

Determination Report

Proposal to close Ysgol Llanbedr as of the 31st of August 2014 with existing pupils transferring to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference.

March 2014

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with all required information to reach a decision regarding the following proposal;

To close Ysgol Llanbedr as of the 31st of August 2014 and transfer existing pupils to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference.

1.2 This report is intended as a 'statement of case' and sets out the rationale for the above proposal by providing information relating to the following factors;

- Quality and standards in education;
- Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools;
- Resourcing of education and other financial implications;
- Views of interested parties;
- Consideration of alternatives;
- Equality Impact Assessment, Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessments;
- Other General Factors.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that this proposal should be approved for implementation.

Should the recommendation be approved the following bodies and organisations will have a period of 28 days to refer the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for consideration;

- Another Local Authority affected by the proposal;
- The appropriate religious body for any school affected;
- The Governing Body of a Voluntary or Foundation school subject to the proposal;
- A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school; and
- A further education institution affected by the proposal.

3. Background: Modernising Education

3.1 Denbighshire County Council has a number of Strategic and Corporate plans for children and young people in Denbighshire. The BIG Plan (Part 1) stated that the desired outcome for children and young people is for them to "achieve and have skills for life". A key area for this outcome to be realised is improving school effectiveness and to improve children's and young people's learning and wellbeing.

3.2 In addition the Council agreed seven corporate priorities for the period 2012-2017; one of the priorities is to improve performance in education and improve the quality of our school buildings and learning environments. Denbighshire have an agreed 21st Century Schools Programme that will cost £74million to deliver; in addition we plan to invest a further £23million. Denbighshire recognises that to achieve this ambitious programme, maintaining the status quo across the school estate is not sustainable.

3.3 The 21st Century Schools and Education Capital Programme was launched by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2010. The programme aims to deliver;

- Learning environments in Wales that will enable the successful implementation of strategies for improvement and better educational outcomes;
- Greater economy and efficiency; through better use of resources;
- A sustainable education system in Wales that meets the national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of educational buildings.

3.4 In 2009, following a period of significant consultation, Denbighshire County Council adopted the Modernising Education Policy Framework which comprises of several policies which provide a basis for the Council to strategically plan school provision in Denbighshire.

3.5 Policy Document 1 sets out the objectives for school organisation in the primary sector and the models for primary provision. The Council recognises that a standardised model across the County would not be appropriate given the geography and varying demographics of the County. The four models are as follows;

- A. *2 Form Entry:- Primary school providing a maximum of 420 full-time places (maximum 60 pupils per year group)*
- B. *1 Form Entry:- Primary school providing a maximum of 210 full-time places (maximum 30 pupils per year group)*
- C. *½ Form Entry:- primary school providing a maximum of 105 full-time pupil places (maximum 15 pupils per year group)*
- D. *Federated schools:- in accordance with Denbighshire's 'Federated Schools Model'*

3.6 The four models would be able to provide all, or at least the majority, of the following benefits;

- Headteacher with a minimum 50% commitment to leadership and management;
- Increased benefit to pupils through increased peer interaction;
- A maximum class size of 30;
- No mixed key stage classes;
- Staff expertise as teachers are allowed to lead a single subject across the school;
- Increased opportunities for professional development amongst staff;
- Opportunity for excellent facilities as set out in the Denbighshire 21st Century Schools Vision;
- Fair and sufficient funding per pupil to enable pupils to reach their full potential whilst making best use of resources.

3.7 Four area reviews have taken place in Denbighshire; they include the Prestatyn Area, Dee Valley East (Llangollen), Dee Valley West (Edeyrnion) and the Ruthin Area. The reviews resulted in a number of changes to school provision in these areas including school closures, new area schools and federations which have secured significant investment to improve school buildings and facilities in those areas.

4. Review of Primary Provision in the Ruthin Area

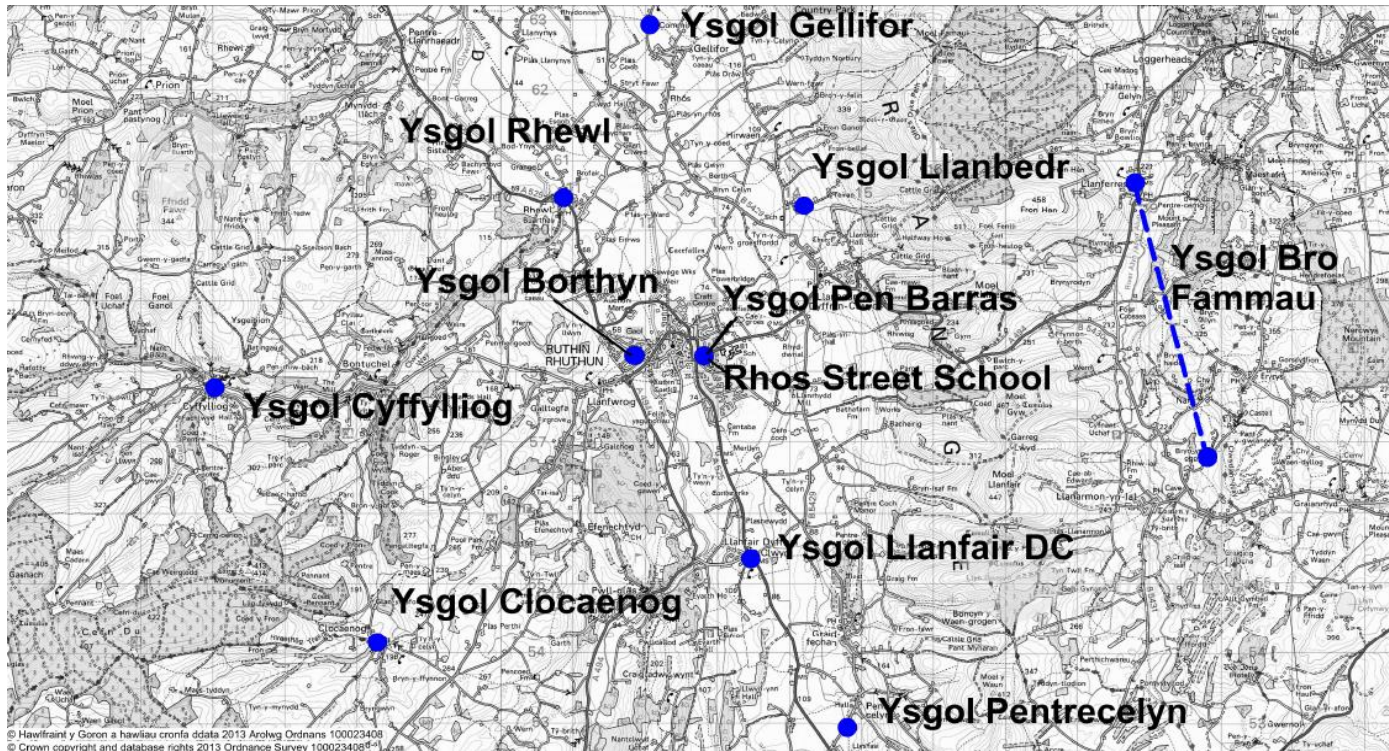
4.1 Denbighshire's Cabinet agreed the commencement of the Ruthin area review in November 2012. The review focused on the following objectives;

- i. Ensuring the sustainability of high quality education provision;
- ii. Improving the quality of school buildings and facilities;
- iii. Providing the right number of places, of the right type in the right location.

4.2 The informal consultation document highlighted a number of issues that were required to be addressed to ensure the sustainability of primary education provision within the Ruthin area. These issues were;

- i. Sustainability of schools and high quality provision;
- ii. Surplus places;
- iii. Condition and suitability of school buildings (including use of mobile accommodation);
- iv. Recruitment of Headteachers;
- v. Demand for Welsh medium education.

4.3 The informal consultation took place between February 4th and March 22nd 2013. 11 schools were included within the review, the schools and their locations are displayed on the map below;



4.4 A consultation document was published which provided details of the provision in the Ruthin area; this document can be found in **Appendix 2**. Following consideration the following six proposals and recommendations were made to Denbighshire's Cabinet in June 2013;

- A. Creation of a new area school to serve the communities of Clocaenog and Cyffylliog.
- B. Closure of Ysgol Llanbedr with the transfer of existing pupils to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference.
- C. Further detailed feasibility for the Ruthin Town schools to be undertaken.
- D. Proposed Federation of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- E. Support for the Federation of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor
- F. Retention of Ysgol Bro Fammau.

4.5 The recommendation above would bring the surplus percentile in the Ruthin Area closer to 10% than the current 24.2%.

4.6 In accordance with the School Organisation Code a 28 day period prior to the commencement of a formal consultation is required with the appropriate religious body (in this instance the Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph). The commencement of the Formal Consultation was approved in October 2013.

5. Formal Consultation

5.1 The formal consultation period took place between the 11th of November and 23rd of December 2013. A Formal Consultation document was published in accordance with the Code which provided details of the proposal; the document can be found in **Appendix 3**. During this period the Council consulted with parents, staff, governing bodies, pupils and other statutory consultees. The findings of the formal consultation were presented to Cabinet on the 14th of January 2014, a link to the formal consultation report can be found in **Appendix 4**.

5.2 Cabinet approved the recommendation to publish a Statutory Notice to close Ysgol Llanbedr as of the 31st of August 2014 with existing pupils transferring to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference.

6. Statutory Notice Period

6.1 The Statutory Notice was published in accordance with the Code on the 29th of January 2014 and ran for the statutory 28 day period. The Notice period ended on the 25th of February 2014.

6.2 In total 121 objections were received during the Statutory Notice period. In addition 443 copies of '*supporting hands*' were also received in support of Ysgol Llanbedr. The issues raised by objectors and the response of the Council can be found in the objection report (**Appendix 1**) and a summary of issues raised can be found in Section 11 of this report.

6.3 When approving and determining proposals, relevant bodies;

- **Must** consider whether there are any other related proposals;
- **Must** ensure that the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with this Code (The requirement to consult does not apply to discontinue a small school which is a small school);
- **Must** ensure that the proposal has been published in accordance with this Code and the notice contains all the required information;
- **Must** consider the consultation document and consultation report;

- **Must** consider the objections and the objection report and any responses to the Notice supporting the proposal.

7. The Schools

Ysgol Llanbedr

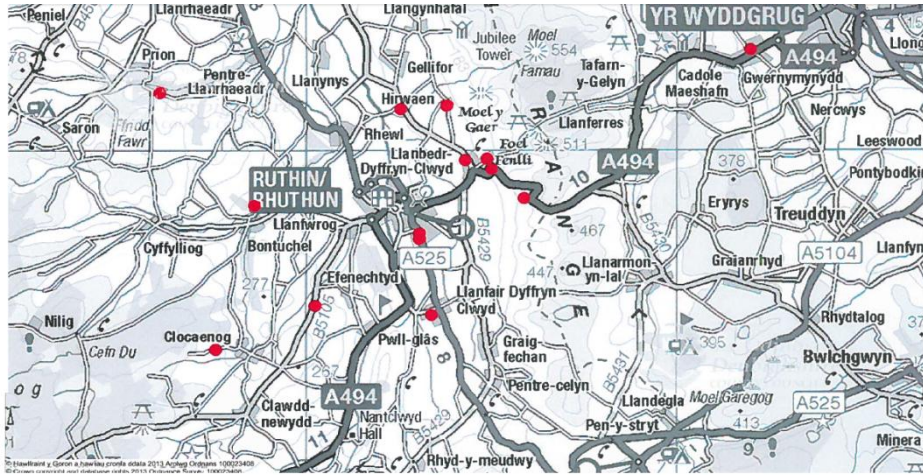
7.1 Ysgol Llanbedr is an English Medium Voluntary Controlled (Church in Wales) primary school for the age range 4-11 located close to the village of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd approximately 2 miles from the town of Ruthin. The school building comprises of 3 main teaching areas, and has been extended and remodelled since it was located on its present site in 1875. A mobile classroom is also located on the school site but is no longer used for teaching purposes and is utilised by 'Munchkins' a private child care facility. As of the last Estyn Inspection (2009) approximately 75% of pupils came from relatively prosperous areas, whilst the remaining 25% of the pupils are from backgrounds that are described as neither economically disadvantaged or prosperous. Nearly all pupils have English as their first language. 3% of pupils receive Free School Meals (FSM) which is below the local and national averages. The authority recognises that the inspection was undertaken a number of years ago and may not reflect the current situation at the school.

7.2 As of the January PLASC 2014 the Full Time number of pupils on roll was 21 with 7 nursery pupils. The Full Time and Part Time numbers on roll from 2007 are displayed below;

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Full Time	61	65	67	63	59	37	21	21
Part Time	4	6	8	8	10	6	4	7
Surplus* (FT)	20.7%	15.5%	12.9%	18.1%	23.3%	51.9%	61.1%	61.1%

**To 2012 based on capacity of 77- reduction in capacity to 54 2013 onwards*

7.3 The map below demonstrates the catchment for Ysgol Llanbedr (Full Time pupils only);



7.4 The pupil projections suggest an increase in pupil numbers by 2018 are provided below;

Pupil Projections 2014-2018*				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
24	27	28	32	29

*Based upon January PLASC return 2013

7.5 Objectors have raised concerns that the pupil projections do not reflect the growth expected by the school. The Council use a standard projection methodology for primary schools; pupil projections are based on ‘actual’ numbers within the school based on the data returned within the January PLASC. The projection number also corresponds to the expected pupil number at the next PLASC i.e. 2015 is January 2015 not September (beginning of academic year).

7.6 The pupil projections are undertaken in the spring of each year following the PLASC returns. The number of nursery pupils is included within the formula to provide an average however the total number includes Full Time pupils only. The number of part time pupils at Ysgol Llanbedr for this academic year is 7, this will be included in the next round of pupil projections. Based on the provisional PLASC data for January 2014 the projections are provisionally as follows;

Pupil Projections 2015-2019*				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
28	30	35	36	37

*Based upon January PLASC return 2014

7.7 The capacity of Ysgol Llanbedr is 54. The mobile accommodation is utilised by Munchkins, a private child care facility and has consequently been removed from the schools capacity assessment at the request of the Governing Body.

