



Formal Consultation Document

Proposal to close Ysgol Rhewl as of the 31st of August 2017 with pupils transferring to Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras, subject to parental preference for language medium.

January 2015

Table of Contents

No	Description	Page No
Introduction		
1.	Introduction	
2.	Summary of proposal	
3.	Consultation Process	
4.	Power to make a decision	
Background Information		
5.	Background to the proposal	
6.	Current Provision	
7.	Educational attainment	
8.	Alternative provision	
9.	Secondary provision	
10.	Special educational needs provision	
The Proposal		
11.	The proposal in detail	
12.	What is the proposed option?	
13.	Admission arrangements	
14.	What are the transport implications of this proposal?	
15.	What are the staffing implications of this proposal?	
16.	What are the financial implications of this proposal?	
17.	Site	
18.	How would any new school buildings be financed?	
19.	What are the disadvantages of this proposal?	
20.	Alternative options	
21.	Explanation of the statutory process	
22.	Community, Welsh Language and Equality assessment	
23.	Response Form	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The review of educational provision in the Ruthin area began in 2013. 11 schools were included within the review, due to the complexities the review has been undertaken on a phased basis. A series of recommendations and proposals have been presented to Denbighshire's Cabinet since June 2013.
- 1.2 The Ruthin area faces a number of distinct challenges, including;
- *Surplus places;*
 - *Condition and suitability of school sites;*
 - *Provision of mobile classrooms;*
 - *School estate efficiency and sustainability.*
- 1.3 The objectives of the review are to address these challenges and ensure that the high standard of primary educational provision is maintained and strengthened for the future. The Council has been clear from the outset that the review is not linked or driven by educational standards or attainment as the quality and standard of education is good across the Ruthin area. This phase of the review has a focus on the town schools, inclusive of Rhos Street School, Ysgol Pen Barras and Ysgol Rhewl.

Ysgol Borthyn: It was agreed by Cabinet that Ysgol Borthyn should be retained to provide English medium faith based primary education within the town of Ruthin and for the surrounding areas.

- 1.4 It was recommended to Denbighshire's Cabinet that no formal proposals should be progressed until a period of feasibility had been undertaken in relation to the town schools.
- 1.5 The feasibility works were commissioned in the summer of 2014. The feasibility provided a more detailed analysis of three sites; the shared site housing Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, the Ysgol Rhewl site and the Glasdir site for development of new school facilities.
- 1.6 The preferred option to emerge is a new shared site school model resulting in the relocation of Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to new, 21st century school facilities on the Glasdir site.
- 1.7 A detailed overview of the options explored for Ysgol Rhewl can be found in section 14 of this document.

2. Summary of Proposal

- 2.1 It is being proposed that;

Ysgol Rhewl would close on the 31st of August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras subject to parental preference for language medium.

- 2.2 By September 2017 work will have been completed to deliver new school buildings and facilities on the Glasdir site. This will allow Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to relocate from their current site to fit for purpose, 21st century school facilities.

- 2.3 The future of Ysgol Rhewl has been considered as part of the wider town area as part of the Ruthin Area Review. The main drivers for proposals for Ruthin have included addressing suitability and condition of school sites and buildings and surplus places. It is considered that these drivers impact on the long term sustainability of Ysgol Rhewl.
- 2.4 In considering a range of options for the Glasdir site there was a need to assess the impact of new facilities upon Ysgol Rhewl due to the proximity between the two sites, approximately 1.1 miles. In view of pupil numbers and the long term need to invest in the building it is believed that closing the school and transferring pupils to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras would be the most sustainable option long term for the wider area.

3. Consultation Process

- 3.1 It was agreed by Denbighshire's Cabinet to formally consult on the above proposal from the 10/02/2015 to the 23/03/2015. The formal consultation is being carried out to ensure that all relevant parties have the opportunity to contribute to this important subject.
- 3.2 This formal consultation document has been sent to a wide range of consultees, including;
- a. Parents, teachers and ancillary staff of Ysgol Rhewl;
 - b. Chair of Governors and School Council of the following schools:
 - i) Ysgol Rhewl;
 - ii) Rhos Street School;
 - iii) Ysgol Pen Barras;
 - iv) Ysgol Borthyn;
 - v) Ysgol Carreg Emlyn;
 - vi) Ysgol Gellifor;
 - vii) Ysgol Llanbedr DC;
 - viii) Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch;
 - c. Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham;
 - d. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Denbighshire Schools;
 - e. Flintshire County Council and Conwy County Council;
 - f. Independent nursery providers in the Ruthin area;
 - g. Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;
 - h. All Denbighshire County Councillors;
 - i. Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the proposal;
 - j. Llanynys Community Council;
 - k. Ruthin Town Council;
 - l. The Welsh Government;
 - m. Estyn; and
 - n. Relevant teaching and staff trades unions.
 - o. Taith
 - p. Gwasanaeth Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion (GwE)
 - q. North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

