

REPORT TO THE CABINET

March 13, 2018

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Thomas

Subject: Future of Primary Education Provision in the Bangor Catchment-area

Contact Officer: Diane Jones – Bangor Project Leader

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to request the Council Cabinet's permission to hold a statutory consultation on the re-organisation process of schools in the Bangor catchment area.

The Decision Sought:

1. Hold a statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 48 Schools Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013, in the Bangor catchment area on the proposal to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer a place to the pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.
 2. Hold a pre-consultation with the Church in Wales regarding increasing the capacity of Ysgol y Faenol to 315 in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013 requirements and report on the results to the Cabinet.
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View of the Local Members

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

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has implemented the Strategy '*Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd*' since it was adopted in April 2009. At its meeting on 9 October 2012, the Cabinet decided on a '*Priorities Plan – Reorganisation of Education Provision*', based on this strategy.
- 1.2 At the end of 2016, the Welsh Government announced that there was an opportunity for Local Authorities with the capacity to fulfil additional projects within Band A 21st Century Schools Programme. Subsequently, an additional request was presented to the Government, and the Education Department received confirmation that the funding had been agreed in principle. This confirmation enabled the Council to commence the review of current education provision in Bangor as part of a proposed financial package worth £12,730,000 which would include a contribution from the Council.
- 1.3 At the Cabinet meeting held on 17 January 2017, the recommendation was approved, "to request permission to commence local discussions as outlined in the report on reviewing primary education provision in Bangor"

1.4 Four meetings of the Catchment area Review Panel (CRP) were held between June and November, with the final meeting held on 29 November 2017. During the meetings, several options for primary education in Bangor were considered to ensure a sustainable future through appropriately responding to the need for an increase in the demand for places in the Penrhosgarnedd area and improving provision for the city's learners. It was also explained that additional funding could possibly be available in Band B in addition to the Band A funding, if a need was identified. As part of the process, several aims were identified for consideration regarding provision in the Bangor catchment area, namely:

- Ensure an adequate number of places for every child in appropriate locations;
- Ensure that no school is overcrowded;
- Ensure that no school is assessed as being in condition C or worse;
- Reduce significant surplus places in schools or increase effectiveness;
- Reduce the cost per pupil range for educational provision in the catchment area;
- Ensure that class sizes are appropriate in the primary schools;
- Ensure that there are no more than 25 pupils of the same age in one class;
- Ensure that there are no more than 20 pupils of different ages in one class;
- Reconcile the quality of education in the catchment area;
- Ensure that no headteacher spends more than 20% of their time teaching;
- Develop the use of schools as a community resource;
- Improve additional learning needs provision in the catchment area.

1.5 Following the shortlisting of the possible options, a questionnaire was sent to members of the PAD for them to submit the comments of the relevant schools regarding the proposed options. In terms of the comments received, the responses favored options 10 and 3. The main issues identified by members of the PAD were; the need for any option to include improvements and to increase capacity of some school buildings in Bangor, that consideration should be given to any impact on the transport and traffic situation in Penrhosgarnedd, that consideration should be given to any language issues, appropriate arrangements made for the children of Coedmawr and Glanadda, and consideration be given to suitable development sites available in Bangor.

2. CURRENT SITUATION IN THE BANGOR CATCHMENT AREA

2.1 The Bangor catchment area includes 11 schools, 2 secondary schools (Ysgol Uwchradd Tryfan and Friars) and 9 primary schools (Ysgol Gynradd y Garnedd, Hiraël, Y Faenol, Llandygai, Cae Top, Glancegin, Babanod Coedmawr, Glanadda). The schools are situated within and around the City of Bangor. A new school was built for Ysgol Cae Top which was opened in September 2009 following an investment of £4million. It is should be noted that Ysgol Llandygai admits children from two catchment areas, namely Bangor and Bethesda.



2.2 The area has been prioritised for a review of the educational provision due to the provision facing several challenges including:

- **Capacity:** Two schools in the Penrhosgarnedd catchment area are substantially over capacity, namely Ysgol y Garnedd and Ysgol y Faenol. In September 2017, Ysgol y Faenol was 20 places above capacity, and Ysgol y Garnedd 95 above capacity.
- **Housing Development:** New housing developments in Bangor will place a greater pressure on the capacity of local schools to admit pupils. A developer has obtained planning permission to build 245 dwellings, and several houses have already been built. The firm is committed to contributing £1,115,387 towards adapting primary age educational provision in Bangor.
- **Surplus Places:** The two primary schools in the Coedmawr area, Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda, are federated (Ffederasiwn Bro Ddewi). There are a high number of surplus places in these schools compared to their capacity. Ysgol Coedmawr has 57% surplus places and Ysgol Glanadda has 42% surplus places. In contrast, all other primary schools in Bangor have no more than 10% surplus places and 5 out of the ten primary schools are full, with some of them where pupil numbers exceed capacity.

