

## REPORT TO THE CABINET

13 February 2018

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Gareth Thomas

**Subject:** The Future of education provision in the Berwyn Catchment

**Contact Officer:** Garem Jackson - Head of Education

---

### The decision sought and the purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to report to Cabinet following a statutory consultation on the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn, and establish a 3-19 Learning Campus, ("The Campus"), on the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn in the town of Bala. The Cabinet is asked to consider the comments received during the statutory consultation period and the response to those comments, and decide whether:

- i. To approve the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn on 31 August 2019 and establish a Welsh Medium 3-19 Learning Campus, Community status, on the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn site to open on 1 September 2019.
  - ii. To approve the publication of statutory notices on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
- 

### Views of the local members

Any comments by the Local Members will be presented at the meeting.

---

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 27 June 2017, Cabinet resolved to withdraw the proposal approved in September 2015, to establish a Voluntary Controlled (VC Church in Wales) 3-19 Learning Campus, requesting a further report to submit a new proposal for a statutory consultation that would address and comply with the requirements of the Business Case that has already been approved by the Welsh Government. In addition, the Education Cabinet Member was delegated the authority to hold a pre-consultation with the Church in Wales on the new proposal, in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013.
- 1.2 The pre-consultation was held with the Church in Wales between 31 August and 28 September 2017. It was clear from their response to the pre-consultation that their priority is the pupils, and that they are willing to work with the schools, the local community and the Council to ensure that the project is moving forward.
- 1.3 Following the pre-consultation with the Church in Wales, a further report was presented to the Cabinet on 24 October 2017, which detailed the following:
  - how the new proposal was developed
  - the way forward for catchment area
  - the effects of the proposed model on the community, equality and language
  - considerations in determining the legal category of the proposal, including the response to the pre-consultation held in August - September 2017
  - staffing and financial implications, deferring the opening date
  - next steps
- 1.4 Following consideration and discussion of the report presented on 24 October 2017, the Cabinet resolved:

“To conduct a statutory consultation in accordance with Section 48 Schools Standards Act (Wales) 2013, in the Berwyn catchment area on the favoured model, namely the proposal to close the schools of Beuno Sant, Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn in the town of Bala and establish a 3-19 Welsh Medium Learning Campus, with community status on the existing Ysgol y Berwyn site to be implemented from September 2019.”

## 2. Background - developing the preferred model

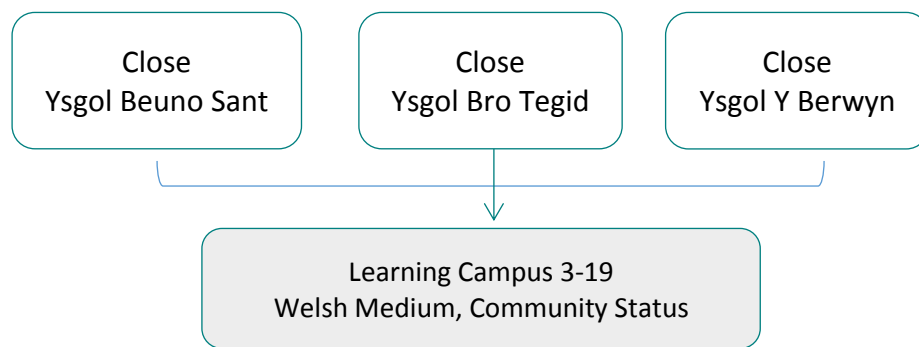
- 2.1 As known, the business case presented to the Welsh Government in 2015 has attracted an investment of £10.27m to upgrade and build an extension to the existing Ysgol y Berwyn site, to develop the 3-19 Learning Campus in the town of Bala. As a result, in developing the models for this consultation, it was necessary to ensure that the new proposed model that was offered to the Cabinet addressed and complied fully with the requirements of the business case, to ensure that the change in the direction of the project did not breach the terms and conditions of the grant.
- 2.2 As part of the process of developing models, the long list of options submitted with the consultation in 2015 was adapted. Although the case for change is clear, the 'Do Nothing' model is included for comparison purposes.