- 3.3 A supplementary version of this consultation documentⁱ has been produced for children and young people who are likely to be affected by this proposal. This document will be made available at the school named within the proposal. The children and young people's version has been written specifically to enable children and young people to understand and engage with this consultation process.
- 3.4 This document, the children and young peoples document and relevant supporting documentation has been published on the Denbighshire County Council website. Please follow this link to view the documents electronically www.denbighshire.gov.uk

4. Making Your Views Known

- 4.1 There are a number of ways in which you can make your views known to us. These are outlined below with relevant details for submitting your views.

In Person: Consultation Events

The dates and times of the consultation events are included within the covering letter. Meetings will be held with staff, parents, pupils and the Governing Body.

The parents meetings will be held in a parents evening format. This allows for attendees to speak with officers on a 1-2-1 basis. To ensure each attendee has the opportunity to make their views known there is a requirement to book a place at the meeting. To do so please email modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk or call **01824 706127**. A confirmation email will be sent to confirm your booking.

In Writing

Attached to the end of this document is a response form. This can be completed and submitted either by hard copy to the address below or scanned to the email address below;

Email: modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk

Post: FAO Modernising Education Team, Denbighshire County Council, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN.

If you wish to make a further response please use the above details to submit your views.

Children and Young People

A consultation event will be held with members of the School Council. This will be facilitated by an officer from Denbighshire whose role includes engagement and consultation specifically designed for children and young people.

- 4.2 Please ensure that all views are submitted on the 23/03/2015. Any late submissions may not be included within the analysis for the formal consultation report.
- 4.3 Additionally, any views or responses submitted via any other postal or email address may not be included within analysis for the formal consultation report.
- 4.4 At the end of the formal consultation period all views will be collated for consideration before any recommendation is made to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.
- 4.5 A formal consultation report, and all responses, will be collated and presented to Cabinet in May 2015. The report will also contain a recommendation from officers.
- 4.6 It is Cabinet who will make a decision whether to move to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.

School Organisation Proposal Process

Recommendation: A recommendation is made to Denbighshire Cabinet to formally consult- January 2015.

Formal Consultation: A period of formal consultation will take place between 10/02/2015 and 23/03/2015. During this time interested parties can make their views known regarding the proposal.

Formal Consultation Report: At the end of the formal consultation period responses will be collated and presented to Cabinet in the form of a Formal Consultation Report including a recommendation from officers. This will be published on the Denbighshire website.

Statutory Notice: If the recommendation is to move to the next stage of the process Cabinet will need to agree it. If this is agreed a statutory notice will be issued. The statutory notice period must last for 28 days.

Objection Report: Should a statutory notice be published and objections received these objections will be collated to form an objection report. The report will contain a summary of each objection made and the authority's response. The report will be required to be published before the end of 7 days beginning the day of any determination of the proposal.

5. Power to Make a Decision

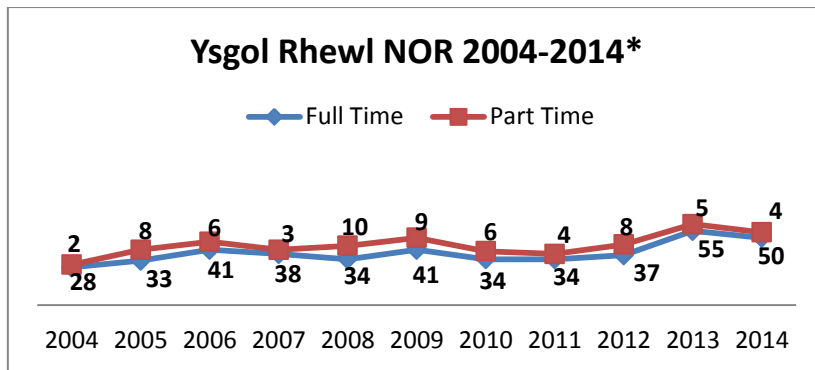
- 5.1 Denbighshire County Council is permitted to publish proposals to close a school according to the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013ⁱⁱ. Accordingly, the formal publication of the closure of a school may be carried out by the Council following the correct statutory procedure.

