

## Appendix 2



### **Modernising Education Programme**

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

## **Draft Formal Consultation Document**

**Proposal for a new Area School to replace  
Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Pentrecelyn**

**December 2014**

Version:

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## 1. Introduction

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

**Denbighshire County Council would close Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016; and the Church in Wales will establish a new Area School on the existing sites from the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2016.**

## 2. Summary of proposal

### First Phase

- 2.1 This formal consultation relates to a proposal to create the New Area School to serve both Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Pentrecelyn Communities. Throughout this document, this proposal is called the **Current Proposal**.
- 2.2 If the Current Proposal is agreed and implemented the first phase would see the existing Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. The new Church in Wales Area School would open on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the new area school will be a **Category 2- Dual Stream Primary School** where two types of provision exist side-by-side. Parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision. Both Welsh and English are used in the day to day business of the school. The language of communication with the pupils is determined by the nature of the curricular provision, but in some schools high priority is given to creating a Welsh-language ethos throughout the school. The school communicates with parents in both languages. The competency and confidence of pupils in both English and Welsh will be depending upon the ethos and policies of the school and governing body. The competency and confidence of pupils in both English and Welsh will be depending upon the ethos and policies of the school and governing body.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the new area school would initially use the existing buildings in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. The way in which the sites will be used will be a decision for the headteacher and governing body to discuss and implement. Options that could be considered are keeping the pupils and staff as they are with increased opportunity for the 2 sites to come together for specific events. This will allow for a smoother transition into the new build for both pupils and staff. Throughout this document the creation of the Dual-Site Area School is called the **First Phase**.

## **Second Phase**

- 2.3 The next phase would see the Area School consolidated on a new site in the Llanfair/ Pentrecelyn area, subject to land availability and suitability. We are proposing that the new build will be ready by September 2017 therefore ensuring the split site will only be for one academic year. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015.
- 2.4 Throughout this document the movement onto a new site is called the **Second Phase** and the school operating from the new site is called the **New Area School**.

## **3. Consultation Process**

- 3.1 This formal consultation process relates to the Current Proposal and both the First and Second Phase. This formal consultation is being carried out to ensure that all relevant parties have an opportunity to contribute to this important subject.
- 3.2 This formal consultation document has been sent to a wide range of potential consultees including:
- a. Parents, teachers and ancillary staff of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
  - b. Chair of Governors and School Council of the following schools:
    - i) Ysgol Llanfair DC;
    - ii) Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
    - iii) Ysgol Pant Pastynog;
    - iv) Ysgol Pen Barras;
    - v) Ysgol Rhewl;
    - vi) Ysgol Carreg Emlyn;
    - vii) Rhos Street School;
    - viii) Ysgol Borthryn;
    - viiii) Ysgol Dyffryn Ial;
    - x) Ysgol Bro Elwen;
    - xi) Ysgol Llanbedr
  - c. Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham;
  - d. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Denbighshire Schools;
  - e. Independent nursery providers in the Ruthin area;
  - f. Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;
  - g. All Denbighshire County Councillors;
  - h. Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the proposal;
  - i. Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council;

- j. Llanelidan Community Council;
- k. Efenechtyd Community Council;
- l. The Welsh Government;
- m. Estyn;
- n. Relevant teaching and staff trades unions.
- o. Taith
- p. Gwasanaeth Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion (GwE)
- q. North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- r. Flintshire County Council
- s. Wrexham County Borough Council.

- 3.3 This formal consultation document has also been published on the Denbighshire County Council website [www.denbighshire.gov.uk](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk)<sup>i</sup>
- 3.4 The formal consultation period in respect of the Current Proposal will take place between .....
- 3.5 A series of formal consultation events will take place during this period. These will be arranged in the format of a ‘parents evening’ where attendees will be able to speak with officers on a one to one basis. Details of the meetings are included in the letter which is circulated.
- 3.6 Events will also be held with pupils at Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- 3.7 A supplementary version<sup>ii</sup> of this formal consultation document has been produced for and made available to children and young people who are likely to be affected by the Current Proposal. The supplementary version has been written specifically to enable children and young people to understand better and engage with the formal consultation.
- 3.8 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to [modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk) by no later than .....
- 3.9 At the end of the formal consultation period all views received will be collated and considered before any recommendation is made to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.
- 3.10 It is anticipated that Denbighshire County Council’s Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this formal consultation (including a recommendation from Council officers) on the.....

**Key Points:**

- Formal Consultation starts on the .....and finishes on the .....
- We are consulting with all stakeholders including children attending the schools.
- We intend to report back to Denbighshire County Council’s Cabinet on the.....

#### **4. Power to make a decision**

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

#### **5. Background to the proposal**

- 5.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework<sup>iv</sup> in January 2009 to provide a platform upon which to review existing school provision.
- 5.2 The council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the Council has agreed that 'modernising education provision' is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.
- 5.3 We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.
- 5.4 In November 2012 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the commencement of an informal consultation on the future of primary education in the Ruthin Review. The informal consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed to achieve long term sustainability. These included:
- a. Sustainability of Schools and High Quality Provision
  - b. Surplus Places
  - c. Condition and Suitability of School Buildings (incl. use of Mobile Accommodation)
  - d. Recruitment of Head Teachers
  - e. Demand for Welsh Medium Education
- 5.5 The informal consultation ended on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2013 and Denbighshire County Council has carefully considered the issues raised during this period. In total over 63 letters and emails were received from stakeholders together with 195 questionnaires completed by parents. The findings of the informal consultation exercise have been compiled by the council and have been published on its website as part of the decision making process.