<b>Model 1</b>	Do Nothing.
<b>Model 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant and create a Learning Campus (LC) on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site in Bala.</li> <li>Then create a catchment-area joint committee between the LC and the three rural schools Ysgol OM Edwards, and the federated schools, namely Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn.</li> </ul>
<b>Model 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close Ysgol Berwyn and Ysgol Bro Tegid and create a LC on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site in Bala.</li> <li>Establish a Local Collaboration Trust between Ysgol Beuno Sant and the LC.</li> <li>Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn Schools continue as they are.</li> </ul>
<b>Model 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant, Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro schools and create a multi-site LC at Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn, Ysgol Bro Tryweryn and Ysgol OM Edwards.</li> </ul>
<b>Model 5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close Ysgol Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant and create a LC on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site in Bala</li> <li>Plan to federate the three rural schools, namely Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn with the LC.</li> </ul>
<b>Model 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant and create a LC on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site in Bala</li> <li>Close Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn and establish a Multi-site Area School on the existing sites of the three rural schools, namely Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn</li> <li>Collaboration between the Multi-Area School of the LC.</li> </ul>
<b>Model 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close Ysgol Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant and create a LC on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site in Bala</li> <li>Close Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn and establish a Multi-site Area School on the existing sites of the three rural schools, namely Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn</li> <li>Plan to federate the Rural Multi-site Area School and the LC.</li> </ul>

- 2.3 A document was prepared which summarized the main advantages and disadvantages of the models listed above. The different options were evaluated against factors in the 'Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd' strategy, factors in the School Organisation code, the vision of the Y Berwyn catchment area and other relevant factors. The full options appraisal can be found in Appendix 3.
- 2.4 Following submitting a report on the above to the Cabinet on 24 October 2017, support was given to the recommendation to undertake a statutory consultation on model 2, namely the closure of Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant and the creation of a Learning Campus (LC) on the current Ysgol Berwyn site in Bala by September 2019.

### 3. The proposal

- 3.1 As part of the proposal, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant will close, and the educational provision they provide will be provided by the 3-19 Learning Campus. Ysgol y Berwyn will also close, and education for pupils of secondary school age will be provided by the Learning Campus. The Learning Campus will be developed on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site.



- 3.2 This entails:

- Closing 3 schools (Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn), and establish a 3-19 Learning Campus, Welsh Medium, Community status on one site in the centre of the town of Y Bala, namely the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn,
- Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant school sites will close and these sites will not re-open.

- 3.3 The Proposal will:

- Improve education standards, enabling flexibility across all ages so that sharing of resources, staff and facilities becomes standard practice.
- Impact the size of classes and the age range within them
- Considerably improve the condition and standard of the school buildings in the town of Bala through an investment of £10.27million
- Improve the efficiency of Gwynedd Council's schools estate
- Enable a new modern senior management system, which will release the head teacher from the classroom, offers flexibility in the staffing structure across the sectors, and provide new career opportunities
- Reduces the number of surplus places in the catchment area
- Realise approximately £85,000 in revenue savings, and rationalise the range in cost per pupil in the catchment area
- Safeguard and strengthen the post-16 provision in the catchment area
- Create a new resource that would be available for pupils in rural catchment areas and the local community outside of normal school hours

### 4. The statutory consultation

- 4.1 In accordance with the statutory requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (006/2013), a statutory consultation period was held on the proposal with the relevant consultees between 22 November 2017 and 13:00 o'clock on 10 of January 2018.

