

Appendix C

Impact Assessments Ysgol Baladeulyn

Assessment of the likely impact on the Quality and Standards of Education	1
Assessment of the likely impact on Travel Arrangements	18
Assessment of the likely impact on the Community	27
Language impact Assessment	44
Well-being and Future Generations Act impact assessment	62
Assessment of the impact on the people of Gwynedd	73

**ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON THE QUALITY
AND STANDARDS OF EDUCATION –
YSGOL BALADEULYN**

May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Ysgol Baladeulyn is a community school located in the village of Nantlle, about three miles from Penygroes, providing education for learners aged 3-11. There has been a decline in the number of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn over recent years. By January 2026, there were 6 learners from Reception to Year 6 and 2 nursery learners attending the school.

At its meeting on 11 February 2025, Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet gave permission to the Education Department *"Initiate formal discussions with the governing body and other relevant stakeholders of Ysgol Baladeulyn due to concerns about the school's numbers, to enable the formulation of a range of possible options relating to the school's future."*

In accordance with the decision of the Cabinet (11 February 2025), the Ysgol Baladeulyn School Review Panel (PAY) was established by inviting the Governing Body, parents and staff and the Local Member to join the panel and take part in the discussion. Three PAY meetings were held between March 2025 and July 2025 to discuss a range of options to try to respond to the main challenges facing the school.

In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 011/2018, which includes 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools', an assessment needs to be made on the likely impact on the quality and standards of education on any reasonable option that can resolve the main challenges the school is facing. For the purpose of the Code, Ysgol Baladeulyn is designated as a 'Rural School'.

Cyngor Gwynedd is committed to providing education of the best possible quality which will give the children of the County the experiences, skills and confidence to develop into bilingual, successful and complete citizens.

It remains a high priority to provide the best possible learning experiences - for all learners within the County, ensuring an exciting and broad curriculum, as well as extracurricular activities that stimulate them to learn and understand, which will lead to improving standards.

The consultation was held between 10 December and 28 January, and 30 responses to the consultation were received.

2. SUMMARY

Ysgol Baladeulyn was last inspected by Estyn in 2017 where it was concluded that the school's current performance was 'Good'.

Below is a summary of the last inspection of Ysgol Baladeulyn, the neighbouring schools, or schools that are subject to any of the options under consideration for the future of Ysgol Baladeulyn.

School	Year of the inspection	Standards	Well-being and attitudes to learning	Teaching and learning experiences	Care, support and guidance	Leadership and management
Baladeulyn	2017	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Nebo	2017	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Bro Llifon	2018	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Bro Lleu	2023	New inspection framework				
Talysarn	2025	New inspection framework				
Brynaerau	2025	New inspection framework				
Llanllyfni	2025	New inspection framework				

3. THE OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION

- *No change – continue with the current situation.*

Note that although the case for change has been established, the 'Do Nothing' option has been included in the assessment for comparison purposes.

- *Federation with a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)*

This option would ensure continuity in the school's presence in the village of Nantlle through a collaborative arrangement with a nearby school or schools, led by a head or heads and one governing body. The governing bodies of the individual schools would be dissolved, and a (new) federal governing body would be formed. The identity of the school in question (including name, ethos, and school uniform) would continue, and it would enable the possibility of sharing staff, resources, buildings, and expertise.

As Ysgol Talysarn is considered the nearby school to federate with, this option would mean establishing a formal collaboration arrangement between 3 schools as Ysgol Talysarn is already federated with Ysgol Brynaerau.

- *Federation with a nearby school and adding a specialist unit for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn*

This option would ensure continuity in the school's presence in the village of Nantlle through a collaborative arrangement with a nearby school or schools, led by a head or heads and one governing body. The governing bodies of the individual schools would be dissolved, and a (new) federal governing body would be formed. The identity of the school in question (including name, ethos, and school uniform) would continue, and it would enable the possibility of sharing staff, resources, buildings, and expertise.

As Ysgol Talysarn is considered the nearby school to federate with, this option would mean establishing a formal collaboration arrangement, between 3 schools, as Ysgol Talysarn is already federated with Ysgol Brynaerau.

In addition to federalisation, this option would also mean adding a location for an ALN unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn.

- *Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer the learners a place in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)*

This option would mean closing Ysgol Baladeulyn and offering a place to learners from the catchment area at Ysgol Talysarn.

- *Merge local schools to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn - Multi-site School*

This option would mean merging a number of local schools, by closing the schools and establishing one multi-site school which would include the Ysgol Baladeulyn site. The option would enable the possibility of sharing resources, buildings and expertise.

This option would ensure continuity in the presence of a school site in the village of Nantlle by establishing a multi-site school, led by a headteacher and one governing body.

- *Adding a specialised area for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn*

This option would mean continuing with Ysgol Baladeulyn adding a specific specialised area for children with additional learning needs on the school site.

- *Include a language unit on Ysgol Baladeulyn site*

This option would mean continuing with Ysgol Baladeulyn and adding a language unit on the school site. It would offer an immersion service in the Welsh language for children who require it before joining their chosen schools full-time.

Reasonable alternative options considered following the statutory consultation:

- *Re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a ‘hybrid’ mainstream and ALN primary school in order to provide specialist provision for the local area.*

This option would involve re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a ‘hybrid’ mainstream primary school that includes specialist education provision for children with Additional Learning Needs on the school site. This option would offer hybrid education, enabling primary learners in the local area to attend Ysgol Baladeulyn as a mainstream school and/or to access specialist ALN education provision.

4. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON EDUCATION STANDARDS AND QUALITY

We have used Estyn's latest inspections on the relevant schools as criteria for assessing the different options for the future of education for Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area.

OPTION 1: NO CHANGE - CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION

This option would mean no change and Ysgol Baladeulyn will continue as it is.

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	No change.	Neutral
Well-being and attitudes to learning	No change.	Neutral
Learning and teaching experiences	No change.	Neutral
Care, support and guidance	No change.	Neutral
Leadership and management	No change.	Neutral
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	No change.	Neutral
Provision that is at least equivalent to what is available to the learners at the time (including those with ALN)	No change.	Neutral

OPTION 2: FEDERATION WITH A NEARBY SCHOOL (YSGOL TALYSARN)

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	No negative impact is foreseen on these criteria through federating with Ysgol Talysarn. The result of the latest Estyn inspection for Ysgol Baladeulyn's indicators of standards was 'Good'. In addition, it was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report <i>“strong progress in the skills of almost all pupils, including those that are eligible for free school meals and those from low-income households”</i> . As a result, it is concluded that the effect on standards of the federation of Ysgol Talysarn with Ysgol Baladeulyn would be neutral.	Neutral
Well-being and attitudes to learning	The result of Ysgol Baladeulyn's latest Estyn inspection for the inspection area 'Well-being and attitudes to learning' was 'Good'. The most recent Estyn inspection report for Ysgol Talysarn noted <i>“the federation is a caring and familial community in which the wellbeing and progress of each pupil is at the heart of provision... As a result, pupils feel safe, valued and are stimulated to give of their best”</i> . Based on the findings of these inspections, and as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue as a separate entity under this option, it is concluded that a neutral effect is predicted on this area from the federating of Ysgol Baladeulyn with Ysgol Talysarn.	Neutral
Learning and teaching experiences	The result of the indicator 'Teaching and learning experiences' for Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good' in 2017. The main findings of the most recent Estyn inspection report for Ysgol Talysarn noted <i>“they provide a range of engaging and rich experiences that offer valuable opportunities for pupils to apply their skills, and deepen their knowledge and understanding across the areas of learning”</i> . As a result, it is predicted that the implementation of this option would have a neutral effect on learning and teaching experiences.	Neutral
Care, support and guidance	The result of the 'Care, support and guidance' indicator at Ysgol Baladeulyn in their last inspection in 2017 was 'Good'. The main findings of the most recent Estyn inspection report for Ysgol Talysarn noted <i>“The relationship of respect and kindness between staff and pupils is strong, which contributes to a safe and stimulating environment in which pupils are ready to learn”</i> . Based on the findings of these inspections, and as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue as a separate entity under this option, it is concluded that there is a predicted neutral effect on this area of federating with a neighbouring school.	Neutral
Leadership and management	It was noted in Ysgol Baladeulyn's most recent Estyn inspection report that leadership at the school was judged to be 'Good', while the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's most recent Estyn inspection report noted that <i>“The headteacher provides clear and inspiring leadership, and staff share and implement her vision effectively.”</i> In addition, a federated model with Ysgol Talysarn would offer opportunities to strengthen the leadership position of Ysgol Baladeulyn and provide an opportunity to share good practice between the two schools, as well as possibilities for making better use of resources. As a result, it is concluded that leadership and management would have a positive or at least neutral effect from implementing the federating option.	Positive/Neutral

<p>Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</p>	<p>Support is provided to vulnerable groups including children with additional learning needs in accordance with the Authority's policy, and the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs (Wales) Act 2018 in all schools in Gwynedd. As a result, it is predicted that the effect of this option on this criterion would be neutral.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p>Provision that is at least equivalent to what is available to the learners at the time (including those with ALN)</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the impact would be neutral as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue. In addition, the result of Estyn's inspection for Ysgol Baladeulyn's 'Standards' was 'Good', and it was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report "<i>strong progress in the skills of almost all pupils, including those that are eligible for free school meals and those from low-income households</i>". Based on this information, no impact on learners' standards is anticipated from implementing this option.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

OPTION 3: FEDERATION WITH A NEARBY SCHOOL AND ADDING A SPECIALIST UNIT FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS AT YSGOL BALADEULYN

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	No negative impact is foreseen on this criterion through federating with Ysgol Talysarn. The result of the latest Estyn inspection for Ysgol Baladeulyn's indicators of standards was 'Good'. In addition, it was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report <i>“strong progress in the skills of almost all pupils, including those that are eligible for free school meals and those from low-income households”</i> . As a result, it is concluded that the effect on standards of the federation of Ysgol Talysarn with Ysgol Baladeulyn would be neutral.	Neutral
Well-being and attitudes to learning	The most recent Estyn inspection report for Ysgol Baladeulyn judged Wellbeing to be 'Good'. The most recent Estyn inspection report for Ysgol Talysarn noted that <i>“the federation is a caring and familial community in which the wellbeing and progress of each pupil is at the heart of provision... As a result, pupils feel safe, valued and are stimulated to give of their best”</i> . Based on the findings of these inspections, it is concluded that there would be a neutral impact in this area by educating the learners at Ysgol Talysarn.	Neutral
Learning and teaching experiences	The result of the indicator 'Teaching and learning experiences' for Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good'. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report <i>“they provide a range of engaging and rich experiences that offer valuable opportunities for pupils to apply their skills, and deepen their knowledge and understanding across the areas of learning”</i> . As a result, it is predicted that the implementation of this option would have a neutral effect on learning and teaching experiences.	Neutral
Care, support and guidance	The result of the 'Care, support and guidance' indicator at Ysgol Baladeulyn in their last inspection in 2017 was 'Good'. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report <i>“The relationship of respect and kindness between staff and pupils is strong, which contributes to a safe and stimulating environment in which pupils are ready to learn”</i> . As a result, it is predicted that the implementation of this option would have a neutral effect on care, support and guidance.	Neutral
Leadership and management	It was noted in Ysgol Baladeulyn's last Estyn report that the leadership at the school was 'Good'. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn report <i>“The headteacher provides clear and inspiring leadership, and staff share and implement her vision effectively.”</i> In addition, the federated model with Ysgol Talysarn would offer opportunities to strengthen the leadership position at Ysgol Baladeulyn, as well as providing a chance to share good practice between the two schools and explore possibilities for making better use of resources. As a result, it is concluded that leadership and management would experience a positive, or at least neutral, impact from implementing the federated option.	Positive/ Neutral
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	Support is provided to vulnerable groups including children with additional learning needs in accordance with the Authority's policy, and the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs Act (Wales) 2018 in all schools in Gwynedd. It is anticipated that this option would have a	Positive

	positive effect on this criterion as it would extend ALN provision in the local area.	
Provision that is at least equivalent to what is available to the learners at the time (including those with ALN)	It is anticipated that the impact would be neutral as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue. In addition, the result of Estyn's inspection for Ysgol Baladeulyn's 'Standards' was 'Good', and it was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report " <i>strong progress in the skills of almost all pupils, including those that are eligible for free school meals and those from low-income households</i> ". Based on this information, no impact on learners' standards is anticipated from implementing this option. In addition, it is anticipated that this option would have a positive effect on this criterion as it would extend ALN provision in the local area.	Positive/ Neutral

OPTION 4: CLOSE YSGOL BALADEULYN AND OFFER THE LEARNERS A PLACE IN A NEARBY SCHOOL (YSGOL TALYSARN)

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	The result of the latest Estyn inspection for the Ysgol Baladeulyn standards indicators was 'Good', and it was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report <i>“strong progress in the skills of almost all pupils, including those that are eligible for free school meals and those from low-income households”</i> . During the statutory consultation, several comments were raised regarding learners' experiences and the quality of education at Ysgol Baladeulyn. It was emphasised that the school provides high quality educational provision through the medium of Welsh in a safe, nurturing and supportive environment, where learners are happy, thrive, and receive individualised attention tailored to their needs. When assessing the likely impact, the relevant inspection evidence for both schools is considered, and it is not anticipated that standards or learner progress would deteriorate as a result of being taught at Ysgol Talysarn. Based on this, it is concluded that there would be a neutral effect on this criterion by teaching the learners at Ysgol Talysarn.	Neutral
Well-being and attitudes to learning	The result of the latest Estyn inspection for Wellbeing at Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good'. Ysgol Talysarn's last Estyn inspection report stated <i>“the federation is a caring and familial community in which the wellbeing and progress of each pupil is at the heart of provision... As a result, pupils feel safe, valued and are stimulated to give of their best”</i> . Concerns were expressed during the consultation about the potential negative impact of a change of school on the wellbeing, confidence and the attitude towards learning of some learners, particularly those who are naturally shy or lack confidence. The Council acknowledges that a school transition is a sensitive period, but it is anticipated that carefully planned transition arrangements, with appropriate support, can mitigate potential negative impacts on wellbeing and learning. Based on the findings of these inspections, it is concluded that there would be a neutral impact on this area by teaching the learners at Ysgol Talysarn.	Neutral
Learning and teaching experiences	The result of the 'Learning experiences' indicator for Ysgol Baladeulyn's last inspection in 2017 was 'Good'. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report <i>“they provide a range of engaging and rich experiences that offer valuable opportunities for pupils to apply their skills, and deepen their knowledge and understanding across the areas of learning”</i> . During the statutory consultation, the benefits of a small school were emphasised, including the close relationships between staff and learners and equal opportunities for every child to participate in all aspects of school life. Also, the ability to develop confidence, responsibility and life skills through practical roles and responsibilities were noted. Although the Council notes these viewpoints, it is also noted that larger schools can offer a wider range of learning experiences, access to resources and staff expertise, and opportunities to learn in larger groups and with age-related peers, which supports the assessment of a positive impact on this area should the proposal be implemented.	Positive
Care, support and guidance	The result of the 'Care, support and guidance' indicator at Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good'. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report <i>“The relationship of respect and kindness between staff and pupils is strong, which contributes to a safe and stimulating environment in</i>	Neutral

	<i>which pupils are ready to learn</i> ". As a result, it is considered that the option would have a neutral effect on this area.	
Leadership and management	It was noted in the last Estyn report that the leadership and management of Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good'. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn report <i>"The headteacher provides clear and inspiring leadership, and staff share and implement her vision effectively."</i> It is noted that, as a result of Ysgol Baladeulyn's staffing structure, the headteacher is required to teach for the majority of their time. The staffing structure at Ysgol Talysarn, however, enables the headteacher to have non-contact time within the timetable. As a result, it is concluded that leadership and management would experience a positive, or at least neutral, impact from implementing this option.	Positive/ Neutral
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	During the statutory consultation, concerns were raised about the potential negative impact of the proposal on certain groups of learners, particularly those with significant additional learning needs, who may find the transition to a new, larger and unfamiliar school challenging. Questions were also raised about whether existing support — such as a dedicated assistant or the number of support hours allocated to an ALN learner — would transfer with the learner to the alternative school in order to mitigate the impact of moving to a new setting. It was noted that some parents had chosen Ysgol Baladeulyn specifically because of the care, the learning environment, and the personalised support their children receive in a smaller school. The Council acknowledges these concerns. As outlined in the Gwynedd Parents' Handbook 2025/26, learners with ALN have the right to continue receiving the support specified in their Individual Development Plan, and the Authority has a duty to ensure that this provision continues even when school arrangements change. Should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, the Authority and the receiving school would work closely with the closing school, with learners and their families, to ensure a smooth transition and to support learners as they settle into their new schools. The Council is committed to ensuring that any transition arrangements prioritise individual needs, including those of vulnerable learners and learners with additional learning needs, should the school close. Support is provided to vulnerable groups including children with additional learning needs in accordance with the Authority's policy, and the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs (Wales) Act 2018 in all schools in Gwynedd. When planning staffing (e.g., the role of the ALNCO) and the provision map, the demand on schools is challenging, and this becomes more apparent when considering the demand on smaller schools. In larger schools, the conditions for the additional needs coordinator are better, and meeting the statutory requirement is therefore easier. In addition, responding to learner needs is also easier in larger schools since they may be able to run an intervention group to target specific needs. The provision map is broader in larger schools to meet the demand. As a result, the impact of this option on this criterion is expected to be positive.	Positive
Provision that is at least equivalent to what is available to the learners at the time (including those with ALN)	The result of the Estyn inspection for Ysgol Baladeulyn's 'Standards' was 'Good', and it was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Talysarn's latest Estyn inspection report <i>"strong progress in the skills of almost all pupils, including those that are eligible for free school meals and those from low-income households"</i> . Based on the information from these inspections, no impact on learners' standards is anticipated from teaching learners from the catchment area of Ysgol Baladeulyn at Ysgol Talysarn. As a result, it is anticipated that the provision in the alternative school would correspond to what is currently available to learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn, at the very least.	Neutral