- 5.6 This proposal is part of a reorganisation of primary schools in Ruthin, this proposal is moving forward at the same time as:
- i. A new purpose built shared campus in the town of Ruthin to enable the relocation of Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School to the new development on Glasdir.
  - ii. A new area school building for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn who are currently on 2 sites in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog.

**Key Points:**

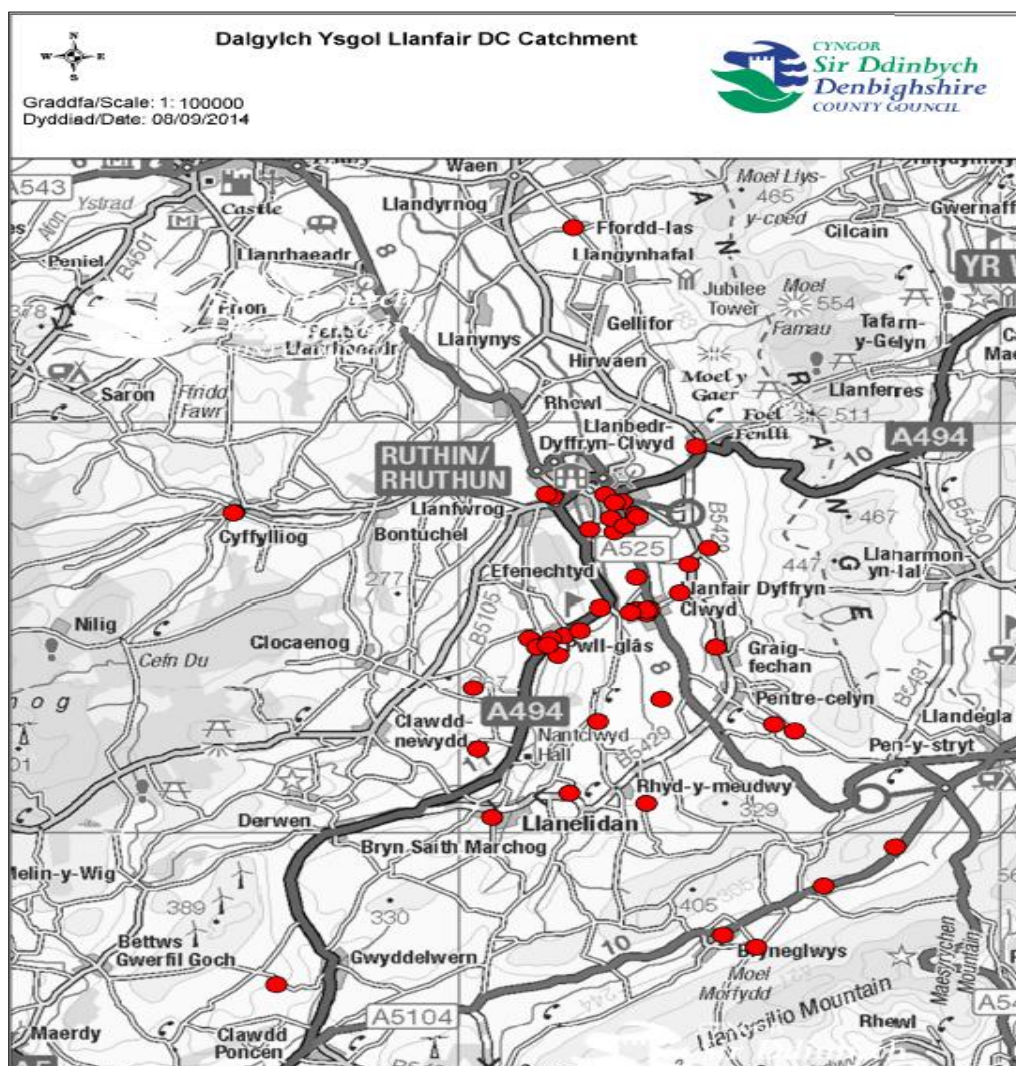
- Modernising Education is a Denbighshire County Council priority.
- The report of the informal consultation is published on our website.

**6. Current Provision**

6.1 This section details the current provision at Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.

**Ysgol Llanfair DC**

- 6.2 Ysgol Llanfair DC is located in the centre of the village of Llanfair DC and serves an age range of 4 – 11 years old. The school is identified as a Category 2 – Dual stream primary school- this is where two types of provision exist side-by-side and parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision.
- 6.3 It is a voluntary controlled school predominately serving the villages of Llanfair DC, Pwllglas and the surrounding area. This is illustrated in the diagram below which shows the postcode location of the home address for each pupil.



6.4 As of September 2014 Ysgol Llanfair DC had 92 full time pupils, and there are currently 13 part time pupils in nursery. The full time pupil numbers for the last 5 years are illustrated below:

Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
94	96	93	90	84

6.5 As of September 2014 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
15	13	11	13	12	13	15



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

<b>Projected Full Time pupil numbers –January 2014 PLASC</b>				
<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
82	80	83	87	87

6.7 The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 113 pupils. As of September 2014 the school had 21 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 19% of the total capacity. The school is operating at below capacity but the school does have two temporary classrooms which provide 54 places. The two temporary classrooms have been in place for over 3 years and therefore must be included in the overall capacity assessment for the school. As a result the admission number for the school has been increased to 15.

