

APPENDIX 1

Objection Report - September 2026

Proposal to close Ysgol Nebo

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1. BACKGROUND

On 11 February 2025, Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet resolved to authorise the Education Department to hold formal discussions with the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo and other relevant stakeholders regarding the future of the school, in light of concerns about learner numbers at the school. A School Review Panel was subsequently established to consider the school's position and a range of possible options for its future.

On 14 October 2025, Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet resolved to support a recommendation to hold a statutory consultation on the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo on 31 December 2026 and provide a place for learners at Ysgol Llanllyfni from 1 January 2027 onwards.

The statutory consultation period was held between 5 December 2025 and 23 January 2026. During this period, stakeholders and members of the public were given an opportunity to submit their views on the proposal. A Consultation Report was subsequently prepared, summarising the issues raised and providing the Council's responses to those issues.

The Consultation Report was presented to Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet on [19 May 2026](#). Having considered the contents of the report, the Cabinet resolved to approve the publication of a Statutory Notice on the proposal, in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The Statutory Notice was published on 3 June 2026. The proposal published by means of the Statutory Notice was to close Ysgol Nebo on 31 December 2026 and provide a place for learners at Ysgol Llanllyfni from 1 January 2027 onwards.

A copy of the Statutory Notice and the related documents is available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation

In accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, any person was given an opportunity to object to the proposal during the statutory objection period. The objection period ended on 30 June 2026.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. It summarises the objections received during the statutory objection period, together with the Council's response to the main issues raised.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTIONS AND MAIN THEMES

A total of 20 objections were received during the statutory objection period.

In addition, a petition opposing the proposal was received from the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo, containing 358 signatures. The petition called on the Council to reconsider the proposal to close the school and to give full consideration to the Governing Body's alternative option, namely to retain the school as a mainstream school and develop provision to support and nurture children with social and emotional needs and learners who find mainstream education challenging. Reference was also made to the school's role as an important part of the local community, its contribution to sustaining the Welsh language, and concerns regarding the impact of closing the school on the community and its future. The issues raised in the petition have been incorporated within the relevant themes in Section 3 of this report, together with the Council's response to those issues.

The objections received raised a number of issues in relation to the proposal. The most common themes were:

- Ysgol Nebo's current provision and its role in meeting the needs of learners who require additional support;
- calls for full consideration of the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo;
- the impact of the proposal on learners' wellbeing, educational experience and travel arrangements;
- the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language and its sustainability within the community;
- the impact of the proposal on the local community;
- concerns regarding the consultation process, the consideration of evidence and decision-making;
- financial considerations, costs and education funding;
- wider strategic, political and policy considerations;
- the future of the Ysgol Nebo building, its community use and the war memorial; and
- opposition to the proposal and calls for it to be reconsidered.

A number of the objections expressed concern regarding the impact of the proposal on learners' wellbeing, provision for children who require additional support, Welsh as a living community language, and the role of Ysgol Nebo in the social and community life of the area. Views were also presented regarding the future of rural schools, admission arrangements, strategic planning, the costs associated with the proposal, and the future of the school building and site.

A number of objectors also called on the Council to reconsider the proposal and give further consideration to the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo, namely to use the school as provision to support and nurture children with social and emotional needs and learners who find mainstream education challenging.

To present the objections clearly and systematically, the issues raised have been grouped under themes and sub-themes. The thematic contents list below sets out the structure of Section 3, where a summary of the statutory objections is presented under each theme and sub-theme, together with the Council's response.

Theme 1: Ysgol Nebo's current provision and its role in meeting the needs of learners who require additional support

- 1.1 The role of Ysgol Nebo in supporting children who find larger mainstream schools challenging
- 1.2 The potential for Ysgol Nebo to provide a personalised and nurturing learning environment for learners who require additional support
- 1.3 Concerns about making a decision before obtaining a full picture of learners' needs, pressures on ALN provision and the contents of the ALN Report due to be published in September 2026
- 1.4 The benefits of smaller classes and individual support for learners with ALN or those who require additional assistance
- 1.5 Strategic planning and the long-term capacity of ALN provision in Gwynedd

Theme 2: Calls for full consideration of the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo

- 2.1 A call to reconsider the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo in an open and comprehensive manner: "Ysgol Nebo to offer its site as provision to support and nurture children with social and emotional needs who find mainstream education challenging, including pupils with an IDP for social, emotional and behavioural needs, and other young people with mental health needs, including anxiety and neurodivergence."
- 2.2 Support for the option of developing Ysgol Nebo as nurturing and specialist provision to support learners with additional learning needs
- 2.3 Ysgol Nebo as an innovative pilot project to support learners and facilitate a return to Welsh-medium mainstream education
- 2.4 Potential benefits of the alternative option in attracting learners and supporting the Welsh language within the community
- 2.5 Concerns regarding the consideration of alternative options and a call to defer the decision until the ALN Report is published

Theme 3: Impact on learners' wellbeing, educational experience and travel arrangements

- 3.1 The impact of closing the school on learners' wellbeing and experience
- 3.2 The benefits of a small school and individual support
- 3.3 The impact of travel and transition to an alternative school on learners' wellbeing and support
- 3.4 Concerns regarding the capacity of neighbouring schools and the potential impact on learners' wellbeing and development

Theme 4: Impact of the proposal on the Welsh language and its sustainability within the community

- 4.1 The role of Ysgol Nebo in sustaining Welsh as a living language within the community
- 4.2 Concerns regarding the impact of closing the school on Welsh as a living language within the community
- 4.3 Concerns that the proposal conflicts with the objectives of Cymraeg 2050 and the Council's commitments to protect the Welsh language
- 4.4 The potential impact of closing the school on young families and the Welsh language

Theme 5: Impact of the proposal on the local community

- 5.1 Concerns regarding the loss of Ysgol Nebo as the heart of the community and the social, cultural and linguistic impact of its closure
- 5.2 Concerns regarding the loss of the school as a space for activities, volunteering and community services
- 5.3 Concerns regarding the impact of closing the school on the village's long-term viability and the future of the rural community
- 5.4 Concerns regarding the impact of closing the school on wellbeing, social inclusion and community sustainability
- 5.5 Concerns regarding reliance on facilities in Llanllyfni as a mitigation measure and the impact on local residents
- 5.6 Concerns regarding the impact of closing Ysgol Nebo on the Welsh language and the sustainability of the rural community

Theme 6: Concerns regarding the consultation process, consideration of evidence and decision-making

- 6.1 Concerns regarding the impartiality of the process, consideration of the community's comments and the quality of the Consultation Report
- 6.2 Concerns that children's voices were not given sufficient consideration during the process
- 6.3 Concerns regarding the consideration of the Governing Body's alternative option and information about ALN provision in the decision-making process
- 6.4 Concerns regarding compliance with the presumption against the closure of rural schools and the consideration of alternative options
- 6.5 Concerns regarding the impartiality of the process and the allegation that a decision to close the school had been made in advance
- 6.6 Concerns regarding the impact of the timetable and discussions about closure on learner numbers and parental choice
- 6.7 Concerns regarding the impact of closing the school on current learners, parents and continuity in formal education

Theme 7: Financial matters and strategic planning

- 7.1 Concerns regarding the emphasis placed on cost per learner when assessing the educational and community value of Ysgol Nebo
- 7.2 A call to review school funding arrangements and consider long-term community benefits
- 7.3 Concerns regarding the consistency of financial decisions and the long-term strategy for education provision
- 7.4 Concerns regarding the absence of detailed analysis and a professional survey to substantiate the school's maintenance costs
- 7.5 Concerns regarding the lack of consideration given to the long-term financial benefits of an ALN pilot scheme at Ysgol Nebo

Theme 8: Wider strategic, political and policy considerations

- 8.1 A call to consider the impact of catchment area, admissions, housing and demographic policies on the sustainability of rural schools and communities
- 8.2 References to Plaid Cymru policy and the commitment to protect small rural schools and community services
- 8.3 A call to review catchment area and admission arrangements to increase numbers in local schools and support the Welsh language
- 8.4 Concerns regarding the impact of empty homes, second homes and planning policies on rural communities and learner numbers
- 8.5 Concerns regarding spending priorities, modernising education and the continuing value of small rural schools
- 8.6 Comments regarding political responsibility for previous decisions

Theme 9: The future of the Ysgol Nebo building, its community use and the war memorial

9.1 Concerns regarding the building's future use and its importance as a community asset

9.2 Concerns regarding the future of the building and the loss of a community resource

9.3 Concerns regarding the future, stewardship and protection of the war memorial

Theme 10: Opposition to the proposal and calls for reconsideration

10.1 Formal objections to the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo

10.2 A request to reconsider or halt the process in order to assess the impacts and consider the future of rural schools

10.3 A call to consider alternative solutions to safeguard and strengthen the future of Ysgol Nebo and the local community

10.4 A request to defer the decision, undertake full impact assessments and give appropriate consideration to stakeholders' views

10.5 A request to defer the decision until further work on ALN provision is completed and Ysgol Nebo's potential role is considered

3. SUMMARY OF THE STATUTORY OBJECTIONS AND THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE

In accordance with the requirements of section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, this section presents a summary of the statutory objections received during the objection period, together with the Council's response to those objections. To facilitate the presentation of the objections, they have been grouped under a number of themes and sub-themes.

