylliog Communities. Throughout this document, this proposal is called the **Current Proposal**.
- 2.2 If the Current Proposal is agreed and implemented the first phase would see the existing Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014. The Area School would open on 1<sup>st</sup> September and would initially use the existing buildings in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog. The Cyffylliog site (the former Ysgol Cyffylliog) would offer Key Stage 1 (4 – 7 Years old) provision whilst the Clocaenog site (the former Ysgol Clocaenog) would offer Key Stage 2 (7 – 11 years old) provision. Throughout this document the creation of the Dual-Site Area School is called the **First Phase**.

**Key Point:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2014 the Area School will open with Key Stage 1 (4-7 years old) based in Cyffylliog and Key Stage 2 (7 – 11 years old) based in Clocaenog.

### Second Phase

- 2.3 The next phase would see the Area School consolidated on a new site in the Clocaenog area, subject to land availability and suitability.
- 2.4 Throughout this document the movement onto a new site is called the **Second Phase** and the school operating from the new site is called the **New Area School**.

**Key Point:** The new school will be built in the Clocaenog area subject to suitable land being available.

### **3. Consultation Process**

- 3.1 This formal consultation process relates to the Current Proposal and both the First and Second Phase. This formal consultation is being carried out to ensure that all relevant parties have an opportunity to contribute to this important subject.
- 3.2 This formal consultation document has been sent to a wide range of potential consultees including:
- a. Parents, teachers and ancillary staff of Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog;
  - b. Chair of Governors and School Council of the following schools:
    - i) Ysgol Clocaenog;
    - ii) Ysgol Cyffylliog;
    - iii) Ysgol Pant Pastynog;
    - iv) Ysgol Pen Barras;
    - v) Ysgol Rhewl;
    - vi) Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch;
  - c. Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham;
  - d. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Denbighshire Schools;
  - e. Independent nursery providers in the Ruthin area;
  - f. Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;
  - g. All Denbighshire County Councillors;
  - h. Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the proposal;
  - i. Cyngor Cymuned Clocaenog;
  - j. Cyngor Cymuned Cyffylliog;
  - k. Cyngor Cymuned Derwen;
  - l. The Welsh Government;
  - m. Estyn; and
  - n. Relevant teaching and staff trades unions.
  - o. Taith
  - p. Gwasanaeth Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion
  - q. North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- 3.3 This formal consultation document has also been published on the Denbighshire County Council website [www.denbighshire.gov.uk](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk)<sup>1</sup>
- 3.4 The formal consultation period in respect of the Current Proposal will take place between 9<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2013.
- 3.5 A series of formal consultation events will take place during this period. These will be arranged in the format of a 'parents evening' where attendees will be able to speak with officers on a one to one basis. Details of the meetings are included in the letter which is circulated.

- 3.6 Events will also be held with children and young people at Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog.
- 3.7 A supplementary version<sup>ii</sup> of this formal consultation document has been produced for and made available to children and young people who are likely to be affected by the Current Proposal. The supplementary version has been written specifically to enable children and young people to understand better and engage with the formal consultation.
- 3.8 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to [modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk) by no later than **22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**.
- 3.9 At the end of the formal consultation period all views received will be collated and considered before any recommendation is made to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.
- 3.10 It is anticipated that Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this formal consultation (including a recommendation from Council officers) on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

**Key Points:**

- Formal Consultation starts on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2013 and finishes on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October.
- We are consulting with all stakeholders including children attending the schools.
- We intend to report back to Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2013.

**4. Power to make a decision**

- 4.1 Denbighshire County Council is permitted to publish proposals to establish a new area school according to the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013<sup>iii</sup>. Accordingly, the formal publication of the closure of the two existing schools may be carried out by the Council following the correct statutory procedure.

**5. Background to the proposal**

- 5.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework<sup>iv</sup> in January 2009 to provide a platform upon which to review existing school provision.
- 5.2 The council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the Council has agreed

that ‘modernising education provision’ is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.

- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 In November 2012 Denbighshire County Council’s Cabinet approved the commencement of an informal consultation on the future of primary education in the Ruthin Review. The informal consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed to achieve long term sustainability. These included:
- a. Sustainability of Schools and High Quality Provision
  - b. Surplus Places
  - c. Condition and Suitability of School Buildings (incl. use of Mobile Accommodation)
  - d. Recruitment of Head Teachers
  - e. Demand for Welsh Medium Education
- 5.5 The informal consultation ended on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2013 and Denbighshire County Council has carefully considered the issues raised during this period. In total over 63 letters and emails were received from stakeholders together with 195 questionnaires completed by parents. The findings of the informal consultation exercise have been compiled by the council and have been published on its website as part of the decision making process.

**Key Points:**

- Modernising Education is a Denbighshire County Council priority.
- Issues identified as needing to be addressed are:
  - Sustainability of Schools and High Quality Provision
  - Surplus Places
  - Condition and suitability of School Buildings (Inc. use of Mobile Accommodation)
  - Recruitment of Head Teachers
  - Demand for Welsh Medium Education
- The report of the informal consultation is published on our website.