- 4.2 A statutory consultation document was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (006/2013) and a copy of the document was distributed to all relevant consultees, either in hard copy format or by sending an email that included a link to a designated page on the Council's website ([www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation](http://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation)).
- 4.3 Hard copies of the consultation document were sent to 6 schools in the catchment area, requesting the headteachers to distribute them to the parents/guardians of each pupil, staff members and members of the governing body of the schools.
- 4.4 A background pack was also published, which included the impact assessments of the proposal on the language, the community and equality. In addition, the report on the assessment of need for different types of schools (2015) was re-published. Hard copies of the background packs were distributed to the 6 schools, local libraries and the Siop Gwynedd in Dolgellau, Pwllheli and Caernarfon, so that they were available for inspection by any member of the public. The document could also be downloaded from the Council's website.
- 4.5 During the consultation period, Gwynedd Council officers held "drop-in" sessions to discuss the proposal with Governors, teaching and support staff, parents/guardians and the public. As part of the sessions an exhibition on the information that was presented in the consultation document was exhibited, and officers from relevant departments (e.g. education, property, personnel etc.) were available to explain and respond to enquiries. There was also an opportunity for those attending to receive a hard copy of any relevant documentation regarding the proposal and to submit written comments. 26 people attended the drop-in sessions. The timetable for the sessions was as follows:

Group	Date	Time	Location
Teaching and support staff	Wednesday , 6 December 2017	16:00 – 17:00	Ysgol y Berwyn, Y Bala
Governors	Wednesday , 6 December 2017	17:15 – 18:15	Ysgol y Berwyn, Y Bala
Parents / guardians and the public	Wednesday , 6 December 2017	18:30 – 19:30	Ysgol y Berwyn, Y Bala

- 4.6 In addition, a consultation document for primary and secondary children was prepared with associated questionnaires. A facilitator visited all 6 schools in the catchment area to hold specialist sessions with the pupils to gather their opinions. The facilitator's analysis of these sessions is available in appendix 2 of this report.

## 5. The comments received during the statutory consultation

- 5.1 The purpose of this part of the report is to present some of the main points that became evident during the statutory consultation period. It is not possible to respond to every comment in detail in this report, however attached is a copy of a table containing all the comments as well as the Council's response. All of this information is included in appendix 1 of this report.
- 5.2 There were 28 responses to the statutory consultation including responses from pupils, staff, governors and parents, as well as the following bodies:
- Estyn
  - NASUWT
  - Diocese of St. Asaph
  - Governing Body of the Cysgod y Foel Federation

- 5.3 This table sets out the number of responses received according to their connection with a specific school:

Ysgol Bro Tegid	Ysgol Beuno Sant	Ysgol y Berwyn	Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	Ysgol OM Edwards	Other / Not Specified
3	3	16	1	1	3	8
<b>Total = 28</b>						

*3 responses without identifying any related school \*\* 17 responses have identified 2 linked schools \*\* 5 responses have identified 2 linked schools*

5.4 As noted above, Gwynedd Council's analysis of the comments received in response to the consultation has been included with this report. Full/original copies of the responses can be found at [www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation](http://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation) - the personal information on some of the responses has been removed to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

5.5 The majority of comments received during the consultation period were supportive of the proposal to establish a 3-19 Learning Campus on the Ysgol y Berwyn site, and closing Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn. It was felt that the proposal would improve the quality of education and improve the learning environment of Bala's pupils. Although there was a little frustration about the historic reorganisation process in the catchment area, generally, support was expressed to this model.

5.6 The responses received detailed the following issues:

- Support for the proposal
- The consultation process
- The construction work
- The design and resources of the new school
- The proposal to establish a 3-19 Learning Campus
- Financial matters
- Staffing issues
- Cylch Meithrin

## 5.7 Support for the Proposal

5.7.1 The investment was welcomed, with the majority noting support the proposal for a 3-19 Campus and a new building contributing to improving the quality of education.

5.7.2 The investment of £10.27m will significantly improve pupils' learning environment. A good learning environment promotes better education. However, the plans in Bala result in more than an investment in the learning environment. By bringing together Bala town schools as one 3-19 establishment, staff resources and expertise can be shared, leading to an improvement in the quality of education, and applying the benefits of the 3-19 model for improving and reconcile education in town of Bala.