6.8 The school's last Estyn Inspection was in June 2010<sup>v</sup> and the inspection report, in summary, commented as follows:

#### ***Current performance***

The school is good and a very happy establishment because:

- The school's distinct feature is the sense of a family community and closeness to learners;
- There is an element of excellence in the learning experiences offered to learners and this has a positive impact on their achievement;
- They make progress, achieve well and become confidently bilingual.

#### ***Recommendations***

In order to improve, the school needs to:

- Maintain the good standards whilst aiming for excellence;
- Raise ICT standards in Key stage 2;
- Develop learners' self-assessment strategies in order that they become more independent learners;
- Ensure consistency in comments on learners work, giving them clear guidance on what they need to do to improve their work;
- Complete and align work plans for the new curriculum in Key stage 1 and 2;
- Strengthen the monitoring system to focus more specifically on the achievement of learners.

<b>Key Question</b>	<b>Inspection Grade</b>
1. How well do learners achieve?	Grade 2
2. How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	Grade 2
3. How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	Grade 1

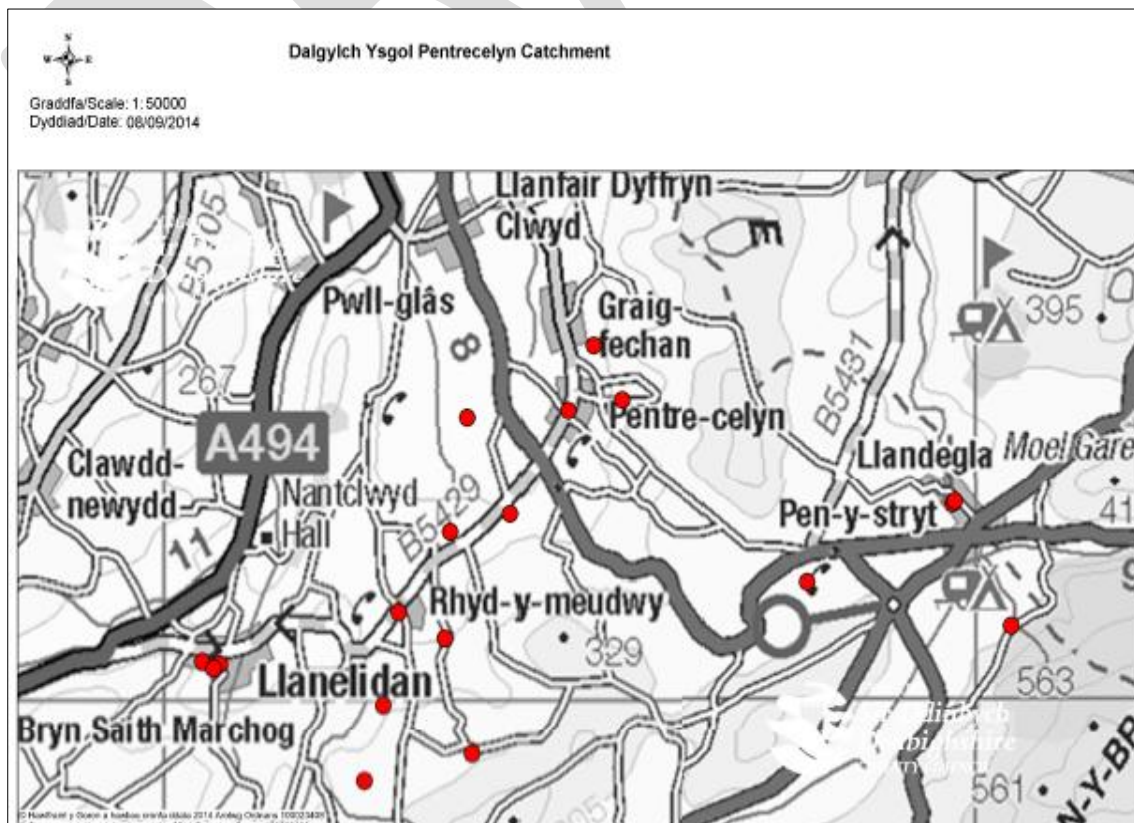
4. How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	Grade 2
5. How effective are leadership and strategic management?	Grade 2
6. How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	Grade 2
7. How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	Grade 2

**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

**Ysgol Pentrecelyn**

6.9 Ysgol Pentrecelyn is located on the outskirts of the village of Pentrecelyn and serves an age range of 4-11. The school is currently identified as a Category 1 – Welsh medium primary school where all pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh. The school predominately serves children from Graigfechan, Pentrecelyn, Llanelidan and the surrounding areas. This is illustrated in the diagram on page 9 which shows the postcode location of the home address for each pupil.



- 6.10 As of September 2014 Ysgol Pentrecelyn had 35 full time pupils and there are currently 12 part time pupils in nursery. The pupil numbers have fluctuated over recent years as illustrated below:

Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
23	20	27	31	39

- 6.11 As of September 2014 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2	8	7	6	3	6	3

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

Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January 2014 PLASC				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
37	40	40	42	41

- 6.13 The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 56 pupils. As of September 2014 the school had 21 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 37% of the total capacity.

- 6.14 A new temporary headteacher has been appointed since 1 September 2014. The previous acting headteacher, was on a secondment and ran the school for three years, she has returned to her original substantive post at the end of the 2014 summer term. 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. The Current Proposal could see the development of leadership and management structures, to provide increased opportunities for staff development and progression. The governing body of Ysgol Pentrecelyn have been mindful of seeking a permanent appointment whilst discussions have been ongoing in regards to the Ruthin primary school review, this situation has been regularly discussed and reviewed with the Local Authority.