7.8 Educational standards at the school are good however due to the small cohorts in recent years a meaningful comparison with national and local averages is not

possible. The Key Stage 2 attainment levels and further information relating to the assessed cohorts are included within the table below;

Ysgol Llanbedr	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Level 4+ KS2 (Llanbedr)	71.4%	83.3%	84.6%	100%	85.7%	100%
Level 4+ KS2 Denbighshire Average	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%
No. of Pupils Assessed	12	12	13	6	7	1
% SEN	0%	16.6%	0%	0%	28.5%	{Blank}
% FSM	0%	0%	0%	16.6%	0%	{Blank}

7.9 The school's last inspection took place in June 2009 and the inspection report commented as follows;

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

Key:

Grade 1	Good with outstanding features
Grade 2	Good features and no important shortcomings
Grade 3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
Grade 4	Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
Grade 5	Many important shortcomings

7.10 In order to improve the school in the areas inspected, it was recommended that the staff and Governing Body should;

- *Raise standards by addressing shortcomings in Welsh Second Language;*
- *Improve pupil's bilingual competence;*
- *Improve curriculum planning to ensure pupils better progress in all subjects;*
- *Improve communication with parents/carers;*
- *Develop the self-evaluation system to consistently and rigorously monitor standards of work and the quality of learning.*

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

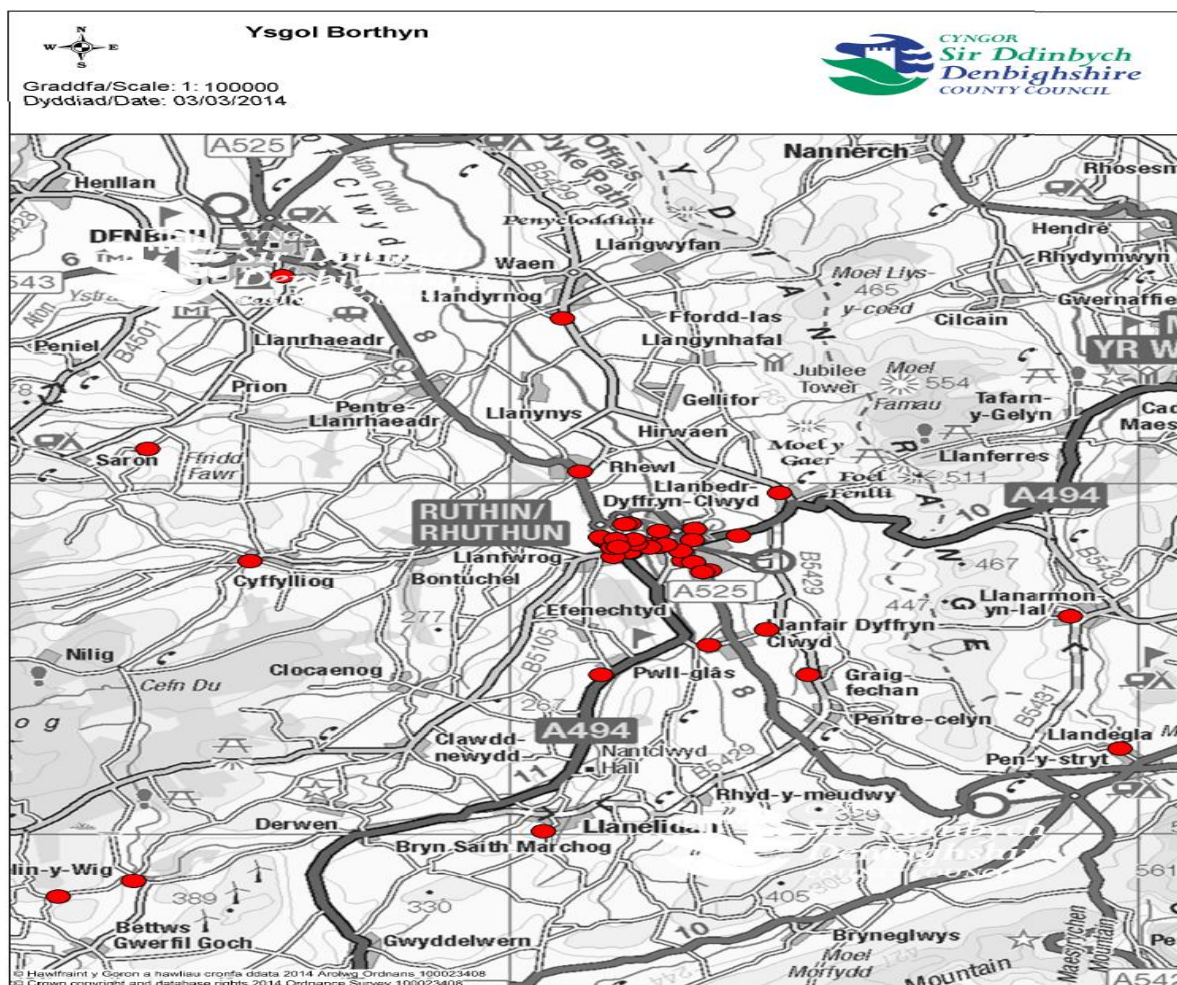
Ysgol Borthyn

7.12 Ysgol Borthyn is an English Medium Voluntary Controlled (Church in Wales) primary school for the age range 4-11 located within the town of Ruthin. As of the last Estyn inspection (2008) most of the pupils come from the local area which is relatively prosperous, 12% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). There has been a recent increase in the number of pupils from ethnic minorities who do not speak English when they come to the school. 8% of pupils speak English as an additional language and 22% are from ethnic minorities. 29% of all pupils have been identified as having Additional Learning Needs (ALN). The number on roll has fallen significantly since the last inspection in 2002. The authority recognises that the inspection was undertaken a number of years ago and may not reflect the current situation at the school. Ysgol Borthyn is due for an inspection in Spring 2014.

7.13 As of the January PLASC the Full Time number of pupils on roll was 114 with 23 Part Time pupils. The Full Time and Part Time numbers on roll from 2007 are displayed below;

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Full Time	81	93	98	104	113	113	111	114
Part Time	14	19	12	11	14	9	18	23
Surplus* (FT)	42.9%	34.5%	30.9%	26.7%	20.4%	20.4%	21.8%	19.7%

7.14 The map below demonstrates the catchment area for Ysgol Borthyn (Full Time pupils only);



7.15 Pupil projections for Ysgol Borthyn demonstrated the pupil numbers will remain stable with a decrease from current numbers on roll;

Pupil Projections 2014-2018*				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
115	111	103	102	104

*Based on January 2013 PLASC return

7.16 The Key Stage 2 attainment levels and further information relating to the assessed cohorts are included within the table below

Ysgol Borthyn	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013

Level 4+ KS2 (Borthyn)	87.5%	82.4%	58.8%	78.6%	92.3%	93.3%
Level 4+ KS2 Denbighshire Average	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%
No. of Pupils Assessed	16	17	16	14	12	14
% SEN	25%	29.4%	31.2%	28.6%	33.3%	28.6%
% FSM	12.5%	11.8%	18.7%	14.2%	8.3%	21.4%

7.17 The school's last inspection took place in June 2008 and the inspection report commented as follows;

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

Key:

Grade 1	Good with outstanding features
Grade 2	Good features and no important shortcomings
Grade 3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
Grade 4	Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
Grade 5	Many important shortcomings

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

8. Quality and Standards in Education

8.1 The current proposal suggest an alternative English Medium faith based (Church in Wales) primary provision for the existing pupils of Ysgol Llanbedr. It is the view of Estyn that the current proposal is likely to maintain the present standards of education in the area. In addition Estyn has commented that;

- *Denbighshire County Council has set out a clear rationale for the proposal to close Ysgol Llanbedr and transfer pupils to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference. They have shown that the proposal links in well with the strategic policy and the Council’s Modernising Education Policy Framework.*
- *The proposer clearly notes a number of issues that need to be addressed to achieve long term sustainability. These include overall sustainability of schools and high quality provision; surplus places; condition and suitability of school buildings (including use of mobile accommodation); and the recruitment of headteachers.*

8.2 Objectors to the proposal have stated that they believe the implementation of the proposal will have an adverse effect on the educational attainment of the existing pupils of Ysgol Llanbedr. Objections raised during the Statutory Notice period relating to educational standards and performance include;

- *Educational standards are good/excellent at Ysgol Llanbedr;*
- *Consistently above the Denbighshire and national average at KS2;*
- *Suggested alternative school does not offer the same or better educational provision, performance or attainment;*
- *Small and mixed age classes provide a better learning experience;*
- *Ysgol Borthyn does not have satisfactory provision.*

8.3 The tables below provide a comparative overview of the Level 4+ attainment at both Ysgol Llanbedr and Ysgol Borthyn;

Ysgol Llanbedr	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Level 4+ KS2 (Llanbedr)	71.4%	83.3%	84.6%	100%	85.7%	100%
Level 4+ KS2 Denbighshire Average	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%
No. of Pupils Assessed	12	12	13	6	7	1
% SEN	0%	16.6%	0%	0%	28.5%	{Blank}
% FSM	0%	0%	0%	16.6%	0%	{Blank}

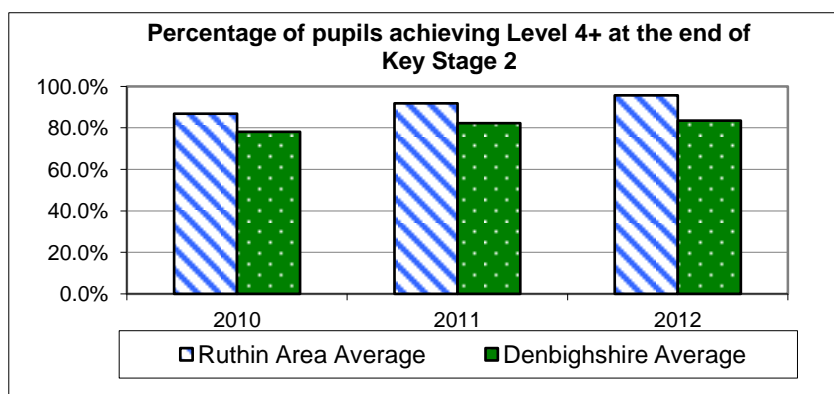
Ysgol Borthyn	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Level 4+ KS2 (Borthyn)	87.5%	82.4%	58.8%	78.6%	92.3%	93.3%
Level 4+ KS2 Denbighshire Average	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%
No. of Pupils Assessed	16	17	16	14	12	14
% SEN	25%	29.4%	31.2%	28.6%	33.3%	28.6%
% FSM	12.5%	11.8%	18.7%	14.2%	8.3%	21.4%

8.5 It is important to note that small cohorts in the years being assessed should be treated with care as the results of one pupil can have a substantial impact on the schools overall performance. Where there are small cohorts a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible.

8.6 Both schools performed in the top quartile in 2013.

8.7 8.10 In addition to the levels of attainment further information around the proportion of SEN/ALN pupils and pupils who receive Free School Meals (FSM) are also included (in the assessed cohort only). These figures are included to provide a context, overall attainment at any school has a number of contributing factors inclusive of FSM and SEN proportions. It is the view of the authority that Ysgol Borthyn provides at least an equivalent standard of education.

8.8 The authority has been clear from the outset of the Ruthin Area Review that the review is not linked to the educational performance or attainment of any school included within the review. The Ruthin area as a whole performs above the Denbighshire average as displayed in the chart below and provides no cause for concern;



8.9 The authority recognises that Ysgol Llanbedr provides a good standard of education, this is also the case for other schools in the Ruthin area as the chart above demonstrates. It is necessary for Denbighshire County Council to ensure schools are reviewed to address issues such as surplus places and ensuring resources are both efficient and sustainable.

SEN

8.10 The table below provides an overview of SEN percentiles within the school for the current academic year;

Statemented	4.7%
School Action Plus	9.5%
School Action	4.7%

8.11 Support for pupils with SEN will be provided for pupils who experience difficulties because of the proposed change. Arrangements that are currently in place for pupils with SEN will transfer to their new learning environment for example where there is 1-2-1 support this will continue to be provided.

8.12 Should the proposal be implemented the authority will contact the parents of pupils who are statemented, school action plus or school action support and assist pupils with any transition.

8.13 In addition the Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption for all pupils affected by any proposed changes. Should parents/guardians have any concerns they should contact a relevant officer in the School Improvement Team.

8.14 As noted in the Formal Consultation and Objection period many parents have suggested they would not send their child/ren to Ysgol Borthyn and would seek alternative English Medium provision. The table below provides an overview of all English Medium provision within the Ruthin Area;

School	Distance from Ysgol Llanbedr	Type of School	Current Capacity	NOR	Surplus Places
Ysgol Borthyn	2.1 miles	English/ Faith VC	142	114	28 (19.7%)
Rhos Street School	1.3 miles	English/ Community	189	161	28 (14.8%)
Ysgol Gellifor	2.9 miles	English/ Community	91	86	5 (5.4%)
Ysgol Bro Fammau	4.3 miles	English/ Community	135	79	56 (41.4%)
Ysgol Llanfair DC	3.1 miles	Bilingual/ Faith VC	113	84	29 (25.6%)

8.15 The table below includes the attainment at Level 4+ KS2 of all the above schools (Ysgol Llanbedr and Ysgol Borthyn are also included as a comparator);

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Rhos Street School	82.1%	86.7%	93.5%	93.3%	96.6%	92.6%
Ysgol Gellifor	90%	91.7%	92.9%	92.3%	100%	91.7%
Ysgol Bro Famau	76.7%	87.5%	91.7%	100%	94.4%	95.8%
Ysgol Llanfair DC	50%	100%	88.9%	91.7%	100%	94.1%
Ysgol Borthyn	87.5%	82.4%	58.8%	78.6%	92.3%	93.3%
Ysgol Llanbedr DC	71.4%	83.3%	84.6%	100%	85.7%	100%

8.16 The table below includes the Estyn inspection outcomes for all the above schools (with the exception of Rhos Street School which was inspected under the new framework and is included in section 8.17);

Key Question	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade
	Llanbedr (2009)	Borthyn (2008)	Gellifor (2010)	Bro Famau (2008)	Llanfair (2010)
How well do learners achieve?	2	3	2	2	2
How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	2	3	2	2	2
How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	3	2	1	2	1
How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	2	2	1	2	2
How effective are leadership and strategic management?	3	3	2	2	2
How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	4	3	2	2	2
How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	2	3	2	2	2

Key:

Grade 1	Good with outstanding features
Grade 2	Good features and no important shortcomings
Grade 3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
Grade 4	Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
Grade 5	Many important shortcomings

8.17 The inspection report for Rhos Street School commented as follows;

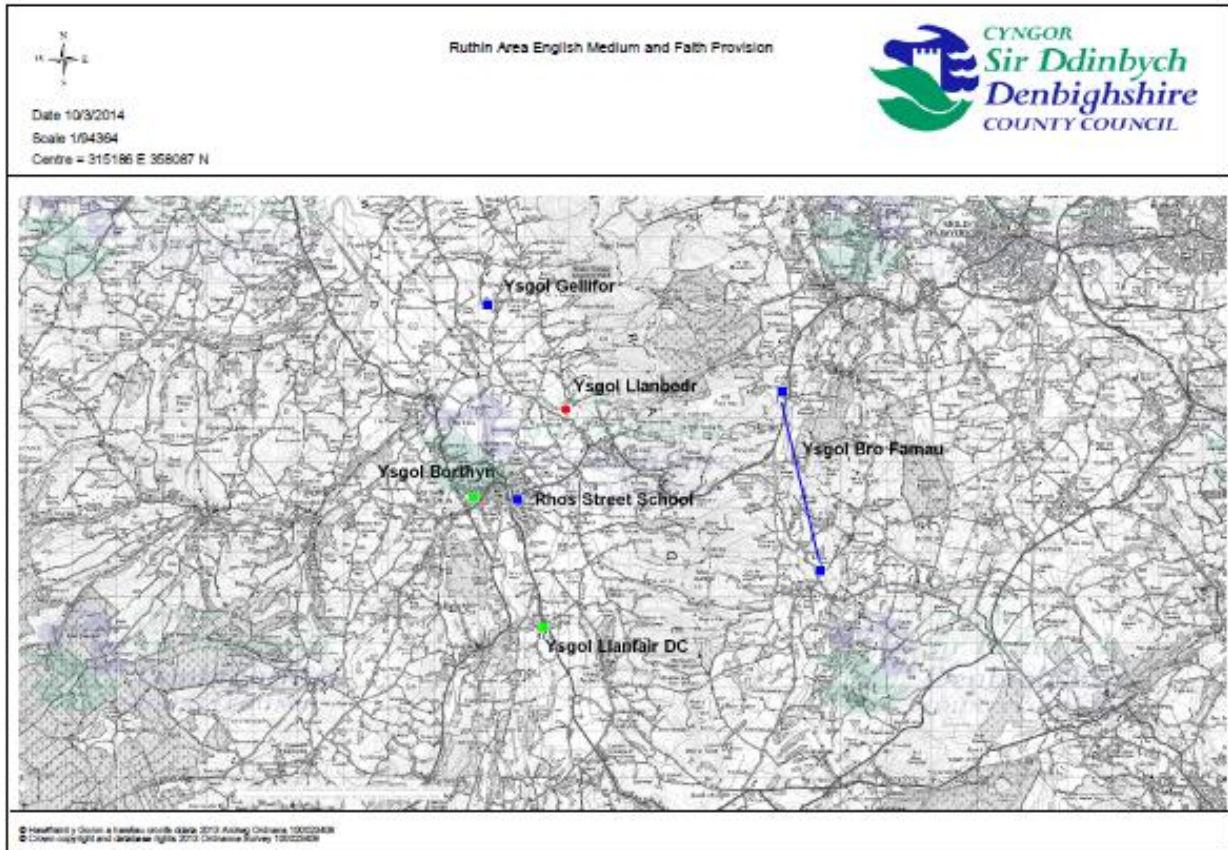
The school's current performance	Good
The school's prospect for improvement	Excellent

Current Performance

9. Need for places and the impact of accessibility of schools

9.1 Within the Ruthin area there are Welsh Medium, English Medium and Dual Stream provision. The wider proposals for the Ruthin Area ensure that the area will retain English, Welsh and Faith provision in a mix of town and rural settings.