6. Background to the Proposal

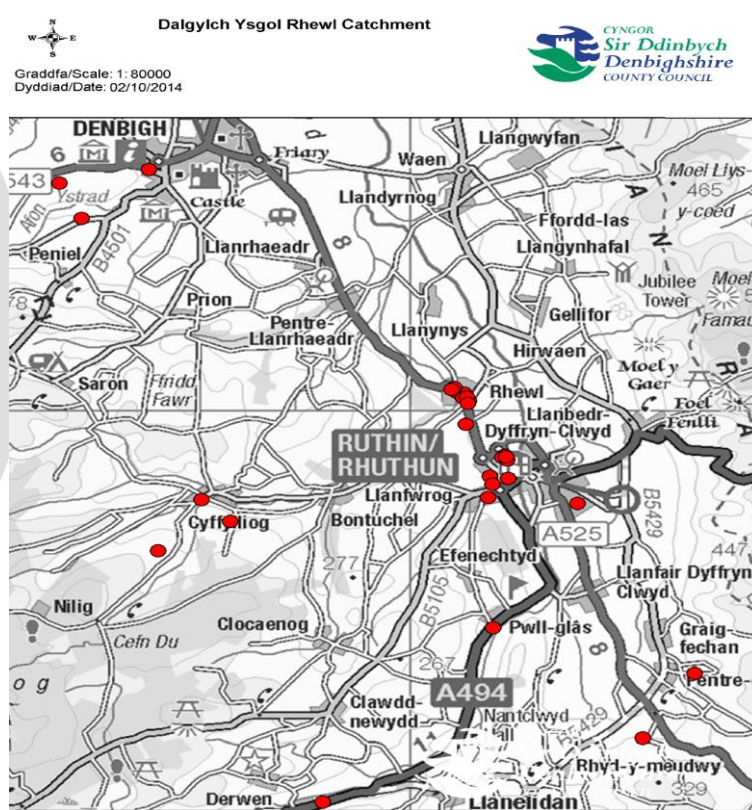
- 6.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Frameworkⁱⁱⁱ in January 2009 to provide a platform upon which to review existing school provision.
- 6.2 The council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 It was recommended to Cabinet that no formal proposals should be progressed until a period of detailed feasibility had been undertaken in relation to the town schools. The feasibility works were commissioned in the summer of 2014. The feasibility works provided a more detailed analysis of three site- the current shared site housing Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras, the Ysgol Rhewl site and the Glasdir site for development of new school facilities.
- 6.5 The preferred option to emerge is a new shared site school model resulting in the relocation of Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to new, purpose built, 21st century school facilities on the Glasdir site.
- 6.6 This proposal is part of a reorganisation of primary schools in Ruthin, this proposal is moving forward at the same time as;
- i. Proposal for a new area school to replace Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
 - ii. A new area school building for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn who are currently on 2 sites in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog;
 - iii. 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.

7. Current Provision

- 7.1 This section details current provision at Ysgol Rhewl . Ysgol Rhewl is located centrally within the village of Rhewl with the Western boundary of the site bordering the A525. The schools serves an age range of 3-11years 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.
- 7.2 As of September 2014 the school Census (PLASC) showed there are 53 full time pupils on roll and 3 part time pupils. The chart below displays full time and part time pupil numbers over a ten year period.