- 6.15 The schools last Estyn inspection was in October 2008<sup>vi</sup> and the inspection report, in summary, commented as follows:

The school is due to be re-inspected 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014

#### ***Current performance***

The school is a homely, caring and inclusive community because:

- The head teachers positive and conscientious leadership, considering the brief period she has been in charge, is an outstanding feature of the school;
- Pupils benefit from valuable experiences and the devoted and conscientious work of the whole staff;
- Pupils develop into considerate, friendly and courteous individuals who are confidently bilingual;
- Pupils' standards of achievement have improved substantially since the last inspection.

### **Recommendations**

In order to improve, the school needs to:

- Raise standards in design technology in key stage 2;
- Continue to develop pupils' writing skills in Welsh across the curriculum;
- Make better use of assessment to ensure a greater challenge for pupils to become more responsible for their own learning;
- Continue to refine the schemes of work in accordance with the requirements of the revised curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales;
- Further develop the contribution of staff and governors to the process of monitoring pupils' achievements;
- Work with the LEA to realise the plans for improving the external areas.

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

7.1 Educational standards at both schools over the past three years are shown below.

	% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ysgol Llanfair DC	100.0%	88.9%	91.7%	100.0%	94.1%
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	*	66.7%	*	*	*
Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire	76.80%	78.10%	82.30%	83.50%	86.0%
Wales – Average	77.00%	78.20%	80.00%	82.60%	84.3%

\*However as a result of very small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible

- 7.2 Pupils in Ysgol Pentrecelyn are educated in two classrooms of mixed ages. The teaching and learning is primarily through the medium of Welsh, with the aim of every pupil being fluent in Welsh and English by the end of KS2. Approximately half of the pupils are from homes where Welsh is the first language. In the Foundation Phase increasing numbers of pupils come from a naturally Welsh background and there is a Welsh ethos in the delivery of activities and the curriculum. The foundation phase has increased in numbers and has a wide range of age and ability.
- 7.3 In Ysgol Pentrecelyn the 2014 **Foundation Phase** indicator was 83.3%. This was lower than Welsh, LA and Family average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Welsh Language development was 83.3%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 50% of pupils gained the higher outcomes, this was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Mathematical Development was 83.3%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However the number that gained the higher outcomes was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 100% of learners achieved the expected outcome in Personal and social development. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 67% achieved the higher outcomes, again higher than Welsh, LA and Family average.
- 7.4 In 2014 **Key Stage 2** results for Ysgol Pentrecelyn the Core Subject Indicator was 80%. This was lower than Welsh, LA and Family average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Welsh Language was 80%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Maths was 80%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Science was 80%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average.

- 7.5 In Ysgol Llanfair DC the 2014 **Foundation Phase** indicator was 92.3%. This was higher than Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Welsh Language development was 100%. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 30% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in English Language development was 66.7%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. No pupils gained the higher outcomes. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Mathematical Development was 100%. This was higher than the Welsh and LA average. 38.5% gained the higher outcomes, this was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 100% of learners achieved the expected outcome in Personal and social development. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 46% achieved the higher outcomes, higher than Local Authority average.
- 7.6 In 2014 **Key Stage 2** results for Ysgol Llanfair DC the Core Subject Indicator was 93.3%. This was above the Welsh, LA and Family average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in English Language was 93.3%. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 46.7% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh, family and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Welsh Language was 90.9%. This was higher than the Welsh and LA average. 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Maths was 93.3%. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Science was 93.3%. This was higher than the Welsh and LA average. 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh, Family and LA average.

## **8. Alternative provision**

- 8.1 Should the Current Proposal proceed, Denbighshire County Council would wish to see all pupils transfer to the New Area School to ensure that they continue to receive their education in a rural area and to a consistently high standard.
- 8.2 This section provides details of potential alternative, local authority maintained, provision on the periphery of the catchment areas of the existing schools. The nearest alternative school for villages within the area are as follows:

School Name	Type of School	Current Capacity	Surplus Places	Nursery Places	Number of pupils on Roll (Sept 2014 PLASC)
Ysgol Pen Barras (Ruthin)	Welsh / Community	252	29	36	223
Ysgol Rhewl (Rhewl)	Bilingual / Community	82	29	11	53
Ysgol Pant Pastynog (Prion)	Welsh / Faith (VC)	54	-8	7	62
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn ( Clocaenog & Cyffylliog)	Welsh/ Community	80	20	11	60
Ysgol Borthyn (Ruthin)	English/ Faith	142	22	20	120
Ysgol Llanbedr (Llanbedr)	English/ Faith	54	32	11	22
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial (Llandegla)	English/ Faith	60	19	8	41
Rhos Street School (Ruthin)	English/ Community	189	38	23	151
Ysgol Bro Elwern (Gwyddelwern)	Welsh/ Community	48	13	6	35

As the table above demonstrates most of the neighbouring schools do have capacity to take on any extra pupils, only Ysgol Pant Pastynog is currently over capacity.