OPTION 5: MERGE LOCAL SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN YSGOL BALADEULYN – MULTI-SITE SCHOOL

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	<p>The latest Estyn inspection result for the standards indicators at Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good', while the latest Estyn inspection result for other nearby primary schools (primary schools in the Dyffryn Nantlle catchment) were also 'Good' or with strong findings. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Llanllyfni's latest Estyn inspection report <i>"good progress in developing knowledge, understanding and skills that are appropriate to their ages and development stage"</i>. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Brynaerau and Ysgol Talysarn's (Talaerau Federation) inspection report that teachers <i>"provides purposeful opportunities for almost all to apply their literacy, numeracy and digital skills in meaningful ways"</i>. Ysgol Bro Lleu's main findings noted that <i>"most pupils speak confidently, listen well to each other and adults and respond enthusiastically to their work"</i>. Based on this, it is concluded that there would be a neutral impact on this criterion. The multi-site school option could offer a more effective context for leaders and, consequently, provide an opportunity to improve provision in relation to these criteria. Opportunities are anticipated to share good practices between the school sites and possibilities to make better use of resources.</p>	Neutral/ Positive
Well-being and attitudes to learning	<p>The result of the latest Estyn inspection for the well-being indicators and attitudes towards learning at Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good', while the result of the latest Estyn inspection for the neighbouring schools (Dyffryn Nantlle catchment) were also 'Good' or with strong findings. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Llanllyfni's inspection report that <i>"The school is an inclusive learning community that fosters the values of Welshness, courtesy and respect"</i>, and the main findings of Ysgol Brynaerau and Ysgol Talysarn's (Talaerau Federation) inspection report noted their <i>"warm and caring community in which pupils' wellbeing and progress is at the core of its ethos"</i>. Ysgol Bro Lleu's main findings were noted <i>"Across the school, most pupils develop into ambitious learners and show maturity in the way they overcome challenges and develop resilience"</i>. Based on this, it is concluded that there would be a neutral impact on this criterion since the Estyn assessment is consistent for most of the schools. The multi-site school option could provide a more effective context for leaders and thereby offer an opportunity to improve provision in relation to this criterion. Opportunities are foreseen to share good practices between the school's sites and possibilities to make better use of resources.</p>	Neutral/ Positive
Learning and teaching experiences	<p>The result of the latest Estyn inspection for the teaching and learning profile indicators at Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good', while the result of the latest Estyn survey for nearby schools (Dyffryn Nantlle catchment) were also 'Good' or with strong findings. It is noted in the main findings of Ysgol Llanllyfni's inspection report that <i>"Effective co-operation between staff leads to planning stimulating learning and play experiences... In general, teachers offer regular opportunities for pupils to work independently and work together"</i> and the main findings of Ysgol Brynaerau and Ysgol Talysarn's (Talaerau Federation) inspection report noted <i>"through well-organised joint planning, they provide a range of engaging and rich experiences"</i>. Ysgol Bro Lleu's main findings were noted <i>"provides a rich curriculum that reflects its local nature and context. Teachers gather ideas</i></p>	Neutral/ Positive

	<p><i>from pupils, parents and the local community in creating a relevant curriculum for pupils".</i> Based on this, it is concluded that there would be a neutral impact on this criterion since the Estyn assessment is consistent for most of the schools. The multi-site school option could provide a more effective context for leaders and, thereby, offer opportunities to improve provision in relation to these criteria. Opportunities are anticipated to share good practices between school sites and possibilities to make better use of resources.</p>	
Care, support and guidance	<p>The result of the latest Estyn inspection for leadership and care support indicators at Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good', while the result of the latest Estyn inspection for neighbouring schools (Dyffryn Nantlle catchment) were also 'Good' or with strong findings. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Llanllyfni's inspection report that <i>"Staff are committed to maintaining high standards of care and wellbeing in a homely and supportive learning environment"</i>, with Ysgol Brynaerau and Ysgol Talysarn's (Talaerau Federation) inspection report noting that <i>"The relationship of respect and kindness between staff and pupils is strong, which contributes to a safe and stimulating environment in which pupils are ready to learn"</i>. The main findings of Ysgol Bro Lleu were noted <i>"The school is an inclusive and homely community. Staff promote the importance of good behaviour, courtesy and respect successfully"</i>. Based on this, it is concluded that there would be a neutral impact on this criterion as the Estyn assessment is consistent for most of the schools. The multi-level school option could provide a more effective context for leaders and thereby offer the opportunity to improve provision regarding these criteria. Opportunities are forecast to share good practices between the school levels and possibilities to make better use of resources.</p>	Neutral/ Positive
Leadership and management	<p>The result of the latest Estyn inspection for leadership and management indicators at Ysgol Baladeulyn was 'Good', while the result of the latest Estyn inspection for neighbouring schools (Dyffryn Nantlle catchment) were also 'Good' or with strong findings. It was noted in the main findings of Ysgol Llanllyfni's inspection report that <i>"The headteacher provides clear and wise leadership, appreciating everyone's contribution to providing a complete education for pupils... Self-evaluation and quality assurance arrangements are thorough"</i>, with Ysgol Brynaerau and Ysgol Talysarn's (Talaerau Federation) inspection report noting that <i>"The headteacher provides clear and inspiring leadership, and staff share and implement her vision effectively"</i>. Ysgol Bro Lleu's main findings were noted <i>"The headteacher's strong, intelligent and effective leadership sets a clear strategic direction for the school"</i>. Based on this, it is concluded that there would be a neutral impact on this criterion since the Estyn assessment is consistent for most of the schools. The multi-site school option could offer a more effective context for leaders and, in doing so, provide an opportunity to improve provision in relation to these criteria. Opportunities are anticipated to share good practices between the school sites and possibilities to make better use of resources.</p>	Neutral/ Positive
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	<p>Support is provided to vulnerable groups including children with additional learning needs in accordance with the Authority's policy, and the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs (Wales) Act 2018 as in all schools in Gwynedd. Opportunities are anticipated to share good practices between the school sites and possibilities to make better use of resources.</p>	Neutral/ Positive
Provision that is at least equivalent to what is available	<p>The result of the Estyn inspection for Ysgol Baladeulyn's 'Standards' was 'Good', and the result of the inspections of the nearby schools in the Dyffryn Nantlle Catchment Area also corresponded to Ysgol Baladeulyn's</p>	Neutral/ Positive

to the learners at the time (including those with ALN)	standards. Based on the information from these surveys, no impact on learners' standards is anticipated from the implementation of this option. The multi-site school model could offer a more effective context for leaders, thereby offering an opportunity to improve provision in relation to this criterion. Opportunities are foreseen to share good practices between the school's sites and possibilities of making better use of resources.	
--	--	--

OPTION 6: ADDING A SPECIALISED AREA FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS AT YSGOL BALADEULYN

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	As the additional learning needs unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Well-being and attitudes to learning	As the additional learning needs unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Learning and teaching experiences	As the additional learning needs unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Care, support and guidance	As the additional learning needs unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Leadership and management	As the additional learning needs unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	As the additional learning needs unit would operate independent from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral. However, although it is not anticipated that the ALN unit would affect the school, it is anticipated that the new resource could have a positive impact on the provision available to learners with ALN in the area.	Positive
Provision that is at least equivalent to what is available to the learners at the time (including those with ALN)	As the additional learning needs unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral. However, although it is not anticipated that the ALN unit would affect the school, it is anticipated that the new resource could have a positive impact on the provision available for ALN learners in the area.	Positive

OPTION 7: INCLUDE A LANGUAGE UNIT ON YSGOL BALADEULYN SITE

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	As the language unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Well-being and attitudes to learning	As the language unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Learning and teaching experiences	As the language unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Care, support and guidance	As the language unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Leadership and management	As the language unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	As the language unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral
Provision that is at least equivalent to what is available to the learners at the time (including those with ALN)	As the language unit would operate independently from Ysgol Baladeulyn, no change is foreseen to the current operation of Ysgol Baladeulyn from the implementation of this option. As a result, it is predicted that the impact on this criterion would be Neutral.	Neutral

OPTION 8: RE-CATEGORISING YSGOL BALADEULYN AS A 'HYBRID' MAINSTREAM AND ALN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SPECIALISTS PROVISION FOR THE LOCAL AREA.

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	As the Additional Learning Needs provision would operate in a hybrid format alongside mainstream provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn, no changes to the school's current mainstream operation are anticipated as a result of implementing this option. Consequently, the impact on this criterion is expected to be neutral.	Neutral
Well-being and attitudes to learning	As the Additional Learning Needs provision would operate in a hybrid format alongside mainstream provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn, no changes to the school's current mainstream operation are anticipated as a result of implementing this option. Consequently, the impact on this criterion is expected to be neutral.	Neutral
Learning and teaching experiences	As the Additional Learning Needs provision would operate in a hybrid format alongside mainstream provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn, no changes to the school's current mainstream operation are anticipated as a result of implementing this option. Consequently, the impact on this criterion is expected to be neutral.	Neutral
Care, support and guidance	As the Additional Learning Needs provision would operate in a hybrid format alongside mainstream provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn, no changes to the school's current mainstream operation are anticipated as a result of implementing this option. Consequently, the impact on this criterion is expected to be neutral.	Neutral
Leadership and management	As the Additional Learning Needs provision would operate in a hybrid format alongside mainstream provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn, no changes to the school's current mainstream operation are anticipated as a result of implementing this option. Consequently, the impact on this criterion is expected to be neutral.	Neutral
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	Given that additional learning needs provision would operate in a hybrid form alongside mainstream provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn, no changes are anticipated to the school's current operation as a result of implementing this option. However, although the specialist provision is not expected to affect the school's mainstream provision, it is anticipated that access to specialist provision could have a positive impact on the support available to learners with ALN in the area.	Positive
Provision that is at least equivalent to what is available to the learners at the time (including those with ALN)	Given that additional learning needs provision would operate in a hybrid form alongside mainstream provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn, no changes are anticipated to the school's current operation as a result of implementing this option. However, although the specialist provision is not expected to affect the school's mainstream provision, it is anticipated that access to specialist provision could have a positive impact on the support available to learners with ALN in the area.	Positive

4. CONCLUSION

The latest assessment of the likely impact on the quality and standards of education has considered the comments raised during the statutory consultation, together with an assessment of the full range of reasonable alternative options, including the additional options proposed by consultees. The Council acknowledges the comments expressed regarding the strengths of Ysgol Baladeulyn's current provision, including the benefits of small class sizes and the support provided to vulnerable learners or those with additional learning needs.

When considering reasonable alternative options such as re-categorising the school as a 'hybrid' mainstream and ALN school, establishing federated arrangements, or adding specialist units on the school site, the assessment indicates that these could have a neutral or partially positive impact on the quality and standards of education in specific contexts.

Based on a comparison of Estyn inspection findings and the evidence presented through the assessment, it is concluded that the educational provision offered at Ysgol Talysarn is at least equivalent to the standard of education currently provided at Ysgol Baladeulyn. In addition, it is noted that the learner numbers at the alternative school, Ysgol Talysarn, enable broader opportunities to teach learners in age-appropriate groups, alongside age-appropriate peers, thereby expanding learning experiences and offering potential benefits to teaching and learning.

As a result, the assessment indicates that the likely impact on the quality and standards of education from implementing the proposed closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn and providing education for learners at Ysgol Talysarn would be neutral or partially positive.

**ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON TRAVEL
ARRANGEMENTS –
YSGOL BALADEULYN**

May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ysgol Baladeulyn is a community school located in the village of Nantlle, about three miles from Penygroes, providing education for learners aged 3-11. There has been a decline in the number of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn over recent years. By January 2026, there were 6 learners from Reception to Year 6 and 2 nursery learners attending the school.

At their meeting on 11 February 2025, the Cabinet supported a recommendation to begin formal discussions with stakeholders of Ysgol Baladeulyn to consider options for the future. Between March and July 2025, three local meetings were held with the stakeholders of Ysgol Baladeulyn where a number of options were proposed and discussed.

On 14 October 2025, the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet decided to undertake a statutory consultation process on a proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026, and to provide a place for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027 onwards, in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The consultation was held between 10 December and 28 January, and 30 responses to the consultation were received.

1.2 Cyngor Gwynedd Travel Policy

The '*Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd*' Strategy aims to limit travel from home to school to a one-way journey that is no longer than 30 minutes.

Cyngor Gwynedd provides free transport for learners who live two or more miles from the school in their catchment area, or the nearest school (not including nursery learners). Learners who receive primary education are expected (with the exception of learners with additional learning needs or disabilities), to walk up to two miles to meet any modes of transport provided by Cyngor Gwynedd. The transport policy can be seen in the parents' handbook: [Information for parents](#)

2. ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF ALL OPTIONS ON TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 The potential impact of each option on travel arrangements is set out below:

- *No change - continue with the current situation*

This option would mean no change to the existing provision in the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area.

This option would not have any impact on current travel arrangements, as the learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn. No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.

- Federation with a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)

This option would ensure continuity in the school's presence in the village of Nantlle through a collaborative arrangement with a nearby school or schools, led by a head or heads and one governing body. The governing bodies of the individual schools would be dissolved, and a (new) federal governing body would be formed. The identity of the school in question (including name, ethos, and school uniform) would continue, and it would enable the possibility of sharing staff, resources, buildings, and expertise.

As Ysgol Talysarn is considered the nearby school to federalise with, this option would mean establishing a formal collaboration arrangement, between 3 schools, as Ysgol Talysarn is already federated with Ysgol Brynaerau.

This option would not have any impact on the current travel arrangements of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners, as the learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn, and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way. No learner in the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.

- Federation with a nearby school and adding a specialist unit for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn

This option would ensure continuity in the school's presence in the village of Nantlle through a collaborative arrangement with a nearby school or schools, led by a head or heads and one governing body. The governing bodies of the individual schools would be dissolved, and a (new) federal governing body would be formed. The identity of the school in question (including name, ethos, and school uniform) would continue, and it would enable the possibility of sharing staff, resources, buildings, and expertise.

As Ysgol Talysarn is considered the nearby school to federalise with, this option would mean establishing a formal collaboration arrangement, between 3 schools, as Ysgol Talysarn is already federated with Ysgol Brynaerau.

In addition to federalisation, this option would also mean adding a location for an ALN unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn.

This option would not have any impact on the current travel arrangements of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners, as the learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn, and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way. No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school. The authority would need to provide transport for the ALN unit learners.

- Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer the learners a place in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)

This option would mean closing Ysgol Baladeulyn and offering a place to learners from the catchment area at Ysgol Talysarn.

This option would have an impact on the travel arrangements for learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn, as the learners would be taught at Ysgol Talysarn. As Ysgol Talysarn is 2.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn, the authority would need to provide transport for learners in the existing Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area who would attend Ysgol Talysarn and live more than 2 miles from the school, in accordance with the Authority's Transport Policy. No learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school, nor walk or cycle along dangerous routes.

- Merge local schools to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn – Multi-site school

This option would mean merging a number of local schools, by closing the schools and establishing one multi-site school which would include the Ysgol Baladeulyn site. The option would enable the possibility of sharing resources, buildings and expertise.

This option would ensure continuity in the presence of a school site in the village of Nantlle by establishing a multi-site school, led by a headteacher and one governing body.

This option would not have an impact on the current travel arrangements of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners, as the learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn. The learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn, and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way. No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school. Depending on the structure of the new school, there is a possibility that it will be necessary to organise transport between schools.

- Adding a specialised area for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn

This option would mean continuing with Ysgol Baladeulyn adding a specific specialised area for children with additional learning needs on the school site.

This option would not have any impact on the current travel arrangements of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners, as the learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way. The authority would need to provide transport for the ALN unit learners. No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.

- Include a language unit on Ysgol Baladeulyn site

This option would mean continuing with Ysgol Baladeulyn and adding a language unit on the school site. It would offer an immersion service in the Welsh language for children who require it before joining their chosen schools full-time.

This option would not have any impact on the current travel arrangements of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners, as the learners would continue to be taught at Ysgol Baladeulyn, and the learners' travel

arrangements would continue in the same way. No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school. The authority would need to provide transport for the learners of the language unit.

Reasonable alternative options considered following the statutory consultation:

- Re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a 'hybrid' mainstream and ALN primary school in order to provide specialist provision for the local area

This option would have no impact on the current travel arrangements of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners, as the existing learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn and their travel arrangements would remain the same. No learner from the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school. Depending on the nature of the hybrid ALN provision, the authority may need to consider transport arrangements for learners attending the provision from other catchment areas, in accordance with Gwynedd Council's transport policy.

2.2 Free transport options

In line with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy, learners who receive primary education (with the exception of learners with additional learning needs or disabilities), are expected to walk up to two miles to meet any modes of transport provided by Cyngor Gwynedd along the shortest route.

The shortest route available is the route that the Council does not deem to be particularly dangerous, after assessing the other routes available, and these routes would be assessed in line with Cyngor Gwynedd transport policy.

It is noted that several school buses operate in the area. None of the primary school buses running between Baladeulyn and Talysarn are able to take advantage of one of these.