2.3 The cost per pupil in the majority of the catchment area's primary schools are slightly below the county average of £3,777, with Coedmawr (£6,525), Glanadda (£5,052) substantially higher. There is a range in cost per pupil between 2 primary schools in Bangor of £3,414, between Coedmawr (£6,525) and Ysgol y Garnedd (£3,111). Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr receives £32,520 of additional annual funding through "minimum staffing protection".

2.4 **Current Situation of Ysgol y Garnedd**

2.4.1. Ysgol y Garnedd is a community school which serves the city of Bangor and the neighbouring villages of Tal-y-bont and Llandygái. The school currently provides education for 305 pupils (reception - year 6, Figures September 2017) on a site that is designed for 210 pupils. During the latest Estyn inspection it was noted, "although rooms in the building are very confined for pupil numbers, the school makes good use of the site through careful organisation and the pupils' good discipline". Although the school copes well with the situation, it is now unsustainable.

2.4.2. In the independent survey of condition and suitability carried out by Faithful & Gould (at the request of the Welsh Government) in September 2016, the building's condition was identified as being in C- category, recognising a significant number of shortcomings. Parts of the building are made of wood, which makes it very difficult to maintain. It was also designed for a significantly lower number of children than those currently.

2.5 **Current Situation of Coedmawr and Glanadda schools**

2.5.1. Currently, neither Ysgol Coedmawr or Glanadda has a permanent headteacher due to recruitment problems. Consequently, an Interim Headteacher was appointed from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, on a non-contact basis. In addition, there are two Assistant Headteachers who manage the sites as well as teach. This has provided an expensive short-term solution, however a long-term solution is required.

2.5.2. During the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20, the school will face substantial financial difficulties which will mean that the current arrangement cannot continue without a major change to school staffing levels. There will need to be a consideration for temporary solutions for September 2018 at both schools. One option would be to move the pupils to a temporary site which would enable the schools and headteacher to take more effective action.

2.5.3. Pupil numbers attending Ysgol Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda are low compared to the remaining schools in Bangor. In September 2017, there were 28 pupils at Ysgol Coedmawr and 41 pupils at Ysgol Glanadda with a total of 69 (nursery- Y.6) on both school registers, whilst 224 pupils within the catchment area opted to attend other primary schools (Ysgol y Garnedd admit the largest number, 78 pupils, from the Coedmawr and Glanadda catchment area). In addition, the numbers for September 2017 were the lowest at both schools for 25 years. The reduction in numbers at Coedmawr since 1980 indicate that 68% fewer pupils attend the school, with 2% fewer attending Ysgol Coedmawr in the same period.

		Home Catchment						Other	Total
		Cae Top	Hirael	Babanod Coed Mawr + Glanadda	Y Faenol	Glancegin	Llandygai		
School	Y Garnedd	46	28	78	69	23	20	74	338
	Cae Top	90	13	59	18	7	3	49	239
	Hirael	13	102	20	5	37	2	17	196*
	Babanod Coed Mawr + Glanadda	5	2	50	4	2	2	4	69
	Y Faenol	12	1	34	111	3	3	55	219
	Ein Harglwyddes	8	20	43	11	12	1	28	123
	Llandygai	1	8	4	1	28	45	63	150*
	Glancegin	3	5	5	0	235	0	3	251
	Cyfanswm	178	179	293	219	347	78	293	1,585

* The data taken from the school SIMS on the day of the census may not exactly the schools' census form

3. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS – CHOOSING A MODEL

3.1.1. A long list of options was drawn up. Although the case for change has been established, the 'Status Quo' model is included for comparison:

Status Quo	Do nothing.
Model 1	Extend Y Faenol increasing the capacity from 186 to 270. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Establish a new school on 2 sites (infant and junior) with the infants at Coed Mawr (180) and juniors at the Garnedd site (240). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements made to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Model 2	Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda, Y Faenol and Garnedd. Establish a new school with a capacity of 690. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements made to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary

	provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Model 3	Extend Y Faenol increasing capacity from 186 to 315. New school for Garnedd increasing capacity from 210 to 420. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr and Glanadda. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Model 4	New build for Garnedd, capacity from 350 to 380. New school for Coed Mawr and Glanadda to include places for additional children from Pen y Ffridd (Goetre Uchaf). Extend Y Faenol to c.250 and address traffic problems. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Model 5	One lifelong learning school in Bangor (2,746 + 306). Close all existing primary and secondary schools.
Model 6	Combine Ysgol Tryfan and Ysgol Friars and establish a new Welsh medium school (1,347 + 306) building a new primary school on the current Tryfan site (420) and extending Ysgol Y Faenol (270). Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. New build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Model 7	Combine Ysgol Tryfan and Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen on a new site (700 + 150?). New primary school built on the current Tryfan site (420) and Ysgol Y Faenol (270) extended. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. New build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Model 8	Close Glanadda and Coed Mawr. Extend Ysgol Y Faenol (270). New build for Garnedd (380-420 children). New Building for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes (120) during the second phase (through Church in Wales funding). Establish community sports facilities shared by Garnedd, Friars, Cae Top (as at Parc Eirias). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings.
Model 9	Rebuild Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes on the current site (120). Provide an extension for Glanadda (90) to merge with Ysgol Coed Mawr. Rebuild Coed Mawr to accommodate the overflow from Faenol and Garnedd (240). Parc Cegin? (plenty of space). Re-introduce bus service for pupils. Ensure enough capacity for population growth. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings.
Model 10	Increase Y Faenol capacity (270). Garnedd to move to a new site and capacity increased (330). Modify the Glanadda site to accept Coed Mawr pupils (90). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Model 11	New build for Y Faenol (270). Garnedd to move to a new site and capacity increased (420). Close Coed Mawr and Glanadda. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to

	Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Model 12	Extend Y Faenol to increase the capacity from 186 to 360. New school for Garnedd increasing capacity from 210 to 330. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr and Glanadda with pupils sent to Ysgol Y Faenol. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.

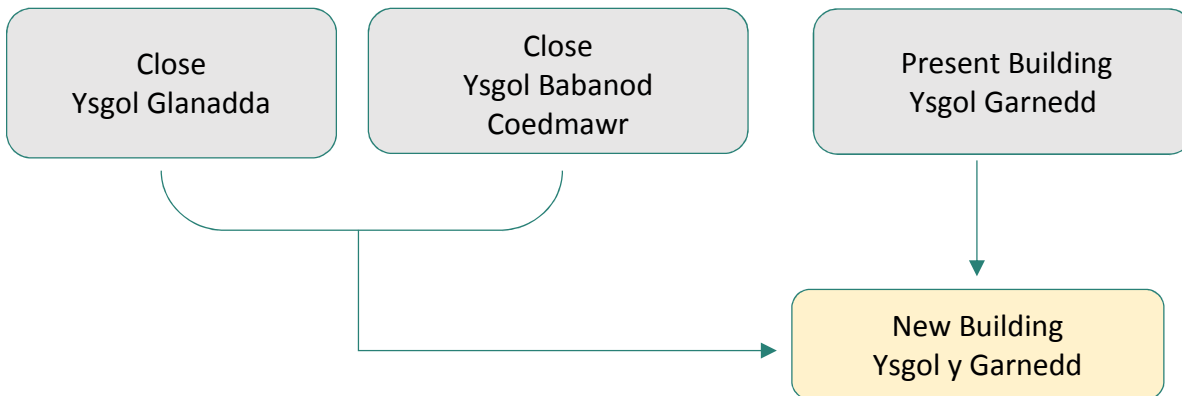
3.1.2. The various options were appraised and further comparison between the models are shown compared to the factors agreed during the initial PAD meeting. The full options appraisal can be seen in **Annexe 1**.

4. THE PROPOSED DIRECTION FOR THE CATCHMENT AREA

4.1 Following a full consideration of the possible options, the basis for the content for this statutory consultation is Model 3 namely:

Extend Y Faenol increasing capacity from 186 to 315. New school for Garnedd increasing capacity from 210 to 420. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr and Glanadda. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes

4.2 Favoured Option



4.3 As is the case in all similar situations, parents have the right to choose an alternate location for their children if they so wish. As there will be changes to the nearby Ysgol y Faenol at the same time as the development of the new building at the Garnedd site, they may decide to choose this school for the education of their children.