Theme 1: Ysgol Nebo's current provision and its role in meeting the needs of learners who require additional support

1.1 The role of Ysgol Nebo in supporting children who find larger mainstream schools challenging

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Objections relating to additional learning needs (ALN) were received, expressing strong and continuing concerns that the closure of Ysgol Nebo could result in the loss of a small, safe, Welsh-medium and nurturing environment for children who require a higher level of support. Specific reference was made to children experiencing anxiety, low confidence, difficulties concentrating, neurodivergence, learning challenges or difficulties in mainstream schools. Some respondents noted that these children do not always meet the formal threshold for ALN but nevertheless require additional support. It was also emphasised that a medical diagnosis is not required for a child to be identified as requiring additional learning support, and it was argued that the focus should be on the child's needs rather than their formal status within the ALN system. It was argued that, in practice, Ysgol Nebo already provides a form of support or nurturing provision for some children, and that closing the school could force children to leave this supportive environment. Reference was made to cases where, according to respondents, children had been able to cope or remain in primary education because of the school's small, personalised and supportive nature.	The Council notes the comments. In developing the proposal, consideration was given to its potential impact on learners through the impact assessments published as part of the statutory consultation process. These included the Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education, the Equality Impact Assessment and the Well-being Act Impact Assessment, together with other relevant assessments. These assessments are available on the Council's website (www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation) as part of the documentation published during the statutory process. The Equality Impact Assessment and the Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education note that, should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that the provision at Ysgol Llanllyfni 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. Should the proposal be implemented, the needs of each learner would be considered individually when planning the transition arrangements to Ysgol Llanllyfni. This would include consideration of learners' emotional wellbeing, any additional support they may require, and the appropriate steps to help them become familiar with the new school and learning environment.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	As noted in the Well-being Act Impact Assessment, concerns were expressed during the consultation and objection periods regarding the potential impact that implementing the proposal could have on vulnerable children, including learners with ALN, learners experiencing emotional difficulties, and other learners who require additional support. Should the proposal be implemented, these needs would be considered when planning transition arrangements and appropriate support for the learners concerned. In accordance with the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021, the additional learning provision specified in an Individual Development Plan must be secured for a learner with ALN. Should the proposal be implemented, transition arrangements would be carefully planned, in consultation with the learners, their families, Ysgol Nebo, Ysgol Llanllyfni and the relevant support services, where appropriate. This would include ensuring the continuity of any provision specified in an Individual Development Plan, as well as considering appropriate support for other learners who require additional support but do not have an Individual Development Plan.

1.2 The potential for Ysgol Nebo to provide a personalised and nurturing learning environment for learners who require additional support

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Objections were received expressing the view that Ysgol Nebo is ideally placed to provide additional support for children who require a more personalised and nurturing learning environment. The view was also expressed that very little specific provision is available to support these children, and that teachers with the skills, experience and understanding required to create a nurturing learning environment are in short supply. It was argued that Ysgol Nebo is ideally placed to provide such support and that the school could be organised to accommodate approximately 25 children at a relatively low additional cost. Some respondents argued that, in practice, Ysgol Nebo already serves a significant number of pupils who require additional support, many of whom attend from outside the catchment area. The view was expressed that promoting this provision more formally could provide support for families from other areas of Gwynedd. The view was expressed that the Council had not given sufficient consideration to the impact of losing this provision or to the potential benefits of promoting and developing it further.	The Council notes the comments. It is noted that the duty to identify and support learners' needs applies to all mainstream schools. In this respect, Ysgol Nebo, like every other mainstream school, is responsible for providing appropriate support for its learners, with access to relevant services and expertise as required. Should the proposal be implemented, the Equality Impact Assessment and the Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education note that, due to the size of the school (its higher number of learners), Ysgol Llanllyfni is expected to be able to provide learners with a wider range of resources, learning experiences, activities and social opportunities, together with access to appropriate assistance and support in accordance with their individual needs. In relation to the suggestion that Ysgol Nebo should be more formally promoted or developed as specific provision, it is noted that the school is a mainstream school and is not designated specialist provision. It would not be appropriate for the Authority to promote Ysgol Nebo as specialist provision in the absence of a formal decision to establish or designate such provision. The admission arrangements applicable to mainstream schools are based on parental preference and the relevant admissions policy, rather than on any specific specialism or designation. During the local discussions, an alternative option was presented for Ysgol Nebo to offer a specialist unit to support and nurture children with social and emotional needs, including learners who find larger mainstream schools or settings challenging. This option was given specific consideration as part of the statutory process and was evaluated against a number of factors, including learner numbers and surplus places, class sizes and age range, leadership and staffing, financial resources, the community, the Welsh language, geographical factors, and the challenges facing Ysgol Nebo.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	Having considered the advantages and disadvantages of the option, it was concluded that it would not adequately address the challenges facing Ysgol Nebo. The option was not expected to increase learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo. Consequently, it was anticipated that low numbers, small classes and a broad age range would continue, together with the associated financial challenges. In developing the proposal, consideration was given to its potential impact on learners through the impact assessments published as part of the statutory consultation process. These included the Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education, the Well-being Act Impact Assessment and the Equality Impact Assessment, together with other relevant assessments. Following the statutory consultation period, these assessments were reviewed and updated to take account of the comments and issues raised during the consultation. The assessments and relevant documents are available on the Council's website: www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation . As part of the preparation of the Objection Report, the relevant assessments were reviewed and updated further to take account of the objections received during the statutory objection period. These assessments are available in Appendix 3.

1.3 Concerns about making a decision before obtaining a full picture of learners' needs, the pressures on ALN provision and the contents of the ALN Report due to be published in September 2026

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents expressed concern that the Cabinet could make a decision regarding the future of Ysgol Nebo without fully understanding the current circumstances of children who experience difficulties in mainstream schools, or the further decisions due to be made in September 2026 regarding support for those children. It was suggested that Ysgol Nebo could be well placed to continue providing high-quality support for such pupils, and that the school should not be closed before the full picture had been considered. Concerns were raised regarding the wider context of ALN provision in Gwynedd. Reference was made to an ALN report due to be published in September 2026, which was described as a report that would consider children with ALN, as well as children who do not meet the formal threshold but experience other difficulties at school. The view was expressed that the current excess demand for formal ALN provision, and the implications of the forthcoming ALN report, had not been given sufficient consideration. Some respondents referred to the possibility that a decision could be made before the full picture was available. It was argued that the needs of some children who do not meet the formal threshold for ALN are not always adequately recognised, even though they continue to experience difficulties at school. The view was expressed that this could affect the children themselves, their fellow pupils and teachers seeking to provide high-quality education for all.	The Council notes the comments. It is noted that the expectation to identify and support learners' needs applies to all mainstream schools. In this respect, Ysgol Nebo, like every other mainstream school, is responsible for providing appropriate support for its learners, with access to relevant services and expertise as required. In addition, larger schools can provide learners with a wider range of resources, learning experiences, activities and social opportunities, together with access to appropriate assistance and support in accordance with their individual needs. Should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that the provision at Ysgol Llanllyfni 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. The proposal to close Ysgol Nebo has been developed and assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. The Council has considered all relevant factors required under the Code, including the impact on learners, the quality and standards of education, ALN arrangements, the community, the Welsh language and the comments received during the statutory process. In developing the proposal, consideration was given to its potential impact on learners through the impact assessments published as part of the statutory consultation process. These included the Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment, the Equality Impact Assessment and other relevant assessments. Following the statutory consultation period, these assessments were reviewed and updated to take account of the comments and issues raised

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	during the consultation. These assessments are available on the Council's website: www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation . As part of the preparation of the Objection Report, the relevant assessments were reviewed and updated further to take account of the objections received during the statutory objection period. These assessments are available in Appendix 3. In response to the comments relating to the proposed report on Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision, it is noted that the wider consideration of ALN provision is an ongoing matter for the Local Authority, and that the needs of individual learners are considered continuously through the existing statutory arrangements. The statutory process regarding the future of Ysgol Nebo has been conducted on the basis of the information and evidence available at the time. Should a decision be made to implement the proposal, appropriate transition arrangements and suitable support for every learner, including those with ALN, would be planned and considered in accordance with their individual needs.

1.4 The benefits of smaller classes and individual support for learners with ALN or those who require additional support

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Reference was made to research which, according to some respondents, demonstrates that smaller classes work better for children experiencing anxiety, low confidence and learning difficulties. Reference was made to pupils with ALN or pupils who require additional support, with some respondents noting that a school with fewer pupils can be significantly better for these children. Statements were made to the effect that an 'expensive computer' cannot replace a dedicated member of staff.	The Council notes the comments. However, the Council does not consider that effective support for learners who require additional assistance is limited to small schools. Every school has a responsibility to identify and respond to the needs of its learners, with access to relevant services and expertise in accordance with each learner's individual needs. In addition, larger schools, due to their size and higher number of learners, can provide learners with a wider range of resources, learning experiences, activities

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	and social opportunities, together with access to appropriate assistance and support in accordance with their individual needs. Should the proposal be implemented, the Equality Impact Assessment and the Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education note that the provision at Ysgol Llanllyfni is expected to offer access to a wider range of expertise, peers and professional support, with the aim of maintaining or improving learners' wellbeing, inclusion and educational experience

1.5 Strategic planning and the long-term capacity of ALN provision in Gwynedd

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Reference was made to the fact that Ysgol Hafod Lon, which was designed for 80 pupils with additional learning needs, now educates approximately 135 pupils, meaning that existing spaces and resources have been repurposed to create additional capacity. It was argued that this demonstrates increasing pressure on ALN provision and was used to question the long-term strategic planning for placing and supporting learners with additional needs in the county. Reference was made to the former Ysgol Felinwnda site, which has been refurbished, and it was noted that only two learners attend the provision. It was argued that this represents a cost to the public purse and raises questions regarding the consistency of the approach to the use of educational resources and education funding. In this context, concern was expressed regarding the financial rationale for the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo, noting that similar expenditure had been permitted in other circumstances, and that the plans and strategies in place for long-term education provision in Gwynedd should be explained more fully. The view was expressed that it does not make sense to close a school which, in the respondents' opinion, already has a proven record of providing a nurturing learning environment, an experienced teaching team and strong support from the	The Council notes the comments. Although some respondents referred to other educational provisions and sites within the county, it is noted that each provision serves different purposes, needs and contexts. This proposal has therefore been assessed on the basis of the particular circumstances and needs of Ysgol Nebo. However, it is noted that the future of Ysgol Nebo is the focus of this statutory process, which is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018). The current review is based on the challenges facing the school, including persistently low learner numbers, a high percentage of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, and projections indicating that learner numbers will remain low. During the consultation period, a number of comments were received regarding ALN provision, the demand for additional support for learners, the strategic planning of that provision across the county, and the potential to develop alternative uses for Ysgol Nebo, including ALN provision.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
local community, and which could accommodate more children in the future. Reference was made to expectations that the number of children requiring additional support will increase significantly in the future, and it was argued that this strengthens the case for retaining and using such provision. Concern was also expressed that, once a school has closed, it cannot easily be reopened, and that experienced teachers lost to the Authority would not be easily replaced. It was argued that closing a school which is already in a position to admit and support children with additional needs could be regarded as a mistake in the future.	These matters were considered as part of the evaluation of the proposal and the other reasonable options presented. Following the statutory consultation, the Council gave full consideration to the issues raised, including the comments relating to ALN provision and the possible alternative use of the school site. Further evaluation and impact assessments were undertaken in relation to the proposal, together with the alternative options presented in the Consultation Document and during the consultation period. On the basis of the evidence considered, it was concluded that none of the alternative options presented, including developing the school as ALN provision, would address the challenges facing Ysgol Nebo. The alternative option relating to the potential development of Ysgol Nebo as ALN provision is considered in greater detail under Theme 2 below. The Council therefore remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county

Theme 2: Calls for Full Consideration of the Alternative Option Presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo

2.1 A call to reconsider the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo in an open and comprehensive manner: “Ysgol Nebo to offer its site as provision to support and nurture children with social and emotional needs who find mainstream education challenging, including pupils with an IDP for social, emotional and behavioural needs, and other young people with mental health needs, including anxiety and neurodivergence.”