9.2 The proposals suggests an alternative English Medium Faith based school, Ysgol Borthyn, which currently has 28 surplus places. However following the Formal Consultation the authority recognise that the proposal may have an impact on other English Medium schools in the area. Within the English Medium sector there are currently 150 surplus places (24.5%). The map below displays the English Medium and Faith Schools within proximity of 6 miles to Ysgol Llanbedr;



9.3 The table below provides an overview of the current situation within the Ruthin Area;

January PLASC 2014				
Schools	Capacity	Current NOR*	Surplus Number	Surplus %
English Medium				
Ysgol Borthyn (VC)	142	114	28	19.7%
Rhos Street School	189	161	28	14.8%
Ysgol Llanbedr (VC)	54**	21	33	61.1%
Ysgol Bro Famau	135	79	56	41.4%
Ysgol Gellifor	91	86	5	5.6%
Totals	611	461	150	24.5%
Welsh Medium				
Ysgol Pen Barras	252	213	39	15.5%
Ysgol Clocaenog	36	36	0	0%
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	56	39	17	30.3%
Total	344	288	56	16.3%
Bilingual				
Ysgol Llanfair DC	113	84	29	25.6%
Ysgol Rhewl	82	50	32	39%
Ysgol Cyffylliog	45	22	23	51.1%
Total	240	156	84	35%
Ruthin Area	Total Capacity	Total NOR	Total Surplus	Total % Surplus
	1,195	905	290	24.3%

**Revised to 54 from 77 in previous years

The total surplus places is highest within the English Medium provision with over half (51.7%) of the total surplus places in the Ruthin area. This is in comparison to the Welsh medium provision which has 19.3% surplus places across the entire Ruthin area.

- 9.4 The percentage of surplus places is one of the highest in Denbighshire, as the pupil projections for the Ruthin Area as a whole demonstrate it is unlikely that the surplus percentage will decrease significantly in the Ruthin Area in the next 5 years;

School	Actual 2013	Projected 2014	Projected 2015	Projected 2016	Projected 2017	Projected 2018	Projected Trend 2013 - 2018
Borthyn	111	115	111	103	102	104	-7
Bro Fammau	92	80	79	79	81	82	-10
Clocaenog	36	39	45	47	47	48	12
Cyffylliog	19	25	29	31	35	35	16
Gellifor	87	86	94	87	85	89	2
Llanbedr	21	24	27	28	32	29	8
Llanfair	90	87	84	81	84	86	-4
Pentrecelyn	31	39	41	45	46	50	19
Pen Barras	223	215	219	216	224	217	-6
Rhewl	55	53	56	52	48	49	-6
Rhos Street	163	152	146	147	142	136	-27
Ruthin Area	928	915	931	916	926	925	-3

- 9.5 The current proposal, and the wider proposals for the Ruthin Area, would lead to a decrease in the number of surplus places in the Ruthin Area whilst also providing greater economies of scale across the Ruthin Area.
- 9.6 There is expected to be limited impact on secondary provision in the area. All primary schools included within the Ruthin Review currently feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd.
- 9.7 It is expected that the proposals may lead to additional transport costs; transport would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire County Council's Transport Policy which states that free school transport will be provided for pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school. Currently there are no transport costs associated with Ysgol Llanbedr as no pupils are eligible for free school transport under Denbighshire's Transport Policy.
- 9.8 Based on all current pupils transferring to Ysgol Borthyn the transport costs would be approximately £26,600.
- 9.9 If the proposal were to be implemented it is expected that some pupils who live in the immediate Llanbedr DC area would be required to travel further to school,

should this be to the town of Ruthin, subject to parental preference, this would be approximately 2.3 miles. However in other instances it is likely that pupils will have a reduced home to school transport time.

10. Resourcing of Education and financial implications

10.1 It is estimated that a net saving of £68,000 would be achieved. This saving could generate £884k in prudential borrowing based on the current borrowing rate.

10.2 Currently the cost per pupil for Ysgol Llanbedr is £8,498, the Denbighshire average cost of primary provision per pupil for 2013/2014 is £3,951.

10.3 The table below provides a summary of the financial situation of Ysgol Llanbedr for the last full academic year;

Full Year Budget 2013/2014	£195,000
Number of Pupils (as of Jan '14 PLASC)	21
Cost per-pupil 2013/2014	£8,498
Denbighshire Average cost per primary pupil 2013/2014	£3,951

10.4 The rationalisation of per pupil spend allows for this expenditure to be utilised more efficiently across the school estate. Overall the rationalisation of per pupil expenditure leads to a greater efficiency of resource which can also be used to improve educational provision and curriculum delivery. Any savings would be retained within the Denbighshire County Council budget as part of the investment in the Council's Corporate Priority to improve the condition of our schools buildings. The table below displays the per pupil spend across the Ruthin Area for the 2013-2014 academic year;

School	Per Pupil Spend 13/14
Ysgol Llanbedr	£8,498
Ysgol Cyffylliog	£7,857
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	£5,918
Ysgol Clocaenog	£5,342
Ysgol Rhewl	£4,828
Ysgol Borthyn	£4,583
Ysgol Bro Famau	£4,576
Ysgol Llanfair DC	£4,301
Ysgol Gellifor	£3,924
Rhos Street School	£3,756
Ysgol Pen Barras	£3,517
Average	£5,191

- 10.5 It is expected that the proposal, and also the wider proposals for the Ruthin Area, will produce a rationalisation in per pupil funding across the Ruthin Area.
- 10.6 The three year budget forecasts for both Ysgol Llanbedr and Ysgol Borthyn are as follows;
- 10.7 There are no capital costs associated with the proposal. Objectors raised concerns that there was a minimal saving to be made from proposal however with all financial and resourcing issues it is the view of the Authority that the proposal would contribute to a better strategic management of the school estate.
- 10.8 A building survey was last undertaken on the building in 2012; maintenance costs associated with Ysgol Llanbedr were £51,762. To carry out maintenance on the permanent school building it would be in excess of £150 spend per square meter. The Building Area for the school is relatively small at 342.01 Sq.M.
- 10.9 The land and building is not owned by Denbighshire County Council and therefore there would be no capital receipt. However Denbighshire would save year on year re-current costs to run the building.

11. Views of interested parties

11.1 The views of interested parties have been covered in part in the preceding sections of this report. However a summary of these issues is included below and is covered in its entirety with the response of the Authority in the Objection Report;

- *Local Authority has not explored alternatives such as Federation or expansion of the site.*
- *Ysgol Llanbedr is the only school in the Ruthin area providing English Medium, Faith based primary provision in a rural area with on-site wrap around care.*
- *Exceptional circumstances which led to the fall in pupil numbers in 2011-2012 have not been fully acknowledged.*
- *Pupil numbers at the schools are now recovering- Council pupil projections do not reflect growth with 13 applicant for the Nursery class in September 2014.*
- *Proposed alternative, Ysgol Borthyn, is not a suitable alternative; does not have capacity for extra pupils; it is a large town school; educational performance does not match Llanbedr; pupils taught in a mobile classroom; does not offer the same outdoor facilities.*
- *Concerns over parking and pedestrian safety outside of Ysgol Borthyn- worsened if proposal implemented; Ysgol Llanbedr has safe off road parking.*
- *Ysgol Llanbedr has not been treated fairly in the Review; same criteria has not been applied.*

- *Unhappy with the consultation and procedure; Review has not been open and transparent;*
- *Detrimental impact on the community of Llanbedr.*
- *Economic impact on the wider Ruthin Area- professional families will leave the area.*
- *Quality and standard of education at Ysgol Llanbedr is good and consistently above the Denbighshire average at Key Stage 2.*
- *Provision of on-site wrap around care with ‘Munchkins’ child care facility; other schools do not offer wrap around care would affect parents economically (i.e not being able to access cheaper child care).*
- *Proposed 70 new homes in Llanbedr as part of Local Development Plan; where will the extra pupils go; demand for the school will grow.*
- *Potential new school development on Glasdir would have impact on Ysgol Borthyn due to proximity. This could lead to more disruption to pupils of Ysgol Llanbedr in the future such as another move.*
- *Short amount of time between closure of Formal Consultation and Cabinet meeting; feel all views were not taken into account before a decision was made.*
- *Minimal financial gains to be made by closure of Ysgol Llanbedr.*
- *Detrimental impact on pupils well-being;*
- *School has the support of Diocese; closure to detriment of Faith based provision in Ruthin Area.*

11.2 As the appropriate religious body, the Diocese of St. Asaph have raised concern that the wider Ruthin Area proposals will undermine primary Faith provision in the Ruthin Area. Currently 32% of the surplus capacity across the Ruthin Area is within Faith based provision. The Diocese raised concerns regarding the long term viability of Ysgol Borthyn however in the report to Cabinet in June 2013 it was recommended that Ysgol Borthyn should be retained to provide English Medium Faith based provision to serve the town of Ruthin and surrounding areas.

12. Consideration of Alternatives

12.1 The following options were considered as alternatives;

Option 1.1	Maintain the status quo
Option 1.2	Federate the school
Option 1.3	Expand on the existing site
Option 1.4	Close the school

12.2 Option 1.4 was the preferred option when considered against the investment and critical success factors. The alternative options would not address a number of issues that are likely to impact on the sustainability of the school in

the long term. The full appraisal can be found in Section 13 of the Formal Consultation Document which is attached as **Appendix 3**.

13. Equality Impact Assessment, Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

13.1 Within the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) the authority recognises that should the proposal be implemented it would have an impact on the provision of Faith education in the Llanbedr area. However the authority has suggested an alternative English Medium Faith based provision within 2.3 miles of the Ysgol Llanbedr.

13.2 32% of the total surplus places within the Ruthin Area are currently within the Faith provision (Ysgol Borthyn, Ysgol Llanbedr and Ysgol Llanfair DC). The authority is of the view that should the proposal be implemented that faith provision will remain accessible.

Community Impact Assessment

13.3 The following sources of information have been used as part of the Community Impact Assessment;

- *Impact Assessment Questionnaires (returned by Headteacher of Ysgol Llanbedr);*
- *PLASC January 2013 data;*
- *Statistical data stored by DCC;*
- *Census Information;*
- *Denbighshire's Welsh Education Scheme 2010-2013;*
- *Informal Consultation Responses.*

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

- *School designation;*
- *School links to the local community;*
- *Impact on neighbouring schools;*
- *Impact on parents and families;*
- *Travel implications for parents/pupils;*
- *Impact on community activities;*
- *Impact on community facilities;*
- *Impact on community demographics.*

13.5 To surmise, the authority recognises that where a school closure is proposed it will have a negative impact on the local community. Any potential negative impacts resulting from the proposal could be negated by the local authority. For example, the existence of a separate village hall could host activities that currently take place at the school. The Ruthin Area Plan was approved in February 2014 and allocated a sum of £8,400 to undertake improvement works on the Llanbedr DC Village Hall which improves the long term viability of this community facility.

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

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

13.7 In order to assess the potential impact on the Welsh Language, consideration has been given to the following;

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

13.8 The following data is taken from the 2011 Census and provides information relating to the Welsh language skills of residents in the Llanbedr DC area. The census states that there are 771 in the Llanbedr DC area, the results for skills in the Welsh Language are as follows;

- i. 31% of residents (aged 3 and over) are Welsh speakers; this is higher than the Denbighshire and Wales average which is 24.6% and 19% respectively.
- ii. 22.7% of residents (aged 3 and over) can speak, read and write Welsh; this is higher than the Denbighshire and Wales average which is 18.6% and 14.6% respectively.

- iii. 44.1% of residents (aged 3 and over) have one or more skills in Welsh; this is higher than the Denbighshire and Wales average which is 35.4% and 26.7% respectively.

13.9 To surmise, overall the proposal would not have a negative impact on the Welsh Language with a high percentage of Welsh speakers in the community and a high percentage of those having one or more skills in Welsh. This is reflected in the numbers of pupils in the natural catchment area for Llanbedr DC attending nearby Welsh Medium schools.

14. Other General Factors

14.1 A child care facility, 'Munchkins', is located on Ysgol Llanbedr's site and provides a non-statutory provision for children over the age of 2. 'Munchkins' currently operate from the mobile accommodation which is surplus to teaching requirements following the reduction in pupil numbers at the school.

14.2 Objectors have raised concerns that wrap-around-care would not be accessible should Ysgol Llanbedr close. Other schools in the locality, including Ysgol Borthyn, also provide wrap-around-care with numerous pre-school, breakfast and after-school facilities. Currently Ysgol Borthyn provide a breakfast club and have a 'Borthyn Bunnies' club for children over the age of 2. Ysgol Borthyn are exploring options for an after-school provision at the school and the authority will be working with the school and Governing Body going forward.

14.3 The current proposal has the potential to impact upon 'Munchkins' however the authority can work with the facility should the proposal be implemented. The site and building are not within the ownership of Denbighshire County Council and the future of the building would be a matter for the Diocesan authority.

Appendix 1

Objection Report: Proposal to close Ysgol Llanbedr as of the 31st of August 2014 with existing pupils transferring to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference.



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A total of 121 Objections were received during the Statutory Notice Period.

<p>B1</p>	<p>LA has failed to adequately explore alternatives to closure such as a Federation or site-sharing option. The formal proposal only looked at one option which was to close; support for Federation with another school such as Ysgol Llanfair or Ysgol Borthyn; school could be expanded; told there was no need to consider any other options for the school.</p>	<p>22%*</p>
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>As part of a review process all options are explored for each school. Within the Formal Consultation Document (November 2013, Section 13: page 13 through page 16) the authority has provided an analysis of the following options;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. Status Quo (Do Nothing);</i> <i>ii. Federation;</i> <i>iii. Expansion on existing site;</i> <i>iv. Closure</i> <p>All of the above have been evaluated as part of the formation of the proposals, not only for Ysgol Llanbedr but for the wider Ruthin area. These options are evaluated against Denbighshire’s main investment objectives of the Council’s 21st Century Schools Programme, which are as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learning Environments for children and young people aged 3-19 that will enable successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes. 2. Greater economy through better use of resources to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate and public provision; 3. A sustainable education system with all schools meeting a 21st Century Schools Standard, reducing recurrent costs and carbon footprint. <p>Based on these issues the authority developed a clear proposal to close the school as it was considered that this option would best meet the drivers of the review. Any proposal document should be based on a single proposal.</p> <p>The Diocese of St Asaph have expressed a preference for Ysgol Llanbedr to be federated with either Ysgol Borthyn or Ysgol Llanfair or a tripartite Federation between the 3 Faith schools within the Ruthin Area. Should Llanbedr be Federated with Ysgol Llanfair the surplus percentile (based on the current academic year) would be 47.7%. A federation with Ysgol Borthyn would have a surplus percentile of 31.1%. Across a tripartite federation this percentile would be 29.1%.</p> <p>A Federated model would not;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead to a greater economy (capital or revenue); ▪ Provide a sustainable education system; 		

- Address the need for a reduction in surplus places;
- Improve issues regarding lack of hall and the catering space would not be rectified;

Any potential partners would have little to gain from a Federation.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B2	<i>Evidence base is flawed; incorrect pupil numbers used at Cabinet 29/10/2013; Councillors making decision on false information.</i>	12%*
<u>Response</u>		
<p>The pupil numbers presented to Cabinet are in line with the PLASC school data returns. As of the September 2013 there were 21 Full Time pupils and 7 Part Time pupils. As of the January 2013 PLASC return there were 21 Full Time pupils and 4 Part Time pupils. These were the figures in both the Informal and Formal Consultation documents and the figures used for the Cabinet Reports.</p> <p>The PLASC return for January 2014 showed the school had 21 Full Time pupils and 7 Part Time pupils.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B3	<i>Exceptional circumstances which led to fall in school roll; leadership crisis; disruptive time after two appalling headships; weak management; had the situation been managed this would not have happened (loss of pupils); not acknowledged in the Formal Consultation Document.</i>	25%*
<u>Response</u>		
<p>The authority recognises the Leadership and Management issues that have impacted upon the school over the last six years and which led to the fall in pupil numbers during the period 2011-2012. The LEA provided considerable support for the school and Governing Body during this period. The school was identified as a "School Causing Concern" and a package of support was implemented.</p>		

34 pupils were removed from the school by parents during 2011-2012 with the majority of pupils transferring to Ysgol Bro Fammau with other pupils transferring to Ysgol Gellifor and Rhos Street School. Support provided by the LEA stabilised the situation and following further interventions by the LEA further applications for transfer from the school were withdrawn which stabilised the pupil numbers and prevented a further decrease in pupil numbers.