5. Relevant Considerations

5.1 Class sizes and age range within classes

5.1.1. Gwynedd Council is currently consulting on adopting new principles to provide a foundation for the future education system which will be fit for purpose. The proposed education system for primary schools has been assessed based on general principles, namely an environment for leadership that aims to offer 80% non-contact time for the headteacher, and attempts to ensure that schools have classes of no more than two age-groups. These objectives aim to address the largest challenge that the primary sector faces, that of headteachers with inadequate time for leadership, and teachers in small schools who are required to teach children of various ages and abilities within the same class.

5.1.2. Increasing the size of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420 would enable a structure which would include two classes for each age-group i.e. capacity and space for 60 pupils in every year group, between Reception and Year Six. It is envisaged that the extent of age ranges within classes which exist in some schools would disappear, reducing the challenges and problems of effective learning and teaching that may occur when there is a wide age range in a class.

5.2 Pupil numbers and surplus places

5.2.1. A substantial change has occurred in pupil numbers since 1980, with a reduction of 62% at Ysgol Coedmawr and 68% at Ysgol Glanadda. In comparison, numbers at Y Garnedd have increased by 55% during the same period. The table below indicates the number of primary pupils at Bangor since 1980.

Ysgol School	Niferoedd [Meithrin – Bl.6 (Oed 3-11)] Number [Nursery - Yr.6 (Age 3-11)]									1980- 2017	1980- 2017
	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2017	Twf / growth	% twf / growth
Glanadda	128	83	87	89	61	63	45	42	41	-87	-68%
Coed Mawr	73	67	48	90	54	49	57	40	28	-45	-62%
Y Garnedd	218	185	191	268	271	312	325	346	338	120	55%
Hirael	189	167	168	221	223	252	201	168	195	6	3%
Y Faenol	141	108	110	147	244	243	244	253	219	78	55%
Llandygai	128	128	135	150	176	169	181	143	149	21	16%
Cae Top	243	170	207	195	212	216	251	242	240	-3	-1%
Ein Harglwyddes	135	149	113	151	123	113	115	126	123	-12	-9%
Glancegin	309	235	326	328	264	226	207	229	251	-58	-19%
Ardal / Area	1564	1292	1385	1639	1628	1643	1626	1589	1584		

5.3 Learning environment – quality and suitability of buildings

- 5.3.1. The Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme states that the teaching environment is an important factor in the provision of education. Estyn also considers that school buildings of good quality and a good learning environment can improve pupils' achievement (Estyn Evaluation of the performance of schools before and after moving to new buildings or renovated properties, 2007).
- 5.3.2. In addition, new or refurbished buildings, leads to lower expenditure on building and energy maintenance.
- 5.3.3. Reference has already made in 2.4.2 above to the condition of Ysgol y Garnedd. Almost all elements of the structure now require work. Extensive parts of the structure are made of wood and its continued maintenance is difficult. The number of pupils in the school is greater than the school's official capacity, with a number of pupils being educated in an unsuitable space. The class sizes are too small.
- 5.3.4. Glanadda School is a Victorian stone building which is capable of being continually maintained. The windows, roof and kitchen require attention. Otherwise, it is in an acceptable condition. The school's layout is inflexible and the size of classrooms do not reach existing standards.
- 5.3.5. Coed Mawr School is in not as good condition and needs to be re-wired, the flat roofs require refurbishment, new windows and work to the kitchen. It is possible to continue to maintain it but it will not be of an appropriate standard of construction and will require ongoing investment. The school's layout is inflexible and the size of classrooms do not reach existing standards. The site is limited and can not be expanded.

5.4 Leadership and Staffing

- 5.4.1. Leadership at Y Garnedd has been recognised by Estyn (2012) as “excellent”, with the Headteacher and senior management team providing robust leadership. As previously noted in this report, the situation at Glanadda and Coedmawr schools has been one of the main considerations for change, with the fragile situation linked to a lack of robust leadership arrangements.
- 5.4.2. If the proposal was approved, there would be implications for staffing which could lead to uncertainty and redundancies for some staff at Glanadda and Coedmawr schools. Staff and union representatives will be included as part of any statutory consultation. Gwynedd Council have developed a detailed staffing policy jointly with the Trade Unions and headteachers. Clear and open communication will have a key role in implementing any proposals.
- 5.4.3. Gwynedd Council recognises the importance of strong leadership at a school as a means of maintaining and improving standards. The following steps have been implemented to ensure strong leadership in Gwynedd schools for the future:
- GwE train a senior manager from every secondary school to develop their personal leadership skills, and to develop their schools middle managers;
 - Successful schools share good practice and hold Leadership Development dates for the managers of other schools;
 - School to school plans ensure that school leaders collaborate and develop a leader's specialisation;