2.3. Summary of potential impact on travel arrangements

The following is a summary of the impact of the options under consideration on travel arrangements:

Options	The potential impact on travel arrangements for learners	The potential annual financial impact on travel arrangements for the Authority
No change - Continue with the current situation	Neutral – No change No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.	£0
Federation with a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)	Neutral The learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way.	£0

	No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.	
Federation with a nearby school and adding a specialist unit for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn	<p>Neutral</p> <p>The learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way.</p> <p>No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.</p> <p>The authority would need to provide transport for the ALN unit learners.</p>	<p>£0</p> <p>The authority would need to provide transport for learners of the ALN unit.</p>
Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer the learners a place in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)	<p>Negative</p> <p>Ysgol Talysarn is located 2.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn. The authority would need to provide transport for learners in the current catchment area of Ysgol Baladeulyn who attend Ysgol Talysarn and live more than 2 miles from the school, in accordance with the Authority's Transport Policy.</p> <p>Having considered current numbers (January 2026), it is anticipated that an 8-seater bus would need to be organised to transport learners from the catchment area of Ysgol Baladeulyn (they would be eligible for transport in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd transport policy) to Ysgol Talysarn. It is anticipated that this would be at a cost of up to £17,000 per year.</p> <p>If there was an increase in the numbers of learners in the catchment area in the future, then it may mean that it would be necessary to provide a school bus in order to transport the learning of the current catchment area of Ysgol Baladeulyn which would be eligible for transport (in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd transport policy). It is anticipated that this would be at a cost of up to £30,000 per year.</p> <p>Some learners will travel further to school than they would at the moment.</p> <p>No learner from the Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school, nor be expected to walk or cycle along unsafe routes.</p> <p>Specific concerns were raised during the consultation regarding the suitability of walking and cycling routes between the two villages, referring to narrow roads, fast-moving traffic, a lack of pavements, flooding issues and insufficient active-travel infrastructure. It was expressed that these routes are neither suitable nor safe for primary-aged children, and therefore walking or cycling to an alternative school is not an option. It was noted that some learners would lose their current ability to walk or cycle safely to school, reducing independence and confidence as well as resulting in longer daily journeys. The Council acknowledges the concerns raised</p>	<p>£17,000 - £30,000</p>

regarding the suitability and safety of walking routes and the road between Nantlle and Talysarn. In accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd's Transport Policy, as set out in the Parents' Handbook, assessments of walking routes are based on the shortest route which, following assessment, is not considered to be particularly dangerous. Where a route is deemed unacceptable from a safety perspective, or where it is not reasonable to expect a primary-aged child to walk the route safely, the Council provides school transport in line with the policy. In this case, the Travel Impact Assessment identifies the issues raised regarding walking suitability, and is based on the fact that school transport would be provided for those learners who are eligible under Cyngor Gwynedd Transport Policy as set out in the Parents' Handbook. As a result, it is not anticipated that any learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment would be required to travel an unreasonable distance or walk along unsafe routes to school if the proposal were implemented.

Practical and financial concerns were also expressed regarding transport for 3- and 4-year-olds who are not yet in statutory education. The Council acknowledges these concerns and the call for clarity regarding transport for 3- and 4-year-olds who are not yet of statutory school age. If the proposal were implemented, school transport arrangements would be made in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd School Transport Policy, which provides free school transport for eligible learners up to primary age, primarily on the basis of distance (more than 2 miles from the relevant school) or where the walking route is assessed as unsafe. Nursery-aged learners are not eligible under the policy. The Council recognises the importance of reliable transport for families. However, school transport is not normally provided to facilitate access to additional services, and such arrangements are considered in line with the transport policy and relevant statutory criteria.

Specific concerns were also highlighted regarding the lack of suitable public transport, unreliable timetables and lower levels of car ownership. It was noted that this presents a significant challenge for families who do not drive, low-income households, single parents and families where disabilities or limited mobility are factors, making daily travel to a school further away very difficult in practice. The Council acknowledges these concerns and notes that, if the proposal were implemented, the current Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment would be included within the revised Ysgol Talysarn catchment. Given that Ysgol Talysarn is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn, learners from the current Baladeulyn catchment who are eligible under the policy would be offered school transport arranged by the Council. While it is recognised that some learners would travel further than at present, it is not anticipated that any learner from the Baladeulyn catchment would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school. Transport arrangements

	would be planned to minimise any potential negative impact on learners and families.	
Merge local schools to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn – Multi-site school	<p>Neutral</p> <p>The learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way.</p> <p>No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.</p> <p>Depending on the structure of the new school, there is a possibility that it would be necessary to organise transport between schools.</p>	£0
Adding a specialised area for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn	<p>Neutral</p> <p>The learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way.</p> <p>No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.</p> <p>The authority would need to provide transport for the ALN unit learners.</p>	<p>£0</p> <p>The authority would need to provide transport for learners of the ALN unit.</p>
Include a Language Unit on Ysgol Baladeulyn site	<p>Neutral</p> <p>The learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way.</p> <p>No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.</p> <p>The authority would need to provide transport for the learners of the language unit.</p>	<p>£0</p> <p>The authority would need to provide transport for learners of the ALN unit.</p>

2.4. Reasonable alternative options considered following the consultation:

Re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a 'hybrid' mainstream and ALN primary school in order to provide specialist provision for the local area	<p>Neutral</p> <p>The mainstream learners would continue to be educated at Ysgol Baladeulyn and the learners' travel arrangements would continue in the same way.</p> <p>No learner in the Baladeulyn catchment area would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school.</p>	<p>£0 for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area.</p> <p>Costs could arise if transport were to be provided for learners from other catchment areas attending the specialist provision.</p>
--	---	--

	Depending on the nature of the hybrid ALN provision, the authority may need to consider transport arrangements for learners attending the provision from other catchment areas, in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd transport policy.	
--	---	--

3. CONCLUSION

When considering all the options under consideration, the impact assessment concludes that the majority of the options assessed are not likely to have a negative impact on the current travel arrangements of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners, as the educational provision would continue on the school site and no learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school.

No negative impact on the travel arrangements of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners is anticipated to result from implementing any of the options listed above (Section 2), with the exception of the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners at Ysgol Talysarn.

However, it is clearly acknowledged, as noted in the consultation responses, that the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners at Ysgol Talysarn is different in nature, as it would lead to changes in travel arrangements. In particular, consultees expressed concerns regarding the safety and suitability of walking routes and roads for primary-age children, the provision of transport for children aged 3 and 4, assurances of transport for all current learners of the school, and the impact on families in a rural area. If the option of closing Ysgol Baladeulyn and providing education for the learners at Ysgol Talysarn were implemented, it is anticipated that there would be an impact on children’s travel arrangements. However, it is not expected that any learner from the Baladeulyn catchment would need to travel an unreasonable distance to school, nor would they be expected to walk or cycle along unsafe routes.

When considering the latest data numbers, namely January 2026, it is anticipated that an 8-seater bus would need to be organised in order to transport learners from the current catchment area of Ysgol Baladeulyn who would be eligible for transport (in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd Transport Policy) to Ysgol Talysarn. These transport costs are estimated to be around £17,000 per year.

If there was an increase in the number of learners in the catchment area in the future, it could mean that a school bus would need to be provided in order to transport learners from the current Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area who would be eligible for transport (in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd Transport Policy). These transport costs are estimated to be approximately £30,000 per year.

As a result, it is anticipated that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and transfer learners to Ysgol Talysarn would lead to additional transport costs for the Authority. These costs are estimated to be approximately £17,000-£30,000 per year to provide transport if all the learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area chose to attend Ysgol Talysarn.

**ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON THE
COMMUNITY –
YSGOL BALADEULYN**

May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

When developing proposals for the organisation of schools, the Authority is required to conduct an assessment of the likely impact on the community, in accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018).

Background

Ysgol Baladeulyn is located in the village of Nantlle on the outskirts of Penygroes and serves the village and the surrounding area. There has been a significant reduction in the numbers of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn over the past 10 years. By January 2026, only 6 Reception to Year 6 learners and 2 Nursery learners are attending the school.

At their meeting on 11 February 2025, the Cabinet supported a recommendation to start formal discussions with Ysgol Baladeulyn stakeholders in order to consider options for the future. Between March and July 2025, 3 local meetings were held with Ysgol Baladeulyn's stakeholders where a number of options were proposed and discussed.

On 14 October 2025, the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet decided to undertake a statutory consultation process on a proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026, and to provide a place for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027 onwards, in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The consultation was held between 10 December and 28 January, and 30 responses to the consultation were received.

2. THE OPTIONS

The Authority considered and discussed a number of options for the future of Ysgol Baladeulyn, including:

- No change - continue with the current situation
- Federation with a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)

This option would ensure continuity in the school's presence in the village of Nantlle through a collaborative arrangement with a nearby school or schools, led by a head or heads and one governing body. The governing bodies of the individual schools would be dissolved, and a (new) federal governing body would be formed. The identity of the school in question (including name, ethos, and school uniform) would continue, and it would enable the possibility of sharing staff, resources, buildings, and expertise.

As Ysgol Talysarn is considered the nearby school to federalise with, this option would mean establishing a formal collaboration arrangement, between 3 schools, as Ysgol Talysarn is already federated with Ysgol Brynaerau.

- Federation with a nearby school and adding a specialist area for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn

This option would ensure continuity in the school's presence in the village of Nantlle through a collaborative arrangement with a nearby school or schools, led by a head or heads and one governing body. The governing bodies of the individual schools would be dissolved, and a (new) federal governing body would be formed. The identity of the school in question (including name, ethos, and school uniform) would continue, and it would enable the possibility of sharing staff, resources, buildings, and expertise.

As Ysgol Talysarn is considered the nearby school to federalise with, this option would mean establishing a formal collaboration arrangement, between 3 schools, as Ysgol Talysarn is already federated with Ysgol Brynaerau.

In addition to federalisation, this option would also mean adding a location for an ALN unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn.

- Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer the learners a place in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)

This option would mean closing Ysgol Baladeulyn and offering a place to learners from the catchment area at Ysgol Talysarn.

- Merge local schools to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn – Multi-site school

This option would mean merging a number of local schools, by closing the schools and establishing one multi-site school which would include the Ysgol Baladeulyn site. The option would enable the possibility of sharing resources, buildings and expertise.

This option would ensure continuity in the presence of a school site in the village of Nantlle by establishing a multi-site school, led by a headteacher and one governing body.

- Adding a specialised area for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn

This option would mean continuing with Ysgol Baladeulyn adding a specific specialised area for children with additional learning needs on the school site.

- Include a language unit on Ysgol Baladeulyn site

This option would mean continuing with Ysgol Baladeulyn and adding a language unit on the school site. It would offer an immersion service in the Welsh language for children who require it before joining their chosen schools full-time.

Reasonable alternative options considered following the statutory consultation:

- Re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a 'hybrid' mainstream and ALN primary school in order to provide specialist provision for the local area.

This option would involve re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a 'hybrid' mainstream primary school that includes specialist education provision for children with Additional Learning Needs on the school site. This option would offer hybrid education, enabling primary learners in the local area to attend Ysgol Baladeulyn as a mainstream school and/or to access specialist ALN education provision.

3. SUMMARY OF THE CATCHMENT AREA

3.1 The Area

Ysgol Baladeulyn is located in the rural village of Nantlle near the village of Talysarn and Penygroes in Gwynedd and within the ward of Llanllyfni. According to the 2021 census, there are 1,957 people living in Llanllyfni ward. Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area includes parts of the Dolbenmaen ward, Glaslyn ward, Waunfawr ward as well as a part of Llanllyfni ward.

3.2 The Economy

According to the 2021 Census, 55.5% of people aged between 16 and 74 within the Llanllyfni ward are economically active, and 3.7% of these are unemployed. 43.2% of people in the same age group are economically inactive with 5.9% of these ill or disabled for a long period.

The type of industry in which the population is active is varied in the area, with the highest rate (19.9%) working in the health and social work field (Census 2021).

According to data from the 'Index of Multiple Deprivation Wales (2025)' the employment rate of Llanllyfni and Clynnog ward compared to other wards in Wales gives a rank of 1152 out of 1917 wards. Therefore, Llanllyfni and Clynnog ward is within the 50% least deprived in Wales.

3.3 Deprivation

Llanllyfni and Clynnog Ward is ranked within the most deprived 20%-30% in Wales (rank 546 out of 1917 wards).

A number of areas make up this overall index, including income, employment, health, education, access to services, community safety, physical environment, and housing.

It is noted that Llanllyfni and Clynnog ward is within the 10% most deprived areas in Wales in the 'Housing' field. The indicators in this area are the proportion of people living in overcrowded homes (use of bedrooms), and the proportion of people living in homes without central heating.

In addition, the ward of Llanllyfni and Clynnog is within the 10% of the most deprived areas in Wales in the area of 'access to services', i.e. deprivation because people are unable to access a variety of services that are considered essential for day-to-day living. The indicators include average public and private travel times to a number of services such as food shops, doctor's surgery, primary and secondary schools, post office, public library, pharmacy, leisure centre and private travel time to a petrol station.

Below is a summary of how the Llanllyfni and Clynnog area is situated in the context of other areas in Wales according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2025):

Area	Rank in Wales, out of 1917 areas. (1 = most deprived and 1917 = least deprived)	Most deprived % in Wales
Employment	1152	
Income	778	
Health	1247	
Education	835	
Housing	47	Within the most deprived 10%
Physical environment	448	
Access to services	86	Within the most deprived 10%
Community safety	767	

3.4 The Community

A number of activities are held in the Nantlle area, including;

- Tal y Mignedd Rae
- Gŵyl Dewi
- Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn
- Llys Llywelyn
- Christmas Service

4. YSGOL BALADEULYN AND NEARBY SCHOOLS

4.1 The context of the schools according to the Estyn Inspection Reports

As part of Estyn's reports, the schools are placed in context, and their community relations are detailed. This is the context given to Ysgol Baladeulyn by Estyn inspectors.

Ysgol Baladeulyn

“Ysgol Gynradd Baladeulyn is situated in the village of Nantlle near the foot of Snowdon, about three miles from Pen-y-groes in Gwynedd.”

Source: Estyn Report, November 2017

Ysgol Talysarn

“The Talaerau federation, which includes Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau, is a warm and caring community in which pupils’ wellbeing and progress is at the core of its ethos.

Source: Estyn Report, November 2025

4.2 Statistical information

The table below shows the numbers of Ysgol Baladeulyn and the other schools within the catchment area of Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle. This table also shows the school's capacity and number of learners on the register in January 2026. All schools teach through the medium of Welsh.

School	Full Capacity (N – Yr.6)	Number on the register January 2026 (N – Yr. 6)	Legal Category	Linguistic Category
Baladeulyn	62	8	Community School	Welsh Medium, Category 3
Talysarn	104	98	Community School	Welsh Medium, Category 3
Bro Lleu	207	189	Community School	Welsh Medium, Category 3
Llanllyfni	117	71	Community School	Welsh Medium, Category 3
Nebo	58	12	Community School	Welsh Medium, Category 3
Brynaerau	81	54	Community School	Welsh Medium, Category 3
Bro Llifon	196	149	Community School	Welsh Medium, Category 3

Source: PLASC January 2026

4.3 Catchment information and learners’ choice of schools

Each school has a specific catchment area which it serves, and which is important in terms of the Council's access and transport policy. Learners do not have to attend their catchment area school; the choice is up to parents (in accordance with the admission policy).

The latest data (January 2026 data) shows that 75% of children who live in Ysgol Baladeulyn's catchment area attend schools outside the catchment area. The table below indicates the proportion of learners (Nursery – Yr. 6) who live in the catchment area and attend the catchment area school, and the proportion of learners from outside the catchment area who attend the school.

School	Proportion of catchment area learners who attend the catchment area school	Proportion of the school's learners who live within the school catchment area	Proportion of learners from outside the catchment area who attend the school
Baladeulyn	25%	25%	75%
Talysarn	81%	79%	21%

Source: January 2026 GIS Data

4.4 Summary of the various facilities in the community of Baladeulyn and Talysarn (September 2025)

	Baladeulyn	Talysarn
Community Centre / Village Hall	✓	✓
Chapel/Church	✓	
Public Transport	✓	✓
Shop		
Cafe/Pub		
Post Office		
Pharmacy		
Library		
Children's Playground	✓	✓
Bank		
Old People's Home		
Leisure Centre		
Garage	✓	
Tourist Attraction	✓	
Cylch Ti a Fi + Meithrin		✓

Community Centre

Llys Llywelyn Centre is located in the village of Nantlle which is 0.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn and hosts a number of community activities including:

- Summer Fair
- Christmas Fair
- Concerts
- Coffee Morning
- Market

4.5 Summary of the schools' use outside the school's core hours:

A summary of community or extra-curricular use of the local school buildings is seen below:

	Baladeulyn	Talysarn	Brynaerau	Bro Llifon	Bro Lleu	Llanllyfni	Nebo
Playgroups (School Holidays)							
Aelwyd yr Urdd						✓	
Plays							
Voluntary Groups						✓	✓
Morning/Evening Coffee	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Community Auction							
Choir Practice							
Welsh for Adults							

Town/Community Council Meeting							
Nursery School						✓	
Club/Sports Activity				✓		✓	
After School Club		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Local Interest Club							✓

A Cylch Meithrin is located in the village of Talysarn that provides early years care and education through the medium of Welsh for pre-school children. The collaboration between Ysgol Talysarn and the Cylch ensures a smooth transition for children from the Cylch to the nursery class. The Cylch provides places for children aged 2 to 4, and offers 'Dechrau'n Deg' provisions, the 10-hour Early Years Education (Foundation Learning) program, along with wraparound care for nursery-aged children of Ysgol Talysarn and nearby schools. The Cylch Meithrin is also a part of the Childcare Scheme, a program offering up to 30 hours per week of free early years childcare. Children can take advantage of the Childcare Offer from the start of the term following their third birthday until the September after they turn 4.

There is no early years provision at Ysgol Baladeulyn, except for the school's nursery class.

4.6 Summary of activities or groups in which the school is regularly involved:

	Baladeulyn	Talysarn
Cylch Meithrin/Ti a Fi		✓
Eisteddfodau (Local/County/National)		
Sections of the Urdd		
Other activities (sports, clubs)		✓

4.7 If buildings, rooms, facilities or services are provided by a school on behalf of the community, where would they be provided if the school were to be closed?

School	Where will facilities be provided if it closes
Baladeulyn	According to the Headteacher in November 2025, the school invites the community to the school for school activities within and outside of school hours like coffee evenings, presentations from the children and assemblies. However, Canolfan Llys Llywelyn is available to host activities in the area as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn.

4.8 Information about distance and travel time to other schools in the catchment area

The table below indicates the distance and travel time between Ysgol Baladeulyn and schools in the area. We see that Ysgol Talysarn is the closest to Ysgol Baladeulyn. The journey times below take into account the nature of the lanes and the effect this can have on journey times in a rural area.

School		Baladeulyn
Talysarn	Miles	2.5
	Minutes	6
Bro Lleu	Miles	3.3
	Minutes	7
Llanllyfni	Miles	3.7

	Minutes	10
Nebo	Miles	5.2
	Minutes	14
Brynaerau	Miles	6
	Minutes	16
Bro Llifon	Miles	6.3
	Minutes	13

Source: Google Maps 2026

5. ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

In order to assess the community impact of the possible options, it was decided to create criteria in accordance with the recommendations of the community assessment considerations of the School Organization Code 011/2018.