7.3 38.5% of current pupils are from the village of Rhewl or immediate area. 61.5% of pupils live outside the village and the immediate area. The map below demonstrates the catchment for the academic year 2014-2015;



7.4 The school has two classrooms with mixed year group classes. The Nursery and Foundation Phase pupils are located within Classroom 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils are located within Classroom 2. The table below provides a breakdown of pupils per year group;

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
3	5	6	9	8	5	9	11
23 (3 PT/20 FT)				33			

- 7.5 'Pili Pala' playgroup is located at the school, the playgroup has two sessions per day (morning and afternoon) for children aged 2 years 6 months and over. The playgroup occupies a space within the Nursery and Foundation Phase classroom. At the last inspection of the playgroup in 2013 there were 5 children registered, 2 of whom received early years funding.
- 7.6 The proposed alternative provision offers wrap-around-care in the form of playgroups, breakfast clubs and after school facilities. The 2014 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment for Denbighshire found that there was sufficient childcare available within the area should alternative provision be required, the percentage of childcare places available within the Ruthin area is high with a number of surplus childcare places.
- 7.7 Each Spring Denbighshire undertake an annual round of pupil projections which are sent to all Denbighshire schools in the summer term. These projections are based on the pupil data contained within the January PLASC return of that year. The pupil forecasts are suggesting a decrease in the number on roll over the coming 5 year period for Ysgol Rhewl;

Projected Full Time pupil numbers				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
50	46	42	41	39

- 7.8 The capacity of the school is 82 full time pupils and 11 part time (nursery) pupils. The admission number of the school is also 11.
- 7.9 The surplus capacity at the school is currently 35.4%. Based on pupil forecasts in the above table the surplus capacity is likely to increase, by 2018 this could increase to 52.4%.
- 7.10 The deadline for Reception applications for the academic year 2015-2016 was the end of November. There were 3 applications for the Reception class at Ysgol Rhewl. To date, 1 nursery application has been received.

8. Educational Attainment and Outcomes

- 8.1 The schools last Estyn inspection took place in May 2011. The inspection report commented as followed;

Summary

The school's current performance	Good
The school's prospects for improvement	Good

Key Question	Outcome
How good are outcomes?	Good
How good is provision?	Good
How good are leadership and management?	Good

Current Performance

Overall the schools performance is good because;

- The school's inclusive ethos and the warm and friendly school community;
- Pupils good standards of achievement and their ability to use skills in their work across the curriculum;
- A good range of learning activities that captures and sustains the interest of pupils;
- High levels of attendance and behaviour, with pupils applying themselves well to learning;
- The way the school successfully promotes pupils wellbeing; and
- Effective procedures for tracking pupils' progress and the quality of provision for pupils in need of additional support, especially in literacy.

Prospects for Improvement

Prospects for improvement are good because of:

- A good track in record in ensuring improved outcomes for pupils;
- The clear commitment to continuous improvement in provision and outcomes;
- A clear understanding of aspects of provision in need of further development and the willingness to take account of the views of governors, parents and pupils;
- A well-structured school development plan that identifies clear and appropriate proposals or schools development;
- The way the schools governing body acts as a critical friend; and
- A commitment to working in partnership with other local school as a professional learning community.

Recommendations

In order to improve, the school needs to:

R1: Ensure that learning activities extend pupils of all abilities in mainstream classes, especially pupils of higher ability in key stage 2.

R2: Improve pupils' understanding of what to do to improve the quality of their work, especially the quality of marking and pupils' involvement in self and peer assessment.

R3: Further develop the planning and implementation of the provision for skills, to ensure continuity and progression in pupils' skill development.

R4: Improve senior management's role in evaluating continuity and progression in provision and pupils' achievements across the school.

8.2 The educational outcomes at Key Stage 2 for Ysgol Rhewl over the last 5 year period are displayed below against local and national averages;

	% achieving Level 4+ CSI at Key Stage 2				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Rhewl	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%
Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86%	86.6%
Wales – Average	77%	80%	82.6%	84.3%	86.1%

8.3 The pupil numbers in Year 6 have been relatively low, therefore comparisons with local and national averages must be treated with caution. The table below displays the pupils assessed in the corresponding 5 year period;

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Y6	2	2	3	7	4

8.4 The educational outcomes for the Foundation Phase for Ysgol Rhewl over the last 5 year period are displayed below against local and national averages;

	CSI			FPOI		
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Ysgol Rhewl	100%	100%	66.7%	83.3%	85.7%	
Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire	82.4%	79.8%	86.4%	84.9%	86.1%	
Wales- Average	81.6%	82.7%	80.5%	83%	??	

8.5 Again, the pupils numbers in the years assessed have been relatively low, therefore comparisons with local and national averages must be treated with caution.