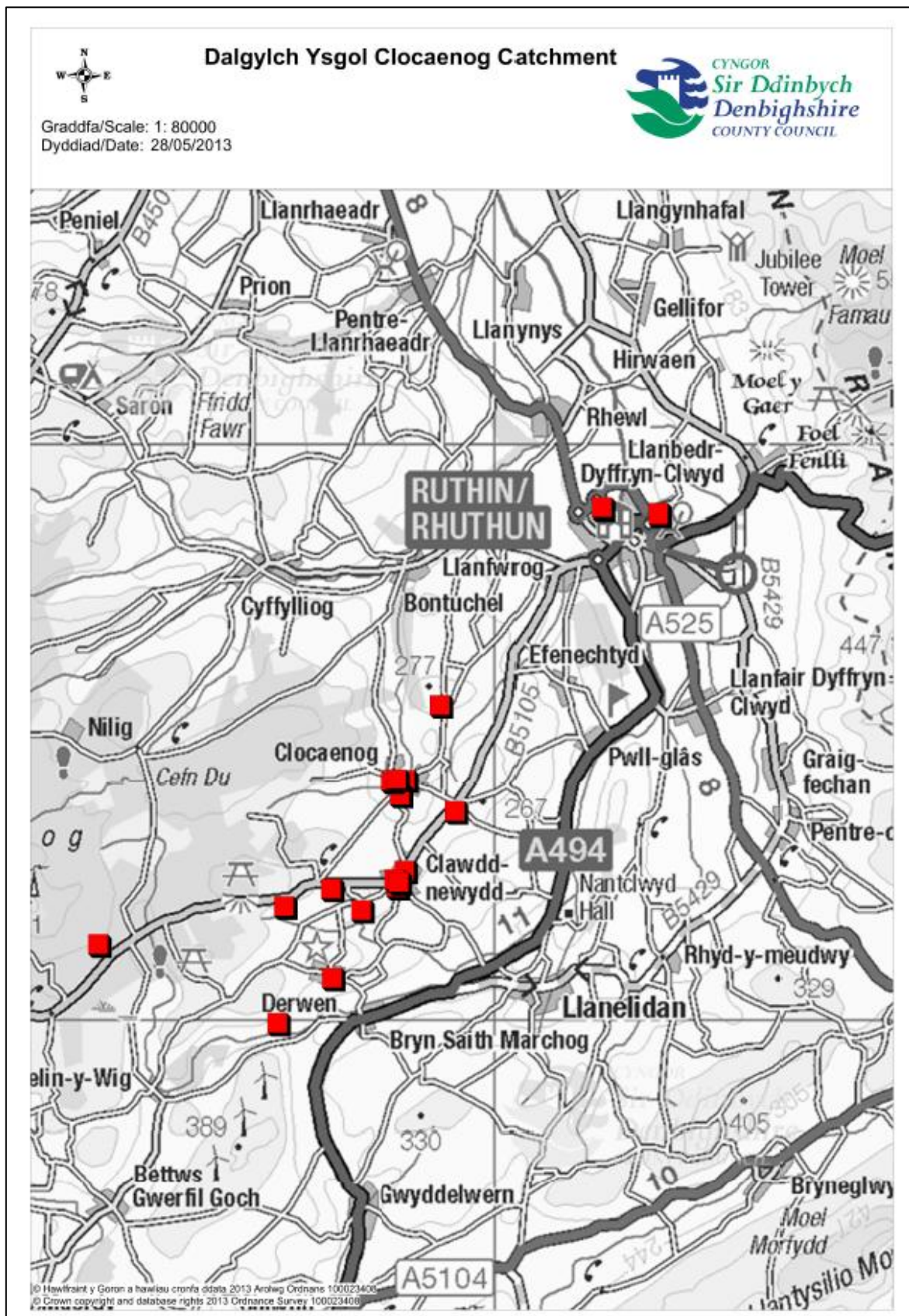
**6. Current Provision**

6.1 This section details the current provision at Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog.

**Ysgol Clocaenog**

6.2 Ysgol Clocaenog is located in the centre of the village of Clocaenog and serves an age range of 4 – 11 years old. It is a Community Primary School predominately

servicing from the villages of Clocaenog, Clawddnewydd and Derwen and the surrounding area. This is illustrated in the diagram below which shows the postcode location of the home address for each pupil.





6.3 As of January 2013 Ysgol Clocaenog had 36 full time pupils. The pupil numbers has increased over recent years as illustrated below:

Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
25	27	31	33	36

6.4 As of January 2013 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

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

6.5 The council’s forecast of future pupil rolls suggests that an increase in future pupil numbers will occur at the school as illustrated below:

Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
39	45	47	47	48

Note: The Admissions arrangements would be required to limit the number of admissions to the school to 5 per year group and additional pupils would be required to be accommodated in alternative schools.

6.6 The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 36 pupils. As of January 2013 the school had 0 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 0% of the total capacity. The school is operating at capacity.

6.7 Educational Standards at the school are good. The school’s last Estyn Inspection was in October 2012<sup>v</sup> and the inspection report in summary commented as follows:

**Current performance**

The school is good because:

- pupils achieve good standards;
- the school provides a range of interesting and varied learning experiences that meet pupils’ needs;
- teaching is of good quality;
- effective leadership and an inclusive ethos create the best possible conditions for every individual to develop and thrive; and
- partnerships with parents and the local community are a strength.

**Prospects for improvement**

Prospects for improvement are good because:

- there is a clear vision that is conveyed successfully to staff, pupils, governors and parents;
- the school knows its own performance well;
- the headteacher, staff and governors are committed to continuous improvement;
- planning for improvement focuses on raising standards; and
- there is a willingness to continue to work with other schools in the cluster as an effective learning community.



Key Question	Ysgol Clocaenog Inspection Judgement
1. How good are the outcomes?	Good
2. How good is provision?	Good
3. How good are leadership and management?	Good
The school's current performance	Good
The school's prospects for improvement	Good

**Key:**

- Excellent** Many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice
- Good** Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
- Adequate** Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
- Unsatisfactory** Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

**Key Points:**

- Ysgol Clocaenog has 36 full time pupils on roll and a capacity of 36 places.
- Surplus places are zero.
- Projections indicate the school will be significantly oversubscribed by 2018.
- Estyn identified the school's educational standards as good in October 2012.

**Ysgol Cyffylliog**

6.8 Ysgol Cyffylliog is located within the village of Cyffylliog and serves an age range of 4-11. The school serves predominately children from Cyffylliog, Bontuchel and the surrounding area. This is illustrated in the diagram on page 9 which shows the postcode location of the home address for each pupil.