OPTION 1: NO CHANGE – CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and well-being	There will be no change to the current provision so no change to the impact on health and well-being is anticipated.	Neutral
The implications of the change on public transport provisions	As there would be no change to the current provision, it is not anticipated there would be an impact on public transport provision. Any transport required by Ysgol Baladeulyn for eligible catchment area learners will continue in accordance with the County's Transport Policy.	Neutral
Impact on other facilities / services provided at the school	There would be no change to the provision so no impact to the current use of the school is anticipated.	Neutral
Impact on wider community safety	There would be no change to the provision, therefore no impact is anticipated on wider community safety.	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community	There would be no change to the provision. As a result, it is not anticipated that this option would encourage families with school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community.	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	There would be no change to what is currently provided so no impact on other local services is anticipated.	Neutral
Adverse effect on the wider economy of the community	There would be no change to what is currently being provided so no adverse impact on the wider economy of the community is anticipated.	Neutral
General impact on the local community	There would be no change to what is currently provided so no impact on the local community is anticipated.	Neutral

OPTION 2: FEDERATION WITH A NEARBY SCHOOL (YSGOL TALYSARN)

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and well-being	Because federation would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn remains open, there would be no change to the current provision so no change to the impact on health and well-being is anticipated.	Neutral
The implications of the change on public transport provisions	Because federation would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn remains open, no impact on the provision of public transport is anticipated. Any transport required by Ysgol Baladeulyn for eligible catchment area learners will continue in accordance with the County's Transport Policy.	Neutral
Impact on other facilities / services provided at the school	As federation would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn remains open, there would be no change to the current provision and therefore no impact on this criterion is anticipated.	Neutral
Impact on wider community safety	Because federation would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn would remain open, no change is anticipated to impact on wider community safety.	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community	Because federation would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn would remain open, no impact is anticipated to how parents choose a school for their children or effect the choice of living in the catchment area or not. A high proportion of children in the catchment area already attend schools outside the catchment area (75%). As a result, it is not anticipated that this option would encourage families with school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community.	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	Because federation would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn remains open, no change is foreseen to what is currently being provided, so no impact on other local services is anticipated.	Neutral
Adverse effect on the wider economy of the community	Because federation would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn would remain open, no change is foreseen to what is currently being provided, so no adverse effect on the wider economy of the community is anticipated.	Neutral
General impact on the local community	Because federation would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn remains open, no change is foreseen to what is currently being provided so no impact on the local community is anticipated. However, opportunities are identified for the community of Baladeulyn and the communities of the schools that would be part of the federation to come together.	Neutral

OPTION 3: FEDERATION WITH A NEARBY SCHOOL AND ADDING A SPECIALIST UNIT FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS AT YSGOL BALADEULYN

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and well-being	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on health and well-being as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, but as part of a federation with a nearby school, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral
The implications of the change on public transport provisions	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the provision of public transport as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, but as part of a federation with a nearby school, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site. Any transport that would be required to the Ysgol Baladeulyn site for eligible catchment area learners would continue in accordance with the County's Transport Policy.	Neutral
Impact on other facilities / services provided at the school	As federation would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn remains open, there would be no change to the current provision and therefore no impact on this criterion is anticipated.	Neutral
Impact on wider community safety	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on wider community safety as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community	It is not anticipated that this option would encourage families and school-aged children to leave the community, or that young families would be less likely to move into the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site. It should be noted that a high percentage of children (75%) in the catchment area already attend schools outside of the catchment area.	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on other services provided locally, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on site.	Neutral
Adverse effect on the wider economy of the community	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the wider economy of the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral
General impact on the local community	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site. However, opportunities are identified for the community of Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn community to come together.	Neutral

OPTION 4: CLOSE YSGOL BALADEULYN AND OFFER THE LEARNERS A PLACE IN A NEARBY SCHOOL (YSGOL TALYSARN)

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and well-being	<p>It is anticipated that being in a larger school would offer more opportunities for play and participation in team sports, thereby contributing positively to learners' health and wellbeing.</p> <p>During the statutory consultation, some concerns were raised that certain learners would lose the current ability to walk or cycle safely to school, reducing independence and confidence, as well as resulting in longer daily journeys.</p> <p>As the alternative school is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn, and further from the homes of learners in the catchment area, it is not anticipated that learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn would be likely to walk or cycle to the alternative school should the proposal be implemented. School transport would be provided in accordance with the Authority's Transport Policy, which offers free transport to primary learners who live 2 miles or more from their catchment or nearest school.</p> <p>As a result, the impact on this criterion is expected to be neutral.</p>	Neutral
The implications of the change on public transport provisions	<p>It is not anticipated that there would be any impact on public transport provision as any transport to an alternative school as a result of any change will be arranged specifically for learners in the catchment area who are eligible in accordance with the County's Transport Policy.</p>	Neutral
Impact on other facilities / services provided at the school	<p>According to the Headteacher in November 2025, the school invites the community to the school for school activities within and outside of school hours like coffee evenings, presentations from the children and assemblies. However, Llys Llywelyn Centre is available to host activities in the area as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn.</p> <p>If the school were to close, these provisions would have to be considered when discussing the subsequent use of the school building.</p>	Negative
Impact on wider community safety	<p>No impact on wider community safety is anticipated.</p>	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community	<p>During the statutory consultation, some respondents noted that the loss of the school as a community hub could negatively influence the village's attractiveness to young families in the long term. It was also expressed that moving children's education to another community could weaken local connections and reduce the sense of belonging.</p> <p>Based on the available evidence, the Council's view is that a high proportion of children in the catchment area already attend schools outside the catchment (75%), with 50% of learners from Nursery to Year 6 from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment already attending Ysgol Talysarn. As a result, the Council does not anticipate that families with young children would leave the community should the school close. In addition, given that the alternative school is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ysgol Talysarn, the Council does not anticipate that this option would encourage families with school-age children to leave the community, nor that it would make young families less likely to move into the community. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting ongoing links between the Nantlle community and the alternative school, promoting community collaboration where appropriate, and ensuring that Nantlle residents and families are aware of the opportunities, facilities and activities available at the alternative school. As a result, the impact on this criterion is expected to be neutral.</p>	Neutral

Impact on other services provided locally	Numerous events are held at Llys Llywelyn Centre. As the Centre is independent from the school it is not anticipated that the closure of the school would have a significant direct impact on community use of the Llys Llywelyn Centre.	Neutral
Adverse effect on the wider economy of the community	As the majority of children in the catchment area attend schools outside the catchment area, it is not anticipated that closing Ysgol Baladeulyn would have an impact on the wider economy of the community.	Neutral
General impact on the local community	<p>During the statutory consultation, attention was drawn to the role of the school in facilitating daily social interaction between families and local residents. Concerns were expressed that closing the school would reduce natural opportunities for people to meet, socialise and maintain informal community connections. In addition, the school's role in facilitating daily social interaction between families and local residents, as well as in integrating new families into the Welsh-language life of the village, was highlighted.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that there would be some likely negative impact on certain social and community aspects locally should the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn be implemented, such as reduced opportunities for parents/guardians/families and local residents to meet on a daily basis within the community when dropping off and collecting children from school. Furthermore, should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, it is acknowledged that the local school would be located further away from homes within the current Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area, and from a deprivation perspective this would mean that one of the 'access to services' indicators would move further away from residents of the area. As a result, some negative impact on the local community is anticipated if the school were to close.</p> <p>However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting ongoing links between the Nantlle community and the alternative school, promoting community collaboration where appropriate, and ensuring that Nantlle residents and families are aware of the opportunities, facilities and activities available at the alternative school. In addition, it is noted that should the proposal to close the school be implemented, the Authority's Post-Use Policy would operate as a framework for undertaking further discussions regarding appropriate options for the future use of the school building, including community use where appropriate, in order to seek to mitigate any negative impact on the local community. It is also noted that Llys Llywelyn Centre is available for community activities in the area, as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn.</p>	Negative

OPTION 5: MERGE LOCAL SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT AND MAINTAIN YSGOL BALADEULYN - MULTI-SITE SCHOOL

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and well-being	As the provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site would continue, it is not anticipated that this option would have a negative impact on health and well-being.	Neutral
The implications of the change on public transport provisions	As the provision on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site would continue, no impact on public transport provision is anticipated if this option were to be implemented. Any transport that would be required to the Ysgol Baladeulyn site for eligible catchment area learners would continue in accordance with the County's Transport Policy.	Neutral
Impact on other facilities / services provided at the school	As the Ysgol Baladeulyn site would continue as part of the multi-site school, it is not anticipated that the implementation of this option would have an impact on other facilities/services provided at the school.	Neutral
Impact on wider community safety	No impact is anticipated on wider community safety, as education provision would continue at Ysgol Baladeulyn site.	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community	No impact is anticipated on this criterion, as education provision would continue at Ysgol Baladeulyn site.	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	As the Ysgol Baladeulyn site would continue as part of the multi-site school, no impact on other local services is anticipated.	Neutral
Adverse effect on the wider economy of the community	It is not anticipated that this option would impact what is currently provided, so no adverse impact on the wider economy of the community is anticipated.	Neutral
General impact on the local community	As the Ysgol Baladeulyn site would continue, it is anticipated that the general impact on the local community would be Neutral if this option were to be implemented.	Neutral

OPTION 6: ADDING A SPECIALISED AREA FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS AT YSGOL BALADEULYN

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and well-being	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on health and well-being as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral
The implications of the change on public transport provisions	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the provision of public transport as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Impact on other facilities / services provided at the school	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on this criterion, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Impact on wider community safety	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on wider community safety as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community	It is not anticipated that this option would encourage families with school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site. It should be noted that a large percentage of children within the catchment area attend schools outside of the catchment area (75%).	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on other services provided locally, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Adverse effect on the wider economy of the community	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the wider economy of the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral
General impact on the local community	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with an additional learning needs unit also located on the site.	Neutral

OPTION 7: INCLUDE A LANGUAGE UNIT ON YSGOL BALADEULYN SITE

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and well-being	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on health and well-being as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of a language unit also located on the site.	Neutral
The implications of the change on public transport provisions	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the provision of public transport as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of a language unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Impact on other facilities / services provided at the school	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on these criteria as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of a language unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Impact on wider community safety	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on wider community safety as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of a language unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community	It is not anticipated that this option would encourage families and school-aged children to leave the community, or that young families would be less likely to move into the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of a language unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on other services provided locally, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of a language unit also located on the site.	Neutral
Adverse effect on the wider economy of the community	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the wider economy of the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of a language unit also located on the site.	Neutral
General impact on the local community	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with the provision of a language unit also located on the site.	Neutral

OPTION 8: RE-CATEGORISING YSGOL BALADEULYN AS A 'HYBRID' MAINSTREAM AND ALN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SPECIALIST PROVISION FOR THE LOCAL AREA

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and well-being	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on health and wellbeing, as Ysgol Baladeulyn's mainstream provision would continue, but with specialist ALN provision operating in a 'hybrid' model.	Neutral
The implications of the change on public transport provisions	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on Public transport, as Ysgol Baladeulyn's mainstream provision would continue, but with specialist ALN provision operating in a 'hybrid' model.	Neutral
Impact on other facilities / services provided at the school	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on this criterion, as Ysgol Baladeulyn's mainstream provision would continue, but with specialist ALN provision operating in a 'hybrid' model on the site.	Neutral
Impact on wider community safety	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on wider community safety as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, but with specialist ALN provision in a 'hybrid' model.	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community	It is not anticipated that this option would encourage families and school-aged children to leave the community, or that young families would be less likely to move into the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, but with specialist ALN provision in a 'hybrid' model.	Neutral
Impact on other services provided locally	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on other services provided locally, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, but with specialist ALN provision in a 'hybrid' model.	Neutral
Adverse effect on the wider economy of the community	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the wider economy of the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, but with specialist ALN provision in a 'hybrid' model.	Neutral
General impact on the local community	It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the community, as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, but with specialist ALN provision in a 'hybrid' model.	Neutral

6. CONCLUSION

This Community Impact Assessment has been prepared as a further assessment following the statutory consultation, and has fully considered all the original options set out in the consultation document, together with the reasonable alternative option proposed by consultees as part of the statutory consultation.

The assessment indicates that the likely impact on the local community would be neutral if the alternative option, which involves maintaining an operational school presence on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site — were implemented. This includes re-categorising the school as a 'hybrid' mainstream and ALN school. In this scenario, the presence of an operational mainstream school would be retained in the village, with the hybrid option enabling the provision of specialist ALN education for learners with additional learning needs.

The assessment shows that there would be some likely negative impact on the community if the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn were implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community. The concerns raised during the consultation regarding the implications of this for community vitality are acknowledged; however, it is noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), suggesting that educational and community links with neighbouring communities already exist.

Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting ongoing links between the Nantlle community and the alternative school, Ysgol Talysarn, and by promoting community collaboration where appropriate to ensure that residents and families are aware of the opportunities, facilities and activities available at the alternative school. In addition, should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-Use Policy would act as a framework for further discussions regarding appropriate options for the future use of the school building, including potential community use where appropriate, in order to help mitigate any negative impact on the local community.

**LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT –
YSGOL BALADEULYN**

May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

Supporting and developing Gwynedd's children's ability to learn and use their language skills is essentially important to the education strategies of the County.

Ysgol Baladeulyn is a community school located in the village of Nantlle, about three miles from Penygroes, that provides education for learners aged 3-11. There has been a decline in learner numbers at Ysgol Baladeulyn over the past few years. By September 2025, there were only 6 learners from Reception to Year 6 and 2 Nursery learners attending the school.

At their meeting on 11 February 2025, the Cabinet supported a recommendation to start formal discussions with Ysgol Baladeulyn stakeholders to consider options for the future. Between March and July 2025, three local meetings were held with Ysgol Baladeulyn stakeholders where several options were proposed and discussed.

On 14 October 2025, the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet decided to undertake a statutory consultation process on a proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026, and to provide a place for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027 onwards, in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The consultation was held between 10 December and 28 January, and 30 responses to the consultation were received.

1.1 The Situation in Gwynedd

Figures in the 2021 Census indicate that 66% of people over the age of three can speak, read or write in Welsh. The 2021 Census also states that 64% speak Welsh which is a decrease since the previous census, when the figure was 65%.

In Gwynedd, as in many other Local Authorities in Wales, there is a considerable difference in the percentage of Welsh speakers within different wards. At one extreme, in wards such as Aberdyfi, Tywyn and Bangor Central, between 26% and 44% of the population speak Welsh, while as much as 86% speak Welsh in the most Welsh areas e.g. Hendre and Llanrug.

1.2 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is the Local Authority's statutory document and accompanies the Welsh Government's priorities for the development of Welsh-medium education (in line with the targets of *Cymraeg 2050*). There are 7 outcomes that local authorities are expected to implement to achieve the outcomes, namely:

1. More nursery children/ three-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.
2. More reception class children/ five-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.
3. More children continue to improve their Welsh-language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another.
4. More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh.
5. More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school.

6. An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for learners with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.
7. Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh.

1.3 Language Policy

Primary

The aim of the Language Policy is the same across all primary schools in the County, which is to develop the ability of all learners to be proficient in both languages by the end of KS2. Welsh is the official language of assessment at the school at the end of the Foundation Phase. In KS2, learners' grasp of the Welsh language continues to be developed, paying attention to developing their skills in both languages.

Secondary

In the secondary school, all learners who have reached the necessary level, which is level 3+ at the end of KS2, are expected to follow Welsh as a First Language in KS3 in order to ensure appropriate progression and continuity. It is hoped that these learners can study Welsh and English as subjects until the end of year 11.

The secondary schools build on the foundation laid in the primary by ensuring that all learners continue to develop skills in Welsh and English. The County does not define secondary schools according to linguistic categories as there is the same expectation in relation to the Language Policy, which is to give all learners in the County the opportunity to be proficient bilingually.

1.4 A million speakers by 2050

Cymraeg 2050 is the Welsh Government's latest strategy for the Welsh language and covers the next three decades. This document sets out specific targets for increasing the numbers who speak the language together with the use of Welsh.

The aims of *Cymraeg 2050* include:

	Aim	Target
1.	Increase the number of Welsh speakers	1 Million of Welsh speakers by 2050
2.	Increase use of the Welsh language	Daily users of Welsh increasing from 10% to 20%

The strategic document *Welsh 2050: A million speakers* emphasizes the importance of increasing the numbers who speak Welsh but it is also emphasized that increasing the daily use of the Welsh language is equally important.

Moving towards the position where we have a million speakers is one aspect of our vision for a thriving Welsh language. However, a thriving Welsh language is a language that is used. We want the use of Welsh to be a routine part of everyday life, so that speakers at all levels feel confident in its use in formal and informal situations..... The Welsh Language Use Survey 2013–15 (Welsh Government and Welsh Language Commissioner 2015) shows that there is a clear link between fluency and frequency of Welsh language use – 84 per cent of fluent Welsh speakers speak Welsh daily.

Source: Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers (2017)

1.5 Gwynedd Language Strategy 2023-2033

The Welsh Language Standards imposed on Cyngor Gwynedd by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 place an expectation on the Council to draw up a 5-year strategy that will show how it intends to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language across the county. The Gwynedd Language Strategy 2023-2033 is Cyngor Gwynedd's latest strategy for the Welsh language. This document sets out specific targets for increasing the numbers who speak the language:

	How will we increase the number of speakers?	How will we measure on a local level, and during the period of the strategy?
1.	Provide opportunities for children and young people who are not yet Welsh speakers (e.g., newcomers, children who do not receive mainstream education), to learn and become confident Welsh speakers.	Number of children receiving Welsh-medium education. Number of children receiving support through the immersion system of the education department.
2.	Provide opportunities for adults to become new speakers via the Council's learner support schemes and community provision of partners.	Number of Council employees receiving Learn Welsh lessons. Provision of community Welsh learning courses.

The strategy also contains a commitment to increase the use of Welsh in the following areas of work:

- Language of the early years
- Language of learning
- Language of Work and Service
- Language of the Community
- Technology and Research

2. LINGUISTIC PROFILE OF THE BALADEULYN CATCHMENT AREA

2.1 Gwynedd Language Profile Background

64.4% of the County's population who are over the age of three are Welsh speakers - significantly higher than the figure for Wales as a whole of 17.8%. In Gwynedd, the ability to speak Welsh is highest in Hendre ward (86% speak Welsh), and lowest in the Canol Bangor area (25.6%).