Summary of issues	The Council’s response
Some respondents, including the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo, called on the Cabinet to reconsider, in a genuinely open manner, the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo and to give it full consideration before making a final decision. A number of respondents were highly critical of what they described as a failure to give full consideration to the proposal presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo. They presented the proposal as a specific option to retain the school as a mainstream school and to develop specialist or nurturing provision on the site as a pilot project to support children with social and emotional needs, or children who find mainstream education challenging. A number of respondents expressed the view that the Governors’ response had not been given full consideration before the Statutory Notice was published. Support was expressed for the proposal: “For Ysgol Nebo to offer its site as provision to support and nurture children with social and emotional needs who find mainstream education challenging, including pupils with an IDP for social, emotional and behavioural needs, and other young people with mental health needs, including anxiety and neurodivergence.” Some respondents called on the Cabinet to give full consideration to this proposal as an alternative to the proposal to close the school.	The Council notes the comments. The alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo was submitted during the statutory consultation period. Following the end of that period, the option was given full consideration alongside the comments, additional evidence and other reasonable alternative options presented through the process. Details of the alternative option, together with the evaluation of the alternative options considered, are recorded in the Consultation Report and the associated supporting documents. These documents are available on Cyngor Gwynedd’s website at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation . Following the evaluation of the option, the Council concluded that it did not provide an adequate or sustainable response to the challenges facing Ysgol Nebo. Under this option, it was anticipated that the admission arrangements and criteria would remain in accordance with the current arrangements, with no change to the admission arrangements or the school’s status. Given that the current admission arrangements would remain unchanged, it was not anticipated that this option would lead to a meaningful increase in learner numbers or a substantial reduction in the high level of surplus places. Consequently, it was anticipated that the existing challenges relating to small classes with a broad age range, low projected learner numbers in the future and the associated financial challenges, including high costs per learner, would remain unresolved.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
It was noted that the Cabinet needed to reconsider the proposal in a genuinely open manner and provide a specific response to it, rather than considering it solely as a general point.	Throughout the statutory process, the Council acted in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. Consideration was given to the relevant information and evidence, the impact assessments, the alternative options presented, including the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo, together with the comments and responses received during the statutory consultation. Following this process, it was concluded that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo was the option that provided the most appropriate response to the challenges facing the school. The Council therefore remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

2.2 Support for the option of developing Ysgol Nebo as nurturing and specialist provision to support learners with additional learning needs

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Support was expressed for the proposal: "For Ysgol Nebo to offer its site as provision to support and nurture children with social and emotional needs who find mainstream education challenging, including pupils with an IDP for social, emotional and behavioural needs, and other young people with mental health needs, including anxiety and neurodivergence." It was argued that Ysgol Nebo already has extensive experience and expertise in supporting children who experience anxiety, or who are achieving below expectations, neurodivergence or difficulties in larger settings, and that its homely atmosphere, smaller classes and experienced, caring staff are particularly well suited to meeting the needs of such pupils. The view was expressed that the proposal could provide support for children who find it difficult to thrive in mainstream education, help some home-educated pupils return to the education system, and offer a new model of primary provision to meet the diverse needs of learners in Gwynedd. It was also argued that the proposal offered an opportunity to address two issues simultaneously, namely low numbers within the catchment area and the growing needs of children who require more support in smaller, more nurturing environments.	The Council notes the comments. The alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo was submitted during the statutory consultation period. Following the end of that period, the option was given full consideration alongside the comments, additional evidence and other reasonable alternative options presented through the process. Details of the alternative option, together with the evaluation of the alternative options considered, are recorded in the Consultation Report and the associated supporting documents. These documents are available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation. Following the evaluation of the option, the Council concluded that the alternative option did not provide an adequate or sustainable response to the challenges facing Ysgol Nebo. Under this option, it was anticipated that the admission arrangements and criteria would remain in accordance with the current arrangements, with no change to the admission arrangements or the school's status. Given that the current admission arrangements would remain unchanged, it was not anticipated that this option would lead to a meaningful increase in learner numbers or a substantial reduction in the high level of surplus places. Consequently, it was anticipated that the existing challenges relating to small classes with a broad age range, low projected learner numbers in the future and the associated financial challenges, including high costs per learner, would remain unresolved. The Council therefore remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

2.3 Ysgol Nebo as an innovative pilot project to support learners and facilitate their return to Welsh-medium mainstream education

Summary of issues	The Council's response
It was suggested that the school could operate as an innovative pilot project to assess how this model could better serve some primary pupils, providing educational, wellbeing and financial benefits in both the short and long term. Reference was also made to the possibility of supporting home-educated children to return to Welsh-medium mainstream education, and to the suggestion that Ysgol Nebo could be an innovative and cost-effective pilot project for developing a new approach to supporting primary-aged children in Gwynedd.	As above (see response 2.2 above).

2.4 Potential benefits of the alternative option in terms of attracting learners and supporting the Welsh language within the community

Summary of issues	The Council's response
It was suggested that the alternative option could also attract some pupils who are currently home educated into mainstream Welsh-medium education and contribute to sustaining Welsh as a living, everyday language within the community.	As above (see response 2.2 above).

2.5 Concerns regarding the consideration of alternative options and a call to defer the decision until the ALN Strategy is published

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Reference was also made to the procedural presumption against the closure of rural schools in the School Organisation Code, and the view was expressed that the Council had not demonstrated that the Governing Body's proposal or the other alternative options had been conscientiously considered before proceeding with the proposal to close the school. There were also calls for any final decision to be deferred until Cyngor Gwynedd's ALN Strategy Report had been published and considered. It was noted that more than 200 children are home educated and that many others find large classes challenging, and it was suggested that Ysgol Nebo could form part of a wider solution to these challenges.	The Council notes these comments. The School Organisation Code (011/2018) introduces special arrangements in relation to rural schools by establishing a procedural presumption against closure. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but rather that the case for closure must be strong and that all other viable options must have been conscientiously considered. Ysgol Nebo has been designated as a rural school for the purposes of the Code and, consequently, an additional set of procedures and criteria must be followed when considering any proposal to close it. The Council confirms that the proposal has been specifically assessed against the statutory factors applicable to rural schools, including the presumption against the closure of rural schools. The Council is satisfied that all the additional processes, assessments and requirements specified in the Code for rural schools have been followed in full. It was only after undertaking the relevant impact assessments, conscientiously considering every reasonable alternative option, and concluding that none of them adequately addressed the challenges facing the school that it was considered appropriate to proceed with the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo. The alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo was considered as part of this process. Details of the option, together with the assessment of the alternative options before and after the statutory consultation, are recorded in the Consultation Report and the associated supporting documents, which are available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website: www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation . Following the evaluation of the Governing Body's option, it was concluded that the option would not address the challenges facing Ysgol Nebo. Under this option, Ysgol Nebo would continue to operate as a mainstream primary school with the same admission arrangements and criteria. Consequently, it was not anticipated

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	that the option would lead to a meaningful increase in learner numbers or reduce the high number of surplus places. The existing challenges relating to very low learner numbers, small classes with a broad age range, low projected learner numbers in the future, an established pattern of parental preference, and a cost per learner significantly higher than the county average would be likely to continue. Having considered all the relevant evidence, the Council concluded that none of the alternative options provided an appropriate or sustainable response to the challenges facing the school. In relation to the comments regarding Cyngor Gwynedd's ALN Strategy Report, it is noted that strategic planning for ALN provision is a separate matter from this statutory process. The process regarding the future of Ysgol Nebo was conducted on the basis of the relevant information and evidence and in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. The Council therefore remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

Theme 3: Impact on Learners' Wellbeing, Educational Experience and Travel Arrangements

3.1 The impact of closing the school on learners' wellbeing and experience

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Comments were received regarding pupils' wellbeing and experience, expressing strong concern that closing the school could have an adverse impact on the wellbeing of children and families. Reference was made to the loss of a familiar and stable environment and the potential effect this could have on children's confidence, happiness and sense of belonging. Some comments referred to a 'devastating' impact on pupils and the community. Some respondents stated that Ysgol Nebo provides a safe, caring and supportive environment where every child receives individual attention. Some respondents argued that the proposal to close the school would force children to leave a supportive learning environment and compel parents to make the difficult decision to withdraw their children from the school. It was argued that the close relationships between staff, pupils and parents in a small school contribute significantly to children's emotional wellbeing and educational success.	The Council notes the comments. Impact assessments of the proposal were undertaken as part of the statutory process. The Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education concludes that the educational provision at the proposed alternative school, Ysgol Llanllyfni, is expected to be at least equivalent to the current provision at Ysgol Nebo in terms of the quality and standards of education. It also notes that schools with higher numbers of learners can offer a wider range of provision, more formal support structures and greater capacity to coordinate ALN support and specific interventions, which may mitigate some of the risks identified by respondents. The Well-being of Future Generations Act Impact Assessment notes that the Council acknowledges that, should Ysgol Nebo close, there may be some negative impact on learners' wellbeing during the transition period. Should Ysgol Nebo close, the Authority and the alternative school would work closely with the closing school, the learners and their families to ensure a smooth transition and support learners as they settle into their new school. It is anticipated that carefully planned transition arrangements, together with appropriate support, would mitigate negative impacts and support the continuation of educational progress.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	The Council remains of the view that the proposal would enable children in the area to gain experience by socialising with a wider range of peers of a similar age, while receiving a high-quality education at a school capable of providing a learning environment and experiences for a wider range of learners.