5.7.3 As explained in the statutory consultation document, the Council considers that this type of proposal could provide an opportunity to improve educational standards across the catchment area. The establishment of one 3-19 Learning Campus in Bala would enable flexibility across all ages so that sharing resources, staff and facilities becomes standard practice. Here are some of the possibilities:

- Specialist secondary teachers can also teach their subjects to the primary children e.g. music
- Campus primary and secondary staff and rural school staff can meet and discuss good practice and support, encourage and learn from each other
- There would be better continuation in all aspects of the curriculum because it would be programmed across the catchment area, ensuring the same experiences and opportunities for all pupils

5.7.4 A response was received from Estyn which stated that the proposal was "likely to at least maintain education standards in the area, as the proposed development would be likely to establish a new, stable leadership, with a focus on raising standards and improving the quality of the provision ..."

## 5.8 The Consultation Process

5.8.1 There were some comments that noted frustration that the reorganisation process had taken so long to complete, and that they were disappointed that the timetable had slipped.

5.8.2 In response to these comments, it was acknowledged that this was the third consultation regarding the reorganisation of the schools of Bala town and noted that the change in funding for the Welsh Government and the need to prioritise work in other catchment areas were the main reasons for the original delay.

Subsequently, and following a full statutory process to consult on a new proposal, at their meeting on 15 September 2015, Cabinet members decided to confirm the proposal to establish a 3-19 Voluntary Controlled Learning Campus (VC, Church in Wales) in the town of Bala. As known, on June 27 2017, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet decided to withdraw the proposal approved on 15 September 2015 on the grounds that it would be unreasonably difficult to implement the proposal due to the lack of support of the governors to the existing proposal. It was noted that in deciding how to move the project forward, consideration had been given to the responses received from the schools governing bodies of the catchment area to the consultation held with them in March 2017, as well as the supportive correspondence of the St. Asaph Diocese.

- 5.8.3 It was also noted that the nature of the school reorganisation process means that proposals change as the process develops. Depending on the Cabinet's next decisions, the Council aims to implement the proposal by September 2019.
- 5.8.4 Some respondents noted that there were incorrect statistics in the consultation document. Unfortunately, there was an error in one of the tables that was included in the English version of the document. The correct table is included as part of the council's response (appendix 1).
- 5.8.5 In addition, disappointment was expressed about the information presented regarding Ysgol Beuno Sant, in terms of the quality of education provided by the school. In response to the comment, it was noted that Gwynedd Council acted in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code in preparing the consultation document. One of the requirements of the Code is that the proposer provides "information from the latest Estyn reports for every school that the proposals are likely to affect". This information can be found on pages 21 to 24 in the document. Indeed, the document refers to the outcome of the Estyn inspection carried out in 2014. However, on page 23, there is a paragraph stating that Ysgol Beuno Sant has been removed from the list of schools that require significant improvement in 2015 following a monitoring visit in June 2015. The document also refers to Ysgol Beuno Sant as a yellow-categorised school, in accordance with Welsh Government guidelines, namely "an effective school that is already doing well and knows which areas that need it to improve".

## 5.9 The Construction work

- 5.9.1 Responses were received that noted frustration regarding the impact of the building work on the current pupils and staff at Ysgol y Berwyn. Some claimed that the construction work had had an impact on pupils' education and others noted concerns about dust on the corridors and the impact of the noise of construction. In addition, there were some responses indicating frustration regarding the lack of cooking and canteen facilities while the construction work continues.
- 5.9.2 In response to these comments it was noted that the Council had attempted to structure the construction schedule to reduce any potential impact on staff and pupils in terms of the day-to-day operation of the current secondary school. It was noted that the construction of the new primary block was scheduled first so that the existing secondary school pupils and staff were able to be educated in the new building whilst the remainder of the building was being refurbished. It was also noted that the percentage of surplus places was high at Ysgol y Berwyn, and that the construction timetable was designed so that full advantage could be taken of the surplus places. It was also added that the Council, since the commencement of the construction, have been put in place procedures to ensure that the construction work fully complies with health and safety requirements.