9. Language Categorisation

9.1 Ysgol Rhewl is a Category 2 school. Category 2 schools are defined as *dual stream primary schools*. The following definition has been taken from the 'Defining Schools According to Welsh Medium Provision' information document issued by the Welsh Government^{iv};

Dual Stream Primary School Definition

Curriculum: 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 which is usually delivered as in categories 1 and 5 respectively.

Language of the School: 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.

Outcomes: For pupils in the Welsh stream, normal expectations are as for Category 1. For pupils in the English medium stream, normal expectations are as for Category 5.

9.2 The language categorisation of schools within Denbighshire is currently being audited by the Welsh in Education Strategic Group. It is expected that a report on the findings with recommendations will be presented to Denbighshire County Council scrutiny committee in the Spring of 2015.

9.3 In the most recent Estyn inspection (May 2011) the language provision of the school was described as primarily through the medium of English with Welsh learnt as a second language.

9.4 For the period 2010-2014 no pupils at the school were assessed in Welsh as a first language at the end of Key Stage 2. The table below displays the percentage of pupils gaining Level 4 and above in Welsh Second Language at the end of Key Stage 2;

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
N/A	50%	100%	100%	50%

9.5 The table below displays the numbers of pupils who have been assessed either through English or Welsh at the end of Key Stage 2 since 2007;

Language	2007/2008	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014
English	4	5	1	2	3	7	4
Welsh	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total Pupils	5	6	2	2	3	7	4

9.6 The majority of pupils transfer from Ysgol Rhewl to Ysgol Brynhyfryd for secondary education. Ysgol Brynhyfryd provides a bilingual provision offering a Welsh Stream, English Stream and a Bilingual Stream. All pupils from Ysgol Rhewl, almost without exception, transfer to Ysgol Brynhyfryd for secondary education. The table below displays the language medium in which pupils from Ysgol Rhewl are taught;

Year	Welsh 1 st Lang	Welsh 2 nd Lang	Total
2009	1	5	6
2010	0	2	2
2011	0	2	2
2012	0	3	3
2013	0	7	7
2014	0	4	4
Total	1	23	24

10. Alternative Provision

- 10.1 Should the current proposal proceed, Denbighshire County Council has proposed that pupils could transfer to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras dependent on parental preference for language medium.
- 10.2 Appendix 1 contains all relevant information regarding the potential alternative schools within the area. This includes information on past, current and projected pupil numbers as well as an overview of outcomes at the end of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.

11. Special Educational Needs Provision

- 11.1 If the current proposal is progressed it will result in a change in the learning environment for all pupils. It is acknowledged by the authority that although the change will be experienced by all pupils but may prove more challenging for pupils with special educational needs.
- 11.2 Currently 16.9% of pupils are registered SEN pupils at Ysgol Rhewl, the Denbighshire average is 20.5%. Any pupils with special educational needs currently attending Ysgol Rhewl will continue to receive the same education support that is required. Arrangements that are currently in place for pupils, such as dedicated 1-2-1 support, will transfer to their new learning environment. Denbighshire will provide appropriate help and support for special educational needs pupils, especially for those pupils who experience difficulties due to change. Denbighshire will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and assist pupils with any transfer.
- 11.3 The new facilities provided on the Glasdir site will be designed in consultation with Denbighshire's SEN Education Officers, and the staff and pupils concerned. It is anticipated that this approach will produce improved conditions and learning environments for pupils with SEN.

12. Secondary Provision

- 12.1 The proposal is not expected to have any significant impact on secondary provision within the area. All proposed alternative and neighbouring schools feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ruthin. It is not expected that there will be a significant fluctuation in the pupils accessing the English, Welsh or Bilingual streams.

13. The Proposal in Detail- Description and Rationale

- 13.1 Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible educational provision for its children and young people. This proposal has been developed in line with;
 - a. The Council's commitment to the Modernising Education Programme;
 - b. The School Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential.

- 13.2 There are a number of challenges facing the school that could impact on the ability to sustain educational standards in the future.