8.3 Please see Appendix 1, which contains the following tables:

1. Education attainment
2. Current full time pupil numbers ( September 2014 PLASC)
3. Current part time nursery pupil numbers ( September 2014 PLASC)
4. Pupil numbers for the last 5 years for each school
5. Projected pupil numbers for the next 5 years
6. Estyn reports summary for each school
7. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Survey Condition Category

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

## 9. Secondary Provision

Both Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn currently feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd and the new Area School will continue to feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd. Ysgol Brynhyfryd currently has 3 streams- Welsh, English and the 'N Stream' (Bi-lingual) Nearly all pupils who attend Ysgol Pentrecelyn enter the Welsh stream- see the table below:

Language assessed at the end of KS2	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Total
Welsh and English	5	0	4	1	6	2	18
English only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Secondary School Learning Pathway</b>							
<b>Number of pupils:</b>							
Transferring to the Welsh Stream	4	0	3	0	3	2	12
Transferring to 'N Stream'	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Transferring to the English Stream	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

The table below shows the results for Ysgol Llanfair DC- the majority of pupils enter the Welsh stream, however there are some pupils that enter the 'N Stream':

Language assessed at the end of KS2	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Total
Welsh and English	11	11	11	6	4	7	50
English only	4	6	1	6	5	0	21
<b>Secondary School Learning Pathway</b>							
<b>Number of Pupils:</b>							
Transferring to the Welsh Stream	11	11	10	4	2	6	44
Transferring to 'N Stream'	4	3	1	6	4	1	19
Transferring to the English Stream	0	1	0	0	1	0	2



The figures above show that over the last 6 years 88% of pupils from Ysgol Pentrecelyn and 67% of pupils from Ysgol Llanfair DC transferred to the Welsh stream.

## **10. Special educational needs provision**

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

### **Key Points:**

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

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

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

### **Educational case for change**

- 11.3 Smaller schools, due to financial constraints, find it difficult to implement senior leadership structures that meet the requirements of teachers pay and conditions. In Ysgol Pentrecelyn a new temporary Headteacher has been appointed since 1 September 2014. The previous acting Headteacher, was on a secondment and ran the school for three years, she returned to her original substantive post end of summer term 2014. The Current Proposal could see the development of leadership and management structures, to provide increased opportunities for staff development and progression. The governing body of Ysgol Pentrecelyn have been mindful of seeking a permanent appointment whilst discussions have been ongoing in regards to the Ruthin primary school review, this situation has been regularly discussed and reviewed with the Local Authority.
- 11.4 The Current Proposal will offer greater opportunities for the two schools to work together to improve staff expertise that will lead to raising standards. For example:
- a. Teachers can work together to plan and prepare high quality lessons and standardise assessment and thus reducing the demands on individual teachers;
  - b. Peer observation of the best teachers lessons to develop consistently high teaching practice, and
  - c. Sharing resources to enable more efficient and innovative ways of working
- 11.5 An Area school will provide additional teaching capacity for smaller groups of pupils who are in need of extra support; including greater capacity for more able and talented pupils.
- 11.6 Currently pupils are taught in classes encompassing up to 4 age groups. A larger area school will provide opportunities for pupils to be taught within a reduced age range.
- 11.7 Small schools are limited in their abilities to respond to fluctuations in pupil numbers by their schools structural and teaching capacity. A larger area school will be able to respond to fluctuations in pupil number that are a feature of rural schools.

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

- 11.8 In terms of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Survey Condition Category the condition of both schools is B-Satisfactory ( Minor deterioration). Whilst the existing facilities in at both schools allow for the delivery of the basic curriculum entitlement, the current environment restricts the potential to deliver the innovative curriculum required for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

11.9 Ysgol Llanfair DC currently have two mobile classrooms which provide classrooms for years 5 and 6, with year 4 accommodated in a first floor area which is accessed via a narrow staircase which is not ideal. The toilet provision is a major concern at the school as it is below the statutory minimum for current pupil numbers. Energy consumption at the site is £11/m<sup>2</sup> per annum which is mid range.

There is no separate hall or dining facilities with classrooms in the main building doubling up as dining area and assembly areas. The school use the church hall for events and the church for services- unfortunately these are both located on the opposite side of the A525 resulting in pupils and staff having to cross a busy road to access these facilities.

A major concern for the site is the arrangement for parking and the lack of suitable drop off/ pick up and pedestrian facilities. Currently there is an agreement with the village hall and the local authority that for a small charge per day staff have to park at the church hall- this cost is met by the local authority. There is also limited parking for deliveries.

11.10 Ysgol Pentrecelyn is split between the extended original school and the school house. Energy consumption at the site is £11/m<sup>2</sup> per annum which is mid range.

The school has parking adjacent to the highway for approximately 9 vehicles. There is a reasonably sized field incorporating a football pitch and small soft play area, the field area is not owned by the authority.

The catering facilities are not ideal with the kitchen in need of a refurbishment and there is poor access for deliveries with steps at the access door of the kitchen. Also there are steps down into the dining area from the kitchen which can be problematic.

11.11 Both schools have a maintenance backlog- Ysgol Llanfair DC of £53,357.64 and Ysgol Pentrecelyn £47,717.20.

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

**Key points:**

- Small schools have limited capacity to implement senior leadership structures.
- Both school buildings are not fit for purpose and would require significant investment to improve facilities.

## 12. What is the proposed option?

12.1 This formal consultation relates to the Current Proposal, namely: to close Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn to enable the establishment of an Area School serving the communities of Llanfair DC, Pentrecelyn and the surrounding areas on the existing sites.

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

### What would this mean?

12.3 If the Current Proposal was approved:

- a. Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn School would both close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016; and
- b. The Area School would open on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 (initially on the existing sites in Llanfair DC and Pentrecelyn and utilising the existing buildings).

12.4 The new school would be voluntary controlled school and categorised as a **Category 2- Dual Stream Primary School** where two types of provision exist side-by-side in these schools. Parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision. Both Welsh and English are used in the day to day business of the school. The language of communication with the pupils is determined by the nature of the curricular provision, but in some schools high priority is given to creating a Welsh-language ethos throughout the school. The school communicates with parents in both languages. The competency and confidence of pupils in both English and Welsh will be depending upon the ethos and policies of the school and governing body.