3.2 The Benefits of a Small School and Individual Support

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents directly challenged the view that a larger school necessarily provides a better education. Reference was made to the benefits of a small school, smaller classes, close relationships between staff, parents and pupils, and the ability to provide individual attention. In particular, it was noted that smaller classes can be more beneficial for children who experience anxiety, low confidence or learning difficulties.	The Council notes the comments. In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018), an Assessment of the Likely Impact of the Proposal on the Quality and Standards of Education was undertaken and subsequently updated following consideration of the comments received during the consultation. The revised assessment acknowledges that Ysgol Nebo's current performance was judged to be 'Good' by Estyn and that the existing provision offers a positive educational experience for the learners who currently attend the school. In the same context, the Council is of the view that the provision offered at Ysgol Llanllyfni, as the proposed alternative school, includes classes of a more appropriate size and with a narrower age range, which may offer benefits to some learners. These may include greater opportunities to learn and socialise with peers of the same age. However, it is noted that the review of the future of Ysgol Nebo was undertaken because the school faces increasing challenges, including persistently low learner numbers, a very high percentage of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, and projections indicating that learner numbers will remain low in the medium and long term. In addition, patterns of parental preference within the

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	catchment area show that the majority of learners choose to attend other schools. Based on a comparison of Estyn reports and an assessment of the options against the relevant criteria, the Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education indicates that implementing the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo and transfer learners to Ysgol Llanllyfni would be likely to have a neutral or partially positive impact on the quality and standards of education. It is noted that the provision at the alternative school is at least equivalent to the current provision and would enable learners to be educated alongside a greater number of peers of the same age.

3.3 The impact of travel and transition to an alternative school on learners' wellbeing and support

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Clear concerns were also raised regarding travel, including longer distances, longer days, more time spent travelling and less time with families or within the community. Concern was expressed that transferring pupils to other schools could reduce the individual support currently available to them.	The Council notes the comments. In accordance with the requirements of the statutory process, a Travel Arrangements Impact Assessment was undertaken in relation to the proposal and was updated following consideration of the comments received during the statutory consultation period. The impact assessment notes that, should the option to close Ysgol Nebo and provide education for the learners at Ysgol Llanllyfni be implemented, there would be an anticipated impact on the children's travel arrangements. However, no learner from the Nebo catchment area is expected to have to travel an unreasonable distance to school. It is noted that school transport would be provided in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd's Education Transport Policy, where applicable, and that no learner from the Ysgol Nebo catchment area is expected to have to travel an unreasonable distance to school or use routes to school that are considered unsafe.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	The assessment of the likely impact on travel arrangements is available on the Council's website: www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation . In relation to the comments regarding individual support for learners, it is noted that the Council does not anticipate that transferring learners to Ysgol Llanllyfni would result in a reduction in the assistance and support available to them. Every school has a responsibility to identify and respond to the needs of its learners, with access to relevant support and expertise in accordance with their individual needs. In addition, the Assessment of the Likely Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education notes that the educational provision at the proposed alternative school, Ysgol Llanllyfni, is expected to be at least equivalent to the current provision at Ysgol Nebo in terms of the quality and standards of education. It also notes that schools with higher numbers of learners can offer a wider range of provision, more formal support structures and greater capacity to coordinate ALN support and specific interventions, which may mitigate some of the risks identified by respondents.

3.4 Concerns regarding the capacity of neighbouring schools and the potential impact on learners' wellbeing and development

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Concern was expressed that neighbouring schools could become overcrowded as a result, and that this could have a negative impact on pupils' wellbeing and development.	The Council notes the comments. At present, as of January 2026, 59 learners from Reception to Year 6 and 13 Nursery pupils attend Ysgol Llanllyfni. The school's projections indicate that 72 learners from Reception to Year 6 and 11 Nursery pupils will attend the school in September 2028.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	Ysgol Llanllyfni has capacity for 103 learners from Reception to Year 6 and 14 Nursery pupils. This means that there are currently 44 surplus places at the school, together with one surplus place in the Nursery class. Consequently, Ysgol Llanllyfni has sufficient capacity to accommodate learners from Ysgol Nebo, including within the pupil projections for the coming years. The Council is therefore satisfied that the school has sufficient capacity to meet both current and projected future demand, and that the proposal is unlikely to result in overcrowding or place unacceptable pressure on the school's capacity.

Theme 4: Impact of the Proposal on the Welsh Language and the Community

4.1 The role of Ysgol Nebo in sustaining Welsh as a living language within the community

Summary of issues	The Council's response
A number of comments were received regarding the impact on the Welsh language. Ysgol Nebo was described as an integral part of the community and as an institution that plays a key role in sustaining and promoting the Welsh language. Some respondents specifically noted that closing the school would pose a significant risk to the sustainability of the Welsh language in the area and would be a step against the future of Welsh-medium primary education in the area. Concern was also expressed that the Welsh language is already vulnerable in parts of the communities of Nebo and Nasareth, and that closing the school could accelerate that decline. Concern was expressed that this was not solely a matter of the language medium of education. It was argued that the school contributes to Welsh as a living, everyday language by creating opportunities for children, parents and residents to hear and use Welsh in community life. Some respondents warned that removing	The Council notes the comments. As part of the statutory consultation process, a Welsh Language Impact Assessment was undertaken, and the original assessment was published as part of the consultation documentation. Following consideration of the comments received during the consultation, the Welsh Language Impact Assessment was reviewed and updated, with the issues raised by consultees taken into account in preparing the revised assessment. Following the statutory objection period, the assessment was reviewed again and updated where necessary in light of the objections and comments received. The revised Welsh Language Impact Assessment acknowledges the concerns expressed by respondents regarding the potential impact of closing Ysgol Nebo on the use of the Welsh language within the community.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
the school from the community could result in Welsh being regarded solely as a medium of education rather than as a living community language. Some respondents expressed concern that closing the school would have a negative impact on the Welsh language, as the school is the only community resource in the village. It was noted that, in addition to education being provided through the medium of Welsh, it is equally important that pupils develop Welsh as a language they use in their day-to-day lives within their community. It was argued that removing the school from the community could result in Welsh being regarded solely as a medium of education.	The revised Welsh Language Impact Assessment concludes that, should the proposal be implemented, learners from the Ysgol Nebo catchment area are expected to have more opportunities to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and its informal use would be strengthened. At the same time, the Council acknowledges that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly its use as a community language outside the educational context. However, it is noted that mitigation measures could be considered by promoting the use of Welsh through the involvement of the Nebo community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as by considering appropriate options for the future use of the school building, taking into account the community activities currently held there.

4.2 Concerns regarding the impact of closing the school on Welsh as a living language within the community

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents referred to Plaid Cymru's policies and commitments in relation to the Welsh language, noting that the party states: "Alongside developing the Welsh language through our education system, we will protect and promote it as a living, everyday language, strengthening its foundations in communities throughout Wales." It was argued that, for the Welsh language to thrive, it must be used in all aspects of life, including in the home and the community as well as at school. Concern was expressed that closing Ysgol Nebo would have an adverse impact on the Welsh language and the local community, as the school was described as the only community resource in the village and, for some residents, the only opportunity to hear and socialise through the medium of Welsh. Ysgol Nebo was described as a cornerstone of the rural community, as more than an educational establishment, and as a focal point for community and social life that contributes directly to sustaining Welsh as a living, everyday language. Reference was made to the fact that the school or community room provides one of the few opportunities, or the only opportunity for some residents, to hear and socialise through the medium of Welsh. Examples included Welsh classes held in the community room and community activities where Welsh is used naturally. Examples were also provided of children from non-Welsh-speaking homes who had developed their Welsh-language skills through their education at Ysgol Nebo.	The Council notes the comments. As part of the statutory consultation process, a Welsh Language Impact Assessment was undertaken, and the original assessment was published as part of the consultation documentation. Following consideration of the comments received during the consultation, the Welsh Language Impact Assessment was reviewed and updated, with the issues raised by consultees taken into account in preparing the revised assessment. Following the statutory objection period, the assessment was reviewed again and updated where necessary in light of the objections and comments received. The revised Welsh Language Impact Assessment acknowledges the concerns expressed by respondents regarding the potential impact of closing Ysgol Nebo on the use of the Welsh language within the community. The revised Welsh Language Impact Assessment concludes that, should the proposal be implemented, learners from the Ysgol Nebo catchment area are expected to have more opportunities to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and its informal use would be strengthened. At the same time, the Council acknowledges that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly its use as a community language outside the educational context. However, it is noted that mitigation measures could be considered by promoting the use of Welsh through the involvement of the Nebo community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as by considering appropriate options for the future use of the school building, taking into account the community activities currently held there.

4.3 Concerns that the proposal conflicts with the objectives of Cymraeg 2050 and the Council's commitments to protect the Welsh language

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents referred to Cymraeg 2050 and its aims of increasing the number of Welsh speakers, increasing the use of Welsh and creating favourable conditions for the language to thrive. Some respondents were of the view that closing a Welsh-medium school in a rural community would conflict with these principles and with the aims of protecting and promoting the Welsh language and Welsh-speaking communities. It was also argued that closing Ysgol Nebo would conflict with each of the main principles of Cymraeg 2050, namely increasing the number of Welsh speakers, increasing the use of Welsh and creating favourable conditions for the Welsh language to thrive. Reference was also made to Cyngor Gwynedd's corporate commitment to protect and promote the Welsh language and Welsh-speaking communities, and there were calls for the proposal to be reconsidered in order to safeguard the future of Ysgol Nebo and the local community.	As above (see response 4.2). In addition, the Welsh Language Impact Assessment notes the following: Through the consultation responses, concern was expressed that closing a Welsh-medium rural school could be contrary to the objectives of Cymraeg 2050, particularly in terms of increasing the community and natural use of Welsh. Attention was drawn to the importance of ensuring that Welsh is heard, used and transmitted informally on a daily basis, rather than solely being taught in the classroom. The view was expressed that small schools play a key role in creating new Welsh speakers in rural communities. It is noted that any discussions relating to reorganisation must take account of the Welsh Government's efforts to achieve the target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050. The Council acknowledges that, should the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo be implemented, it is anticipated that some aspects of community events would be affected. To mitigate any negative impacts, the Local Authority and the Governing Body of Ysgol Llanllyfni could consider ways of promoting the use of the Welsh language by involving the Nebo 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 currently held at the school. In terms of educational provision, it is noted that Ysgol Nebo and Ysgol Llanllyfni are both Category 3 Welsh-medium primary schools. Consequently, should the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo and transfer learners to Ysgol Llanllyfni be implemented, learners would continue to be educated at a Category 3 Welsh-medium school. The proposal is not expected to have a negative impact on the Welsh language, primarily because:

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	- January 2026 PLASC statistics show that 56% of learners at Ysgol Nebo speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 68% of learners at Ysgol Llanllyfni; - the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo and provide learners with a place at a neighbouring school, Ysgol Llanllyfni, would mean that learners from the Ysgol Nebo catchment area would continue to be educated at a Category 3 Welsh-medium school; and - as learners would be educated in larger classes with more children from the same age group, it is anticipated that the proposal would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a greater number of their peers. On the basis of the above, should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that learners from the Ysgol Nebo catchment area would have more opportunities to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and its informal use would be strengthened. The full impact assessments are available on the Council's website: www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation .

4.4 The potential impact of closing the school on young families and the Welsh language

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents noted that the loss of the school would reduce the incentive for families with school-aged children to move to the area and that, over time, this could lead to less use of Welsh within the community.	As above (see response 4.2 above). In addition, the Council's Community Impact Assessment notes that there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal would have a significant impact on the sustainability of the community or on population patterns within the catchment

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	area. A high proportion of children from the Ysgol Nebo catchment area already attend schools outside the catchment area (78%), with 44% of primary-aged children from the Ysgol Nebo catchment area already attending Ysgol Llanllyfni. Consequently, the Council does not anticipate that young families and children would leave the community should the school close. Furthermore, given that the alternative school is located 1.6 miles from Ysgol Nebo, the Council does not anticipate that the option would encourage families with school-aged children to leave the community or make young families less likely to move to the community. However, the assessment indicates that some negative impact on the community is likely should the option to close Ysgol Nebo be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nebo community as a community focal point. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Nebo, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting continued links between the Nebo 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. In addition, it is noted that, should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-use Policy would provide a framework for 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.

Theme 5: Impact of the Proposal on the Local Community

5.1 Concerns regarding the loss of Ysgol Nebo as the heart of the community and the social, cultural and linguistic impact of its closure

Summary of issues	The Council's response
A number of objections were received regarding the impact of the proposal on the community. Ysgol Nebo was described as the 'heart' or 'anchor' of the community, as one of the most important institutions in the village and, in some responses, as the only community resource or one of the few community resources remaining. Some respondents noted that the school forms part of the community's identity, connects generations and fosters a sense of pride and belonging. The view was expressed that its closure would represent an immense social and cultural loss that would not be easily replaced. Some respondents stated that closing the school could have a damaging and devastating impact on the local community. Some respondents noted that Ysgol Nebo has been central to the community for more than a century and a half, providing high-quality education and a safe and supportive environment for local children. The school was also described as a cornerstone of the rural community, important to the village's social life and to sustaining the Welsh language. The view was expressed that the school is at the heart of a vibrant community and that its closure would be a serious mistake. Some respondents referred to the school as the only community resource in the village, expressing concern that its closure would have a negative impact on the local community.	The Council notes the comments. In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018), the Council undertook a Community Impact Assessment to assess the likely impact of the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo on the local community. This assessment was reviewed and updated following the statutory consultation, taking full account of the comments and issues raised by consultees. The assessment was also reviewed and updated further following the statutory objection period to take account of the objections and comments received at that stage of the process. The assessment indicates that some negative impact on the community is likely should the option to close Ysgol Nebo be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nebo community as a community focal point. It notes the concerns raised regarding the possibility that some community activities currently held at the school or in the community room could be affected as a result of the proposal. It also acknowledges the concerns raised during the consultation and objection periods regarding Ysgol Nebo's role as a community focal point and the implications of losing the school for the vitality, identity and cohesion of the community. However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children from the catchment area, 78%, already attend other schools, including Ysgol Llanllyfni, which is attended by 44%. This suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities, including the Llanllyfni community, already exist. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Nebo, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting opportunities to maintain and develop community links, promoting community collaboration where appropriate, and ensuring that residents and families are aware of the opportunities, facilities and activities available at the

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	alternative school. In addition, it is noted that, should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-use Policy would provide a framework for 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.

5.2 Concerns regarding the loss of the school as a space for activities, volunteering and community services

Summary of issues	The Council's response
It was noted that the community had already lost other important resources and services over the years, and that the school is one of the few community assets remaining in the area. Specific examples were provided of activities held at the school and in the community room, including a knitting club, social evenings, a gardening club, caring for planters and an orchard, social gatherings over a cup of tea, Welsh classes for 11 residents, a polling station, monthly Area Committee meetings, and the annual Eryri Harriers race, which raises funds for the school. It was also noted that local volunteers undertake a range of activities for the benefit of the community, including environmental work and the maintenance of community assets. It was argued that some of these activities contribute to reducing the burden on public services. It was argued that these activities would cease without a local community space.	As above (see response 5.1 above).

5.3 Concerns regarding the impact of closing the school on the long-term viability of the village and the future of the rural community

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents argued that the future of the village was at stake and that the school was one of the most important institutions in the community. It was noted that the school attracts young families to live in the area and contributes to sustaining local social and community life. The view was expressed that closing a village school could send a message that there is no future for young families in the community, leading to a further decline in the population and the gradual deterioration of the village's viability. It was argued that this could result in a community with an increasingly isolated older population, fewer local families, and a rise in the proportion of holiday homes and seasonal accommodation. Reference was made to the fact that rural communities in Wales, and the Welsh language within those communities, are already 'under strain', and that closing a small rural school was viewed as a further step in that decline. Some respondents argued that decisions concerning rural schools are decisions concerning the future of rural communities. The view was expressed that closing the school would mean permanently losing an important part of the heart of the village.	As above (see response 5.1). In addition, the Community Impact Assessment notes that, during the consultation period, some respondents expressed concern that closing the school, should the proposal be implemented, could influence young families' decisions about whether to remain in or move to the community, given the school's importance as a local asset. The Council notes this concern. However, there is no clear evidence to suggest that implementing the proposal would directly lead to a significant decline in the community's population or a substantial reduction in the number of young families choosing to live in the area. Based on the available evidence, it is noted that a high proportion of children from the catchment area already attend schools outside the catchment area (78%), with 44% of primary-aged children from the Ysgol Nebo catchment area already attending Ysgol Llanllyfni. Consequently, the Council does not anticipate that young families and children would leave the community should the school close. Furthermore, given that the alternative school is located 1.6 miles from Ysgol Nebo, the Council does not anticipate that the option would encourage families with school-aged children to leave the community or make young families less likely to move to the community.

5.4 Concerns regarding the impact of closing the school on wellbeing, social inclusion and community sustainability

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some comments warned of wider consequences, including increased social isolation, a reduction in voluntary activities, the loss of a space for young families, a decline in the village's viability, and the permanent loss of part of the heart of the community. It was also argued that increased social isolation and a decline in the health and wellbeing of some residents could place additional pressure and costs on Council services in the future. Some respondents stated that the school provides stability and essential resources for local families, and concern was raised about the loss of this support in an area where public services are already under pressure. Some respondents were of the view that the Council was placing greater emphasis on savings within the education budget than on the wider consequences of the proposal.	The Council notes these comments. It should be noted that these matters have been considered through the Community Impact Assessment and the Future Generations Well-being Act Impact Assessment. It is acknowledged that implementing the proposal would result in the loss of a school within the community and that this could have an impact on certain aspects of local community life. However, when assessing these impacts, it was noted that 78% of children living within the Ysgol Nebo catchment area already attend other schools, with 44% attending Ysgol Llanllyfni. This suggests that connections with neighbouring communities, including the Llanllyfni community, already exist. Consideration was also given to potential mitigation measures, including encouraging links between the Nebo community and Ysgol Llanllyfni, exploring appropriate opportunities for the Nebo community to be included in the school's community activities, and considering opportunities for community use of the school site in the future should the school close, in accordance with Gwynedd Council's Post-use Policy. Furthermore, the assessment concluded that the proposal would ensure that local children are educated on a suitable site and within a natural Welsh-speaking social environment, increasing opportunities to socialise and collaborate with others and providing them with a fair opportunity to thrive amongst their peers. It should also be noted that financial considerations alone did not lead to the review of Ysgol Nebo. The review was undertaken because of the range of challenges facing the school, including low learner numbers, a high level of surplus places, and long-term sustainability challenges. In developing the proposal, consideration was given to a wide range of factors, including the

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	potential impacts on the community, the Welsh language and well-being, alongside the financial implications.

5.5 Concerns regarding reliance on facilities in Llanllyfni as a mitigation measure and the impact on local residents

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents referred to a response in the Consultation Report which suggested that residents could use facilities in Llanllyfni because of existing links with that community. This was challenged by some respondents, who noted that it did not reflect the reality for most residents, that the communities are distinct, and that travelling is not easy for some residents, particularly older people or those without access to a car.	The Council notes the comments. The Community Impact Assessment notes that, should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Nebo, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting continued links between the Nebo 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. The Council acknowledges the comments received regarding the differences between the communities of Nebo and Llanllyfni, and the fact that not all residents would be in a position to take advantage of activities or facilities outside the local community. In addition, it is noted that, should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-use Policy would provide a framework for 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.