Educational Case for Change

- 13.3 As of September 2014 there were 53 full time pupils on roll. The pupil numbers are relatively low with a pupil forecasts suggesting a further decrease in pupil numbers of the coming five year period. The majority of pupils are within Key Stage 2 year groups, the largest year group is Year 6 with 11 pupils. These pupils will transfer to secondary education in September 2015.
- 13.4 3 applications have been received for the Reception class for the academic year 2015-2016. To date 1 application has been received for the Nursery class for the academic year 2015-2016. The deadline for nursery application is February 23rd 2015. Pupil projections for the school suggest a decrease in pupils numbers over the coming 5 year period.
- 13.5 The school has two classrooms, currently pupils are taught in mixed age groups encompassing an entire key stage. The proposed alternative provision will provide opportunities for pupils to be taught within a reduced age range. From a staffing perspective, planning for a wide age range is time consuming and demanding.
- 13.6 Smaller schools, due to financial constraints, find it more challenging to implement senior leadership structures. Larger schools can offer a broader compliment of teaching staff which provides a range of expertise in a variety of curriculum areas.
- 13.7 Small schools often have Headteachers with substantial teaching commitment which can have adverse implications for the senior leadership and management of the school.

Adequacy of School Facilities and Site {Include current condition}

- 13.8 There is a current maintenance backlog of £127k across the school site, for a school of its size this is a substantial maintenance backlog. Whilst the existing facilities allow for the basic delivery of the curriculum entitlement, the current environment restricts the potential to deliver a fluid and innovative 21st century curriculum. There is a need for significant investment to bring the building up to a satisfactory standard, reflective of a 21st century school.
- 13.9 The building has been constructed using basic construction using timber buildings believed to be early 20th century. Many areas across the site show signs of damp penetration requiring work to the roof and walls.
- 13.10 There is no onsite parking or drop off/pick up provision on the site and the adjoining road is used by parents, staff and school transport vehicles. There currently is outline permission for some parking to be delivered across from the school as part of a housing development.
- 13.11 There is no provision of a playing field on the school site itself however the school utilise the community playing field approximately 100 meters from the school site.

14. What is the Proposed Option?

- 14.1 The proposed option is to close Ysgol Rhewl as of 31st August 2017 with existing pupils transferring to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras subject to parental preference.
- 14.2 New educational facilities will be operational from the 1st of September 2017 on the Gladir site, enabling the relocation of both Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras to purpose built, 21st century schools buildings and facilities.
- 14.3 £8.9million will be invested in new facilities on the Glasdir site providing new school buildings and facilities for Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras. The investment will provide both schools with buildings and facilities that meet a 21st Century Schools standard.
- 14.4 The project will deliver distinct Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 learning environments for both schools, tailored to meet the specific requirements of the respective curriculums.

15. Alternative Options

- 15.1 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 21st 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 21st Century Schools Standard, and reducing recurrent costs and carbon footprint.*
- 15.2 The main options that have been considered are as follows;
- Option 1:** Status Quo
- Option 2:** Do Minimum-Undertake remedial repairs and maintenance
- Option 3:** Undertake extension and significant refurbishment of Ysgol Rhewl
- Option 4:** Provide New Build School for Ysgol Rhewl
- Option 5:** Close Ysgol Rhewl

15.3 The main advantages and disadvantages of each option, including the current proposal, are outlined below;

Option 1- Do Nothing	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No capital spend required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not provide 21st century school facilities. ▪ Shortfalls and deficiencies would remain and likely worsen in the short term with the possibility of impacting negatively on the ability to deliver the curriculum. ▪ Would not lead to a reduction in surplus places. ▪ Would not lead to a greater efficiency of the wider school estate.

Option 2- Do Minimum	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimal capital spend required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would lead to some improvement of the learning environment but would not meet 21st century school standards. This would be a fire-fighting exercise. ▪ Would not lead to a reduction in surplus places. ▪ Would not lead to a greater efficiency of the wider school estate.

Option 3- Extend and Refurbish	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would result in some improvement in the learning environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would not result in 21st century school facilities with some deficiencies remaining. ▪ Would require significant capital investment. ▪ Would not lead to a reduction in surplus places. Would likely increase surplus places. ▪ Would not lead to a greater efficiency of the wider school estate.

Option 4- New Build	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would provide 21st century school facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would require significant capital investment. ▪ The current site does not meet the requirements within BB99 for a standard 105 model build school. ▪ Alternative sites would require land purchase within the village further increasing the capital outlay. ▪ Would not reduce surplus places. ▪ Would not lead to a greater efficiency of the school estate.