6.9 As of January 2013 Ysgol Cyffylliog had 19 full time pupils. The pupil numbers have fluctuated over recent years as illustrated below:

Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
23	20	22	26	19

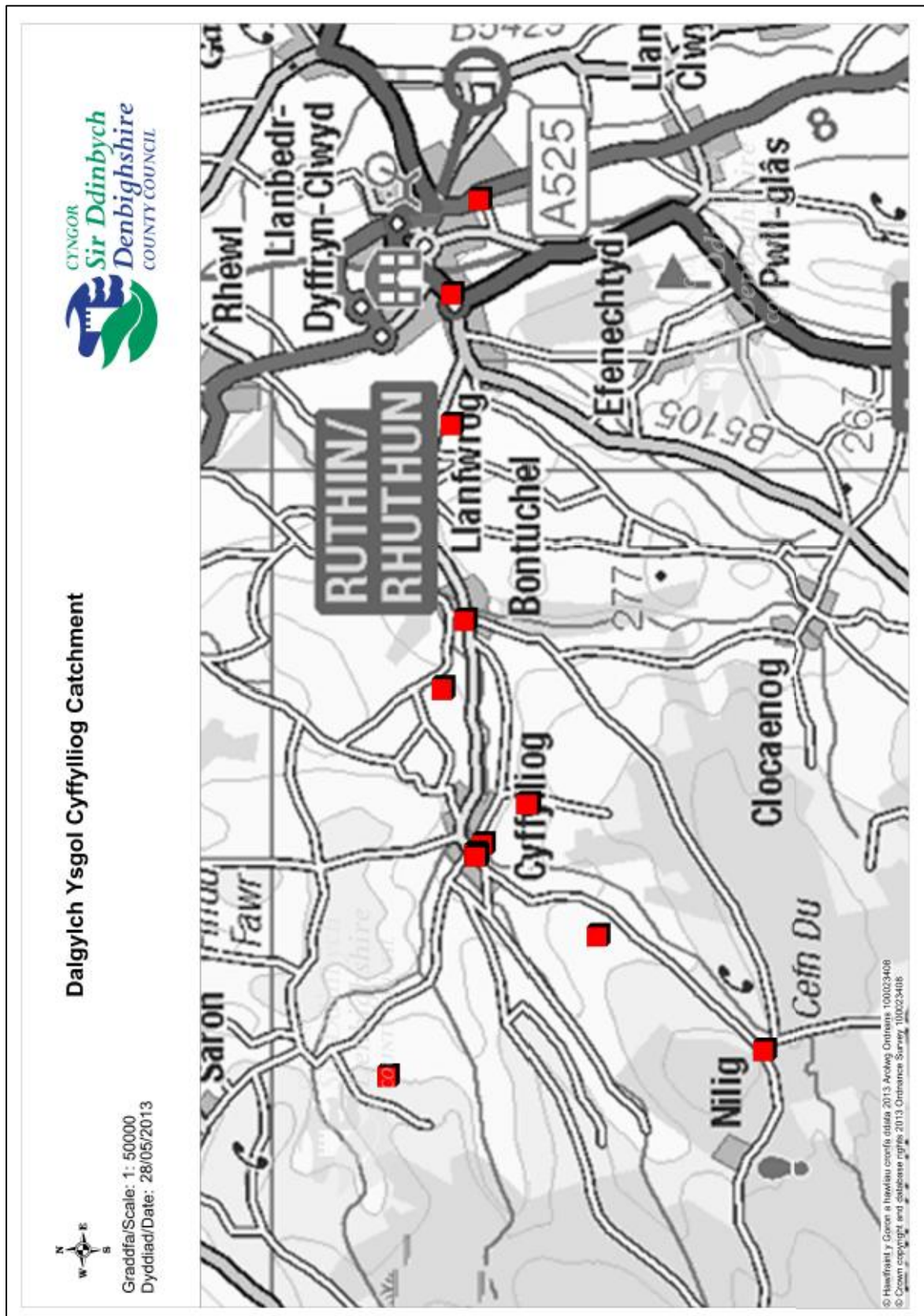
6.10 As of January 2013 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
5	4	5	1	3	1	0

6.11 The council's forecast of future pupil rolls suggests that an increase in future pupil numbers will occur at the school as illustrated below:

Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
25	29	31	35	35

- 6.12 The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 45 pupils. As of January 2013 the school had 26 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 57% of the total capacity.



6.13 Educational Standards at the school are adequate. The school was inspected by Estyn in March 2011. The inspection report in summary commented as follows:

**Current performance**

The school is adequate because:

- all pupils make appropriate progress during their time at the school;
- attendance is very good and pupils enjoy coming to school;
- pupils enjoy a good range of interesting activities;
- equal opportunity is provided for all pupils in an inclusive school;
- the results of end of key stage 2 assessments have been inconsistent;
- reading and writing skills in Welsh at key stage 2 are adequate;
- the more able pupils are not challenged sufficiently to reach their potential.
- planning for teaching the skills and also the arrangements for assessment and assessment for learning are adequate, and
- the school does not conform fully with the requirements for safeguarding children.

**Prospects for improvement**

Prospects for improvement are adequate because:

- the commitment of the head teacher and staff to the pupils and school is sincere;
- parents and governors are very supportive of the work of the school;
- the school has good links with a wide range of partners;
- progress in response to the recommendations of the last inspection has been inconsistent;
- a number of the school’s managerial procedures do not have enough impact on improving pupils’ standards.

Key Question	Ysgol Cyffylliog Inspection Judgement
1. How good are the outcomes?	Adequate
2. How good is provision?	Adequate
3. How good are leadership and management?	Adequate
The school’s current performance	Adequate
The school’s prospects for improvement	Adequate

**Key:**

- Excellent** Many strengths, including significant examples of sector leading practice
- Good** Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
- Adequate** Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
- Unsatisfactory** Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

**Estyn Monitoring**

As a result of the adequate judgment in the March 2011, the school were requested to produce an action plan that shows how it will address the recommendations. As a result Estyn monitor the school’s progress.

## Result of the reinspection: May 2012

Ysgol Cyffylliog has not made enough progress in the key areas for action that were identified in the Section 28 inspection of the school in May 2012. As a result, and in line with the Education Act 2005, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for Education and Training in Wales is of the opinion that the school needs significant improvement. The school will produce an action plan that will show how it will address the recommendations. Estyn will monitor the school's progress for a further 12 months.

### Key points:

- Ysgol Cyffylliog has 19 full time pupils and a capacity of 45 places.
- There are 26 surplus places at the school.
- It is projected there will be 35 pupils at the school by 2018.
- Estyn identified the schools educational performance as adequate in March 2011.
- The school is currently monitored by Estyn.

## 7. Educational attainment

7.1 Educational standards at both schools over the past three years are shown below. However as a result of very small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible

	% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Ysgol Clocaenog</b>	33.3%	75.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Ysgol Cyffylliog</b>	50.0%	100%	50.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire</b>	76.50%	76.80%	78.10%	82.30%	83.50%
<b>Wales – Average</b>	75.50%	77.00%	78.20%	80.00%	82.60%

### Key point:

Due to small year groups a meaningful comparison with averages cannot be made.