5.6 Concerns regarding the impact of closing Ysgol Nebo on the Welsh language and the sustainability of the rural community

Summary of issues	The Council's response
A small rural school was described by some respondents as an anchor for its community, both linguistically and socially. It was argued that schools form the foundation of many rural communities and that, if Cyngor Gwynedd and the Welsh Government are committed to building strong and resilient communities, schools that form an integral part of those communities should not be closed. Reference was also made to Cyngor Gwynedd's corporate commitment to protect and promote the Welsh language and Welsh-speaking communities. It was argued that the proposal should be reconsidered further in order to safeguard the future of Ysgol Nebo and the community it serves.	The Council notes the comments. In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018), the Council undertook a Community Impact Assessment to assess the likely impact of the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo on the local community. This assessment was reviewed and updated following the statutory consultation, taking account of the comments and issues raised by consultees. The assessment was also reviewed and updated further following the statutory objection period to take account of the objections and comments received at that stage of the process. The assessment indicates that some negative impact on the community is likely should the option to close Ysgol Nebo be implemented, as this would result in the loss of the school as a community focal point within the Nebo community. The comments received regarding Ysgol Nebo's role as an anchor for the community and as an institution that contributes to the social, cultural and linguistic life of the area are acknowledged. The concerns raised during the consultation and objection periods regarding the implications for the vitality of the community are also acknowledged. However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children from the catchment area, 78%, already attend other schools, including Ysgol Llanllyfni, which is attended by 44%. This suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities, including the Llanllyfni community, already exist. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting continued links between the Nebo 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. In addition, it is noted that, should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-use Policy would provide a

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	framework for 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.

Theme 6: Challenges to the Statutory and Decision-Making Processes

6.1 Concerns regarding the impartiality of the process, the consideration given to the community's comments and the quality of the Consultation Report

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents stated that the community's views and comments had been disregarded throughout the decision-making process, and that this demonstrated a lack of impartiality. Concerns were raised that the consultation, the Consultation Report and the decision-making process had not given sufficient consideration to the points raised by parents, teachers, governors, pupils and residents. It was argued that the statutory consultation had not been satisfactory and that the information presented to the Cabinet prior to the decision had been neither adequate nor impartial. Specific reference was made to the 145-page Consultation Report. Some respondents were highly critical of the report, stating that it repeated content from the Consultation Document, appeared to be a 'cut and paste' exercise, was difficult to follow, and did not adequately address most of the concerns,	The Council notes the comments. The Council is satisfied that the statutory process and all documentation prepared as part of that process have complied with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018). The Council is also satisfied that the responses and views submitted during the consultation and objection periods have been summarised and considered in accordance with the relevant statutory arrangements and requirements. In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018), a Consultation Report was prepared following the statutory consultation period. The report summarised the responses and issues raised during the consultation and included the Council's response to those issues, in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements. The Consultation Report was presented to Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet for consideration. Having considered the contents of

Summary of issues	The Council's response
challenges and suggestions presented. The view was expressed that the report should have listed the concerns and suggestions submitted by respondents and provided a clear, point-by-point response to each of them. Some respondents stated that the community's views and comments had been disregarded or had not been adequately reflected. The general view was also expressed that the Council had not acted to the expected standard during the process and that the decision to close Ysgol Nebo reflected this.	the report and all other relevant information, the Cabinet decided to publish a statutory notice on the proposal and hold a statutory objection period. The current Objection Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. It includes a summary of the objections received during the statutory objection period, together with the Council's response to the issues raised. The report will be considered by Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet alongside all other relevant information before a final decision is made on the proposal.

6.2 Concerns that children's voices had not been given sufficient consideration during the process

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents expressed concern that the children's own comments had not been given sufficient consideration during the process, despite specific calls for their voices to be heard when considering the future of the school.	The Council notes the comments. The statutory process relating to the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018). In accordance with the requirements of the Code, specific arrangements were made to consult children and young people as part of the statutory process. These included dedicated sessions with learners from Ysgol Nebo and Ysgol Llanllyfni, as well as the provision of purpose-designed documents and questionnaires. A summary of the views expressed by the learners was included in the Consultation Report. The learners' views, together with a summary of the other responses received during the statutory consultation period, were presented to the Council's Cabinet as part of the Consultation Report.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	Having considered the contents of that report and all other relevant information, the Cabinet decided to publish a statutory notice on the proposal and hold a statutory objection period. Learners were therefore given a specific opportunity to express their views, which were recorded and presented to the Cabinet as part of the statutory decision-making process.

6.3 Insufficient consideration of the Governing Body's alternative option and ALN provision

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some objectors expressed specific concern that the Governors' proposal to retain the school and develop nurturing or specialist provision had not been properly considered. Some respondents expressed concern that the Cabinet could make a decision without fully understanding the current circumstances of children who experience difficulties in mainstream schools, or the decisions due to be made in September 2026 regarding ALN support. It was argued that the proposal for Ysgol Nebo to continue providing high-quality support for these pupils had not been properly considered in the Consultation Report, and the view was expressed that this suggested a lack of strategic thinking within the Education Department. Some respondents expressed concern that the Cabinet's decision to publish the Statutory Notice had been made on the basis of insufficient facts and incomplete information. It was argued that there was evidence of a shortage of ALN places and increasing demand for them, but that this information had not been given appropriate consideration during the decision-making process. The view was also expressed that Cyngor Gwynedd was short-sighted in relation to its ALN policy and its future strategy for Gwynedd's schools, children and	The Council notes the comments. The alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo was submitted during the statutory consultation period. Following the end of that period, the option was given full consideration alongside the comments, additional evidence and other reasonable alternative options presented through the process. Details of the alternative option, together with the evaluation of the alternative options considered, are recorded in the Consultation Report and the associated supporting documents. These documents are available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation. Following the evaluation of the option, the Council concluded that the option did not provide an adequate or sustainable response to the challenges facing Ysgol Nebo. Under this option, it was anticipated that the admission arrangements and criteria would remain in accordance with the current arrangements, with no change to the admission arrangements or the school's status. Given that the current admission arrangements would remain unchanged, it was not anticipated that this option would lead to a meaningful increase in learner numbers or a

Summary of issues	The Council's response
parents, and that elected members and senior education officers had not made decisions based on all the relevant information. It was argued that these matters should have formed a fundamental part of the Cabinet's decision-making process.	substantial reduction in the high level of surplus places. Consequently, it was anticipated that the existing challenges relating to small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers and the associated financial challenges, including the high cost per learner, would remain unresolved. The statutory process was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. Consideration was given to the relevant information and evidence, the impact assessments, the alternative options presented, including the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo, together with the comments and responses received during the statutory consultation. Following this process, it was concluded that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo was the option that would provide the most appropriate response to the challenges facing the school. The Council therefore remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	In response to the comments relating to the proposed report on Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision, it is noted that the wider consideration of ALN provision is an ongoing matter for the Local Authority, and that the needs of individual learners are considered continuously through the existing statutory arrangements. The statutory process regarding the future of Ysgol Nebo has been conducted on the basis of the information and evidence available at the time. Should a decision be made to implement the proposal, appropriate transition arrangements and suitable support for every learner, including those with ALN, would be planned and considered in accordance with each learner's individual needs.

6.4 Concerns regarding compliance with the presumption against the closure of rural schools and the consideration of alternative options

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Reference was made to the procedural presumption against the closure of rural schools in the School Organisation Code, and the view was expressed that the Council had not demonstrated that it had conscientiously considered the Governing Body's proposal or the other alternative options before proceeding with the proposal to close the school.	The Council notes the comments. The School Organisation Code (011/2018) introduces special arrangements in relation to rural schools by establishing a procedural presumption against closure. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but rather that the case for closure must be strong and that all other viable options must have been conscientiously considered. Ysgol Nebo has been designated as a rural school for the purposes of the Code and, consequently, an additional set of procedures and criteria must be followed when considering any proposal to close it. The Council confirms that the proposal has been specifically assessed against the statutory factors applicable to rural schools, including the procedural presumption against the closure of rural schools. The Council is satisfied that all the additional processes, assessments and requirements specified in the Code for rural schools have been followed in full.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	Before the proposal was submitted for statutory consultation, the relevant impact assessments were undertaken and the reasonable alternative options identified at that time were conscientiously considered. Following the consultation period, full consideration was also given to the additional alternative options, including the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo, and to the additional information and evidence received. The alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo was submitted during the statutory consultation period. Following the end of that period, the option was given full consideration alongside the comments and additional evidence presented through the process. Details of the alternative option, together with the evaluation of the other options considered, are recorded in the Consultation Report and the associated supporting documents, which are available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website: www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation Following the evaluation of the Governing Body's alternative option, it was concluded that the option would not address the challenges facing Ysgol Nebo. Under this option, Ysgol Nebo would continue to operate as a mainstream primary school with the same admission arrangements and criteria. Consequently, it was not anticipated that the option would lead to a meaningful increase in learner numbers or reduce the high number of surplus places. The existing challenges relating to very low learner numbers, small classes with a broad age range, low projected learner numbers in the future, an established pattern of parental preference, and a cost per learner significantly higher than the county average would be likely to continue. Having considered all the relevant evidence, the Council concluded that none of the alternative options provided an appropriate or sustainable response to the challenges facing the school.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	The Council therefore remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

6.5 Concerns regarding the impartiality of the process and the allegation that a decision to close the school had been made in advance

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Allegations were also made regarding bias, a lack of impartiality and predetermination. Reference was made to costs, pupil numbers, maintenance estimates, incomplete information regarding ALN, and suggestions that the decision had been formulated or justified before the process was completed.	The Council notes the comments. It is noted that the Council has followed the statutory process set out in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (011/2018). A statutory consultation on the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo on 31 December 2026 and provide a place for learners at Ysgol Llanllyfni from 1 January 2027 onwards was held between 5 December 2025 and 23 January 2026. Following the consultation, the responses and additional information submitted were considered, and a Consultation Report was prepared in accordance with the

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents argued that a decision to close the school had been made before the consultation took place and before the Cabinet formally considered the matter. The view was also expressed that the Education Department had not acted impartially during the process and that a decision to close the school had already been made before the relevant evidence was considered.	requirements of the Code. The report summarised the comments received, set out the Council's response to them, and recorded the further consideration given to the proposal and the alternative options. The report was presented to the Cabinet, which decided to authorise the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal. Following the publication of the statutory notice, a statutory objection period was held to provide an opportunity for any person to submit an objection to the proposal. This Objection Report summarises the objections received during that period and sets out the Council's response to them in order to assist the Cabinet in its consideration of the matter. Neither the decision to hold a statutory consultation nor the subsequent decision to publish a statutory notice constituted a final decision to implement the proposal. These were stages within the statutory process, enabling the Council to gather and consider comments, evidence, alternative options and objections before the Cabinet makes a final decision. The Council is satisfied that the process has been conducted impartially and that no final decision has been made in advance. Relevant information, evidence and comments were considered at each stage of the process. The Cabinet will make the final decision on whether or not to implement the proposal after considering the Objection Report and all the relevant information before it.