Leadership and management issues at the school have resulted in 3 substantive Headteacher posts and 3 Acting Headteacher posts since 2008.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B4	<i>Numbers at the school are now recovering; ignored by authority; 13 registered for nursery 2014; bright future; demand for the school is high; oversubscribed nursery class for 2014-2015; mistake to close with growing numbers</i>	37%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>The authority has acknowledged that there will be an increase in pupil numbers at Ysgol Llanbedr. However the school will still remain a 'small school' with an overall capacity of 54 Full Time pupils. Should pupil numbers show a sustained growth beyond the higher than average applications received for nursery provision for 2014/15 the admission number would be reduced in line with the permanent capacity. The mobile classroom is used by 'Munchkins' an onsite child care facility and has been deducted from the capacity assessment at the request of the Governing Body prior to the Formal Consultation.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B5	<i>Pupil projections don't reflect growth; LDP and local birth rate projections have been ignored by the Council. (linked to B4)</i>	4%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>A standard pupil projection methodology is used for the pupil projections. The pupil projections are undertaken in the spring of each year following the January PLASC returns. The number of nursery pupils is included within the formula to provide an average however the total number includes Full Time pupils only. The number of part time pupils at Ysgol Llanbedr for this academic year is 7, this will be included in the next round of pupil projections in Spring 2014.</p> <p>The Council does take into account any Local Development Plans and birth rates in the area. This information was part of the supporting information provided at the informal consultation stage which helped shape the suite of proposals which emerged for the wider Ruthin area in the summer of 2013.</p> <p>The LDP proposed 70 new homes in the Llanbedr village. However there is no guarantee that these homes will be built. It is the view of the Council that 70 homes would yield an average increase of around 21 primary age pupil. Taking into account parental preference such as Welsh Medium Education it is unlikely that all extra pupils to the area would attend Ysgol Llanbedr. It is the view of the Council that approximately this level of growth based on trends would lead to an additional 5 primary pupils. Therefore the Council is of the view that any impact from the LDP in terms of schools growth and demand would be minimal.</p> <p>There is no evidence to support an increase in birth rates in this area. Live birth data for the Llanbedr DC and Llangynhafal ward has in fact shown a decrease from 11 Live Births in 2008 to 4 Live births in 2012.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B6	<i>Allocation of 70 new homes; LDP; has not been taken into account- demand for school places; huge potential for growth in the village; told LDP would be taken into account at meeting with LDP inspector told they would not take that into account; school will attract developers</i>	29%*
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Response

It is the view of the authority that the creation of 70 homes would not necessarily generate a significant increase in demand for Ysgol Llanbedr. Currently there are 31 pupils of primary school age in the Llanbedr area, 7 of these pupils attend Ysgol Llanbedr with the majority choosing Ysgol Pen Barras for Welsh Medium Education with others choosing Ysgol Bro Famau, Ysgol Gellifor, Ysgol Borthyn and Rhos Street School.

There is no certainty as to when the homes will be built and no guarantee that the homes will be populated with families with children of primary school age. The authority estimates a housing allocation of around 70 homes would generate 21 extra pupils of primary school age. Weighted against current parental preference it is unlikely all pupils would attend Ysgol Llanbedr with the current trend displaying a preference for Welsh Medium Education. It is the view of the Council that approximately this level of growth based on trends would lead to an additional 5 primary pupils.

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B7	<i>Educational standards at Ysgol Llanbedr are good and are consistently better than averages within Denbighshire and Wales; very best education; amongst highest in the County.</i>	39%*
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Response

The Council has been clear that the Ruthin Area review has been to address the following issues (as stated in the Consultation documentation);

- i. Sustainability of schools and high quality provision;
- ii. Surplus places;
- iii. Condition and suitability of school buildings (including use of mobile accommodation);
- iv. Recruitment and retention of Headteachers;
- v. Demand for Welsh Medium education.

The Council acknowledge that Ysgol Llanbedr provides a good standard of education, as do other schools in the area. It is the view of the Council, and that of Estyn, that the current proposal will at least maintain the current standard of education in the area.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B8	<i>Facilities and grounds are excellent; unlike Ysgol Borthyn; environment and outside are the best in Denbighshire; rural environment; perfect country environment; exceptional range of activities; secure playing field; tennis courts; astro turf; feasibility displayed grounds to be the best in Ruthin review; classrooms in permanent build well equipped and designed to deliver modern curriculum; best school building in Ruthin area- feasibility shows this</i>	44%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>The feasibility study did not designate classifications for the facilities provided across all the Ruthin Area Schools or seek to rank any schools in terms of the built environment or surrounding areas. Other schools in the area also provide good facilities, including Ysgol Borthyn.</p> <p>There is currently a maintenance back-log in the school of £51,762 which equates to approximately £150 per Sq.M.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B9	<i>Site has potential for re-development and expansion; school is sustainable in the long term; accommodate 105 children in the long term</i>	17%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>Expansion of the current site was explored within the feasibility study during the formative stage of the Ruthin Review. However, this would require significant investment and pupil numbers, although demonstrating an increase would not have a substantial growth to necessitate an increase in the size of the school to 105. Surplus places would remain an issue and would likely maintain current levels of surplus places or increase these levels.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B10	<i>School is valued by community; loss would be detrimental to local residents; closing village schools deprives the local community of a hub; heart of village life; larger impact school closure will have on the area in the future; impact on community facilities- community hall; impact on village events such as village show, Christmas lights and harvest.(Linked to B12)</i>	36%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>The authority acknowledges that where any school closure is proposed it will have an impact on the community. The authority has undertaken a Community Impact Assessment and where any negative impacts are expected the Council will take steps to mitigate any of these risks.</p> <p>For example, the existence of a separate village hall could host activities that currently take place at the school. As part of the Ruthin Area Plan a sum of £8,400 has recently been approved (February 2014) to undertake improvement works on the Llanbedr DC Village Hall which will improve the long term viability of this community facility.</p> <p>The authority is committed to working with local communities and has an external funding advisory to assist local communities in accessing funding for community projects.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B11	<i>Parking and pedestrian safety issues at Ysgol Borthyn; would be worse should proposal be implemented</i>	15%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>The majority of pupils who attend Ysgol Borthyn live within the immediate vicinity and utilise the walking routes to school both in the morning and afternoons.</p> <p>A pedestrian crossing has been installed on the Borthyn/Denbigh Road and a school crossing patrol is in place each morning and afternoon so pupils and parents can cross safely.</p> <p>Traffic levels have been alleviated on the Borthyn/Denbigh Road with the introduction of the Northern Link Road providing an alternative route into the town of Ruthin.</p> <p>Traffic and Incident data for the past 5 years on this stretch of road (Denbigh Road, Ruthin) shows there have been 3 traffic incidents all of which were classified as ‘slight’ severity. None of these incidents took place directly near to the school or during the ‘peak’ traffic periods at pick up and drop off.</p> <p>The demographic of the pupils who attend Ysgol Borthyn are from the immediate lower Ruthin area, consequently the majority of these pupils walk to school. A zebra crossing has been installed outside of the school and a ‘school patrol’ supervision is available between all core school hours to ensure the pupils are able to cross safely.</p> <p>As detailed in the Feasibility Report (May 2013) there is no safe walking route to Ysgol Llanbedr from the village as there is an absence of footpaths.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B12	<i>Inadequate assessment of the potential impact of closure on the community of Llanbedr; impact assessment and language impact assessment has not been considered. (Linked to B10)</i>	3%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>The authority acknowledges that any school closure will have an impact on the immediate community. A Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken and the Council will take all practicable steps to negate any negative impacts on the local community.</p> <p>The school stands in isolation to the village, approximately 600m from the settlement boundary. The village of Llanbedr has a dedicated village hall and the community do not solely rely upon the school as a commodity for village events. As part of the Ruthin Area Plan the village hall facility will be improved with a renovation programme of £8,400.</p> <p>A Welsh Language impact assessment was also undertaken by the authority, the impact on the Welsh Language is considered to be minimal. The following data is taken from the 2011 census and provides information regarding the Welsh language skills of residents in the Llanbedr DC area. The census states there are 771 residents in the Llanbedr DC area,</p>		

the results for Welsh language skills are as follows;

- 31% of residents (aged 3 and over) are Welsh speakers; this is higher than the Denbighshire and Wales average which is 24.6% and 19% respectively.
- 22.7% of residents (aged 3 and over) can speak, read and write Welsh; this is higher than the Denbighshire and Wales average which is 18.6% and 14.6% respectively.
- 44.1% of residents (aged 3 and over) have one or more skills in Welsh; this is higher than the Denbighshire and Wales average which is 35.4% and 26.7% respectively.

The majority of primary school aged children in the village and surrounds of Ysgol Llanbedr access Welsh Medium education, the current proposal is unlikely to affect the current situation.

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been provided at every stage of the process. The EQIA notes that the proposal impacts on a Faith school, however the authority are recommending a Voluntary Controlled provision as an alternative. Ysgol Llanfair DC also provides bi-lingual faith provision at primary level.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B13	<i>New school development on Glasdir site would have negative consequences for pupil roll in Borthyn; may potentially close in the future; if pupils moved to Ysgol Borthyn it could be closed in the future; Borthyn named in the town review.</i>	21%*
<u>Response</u>		
<p>It was recommended to Denbighshire’s Cabinet in June 2013 that Ysgol Borthyn should be retained to provide access to English Medium Faith based primary education. This was based on the responses provided during the informal consultation period which displayed a strong view that the school should be retained to provide parental choice within the town.</p> <p>Any future development on the Glasdir site would take into account the numbers and capacity of Ysgol Borthyn.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B14	<i>Parents value the strong Christian ethos at Ysgol Llanbedr; recognised by Welsh Assembly that Faith schools are first class providers in our education system; support of the local Church; ethos of the school will be missed; demand for faith education in the area; Council obliged to provide Faith Education; undermining faith education.</i>	26%*
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Response

The Council recognises that parents value the faith based provision that Ysgol Llanbedr offers. The Council have recommended in the proposal that pupils should transfer to an alternative English Medium faith based primary school (of the same denomination- Church in Wales) within 2.3 miles of Ysgol Llanbedr, should the closure proceed.

Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing Faith Based education with recent investment in Ysgol Dyffryn Ial, working in partnership with the Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham to deliver a joint faith secondary school and at the request of the Diocese of St Asaph, proposals for a change in designation to a Voluntary Controlled status for Ysgol Esgob Morgan will be considered shortly.

Within the Ruthin Area there are 3 Faith Schools (all VC) with Ysgol Borthyn and Ysgol Llanbedr providing an English Medium provision and Ysgol Llanfair DC providing a bilingual provision. Across the faith provision in the Ruthin Area there is currently an overall surplus percentile of 29.1%. Within the English Medium provision this is 31.1%.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B15	<i>Closure of Ysgol Cyffylliog is likely to lead to additional demand for non-Welsh medium education in the locality; Llanbedr well placed to meet this demand.</i>	4%*
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Response

It is the view of the Council that the closure of Ysgol Cyffylliog would not result in a demand for places at Ysgol Llanbedr. Firstly this is due to the geographic location of both schools (located approximately 7.3 miles apart with an estimated journey time of around 25 minutes).

Ysgol Cyffylliog is a bilingual school; demand is most likely to be placed on other bi-lingual schools within a closer proximity such as Ysgol Rhewl.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B16	<i>Excellent wrap around care offered on site at Ysgol Llanbedr; only village school to offer wrap around care; loss of facility would affect ability of parents to continue working; Welsh in Education strategic document it is noted that there is limited childcare provision in the Ruthin Area.</i>	42%*
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Response

Should the proposal be implemented the building and site would become surplus to educational requirements, as this is not in the ownership of the authority the responsibility would revert to the Diocesan Authority to oversee the necessary legal obligations associated with the site.

In other areas community organisations have taken ownership of sites and buildings and there may be an option for the ‘Munchkins’ child care facility to be retained. The authority will work with both the Diocesan authority and interested parties should this be an option.

Other schools in the area also provide wrap-around-care with a number of pre-school, breakfast clubs, after school clubs and other provisions available.

Should the proposal be implemented the authority would discuss options for accessing wrap-around-care with parents and the Governing Body of Ysgol Borthyn. It is important to note that wrap-around-care is not a statutory provision.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Document notes that there is limited childcare available through the medium of Welsh only. The document does not make reference to the availability of childcare provided through the medium of English.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B17	<i>Parents want a Faith based, English speaking, rural setting with wrap around care; Ysgol Llanbedr only school offering this; council obliged to provide this; loss of parental choice/limiting parental choice.</i>	31%*
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Response

The Ruthin area provides a breadth of parental choice which would continue should the wider Ruthin Area proposals be implemented. It would include a mix of Welsh medium, English medium, faith, town and rural primary provision.

Welsh Government guidance requires that:-

“Where a school closure, reduction in capacity or age range contraction is proposed proposals should ensure that the balance of school provision reflects the balance of demand. This means that where school provision is being reduced or removed, alternative school provision of the same nature (language category or, if relevant, religious character)

wherever possible, should remain available and accessibly to pupils in the local area. However in some areas it may not be compatible with the cost effective provision of education to continue to maintain access to schools of the same nature.”

The authority is of the view that this proposal meets this requirement.

The Council is required to provide English and Welsh Medium educational provision. Where there is demand the Council is committed to supporting the retention of Faith Education. The Council also strive to retain rural educational provision where this is both possible and viable.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B18	<i>Ysgol Llanbedr have been treated unfairly; parameters used for assessing whether Llanbedr should close are not the same as those used for other schools; bias towards Ysgol Llanbedr; schools with 80 or less pupil places at risk of closure- why aren't other schools such as Bro Famau/Ysgol Llanfair being consulted for closure. Borthyn and Rhos Street figures falling- they should be considered for closure. New school for Dyffryn Ial; only school for closure; inconsistency on agreed number of pupils on roll to create a viable school.</i>	24%*
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Response

All the schools in the Ruthin area have been treated equally during the development of the proposals. School Organisation Reviews are undertaken on an area by area basis and the Ruthin area is complex due to the number of schools and geographical locations of schools within the area. The proposals and recommendations for any school have not been made in isolation, the Ruthin area has 290 surplus places which equates to 24.2%. Of the 290 surplus places 24.5% (150) are within the English medium sector.

Currently Ysgol Llanbedr has the highest number of surplus places with a current maximum capacity of 54. The school is located approximately 2.3 miles from the nearest available alternative English Medium Faith based provision. All schools of a similar level of surplus places will be subject to future proposals as per the Cabinet decision in June 2013. The Proposals are not required to run concurrently.