12.5 It is proposed that the new area school would initially use the existing buildings in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. The way in which the sites will be used will be a decision for the headteacher and governing body to discuss and implement. Options that could be considered are keeping the pupils and staff as they are with increased opportunity for the 2 sites to come together for specific events. This will allow for a smoother transition into the new build for both pupils and staff.

12.6 The Welsh language impact assessment has considered the potential impact to pupils, parents and the wider community of this proposal and it will be an essential role of the new governing body to ensure that the mitigation measures outlined in the impact assessment are progressed to ensure that a strong Welsh language ethos is maintained as is the case now in both schools.

12.7 All children attending Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn would transfer to the Area School; subject to parental preference.

- 12.8 In terms of the leadership and management of the Area School, as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 there would be one Governing Body, one Executive Headteacher and one group of staff. The Governing Body would include Parent, Denbighshire County Council, Teacher, Staff and Church in Wales representation together with a number of Community Governors. Prior to the opening of the Area School a Temporary Governing Body would be established and this would take key decisions regarding the appointment of the Headteacher and the supportive leadership team, the staffing structure for and name of the Area School, uniform, policies etc.
- 12.9 The temporary governing body would be encouraged to allow the existing Breakfast provision to continue at Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- 12.10 The intention of the Council, working in partnership with the Church in Wales, would be to consolidate provision on to a single site- Phase 2. The vision for the New Area School would be a 4 - 11 provision serving 140 pupils 0.6 form entry. We are proposing that the new build will be ready by September 2017 therefore ensuring the split site will only be for one academic year. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015.
- 12.11 Following the completion of the new school Denbighshire County Council would need to consider declaring the existing site at Ysgol Pentrecelyn as surplus to requirements in accordance with the Modernising Education Policy Framework. It is anticipated that any proceeds from the disposal of surplus sites would be used to contribute to the overall costs of the new school building. (Ysgol Llanfair DC site is partly owned by the Church in Wales)
- 12.12 The table below shows the timescale that we are potentially working to, should the proposal go forward:

<b>Consultation period</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> February- 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015</b>
<b>Decision of Cabinet</b>	<b>May 2015</b>
<b>Statutory Notice Period</b>	<b>June 2015- July 2015</b>
<b>Decision of Cabinet</b>	<b>September 2015</b>
<b>Transition to new area school</b>	<b>October 2015- August 2016</b>
<b>The new area school on the two current sites in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn</b>	<b>September 2016</b>
<b>Pupils move into the new school on one site</b>	<b>September 2017</b>

**Key Points:**

- All children currently attending Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn would transfer to the new area school subject to parental preference.
- The new school would be a voluntary controlled Category 2 school (Dual stream)
- The new area school would have a capacity of 169 with 23 nursery places during phase 1.
- A Temporary Governing Body will be established who will appoint the Head teacher.

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

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

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

14.1 2013/14 costs for 'Home to School Transport' for the 2 schools are as follows:

Ysgol Llanfair DC= £348 per day x 190 days= £66,120

Ysgol Pentrecelyn= £231 per day x 190 days= £43,890

Therefore total costs for both schools is £ 110,010

14.2 Pupils will continue to be transported to their designated site for the period that the school stays on two sites, in accordance with the current Home to School Transport Policy.

14.3 Currently 30 (86%) of the 35 full time Ysgol Pentrecelyn pupils get free home to school transport. Currently 48 ( 52%) of the 92 full time Ysgol Llanfair pupils get free home to school transport.

14.4 Currently the road in front of Ysgol Pentrecelyn is deemed hazardous in both directions, however this is currently under review. Ysgol Llanfair is surrounded by a number of hazardous routes especially in the Pwll-glas direction.

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

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

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

- 15.3 A staffing structure would need to be developed for the Area School taking into account a number of factors including operating initially on two sites, delivering the curriculum, class sizes and budget implications.
- 15.4 While the Area School operates on two sites the council does not anticipate any major changes to the existing staffing structures other than the Headteacher and other leadership positions. However, final decisions regarding the new staffing structure would be taken by the Temporary Governing Body and the new Headteacher.
- 15.5 The council will recommend to the Temporary Governing Body that all teaching and associate staff posts for the Area School should be “ring-fenced” to the staff within the existing two schools.
- 15.6 As part of this formal consultation process there will be full consultation with all members of staff and the appropriate teaching and staff unions.

**Key points:**

- The Area school would have one Head teacher
- The Temporary Governing Body appoints the Head teacher
- Final decisions on staffing structures would be taken by the Temporary Governing Body and the new head teacher.

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

- 16.1 The cost of provision based upon the 2014/15 budget share is £4,296 per pupil at Ysgol Llanfair DC and £5,364 per pupil at Ysgol Pentrecelyn, compared with the Denbighshire average of £3,931.
- 16.2 The current reported financial position for the schools is:

<b>Balance c/f</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
<b>Ysgol Llanfair DC</b>	£43,878	(£3,288)	(£64,964)
<b>Ysgol Pentrecelyn</b>	£8,759	£1,783	(£1,595)

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

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

- 16.3 The potential gain to the new area school whilst amalgamated on two sites, taking into account funding losses, gains and potential savings of £22,026. This figure is based on the best available information and assumes current funding level would apply and that no other material changes take place at the school i.e. increase/decrease in pupil numbers.