6.6 Concerns regarding the impact of the timetable and discussions about closure on learner numbers and parental choice

Summary of issues	The Council's response
The view was also expressed that the proposed timetable for closing the school had been set in a way that could contribute to a decline in pupil numbers, thereby strengthening the case for closure. The view was expressed that discussions and threats regarding the school's closure had contributed to a decline in pupil numbers and had influenced some parents' decisions to choose other schools.	The Council notes the comments. The Council acknowledges that stability and certainty are important factors for parents when making decisions about their children's education, and that periods of uncertainty may cause concern for families. In this context, it is noted that the Council is reviewing the future of Ysgol Nebo because the school faces increasing challenges, including persistently low learner numbers, a high percentage of surplus places, catchment area patterns, and projected learner numbers in the medium and long term. It is acknowledged that a range of factors and considerations influence parents' educational choices.

6.7 Concerns regarding the impact of closing the school on current learners, parents and continuity in formal education

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents argued that the impact of the proposal on current learners and parents had not been adequately assessed, and that some learners could leave the formal education system should the school close.	The Council notes the comments. As part of the statutory process, a statutory consultation was held on the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018). The consultation included the publication of a detailed Consultation Document and a package of impact assessments, together with a specified statutory period during which stakeholders could submit their views. In accordance with the requirements of the Code, specific arrangements were made to consult children and young people as part of the statutory process. These included dedicated sessions with learners at Ysgol Nebo and Ysgol Llanllyfni, as well as the provision of purpose-designed documents and questionnaires.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	The learners' views were considered alongside all other responses received during the statutory consultation period and were presented to the Cabinet as part of the Consultation Report before it decided to publish the Statutory Notice. All statutory documents relating to the proposal are available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation .

Theme 7: Financial Considerations, Costs and Education Funding

7.1 Concerns regarding the emphasis placed on cost per learner when assessing the educational and community value of Ysgol Nebo

Summary of issues	The Council's response
A number of comments were critical of the emphasis placed on costs and the cost per pupil. It was argued that education should not be treated as a business and that comparing the cost of a child attending a small school with the cost of a child attending a larger school was not sufficient to assess the value of a local school. Education was referred to as a child's right to be educated at their local primary school alongside their local peers. Some respondents argued that comparisons of the cost per pupil between Ysgol Nebo and Ysgol Llanllyfni did not take account of the fact that some pupils require higher levels of support, and that those costs would continue regardless of which school they attended.	The Council notes the comments. The review of the future of Ysgol Nebo was based on a combination of factors, including persistently low learner numbers, a high percentage of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, and projections indicating that learner numbers will remain low in the medium and long term. The Council remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo and provide places for the learners at Ysgol Llanllyfni is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by:

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	• responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

7.2 A call to review school funding arrangements and consider long-term community benefits

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents placed the matter within the wider context of school funding. Some called on the current Government to review the way in which schools are funded. It was noted that headteachers are not accountants but are qualified to teach, and it was argued that the funding arrangements should be changed to reduce the pressure on school staff who are already under strain. Some respondents expressed the view that decisions should take account of the long-term benefits for the community as a whole, rather than solely the direct financial costs.	The Council notes the comments. The review of the future of Ysgol Nebo was based on a combination of factors, including persistently low learner numbers, a high percentage of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, and projections indicating that learner numbers will remain low in the medium and long term. The Council remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by:

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	• responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

7.3 Concerns regarding the consistency of financial decisions and the long-term strategy for education provision

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Reference was also made to questions regarding the consistency of expenditure and strategic planning. Some respondents noted that the cost per pupil was presented as the main reason for the proposal to close the school, while similar expenditure had been permitted elsewhere. Reference was made to the former Ysgol Felinwnda site, which has been refurbished, and it was noted that only two learners attend the provision. It was argued that this represents a cost to the public purse and raises questions regarding the consistency of the approach to the use of educational resources and education funding. In this context, concern was expressed regarding the financial rationale for the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo, noting that similar expenditure had been permitted in other circumstances and that the plans and strategies in place for long-term education provision in Gwynedd should be explained more fully.	The Council notes the comments. It is noted that the future of Ysgol Nebo is the focus of this statutory process, and that the process has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (011/2018). The current review is based on the challenges facing the school, including persistently low learner numbers, a high percentage of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, and projections indicating that learner numbers will remain low. The Council remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by:

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	• responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

7.4 Concerns regarding the lack of detailed analysis and a professional survey to substantiate the school's maintenance costs

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents challenged the maintenance figures published by the Council, noting that the costs relating to roofs, toilets, external walls, windows and doors were not supported by a detailed analysis or professional survey. Some respondents also argued that the costs of maintaining and repairing the school had been overestimated and were not supported by an assessment undertaken by a qualified surveyor. Some respondents noted that they had requested a detailed breakdown of the estimated costs of repairing the school, but that the figures presented did not include details showing how the costs had been calculated. Reference was made to estimates relating to roofs, boys' and girls' toilets, external walls, windows and doors.	The Council notes the comments. It is noted that the building maintenance costs have not been identified as a key challenge facing the school or, in themselves, as a reason for bringing forward the proposal. The estimated cost of £95,000 has been included to provide contextual information about the condition of the building as part of the wider picture of the provision. It is noted that this estimate is based on a condition survey undertaken by the Council as part of the regular condition surveys carried out across the county's school estate. These surveys contribute to the Council's Asset Management Plan and support the prioritisation of the school maintenance programme. In the case of Ysgol Nebo, the building has been assessed as condition category 'B' (satisfactory, with minor deterioration), with areas of deterioration requiring maintenance. The condition survey identifies the need for the following work:

Summary of issues	The Council's response
It was argued that these figures did not amount to a detailed assessment based on a professional survey and should not be used as a reason for closing the school.	• Roof and gutter repairs: £35,000 • Toilet upgrades: £25,000 • Re-rendering of external walls: £30,000 • Replacement of some windows: £5,000 • Total estimated cost: £95,000 The table in the Consultation Document summarises the condition of the buildings at Ysgol Nebo and Ysgol Llanllyfni, together with the estimated maintenance work required. The work identified reflects likely maintenance requirements over a period of time, and not every element is urgent or necessarily work that would need to be undertaken immediately. The proposal is not based on these maintenance costs. The review of the future of Ysgol Nebo was undertaken in response to the wider challenges facing the school, including persistently low learner numbers, a very high percentage of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, and projections indicating that learner numbers will remain low in the medium and long term.

7.5 Concerns regarding the lack of consideration given to the long-term financial benefits of an ALN pilot scheme at Ysgol Nebo

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents noted that limited consideration had been given to the potential financial benefits of developing Ysgol Nebo as a pilot scheme to meet the future needs of primary-aged children in Gwynedd. Some respondents argued that the Council had not considered the potential longer-term savings that could result from providing appropriate ALN support during the primary phase.	The Council notes the comments. The alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo was submitted during the statutory consultation period. Following the end of that period, the option was given full consideration alongside the comments, additional evidence and other reasonable alternative options presented through the process.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	Details of the alternative option, together with the evaluation of the alternative options considered, are recorded in the Consultation Report and the associated supporting documents. These documents are available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation . Following the evaluation of the option, the Council concluded that the alternative option would not address the challenges facing Ysgol Nebo. Under this option, it was anticipated that the admission arrangements and criteria would remain in accordance with the current arrangements, with no change to the admission arrangements or the school's status. Given that the current admission arrangements would remain unchanged, it was not anticipated that this option would lead to a meaningful increase in learner numbers or a substantial reduction in the high level of surplus places. Consequently, it was anticipated that the existing challenges relating to small classes with a broad age range, low projected learner numbers in the future and the associated financial challenges, including high costs per learner, would remain unresolved. The Council therefore remains of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the most appropriate proposal for addressing the challenges facing the school, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average. The proposal addresses these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range;

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	- improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and - reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

Theme 8: Wider Strategic, Political and Policy Considerations

8.1 A call to consider the impact of catchment area, admissions, housing and demographic policies on the sustainability of rural schools and communities

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents placed the proposal within a wider strategic context and argued that it was insufficient to consider Ysgol Nebo in isolation from catchment area policies, admission arrangements, housing, demographic trends and the future of rural communities. These comments were often critical of the way in which wider decisions affect pupil numbers in small schools.	The Council notes the comments. However, it is noted that the focus of this statutory process is the future of Ysgol Nebo, and that the process is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018). The current review is based on the challenges facing the school, including persistently low learner numbers, a high percentage of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, and projections indicating that learner numbers are likely to remain low. Consideration was also given to catchment area patterns and the fact that the majority of learners living within the Ysgol Nebo catchment area attend other schools. The proposal to close Ysgol Nebo addresses these challenges by: - responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; - providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range;

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	• improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

8.2 References to Plaid Cymru policy and the commitment to protect small rural schools and community services

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents referred to Plaid Cymru's policy on small rural schools, noting that the party's 2026 Senedd Election Manifesto supports the presumption against the closure of rural schools through the School Organisation Code. It was argued that the aim of this policy is to protect small schools from closure, recognising their importance as focal points for rural communities and in safeguarding local education. It was also noted that the commitment to protect small schools forms part of a wider policy to ensure that rural communities thrive and do not lose essential services.	The Council notes the comments. The School Organisation Code (011/2018) introduces specific arrangements in relation to rural schools by establishing a procedural presumption against their closure. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but rather that the case for closure must be strong and that all other viable options must have been conscientiously considered. Ysgol Nebo has been designated as a rural school for the purposes of the Code and, consequently, an additional set of procedures and criteria must be followed when considering any proposal to close it. The Council confirms that the proposal has been specifically assessed against the statutory factors applicable to rural schools, including the procedural presumption against the closure of rural schools. The Council is satisfied that all the additional processes, assessments and requirements specified in the Code for rural schools have been followed in full. Before the proposal was submitted for statutory consultation, the relevant impact assessments were undertaken and the reasonable alternative options identified at that time were conscientiously considered. Following the consultation period, full consideration was also given to the alternative option presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo and to the additional information and evidence received.