## 8. Alternative provision

8.1 Should the Current Proposal proceed, Denbighshire County Council would wish to see all pupils transfer to the New Area School to ensure that they continue to receive their education in a rural area and to a consistently high standard.

8.2 However, due to the nature of road links in the area parents/guardians could wish to choose alternative provision. The distance between Clocaenog and Cyffylliog is 4.3 miles. Accordingly, this section provides details of potential alternative, local authority maintained, provision on the periphery of the catchment areas of the existing schools. The nearest alternative school for villages within the area are as follows:

School Name	Distance from Ysgol Clocaenog	Distance from Ysgol Cyffylliog	Type of School	Current Capacity	Surplus Places	Nursery Places
Ysgol Pen Barras	5 miles	5 Miles	Welsh / Community	252	32	36
Ysgol Rhewl	5.9 miles	4.3 miles	Bilingual / Community	82	27	11
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	7.6 miles	3.5 miles	Welsh / Faith (VC)	54	1	7
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	6.8 miles	4.4 miles	Welsh / Community	80	18	11

#### % achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2

School Name	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Ysgol Pen Barras	97.00%	92%	97.14%	90%	96.77%
Ysgol Rhewl	100%	66.70%	100%	100%	100%
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	66.70%	66.70%	50%	75%	100%
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	100%	100%	100%	80%	100%

#### Current Full Time Pupil Numbers

School Name	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Ysgol Pen Barras	35	32	38	22	34	27	35	223
Ysgol Rhewl	10	7	6	10	11	4	7	55
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	7	8	10	5	8	8	7	53
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	12	9	11	8	8	2	12	62

#### Pupil Numbers 2008 - 2012

School Name	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Ysgol Pen Barras	216	217	215	216	219
Ysgol Rhewl	34	41	34	34	37
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	37	41	47	50	49
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	46	46	51	56	57

#### Projected Pupil Numbers

School Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Ysgol Pen Barras	215	219	216	224	217
Ysgol Rhewl	53	56	52	48	49
Ysgol Pant Pastynog	59	60	62	68	68
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	66	76	81	87	89

**Key point:** There is alternative provision for communities within the wider area which may receive pupils as a consequence of this current proposal.

## 9. Secondary Provision

It is not expected that the Current proposal will have a significant impact on Secondary Provision in the area. Both Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog currently feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd and the new Area School will continue to feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd. The only implication for Ysgol Brynhyfryd would be an expected increase in pupils for the Welsh Medium stream due to the new school being a Category 1 school (Currently Clocaenog is Category 1 and Cyffylliog is Category 2).

**Key Point:** Only the language category of the school is likely to impact on Secondary provision.

## 10. Special educational needs provision

- 10.1 If the Current Proposal is approved and the KS1 and KS2 model endorsed change will be limited. The two existing schools will become one new school but the pupils will continue to be taught on the existing sites. The most significant change for a pupil would be a change in site and teacher. Accordingly, any pupils with special educational needs (**SEN**) who currently attend the schools will continue to receive the same education and support but the environment may change. The council will help pupils with SEN who experience difficulties because of the change.
- 10.2 The council appreciates that Phase 2 proposal to move to a New Area School will result in greater change than operating one school on two sites. This will affect all pupils but it is likely to prove even more challenging to pupils with SEN. The council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and to assist such pupils with the transition.
- 10.3 The facilities available at a New Area School will be designed in consultation with Denbighshire County Council's SEN Education Officers, and the staff and pupils concerned. It is anticipated that this approach will produce improved conditions and so learning experience for pupils with SEN.

### Key Points:

- SEN Provision would be provided on both sites.
- The environment for the pupils may change depending on current location and age group.
- A new area school would provide an opportunity to improve facilities.

## **11. The proposal in detail - description and rationale**

- 11.1 Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible educational provision for children and young people. This proposal has been developed in line with:
- a. the Council's commitment to 'Modernising Education';
  - b. the School Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential; and
  - c. the Welsh Assembly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme to improve school buildings and facilities.
- 11.2 There are a number of issues facing both schools that could impact on their ability to sustain educational standards and experiences into the future.

### **Educational case for change**

- 11.3 Financial constraints limit the capacity of small schools to implement senior leadership structures that meet the requirements of teachers pay and conditions. Currently neither school has an Assistant or Deputy Head teacher. The Current Proposal could see the development of leadership and management structures, to provide increased opportunities for staff development and progression.
- 11.4 The Current Proposal will offer greater opportunities for the two schools to work together to improve staff expertise that will lead to raising standards. For example:
- a. Teachers can work together to plan and prepare high quality lessons and standardise assessment and thus reducing the demands on individual teachers;
  - b. Peer observation of the best teachers lessons to develop consistently high teaching practice, and
  - c. Sharing resources to enable more efficient and innovative ways of working
- 11.5 An Area school will provide additional teaching capacity for smaller groups of pupils who are in need of extra support; including greater capacity for more able and talented pupils.
- 11.6 Currently pupils are taught in classes encompassing up to 4 age groups. A larger area school will provide opportunities for pupils to be taught within a reduced age range.
- 11.7 Small schools are limited in their abilities to respond to fluctuations in pupil numbers by their schools structural and teaching capacity. A larger area school will be able to respond to fluctuations in pupil number that are a feature of rural schools.
- 11.8 The Current Proposal would reduce the current difficulty in recruiting head teachers which lead to vacancies and temporary appointments



11.9 The two schools find it difficult to offer pupils a broad range of experiences in physical education; neither school has adequate indoor sports facilities for pupils. This will not be addressed by the Current proposal.

### **Adequacy of existing school buildings and sites**

11.11 The condition of both schools is adequate. Both require investment to bring them up to a satisfactory standard. The Energy consumption per square meter are the highest within the review area (Clocaenog £15 / m<sup>2</sup> and Cyffylliog £18 / m<sup>2</sup>).

11.12 The catering facilities in both schools require investment. Space is limited in Cyffylliog and Clocaenog has meals cooked off site and consumed in a classroom.

11.13 The capacity of individual classrooms within each school reduces their ability to respond to fluctuations in pupil numbers.

11.14 Neither school have a hall space that can be used for Physical Education. Both schools can access fields located nearby each individual school but neither are owned by the schools.