In the long term it is anticipated that by 2020 the smallest school within the Ruthin Area is likely to be in the region of 80 Full Time pupils.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B19	<i>Discrimination against a Faith school (Linked to B14)</i>	2%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>Denbighshire County Council is committed to providing Faith Based education with recent investment in Ysgol Dyffryn Ial, working in partnership with the Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham to deliver a joint faith secondary school and at the request of the Diocese of St Asaph, proposals for a change in designation to a Voluntary Controlled status for Ysgol Esgob Morgan will be considered shortly.</p> <p>In the context of an area which currently has 11 primary schools with a need to reduce supply it would be difficult to develop a suite of proposals to maintain access to English, welsh and faith provision whilst retaining the status quo in any one sector.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B20	<i>Ysgol Llanbedr's commitment to promoting Welsh language and culture ignored.</i>	7%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>A Welsh Language impact assessment was undertaken by the authority in advance of the commencement of the Formal Consultation. The impact on the Welsh Language from the proposal is considered to be minimal. The following data is taken from the 2011 census and provides information regarding the Welsh language skills of residents in the Llanbedr DC area. The census states there are 771 residents in the Llanbedr DC area, the results for Welsh language skills are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 31% of residents (aged 3 and over) are Welsh speakers; this is higher than the Denbighshire and Wales average which is 24.6% and 19% respectively. ▪ 22.7% of residents (aged 3 and over) can speak, read and write Welsh; this is higher than the Denbighshire and Wales average which is 18.6% and 14.6% respectively. ▪ 44.1% of residents (aged 3 and over) have one or more skills in Welsh; this is higher than the Denbighshire and Wales average which is 35.4% and 26.7% respectively. <p>The majority of primary school aged children in the village and surrounds of Ysgol Llanbedr access Welsh Medium education, the current proposal is unlikely to affect the current situation.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B21	<i>Ysgol Llanbedr has safe off road parking; Road to town schools congested and insufficient parking; risks involved (Linked to B11)</i>	11%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>The majority of pupils who attend Ysgol Borthyn and other town schools live within the immediate vicinity and utilise the walking routes to school both in the morning and afternoons. A pedestrian crossing has been installed on the Borthyn/Denbigh Road and a school crossing patrol is in place each morning and afternoon so pupils and parents can cross safely. Traffic has been alleviated on the Borthyn/Denbigh Road with the introduction of the Northern Link Road providing an alternative route into the town of Ruthin.</p> <p>Traffic and Incident data for the past 5 years on this stretch of road (Denbigh Road, Ruthin) shows there have been 3 traffic incidents all of which were classified as ‘slight’ severity. None of these incidents took place directly near to the school or during the ‘peak’ traffic periods at pick up and drop off.</p> <p>The demographic of the pupils who attend Ysgol Borthyn are from the immediate lower Ruthin area, consequently the majority of these pupils walk to school. A zebra crossing has been installed outside of the school and a ‘school patrol’ supervision is available between all core school hours to ensure the pupils are able to cross safely.</p> <p>Whilst at Ysgol Llanbedr there is off road parking, as detailed in the Feasibility Report (May 2013) there is no safe walking route to Ysgol Llanbedr from the village as there is an absence of footpaths.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B22	<i>DCC sacrificing a good school to fund buildings in the North of the County</i>	8%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>The authority has a duty to manage the whole school estate to ensure that they provide the right number of places, of the right type in the right area. There is also a need to ensure that investment is made in the school estate to ensure that facilities are suitable for purpose. As part of this work there is a requirement in addressing over provision to consider the closure of schools.</p> <p>To date these proposals across the County area have led to a number of proposals for closure and amalgamation being approved and the securing of funding to improve school buildings. This investment has been made across the entire County including investment in the south of the County in Llangollen, Llandegla and Cynwyd; in the north of the County in Prestatyn and in the centre in Denbigh. Further proposals will emerge for investment in Rhyl and St Asaph.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B23	<i>Alternative school suggested cannot sustain 50 extra pupils; not a realistic alternative; large town school; urban school; does not perform at the same levels as Llanbedr; does not offer wrap around care; has under achieving results; children would be moved from a permanent building to a mobile classroom; will result in overcrowding; taught in porta cabins; congestion and safety issues accessing the school; council have no plans for parents to move to Borthyn but disperse into other schools</i>	28%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>Ysgol Borthyn is situated within the town of Ruthin and currently has 111 pupils on roll. The School is not designated as a 'large' school, it would be the lower end of a medium sized school as defined by Estyn in the report "School Size and Educational Effectiveness" published December 2013. As of September 2013 the mobile accommodation has been used by the school as a teaching space to accommodate single age group classes in Key Stage 2. Previously the mobile has been used for peripatetic music sessions, drama and art classes.</p> <p>Ysgol Llanbedr has previously utilised a mobile classroom for teaching purposes until the decline in pupil numbers. The mobile has continued to be utilised by the school to house the wrap-around-care facility 'Munchkins'. However, the authority recognises that the provision of mobile accommodation is not sustainable in the long term; the authority remains committed to removing mobile accommodation in all of its schools.</p> <p>Both buildings have been assessed during 2012, both buildings were classed overall in a similar condition. The overall maintenance costs for the buildings are included below;</p>		

Ysgol Borthyn: £78,898 (Approx £95 per Sq.M) (Overall Building Area 831.75 Sq.M)
 Ysgol Llanbedr: £51,762 (Approx £150 per Sq.M) (Overall Building Area 342.01 Sq.M)

Ysgol Borthyn has sufficient capacity for the existing Full Time pupils in Ysgol Llanbedr, should they wish. However as noted during the Formal Consultation period the majority of parents stated they would not send their child/ren to Ysgol Borthyn as an alternative English Medium Faith School with only one parent stating that they would.

Overall the level of standards across Ysgol Llanbedr and Ysgol Borthyn are very similar. Key Stage 2 outcomes for both schools are provided below;

Ysgol Llanbedr	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Level 4+ KS2 (Llanbedr)	71.4%	83.3%	84.6%	100%	85.7%	100%
Level 4+ KS2 Denbighshire Average	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%
No. of Pupils Assessed	12	12	13	6	7	1
% SEN	0%	16.6%	0%	0%	28.5%	{Blank}
% FSM	0%	0%	0%	16.6%	0%	{Blank}

Ysgol Borthyn	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Level 4+ KS2 (Borthyn)	87.5%	82.4%	58.8%	78.6%	92.3%	93.3%
Level 4+ KS2 Denbighshire Average	76.5%	76.8%	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%
No. of Pupils Assessed	16	17	16	14	12	14
% SEN	25%	29.4%	31.2%	28.6%	33.3%	28.6%
% FSM	12.5%	11.8%	18.7%	14.2%	8.3%	21.4%

Both schools performed in the top quartile for the academic year 2012-2013.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B24	<i>Small school; small class sizes; better experience gained by pupils studying at smaller schools; 1-1 opportunities; no argument school size affects educational standards.</i>	10%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>The authority recognises that there is often a view that there are advantages for pupils receiving their education in smaller class size. However there are also advantages to being taught in age appropriate classes. Estyn published their report “School Size and Educational Effectiveness” in December 2013 which noted “schools of all sizes can perform well or badly” and that “large primary and secondary schools tend to perform better than small and medium-sized schools”.</p> <p>Class Sizes in Ysgol Borthyn are relatively small with an average class size in Key Stage 2 (data over 3 year period 2010-2013) of 16.3 pupils which is below the national average for juniors which is 24.5.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B25	<i>Pre-determination by the authority to close Ysgol Llanbedr</i>	8%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>It is not clear from the responses received how the Cabinet, as the decision makers on matters of school organisation, have been seen to have pre-determined this proposal. The Cabinet considered all options following the informal consultation before agreeing to pursue a range of proposals which included this current proposal.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B26	<i>Unhappy with the procedure; process; contrary to the School Organisation Code; consultation is a farce; not open and transparent; changing the goalposts regarding surplus places and funding.</i>	16%*
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Response

The authority has undertaken the formal consultation process and the subsequent publication of the statutory notice in accordance with the School Organisation Code. The authority has been clear throughout the process of what the drivers for change were for the Ruthin Area Review.

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B27	<i>Do not feel all comments/statements raised during formal consultation where not fully or properly answered in reports to members; not being seen or read by elected Councillors.</i>	6%*
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Response

All of the comments received during the formal consultation stage were analysed by Officers of the authority and included, along with the appropriate response in the Consultation Report which the Cabinet Members gave due regard to before proceeding to publish the statutory notice. In addition all correspondence during the formal consultation stage was made available for Cabinet Members to read in advance of the meeting where a decision was to publish the statutory notice.

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B28	<i>Short time between close of consultation and report to Cabinet; could not have had time to properly scrutinise information submitted; should be four working weeks; most responses against proposal- does not seem to have been taken into account.</i>	6%*
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Response

The Officers working on the proposal commenced the process of analysing responses from the start of the formal consultation stage, rather than waiting until the close of the consultation period. This enabled officers to be aware of emerging issues.

All responses were given due consideration by the officers prior to drafting the consultation report for consideration by Cabinet Members.

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B29	<i>Give Ysgol Llanbedr a period of time to see if the school can survive.</i>	7%*
<u>Response</u> <p>There is a need for the authority to address the current issue of surplus places and simply waiting and taking no action will not address the overall issues of surplus places across Denbighshire. The pupil numbers have remained static at the school over the last two years and whilst an increase will occur for 2014/15, the low overall capacity of the school and the relatively low number of pupils have led the authority to develop proposals for the closure of the school by September 2014.</p>		

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B30	<i>Economic impact on Llanbedr and wider Ruthin area; could have chosen other areas to run businesses- contribution to local economy lost; tax bands are higher in Llanbedr indicating a substantial percentage of average and above average earners; will leave Denbighshire- nothing to retain professional people.</i>	12%*
<u>Response</u> <p>The authority in considering the proposal has undertaken a community impact assessment which has considered the likely impact on the wider community. The authority understands the concerns over the closure of the “wrap around care” provision connected to the school and will work with local providers to mitigate these concerns.</p>		

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B31	<i>Ysgol Llanbedr is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; rural environment (Linked to B8)</i>	3%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>Observation noted- please refer to B8.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B32	<i>Llanbedr has excellent road links; off road parking at the school (Linked to B11)</i>	3%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>Observation noted- please refer to B11.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B33	<i>Timing of the consultation/meetings; meeting in school summer holidays and Formal Consultation before Christmas.</i>	1%*
<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>The meeting held within the school Summer holidays was convened by a third party (Darren Millar AM) which Officers from the authority were invited to attend. The meeting was not part of any consultation process.</p> <p>The School Organisation Code requires the consultation document to be issued during the term time of the schools affected and that at least 20 of the days of the consultation period being school days. The authority complied with these requirements.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B34	<i>Hardly any savings to be made; church own the land and school building- no capital receipt; clarification around savings; makes no economic sense to close; cost per pupil will be reducing as numbers rise; council do not own building or land no saving to be made; small saving of £68k; cost of transporting pupils will outweigh any financial benefit; cost of redundancy; artificially high saving costs; promoting small schools report found no financial benefit to closing small schools</i>	21%*
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Response

The authority is of the view that in the long term savings will be made from the proposal. The closure of the school will remove long term maintainance liabilities associated with the school building and that the current high cost of providing places at Ysgol Llanbedr will be absorbed by pupils attending other schools. Dependent upon parental preference it is acknowledged that there may be additional transport costs as at present no pupils are transported to Ysgol Llanbedr as many parents have chosen to send their children to this school rather than their nearest appropriate school.

As the school is a Voluntary Controlled School no receipt will occur to the Council. Whilst this may impact on the decision making in all circumstances the authority needs to consider the most appropriate long term sustainable provision for the wider Ruthin area rather than basing proposals simply against consideration of short term capital gains by disposing of assets.

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B35	<i>Welsh Government policy to include pupils in all decisions that affect them; children of Ysgol Llanbedr have not had their say.</i>	2%*
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Response

As part of the Formal Consultation arrangements were made to facilitate a consultation event with the pupils in both Ysgol Llanbedr and Ysgol Borthyn. The authority was notified by the school that parents had refused permission for Officers to meet with the School Council. The consultation event was unable to be held with the School Council of Ysgol Llanbedr. The outcome of the meeting with the School Council in Ysgol Borthyn can be found in the Formal Consultation Report January 2014.

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B36	<i>Proposal will have a detrimental impact on pupils; moving to another school will be disruptive to their education; concerns around provision for SEN pupils.</i>	8%*
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Response

Should the proposal be approved the Authority will work very closely with the parents of all pupils to plan the moves to alternative education. In similar instances the authority has provided extensive support to pupils and parents to resolve issues and to provide support to minimise any potential disruption. This includes taster days and transition arrangements for pupils.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B37	<i>Closure of Ysgol Llanbedr will not make a significant impact on surplus places in the Ruthin area.</i>	2%*
<u>Response</u>		
<p>The overall area currently has 290 surplus places. It is considered that this should be reduced to closer to 140 suggesting a need to remove approximately 150 places from the Ruthin area. This proposal based on current pupil numbers would remove 33 places. This would equate to 22% of the number of places to be removed.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B38	<i>The review documentation did not take into account historic pupil numbers (p.11); focuses on loss of pupils in 2011; no historical figures used in making decision(Linked to B3)</i>	2%*
<u>Response</u>		
<p>The formal consultation document included pupil numbers for the previous 5 years as required by the School Organisation Code.</p> <p>The informal consultation document which shaped the proposals included pupil numbers going back to 2001 .</p> <p>For further information please refer to B3.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B39	<i>School works in partnership with Ysgol Brynhyfryd for swimming and indoor PE.</i>	2%*
<u>Response</u>		
Observation noted.		

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B40	<i>More than 80% of pupils have a link with Llanbedr DC.</i>	2%*
<u>Response</u>		
For the current academic year 7 Full Time pupils are currently residing in the Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd Area. Of the nursery applications for September 2014 4 of the 13 are from the Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd Area.		

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B41	Strongly Oppose Closure; school, parents, diocese and community	100%*
<u>Response</u>		
This position has been noted by the authority.		

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B42	<i>UK are encouraging faith schools as results are higher than non-faith schools; why close a faith school (Linked to B14).</i>	1%*
<u>Response</u>		

Please refer to section B14.

***Number of Respondents Raising Issue**

B43	<i>Limiting parental choice for education.(Linked to B17)</i>	6%*
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Response

Please refer to section B17.

***Number of Respondents Raising Issue**

B44	<i>Led to believe the whole review exercise was to rationalize the primary school facilities and possibly build new schools for the Ruthin Area; the proposal will not benefit children in Ruthin area.</i>	2%*
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Response

The authority's view is that the proposal will lead to a sustainable education provision in the area which will be to the benefit of the pupils living within the Ruthin Area. The proposal to close Ysgol Llanbedr is part of a range of proposals which will enable improvements to be made to the overall quality of facilities for primary schools in the Ruthin area.

***Number of Respondents Raising Issue**

B45	<i>DCC should have looked at all schools in the area considering past educational standards, the fabric and suitability of the buildings and grounds, the local environment and traffic and transportation.</i>	1%*
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Response

This is the process that the authority considered during the informal consultation phase. Based on this a range of proposals were presented to Cabinet in June 2013 of which one was the proposal to consider the closure of Ysgol Llanbedr.