2.2 Wards

Ysgol Baladeulyn is located in the Llanllyfni ward, and the school's catchment area includes a part of Llanllyfni ward, a part of Dolbenmaen ward, a part of Glaslyn ward and a part of Waunfawr ward. Ysgol Talysarn is located in Llanllyfni ward. The linguistic profile of the wards of these schools is summarised in the table below:

	Llanllyfni	Dolbenmaen	Glaslyn	Waunfawr	Gwynedd	Cymru
Welsh identity only	1,316 (67.1%)	691 (59%)	934 (57.2%)	962 (65.9%)	69,560 (59.3%)	1,715,975 (55.2%)
No Welsh identity	28.2%	37.8%	39.2%	30.8%	36.3%	36.7%

Population 3+ years old	1,876 (100%)	1,146 (100%)	1,592 (100%)	1,411 (100%)	114,308 (100%)	3,018,172 (100%)
Able to speak Welsh	1,373 (73.2%)	752 (65.6%)	1,054 (66.2%)	1,018 (72.1%)	73,560 (64.4%)	538,296 (17.8%)
No Welsh skills	315 (16.8%)	290 (25.3%)	410 (25.8%)	291 (20.6%)	29,977 (26.2%)	2,259,017 (74.8%)
Able to understand oral Welsh only	137 (7.3%)	78 (6.8%)	109 (6.8%)	71 (5%)	8,166 (7.1%)	156,762 (5.2%)
Able to speak Welsh but unable to read or write Welsh	124 (6.6%)	84 (7.3%)	83 (5.2%)	65 (4.6%)	6,142 (5.4%)	68,391 (2.3%)
Able to speak and read Welsh but not able to write Welsh	56 (3%)	27 (2.4%)	36 (2.3%)	48 (3.4%)	3,170 (2.8%)	33,971 (1.1%)
Able to speak, read and write Welsh	1,157 (61.7%)	628 (54.8%)	927 (58.2%)	891 (63.1%)	63,256 (55.3%)	429,313 (14.2%)
Able to write Welsh but unable to speak or read Welsh	8 (0.4%)	4 (0.3%)	2 (0.1%)	5 (0.4%)	387 (0.3%)	4,970 (0.2%)
Able to read and write Welsh but not able to speak Welsh	14 (0.7%)	13 (1.1%)	5 (0.3%)	16 (1.1%)	1004 (0.9%)	17,560 (0.6%)
Another combination of Welsh skills	36 (1.9%)	13 (1.1%)	8 (0.5%)	14 (1%)	993 (0.9%)	6,621 (0.2%)

Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

2.3 Ysgol Baladeulyn

Ysgol Baladeulyn is a Category 3, Welsh medium school.

The table below shows that the majority of Ysgol Baladeulyn learners speak Welsh fluently.

School	Speak Welsh fluently at home	Speak Welsh at home but not fluently	No speaking Welsh at home but fluent	None speak Welsh at home and none fluently	No Welsh speaking at all
Baladeulyn	29%	57%	14%	0%	0%

2.4 Nearby schools

Ysgol Brynaerau, Llanllyfni, Nebo, Bro Lleu, Talysarn and Bro Llifon are Category 3, Welsh medium schools.

Linguistic data for the neighbouring schools can be seen below.

School	Speak Welsh fluently at home	Speak Welsh at home but not fluently	No speaking Welsh at home but fluent	None speak Welsh at home and none fluently	No Welsh speaking at all
Brynaerau	64%	11%	2%	11%	12%
Llanllyfni	68%	8%	2%	11%	12%
Nebo	56%	0%	22%	11%	11%
Bro Lleu	69%	4%	1%	9%	17%
Talysarn	37%	15.5%	3%	19%	25.5%
Bro Llifon	85%	2%	2%	3%	8%

Source: Percentage of January 2026 respondents

2.5 Activities after school

This is a summary of what Ysgol Baladeulyn and the other schools in the Dyffryn Nantlle secondary catchment area offer on school sites.

	Baladeulyn	Talysarn	Bro Lleu	Llanllyfni	Brynaerau	Bro Llifon	Nebo
Playgroups (School Holidays)			✓				
Aelwyd yr Urdd				✓		✓	✓
Morning/Evening Coffee	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Cylch/Ysgol Feithrin			✓	✓		✓	
Club/After school club/Sports Activity		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

It can be seen in the table above that only activities such as Coffee Mornings/Evenings are held in Ysgol Baladeulyn which is significantly less than the after-school provision held in other schools in the area. This means that there are less opportunities for Ysgol Baladeulyn learners to take advantage of after school activities to use and develop their Welsh.

2.6 Community Activities

Canolfan Llys Llywelyn is located approximately 0.5 miles away from Ysgol Baladeulyn and hosts a number of activities. This is a sketch of the community elements that the school is regularly involved with;

- Summer Fair
- Christmas Fair
- Concerts
- Coffee Morning
- Market

2.7 Additional Evidence

Ysgol Baladeulyn

The Estyn report in 2017 says:

“Welsh is the main medium of the school’s life and work ... Approximately three-quarters of pupils speak Welsh at home ... There is a very strong Welsh ethos at the school, and provision encourages pupils to make full use of the Welsh language in all aspects of school life. Pupils show pride towards the language and an obvious appreciation of the culture and history of the local area.”

[Ysgol Baladeulyn Estyn inspection report November 2017](#)

Ysgol Talysarn

The Estyn report in 2025 says:

“Through initiatives such as 'Clwb Clebran' and 'Tîm Taran', they give pupils purposeful responsibilities to encourage their peers to speak Welsh naturally during break times and in other informal contexts. This leads to clear improvement in the Welsh oral skills of almost all pupils and fosters pride in their Welsh identity.”

[Ysgol Talysarn Estyn Inspection Report November 2025](#)

3. Assessment of the impact on the Welsh Language

3.1 The Options

- *No change - continue with the current situation*

Keeping the current system would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn continues in the same way, with the same staffing structure.

Note that although the case for change has been established, the ‘Do nothing’ option has been included in the assessment for comparison purposes.

- *Federation with a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)*

This option would ensure continuity in the school's presence in the village of Nantlle through a collaborative arrangement with a nearby school or schools, led by a head or heads and one governing body. The governing bodies of the individual schools would be dissolved, and a (new) federal governing body would be formed. The identity of the school in question (including name, ethos, and school uniform) would continue, and it would enable the possibility of sharing staff, resources, buildings, and expertise.

As Ysgol Talysarn is considered the nearby school to federalise with, this option would mean establishing a formal collaboration arrangement between 3 schools as Ysgol Talysarn is already federated with Ysgol Brynaerau.

It is not anticipated that federalisation would have an impact on the Welsh language as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with opportunities to strengthen the leadership position, and work together for the school.

- Federation with another school and adding a specialist unit for children with additional learning needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn

This option would ensure continuity in the school's presence in the village of Nantlle through a collaborative arrangement with a nearby school or schools, led by a head or heads and one governing body. The governing bodies of the individual schools would be dissolved, and a (new) federal governing body would be formed. The identity of the school in question (including name, ethos, and school uniform) would continue, and it would enable the possibility of sharing staff, resources, buildings, and expertise.

As Ysgol Talysarn is considered the nearby school to federalise with, this option would mean establishing a formal collaboration arrangement, between 3 schools, as Ysgol Talysarn is already federated with Ysgol Brynaerau.

In addition to federalisation, this option would also mean adding a location for an ALN unit at Ysgol Baladeulyn.

It is not anticipated that federalisation would have a significant impact on the Welsh language in the school as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue, with opportunities to strengthen the leadership position, and work together for the school.

- Close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer the learners a place in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)

This option would mean that Ysgol Baladeulyn would close, and that learners from the current catchment area of Ysgol Baladeulyn would be offered a place at Ysgol Talysarn (the alternative school).

The table on the next page contains an assessment of the impact of closing Ysgol Baladeulyn and teaching the learner at Ysgol Talysarn, on the Welsh language compared to the current situation. The table also outlines the additional opportunities for strengthening the Welsh language, and methods of mitigating any negative impact that may arise from the proposal.

- Merge local schools to support and maintain Ysgol Baladeulyn – Multi-site School

This option would mean closing local schools, including Ysgol Baladeulyn, and establishing a new school across several sites, including the current site of Ysgol Baladeulyn.

It is not anticipated that this option would have a negative impact on the Welsh language. Depending on the structure of the multi-site school, there may be opportunities for learners to have access to a wider range of suitable resources, a higher supply in terms of staffing, and they could be part of a larger group of peers.

- Adding a specialised area for children with additional needs at Ysgol Baladeulyn

This option would mean continuing with Ysgol Baladeulyn adding a specific specialised area for children with additional learning needs on the school site.

It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the Welsh language as Ysgol Baladeulyn would continue.

- Include a language unit on Ysgol Baladeulyn site

This option would mean continuing with Ysgol Baladeulyn and adding a language unit on the school site. It would offer an immersion service in the Welsh language for children who require it before joining their chosen schools full-time.

It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the Welsh language in the school as there would be no change to the education provision provided by Ysgol Baladeulyn. However, it is likely that there will be a positive impact on the Welsh language of the children who will attend the language unit.

3.2 Reasonable alternative options proposed by consultees in response to the consultation

- **Re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a ‘hybrid’ mainstream and ALN primary school in order to provide specialist provision for the local area.**

This option would involve re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a ‘hybrid’ mainstream primary school that includes specialist education provision for children with Additional Learning Needs on the school site. This option would offer hybrid education, enabling primary learners in the local area to attend Ysgol Baladeulyn as a mainstream school and/or to access specialist ALN education provision.

It is not anticipated that this option would have an impact on the Welsh language, as Ysgol Baladeulyn’s mainstream provision would continue.

3.2 Assessment of the impact on the Welsh language

Assessment of the impact on the Welsh language - *Proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer the learners a place in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)*

Part 1				
Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and work	Have any measures been identified to mitigate any negative impact or to create more positive opportunities	Final impact (following mitigation measures)
School language (formal)	<p><i>In the responses to the consultation, it was clearly stated that Welsh is used consistently and robustly as the main language of instruction in the current school. Concerns were raised that transferring learners to another school would lead to an educational experience in which Welsh is less prominent as the principal formal medium. Reference was made to Ysgol Baladeulyn's work in relation to the Welsh Language Charter, noting that the school has achieved the Gold Award.</i></p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn is a Welsh-medium school. As Ysgol Talysarn is also a Welsh-medium school, it is concluded that the proposal would not have an impact on the children's language of education.</p>	Neutral	Irrelevant	Irrelevant
School language (informal)	<p><i>Concerns were noted by respondents to the consultation that transferring learners to a school with a weaker linguistic profile could reduce the level of formal and consistent Welsh-medium immersion across the curriculum. It was noted that such immersion is particularly important for children's linguistic progress and confidence, especially for those who do not receive the same level of Welsh exposure at home. Reference was made to clear differences in the use of Welsh between the current school and potential alternative schools.</i></p>	Positive	Irrelevant	Irrelevant

	<p>The concern outlined above is acknowledged, noting that the January 2025 PLASC data showed that 55% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn spoke Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn. However, the most recent PLASC data from January 2026 show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn. As a result, no negative impact on this criterion is anticipated.</p> <p>As learners would be taught in larger classes and with more children from the same age group, the proposal could strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise through the medium of Welsh with their peers. As a result, it is anticipated that there would be more opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom.</p>			
Access to Welsh medium education	Ysgol Talysarn is a Welsh-medium school, like Ysgol Baladeulyn. It is therefore not anticipated that the proposal would affect this criterion.	Neutral	Irrelevant	Irrelevant
Non-statutory provision	Learners would have access to increased provision in terms of staffing and would be part of a larger group of peers of the same age.	Positive	The local authority and Governing Body of Talaerau (Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau Federation) could discuss methods to ensure that learners can participate in extracurricular activities.	Positive
Activities before/after school	Ysgol Talysarn is a larger school in terms of numbers of learners so the peer groups would be larger. As noted in Section 2.5 of the Impact Assessment, Ysgol Talysarn offers after-school activities such as an after-school club or sports activities.	Positive	The Local Authority and Governing Body of Talaerau (Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau Federation) could consider any additional opportunities for holding	Positive

			<p>activities after school, ensuring that arrangements are in place to include learners in the Baladeulyn catchment area.</p>	
<p>Use of the Welsh Language in the community</p>	<p><i>In the responses to the consultation, it was noted that the school plays an important role in integrating new families, including those from English-speaking backgrounds, into the Welsh-language life of the village. Concerns were expressed that the loss of the school could undermine this process, leading to less natural use of Welsh among new families. It was emphasised that the school makes a significant contribution to the use of Welsh in informal contexts, such as social gatherings, after-school play, and interactions between parents and local residents.</i></p> <p>If the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn is implemented, then it is anticipated that some elements of community events will be affected. It is anticipated that there may be some negative impact resulting from the implementation of the proposal, as parents/guardians/families and local residents will not meet daily in the Baladeulyn community when dropping off/collecting children from school.</p> <p>The school invites the community to the school for school activities within and outside of school hours like coffee evenings, presentations from the children and assemblies. However, Llys Llywelyn Centre is available to host activities in the area as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn.</p> <p>It is also noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that the level of daily engagement with the school as a social or linguistic space varies among families within the Nantlle community.</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>The Local Authority and the Governing Body of Talaerau (Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau federation) can consider methods of promoting the use of the Welsh language by including the Nantlle community in the school's community activities.</p> <p>If the proposal is implemented, the Authority would have to consider options for the subsequent use of the school building, taking into account the community activities that are currently being held at the school. It is noted that Llys Llywelyn Centre, as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn, are available for the provision of community activities.</p> <p>To mitigate the impact on the Welsh language within the community, opportunities are noted to ensure that the Nantlle community is made aware</p>	<p>Neutral/ Partially Negative</p>

	<p>Impact on the local economy: Although the proposal is not expected to have a substantial negative impact on the local economy in Nantlle, it is acknowledged that, if Ysgol Baladeulyn were to close, it would lead to a reduction in Welsh-medium employment opportunities in the village of Nantlle.</p>		<p>of the activities of the alternative school, and community collaboration between Ysgol Talysarn and the Nantlle community is encouraged, where appropriate.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

Part 2 - How will the proposal affect/contribute towards/conform with the Welsh Language Standards, language policies, strategies and other relevant guidelines regarding the Welsh language

<p>Gwynedd Welsh Language Strategy 2023</p>	<p>Noted below is a summary of the anticipated impact on the areas of work in the Language Strategy:</p> <p>Early years language: As the Cylch Meithrin is located in the village of Talysarn, and collaborates with Ysgol Talysarn (the alternative school), it is anticipated that the proposal would have a positive effect on early years language.</p> <p>Learning Language: Ysgol Baladeulyn is a Welsh-medium school, Category 3. As Ysgol Talysarn is also a Welsh-medium school (Category 3), it is concluded that the proposal would not have an impact on the language of the children's education.</p> <p>Work and Service Language: <i>Respondents to the consultation noted that the presence of Ysgol Baladeulyn strengthens the status and confidence of the Welsh language in practical contexts, supporting use of the language among families and new speakers in everyday life. Concerns were expressed that the loss of the school could lead to a gradual decline in the use of Welsh in community services and activities. Positive reference was made to Ysgol Baladeulyn's work in promoting the Welsh language through the Welsh Language Charter, noting that the school has been awarded the Gold Award for the quality and consistency of its provision.</i></p> <p>It is acknowledged that, if the proposal is implemented, there would be some negative impact on the language due to the loss of a Category 3 Welsh-medium school presence in the village of Nantlle serving the area, and it would lead to redundancies among school staff/workforce.</p>
--	---

	<p>However, it is noted that the alternative school (Ysgol Talysarn) that would serve the Nantlle area if the proposal is implemented, is also a Welsh-medium school (Category 3). It is not anticipated that the proposal would affect the language of work and service provided at the alternative school.</p> <p>Community Language: <i>Strong concern was expressed by respondents to the consultation that the proposals could have an adverse impact on the Welsh language and community life, with the view that the school is central to sustaining Welsh as a living and natural language in the life of the village. It was noted that the school functions as an important hub for the Welsh-language life of the village, contributing to the use of the language beyond school hours, and reference was made to how the school integrates new families, including those who are not fluent Welsh speakers, into local Welsh-language life. Concerns were expressed that the loss of the school could undermine the local linguistic ecosystem, leading to a gradual decline in the community use of the Welsh language.</i></p> <p>The Council acknowledges that if the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn is implemented, it is anticipated that certain elements of community events would be affected. It is foreseen that there may be some negative impact on the language within the community resulting from the implementation of the proposal, for example, as parents/guardians/families and local residents will no longer meet daily in the Nantlle community when dropping off/picking up children from the school.</p> <p>The school invites the community to the school for school activities within and outside of school hours like coffee evenings, presentations from the children and assemblies. However, Llys Llywelyn Centre is available to host activities in the area as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn.</p> <p>In order to mitigate any negative effects, the Local Authority and the Governing Body of Talaerau (Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau Federation) could consider ways to promote the use of the Welsh language by including the Nantlle community in the school's community activities. In addition, if the proposal is implemented, the Authority will have to consider options for the future use of the school building, taking into account the community activities currently held at the school.</p>
<p>Cymraeg 2050, Welsh Government</p>	<p><i>Through the responses to the consultation, concern was expressed that the proposal could have a negative impact as the school is considered central to sustaining the daily use of Welsh among children, families and the wider community. It was noted that the school provides strong linguistic immersion, supports the integration of new families into Welsh-language life, and normalises the use of Welsh beyond the classroom within community life. The view was expressed that the loss of the school could lead to a gradual decline in the use of the Welsh language.</i></p>