16.4 Once the schools are amalgamated the budget share per pupil will be £4,274.

**Key points:**

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

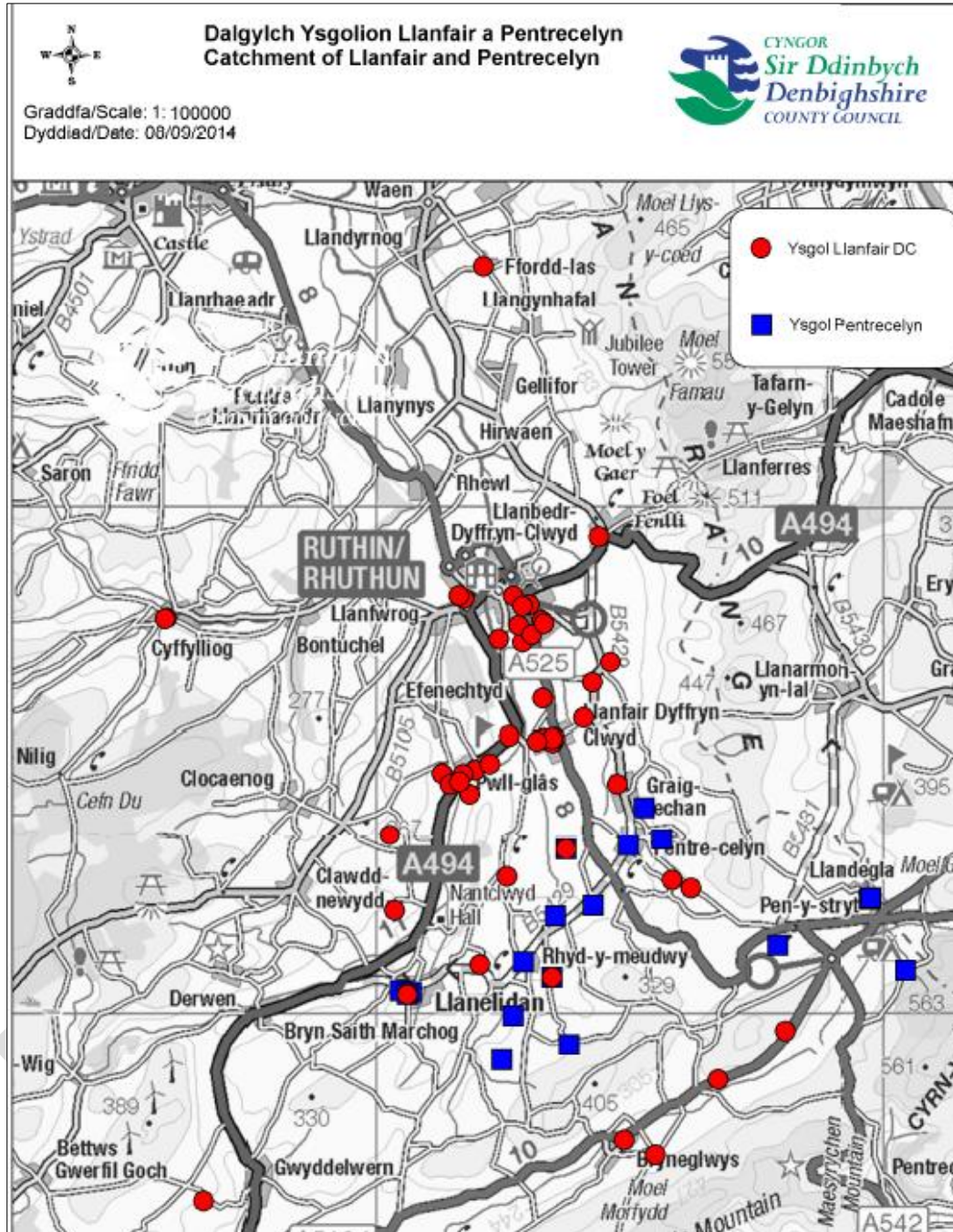
**17. Site**

17.1 The final site location for the New Area School, which will emerge from the Second Phase, will be carefully considered by Denbighshire County Council.

17.2 In the first instance, the difficulties in expanding both current school sites within the existing boundaries to accommodate all pupils attending both schools have been acknowledged during site analysis.

17.3 The priority, in considering a new single location, has been to ensure, where appropriate, it can be accessible to a large percentage of current and future pupils. See combined catchment diagram below:





- 17.4 More detailed feasibility work will be progressed to determine a preferred site which will enable Denbighshire County Council to enter into any negotiations which may be required with any third parties regarding land purchases etc.

### Transport

- 17.5 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. Both schools have a number of hazardous routes around them, in fact as of September 2014 the road in front of Ysgol Pentrecelyn was deemed hazardous in both directions. Ysgol

Llanfair has a number of hazardous routes as well especially in the Pwll-glas direction.

- 17.6 In view of the timescale between the Current Proposal being approved and a new site becoming operational, it is difficult to estimate the likely costs implications in respect of transport budgets in full. During the possible years (for which the Area School may operate until the Second Phase is approved), there will be a range of variables which will impact on any modelling, including changes in pupil numbers, transport costs etc.

### **Financial**

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

#### **Key points:**

##### **Site**

- Neither existing site can accommodate the existing pupils of both schools.
- Llanfair is the preferred location for the New Area School.

##### **Transport**

- All request for pupil transport would be in line with Denbighshire County Council policy.