11.15 Both sites are in need of significant investment to enable both schools to provide a learning environment fit for purpose to meet the requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.

#### **Key points:**

- The age range of pupils taught together will be reduced.
- Teaching capacity will increase.
- Small schools have limited capacity to implement senior leadership structures.
- Physical Education facilities are inadequate.
- Both schools have access to playing fields.
- Both school buildings would require significant investment to improve facilities.

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

12.1 This formal consultation relates to the Current Proposal, namely: to close Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog to enable the establishment of an Area School serving the communities of Clocaenog, Cyffylliog and surrounding areas on the existing sites. In summary, the Current Proposal relates to the First Phase which entails the creation of a Dual-Site Area School.

12.2 A second phase, which will follow the completion of the current proposal, would involve construction of a new school building in a location to be determined in the

Clocaenog area. Clocaenog is deemed geographically the central location of the catchment of the new area school

**What would this mean?**

- 12.3 If the Current Proposal was approved:
- a. Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog School would both close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014; and
  - b. The Area School would open on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 (initially on the existing sites in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog and utilising the existing buildings).
- 12.4 All children attending Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog would transfer to the Area School; subject to parental preference. Whilst the Area School remains on two sites pupils would be taught on the existing school sites.
- 12.5 The Area School would have two distinct age ranges which would be linked to the particular sites. Initially as part of the first phase, the existing buildings at the Clocaenog site would provide 7-11 provision (Key Stage 2) and the existing buildings at the Cyffylliog site 4-7 provision (Key Stage 1). The table below shows the proposed capacity on the two sites, taking into account the change in use of teaching space:

<b>Capacity: Area School</b>			
	<b>Nursery (part time)</b>	<b>Key Stage 1 (full time)</b>	<b>Key Stage 2 (full time)</b>
<b>Clocaenog site</b>	0	0	40
<b>Cyffylliog site</b>	10	35	0
<b>Total</b>	10	35	40

This would provide an overall capacity across all the age ranges of 75 full time places and 10 part time places. Based on current projections for 2014 and assuming all pupils transfer to the Area school, this would leave a surplus of 11 places.

- 12.6 Pupils would be taught in classes of two age groups as follows:
- Nursery / Reception – Based in Cyffylliog
  - Year 1 / Year 2 – Based in Cyffylliog
  - Year 3 / Year 4 – Based in Clocaenog
  - Year 5 / Year 6 – Based in Clocaenog
- 12.7 In terms of the leadership and management of the Area School, as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 there would be one Governing Body, one Executive Headteacher and one group of staff. The Governing Body would include Parent, Denbighshire County Council, Teacher and Staff representation together with a number of Community Governors. Prior to the opening of the Area School, on 1<sup>st</sup> September, a Temporary

Governing Body would be established and this would take key decisions regarding the appointment of the Headteacher and the supportive leadership team, the staffing structure for and name of the Area School, uniform policies etc.

- 12.8 The new school would be categorised as a Welsh-Medium Primary School where at least 70% of the teaching is through the medium of Welsh. Welsh would be the language of the day to day business of the school and in communication with pupils. The school would communicate with parents in both languages. The normal expectation is that pupils, regardless of home language, will be able to transfer easily to Welsh medium secondary provision and by the end of Key stage 2 will have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in predominantly English medium schools.
- 12.9 Nursery provision would be provided on the Cyffylliog site. As an exception to the general policy home to school transport would be provided for nursery pupils, provided they are attending their nearest suitable school and living more than 2 miles from Cyffylliog.
- 12.10 Existing Breakfast and after school provision would remain on each site.
- 12.11 The intention of the Council would be to consolidate provision on to a single site, probably in the Clocaenog area. The vision for the New Area School would be a 4 - 11 provision serving 77 pupils in the same 4 class model.
- 12.12 Following the completion of the new school Denbighshire County Council would need to consider declaring the existing sites as surplus to requirements in accordance with the Modernising Education Policy Framework. It is anticipated that any proceeds from the disposal of surplus sites would be used to contribute to the overall costs of the new school building.

**Key Points:**

- All children currently attending Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog would transfer to the new area school subject to parental preference.
- The new area school would have a capacity of 75 with 10 nursery places during phase 1.
- Key stage 1 will be located in Cyffylliog and Key stage 2 in Clocaenog.
- The new school will have one Head teacher.
- A Temporary Governing Body will be established who will appoint the Head teacher
- The school will be a Welsh Medium Category 1 school.
- Nursery provision would be in Cyffylliog.
- Home to School Transport would be provided for nursery pupils attending their nearest suitable school whilst the school is on two sites.
- Breakfast and after school club provision would remain on existing sites.
- The New Area School (Phase 2) would have a capacity of 77 pupils.

### **13. Admission arrangements for the Area School**

13.1 The Area School would have a unified approach to admission arrangements and would be administered by Denbighshire County Council's School Admissions service.

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

14.1 At present the current costs for 'Home to School Transport' for the two schools are £32,357 per year.

14.2 The current proposals will create an additional transport cost of approximately £39,140 per academic year as a result of transporting pupils between sites to allow for one key stage to be taught on each site.

14.3 Pupils will be transported from their homes / home school to their designated site for the period that the school stays on two sites.

#### **Key points:**

- Transport costs will increase when the school operates on two sites.
- Additional transport will be arranged for pupils to attend their designated site.

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

15.1 Should the Current Proposal be implemented, the Area School would have only one Headteacher. The Temporary Governing Body of the Area School would need to appoint the Headteacher and this could involve national advertisements or an internal appointment.

15.2 Denbighshire County Council, with agreement from the Temporary Governing Body, would apply its policies to reassure and clarify the position of staff.

15.3 A staffing structure would need to be developed for the Area School taking into account a number of factors including operating initially on two sites, delivering the curriculum, class sizes and budget implications.

15.4 While the Area School operates on two sites the council 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.

15.5 The council will recommend to the Temporary Governing Body that all teaching and associate staff posts for the Area School should be "ring-fenced" to the staff within the existing two schools.

15.6 As part of this formal consultation process there will be full consultation with all members of staff and the appropriate teaching and staff unions.

**Key points:**

- The Area school would have one Head teacher
- The Temporary Governing Body appoints the Head teacher
- Final decisions on staffing structures would be taken by the Temporary Governing Body and the new head teacher.
- The Council will recommend that roles are “ring-fenced” for existing staff
- All staff and unions will be consulted.