	<p>It is noted that any discussions relating to organisation need to note the Welsh Government's effort to reach the goal of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p> <p>Should the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn be implemented, it is anticipated that some elements of community events would be affected. In order to mitigate any negative impacts, the Local Authority and the Governing Body of the Talaerau Federation (the Federation of Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau) could consider approaches to promoting the use of the Welsh language by involving the Nantlle community in the school's community activities. In addition, should the proposal be implemented, the Authority would need to consider options for the future use of the school building, taking into account the community activities that are currently held at the school.</p> <p>In terms of education provision, Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn are Category 3, Welsh-medium primary schools. As a result, if the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and transfer learners to Ysgol Talysarn is implemented, learners would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium, Category 3 school.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that the proposal would have a negative impact on the Welsh language, primarily because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 2026 PLASC statistics show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, and 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn do so. - The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places to its learners at a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) would mean that Baladeulyn catchment learners would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school, category 3. - Learners would be taught in larger classes with more children of the same age group, and it is anticipated that the proposal would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with more of their peers. <p>On this basis, if the proposal is implemented, it is anticipated that there would be more opportunities for Baladeulyn catchment area learners to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and the vitality level of Welsh and informal use of the language would be stronger.</p>
<p>To what extent the proposal would support the targets in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan approved (Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2022-2032)</p>	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn are Welsh-medium primary schools, category 3.</p> <p>Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn operate the objectives of Cyngor Gwynedd's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That all learners in the county have appropriate language skills in Welsh and English, and that this expectation is consistent across all schools.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there is appropriate provision to enable every learner to develop bilingual proficiency. In this context, schools are expected to continue nurturing the skills of those learners who are Welsh speakers, and to introduce Welsh to those who are learners. • That all educational institutions in the county reflect and reinforce the Language Policy in their administration, social life, and routine management, as well as in their curriculum provision. <p>As a result, if the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and transfer learners to Ysgol Talysarn is implemented, learners would continue to be taught in a Welsh-medium school, Category 3, which operates objectives and supports the targets of the WESP.</p> <p>On the basis of the above, it is not anticipated that implementing the proposal would have a negative impact on the achievement of Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the Cyngor Gwynedd Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032, namely:</p> <p>Outcome 1: More nursery/3-year-old children receiving Welsh-medium education. Outcome 2: More reception/5-year-old children receiving Welsh-medium education. Outcome 3: More children continuing to improve their Welsh skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another. Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts within the school. Outcome 6: Increase in Welsh-medium education provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN) (in accordance with the duties set out by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018).</p> <p>As a result, it is concluded that implementing the proposal would align with the objectives of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32, and the targets approved in the Welsh Strategic Plan.</p>
<p>How the proposal would expand or reduce Welsh-language provision, and in cases where it would reduce provision, explain why the provision would be reduced</p>	<p>The proposal would mean that a Welsh-medium school, Category 3 (Ysgol Baladeulyn), would close. However, if the proposal is implemented, learners would be offered a place in an alternative school, which is also a Welsh-medium, Category 3 school, namely Ysgol Talysarn. Ysgol Talysarn has sufficient capacity for current learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn who live in the Baladeulyn catchment area.</p>
<p>Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011)</p>	<p>The Council confirms that the entire statutory process in relation to reviewing the future of Ysgol Nebo has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of Welsh Language Standards 88-93 under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. In accordance with Standards 88, 89 and 90, conscientious consideration was given to the possible effects that the policy decision could have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English, including consideration of the positive and adverse effects possible, how the proposal could be formulated or modified in order to ensure more positive effects, and how any potential adverse effects could be reduced. In addition, in accordance with Standards 91, 92 and 93, an opinion was considered and sought through the statutory consultation process regarding these linguistic effects, including an opinion on how the</p>

	<p>proposal could be formulated or modified in order to increase positive effects or reduce adverse effects on the Welsh language. These requirements were supported by carrying out this Linguistic Impact Assessment, together with related impact assessments, including the Equality Impact Assessment, and it is noted that these assessments have been reviewed and updated following consideration of the responses received during the statutory consultation.</p>
--	--

4. CONCLUSION

Our expectations are that all learners in the County have a balanced, age-relevant bilingualism so they can be complete members of the bilingual society they are part of. The proposals for reorganisation will need to take full account of all the linguistic effects. Maintaining and improving the use of Welsh as an educational and social language among children will be a key consideration when drawing up proposals within the area.

Responses to the statutory consultation have highlighted a wide range of perspectives regarding the potential impact of the proposal on the Welsh language. It was noted that the school provides exceptional Welsh-medium education and creates an environment in which children speak Welsh confidently and consistently, strengthening the language as a primary social medium as well as an educational one. It was stated that the school plays an important role in integrating new families, including those from English-speaking backgrounds, into the Welsh-language life of the village. It was emphasised that the school makes a significant contribution to the use of Welsh in informal contexts, such as social gatherings, after-school play and interactions between parents and local residents. Concerns were expressed that the loss of the school could undermine the local linguistic ecosystem, leading to a gradual decline in the community use of the Welsh language.

The Council acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the role of Ysgol Baladeulyn in supporting the community use of the Welsh language within the village, and accepts that the comments highlight the possible detrimental impact on local linguistic vitality outside the formal educational provision. However, based on the information available, the Council's view is that the proposed option is not likely to have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or on learners' language opportunities, for the following reasons:

- The January 2026 PLASC data show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn.
- The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) means that learners in the Nantlle catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school.
- It is anticipated that learners would be taught in larger classes and with more children from the same age group, and that the proposal would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a wider group of their peers.

Given the above, if the proposed option were to be implemented, it is anticipated that there would be increased opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and the level of informal language use would be stronger.

At the same time, having considered the consultation responses, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there.

In the educational context, based on the above, it is anticipated that, if the proposal is implemented, there would be more opportunities for learners in the Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers inside and outside the classroom, and that the level of vitality of the Welsh language and the informal use of the language would be stronger.

**WELL-BEING AND FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT
IMPACT ASSESSMENT –
YSGOL BALADEULYN**

May 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

As a Council, we are committed to the principles within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of communities in Gwynedd.

The Council's vision:

Our vision as a Council is to support all the people of Gwynedd to thrive and live full lives in their community, in a county which is one of the best counties to live in.

The Council has adopted well-being objectives which reiterate the national well-being goals, to ensure the following for the residents of Gwynedd:

- Giving our children and young people the best possible start in life
- Strengthening the economy and supporting the residents of Gwynedd to earn a worthy wage
- Supporting the people of Gwynedd to live in suitable and affordable homes in their communities
- Supporting the residents of Gwynedd to live full and safe lives in our communities
- Ensuring that we give every possible opportunity for our residents to use the Welsh language in the community
- Protecting the natural beauty of the county, and responding positively to the climate change crisis
- Putting the people of Gwynedd first and treating them fairly and ensuring that the Council performs effectively and efficiently.

The table below outlines the link between our well-being objectives and the national well-being goals.

	Llewyrchus	Cydnorth	Iachach	Cyfiartal	Cymunedau Cydlynus	Diwylliant bywiog lle mae'r iaith Gymraeg yn ifynnu	Yn gyfrifol ar lefel fyd-eang
GWYNEDD YFORY Rhoi'r cychwyn gorau posib mewn bywyd i'n plant a'n pobl ifanc							
GWYNEDD LEWYRCHUS Cryfhau'r economi a chefnogi trigolion Gwynedd i ennill cyflogau teilwng							
GWYNEDD GLYD Cefnogi pobl Gwynedd i fyw mewn cartrefi addas a fforddiadwy yn eu cymunedau							
GWYNEDD OFALGAR Cefnogi trigolion Gwynedd i fyw bywydau llawn a diogel yn ein cymunedau							
GWYNEDD GYMRAEG Sicrhau ein bod yn rhoi pob cyfle posib i'n trigolion ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y gymuned.							
GWYNEDD WERDD Gwarchod harddwch naturiol y sir, ac ymateb yn gadarnhaol i'r argyfwng newid hinsawdd							
GWYNEDD EFFEITHLON Rhoi trigolion Gwynedd yn gyntaf gan eu trin yn deg a sicrhau fod y Cyngor yn perfformio'n effeithiol ac effeithlon							

The Education Department has a role to promote the Act's well-being aims amongst learners through its activities and projects. The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty, the Council has published well-being objectives that outline the way it will improve well-being in the "Gwynedd Plan 2018-23".

2. HOW DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET CYNGOR GWYNEDD’S WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES?

The proposal:

On 14 October 2025, the Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet decided to undertake a statutory consultation process on a proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026, and to provide a place for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027 onwards, in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The consultation was held between 10 December 2025 and 28 January 2026.

Objectives	
<p>Giving our children and young people the best possible start in life</p>	<p>During the statutory consultation, respondents expressed that the school provides children with a strong and supportive start in life through a small and nurturing environment that supports wellbeing, confidence and social development. In addition, it was noted that vulnerable learners rely on the small and stable environment to develop and maintain their language skills. Concerns were expressed that moving children to a larger school further from home could undermine these benefits, increasing stress and making the transition difficult for learners, particularly vulnerable learners or those with Additional Learning Needs.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that there may be some negative impact on learners’ wellbeing during the transition period. Should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, the authority and the alternative school would work closely with the closing school, with the learners and their families, to ensure a smooth transition and to support learners as they settle into their new schools. It is anticipated that carefully planned transition arrangements, with appropriate support, can mitigate negative impacts and support the continuity of educational progress. As stated in the Gwynedd Parents’ Handbook, learners with ALN have the right to continue receiving the provision set out in their Individual Development Plan, and it is the Authority’s duty to ensure that this provision continues even when school arrangements change. The Council is committed to prioritising individual needs, including those of vulnerable children and/or learners with additional learning needs, should the school close.</p> <p>However, the Council remains of the opinion that the proposal will ensure that children in the area gain experiences by socialising with a wider range of age-relevant peers, receive high quality education in a school that is able to offer a learning environment and experiences to a wider range of learners.</p>
<p>Strengthening the economy and supporting the residents of Gwynedd to earn a worthy wage</p>	<p>It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would likely have a negative impact on this objective, as it could lead to staff redundancies.</p> <p>Cyngor Gwynedd, in conjunction with Trade Unions and headteachers have developed a detailed staffing policy. The policy will form the basis for any change in staff employment deriving from any proposal. Clear and open communication will be a core part of the successful implementation of any proposals.</p>
<p>Supporting the people of Gwynedd to live in suitable and affordable homes in their communities</p>	<p>No impact.</p>
<p>Supporting the residents of Gwynedd to live full and safe lives in our communities</p>	<p>Ensuring that the learners receive education of the highest quality will be integral to the proposal, to ensure that they receive an education of the same standard and quality in the alternative school.</p>
<p>Ensuring that we give every possible opportunity for our residents to use the Welsh language in the community</p>	<p>Strong concern was expressed by respondents to the consultation that the proposals could have a detrimental impact on the Welsh language and community life, with the view that the school is central to sustaining Welsh as a living and natural language in the life of the village. It was noted that the school acts as an important hub for Welsh-language life of the village, contributing to the use of the language beyond school</p>

	<p>hours, and reference was made to how the school integrates new families, including those who are not fluent Welsh speakers, into local Welsh-language life. Concerns were expressed that losing the school could undermine the local linguistic ecosystem, leading to a gradual decline in the use of the Welsh language in the community.</p> <p>As part of the statutory process, the Authority undertook an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language. This assessment was updated following consideration of the comments received during the statutory consultation. In the conclusion of the assessment, it is noted that the Council recognises the concerns raised regarding the role of Ysgol Baladeulyn in supporting the community use of the Welsh language within the village, and accepts that comments received highlight a potential negative impact on elements of local linguistic vitality outside the formal educational provision.</p> <p>However, based on the information available, the Council is of the view that the proposed option is not likely to have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or learners’ language opportunities, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The January 2026 PLASC data show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn. • The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) means that learners in the Nantlle catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school. • It is anticipated that learners would be taught in larger classes and alongside more children from the same age group, and that the proposed option would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a wider group of their peers. <p>Given the above, if the proposed option were to be implemented, it is anticipated that there would be increased opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and the level of informal language use would be stronger.</p> <p>At the same time, having considered the consultation responses, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle community in the alternative school’s community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there.</p> <p>In the educational context, based on the above, it is anticipated that, if the proposal is implemented, there would be more opportunities for learners in the Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers inside and outside the classroom, and that the level of vitality of the Welsh language and the informal use of the language would be stronger.</p>
<p>Protecting the natural beauty of the county, and responding positively to the climate change crisis</p>	<p>No impact.</p>
<p>Putting the people of Gwynedd first and treating them fairly and ensuring that the Council performs effectively and efficiently</p>	<p>No impact.</p>

3. DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET THE WELL-BEING GOALS OF THE ACT?

Aim	Does the proposal contribute to this goal?	Negative impact mitigating measures for this goal:
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative society which uses resources proportionately, a well-educated population which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities.</p>	<p>The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and educate the children in Ysgol Talysarn would mean that the learners foster experiences by socialising with a broader range of age-relevant peers and receive a quality education at a school which can offer a learning environment and experiences to a broader range of learners.</p> <p>Introducing this proposal could lead to staff losing their jobs.</p>	<p>Staff and Union representatives will be consulted specifically as part of the statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Cyngor Gwynedd has developed a detailed staffing policy, jointly with Trade Unions and headteachers. Any redundancies resulting from this proposal will have to comply with that policy. Clear and open communication will play a core part in the implementation of any proposals.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse environment with healthy ecosystems that support resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to impact this aim.</p>	<p>No impact</p>
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to impact this aim.</p>	<p>No impact</p>

A more equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).

During the statutory consultation, concerns were expressed that changes to the current arrangements could lead to less equitable experiences for some children, particularly the most vulnerable. Specific concerns were raised regarding the experiences of learners with additional learning needs, with the view that the school's small size supports continuity, stability and effective personalised support. Concerns were also expressed that transferring to a larger and unfamiliar school could have a negative impact on vulnerable children or those with ALN.

In addition, a strong view was expressed that the proposal would have a negative impact on the wellbeing of families facing socio-economic disadvantage, particularly families without easy access to a car, with reference made to unreliable public transport. The Council remains of the opinion that that the proposal will improve the Authority's ability to *"provide education of the best possible quality that will provide the county's children with the experiences, skills and confidence to develop into bilingual, successful and well-rounded citizens"* in accordance with the 'Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd' strategy.

Although concerns have been expressed regarding the potential impact on vulnerable children, including learners with additional learning needs and emotional difficulties, specific mitigation measures are in place to ensure that the proposal would not result in exclusion or disproportionate discrimination.

In accordance with the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the ALN Code for Wales, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that every learner with additional learning needs continues to receive the provision set out in their Individual Development Plan, regardless of any change in school arrangements. If the proposal were to be implemented, transition arrangements would be carefully planned, with appropriate support for learners and families, including early engagement with the receiving school, relevant support staff and support services.

Should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that provision at Ysgol Talysarn would include access to a wider range of expertise, peers and professional support, with the aim of maintaining or improving learners' wellbeing, inclusion and educational experience.

In relation to families from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, it is noted that school transport arrangements would be administered in accordance with the Council's statutory policy, ensuring that cost or accessibility of transport does not present a barrier to equal access to education. Potential impact on individual families would be considered where relevant.

Following consideration of the comments submitted during the statutory consultation, the Equality Impact Assessment was updated to reflect the concerns raised and their potential impact on protected characteristics and wider equality. This assessment identifies that the proposal could lead to potential partially negative effects on some groups, including in relation to Disability, Age, the Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Considerations. However, the further assessment also notes that potential positive effects could arise should the proposal be implemented, including in relation to access to broader educational provision, additional social and educational opportunities, and access to extended expertise and support.

		<p>In order to mitigate any potential negative effects, it is noted that robust policies and procedures are already in place within the Authority, applicable to all schools across the county, to ensure compliance with equality duties, prevent unlawful discrimination, and promote equal opportunities for all learners. In addition, it is noted that robust policies and arrangements are in place to ensure that the proposal would take equal rights into account and align with them. It is also noted that measures are already in place to ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination or harassment.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<p>During the statutory consultation, it was consistently expressed that the school is a core element of village life and central to the identity of the community. Attention was drawn to the school’s role in facilitating daily social interaction between families and local residents. Concerns were expressed that closing the school would reduce the natural opportunities for people to meet, socialise and maintain informal community connections. It was emphasised that a local primary school is an important factor in attracting and retaining young families.</p> <p>The community of Nantlle is strong and vibrant and it is acknowledged that the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn could have some negative impact on the community.</p>	<p>As part of the statutory process, the Authority undertook an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the community. This assessment was updated following consideration of the comments received during the statutory consultation. In the latest assessment, it is noted that there would be some likely negative impact on the community should the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community as a community hub. In addition, should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, it is acknowledged that the local school would be located further away from homes within the current Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area, and from a deprivation perspective this would mean that one of the ‘access to services’ indicators would move further away from residents of the area. As a result, some negative impact on the local community is anticipated if the school were to close.</p> <p>However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting ongoing links between the Nantlle community and the alternative school, promoting community collaboration where appropriate and ensuring that residents and families are aware of the opportunities, facilities and activities available at the alternative school.</p> <p>In addition, it is noted that, should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority’s Post-Use Policy would operate as a framework for undertaking further discussions regarding appropriate options for the future use of the school building, including community use where appropriate, in order to seek to mitigate any negative impact on the local community.</p>

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

In the responses to the consultation, it was noted that the school plays an important role in integrating new families, including those from English-speaking backgrounds, into the Welsh-language life of the village. Concerns were expressed that the loss of the school could undermine this process, leading to less natural use of the Welsh language among new families. It was emphasised that the school makes a significant contribution to the use of Welsh in informal contexts, such as social gatherings, after-school play, and interactions between parents and local residents. Respondents to the consultation also noted concerns that transferring learners to a school with a weaker linguistic profile could reduce the level of Welsh-language immersion. Reference was made to Ysgol Baladeulyn's work in relation to the Welsh Language Charter, noting that the school has achieved the Gold Award.

The Council acknowledges the concerns regarding the potential impact of closing Ysgol Baladeulyn on the linguistic vitality of the local community. However, based on the most recent data and the fact that learners from the Baladeulyn catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school with wider opportunities to socialise through the medium of Welsh, it is anticipated that the proposal would maintain or even strengthen the informal use of Welsh among learners.

Nevertheless, the Council also recognises that, should a decision be made to close the school, the change could lead to a negative impact on the use of Welsh as a community language outside the school setting, and would consider mitigation measures such as involving the Baladeulyn community in the activities of the alternative school and exploring options for the future use of the school building.