***Number of Respondents Raising Issue**

	<i>Council could reduce surplus places by removing mobile classrooms from schools in the</i>	1%*
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B46	<i>Ruthin area and relocating pupils to other schools.</i>	
<u>Response</u>		
<p>This would not be a viable solution as the majority of places provided via temporary classrooms are in place due to the increased demand for Welsh Medium education. There are no surplus places elsewhere for those seeking Welsh Medium Education within the town. Simply removing all mobiles would present a scenario where parental demand for education would not be able to be met fairly across the Ruthin area.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B47	<i>Surplus Places; school does not have a history of high surplus places; current academic year surplus is high but will drop significantly; just looked at school with temporary low numbers; still at capacity you say it would not be viable. (Linked to B46)</i>	5%*
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Response

For the last 3 academic years (2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014) and for the coming academic year the surplus % of the schools is as follows;

2011-2012: 31.4%
2012-2013: 61.1%
2013-2014: 61.1%

Based on applications for the academic year 2014-2015 the surplus percentile would be 48.1% (subject to any mid term transfers). Should all 13 registered nursery pupils move into the reception class for the academic year 2015-2016 the surplus percentile would be 31.1%.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B48	<i>Diocese and Governing Body wish to move the school from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided.</i>	1%*
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Response

This position has been noted by the authority.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B49	<i>Wider Ruthin review; only two consultations have taken place and other proposals will have an effect on the schools in the area</i>	2%*
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Response

The proposals for the Ruthin Area have not been formulated in isolation and the proposals are not required to be implemented concurrently. However the outcome will ensure the safeguarding of educational standards and the sustainability of educational provision in the area in the future.

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B50	<i>No plans to build a new town school; closing Ysgol Llanbedr will add to pressures in the town.</i>	2%*
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Response

Proposals for a new town school are subject to further detailed feasibility, as agreed at Cabinet in June 2013. At present there are 150 surplus places for English medium education in the Ruthin area and it is expected that the 21 pupils currently in Full time education at Ysgol Llanbedr could be accommodated within these schools.

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B51	<i>All villages with population exceeding 500 should have at least one school, preferably one English and one Welsh.</i>	1%*
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Response

The authority notes this observation.

**Number of Respondents Raising Issue*

B52	<i>Permanent closure of a school to amalgamate schools into a new build school in Ruthin is risky due to proposed Local Government reorganisation plans in Cardiff.</i>	2%*
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Response

At this stage there is no clear timescale for any proposed Local Government Reorganisation of local authorities in Wales. It is expected that any proposals for a new school in the

town of Ruthin will be commenced in advance of any timescales for Local Government reorganisation. At present the proposal for a new school in Ruthin is also not dependent upon Welsh Government funding.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B53	<i>Education department should be supporting rural education; discriminates against rural communities.</i>	3%*
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Response

The authority is committed to ensuring that rural education provision is retained where this is both viable and sustainable. The authority has invested in rural schools such as Ysgol Dyffryn Ial, Llandegla and Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy, Cynwyd in the last two years. As part of the proposals a new area school to serve the communities of Clocaenog and Cyffylliog has also been agreed as part of the wider Ruthin Review proposals. However where the authority believes that closure is the most appropriate solution due to issues such as high surplus places then such proposals will be considered.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B54	<i>Won't be able to walk to school for pick up/drop off.</i>	2%*
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Response

The authority note this position for a number of pupils. At present the majority of pupils attending Ysgol Llanbedr are from outside of the village so for many pupils a shorter journey to school may occur.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B55	<i>MET members have a conflict of interest; compromised their ability to contribute to the process in a fair and unprejudiced manner.</i>	5%*
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Response

The authority are unclear as to the nature of the allegations put forward regarding conflict of interests etc.

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B56	<i>Authority has no policy or vision statement in respect of its Modernising Education Programme.</i>	3%*
<u>Response</u>		
<p>The Council adopted in 2009 an overall Modernising Education Policy Framework which has shaped the development of the overall Modernising Education Programme. In 2012 Estyn commented during its inspection of Denbighshire’s Education Services that “the authority has made good progress in delivering its Modernising Education programme. It has agreed an appropriate framework for school organisation and is delivering this framework through an effective process of area reviews”</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B57	<i>No reply to submissions made by Diocese, Governing Body and School; other submission not in the Cabinet report.</i>	3%*
<u>Response</u>		
<p>The authority reply to issues raised by consultees where they are asked to do so. The submissions made by the Governing Body and Diocese did not state that they required a reply to any of the issues raised within their submissions. On this basis no substantial reply was provided.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

B58	<i>Treated with a lack of respect; bullied and intimidated whilst attempting to discuss the proposal with authority- reserve right to complain to Minister.</i>	3%*
<u>Response</u>		
<p>The authority notes this view.</p>		

****Number of Respondents Raising Issue***

Appendix 2

Informal Consultation Document (February 2013)

Overview – Why review school provision in the Ruthin area?

Responsibility to review school provision

Local authorities have a responsibility to periodically review school provision. Denbighshire like every other local authority in Wales is currently reviewing schools as part of our commitment to modernising education and ensuring our schools provide the best possible learning environments and facilities in line with the Welsh Assembly's 21st Century Schools Programme.

The educational performance of pupils in Denbighshire has continued to improve in recent years. However, there remains room to improve and provide the best possible education provision for pupils so they can fulfil their potential.

The school environment can affect pupil attendance and performance, and many schools in Denbighshire are in need of improvement and modernisation. The Council is committed to delivering significant improvements to our schools and school facilities so that we can transform the learning environment to support education.

To deliver on this commitment, it is necessary to review school provision to:-

- Ensure the sustainability of high quality education provision;
- Improve the quality of school buildings and facilities;
- Provide the right number of places, of the right type in the right location;

In order to achieve this we have embarked on a series of area reviews. Primary school provision in Denbighshire is reviewed on an area basis to ensure that changes to school organisation are made holistically taking into account any potential impact on other schools nearby.

In November 2012, Denbighshire's Cabinet approved the commencement of a review of primary school provision in the Ruthin area. The review encompasses eleven primary schools in the area:-

- Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin;
- Ysgol Bro Fammau, Llanarmon yn Ial & Llanferres (two sites);
- Ysgol Clocaenog;
- Ysgol Cyffylliog;
- Ysgol Gellifor;
- Ysgol Llanbedr;
- Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd;
- Ysgol Pen Barras, Ruthin;

- Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
- Rhos Street School, Ruthin;
- Ysgol Rhewl;

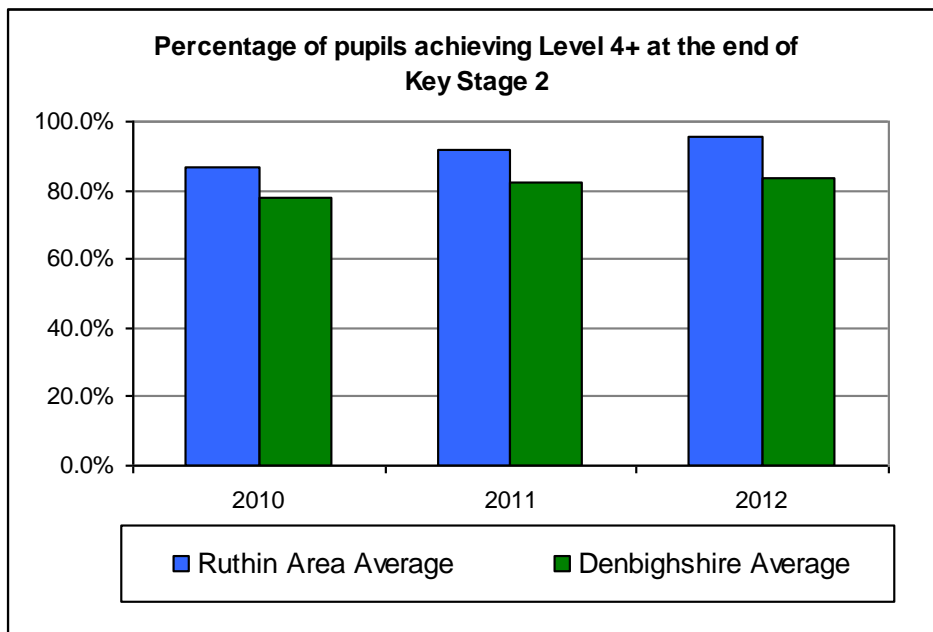
During this initial consultation period it will also be determined if Ysgol Bryn Clwyd, Llandyrnog is also to be included in any recommendations from the Ruthin area review. This is because of Ysgol Gellifor and Ysgol Bryn Clwyd are currently managed by a single Headteacher and a federated Governing Body.

The Ruthin area review is the fourth primary review to be undertaken by Denbighshire following the Prestatyn area, Dee Valley East (Llangollen) area and the Edeyrnion (Dee Valley West) area.

Educational Standards

Overall education standards within the area are good with the majority of the schools receiving positive Estyn inspections in recent years. However there are a number of issues that will impact on schools ability to sustain and improve the quality of education provision in the future.

The graph below shows the performance of the 11 schools within the Ruthin area compared with the Denbighshire average at the end of Key Stage 2. Overall performance in the area has been significantly higher than the Denbighshire average over the past three years.



Estyn Reports

It is difficult to accurately compare Estyn reports since the framework for inspecting schools changed in 2011. As schools are reviewed on a six year cycle, only 4 of the schools in the Ruthin area have been inspected under the new framework. It should

also be noted that some schools most recent Estyn reports are 5-6 years old and can not be considered an accurate evaluation of schools current performance.

A copy of each report can be found on the Estyn website:

www.estyn.gov.uk

Sustainability of schools & high quality education provision

There are a number of challenges facing schools in the Ruthin area that will impact on the sustainability of schools and the sustainability of high quality educational provision in the area. These include size, location, condition of school buildings & facilities, suitability of sites, dependence on mobile classrooms, surplus places and headteacher recruitment.

Whilst the existing facilities in the area allow for the delivery of the basic curriculum entitlement, in many instances the current environment restricts the potential to deliver the innovative curriculum required for 21st century learning.

Estyn reports published in the period 2008 to 2012 for Ruthin schools have commented on limitations observed on school sites in the Ruthin area. These include:- school buildings being spread out, with numerous classes in demountable classrooms; sharing facilities limiting the choices available to make full use of the resources on site; the use of one classroom as a dining room causing some disruption to learning; and the lack of parking spaces, particularly for dropping pupils off or picking them up.

Research undertaken illustrates clear links between student academic achievement and the quality of the physical environment. Issues such as the buildings impact on student behaviour and esteem can have positive impacts on attainment. Aside from the improvements in attainment, evidence shows improvements in the level of attention, more on task behaviours observed and a decrease in disruptive behaviour occurs. There are also improvements in self esteem for learners and teachers, improvements in mood and motivation and fewer instances of lateness and absenteeism.

Estyn published a report in 2007 evaluating the performance of schools before and after moving into new or significantly refurbished buildings. The report highlighted the positive impact that improved buildings and facilities can have on pupil attainment and achievement. A copy of the report can be found using the link below:

[http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/docViewer/175184.1/an-evaluation-of-performance-of-schools-before-and-after-moving-into-new-buildings-or-significantly-refurbished-premises-january-2007/?navmap=30,163,](http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/docViewer/175184.1/an-evaluation-of-performance-of-schools-before-and-after-moving-into-new-buildings-or-significantly-refurbished-premises-january-2007/?navmap=30,163)

Headteacher Recruitment

Headteacher recruitment is both a national and local issue with smaller schools in particular finding it difficult to recruit permanent headteachers. In general the lack of a permanent headteacher can impact on leadership and management of a school and may represent a long term risk to the delivery of education and to standards within a school.

Two schools (Ysgol Llanbedr & Ysgol Pentrecelyn) within the Ruthin review area currently have acting headteachers.

Condition of school buildings & facilities

The Council is committed to improving the quality of school buildings and facilities. All schools included within this review area are in need of investment to improve the quality of school buildings and facilities available.

In each financial year the amount of capital available to invest in the current school estate is limited and is insufficient to meet actual demand. This creates a maintenance backlog across the entire school estate which is becoming increasingly difficult to address.

Suitability of school sites

There are issues with a number of school sites within the review area. A number of sites are considered too small when compared against Building Bulletin 99 space requirements, while many are land-locked with no potential to increase the size of the site.

In particular, there are a number of issues around the suitability of the current shared site between Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School located in the town of Ruthin.

Mobile classrooms

The Council is committed to the removal of mobile accommodation from schools and where needed replacing them with permanent buildings.

As of January 2012, 679 primary school places in Denbighshire were provided through mobile accommodation, equivalent to 7.9% of total primary school places within the County.

The 11 schools included in the Ruthin area have 258 places provided in mobile accommodation, equivalent to 21.3% of primary school places in the area.

Mobile accommodation within the Ruthin area, as of January 2012 accounted for 38% of all primary school places provided through mobile accommodation in Denbighshire.

School Name	Permanent Capacity	Temporary Capacity (Mobiles)	Total Capacity **	% of Capacity provided through mobiles
Borthyn	112	30	142	21.1%
Bro Fammau - Llanferres	59	0	59	0%
Bro Fammau - Llanarmon	76	0	76	0%
Clocaenog*	36	0	36	0%
Cyffylliog	45	0	45	0%
Gellifor	66	25	91	27.5%
Llanbedr	54	23	77	29.9%
Llanfair*	59	24	83	28.9%
Pentrecelyn	81	0	81	0%
Pen Barras*	96	156	252	61.9%
Rhewl	82	0	82	0%
Rhos Street	189	0	189	0%
Total Ruthin Area	955	258	1213	21.3%

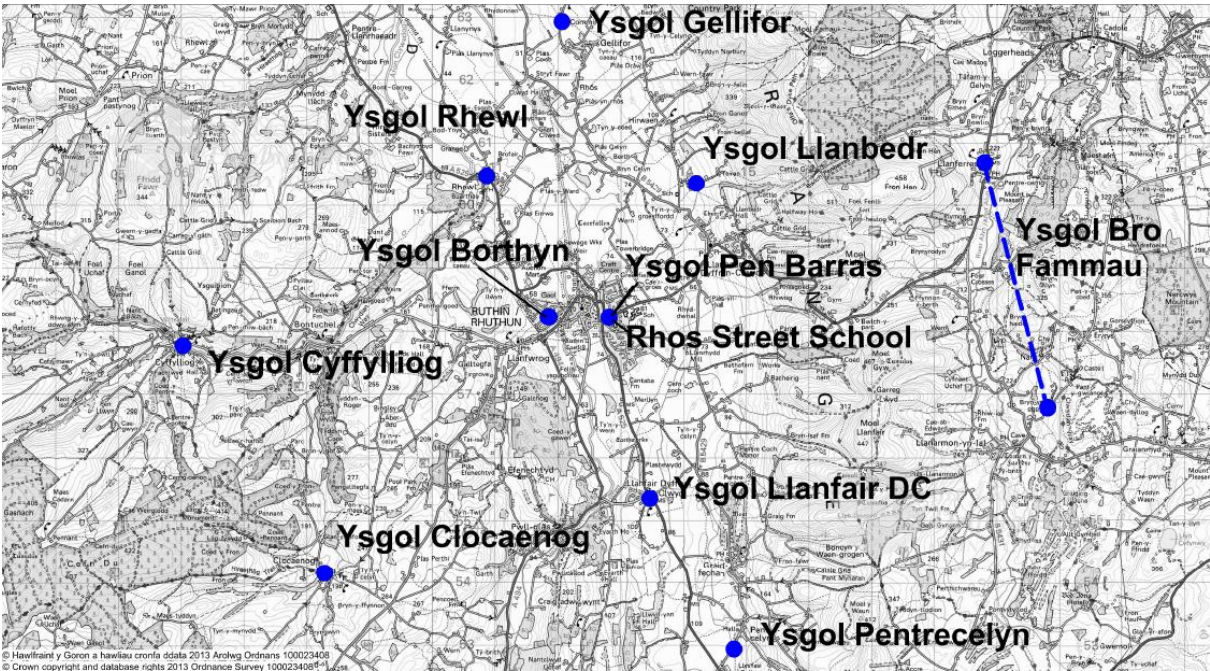
* In addition to the mobile accommodation is also used to provide additional resource space at Ysgol Clocaenog, Ysgol Llanfair D.C. and Ysgol Pen Barras.

** The Total Capacity for each school is published each year in the Denbighshire Schools Information for parents, & carers guide.