- Prospective leaders are encouraged to gain the NPQH qualification;
- Headteachers mentoring scheme;
- Catchment area Strategy Leader Pilot Scheme implemented to promote and develop strategic leadership in Gwynedd

5.5 Additional Learning Needs considerations:

The 21st Century Schools Funding Programme enables opportunities to provide better resources for ALN pupils in the area through ensuring an appropriate focus on:

- A Language Resources Centre for pupils who have specific language difficulties who would benefit from receiving intensive support for a short period. The objective of this provision is to try and achieve a long-term positive change in young people's language difficulties, and thus ensure their academic success.
- A Social Communication Centre for pupils who have social communication difficulties and a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Difficulty, who would benefit from receiving intensive support in the mainstream education system. This provision seeks to enable a long term positive change in young people's social communication skills, and thus ensure their academic, social and independent success.

5.6 Financial Resources

- 5.6.1. As noted earlier in the report, the expenditure per pupil varies greatly from school to school. Due to the currently difficult financial climate, it makes sense to use educational resources as effectively as possible.
- 5.6.2. In 2017/18, £5,231,881 was allocated to primary schools in the catchment area. The average cost per primary pupil in the catchment area is £3,527 per pupil, compared to the average cost per pupil in Gwynedd of £3,777.
- 5.6.3. In establishing the new building for Ysgol y Garnedd, and transferring pupils from Ysgol Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda to the Garnedd site, it is estimated that the scheme may lead to permanent revenue savings of around £107,519 compared to the current situation, with increasing annual revenue costs of £23,074 for the extension of Ysgol y Faenol.
- 5.6.4. There needs to be recognition that national NNDR calculation arrangements (buildings tax), leads to an increase following capital investment, but with the NNDR fund being disseminated back to authorities, it could be argued that this matter should not be considered when identifying revenue savings.
- 5.6.5. The Welsh Government have approved in principle to contribute 50% towards the £12.7 million which it is intended to invest in the catchment area and is conditional on completing a successful business case.

5.7 Geographical Factors

- 5.7.1. When moving to the new building, it is not envisaged that any pupil will be required to travel an unreasonable distance to reach an educational site, in accordance with the strategy. Ysgol Glanadda is situated 0.8 of a mile away from the current site of Ysgol Y Garnedd, with Ysgol Coedmawr situated 0.3 of a mile away. Transport would be provided in accordance with the

County's Schools Transport Policy, and no increase is envisaged in transport costs following the implementation of the preferred option.

5.8 Any development plan will need to prioritise the existing traffic situation at y Garnedd. The Penrhosgarnedd area suffers from a high volume of traffic at particular times of the day, and therefore the plan for the new development would need to remove school traffic from the main road in a convenient way.

5.9 Further Elements of the Educational Vision for Bangor

5.9.1. As already noted, the favoured option for the educational vision for Bangor contains several different elements. In addition to the consultation proposal and option to close Coedmawr and Glanadda schools, and increase capacity at Garnedd, work on the following elements will be ongoing.

- **Y Faenol:** As part of the favoured option, the need to increase the capacity at Ysgol y Faenol has been identified to address possible a increase in pupil numbers, stemming from factors such as housing developments at Penrhosgarnedd, and the school's current capacity. The next step in the process will be to conduct a pre-consultation with the trustees and/ or the appropriate religious body, in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013. A draft copy of a consultation document will be disseminated as part of this process. The School Organisation Code 2013 specifically notes:

*"In the case of proposals to re-organise schools for which land and/or buildings are held in trust, or which have a designated religious character, the proposer **must** conduct consultation with trustees and/or an appropriate religious body before the consultation document is published. The proposer **must** allow 28 days for the receipt of comments and **must** have due regards to thoes comments before any decision is made to proceed to general consultation."*

- **Ysgol Glancegin:** As part of Band A 21st Century Schools Programme, the Council secured £5.11m towards building a new school for 240 pupils (including 30 nursery places) at Maesgeirchen to replace the previous Ysgol Glancegin. When the original application was submitted, there were a substantial number of surplus places at the school, with a number of children attending other schools in the catchment area. If numbers continue to increase, perhaps some children in the catchment area will have to be refused admission. To resolve the situation, an assessment will need to be held to include an additional class for 30 pupils at the school. The original scheme for the new building enables flexibility to adapt some areas in case of future growth in pupil numbers in the catchment area.