Option 5-Closure	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No capital spend required. ▪ Existing pupils would have access to fit for purpose, 21st century school buildings and facilities. ▪ Would reduce surplus places. ▪ A net saving of £150k would be made which could be reinvested within the 21st century schools programme. ▪ Any future disposal of the site may result in a capital receipt which could be reinvested within the 21st century schools programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational provision within the village of Rhewl would cease. ▪ Community use of the school would cease however alternative provision is available in the community pavilion. ▪ Staff would be redeployed or possibly made redundant.

15.4 The table below provides an analysis of the above options against the programme investment objectives and critical success factors;

	Option 1 Status Quo	Option 2 Do Minimum	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
1 Improved Learning Environment	x	x	✓	✓	✓
2 Greater Economy – Revenue Implications	x	x	x	x	✓
2 Greater Economy – Capital	x	x	x	x	✓
3 Sustainable Education system	x	x	x	x	✓
CSF1 Improved attainment and performance	x	x	✓	✓	✓
CSF2 Improved school condition and suitability	x	x	✓	✓	✓
CSF3 Reduction in surplus places	x	x	x	x	✓
CSF4 Greater Efficiency and Effectiveness	x	x	x	x	✓
Summary	Discounted	Discounted	Possible	Discounted	Preferred

16. Admission Arrangements

16.1 Admission arrangements to local authority maintained schools are administered by Denbighshire County Council’s Schools Admissions Service. Should the current proposal be implemented the admissions service would write to all parents to outline the options available.

- 16.2 Admissions will be dealt with in line with Denbighshire County Council’s School Admissions Policy. More information can be found on the school admissions page on Denbighshire’s website www.denbighshire.gov.uk

17. Transport Implications

- 17.1 For the current academic year the transport costs for Ysgol Rhewl is £121 per day. Over a school year this equates to £23,111.
- 17.2 Currently 12 pupils, or, 22.6% of the 53 full time pupils utilise free home to school transport. The table below demonstrates the catchment locations for Ysgol Rhewl;

Location	No.
Rhewl	20
Ruthin (town)	14
Cyffylliog	9
Denbigh	3
Pentrecelyn	2
Pwllglas	2
Bryn Saith Marchog	2

- 17.3 From the current school site to the proposed new site on Glasdir the distance is approx.. 1.1 miles. There is a non-hazardous walking route from the village to the site at Glasdir.
- 17.4 Transport to either Rhos Street School or Ysgol Pen Barras would be provided 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 or part of the route is deemed hazardous. More information regarding the transport policy can be found on Denbighshire’s website www.denbighshire.gov.uk

18. Staffing Implications

- 18.1 Should the current proposal be implemented the authority would work with the current members of staff at Ysgol Rhewl, including teaching and ancillary staff., should they seek redeployment opportunities.
- 18.2 As part of the formal consultation process there will be a full consultation with staff and the appropriate teaching unions. A staff meeting will be held during the period of consultation and a representative from HR will be present.

19. What are the Financial Implications?

- 19.1 The cost of provision based upon the 2014/2015 budget share is £5,977 per pupil in Ysgol Rhewl. The DCC average is £3,931.

19.2 The current and forecasted 3 year financial position of the school is as follows;

School	Actual Balance 2014	Predicted Balance 2015	Predicted Balance 2016	Predicted Balance 2017
Ysgol Rhewl	19,603	6,870	(13,345)	(66,686)

**Based on 3 year existing plan*

19.3 For the 2014/2015 year Ysgol Rhewl's budget is £311k. It is estimated that there would be a non-pupil led saving of £150k which would be deducted from the school budget quantum. An estimated £161k is pupil led funding and therefore would remain on the school's quantum to follow the pupils to the school they transfer to.

19.4 The non pupil led saving will be re-invested within future capital schemes as part of the 21st century schools programme.

20. What are the Disadvantages of the Proposal?

20.1 If the current proposal proceeds educational provision in the village of Rhewl would cease.

20.2 Upon the closure of the school it is expected that some children would be required to travel further to school, subject to parental preference. Due to the current catchment of Ysgol Rhewl the proposed new facilities on Glasdir would be a closer option for some existing pupils. Transport would be provided in line with Denbighshire's transport policy and would ensure 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 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 then follow the procedure set out on the statutory notice.

22. Community, Welsh Language and Equality impact

22.1 As the Current Proposal, if implemented, will result in the closure of the school 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 by no later than 23RD of March 2015.

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

ⁱⁱ Section 48 School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act;

ⁱⁱⁱ 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

^{iv}