## 5.10 The design and resources of the school

- 5.10.1 Several responses noted concerns about aspects of the proposed design and resources of the new school. Most noted concerns as they were under the impression that there isn't an intention to upgrade the Science laboratories at the school. Some respondents emphasised that the current laboratories aren't suitable for educating in the 21st century, and that it is essential that they are upgraded. It was noted in Gwynedd Council's response that, as part of the £10.27m investment to develop a 3-19 Learning Campus, the authority intends to install 2 new science laboratories at the school and also intend to invest in the existing Chemistry

laboratory by (i) upgrading the existing bench services, (ii) installing a new smoke cupboard, and (iii) installing 4 new two sided benches, suitable for group work. It was also added that the fourth laboratory will also receive a general upgrade to the electrical connections.

5.10.2 In addition, responses were received that noted concerns that the furnishing and provision of IT resources for the secondary school is not part of the investment plan. As part of the response, it was explained that the Council acted in accordance with the 21st Century Schools and Education Program Business Case Guidelines (Welsh Government), which states that new furniture and fittings are not included as part of capital expenditure for the refurbishment of buildings, as is the case with the secondary element of the Learning Campus. It was added that these guidelines also indicated that new computer resources could only be funded as part of the investment if the project involved a new build. As a result, at this point, we recognise that there is no specific budget earmarked for upgrading the technology resources or to re-furnish the secondary sector. However, it must be noted that how the Campus' budget is allocated and spent will be a decision for the Head Teacher and the governing body of the Campus. They could therefore decide to identify a portion of that allocation for upgrading certain specific resources such as IT.

5.10.3 Some of the responses referred to the lack of balance between the investment in the primary and the secondary sector. In response to the comments, it was noted that the investment of £10.27 million involves a significant upgrade to the existing Ysgol y Berwyn building. It was noted that the improvements included (i) creating suitable learning areas by securing classrooms of suitable size and updating their condition in general, (ii) creating specific provision for the sixth form, including a common room and separate study room, (iii) expenditure on the laboratories, (iv) refurbish and enhance the technology block. It was also emphasized that this list was in addition to the planned improvements for the common facilities and shared facilities between the primary and secondary schools such as the dance studio and the reception.

5.10.4 One response requested further details regarding the upgrade scheme for the school hall. In response to the comment, it was noted that a substantial investment would be made for upgrading the hall, to provide space for assemblies, various educational uses as well as a resource to support a new cinema system. It was noted that the proposed scheme included the installation of (i) retractable seats, (ii) new lighting bars on the performance platform, (iii) new low level lighting infrastructure, (iv) new sound infrastructure, and (v) structural work within the space to create an audio / projector room with storage for chairs.

## 5.11 The proposal to establish a 3-19 Learning Campus

5.11.1 Some comments received referred the choice of a model for the consultation, with one respondent favouring model 1, which is a model that would not involve any school mergers/closures. In response to the comment, it was noted that the Council had considered a range of different models before deciding to hold a statutory consultation on model 2 and that the Learning Campus is a model that offers many educational benefits, including the opportunity to share specialists teachers across the primary and secondary sector. It was noted that model 1, which is the 'status quo' would not offer the same benefits. In addition, it was explained that the school buildings of Ysgol Beuno Sant, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn aren't in the best condition or suitable for learning in the 21st century.

5.11.2 Some of the respondents were also concerned about the link between primary and secondary pupils, as the Campus would provide education for pupils between the ages of 3-19. It was explained in the Council's response, that although the Learning Campus is a single legal entity (one school), the school's design enables the primary and secondary pupils to be kept separate. It was added that there will be separate access and play area for the primary and secondary schools, although it is intended that some resources such as the gym, hall and canteen are shared. The site layout enables the primary pupils to make use of the facilities without having to mix with secondary pupils.

## 5.12 Financial matters

5.12.1 One comment was received regarding financial matters. The respondent noted their hope that sufficient funding would be allocated to the new school to enable an appropriate staffing structure for the school. If

the proposal is implemented, the Campus allocation will be based on the general allocation formula for schools in Gwynedd. The allocation formula is based on the number of pupils attending the school in accordance with the appropriate legislation. The shadow governing body and the headteacher will be responsible for determining a staffing structure within the boundaries of the budget allocation.