**16. What are the financial implications of this proposal?**

16.1 The cost of provision based upon the 2012/13 budget share is £5,342 per pupil at Ysgol Clocaenog and £7,857 per pupil at Ysgol Cyffylliog, compared with the Denbighshire average of £3,951.

16.2 Within the existing funding framework both Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog are funded consistently with all other schools in Denbighshire. Both schools have less than 70 pupils currently and therefore receive additional small school funding within their allocation.

16.3 The current reported financial position for the schools is:

<b>Balance c/f</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
<b>Ysgol Clocaenog</b>	£ 11,066	£ 13,371	£ 27,471
<b>Ysgol Cyffylliog</b>	£ 12,507	£ 14,756	£ 16,863

\*This is based on the existing 3 year plan.

Any balances, surplus or deficit , at either school, will transfer to the Local Authority at the point of change.

16.4 As two separate schools, the combined total budget is £389k (2013-14). Upon implementation of the current proposal it is estimated that the new school would receive a total budget of £413k. This is a net increase of £24k compared to when they were 2 separate schools.

**Key points:**

- Both schools receive more than the Denbighshire average of funding per pupil.
- All schools in Denbighshire are funded through a funding formula.
- The Local Authority inherits any balance, surplus or deficit at the point of change.
- It is estimated that one area school on two sites will receive more funding.

## **17. What are the considerations for Phase 2?**

### **Site**

- 17.1 The final site location for the New Area School, which will emerge from the Second Phase, will be carefully considered by Denbighshire County Council.
- 17.2 In the first instance, the difficulties in expanding both current school sites within the existing boundaries to accommodate all pupils attending both schools have been acknowledged during site analysis.
- 17.3 The proposal submitted as part of the Informal Consultation stage by Ysgol Clocaenog identified 3 site options within Clocaenog:
- 17.3.1 Site A is a proposal to extend the current Ysgol Clocaenog site beyond the existing site boundary. This is identified as having the highest cost of all options due to added expense to ground works from working on a slope.
- 17.3.2 Site B & C are two nearby Greenfield sites identified by the Governors as potential suitable sites. Constructing a new site would have a lower cost than Option A and could be constructed without any impact on the existing school.
- 17.3.3 Site B identified by the School Governors has been allocated for Housing within the latest Local Development Plan. Site C is located outside the development boundary for Clocaenog.
- 17.4 The priority, in considering a new single location, has been to ensure, where appropriate, it can be accessible to a large percentage of current and future pupils. (See combined catchment diagram on page 21). This would exclude Clawddnewydd and Cyffylliog as potential sites as a location in one of these villages would exclude the new school from being the 'Nearest Suitable School' for the other village. The distance between the villages is 5.5 miles.
- 17.5 More detailed feasibility work will be progressed to determine a preferred site which will enable Denbighshire County Council to enter into any negotiations which may be required with any third parties regarding land purchases etc.

### **Transport**

- 17.6 Denbighshire County Council anticipates that, following completion of the First Phase, the majority of pupils attending the Clocaenog and Cyffylliog sites of the Area School would transfer to the New Area School; in the Clocaenog area.
- 17.7 Transport would be provided in the first instance in accordance with Denbighshire County Council's Transport Policy which states that free transport is provided for pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school.
- 17.8 The Council has recognised that some pupils currently attending Ysgol Cyffylliog who reside on the outskirts of the village of Bontuchel may not be eligible for free

transport should the Area School be located in Clocaenog. The council will examine the scope for discretionary free transportation for all pupils of the Area School who remain on the roll when the change of site takes place for a period of 5 years.

- 17.9 On moving to a single site, the interim transport arrangement for nursery pupils would come to an end.
- 17.10 In view of the current uncertain timescale between the Current Proposal being approved and a new site becoming operational, it is difficult to estimate the likely costs implications in respect of transport budgets in full. During the possible years (for which the Area School may operate until the Second Phase is approved), there will be a range of variables which will impact on any modelling, including changes in pupil numbers, transport costs etc.

### **Financial**

- 17.11 In view of the range of variables associated with the move to a single site, at this stage it is more difficult to predict what the overall impact would be for the finances of the New Area School. Costs will be modelled taking into account the likely pupil numbers and floor areas based upon current projections.

#### **Key points:**

##### **Site**

- Neither existing site can accommodate the existing pupils of both schools.
- Ysgol Clocaenog has submitted potential sites within the village which will be considered.
- Clocaenog is the preferred location for the New Area School.
- Detailed feasibility work will be undertaken to identify the most suitable site before starting any negotiations with third parties.

##### **Transport**

- Pupils would receive free home to school transport, if they live more than 2 miles from the new school.
- Existing pupils, currently attending their nearest suitable school would receive home to school transport for 5 years if the new location isn't their nearest suitable school.

## **18. How would any new school buildings work be financed?**

- 18.1 The council would need to fund this proposal in its entirety utilising savings from the removal of temporary accommodation in other schools, capital receipts and any revenue savings as this proposal wasn't included within the Band A projects for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Funding.
- 18.2 As a result, the construction of the new school building would be subject to securing sufficient capital resources for the project.

#### **Key points:**

- Denbighshire County Council would need to fund this project in full.
- The project will not start until funding is secured.

