



Objection Report- Relating to the proposal to increase the capacity at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn

February 2023

Objection Report

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Introduction

Denbighshire County Council completed a period of formal consultation regarding the proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity from 116 to 220. The school will move into a brand new purpose built facility to accommodate the increase.

Formal Consultation

The formal consultation began on 17th May 2022 and closed on the 27th June 2022 in line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018. The consultation document was distributed with links sent to all statutory consultees and a copy was also published on the Council's website at:

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/ysgol-plas-brondyffryn-denbigh>

The consultation report relating to these proposals was publicised on 22nd September 2022 and all Statutory consultees and interested parties were directly informed of its publication on the Denbighshire website as above. You can see the complete list of recipients in **Appendix 1**.

Statutory Notice

On the 18th October the Council's Cabinet considered the Consultation Report and agreed to proceed with the proposal with a change in the implementation date from 1st September 2024 to 28th April 2025.

The Statutory Objection period opened on Tuesday 8th November 2022 for a period of 28 days, concluding on Monday 5th December 2022.

During this time 2 objections were received via email. The majority of the points raised in the objections received related to the proposed location of the new build rather than the proposal under consideration, the increase in capacity from 116 pupils to 220 pupils. The

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Statutory Notice stated that “implementation is subject to a site being agreed, planning consent approved, funding being available and the new build being ready.” These issues will be considered fully as part of these approval processes.

A summary of these objections together with the Council’s response can be found within the table below:

Objection Point	Local Authority Response:
<p>1. Location:</p> <p>Unsuitable for a school, field used locally, should have been a protected Green Space.</p>	<p>The Statutory Notice published was focused on the increase in capacity at the school.</p> <p>Explanatory Note number 2 stated:</p> <p>“The implementation is subject to a site being agreed, planning consent being approved, funding being available and the new build being ready.’</p> <p>The proposal will be subject to the planning process.</p>
<p>2. Suitability of site:</p> <p>Impact on Denbigh High students. School is not just for Denbigh pupils. No room for expansion on the site in the future.</p>	<p>Denbigh High is part of the Local Authorities Band B projects and is inevitably linked with the proposal around Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn.</p> <p>If the secondary provision at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn vacates the Denbigh High site, as part of the Denbigh High School project, they will not only have their building but also additional yard space and improved access to the schools other field which will be used solely for PE lessons.</p>

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	<p>The Local Authority believe that Denbigh is the right location for the school, the school has always been in the town and given the catchment of pupils to the school Denbigh is considered central and ensures travel times to those in the north and south of Denbighshire are reasonable to the school.</p> <p>In terms of the size of the school we believe that this is sufficient to meet the demand in the future and we could not justify building it bigger. The design of spaces needed are informed by Building Bulletin 104 (BB104).</p>
<p>3. Traffic: Concerns around the access point on Ystrad road</p>	<p>This is a concern around the location and not the proposal regarding the increase in capacity at the school.</p> <p>These concerns would be considered as part of any planning process for the proposed site.</p>
<p>4. Loss of sports field/ green space- Loss of Denbigh High school field to the school, loss of the running track, loss of field as a sporting facility.</p> <p>The proposal gives little consideration to the clubs and high school who already use the Denbigh High School field. What will be offered as a suitable alternative?</p>	<p>The Statutory Notice published was focused on the increase in capacity at the school.</p> <p>The Council's proposals would ensure that the correct provision remains for Denbigh High School in respect of outdoor facilities and consideration given to any improvements required to the fields that would be used by Denbigh High School moving forward.</p>

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	<p>This would be determined by the planning application and would be considered as part of the planning process.</p>
<p>5. Other schools in Denbigh:</p> <p>Consideration needs to be given to the impact of expansion for the other schools in Denbigh given the new housing estates in the town.</p>	<p>The Band B proposals for the Sustainable Communities for learning programme- previously 21st Century Schools and College programme is focused on the town of Denbigh with the following 3 projects being proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal to rebuild Ysgol Pendref,• Proposal to increase the capacity at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn via a new purpose built facility,• Proposal to refurbish Denbigh High school. <p>If all 3 proceed there would be £46.6 million investment in the town.</p> <p>As part of the business case for any project the impact of new housing estates are considered when reviewing the capacity of the schools involved.</p>

Publication of Objection Report

The Objection Report will be published and posted on the Council's website with hard copies available on request.

Cabinet Decision

This document will be considered in full at a Cabinet meeting due to be held on 21st February 2023.

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All objections received during the objection period have been made available to Cabinet Members at Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Ruthin, together with the consultation report for further perusal.

Cabinet Members will be asked to review the proposal and make the final determination as to whether to implement the proposal below:

To alter Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn in Denbigh so that the capacity is increased from 116 to 220.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of this Objection Report that in line with the processes outlined in the Welsh Government School Organisation Code 2018 along with the information gathered and reviewed as part of the consultation phase and formal objection period the Members endorse the proposal outlined above and permission is given as part of Cabinet's final determination to progress to implementation stage.

Decision Notification

Decisions (in relation to proposals which require approval or determination) must be made and issued in the form of a decision letter. The decision letter must set out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Decision letter will be published electronically on the Council's website and the consultees as outlined in Section 5.6 of the School Organisation Code will be advised by letter/email of the availability of the document.

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Appendix 1

No	Stakeholder
1.	Parents of pupils of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn
2.	Teachers and support staff at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn
3.	Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn Governing Body
4.	The School Council of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn- Primary and secondary
5.	The Diocese of St Asaph
6.	The Diocese of Wrexham
7.	Headteachers and Chair of Governors of all schools in Denbighshire (Primary, Secondary & Special Schools)
8.	Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
9.	NHS Community Paediatric
10.	All Denbighshire County Councillors
11.	Local and regional Assembly Members and MPs
12.	Denbigh Town Council
13.	The Welsh Government
14.	Estyn
15.	Relevant Teaching and support staff Trade Unions
16.	North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service
17.	North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

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18.	Welsh language Commissioner
19.	Flintshire County Council- Chief Officer for Education and Youth
20.	Conwy County Borough Council- Head of Education Services
21.	Wrexham County Borough Council- Chief Officer Education and Early Intervention
22.	Denbighshire County Council- Head of Education
23.	Gwynedd Council- Head of Education
24.	Isle of Anglesey County Council- Director of Education, Skills and Young People
25.	Children and adolescent learning disability Service
26.	National Autistic Society