### 5.13 Staffing matters

5.13.1 There were some comments regarding staffing matter. Concerns were expressed regarding how the reorganisation has led to uncertainty, with one respondent suggesting that the authority should learn from the process followed in the Dolgellau catchment area. The same respondent suggested that the shadow governing body should not advertise any posts externally until the current workforce has had an opportunity to apply for one of the posts.

5.13.2 In response to these comments it was noted that at this point of the process, it isn't possible to provide clear guidance regarding the posts in the new school, as the final decision regarding the proposal won't be finalised until the end the statutory process i.e. following a statutory consultation period and an objection period.

5.13.3 It was noted that the shadow governing body will decide the exact staffing structure and also the appointment process that will be followed that is whether to appoint internally or externally.

5.13.4 It was also noted that consultants from the Human Resources department of the Council will be on hand to offer support to the staff of the schools in the catchment area throughout the process. The Cabinet needs to be aware of the possible demand for support from the Council's Human Resources Consultants, in view of the fact that staff from 2 primary schools and 1 secondary school will need guidance if the proposal is implemented.

### 5.14 Cylch Meithrin Bro Tegid

5.14.1 Cylch Meithrin Bro Tegid currently uses a cabin on the site of Ysgol Bro Tegid. If the 3-19 Campus was established, and Ysgol Bro Tegid closed, then the future of Cylch Meithrin's location would need to be taken into consideration before September 2019, when the Learning Campus officially opens.

5.14.2 One respondent expressed a concern that the Council had not considered a venue for Bala's Cylch Meithrin. It is fair to note that there is a need to discuss the possible options with Cylch Meithrin and Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin representatives in the coming months so that any alternative location has been agreed on well in advance and before the Campus opens in September 2019.

### 5.15 Responses to the consultation with children and young people

5.15.1 As mentioned in paragraph 4.6 above, specialist consultation sessions were held with representatives of primary school pupils and secondary school children in the catchment area. The children and young people's specialist facilitator arranged to visit all the schools to hold sessions with the pupils to gather their opinions. The facilitator's analysis of these sessions is available in appendix 2 of this report.

5.15.2 The main points raised during the consultation with children and young people are:

Primary	Secondary
The children are eager to be with their friends and make new friends.	The importance of protecting the Welsh language.
Fear of losing friends.	Concerns about the wide age range in the school.
Eager to have every possible opportunity with the best tools / resources possible.	Need better equipment and resources.
Everybody is happy, but some are unsure of the situation that schools are closing.	Make sure the learning atmosphere is appropriate - e.g. The rooms are warm and no noise in the lessons.



The need to make sure everyone is right e.g. age of bullying occurs (due to the age range).	Broaden the opportunities available.
Worrying that children between the ages of 3 and 19 are under the same roof.	
What will happen at lunchtime and play time.	
Getting lost in a big school.	

5.15.3 The following is noted in the report's conclusion:

*"What became clear from the consultation process was that children were willing to adapt to a new situation even though they were worried about bullying, losing friends and teachers, but feedback was generally positive in most schools ..."*

## 5.16 Other

5.16.1 One comment requested public recognition of the role of the Church in Wales in providing education for pupils in the catchment area. In response to the comment, it was noted that Gwynedd Council and the Church in Wales were co-educational providers in the Berwyn catchment area and that Ysgol Beuno Sant was a Voluntary Aided (VA) school with a religious character (Church in Wales) and that Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Bro Tryweryn and Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn are community schools. It was added that the Council had held regular discussions with representatives of the Church in Wales since the beginning of the school reorganisation in the catchment area.

## 6 In Summary

6.1 Throughout the consultation, strong general support was expressed for the proposal to establish a 3-19 Learning Campus in Bala. Therefore it is recommended that statutory notices be issued for the closure of Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn and establish a Welsh Medium 3-19 Learning Campus Community status on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site. The intention is that the schools will close on 31 August 2019 and that the Campus opens on 1 September 2019.