As part of the statutory process, the Authority undertook an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language. This assessment was updated following consideration of the comments received during the statutory consultation. In the conclusion of the assessment, it is noted that the Council recognises the concerns raised regarding the role of Ysgol Baladeulyn in supporting the community use of the Welsh language within the village, and accepts that comments received highlight a potential negative impact on elements of local linguistic vitality outside the formal educational provision.

However, based on the information available, the Council is of the view that the proposed option is not likely to have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or learners' language opportunities, for the following reasons:

- The January 2026 PLASC data show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn.
- The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) means that learners in the Nantlle catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school.
- It is anticipated that learners would be taught in larger classes and alongside more children from the same age group, and that the proposed option would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a wider group of their peers.

Given the above, if the proposed option were to be implemented, it is anticipated that there would be increased opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and the level of informal language use would be stronger.

At the same time, having considered the consultation responses, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle

		<p>community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there.</p> <p>In the educational context, based on the above, it is anticipated that, if the proposal is implemented, there would be more opportunities for learners in the Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers inside and outside the classroom, and that the level of vitality of the Welsh language and the informal use of the language would be stronger.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to impact this aim.</p>	<p>No impact</p>

4. PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Principles of Sustainable Development	Does the proposal consider the principle?
<p>Long Term Balance short term needs with long term ones and plan for the future.</p>	<p>The pattern of declining learner numbers has been consistent since 2016, with projections showing that the numbers of learners in Ysgol Baladeulyn will reduce further over the coming years, which demonstrates that the current challenges facing the school are long-term and clearly shows that the case for change is clear.</p>
<p>Prevention Allocate resources to prevent problems from occurring or getting worse. We will address problems by prevention and early intervention rather than being responsive.</p>	<p>Should the Cabinet decide to take further steps, the learners' needs will be the priority during all steps of any process.</p>
<p>Integration Have a positive effect on people, the economy, the environment and culture.</p>	<p>The authority decided to begin the process of examining the future of Ysgol Baladeulyn due to the urgent situation facing the school.</p>
<p>Collaboration Work with other partners to provide services.</p>	<p>Collaboration with other relevant departments and the alternative school will be an important part of achieving the objectives for the benefit of the school and the catchment's children.</p>
<p>Involvement (Communication and Engagement) Involve the people of Gwynedd when seeking to realise our plan and ensure that those people reflect the diversity of the area.</p>	<p>The proposal will be subject to public consultation, and consultation for children. The process to date has included local review meetings to engage with the relevant stakeholders of the school. These meetings have involved the Governing Body, staff, and parents of Ysgol Baladeulyn.</p>

5. CONCLUSION

Following consideration and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the well-being act, the seven well-being act goals and the Council's well-being objectives, it is concluded that the proposal meets the requirements.

During the statutory consultation, concerns were raised regarding the impact of the proposal on vulnerable children, learners with additional learning needs, the wellbeing of families facing socio-economic disadvantage, and the linguistic and community vitality of the village.

It is acknowledged that should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, it could result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community. However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children living within the school's catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), suggesting a link between the schools, and the community of the school already exist. Every effort would be made to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging links between the communities and Ysgol Talysarn, should the proposal be implemented. Should the proposal be approved, discussions would take place to discuss the possibility that Ysgol Talysarn's community activities would include the Nantlle community where appropriate.

The Council is committed to ensuring that any transition arrangements prioritise individual needs, including those of vulnerable children and learners with additional learning needs, should the school close.

It is anticipated that the proposal would ensure that children in the area are educated on a site that is suitable and in a naturally Welsh-speaking society, increasing opportunities for socialising and collaborating with others and giving them a fair chance to thrive among their peers.

Assess the Impact on the People of Gwynedd

This document assesses what impact the policy, procedure, plan, etc. will have on the county's population and operates based on a number of legislations.

- **Equality Act 2010.** It places a duty on public organisations to give due attention to the impact of any new policy, procedure or plan, etc. (or as they are adapted) on persons with protected characteristics. We are required to
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In Wales, the specific duty notes the need to undertake an impact assessment following specific guidelines to consider the impact that any changes in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), will have on persons with protected equality characteristics. A timely assessment should be made before any decision is taken on any relevant change (i.e. that affects people with protected equality characteristics).

- **Socio-economic Duty.** Wales has implemented this further duty, which is part of the Equality Act 2010, and places a duty to address socio-economic disadvantages in strategic decisions.
- **Welsh Language Standards (Section 44 Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011).** The Council is required to consider the impact that any change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), will have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than English. This document therefore ensures that these decisions safeguard and promote the use made of the Welsh language.
- **Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.** The Council has a duty to put the five ways of working in place and to respond to the seven national well-being goals.
- **Armed Forces Act 2021.** Councils must give due attention to the impact of this proposal on those who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces, as well as their families.

Ysgol Baladeulyn

Author: Gwern ap Rhisiart

Date: May 2026

Version: 3

STEP 1 – Main Aims and Objectives of the Policy or Practice

1. What kind of document or procedure is being assessed?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures (which modify service delivery or employment practices)

2. What are the overall aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the policy or practice?

On 14 October 2025, Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet decided to undertake a statutory consultation process on a proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026, and to provide a place for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027 onwards, in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The consultation was held between 10 December and 28 January, and 30 responses to the consultation were received.

Ysgol Baladeulyn has been prioritised for a review of the educational provision as the school is facing a number of challenges. Learner numbers at the school have fallen consistently in recent years and have been fragile for some time. Consequently, it is likely that the school is facing increasing challenges, including:

- **Number of learners** – Census PLASC data from January 2026 shows that only 6 full-time learners were attending the school with 2 children in the Nursery Class. The school has a capacity for 55 learners Admission to Year 6 (+7 in the Nursery Class).
- **Learners in the catchment area** – January 2026 data shows that only 25% of Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area learners choose to attend the school. 75% of learners in the catchment area choose to attend schools outside the catchment area.
- **Projections of numbers** - Projections of numbers (including the Nursery Class) recommend that the numbers will remain fragile into the future: September 2026=9; September 2027 = 9; September 2028= 8
- **High percentage of surplus places** - Based on January 2026 figures, there are approximately 89% empty places (49 in number).

- **Small class sizes** – In Ysgol Baladeulyn (September 2025) there is one class which includes all learners in the school - namely 6 Reception-Year 6 learners (Reception, Years 1 and 2, and Years 4 and 5) and 2 Nursery learners. Within this class, different groups are formed at different times of the day, with the assistants leading the activities (with the youngest learners). This therefore means that the age range in the whole class extends up to 8 years.
- **Broad age ranges within classes** - There is an age range of 8 years in one class.
- **Additional funding to the usual allocation** - Ysgol Baladeulyn receives an additional amount to the normal allocation through the minimum staffing policy (which guarantees at least a headteacher and a teacher in every school, and a headteacher and an assistant in schools with less than 15 full-time learners). The total additional amount during the 2026-27 financial year (based on September 2025 numbers) will be £74,446
- **Cost per learner** – The average cost per learner at Ysgol Baladeulyn in 2026-27 will be £25,123 compared to the county average of £5,998.

3. Who are the main consultative groups (stakeholders)?

- Staff, Governors and Parents/Guardians of Ysgol Baladeulyn
- A statutory consultation was held on the proposal, consulting with all consultees specified in the School Organization Code.
- Education Department and Officers from other Cyngor Gwynedd departments.

STEP 2 – Engagement Data and Assessing the Impact

4. Has any effort been made to comply with the duty to engage in accordance with what is described above and has enough information been gathered to move forward?

Yes

The engagement details. Note any consultation or engagement you have conducted or intend to conduct.

Action	Dates	Information
Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel 1	17 March 2025	The Ysgol Baladeulyn School Review Panel (SRP) was established in March 2025 and a series of meetings were held between March and July 2025, with the last of these held on 7 July 2025. The SRP membership included the school's headteacher and staff, governors, the Local Member, parents and guardians. During the meetings, a number of options were considered for primary education in the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to ensure a sustainable
Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel 2	19 May 2025	
Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel 3	7 July 2025	

		provision for the future and respond specifically to the small numbers of learners.
Statutory Consultation	December 2025 – January 2026	A statutory consultation was held on the proposal, in accordance with the School Organisation Code. The consultation was held between 10 December and 28 January, and 30 responses to the consultation were received.

5. What information is available about the impact on each of the following characteristics and subjects?

	Evidence, Information and Relevant Data	Potential Positive and/or Negative Impact
Race	<p>Gwynedd schools have relevant policies in place to protect individuals from any discrimination based on race, such as Equality, Inclusion and Anti-bullying Policies. The Anti-bullying Policy provided by Cyngor Gwynedd states anti-bullying guidelines and procedures based on factors such as race in the school. Also, it is states in the Equality policy that is implemented by Gwynedd primary schools that schools</p> <p><i>"... are opposed to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledge that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i></p> <p>Therefore, it is not anticipated that this proposal would have a negative impact on this characteristic.</p>	None
Disability	<p>During the statutory consultation, concerns were raised about the negative impact of the proposal on certain groups of learners, particularly those with complex additional learning needs, of transferring to a new school that is larger and unfamiliar to them. Questions were also raised about whether the continuity of support, such as support staff and the number of support hours for an ALN learner, would transfer to the alternative school in order to mitigate the impact of moving to a new school. It was noted that parents had specifically chosen Ysgol Baladeulyn because of the care,</p>	As a result of the comments received during the consultation, a potential negative impact was identified for some learners with complex additional learning needs, due to concerns about transferring to a larger and unfamiliar school, and about whether continuity of support staff for the learner would be maintained at the alternative school in order to mitigate any potential negative impact.

	<p>learning environment and personal support that learners receive in a smaller school.</p> <p>The Council notes these concerns, and although it cannot be guaranteed that the continuity of support staff would be maintained at the alternative school, it is noted that each request is assessed on an individual basis. As stated in the Gwynedd Parents' Handbook 2025/26, learners with additional learning needs have the right to continue to receive the support specified in their Individual Development Plan, and it is the Authority's duty to ensure that this provision continues even when school arrangements change.</p> <p>Should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, the authority and the alternative school would work closely with the learners and their families to ensure a smooth transition and to support learners as they settle into their new schools. The Council is committed to ensuring that any transition arrangements prioritise individual needs, including for vulnerable learners and learners with additional learning needs, should the school close.</p> <p>The Quality and Standards of Education Impact Assessment refers to elements such as improved conditions for the additional learning needs co-ordinator to meet statutory requirements, and the availability of a broader provision map in larger schools.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that the change would have a negative impact on this characteristic. An accessibility assessment of any relevant alternative schools would be held, and we will ensure that any transport provided (in accordance with the Education Department's transport policy) is suitable for the needs of the individual. The needs of any disabled child would be considered in accordance with the Education Department's Accessibility and Equality policies.</p>	<p>However, the Council's assessment is that there would be a neutral or positive impact on this characteristic should the proposal be implemented, as it is anticipated that the alternative school would be able to offer improved conditions for the additional learning needs co-ordinator to meet statutory requirements, and the availability of a broader provision map.</p> <p>An assessment of any relevant alternative schools would be undertaken on the basis of accessibility, and we would ensure that any transport provided (in accordance with the Education Department's transport policy) is suitable for the individual's needs. The needs of any disabled child would be considered in line with the Education Department's Accessibility and Equality policies.</p>
Sex	<p>It is not anticipated that the proposal would have an impact on this characteristic. Implementing the proposal will mean that everyone will be treated according to their need, whatever their gender. Every school implements an Equality Policy stating that the school:</p>	None

	<p><i>"... is opposed to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledges that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i></p>	
<p>Age</p>	<p>During the statutory consultation, it was noted that the current school supports equal opportunities to participate and fosters positive and inclusive relationships between learners, staff and families, with concerns expressed that moving to a larger school could weaken these aspects. Specific concerns were raised regarding wellbeing, mental health and the risk that some learners may find it difficult to transition to a larger school, with potential implications for their educational experience, particularly for children who are naturally shy or lack confidence and who require additional support or a more personalised environment in order to thrive.</p> <p>The Council notes these concerns and notes that equality, inclusion and anti-discrimination safeguarding policies are in place within both the current provision and the alternative school. Should the proposal be implemented, transition arrangements would place emphasis on individual needs.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn would benefit from having more age-related peers in their class as there are more learners at Ysgol Talysarn, which will be a way to ensure age-appropriate educational and extra-curricular experiences, as well as access to additional extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>We believe that learners will receive more age-appropriate experiences at the nearby alternative school since the learners will have learning experiences in collective groups, smaller groups, partner work and individually within their specific age range, along with lessons that have been appropriately differentiated for the age range in question. It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would mean that people of any age would be treated fairly and according to their need. Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn implement an equality policy stating that the schools:</p>	<p>As a result of the comments received during the consultation, a potential negative impact is identified for some learners (particularly those who are naturally shy, who thrive in smaller classes, or who are socially/emotionally vulnerable), due to concerns that transferring to a larger and unfamiliar school could reduce individual attention and support, thereby increasing the risk of difficulties during the transition period.</p> <p>The Council's assessment is that there would be a neutral or positive impact on this characteristic should the proposal be implemented, as the alternative school would be able to offer classes with a greater number of age-appropriate peers.</p>

	<i>"... are opposed to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledge that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i>	
Religion and Belief	<p>Ysgol Baladeulyn and the alternative school noted in the proposal (Ysgol Talysarn) are community schools.</p> <p>Every school has an Inclusion Policy that would deal with any discriminatory incident that may occur at the school, which is associated with religion or belief.</p> <p>Therefore, it is not anticipated that this proposal would have an impact on this characteristic.</p>	None
Sexual Orientation	<p>Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) is a statutory requirement in the Curriculum for Wales framework that was published under section 71 of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 and is mandatory for all learners aged between 3 and 16. RSE has a positive and empowering role to play in learners' education and it is essential to form and maintain a range of relationships, that are all based on respect and trust on both sides, which is core to relationships and sexuality education. These relationships are crucial to developing emotional well-being, resilience and empathy. An understanding of sexuality with an emphasis on rights, health, equality and fairness empowers the learners to understand themselves, to take responsibility for their own decisions and behaviours and to form relationships. We believe that learners will receive more opportunities to develop relationships and learn collaboratively as part of a larger class in an alternative school.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that the proposal would have an impact on people on the grounds of sexual orientation. Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn, the proposed alternative school, implement an equality policy stating that the school: <i>"... is opposed to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledges that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i></p>	None

Gender reassignment	It is not anticipated that implementing the proposal would have an impact on people on the grounds of gender reassignment. It is stated in the Equality policy that is implemented by Gwynedd primary schools including Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn that the schools <i>"... are opposed to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledge that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i>	None
Marriage and Civil Partnership	It is not anticipated that the proposal would have an impact on anyone who is married or in a civil partnership, as both schools who are a part of the proposal implement the same policies.	None
Pregnancy and Maternity	It is not anticipated that the proposal would have an impact on anyone who is pregnant, whether staff or parents, as both schools which are a part of the proposal implement the same policies.	None
The Welsh Language	<p>Through the responses to the consultation, concerns were expressed that the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn could lead to the Welsh language being treated less favourably than English in practice, despite Welsh-medium educational provision continuing. Respondents emphasised that Ysgol Baladeulyn provides an environment in which Welsh is used naturally and socially on a day-to-day basis, not solely as the language of instruction, and that the loss of the school could significantly reduce these opportunities within the local community. It was noted that Ysgol Baladeulyn has a very strong Welsh-language profile compared with other schools in the area, and concern was expressed that moving to a school with a lower proportion of Welsh-language use could have an adverse impact on children's linguistic confidence.</p> <p>It was also noted that the loss of the school could undermine opportunities for people to use Welsh in a living and practical way in everyday community life, with reference made to the natural opportunities for children, parents/guardians and local residents to gather and converse within the community during school drop-off and pick-up times. Concerns were expressed that closing the school could result in the loss of these opportunities, thereby weakening the status of Welsh as a living community language and potentially undermining the principle of not treating the Welsh language less favourably.</p>	<p>As a result of the comments received during the consultation, a potential negative impact is identified on the linguistic confidence and Welsh-language use of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn should the school close and learners transfer to the alternative school, with reference made to the lower proportion of Welsh-language use at the alternative school.</p> <p>However, the Council's assessment is that there would be a neutral or positive impact on the educational provision aspect of this characteristic should the proposal be implemented, as learners would be taught in larger classes and alongside more children from the same age group. It is anticipated that the proposed option would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a wider group of their peers. The Council is not of the view that the proposed option would result in a negative impact on learners' Welsh-medium educational provision.</p> <p>As a result of the comments received during the consultation, a potential negative impact is identified on opportunities for people to use Welsh in a living and practical way in everyday community life, with reference</p>

	<p>It was noted that the school functions as an important hub for the Welsh-language life of the village, contributing to the use of the language beyond school hours, and reference was made to how the school integrates new families, including those who are not fluent Welsh speakers, into local Welsh-language life. Concerns were expressed that closing the school would undermine the wider community use of Welsh, and it was emphasised that the school is a key part of the community's linguistic identity.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the role of Ysgol Baladeulyn in supporting the community use of the Welsh language within the village, and accepts that the comments highlight a potential negative impact on elements of local linguistic vitality outside the formal educational provision.</p> <p>However, based on the information available, the Council is of the view that the proposed option is not likely to have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or on learners' language opportunities, for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The January 2026 PLASC data show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn. • The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) would mean that learners from the Baladeulyn catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school. • It is anticipated that learners would be taught in larger classes and alongside more children from the same age group, and that the proposed option would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a wider group of their peers. Given the above, if the proposed option were to be implemented, it is anticipated that there would be increased opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and the level of informal language use would be stronger. <p>At the same time, having considered the consultation responses, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could</p>	<p>made to the natural opportunities for children, parents/guardians/families and local residents to gather and converse within the community during school drop-off and pick-up times.</p> <p>The Council's assessment is that there would be some negative impact on the community element of this characteristic should the proposal be implemented, as parents/guardians and local residents would no longer meet on a daily basis within the Nantlle community when dropping off and collecting learners from school. Potential measures to mitigate this negative impact are noted, such as promoting the use of the Welsh language by involving the Nantlle community in the school's community activities, and considering options for the future use of the school building, taking into account the community activities currently held at the school.</p>
--	---	--

	<p>have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there.</p> <p>In the educational context, based on the above, it is anticipated that, if the proposal is implemented, there would be more opportunities for learners in the Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers inside and outside the classroom, and that the level of vitality of the Welsh language and the informal use of the language would be stronger.</p> <p>The Gwynedd Education Language Policy has the same aim for all of the county's primary schools, and every primary school (except for one) falls into category 3 in accordance with the Welsh Government's Guidance on school categories according to Welsh-medium provision. This means that the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn will be able to continue to receive their education through the medium of Welsh and bilingually in accordance with the Education Language Policy at Ysgol Talysarn.</p>	
<p>Socio-economic Considerations</p>	<p>Specific concerns were highlighted during the statutory consultation regarding the lack of suitable public transport, unreliable timetables and lower levels of car ownership. It was noted that Talysarn is a deprived area and that this would pose a significant challenge for families who do not drive, low-income families, single parents, and families where disability or limited mobility is a factor, making daily travel to a more distant school very difficult in practical terms.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges these concerns and notes that, should the school close, free transport would be provided to eligible learners in accordance with the County's School Transport Policy, which ensures that all primary-age learners living 2 miles or more from the nearest suitable school are eligible to receive free transport. The policy also includes consideration of walking route</p>	<p>As a result of the comments received during the consultation, a potential negative impact is identified on families experiencing socio-economic disadvantage within a deprived area, with reference made to the lack of suitable public transport and lower levels of car ownership.</p> <p>The Council's assessment is that there would be some negative impact as well as a potential positive impact on this characteristic should the proposal be implemented. The potential negative impact is acknowledged, as the proposal would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community and the challenges this may pose for families experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.</p>

	<p>safety and individual needs where relevant. It is not anticipated that any learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school should the proposal be implemented.</p> <p>The Community Impact Assessment shows that there would be some likely negative impact on the community should the proposal be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community. It is also noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposal would reduce social disadvantage by ensuring more experiences and diversity of learning, more resources and access to more services and activities in the alternative school.</p>	<p>However, the Council also anticipates a potential positive impact on this characteristic should the proposal be implemented, through ensuring access to greater learning experiences and a wider variety of educational provision at the alternative school.</p>
Those Who Serve or Who Have Served in the Armed Forces, As Well As Their Families	<p>It is not anticipated that the proposal would have an impact on those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, as well as their families. Learners from military or ex-military families will get the same fair play whichever school they attend.</p>	None
Human Rights	<p>It is not anticipated that implementing the proposal would have an impact on human rights.</p>	None
Other	-	-

6. Are there any data or information gaps, and if so, what are they and how do you intend to address them?

All assessments were updated after considering the responses to the statutory consultation.