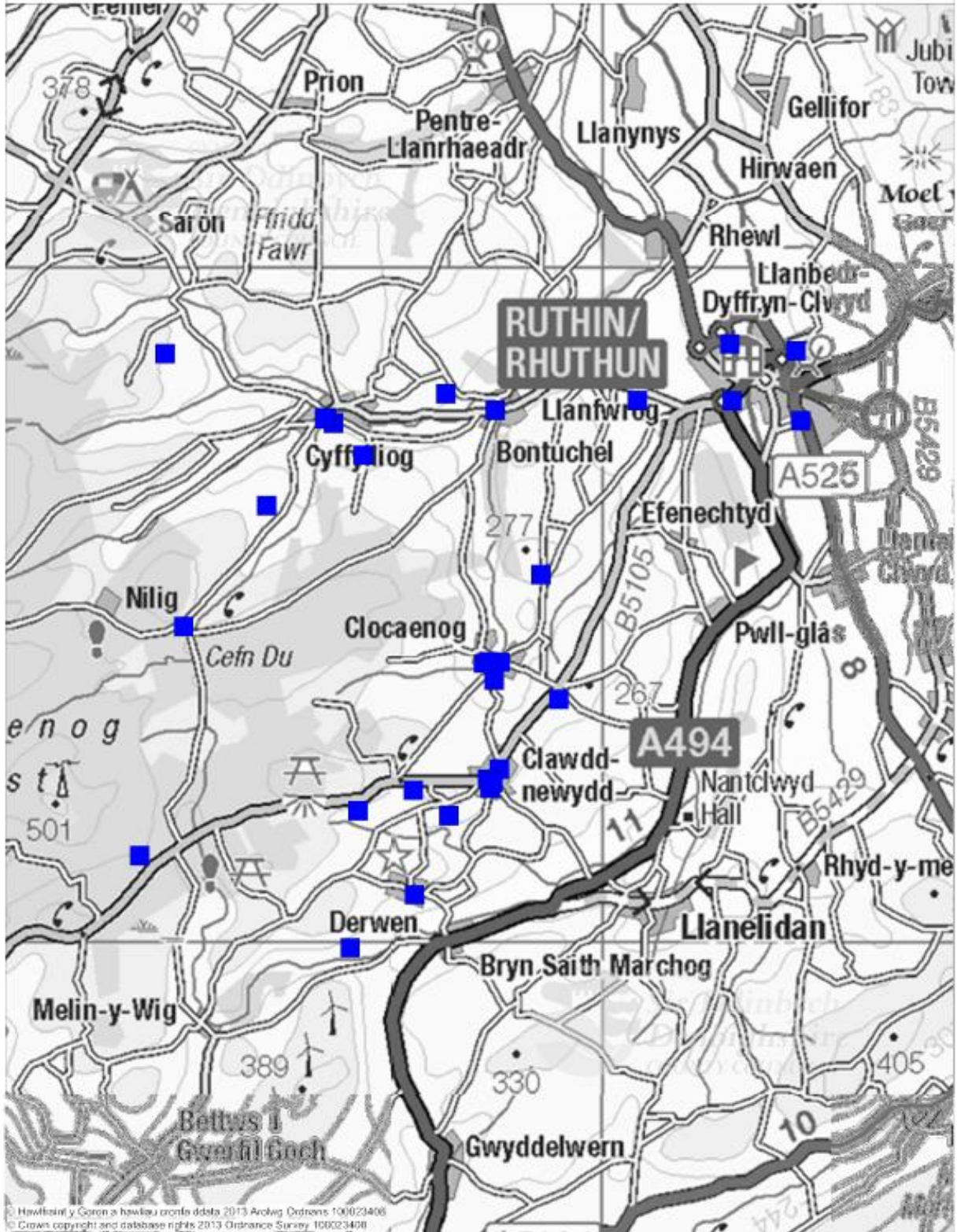




**Dalgylch Ysgol Clocaenog ac Ysgol Cyffylliog  
Catchment of Ysgol Clocaenog  
and Ysgol Cyffylliog**



Graddfa/Scale: 1: 75000  
Dyddiad/Date: 20/08/2013



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## **19. What are the disadvantages of the proposal?**

- 19.1 If the Current Proposal is approved the Area School will be located on the existing school sites in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog. This arrangement would be managed to ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum and should not impact negatively on the children's education.
- 19.2 Upon the opening of the New Area School it is anticipated that more children will be required to travel further to school; subject to parental preference. Transport would be provided to all pupils currently attending their nearest suitable school to either site. Work will be undertaken to ensure travelling times are not excessive.
- 19.3 There would also be implications for staff at the current Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog should the proposals be progressed for the development of an Area School. The role of the Headteacher would need to be carefully considered by the Temporary Governing Body. The approach to appointments to the role of Headteacher/Deputy Headteachers would be an issue for determination by the Temporary Governing Body which would need to consider whether the positions should be advertised nationally or appointed internally.
- 19.4 The new Head teacher and the Temporary Governing Body would be required to consider the staffing structure for the Area School. The Council would work initially with the Temporary Governing Body (and then with the Governing Body) of the Area 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.
- 19.5 This proposal will cost more than the current provision due to additional transport costs.

### **Key points:**

- Changes will be managed to ensure that disruption will be minimised to ensure that there is no impact on education.
- Some pupils will have to travel further to school.
- The Temporary Governing Body will need to decide if they advertised for a Head teacher nationally or appointed internally.
- Some staff may be redeployed or made redundant depending on the staffing structure adopted.
- It is estimated that the Current proposal will cost more than the current provision.

## 20. Alternative Options

20.1 Denbighshire County Council have given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the Current Proposal. In considering these options reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme which are as follows:

- a. *Learning environments for children and young people aged from 3 to 19 that will enable successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes;*
- b. *Greater economy through better use of resources to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate and public provision; and*
- c. *A sustainable education system with all schools meeting a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Standard, and reducing recurrent costs and carbon footprint.*

20.2 Denbighshire County Council have also referred to the Critical Success Factors for this project. The main options to have been considered are as follows:

- Option 1.1 Maintain the status quo;
- Option 1.2 Federate both Schools
- Option 1.3 Undertake extension works at Ysgol Clocaenog;
- Option 1.4 Close both Schools and establish an area school on the existing sites.
- Option 1.5 Close both Schools establish an Area School on existing sites prior to building a new Area School;

20.3 The main advantages and disadvantages of each option are as follows.

### Option 1.1 Maintain Status Quo (Do nothing)

Advantages	Disadvantages
This is the 'cheap' option as no additional investment expenditure is required.	Would not address issues regarding a projected deficit of places at Ysgol Clocaenog and the surplus of places at Ysgol Cyffylliog.
	The two schools could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.
	There would be no flexibility within the schools to respond to fluctuating pupil numbers within the existing catchment of each school.

	Appointing a Head teacher for the schools may be difficult in the future by maintaining the current configuration.
	A lack of catering facilities / indoor hall space at Ysgol Clocaenog would not be rectified.