6.2 This recommendation follows the consideration of a wide range of possible models. These proposals were reduced to a long list of possible models, and these options were fully appraised by comparing the main advantages and disadvantages against specific factors. The factors used were those from the strategy 'Education of the Best Quality for the Children of Gwynedd', factors in the School Organisation Code, the vision for Y Berwyn catchment area and other relevant factors. The factors included, but not limited to:

- Quality of Education
- Class size and age range within classes
- Pupil numbers and surplus places
- Learning Environment - quality and suitability of buildings
- Status / School Category
- Leadership and staffing
- The Community
- The Welsh Language
- Equality Impact
- Financial Resources
- Geographical Factors

The full options appraisal has already been submitted to Cabinet for consideration on 24 October 2017, and can be found in appendix 3.

6.3 As part of this options appraisal, the findings of Community, Linguistic and Equality impact assessments were also used. These assessments can be found in appendix 4, and all the background documentation relating to the proposal is available on the Council's website [www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation](http://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation)

- 6.4 In accordance with the Equality Act 2010 an equality impact assessment was held in respect of the proposal. The assessment notes the current situation and shows that policies and arrangements are in place that would ensure that the proposal considered and coincided with equal rights. Having taken into account the relevant factors it is concluded that equal opportunities are positively promoted as a result of the proposal and that measures are in place to ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination and harassment. Arrangements are also in place to monitor and review the situation. It is therefore considered that the findings of the assessments remain current and relevant to the recommendation.
- 6.5 A pre-consultation was held with the Church in Wales and their comments were considered, together with the options appraisal and the impact assessments before deciding to hold a period of statutory consultation on the proposal.
- 6.6 Following consideration of all the comments received during the statutory consultation period, it is considered that the proposal consulted upon offers the best option for the future of education in the Berwyn catchment area. An analysis of the comments received are discussed in section 5 and in attachment 1 of this report, and the responses are available in full on the Council's website [www.gwynedd.llwy.cymru/modernisingeducation](http://www.gwynedd.llwy.cymru/modernisingeducation).

## 7 NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Should the Cabinet decide to support the recommendations presented in this report - statutory notices will need to be issued in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the guidance from the School Organisation Code (006/2013).
- 7.2 The statutory notices would be issued on a school day and there would be an objection period of 28 days from the date when the notices were issued. Anyone can object to the proposal.
- 7.3 Following the objection period a report will be presented to Cabinet for a final decision. It must be remembered that there are some circumstances where the final decision of the Council can be referred to the Minister for Education and Skills at the Welsh Government, in accordance with the School Organisation Code (006/2013).
- 7.4 Subject to the decisions of the Cabinet, these are the next steps in the process together with an outline timetable;

Steps	Outline Timetable
Cabinet report following statutory consultation	13 February 2018
Publication of Statutory Notices and opportunity for consultees to object	21 February – 21 March
Final decision by the Council's Cabinet	April 2018
Begin to establish the school as an entity, e.g. establishing the shadow body, begin the appointment process	April - May 2018
Opening of the Learning Campus	1 September 2019

## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is therefore recommended:
- i. To approve the proposal to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn on 31 August 2019 and establish a Welsh Medium 3-19 Learning Campus, Community status, on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site to open on 1 September 2019.
  - ii. To approve the publication of statutory notices on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

## **VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS**

### **Monitoring Officer:**

“This report has received input from the Legal Department therefore I have no comments to add regarding propriety.”

### **Head of Finance:**

“My previous comments to the Cabinet on 27 June 2017 and 24 October 2017 remain valid, and I support the decision sought.”

---

## **APPENDICES**

<b>Appendix 1</b>	Analysis and Council’s responses to comments received during the statutory consultation period
<b>Appendix 2</b>	Analysis of the consultation with children and young people by a specialist facilitator
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Options appraisal
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Language, Community, Equality and the need for different types of schools (2015) Assessments