Pupil numbers & distribution

The Council has a responsibility to organise its schools to ensure that we have the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right location. In order to do this, the Council must take account of current & historical pupil numbers, pupil projections and the distribution of pupils across the area.

The situation in the Ruthin area is complicated with 11 schools serving a wide geographical area. The map below shows the location of each school.



A large proportion of pupils (53.2% of full-time pupil as of September 2012) within the area are educated in the 3 Ruthin town schools, with the remaining pupils educated in the 8 rural schools.

The number of full-time pupils on roll at the 11 schools in the area has remained fairly consistent over the past 10 years, fluctuating from a high of 946 full-time pupils in 2004 to a low of 904 full-time pupils in 2010.

Pupil numbers at individual schools have varied considerably over the 10 year period, with numbers falling considerably at Ysgol Pentrecelyn and Ysgol Llanbedr and increasing considerably at Ysgol Clocaenog, Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Rhewl. Please see the table on page 8 for a breakdown of pupil numbers over the past 10 years.

Pupil numbers across the Ruthin area over the last 10 years

School	Full-Time Pupil Numbers* from January Census (PLASC)									
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	S
Ysgol Borthyn	117	103	93	81	93	98	104	103	113	
Ysgol Bro Fammau	102	97	98	95	90	84	74	74	96	
Ysgol Clocaenog	24	23	19	21	21	25	27	31	33	
Ysgol Cyffylliog	19	24	24	20	23	23	20	22	26	
Ysgol Gellifor	87	84	80	86	76	74	73	77	85	
Ysgol Llanbedr	64	58	55	61	65	67	63	59	37	
Ysgol Llanfair	60	59	62	74	84	90	94	96	93	
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	52	45	45	30	26	21	23	20	27	
Ysgol Pen Barras	207	204	209	220	216	218	215	216	218	
Ysgol Rhewl	28	33	41	38	34	41	34	34	37	
Rhos Street School	186	198	193	186	190	171	177	179	167	
Ruthin Area	946	928	919	912	918	912	904	911	932	

* Excludes nursery pupils completed by schools.

** September 2012 figures are based on the September Return

Demand for Welsh Medium Education

All schools are categorised in accordance with the Welsh Government's definition of Welsh Medium Provision for Primary Schools as below:-

Category 1 – Welsh Medium	Ysgol Clocaenog, Ysgol Pen Barras, Ysgol Pentrecelyn
Category 2 – Dual Stream Medium	Ysgol Cyffylliog, Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Rhewl
Category 5 – Predominantly English Medium	Ysgol Borthyn, Ysgol Bro Fammau, Ysgol Gellifor, Ysgol Llanbedr, Rhos Street School

At present approximately 30% of pupils within the review area are currently educated in Category 1 schools with approximately 17% of pupils presently educated in Category 2 schools.

The Council commissioned ORS in May 2011 to undertake a survey of parents with pupils born between 1st September 2008 and 31st August 2010 to understand the demand for Welsh medium education. The findings illustrated a demand of 27% for the first cohort of future pupils and 31% for the second cohort of pupils.

In considering future provision there is a need to ensure that this future demand for Welsh Medium provision is accommodated.

Pupil Projections

Every local authority is required to project pupil numbers for purposes of planning school places. Denbighshire's standard pupil projections methodology is based on trends, using an average of previous year's intake to project nursery pupil numbers.

However when reviewing school provision, the authority also takes account of the potential for growth in pupil numbers based on birth rate information and anticipated housing developments.

The standard methodology projects that full-time pupil numbers across the Ruthin area will fall slightly from 934 in September 2012 to 916 in the 2017/18 academic year.

The revised projections, taking into account potential housing developments indicate that pupil numbers could increase to 1048 full-time pupils. However, there is no guarantee that the housing developments indicated in the document will be delivered by 2017/18 or that they will result in the estimated number of additional pupils.

A full breakdown of the pupil projections across the area can be found in the following document which is appended at the end of this document:

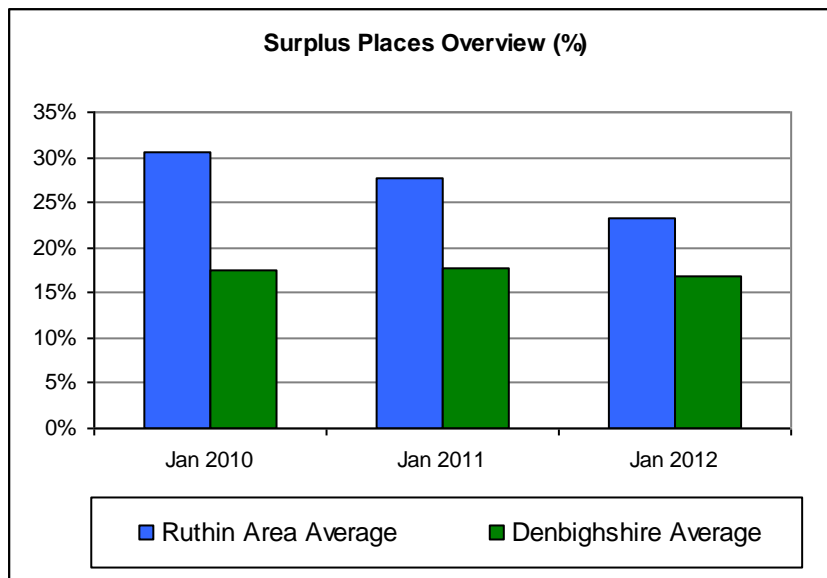
['Review of primary school provision in the Ruthin area: Pupil Projections – September 2012'](#)

Surplus places

Every school in Denbighshire has a capacity number, which is based on a calculation to indicate the number of pupils that could be educated in each school based on the space available in each building. Surplus places, refers to empty places within schools and is calculated by deducting the number of full-time pupils on roll at a school from its capacity number.

The Welsh Government has set every authority in Wales a target of reducing surplus places (empty places) in schools to 10%. As of January 2012, Denbighshire had 1454 surplus places in primary schools, equivalent to 16.9%.

Currently, based on September 2012 data, the 11 schools included in the Ruthin area have 279 surplus places, equivalent to 23.0%. The graph below shows the percentage of surplus places across the Ruthin area, compared with the overall Denbighshire percentage over the past three years.



Based on September 2012 data, the authority would need to reduce the number of full-time pupil places across the Ruthin area by 185 to meet the 10% surplus places target across the area.

The table below shows the breakdown of surplus places in each school (September 2012):

School Name	Capacity (Full-time pupils)	Number on roll (Full-time pupils)	Surplus Places	% Surplus Places
Borthyn	142	111	31	21.8%
Bro Fammau – Llanferres & Llanarmon	135	93	42	31.1%
Clocaenog	36	36	0	0%
Cyffylliog	45	21	24	53.3%
Gellifor	91	87	4	4.4%
Llanbedr	77	21	56	72.7%
Llanfair	83	91	- 8	- 9.6%
Pentrecelyn	81	31	50	61.7%
Pen Barras	252	221	32	12.7%
Rhewl	82	57	25	30.5%
Rhos Street	189	165	24	12.7%
Total Ruthin Area	1213	934	279	23.0%

Link to Capital Investment

This review provides an opportunity for significant capital investment in the area to provide improved school buildings and facilities through a combination of new builds, extensions and refurbishments.

However, the Council will not commit to any significant capital investment in the area unless proposals emerging from this review address the issues set out within this document. In particular, proposals will need to demonstrate how they will help the Council achieve the Welsh Government's target of reducing surplus places to 10%.

It is vital that Denbighshire works towards achieving this target, as future capital funding allocations from the Welsh Government are likely to be dependant on having reduced or having a clear plan in place to reduce surplus places.

How can I submit my views?

Firstly by attending parents meetings which will be arranged for the end of February. These meetings will enable officials from the Council and parents to put forward their views regarding the future of primary provision in the Ruthin area. Following the meetings there will be an opportunity for parents to put forward any questions they may have.

Views can also be submitted by completing the attached form and returning to Denbighshire County Council (address below), or by completing the online survey on the Denbighshire County Council website. In addition you may write in by post or by email to modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk before the 22nd of March 2013 providing their views on the current and future provision in the Ruthin area.

All comments received will be recorded and these views will be collated and used in any future decisions regarding primary school provision in the Ruthin area.

**Please return your comments no later than the
22nd of March 2013 to:-**

Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council,
County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN

Appendix 3

Formal Consultation Document (November 2013)

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 Llanbedr on the 31st August 2014 and transfer pupils to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference.

2. The Proposal

2.1 Denbighshire County Council would close Ysgol Llanbedr on the 31st of August 2014 with pupils being transferred to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference.

2.2 Denbighshire's Cabinet agreed to move to a period of formal consultation in June 2013, the formal consultation with stakeholders and interested parties will take place from the **11th of November to the 23rd of December 2013.**

2.3 The formal consultation relates to the above proposal, namely to close Ysgol Llanbedr on the 31st of August 2014. Throughout this document the proposal is referred to as the **Current Proposal.**

3. Consultation Process

3.1 Denbighshire County Council is required to follow the consultation process as set out in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013¹.

3.2 Following consultation with the Diocese and the decision at Cabinet in October the Formal Consultation period will be taking place between the **11th of November and the 23rd of December 2013.**

3.3 During the consultation period a series of consultation events will be taking place; meetings will be held with teaching and ancillary staff and the Governing Body. Parent and Guardian meetings will be 'drop-in' sessions, providing an opportunity for parents to meet with Officers on an individual basis. The details of these meetings are provided below:

Ysgol Llanbedr	
Staff	Parents/Guardians
25 th of November, 3:30pm (Ysgol Llanbedr)	19 th of November, 6:30pm- 9pm (Llanbedr Village Hall)

Ysgol Borthyn	
Staff	Parents/Guardians
13th of November, 3:30pm (Ysgol Borthyn)	20 th of November, 6pm- 7:30pm (Ysgol Borthyn)

3.4 Parents and Guardians of Ysgol Llanbedr will be able to reserve a time slot at the drop in session. The session will run for 2 ½ hours with 15 minute periods available for reservation. To reserve please contact the Modernising Education Team on **01824 706127**.

3.5 A children’s version of the consultation document has been produced and will be available for pupils from both schools. Denbighshire County Council will also hold consultation events with the pupils at both schools during the consultation periodⁱⁱ.

3.6 This consultation document has been sent to a wide range of consulteesⁱⁱⁱ, this includes;

- a. Parents, teachers and ancillary staff of Ysgol Llanbedr;
- b. Chairs of Governors, Governors and the School Council of the following schools;
 - Ysgol Llanbedr;
 - Ysgol Borthyn;
 - Rhos Street School;
 - Ysgol Llanfair DC;
 - Ysgol Gellifor;
 - Ysgol Bro Fammau;
- c. Church in Wales Diocese of St.Asaph and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham;
- d. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors at all schools in Denbighshire;
- e. Independent nursery providers in the Llanbedr and Ruthin areas;
- 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. Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council;
- j. Ruthin Town Council;
- k. The Welsh Government;
- l. Estyn; and
- m. Relevant teaching and ancillary staff Trade Unions;
- n. Taith;
- o. Gwasanaeth Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion;
- p. North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

3.7 This document has also been published on the Denbighshire County Council website and can be found by following this link <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/consultations/current-consultations.aspx>

4. Power to make a decision

4.1 Denbighshire County Council is permitted to publish proposals to close a school according to the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. Accordingly, the formal publication of the closure of a school 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^{iv} 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 22nd 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. In addition, the school submitted a proposal for expansion of Ysgol Llanbedr and 30 questionnaires were also received from the wider community. 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.

6. Responding to the Formal Consultation

6.1 Denbighshire County Council welcomes responses to the formal consultation regarding the Current Proposal for Ysgol Llanbedr. Responses can be submitted in the following ways;

- By completing and returning the response form (to be found at the end of this document) and returning by post to **Modernising Education Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN.**
- You can also complete the response form online by following this link {link-survey monkey}
- You can scan the response form attached and email a copy to modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk
- All other submission can be either posted to the postal address or to the above email address.

6.2 Following the consultation all responses will be collated by the Modernising Education Team and this will form a Consultation Report that will become available prior to any decision being made by Denbighshire's Cabinet.

6.3 Please ensure your response/responses are **submitted by the 23rd of December** as any late submissions may not be taken into account.

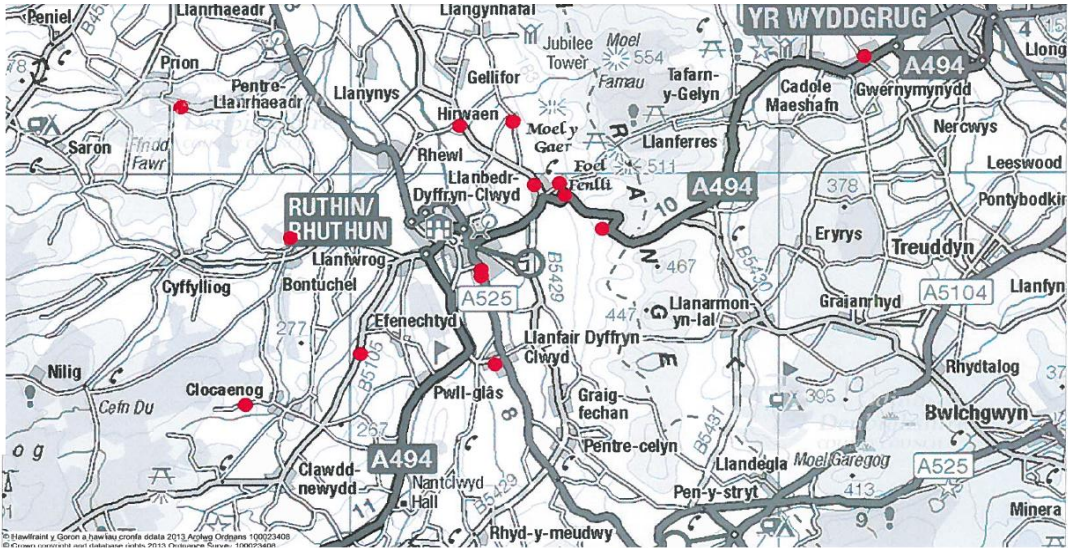
6.4 It is anticipated that Denbighshire's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of the formal consultation in early 2014.

7. Current Provision at Ysgol Llanbedr

7.1 This section details the current provision at Ysgol Llanbedr.

7.2 Ysgol Llanbedr is an English Medium, Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School which serves an age range of 4-11. The school is located on the outskirts of the Village of Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd.

7.3 The catchment area for the school is demonstrated in the map below (September 2013 return data);



7.4 At the January 2013 PLASC Ysgol Llanbedr had 21 Full Time pupils on roll. Pupil numbers have declined over the past 18 months as illustrated in the table below;

Full Time Pupil Numbers 2009-2013

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
67	63	59	37	21

*Data from January PLASC of each year

7.5 At the January 2013 PLASC the year groups were as follows;

Year Groups 2012-2013

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
5	4	7	0	3	1	1

*Data from January PLASC 2013

7.6 The Council’s pupil projection forecast suggests that there will be an increase in numbers of pupils at the school, this is illustrated below;

Pupil Projections 2014-2018

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
24	27	28	32	29

*Data from June Pupil Projections 2013

The formula used for pupil projections takes into account Nursery intake figures but are not counted in the total pupil numbers (Full Time Pupils only). For the period 2012-2013 these figures for Ysgol Llanbedr were low. These figures roll forward and generate projected pupil numbers using 'actuals' i.e. physical number of pupils in the school.

7.7 The intake for Nursery and Reception for the academic year 2013/2014 is as follows;

Nursery	7
Reception	3

7.8 At the request of the Governing Body the capacity of the mobile classroom (23 Full Time places) has been removed from the overall school capacity. The capacity of the permanent school building has been re-calculated at 54 Full Time pupil places taking out the Mobile Accommodation.