### Option 1.2 Federate both Schools

Advantages	Disadvantages
No additional investment expenditure is required.	Would not address issues regarding a projected deficit of places at Ysgol Clocaenog and the surplus of places at Ysgol Cyffylliog.
Appointing a permanent Head Teacher would be more viable in the future as the post would have no teaching commitment.	A lack of catering facilities / indoor hall space at Ysgol Clocaenog would not be rectified.
More opportunities to share resources and ensure long term sustainability of each school.	There would be no flexibility within the schools to respond to fluctuating pupil numbers within the existing catchment of each school.
Both schools would retain their identity.	

### Option 1.3 Extend Ysgol Clocaenog;

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing additional fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	The current site is too small for any significant improvement.
Would enable the schools capacity to be amended to reflect the respective current demand for Ysgol Clocaenog.	Surplus places would remain at Ysgol Cyffylliog.
Would not lead to any significant changes in regard to school organisation proposals with potential alterations required to the capacity of Ysgol Clocaenog.	The two schools could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.
Would not require amendments to pupil travel arrangements.	The Head Teacher would retain a significant teaching commitment.

**Option 1.4 Close both Schools and establish a permanent new Dual-site Area School on the existing sites.**

Advantages	Disadvantages
No additional Capital Investment expenditure is required.	A lack of catering facilities space at Ysgol Clocaenog would not be rectified.
Appointing a permanent Head Teacher would be more viable in the future as the post would have no teaching commitment.	A lack of an indoor Physical Education space at both sites would not be rectified.
Resources and space would be organised across both sites according to current demand.	Transporting pupils from Clawddnewydd and Derwen to Cyffylliog on a long term basis would pose a risk to the sustainability of the school as alternative schools are nearer.
Pupils would be taught in smaller age groups than the current provision.	Costs of provision would be higher than the existing provision.

**Option 1.5 Close both Schools and initially establish a dual site area school prior to building a new area school in Clocaenog.**

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing new fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	Potential risk that parents choose an alternative provision to the new School especially if they live at the periphery of the new catchment area.
Bringing together the delivery of both schools to a single campus could yield significant economies of scale.	Parents in the Clawddnewydd / Derwen area may move pupils to avoid them being transported to the Cyffylliog site.
A new area school will have sufficient capacity to absorb fluctuations in pupil numbers.	
Appointing a permanent Head Teacher would be more viable in the future as the post would have no teaching commitment.	
The long term sustainability of the school would be far more secure in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.	

20.4 The analysis of these options suggest that to meet the investment objectives and critical success factors that the option of closing both schools and establishing a single site area school should be considered as the preferred option.

#### Analysis of Options against Investment Objectives and Critical Success Factors

	Option 1.1 Do nothing	Option 1.2 Federate	Option 1.3 Extend Clocaenog	Option 1.4 Existing Site Area School	Option 1.5 New Area School
1 Improved Learning Environment	x	x	✓	x	✓
2 Greater Economy – Revenue Implications	x	x	?	x	?
2 Greater Economy – Capital	?	?	?	?	?
3 Sustainable Education system	x	✓	x	✓	✓
<b>Critical success factors</b>					
CSF1 Improved attainment and performance	?	?	?	?	?
CSF2 Improved school condition and suitability	x	x	✓	x	✓
CSF3 Reduction in surplus places	x	x	x	✓	✓
CSF4 Improved ability to appoint and retain permanent Head Teachers.	x	✓	x	✓	✓
CSF 5 Support the increase in demand for Welsh Medium Education	x	x	✓	?	✓
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Discounted</b>	<b>Possible</b>	<b>Discounted</b>	<b>Possible</b>	<b>Preferred</b>

**Key Points:**

- Maintaining the status quo doesn't address any issues in either school.
- Federating both Schools doesn't address surplus places in Cyffylliog and the lack of space in Clocaenog.
- Undertaking extension works at Ysgol Clocaenog in isolation, doesn't address surplus places in Cyffylliog.
- Closing both Schools and establishing an area school permanently on the existing sites does not improve the condition of buildings or facilities in the schools.
- Closing both Schools, establish and build a new Area School meets the objectives set out in the review regarding surplus places, suitability of buildings and sustainability of provision.

**21. Explanation of the statutory process**

21.1 In order for the Current Proposal to be implemented, Denbighshire County Council is required to follow a procedure laid out by a combination of an Act of the Welsh Government and a statutory Code.

21.2 The requirements are as follows:

- a. Consultation held with people likely to be affected by the Proposal;
- b. Consultation report setting out details of the Consultation to be published on the council's website;
- c. Publication of the Current Proposal (also known as the 'statutory notice') with details such as the planned implementation date, how to obtain a copy of the consultation report and how to object:
  - i) on the council's website;
  - ii) posted on or near the main entrance of the two schools; and
  - ii) by providing affected schools with copies to distribute to parents.
- d. An objection period of 28 days from the date of publication allowing anyone who wishes to object to the Current Proposal to do so;
- e. Determination by the council (when, subject to the above process, the decision to implement the Current Proposal may be approved);
- f. Publication by the council of any objections and its response to them (within 7 days of the date of determination of the Current Proposal).

21.3 Please note that any response provided to the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection to the Current Proposal. This is because the Current Proposal may change in response to the formal consultation. If you would like to object to the Current Proposal, please wait until it has been published (as described in **paragraph 21.2(c)** above) then follow the procedure set out on the statutory notice.

**Key Point:** For the current proposal to be implemented a Statutory Notices would be published for 28 days. This would allow anyone wishing to object to do so.

A response provided during the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection.



## 22. Community, Welsh Language and Equality impact

- 22.1 As the Current Proposal, if implemented, will result in the closure of two schools a Equality, Welsh Language and Community impact assessments has been carried out and this is available on our website.

## 23. Response Form

- 23.1 A response form for comments, including an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the formal consultation report, appears at the end of this consultation document.
- 23.2 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to [modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk) by no later than **22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**.

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<sup>i</sup> The consultation document can be found in the School Organisation & Modernising section or you can follow this link [[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)]

<sup>ii</sup> Formal Consultation Document for Children. This is available upon request from DCC [and/or from the DCC website in the School Organisation & Modernising section by following this link [[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)]

<sup>iii</sup> Section 48 School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act;

<sup>iv</sup> Modernising Education Framework - available to read on request at DCC's offices in Ruthin or by visiting the website [[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)] in the School Organisation & Modernising section

<sup>v</sup> The Estyn report relating to both schools may be accessed by following this link [www.estyn.gov.uk](http://www.estyn.gov.uk).