Numbers September 2017									Projections 2018	Projections 2019	Projections 2020
N	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	N – Y6	N – Y6	N – Y6
39	28	39	30	37	24	32	23	252	265	263	269

- **Ysgol Hiracl:** Sections of the building are in poor condition, with the flat roof building at the rear of the building requiring attention. A further assessment will be made on the improvement options.

- **Ein Harglwyddes:** The state of this school's buildings has been identified during PAD discussions as an element requiring attention in the future. For Voluntary Aided Schools (VA), funding arrangements involve an intervention rate of up to 85% by Welsh Government and 15% by the appropriate Diocese. Further discussions will be held with the Diocese to obtain an understanding of the possibilities for improving the school's condition within strategic capital schemes.

6. IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED MODEL ON THE COMMUNITY, WELSH LANGUAGE, EQUALITY

6.11 The Community

6.11.4. Welsh Government Guidelines (*Schools Organisation Code 006/2013*) note that there is a need to hold a community impact as part of any school re-organization proposal. A community impact study has been completed for the short list of options agreed upon during the third PAD meeting. See the full report in **Annexe 2**.

6.11.5. The assessment noted, through the closure of Glanadda and Coedmawr sites, that certain elements of community events will be lost. However, other schools in the area such as Ysgol Y Garnedd already make similar use of the school building and consequently, similar community use can continue.

6.11.6. The assessment's conclusion notes that there is no reason why any of the options should have a negative impact on the community.

6.12 The Welsh Language

6.12.1. Any negotiations regarding re-organisation need to identify the Welsh Government's effort to reach the goal of a million Welsh speakers by 2050. The Welsh Government has specifically asked Gwynedd Council to work with them to extend the practice of the Welsh Language Charter across Wales. The Council has done so with the Charter and it is operational in Welsh and bilingual schools across Wales. In order to support the schools to implement the Language Charter, the Welsh Government has funded the posts of Language Charter Co-ordinators through the four regional education consortium.

6.12.2. The development of the Language Charter to be a national programme is a key part of a wider Framework that the Welsh Government has developed for Welsh, which will cover the Language Charter (Plan for bilingual Welsh medium schools), Welsh Campus (Scheme to promote Welsh in more English schools) and PCAI (Language Practices Support Package). It is anticipated that this Framework will take effect in September 2018.

6.12.3. The Welsh Government (School Organisation Code 006/2013) guidelines indicate that there is a need to carry out an impact assessment on the Welsh language as part of any proposal to reorganise schools. A Welsh language impact study was shortlisted for the options and agreed during the third PAD meeting. See the full report in **Appendix 2**.

6.12.4. The options to close Coedmawr and Glanadda Schools also include the development of a substantial extension to Ysgol y Garnedd. It is therefore expected that most pupils who attend these schools will attend Ysgol y Garnedd, subject to parental choice. The Language Policy is the same for all Gwynedd primary schools, therefore the provision for the pupils would be the same regardless of which school they would choose to attend.

6.12.5. In accordance with the Language Policy, the medium of curricular provision is expected to be the same across our primary schools. However, it is recognised, based on the children's linguistic background, that the tone and culture of the primary schools in Bangor (and across the county) varies. In response to this, the Siarter Iaith was developed by the Council - which is active in every primary school in Gwynedd- to encourage the social use by children of the Welsh language, to promote the Welsh tone of our schools and the awareness of the children of Welshness.

6.13 Equality Assessment

6.13.1. An equality assessment was held on the short list of possible models. The assessment gives due attention to different equality elements such as race, gender, disability, language, religion, or belief and age-group. The assessment notes the current situation and policies and arrangements in place which would ensure that the proposal considers and aligns with equality rights. The full report is included in **Annexe 2**.

6.13.2. The assessment notes that the favoured options are unlikely to have a negative impact on equality features, and it is expected that some of the features will have a positive impact. The principal objective of the scheme is to improve the educational provision in the catchment area, ensuring that children in the area receive a good education and equal opportunities in high quality and fit for purpose buildings, and also ensure the future viability of any improvements. There will be no change to the relevant school policies relating to equality matters.