7.9 Based on the capacity figure of 54 the school currently has 33 surplus places (based on intake for September 2013) and a surplus % of 61.1%. Authorities are advised by the Welsh Government to 'act purposefully' in instances where schools have a surplus above 25%^v.

7.10 Although pupil projections show an increase in pupil numbers over the coming years that could potential reduce surplus places at the school, Ysgol Llanbedr will still remain a 'small school' with a maximum capacity of 54. Issues will still remain regarding the sustainability and viability of Ysgol Llanbedr and standards of education and attainment in the future. Within the 3 Faith Schools in the Ruthin area there are currently 87 surplus places, two of these schools (Ysgol Llanbedr and Ysgol Borthyn) provided an English Medium Education and the third provides a bi-lingual education with Welsh and English medium streams provided.

8. Estyn Report

8.1 The school's last inspection took place in June 2009 and the inspection report commented as follows^{vi};

Key Question	Llanbedr Inspection grade - 2009
1. How well do learners achieve?	2

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

Key:

Grade 1	Good with outstanding features
Grade 2	Good features and no important shortcomings
Grade 3	Good features outweigh shortcomings
Grade 4	Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
Grade 5	Many important shortcomings

8.2 In order to improve the school in the areas inspected, the staff and governing body need to;

Recommendation 1: Raise standards by addressing shortcomings in Welsh second language.

Recommendation 2: Improve pupil's bilingual competence.

Recommendation 3: Improve curriculum planning to ensure pupils better progress in all subjects.

Recommendation 4: Improve communication with parents/carers.

Recommendation 5: Develop the self-evaluation system to consistently and rigorously monitor standards of work and the quality of learning.

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

9. Educational Standards and Attainment

9.1 Educational standards at the school are good and have improved, however as a result of very small cohorts in each year group a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible;

Year	% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Ysgol Llanbedr	71.40%	83.30%	84.60%	100.00%	85.70%
Denbighshire Average	76.50%	76.80%	78.10%	82.30%	83.50%
Wales – Average	75.50%	77.00%	78.20%	80.00%	82.60%

10. Alternative Provision

10.1 Denbighshire County Council has recommended that if the proposal was to proceed, existing pupils could transfer to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference. The authority acknowledges that parents may not choose Ysgol Borthyn as an alternative provider of English Medium Faith Based education.

10.2 This section provides details of potential alternative, local authority maintained, provision on the periphery of the existing catchment areas.

10.3 The existing provision is as follows;

School Name	Distance from Ysgol Llanbedr DC	Type of School	Current Capacity	Surplus Places	Nursery Places
Ysgol Borthyn	2.1 miles	English/ Faith (VC)	142	31	20
Rhos Street School	1.3 miles	English / Community	189	26	23

Ysgol Gellifor	2.9 miles	English/ Community	91	4	10
Ysgol Bro Fammau	4.3 miles	English/ Community	135	92	16
Ysgol Llanfair DC	3.1 miles	Bilingual/ Faith (VC)	113	23	11

% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2

School Name	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ysgol Borthyn	87.5%	82.4%	58.8%	78.6%	92.3%	93.3%
Rhos Street School	82.1%	86.7%	93.5%	93.3%	96.6%	92.6%
Ysgol Gellifor	90%	91.7%	92.9%	92.3%	100%	91.7%
Ysgol Bro Fammau	76.7%	87.5%	91.7%	100%	94.4%	95.8%
Ysgol Llanfair DC	50%	100%	88.9%	91.7%	100%	94.1%

Current Full Time Pupil Numbers (2013)

School Name	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Ysgol Borthyn	9	17	13	17	22	19	14	111
Rhos Street School	23	23	25	23	18	26	25	163
Ysgol Gellifor	13	16	8	14	19	5	12	87
Ysgol Bro Fammau	8	15	11	10	11	13	24	92
Ysgol Llanfair DC	10	13	10	10	15	15	17	90

Historic Pupil Numbers 2008 - 2012

School Name	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Ysgol Borthyn	93	98	104	103	113
Rhos Street School	190	171	177	179	167
Ysgol Gellifor	76	74	73	77	85
Ysgol Bro Fammau	90	84	74	74	96
Ysgol Llanfair DC	84	90	94	96	93

Projected Pupil Numbers

School Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Ysgol Borthyn	115	111	103	102	104
Rhos Street School	152	146	147	142	136
Ysgol Gellifor	86	94	87	85	89
Ysgol Bro Fammau	80	79	79	81	82
Ysgol Llanfair DC	87	84	81	84	86

11. Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision

11.1 If the Current Proposal is approved the most significant change for pupils will be a change in the learning environment and teacher. Any pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) who currently attend the school will continue to receive the same education and support but within a new learning environment. The authority will provide help and support for pupils with SEN who experience difficulties due to change.

12. Proposal Rationale

12.1 Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible education for its pupils, this proposal has been developed in line with the Councils commitment to 'modernising education', the Schools Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all pupils to reach their full potential and the Welsh Assembly Government's 21st Century Schools Programme.

12.2 There are a number of issues that are facing the school that could impact on the schools ability to sustain and safeguard educational provision in the future. These issues are outlined below;

Educational Case for Change

- a. Pupil numbers within the school are very low with only 21 pupils (Full Time) on roll for the recent 2012/2013 academic year.
- b. As a result there are small cohorts throughout the school, in some year groups there may be only one pupil. Although pupil projections do demonstrate that there may be a potential increase in numbers the school would still remain a 'small' school and cohorts would remain limited.
- c. There is no recommended school size however when the pattern of decreasing pupil numbers in a school falls below that of an average class size (30) there is a challenge of providing a full, progressive and balanced curriculum. Opportunities for pupils become limited e.g. opportunities for group work within their age group, limited scope for peer interaction and for developing relationships with peer groups and the ability to offer extra-curricular activities.

- d. Opportunities should be afforded to pupils to interact with other pupils in their peer/age groups; these opportunities and experiences are essential aspects of development and part of school life. Pupils learn from having to work and interact with groups of pupils of a similar age; 'competition' between pupils in both academic and extra-curricular events is healthy.
- e. From a staff perspective planning for a wide age range becomes even more time consuming and demanding. This is in addition to the increasing budget pressures faced by small schools.
- f. Larger schools offer a broader compliment of teaching staff which provides a range of expertise in a variety of curriculum areas. A broad range of staff also provides increased opportunities for staff to specialise, nurture different experiences and develop their careers for the benefit of the pupils.
- g. The school currently has an acting Headteacher, all schools are finding it increasingly difficult to appoint permanent Headteachers however this proves more challenging for small schools. The absence of a permanent Headteacher could have a significant impact on school standards in the future.
- h. Headteachers within small schools also have a substantial teaching commitment which can have adverse implications for the senior leadership and management of the school.

Existing School Building and Site

- a. The school building is adequate however there is a need for investment to bring the building up to a satisfactory standard reflective of a 21st Century School.
- b. The school facilities are as follows;
 - Mixed nursery/reception area;
 - Specialist areas compromise of library, computers and practical space;
 - General resource areas include staffroom, headteachers office, cleaners store, PE store and general resources;
 - 3 classrooms, with one classroom also designated for dining;
 - The mobile classroom is no longer used by the school for either teaching or resource space.

- c. The catering facilities at the school require investment; space is limited at the school and any significant increase in pupils would further reduce dining space.
- d. Access to indoor physical education provision has significant barriers at the school. The school lacks a hall space that can be used for indoor physical education and for dining outside of the class base.
- e. Overall the site is in need of investment to enable it to provide a learning environment that is fit for purpose to meet the requirements of the 21st Century Schools Programme. Without considerable expansion in the size of the school such a proposal would not address concerns over sustainability.
- f. The energy consumption per square meter of the school is £11/m². The feasibility report identified a need for the wall and roof insulation to be upgraded for greater energy efficiency.

13. Alternative Options

13.1 Denbighshire County Council has 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 21st Century Schools Programme, these 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 21st Century Schools Standard, and reducing recurrent costs and carbon footprint.*

13.2 The main options that have been considered are as follows;

Option 1.1	Maintain the status quo
Option 1.2	Federate the school
Option 1.3	Expand on the existing site
Option 1.4	Close the school

13.3 The advantages and disadvantages of the main options considered are set out below;

Option 1.1: Maintain the Status Quo	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing temporary accommodation could be removed from the site to generate savings; ▪ No capital investment required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not address Headteacher recruitment issues at the school, an appointed Headteacher would have a significant teaching commitment due to the small cohorts.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not address the surplus places in the school. ▪ Funding per pupil would remain high and would not provide the best allocation of resource. ▪ Catering and dining facilities and the lack of hall space would not be rectified. ▪ The school would remain vulnerable to changes in parental preference due to low pupil numbers within the immediate geographical area.
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Option 1.2: Federate the school	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No additional capital investment required; ▪ Appointment of a permanent Headteacher within a federation would be a more viable option as the post would not require a teaching commitment; ▪ Greater opportunities to share resources and ensure long term sustainability; ▪ Both schools would retain their individual identities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not address the issue of surplus places at Ysgol Llanbedr. ▪ The potential partner would be Ysgol Borthyn; the school would have little to gain from a federation. ▪ There would be no flexibility within either school to respond to fluctuating pupil numbers within the existing catchment areas at each school. ▪ Ysgol Llanbedr would still remain vulnerable to changes in parental preference due to low numbers in the immediate geographical area. ▪ Issues with the school building at Ysgol Llanbedr, namely dining, catering and hall space would still not be rectified.

Option 1.3: Expanding on the existing site	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would address the issues with lack of catering, dining and hall space and provide a fit for purpose learning environment which would provide a significant improvement for pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Headteacher recruitment issues would still remain and any Headteacher would still be required to have a significant teaching commitment. ▪ Surplus places at the school would not be addressed. By expanding the school it is likely this will increase the number of surplus places at Ysgol Llanbedr. ▪ To expand the school would require far higher numbers of pupils on roll than those projected, to ensure there are sufficient numbers of pupils the site would be required to be an 'area school' requiring significant school reorganization within the immediate area to generate investment. ▪ The school would still remain vulnerable to

	changes in parental preference.
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Option 1.4: Closure of the school	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No additional investment is required; ▪ Pupils would gain from being taught in single year group classes and wider availability of opportunities; ▪ Proposed alternative provision would retain the faith based element; ▪ Pupils would be educated in fit for purpose facilities with adequate hall and dining facilities; ▪ Pupils would be taught in a school with a permanent Headteacher and which is also in a strong position to retain a permanent Headteacher. ▪ A net saving of £68,000 would be made by closing the school which could then be reinvested into improving educational provision across Denbighshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff would be redeployed or made redundant; ▪ Denbighshire County Council would not benefit from the sale of the building or the site; ▪ The community could lose the facility for community use however alternative provision is available in the village hall. ▪ On-site child care may be affected, however Denbighshire County Council is open to working with the Diocesan authority to support the facility.

Analysis of Options against Investment Objectives and Critical Success Factors

	Option 1.1 Do nothing	Option 1.2 Federate	Option 1.3 Expand	Option 1.4 Closure
1 Improved Learning Environment	x	✓	✓	✓
2 Greater Economy – Revenue Implications	x	x	x	✓
2 Greater Economy – Capital	x	x	✓	✓
3 Sustainable Education system	x	✓	x	✓
Critical success factors				
CSF1 Improved attainment and performance	x	x	x	✓
CSF2 Improved school condition and suitability	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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Summary	Discounted	Discounted	Discounted	Preferred

14. What is the preferred option?

14.1 The preferred option would be to close Ysgol Llanbedr and transfer pupils to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference. The formal consultation relates to this proposal.

15. What would this mean?

15.1 If the Current Proposal is approved Ysgol Llanbedr would close on the 31st of August 2014.

15.2 All pupils attending Ysgol Llanbedr would transfer to Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin subject to parental preference.

15.3 There would be no change in provision at Ysgol Borthyn and the school would retain its identity.

15.4 As Ysgol Llanbedr is a Church in Wales School the existing building and site would revert to the diocesan Authority.

16. What are the financial implications of this proposal?

16.1 The current reported financial position for the school is as follows;

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Balance c/f	33,263	13,080	(12,828)

*Based on the existing 3 year expenditure plan.

16.2 It is estimated that the net saving within the schools delegated budget of £68,000. It is important to note that during any re-organisation the budget saved as a result of the change is reinvested back into the total schools quantum for redistribution across all other schools with the exception of a lump sum which is used to invest in future re-organisation/capital schemes.

16.3 There is a requirement that Denbighshire County Council will cover costs associated with any HR implications brought about by the Current Proposal.

16.4 A further saving of £4,659 would also be made annually from the removal of the mobile accommodation. Over a 5 year period this would equate to a saving of £23,295 and would also meet the Councils commitment to removing mobile accommodation in Denbighshire schools.

16.5 Cost of provision in Ysgol Llanbedr is £8,498 per pupil, this is the second highest rate per pupil within Denbighshire. The cost of provision in Ysgol Borthyn is £4,583 per pupil, this would be reduced if a number of pupils transferred from Ysgol Llanbedr to Ysgol Borthyn should the Current Proposal be implemented contributing to the balance of per pupil funding across Denbighshire. The Denbighshire average cost of provision per pupil is £3,951.

16.6 The savings made would be retained within the Denbighshire Education budget as part of the investment in the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme.

17. Admissions Arrangements

17.1 Admission arrangements are administered by Denbighshire County Council Admissions Service. Should the Current Proposal proceed the admissions service would write to all parents to outline options for their children's future education.

18. Transport Arrangements

18.1 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. More information regarding Denbighshire County Council's Transport Policy can be found here www.denbighshire.gov.uk/education

18.2 In line with Denbighshire County Councils Transport Policy the approximate transport costs associated with the proposals are approximately £26,600. This figure is based on the transfer of those pupils from Ysgol Llanbedr to Ysgol Borthyn, it may be that some of these pupils will attend other schools in the area. A significant proportion of pupils are by-passing the nearest suitable school (the proposed alternative Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin) and other faith schools such as Ysgol Llanfair DC to attend Ysgol Llanbedr.

19. Staffing Implications of the proposal

19.1 Should the Current Proposal be implemented the authority would work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Llanbedr to seek redeployment opportunities.

19.2 As part of this consultation there will be a full consultation with staff and the appropriate teaching unions.

20. What are the disadvantages of the proposal?

20.1 If the Current Proposal proceeds educational provision in the village of Llanbedr would cease.

20.2 Upon the closure of the school it is expected that some children will be required to travel further to school; subject to parental preference. Transport would be provided in accordance with the Council's Transport Policy and to ensure that travelling times are not excessive.

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 of this 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 during 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, above c.) then follow the procedure set out in the statutory notice.

22. Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessment

22.1 The Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment for the Current Proposal will be available on the Denbighshire website on the 11th of November 2013. You can view the impact assessment by following this link www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation^{vii}

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 by no later than **23rd December 2013**.

23.2 It is anticipated that Denbighshire's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of the formal consultation in early 2014.

ⁱ Section 48 School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

ⁱⁱ 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]

ⁱⁱⁱ Section 41-45 School Standards and Framework Act 1998. It should be noted that this will be replaced by Section 48 School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 later in 2013; Royal Assent has been received for the 2013 Act but at the time of publication, this section has not yet come into force.

^{iv} Modernising Education Framework - available to read on request at DCC's offices in Ruthin or by visiting the website [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation] in the School Organisation & Modernising section

^v Estyn Thematic Report May 2012 'How do surplus places affect the resources available for expenditure on improving outcomes for pupils?' <http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/docViewer/244416.9/how-do-surplus-places-affect-the-resources-available-for-expenditure-on-improving-outcomes-for-pupils-may-2012/?navmap=30,163>,

^{vi} The Estyn report relating to the school may be accessed by following this link www.estyn.gov.uk or visiting the DCC website in the School Organisation & Modernising section

^{vii} Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment available following this link www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation]

Appendix 4

Please find Formal Consultation Report by following the link provided below;

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/consultations/closed-consultations.aspx>