7. When considering other key decisions that affect these groups, is there an increasing impact (cumulative impact)?

We are not aware of any proposed policies that would impact on the learners and young people of the area.

8. What does the proposal include to demonstrate you have given due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (to promote equality of opportunity; help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, or victimisation and foster good relations and wider community cohesion) as covered by the three aims of the General Duty in the Equality Act 2010?

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have an impact on the school's statutory duty to protect learners from any discrimination, harassment or victimisation.

The aim is to promote equal opportunities and encourage the alternative school to continue to follow equality policies and procedures. Should the proposal be realised, it is anticipated that learners would receive more equal opportunities when placed in Ysgol Talysarn since the learners would have learning experiences that are based on national learning principles, with a range of methods, including working in collective groups, smaller groups, partner work and individually within their specific age range, along with lessons that have been appropriately differentiated for the age range in question.

During the statutory consultation, concerns were raised about the negative impact of the proposal on certain groups of learners, particularly those with complex Additional Learning Needs, of transferring to a new school that is larger and unfamiliar to them. Questions were also raised as to whether continuity of support, such as support staff members and the number of support hours for an ALN learner, would transfer to the alternative school in order to mitigate the impact of moving to a new school. It was noted that parents had chosen Ysgol Baladeulyn because of the care and education their children receive in a smaller school. The Council acknowledges these concerns, and although it cannot guarantee that continuity of support staff would be maintained at the alternative school, it is noted that each case is assessed on an individual basis. As stated in the Gwynedd Parents' Handbook 2025/26, learners with additional learning needs have the right to continue to receive the support specified in their Individual Development Plan, and it is the Authority's duty to ensure that this provision continues even when school arrangements change. Should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, the authority and the alternative school would work closely with learners and their families to ensure a smooth transition and to support learners as they settle into their new schools. The Council is committed to ensuring that any transition arrangements prioritise individual needs, including vulnerable learners and learners with additional learning needs, should the school close.

During the statutory consultation, it was noted that the current school supports equal opportunities to participate and fosters positive and inclusive relationships between learners, staff and families, with concerns expressed that moving to a larger school could weaken these elements. Specific concerns were raised regarding wellbeing, mental health, and the risk that some learners may find it difficult to transition to a larger school, with potential implications for their educational experience. This was considered to be particularly relevant for learners who are naturally shy or lack confidence and who require additional support or a more personalised environment in order to thrive. The Council notes these concerns and notes that equality, inclusion and anti-discrimination safeguarding policies are in place within both the current provision and the alternative school. Should the proposal be implemented, transition arrangements would place emphasis on individual needs.

In addition, specific concerns were highlighted during the statutory consultation regarding the lack of suitable public transport, unreliable timetables and lower levels of car ownership. It was noted that Talysarn is a deprived area, and that this would pose a significant challenge for families who do not drive, low-income families, single parents, and families where disability or limited mobility is a factor, making daily travel to a more distant school very difficult in practical terms. The Council acknowledges these concerns and notes that, should the school close, free transport would be provided to eligible learners in accordance with the County's School Transport Policy, which ensures that any primary-age learner living 2 miles or more from the nearest suitable school is eligible to receive free transport. The policy also includes consideration of walking route safety and individual needs where relevant. It is not anticipated that any learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an

unreasonable distance to school should the proposal be implemented. The Community Impact Assessment shows that some negative impact on the community is likely should the proposal be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community. It is also noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), suggesting that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist. Should the proposal be implemented, opportunities would be promoted for the alternative school, Ysgol Talysarn, to build on its existing links with the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area.

Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) is a statutory requirement in the Curriculum for Wales framework that was published under section 71 of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 and is mandatory for all learners aged between 3 and 16. RSE has a positive and empowering role to play in learners' education and it is essential to form and maintain a range of relationships, that are all based on respect and trust on both sides, which is core to relationships and sexuality education. These relationships are crucial to developing emotional well-being, resilience and empathy. An understanding of sexuality with an emphasis on rights, health, equality and fairness empowers the learners to understand themselves, to take responsibility for their own decisions and behaviours and to form relationships. By implementing the proposal, it is anticipated that learners would receive more opportunities to develop relationships and learn collaboratively as part of a larger class.

9. How does the proposal show that due regard has been given to the need to address inequality due to socio-economic disadvantage? (Note that this relates to closing the inequality gap, rather than just improving outcomes for everyone.)

Specific concerns were highlighted during the statutory consultation regarding the lack of suitable public transport, unreliable timetables and lower levels of car ownership. It was noted that Talysarn is a deprived area and that this would pose a significant challenge for families who do not drive, low-income families, single parents, and families where disability or limited mobility is a factor, making daily travel to a more distant school very difficult in practical terms. The Council notes these concerns and notes that, should the school close, free transport would be provided to eligible learners in line with the County's School Transport Policy, which ensures that all primary-age learners living 2 miles or more from the nearest suitable school are eligible to receive free transport. The policy also includes consideration of walking route safety and individual needs where relevant. It is not anticipated that any learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school should the proposal be implemented. The Community Impact Assessment shows that there would be some likely negative impact on the community should the proposal be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community. It is also noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist.

It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would reduce inequality arising from socio-economic disadvantage by ensuring that learners have access to a wider range of experiences and greater access to services and activities at the alternative school.

By implementing the proposal, the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn would have a better learning environment at a school with more learners of the same age, and it would ensure that they make the most of their education. It is anticipated that learners would benefit from having more age-related peers at a school with more learners, which will be a way to ensure suitable educational and extra-curricular experiences for them, as well as access to additional extra-curricular activities.

10. How does the proposal show implementation in line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011), to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language, and to ensure opportunities for people to use the

Welsh language? Also, how does the proposal operate in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Welsh Language Strategy to take advantage of every opportunity to promote the Welsh language (beyond providing bilingual services) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?

Our expectations are that all of the County's learners have ability-relevant and well-balanced bilingual skills to enable them to be full members of the bilingual society of which they are part. Proposals to change local arrangements would have to take full consideration of all linguistic impacts. Supporting and improving the use of the Welsh language as an educational and social language among learners will be a key consideration when drawing up an option.

The Gwynedd Education Language Policy has the same aim for all of the county's primary schools, and every primary school (except for one) falls into category 3 in accordance with the Welsh Government's Guidance on school categories according to Welsh-medium provision. This means that the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn will be able to continue to receive their education through the medium of Welsh and bilingually in accordance with the Education Language Policy at Ysgol Talysarn, should the proposal be implemented.

Through the responses to the consultation, strong concerns were expressed that the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn could lead to the Welsh language being treated less favourably than English in practice, despite Welsh-medium educational provision continuing. Respondents emphasised that Ysgol Baladeulyn provides an environment in which Welsh is used naturally and socially on a day-to-day basis, not only as the language of instruction, and that the loss of the school could significantly reduce these opportunities within the local community. It was noted that Ysgol Baladeulyn has a very strong Welsh-language profile compared with other schools in the area, and concern was expressed that transferring learners to a school with a lower proportion of Welsh-language use could have an adverse impact on learners' linguistic confidence. It was noted that the loss of the school could undermine opportunities for people to use Welsh in a living and practical way in everyday community life, with reference to the natural opportunities for children, parents/guardians/families and local residents to gather and converse within the community during school drop-off and pick-up times. Concern was expressed that closing the school could result in the loss of these opportunities, weakening the status of Welsh as a living community language and potentially undermining the principle of not treating Welsh less favourably. It was also noted that the school operates as an important hub for the Welsh-language life of the village, contributing to the use of the language beyond school hours, and reference was made to how the school integrates new families, including those who are not fluent Welsh speakers, into local Welsh-language life.

The Council acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the role of Ysgol Baladeulyn in supporting the community use of the Welsh language within the village, and accepts that the comments highlight a potential negative impact on aspects of local linguistic vitality outside the formal educational provision.

However, based on the information available, the Council is of the view that the proposed option is not likely to have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or on learners' language opportunities, for the following reasons:

- The January 2026 PLASC data show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn.
- The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) means that learners in the Nantlle catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school.
- It is anticipated that learners would be taught in larger classes and alongside more children from the same age group, and that the proposed option would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a wider group of their peers.

Given the above, if the proposed option were to be implemented, it is anticipated that there would be increased opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and the level of informal language use would be stronger.

At the same time, having considered the consultation responses, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there.

In the educational context, based on the above, it is anticipated that, if the proposal is implemented, there would be more opportunities for learners in the Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers inside and outside the classroom, and that the level of vitality of the Welsh language and the informal use of the language would be stronger.

The Community Impact Assessment shows that some negative impact on the community is anticipated should the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn be implemented. It is acknowledged that closing Ysgol Baladeulyn would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community; however, the assessment notes that a large proportion of learners living within the school's catchment area already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn. As a result, it is concluded that a link between Ysgol Talysarn and the Ysgol Baladeulyn community already exists.

11. How does this proposal meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act by implementing the five ways of working, and respond to the seven national well-being goals, including creating a More Equal Wales?

Through the responses to the statutory consultation, it was stated that Ysgol Baladeulyn makes a significant contribution to the long-term wellbeing of learners, families and the community by providing a stable and supportive environment that promotes wellbeing, equality and community cohesion. It was noted that the current provision supports vulnerable learners or learners with Additional Learning Needs, and sustains Welsh as a living language, with concerns expressed that any changes could undermine these benefits. Attention was also drawn to the way in which the school contributes to several wellbeing objectives by providing local access to education that is central to social interaction and the everyday life of the village, and that promotes the natural use of the Welsh language among people of all ages and backgrounds. Following consideration and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the well-being act, the seven well-being act goals and the Council's well-being objectives were considered, and it is concluded that the proposal meets the requirements.

It is acknowledged that should the Cabinet decide to proceed with this proposal, it may result in the closure of a school in the community of Nantlle, however a large number of the learners living within the school's catchment area already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn, and therefore there is already a link between the schools and the community of that school. Every effort will be made to mitigate any negative impact on the community by encouraging links between the communities and Ysgol Talysarn. Should the proposal be approved, discussions will take place to discuss the possibility that Ysgol Talysarn community activity includes the community, where appropriate.

The proposal will ensure that the learners of the area are educated on a site that is suitable and in a naturally Welsh-speaking society, thus increasing the opportunities to socialise and collaborate with others, and to give them a fair opportunity to thrive among their peers.

STEP 3 – Procurement and Partnerships

12. Will this policy or practice be carried out wholly or partly by contractors or in partnership with another organisation(s)?

No

STEP 4 - Dealing with Negative or Unlawful Impact and Strengthening the Policy or Practice

13. When considering proportionality, does the policy or practice have a significantly positive or negative impact or create unequal outcomes?

Significantly Positive Impact:

Should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that learners would receive more equal opportunities when placed in an alternative school since the learners will have learning experiences that are based on national learning principles, with a range of methods, including working in collective groups, smaller groups, partner work and individually within their specific age range, along with lessons that have been appropriately differentiated for the age range in question.

By implementing the proposal, the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn would have a better learning environment at a school with more learners of the same age, and it would ensure that they make the most of their education and allow access to more activities that are appropriate for their ability level. The learners would benefit from having more age-related peers at a school with more learners, which will be a way to ensure suitable educational and extra-curricular experiences for them, as well as access to additional extra-curricular activities.

Significant Negative Impact:

It is recognised that the options may have an impact on an organisation within the community and on community cohesion, and the need is anticipated to mitigate this by fostering links between the school and the community.

As a result of the comments submitted during the consultation, a potential negative impact was also identified for some vulnerable learners, including learners with additional learning needs or emotional/social needs, due to concerns about losing the benefits of small class environments and personalised support, as well as the challenges of transitioning to a larger school if the proposal were implemented. In response to these concerns, the Council notes that, should the proposal be implemented, transition arrangements would focus on individual needs and the child's voice, with inclusion and equality policies in place at the alternative school, if the proposal were to be implemented.

The school (and its Governing Body) is responsible for implementing its equality policy, and the Authority, through its routine support and monitoring procedures, will ensure compliance.

14. Explain any intentional negative impact and why it is believed that there is justification for operating in this way (for example, on the grounds of improving equal opportunities or developing good relationships between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not or due to objective justification or positive action)

No

15. Will any of the negative impacts identified count as unlawful discrimination albeit they are unavoidable (e.g. budget cuts)?

Not applicable.

Note the reason for stating this and the justification for proceeding

Not applicable.

16. What other measures or changes could be included to strengthen or change the policy/practice to demonstrate that due regard has been given to equal opportunity; help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, or victimisation; and foster good relations and wider community cohesion; as covered by the improvement aim of the General Duty in the Equality Act 2010?

Following the statutory consultation, the Council has considered the comments received and has updated the Equality Impact Assessment in line with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. If the proposal proceeds, the impact will continue to be monitored as part of the Council's ongoing statutory duties.

17. What measures or other changes could be included to strengthen or change the policy/practice to demonstrate that due regard has been given to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome as a result of socio-economic disadvantage?

It is envisaged that the proposal would reduce socio-economic disadvantage by ensuring that the learners have more experiences and access to more services and activities in the alternative school. Learners would receive more equal opportunities since the learners would have learning experiences that are based on national learning principles, with a range of methods, including working in collective groups, smaller groups, partner work and individually within their specific age range, along with lessons that have been appropriately differentiated for the age range in question.

By implementing the proposal, the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn would have a better learning environment at a school with more learners of the same age, and it would ensure that they make the most of their education. The learners would benefit from having more age-related peers at a school with more learners, which will be a way to ensure suitable educational and extra-curricular experiences for them, as well as access to additional extra-curricular activities.

18. What other measures or changes could be included to strengthen or change the policy/practice to demonstrate that due regard has been given to the need to increase opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language as set out in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and to reduce or prevent any adverse effects that the policy/practice may have on the Welsh language?

The proposal is expected to have a positive impact on the Welsh language, as learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn would benefit from increased opportunities to use Welsh with a wider range of peers both in the classroom and socially. The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners at Ysgol Talysarn would ensure continuity of Welsh-medium education, with PLASC (January 2026) data showing that 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn (compared with 29% at Ysgol Baladeulyn) speak Welsh fluently at home. While the Council acknowledges concerns about the potential impact on community use of Welsh in Nantlle, mitigation measures could be considered by exploring appropriate options for the future use of the school building should the proposal be implemented.

Should the school close, the Local Authority and Governing Body of Talaerau could consider methods to promote use of the Welsh language socially by means of extra-curricular and community activities.

19. Is there enough information to make a balanced judgement and to proceed?

Yes

STEP 5 – Decision to Proceed

**20. Given the information gathered in Steps 1–4 above, is it possible to move forward with the policy or practice or not, and if so, on what basis?
Choice of:**

Continue with policy or practice in its current form

STEP 6 - Actions and Arrangements for Monitoring Outcomes and Reviewing Data

The EqIA process is an ongoing one that doesn't end when the policy/practice and EqIA is agreed and implemented. There is a specific legal duty to monitor the impact of policies/practices on equality on an ongoing basis to identify if the outcomes have changed since you introduced or amended this new policy or practice. If you do not hold relevant data, then you should be taking steps to rectify this in your action plan. To review the EHRC guidance on data collection you can review their [Measurement Framework](#)

21. What actions noted in Steps 1-5 or any additional data collection work would help to monitor the policy/practice when implemented:

Action	Dates	Timetable	Lead Responsibility	Add to the Service Plan
-	-	-	-	-

22. What arrangements to monitor and review the ongoing impact of this policy or practice will be implemented, including timeframes for when it should be formally reviewed:

Monitoring and Review Arrangements (including where outcomes will be recorded)	Timeframe and Frequency	Lead Responsibility	Add to the Service Plan
Should the proposal be realised, we will monitor the impact of the closure of the school and endeavour to assist with any negative impact that may derive from the policy.	Continuous	Education Department	No