6.13.3. The Council will follow its usual processes through supporting and monitoring, to ensure that every school complies with the equality features. Estyn also inspect the schools and assesses equality aspects in accordance with their usual guidelines.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 The 21st Century Schools Programme has provided opportunities for the Council to review educational provision in the City of Bangor following a successful application for Band A resources that may also lead to funding under Band B. The discussions held have identified the following issues to begin to realise the educational vision for the entire Bangor catchment area:

- Lack of capacity at Ysgol y Garnedd and Ysgol y Faenol, and the possibility that housing developments in the area will add to the pressure on demand for places at both schools which is already high.
- The condition of buildings at Ysgol y Garnedd also require improvement following their categorisation as C – by an independent quality report.
- The situation of surplus places at Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr (57%) and Ysgol Glanadda (42%) remains high compared to other schools in the County.
- There are 28 pupils at Ysgol Coedmawr and 41 pupils at Ysgol Glanadda, whilst 220 of pupils from the catchment area opt to attend other primary schools.
- A difficult situation persists regarding leadership at both schools which are in a federation agreement. The post of permanent Strategic Head remains vacant with a temporary appointment until September 2018.

- Cost per pupil for both schools, Coedmawr (£6,525) and Glanadda (£5,052) is considerably higher than the average per capita cost in the County (£3,777).
- When establishing a new building for Ysgol y Garnedd, and transferring pupils from Ysgol Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda to the Y Garnedd site, it is estimated that the scheme may lead to revenue savings of around £107,519 compared to the present.

8 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 If the Cabinet agrees with this report’s recommendations, a consultation period will have to be held in accordance with Schools Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code guidance (006/2013), on the intention to close Coedmawr and Glanadda schools, and offer a place in the new Garnedd building (subject to parental choice).
- 8.2 A further report will be presented to the Cabinet reporting on the results of this consultation.
- 8.3 The Cabinet will then be required to appraise the consultation, and subject to the Cabinet’s opinion, decide whether or not to issue a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal. If a Statutory Notice is issued, there will be a 28 day period to raise any objections. Following the objection period, a report will be presented to the Cabinet for a final decision. It must be borne in mind that, in certain situations, the Council’s final decision can be referred to the Minister for Education and Skills, Welsh Government in accordance with the School Organisation Code (006/2013).
- 8.4 Subject to the Cabinet’s decision, a separate process will commence to hold a prior consultation with the Church in Wales on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol y Faenol. in accordance with the requirements of the Schools Organisation Code 2013.
- 8.5 Subject to the Cabinet’s decisions, these are the next steps in the process with an outline time-table:

Steps on the Journey	Outline Time-table
Cabinet Report – Permission to Consult on the Favoured Option	13 March 2018
Statutory Consultation Period	April – May 2018
Cabinet Report following statutory consultation	June 2018
Issue Statutory Notice and an opportunity for objection by consultee	June - July 2018
Final decision by the Council’s Cabinet	September 2018

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is therefore recommended:
1. Hold a statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 48 Schools Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013, in the Bangor catchment area on the proposal to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer a place to the pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.
 2. Hold a pre-consultation with the Church in Wales related to increasing the capacity of Ysgol y Faenol to 315, in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and report on the results to the Cabinet.

VIEW OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

The Monitoring Officer:

“The contents of this report has been the subject of legal advice by the Legal Service. No further comments regarding propriety.”

Head of Finance:

“The proposals presented are evidence of thorough work by the Review Panel and others in attempting to move forward appropriately with reviewing the organisation of primary schools in the Bangor area.

I confirm that the financial figures which are part 2.3, 5.6.2, 5.6.3 and 7.1 of the report are either correct costs, or reasonable estimates (where appropriate).

These include an annual saving of the new Garnedd school development of £ 107,519 plus an annual additional cost of £ 23,074 for the maintenance of the Ysgol y Faenol building following an extension (as set out in clause 5.6.3 of the report).

I support these recommendations and encourage relevant members to continue with the wider project to review the organisation of schools without delay”

Appendix

Appendix 1	Options Appraisal
Appendix 2	Language, Community, Equality Impact Assessments

The background pack will include:

- Cabinet Report January 2017
- Schools Organisation Code (006/2013)
- Statistics Pack