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

- 18.1 The Council as part of their Corporate Plan has identified as a priority investment in school buildings as a consequence of area reviews. Investment in the Llanfair/Pentrecelyn area has been identified as an initial priority area. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015.
- 18.2 Any savings generated for school organisation proposals such as savings from the removal of temporary accommodation, capital receipts and any revenue savings will be used to support the overall investment in this priority area.

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

- 19.1 If the Current Proposal is approved the Area School will be located on the existing school sites in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. This arrangement would be managed to

ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum and should not impact negatively on the children's education.

- 19.2 If the school becomes a category 2 school there maybe a perception that the welsh language and ethos will be diluted. To ensure that this does not happen it will be essential that the governing body has a strong ethos and policies which put the Welsh language at the heart of the school.
- 19.3 There would also be implications for staff at the current Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn should the proposals be progressed for the development of an Area School. The role of the Headteacher would need to be carefully considered by the Temporary Governing Body. The approach to appointments to the role of Headteacher/Deputy Headteachers would be an issue for determination by the Temporary Governing Body which would need to consider whether the positions should be advertised nationally or appointed internally.
- 19.4 The new Head teacher and the Temporary Governing Body would be required to consider the staffing structure for the Area School. The Council would work initially with the Temporary Governing Body (and then with the Governing Body) of the Area School during these times and should the need arise would work with the current members of staff at both schools and/or the new area school to seek redeployment opportunities.

**Key points:**

- Changes will be managed to ensure that disruption will be minimised to ensure that there is no impact on education.
- The Temporary Governing Body will need to decide if they advertised for a Head teacher nationally or appointed internally.
- Some staff may be redeployed or made redundant depending on the staffing structure adopted.

## **20. Alternative Options**

- 20.1 Denbighshire County Council have given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the Current Proposal. In considering these options reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme which are as follows:
- a. Learning environments for children and young people aged from 3 to 19 that will enable successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes;*
  - b. Greater economy through better use of resources to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate and public provision; and*
  - c. A sustainable education system with all schools meeting a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Standard, and reducing recurrent costs and carbon footprint.*

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

- Option 1.1 Maintain the status quo;
- Option 1.2 Undertake extension works at Ysgol Llanfair DC;
- Option 1.3 Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC on a new site & close Ysgol Pentrecelyn
- Option 1.4 Close both schools and establish a permanent new Dual-site Area school on the existing sites.
- Option 1.5 Close both Schools and initially establish a dual site area school prior to building a new area school in Llanfair.
- Option 1.6 Federate the 2 schools;

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

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

Advantages	Disadvantages
This is the 'cheap' option as no additional investment expenditure is required.	Would not address the fact that Ysgol Llanfair currently have 2 mobile classrooms.
	Would not assist Ysgol Pentrecelyn who currently have an acting Headteacher. Appointing a permanent Head teacher for Ysgol Pentrecelyn may be difficult in the current configuration.
	The two schools could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.

**Option 1.2 Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC;**

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing additional fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	The current site is sufficient for development as a 105 capacity school only.
Would enable the schools capacity to be	Would not solve the issue of lack of

amended to reflect the respective current demand for Ysgol Llanfair DC.	parking/ drop off/ pick up facilities on the existing site.
Would not lead to any significant changes in regard to school organisation proposals with potential alterations required to the capacity of Ysgol Llanfair DC.	Ysgol Pentrecelyn will still face the issues regarding a temporary headteacher.
Would not require amendments to pupil travel arrangements.	

**Option 1.3- Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC on a new site & close Ysgol Pentrecelyn:**

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing additional fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	Community of Pentrecelyn could be excluded from the future operation of the school and therefore the new school would not reflect the wider community.
The capacity of the school would be increased to take into account the current demand for places at the school and any pupils from Ysgol Pentrecelyn that may attend the school.	
Would not require major amendments to pupil travel arrangements.	

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

Advantages	Disadvantages
No additional Capital Investment expenditure is required.	Would not solve the issue of lack of parking/ drop off/ pick up facilities at Ysgol Llanfair DC.
A permanent Head Teacher would be appointed for the new area school.	Would not address the fact that Ysgol Llanfair currently have 2 mobile classrooms.
Resources and space would be organised across both sites accordingly.	The two sites could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.

Pupils would be taught in smaller age groups than the current provision.	
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**Option 1.5 Close both Schools and initially establish a dual site area school prior to building a new area school.**

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing new fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	Potential risk that parents choose an alternative provision to the new School especially if they live at the periphery of the new catchment area.
Bringing together the delivery of both schools to a single campus could yield significant economies of scale.	Risk of funding not being available for the new build.
A new area school will have sufficient capacity to absorb fluctuations in pupil numbers.	
The long term sustainability of the school would be far more secure in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.	

**Option 1.6 Federate both schools-** The new regulations published in May 2014 state that “Neither LAs nor governing bodies have powers to federate voluntary (VA and VC) or foundation schools with community schools, community special schools and maintained nurseries”. With this in mind federation is therefore no longer a viable option. This has therefore been discounted.

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

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

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

**Key Points:**

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

**21. Explanation of the statutory process**

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

21.2 The requirements are as follows:

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

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



**Key Point:** For the current proposal to be implemented a Statutory Notices would be published for 28 days. This would allow anyone wishing to object to do so.  
A response provided during the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection.

## 22. Community, Welsh Language and Equality impact

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

## 23. Response Form

23.1 A response form for comments, including an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the formal consultation report, appears at the end of this consultation document.

23.2 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to [modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk) by no later than .....

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

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

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

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

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

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