8.3 A call to review catchment area and admission arrangements to increase numbers in local schools and support the Welsh language

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Catchment area and admission arrangements were raised by some respondents. It was argued that Cyngor Gwynedd should take a more proactive approach to encouraging children to attend their local schools, and questions were raised as to why a number of children choose to attend other schools. It was suggested that reviewing the admissions policy could help sustain small rural schools and support the future of the Welsh language. Reference was made to an example of 11 children from the same village attending other schools rather than their local school.	The Council notes the comments. School admission arrangements are administered in accordance with the Council's School Admissions Policy and the relevant national statutory framework. Within these arrangements, parents and carers have the right to express a preference regarding the school they wish their child to attend, subject to the capacity of the schools and the admission criteria set out in the policy. These arrangements are applied consistently across the county.

8.4 Concerns regarding the impact of empty homes, second homes and planning policies on rural communities and learner numbers

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents referred to empty homes and new local housing developments in the context of declining pupil numbers. Some respondents questioned why these homes were not being made available to local people, arguing that this was having an impact on local communities and pupil numbers in rural schools. Holiday homes, second homes and planning policies were also cited as factors contributing to the decline of rural Welsh-speaking communities.	The Council notes the comments. As part of the statutory process, consideration was given to a range of factors, including the latest data on learner numbers and future projections. Although some respondents suggested that population growth or changes to housing policies could increase learner numbers in the future, the information available to the Council indicates that learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo are currently very low and are projected to remain low over the coming years. This reflects a broader demographic trend, including the depopulation affecting rural communities. Between 2011 and 2021, Gwynedd's population decreased by 3.7%, representing a reduction of 4,477 people. This decline is not confined to

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	rural communities. During the same period, the number of children aged 0–15 decreased by 7.3%, while the number of young people aged 16–24 decreased by 14.7%. In particular, the challenges identified include low learner numbers, a very high percentage of surplus places, projections indicating that this fragile position is likely to continue over the medium and long term, and a broad age range within small classes, which presents educational challenges. These factors have led to consideration of whether sustainable educational provision can be maintained in the long term under the current arrangements. The Council considers that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo would address these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate daily with their peers in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

8.5 Concerns regarding spending priorities, modernising education and the continuing value of small rural schools

Summary of issues	The Council's response
In addition, some respondents raised concern about what they described as an excessive emphasis on modernising education and new approaches to learning.	The Council notes the comments. The proposal to close Ysgol Nebo was developed in response to a number of challenges facing the school. In particular, low learner numbers, a very high percentage of surplus places, projections indicating that this vulnerable position is

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Reference was also made to the increase in the number of politicians in Cardiff Bay, questioning how such costs could be justified while arguing that small schools are too expensive. Examples from the past were cited to argue that small rural schools provide a sound education and that this model continues to have value today.	likely to continue in the medium and long term, and a broad age range within small classes, which presents educational challenges. These factors have led to consideration of whether sustainable educational provision can be maintained in the long term under the current arrangements. The comments regarding political expenditure and wider national arrangements fall outside the scope of this statutory process. The current proposal has been assessed on the basis of Ysgol Nebo's specific circumstances and the relevant information relating to its provision. The Council is of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo would address these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

8.6 Comments regarding political responsibility for previous decisions

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents noted that, in the past, Cyngor Gwynedd had attributed decisions that placed the future of schools at risk to pressures and regulations imposed by the Welsh Government and the Labour Party.	The Council notes the comments. In accordance with the School Organisation Code (011/2018), it is for the proposer to determine whether a school organisation proposal should be approved following completion of the statutory process, having considered all

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Given that Plaid Cymru is now in government, questions were raised as to whether decisions such as the current proposal could be reversed or avoided.	relevant information, including the responses and objections received. In the case of this proposal, Cyngor Gwynedd is the proposer and, therefore, the Cabinet will make the final decision on the proposal. However, the Code also provides a statutory mechanism that enables specified bodies to refer a local authority's decision to the Welsh Ministers for consideration. The decision-making process, including any right to refer the decision, is governed by the relevant statutory framework, regardless of which political party is in power at local or national level. The Council confirms that the proposal has been developed and considered in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (011/2018).

Theme 9: The future of the Ysgol Nebo building, its community use and the war memorial

9.1 Concerns regarding the future use of the building and its importance as a community asset

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Concerns were raised regarding the future use of the school building should the school close. It was also noted that the building is an important community asset, rather than solely a school building. The building was described as a space that hosts social, linguistic, voluntary and public activities, and as part of the community infrastructure of Nebo and Nasareth.	The Council notes the comments. In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018), the Council undertook a Community Impact Assessment to assess the likely impact of the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo on the local community. This assessment was reviewed and updated following the statutory consultation, taking account of the comments and issues raised by consultees. The assessment was also reviewed and updated further following the statutory objection period to take account of the objections and comments received at that stage of the process.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	The assessment indicates that some negative impact on the community is likely should the option to close Ysgol Nebo be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nebo community as a community focal point. The concerns raised during the consultation and objection periods regarding the implications for the vitality of the community are acknowledged. However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children from the catchment area, 78%, already attend other schools, including Ysgol Llanllyfni, which is attended by 44%. This suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities, including the Llanllyfni community, already exist. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Nebo, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting continued links between the Nebo 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. In addition, it is noted that, should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-use Policy would provide a framework for 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.

9.2 Concerns regarding the future of the building and the loss of a community resource

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents noted that losing access to the building would mean that the community would lose its ability to hold local activities, including meetings, Welsh-language classes, social events and voluntary activities.	The Council notes the comments. In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (011/2018), the Council undertook a Community Impact Assessment to assess the likely

Summary of issues	The Council's response
This was viewed as a wider loss to the community, rather than solely as an estates matter. Concern was expressed that the future of the building and site was not merely an administrative matter, but one relating to identity, collective memory, community use and the village's ability to continue supporting local activities.	impact of the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo on the local community. This assessment was reviewed and updated following the statutory consultation, taking account of the comments and issues raised by consultees. The assessment was also reviewed and updated further following the statutory objection period to take account of the objections and comments received at that stage of the process. The assessment indicates that some negative impact on the community is likely should the option to close Ysgol Nebo be implemented, as this would result in the loss of the school as a community focal point within the Nebo community. The concerns raised during the consultation and objection periods regarding the implications for the vitality of the community are acknowledged. However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children from the catchment area, 78%, already attend other schools, including Ysgol Llanllyfni, which is attended by 44%. This suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities, including the Llanllyfni community, already exist. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Nebo, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting continued links between the Nebo 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. In addition, it is noted that, should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-use Policy would provide a framework for 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.

9.3 Concerns regarding the future, stewardship and protection of the war memorial

Summary of issues	The Council's response
One respondent objected to what they described as plans to sell the war memorial to private interests. They also objected to any intention to transfer or relinquish the Authority's responsibilities for the stewardship and protection of the memorial. Further concern was raised regarding what was described as the inclusion of the sale of the memorial within the school closure proposal, without a separate notice or specific public consultation.	The Council notes the comments. Should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-use Policy would provide a framework for further discussions regarding appropriate options for the future use of the school building and site, including community use where appropriate, in order to seek to mitigate any negative impact on the local community. In this context, any considerations relating to the war memorial would also form part of the post-use process and would be considered as part of those discussions. The current statutory proposal does not include a decision to sell the war memorial, change its ownership, or transfer responsibility for its stewardship and protection. Any further decisions regarding the future of the memorial would be considered separately and in accordance with the relevant requirements and arrangements as part of the post-use process, should the proposal to close the school be approved.

Theme 10: Objections to the proposal and calls for reconsideration

10.1 Formal objections to the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo

Summary of issues	The Council's response
A number of clear formal objections were received to the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo. Some were direct statements of opposition, while others used stronger language, describing the proposal to close the school as disappointing, cruel or likely to have a devastating impact on the community, the pupils or the school.	The Council notes the objections.

10.2 A request to reconsider or halt the process in order to assess the impacts and consider the future of rural schools

Summary of issues	The Council's response
A number of respondents asked the Council to reconsider, halt the closure process or refrain from confirming the decision at this stage. This was often linked to the view that all the issues had not been fully considered, including the financial, educational, linguistic and community impacts of the proposal. Some respondents stated that a cautious approach should be taken and that alternative ways of sustaining small rural schools should be considered rather than proceeding with their closure.	The Council notes the comments. The proposal has been developed and considered in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (011/2018). This has included undertaking a statutory consultation, publishing a Consultation Report, publishing a Statutory Notice, providing an objection period and preparing an Objection Report. The Council is satisfied that the statutory process has been followed in full and that all relevant information submitted through the process has been considered. This includes consideration of the educational, financial, community and linguistic impacts, together with the reasonable alternative options and the comments and objections received during the consultation and objection periods. Although some respondents called for the process to be halted or deferred, or for the proposal to be reconsidered, the Council's view is that the proposal has been assessed in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements. The proposal to close Ysgol Nebo was developed in response to a number of challenges facing the school. In particular, these include low learner numbers, a very high percentage of surplus places, projections indicating that this vulnerable position is likely to continue in the medium and long term, and a broad age range within small classes, which presents educational challenges. These factors have led to consideration of whether sustainable educational provision can be maintained in the long term under the current arrangements. The Council is of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo would address these challenges by: • responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places;

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	• providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

10.3 A call to consider alternative solutions to safeguard and strengthen the future of Ysgol Nebo and the local community

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Some respondents expressed the view that alternative solutions could be found to safeguard the future of the school, referring to options such as investing in resources, reviewing admission arrangements and exploring collaborative models between local schools. Some respondents noted that, if Cyngor Gwynedd is committed to sustaining viable rural communities and securing the best opportunities for local children, schools such as Ysgol Nebo should be protected and strengthened rather than closed, so that they may continue to serve children, families and the local community in the long term.	The Council notes the comments. As part of the review of the future of Ysgol Nebo, a range of alternative options was considered before a conclusion was reached on the current proposal. These options were evaluated before the statutory consultation commenced, and this work was outlined in the Consultation Document and the Proposal Paper. The options assessed included, among others, taking no action, federating Ysgol Nebo with a neighbouring school, federation alongside the establishment of specialist provision for learners with additional learning needs, establishing a multi-site school, and developing other specialist educational uses for the school site. During the statutory consultation period, additional proposals and options were received from consultees. These were also given full consideration, and the alternative options were evaluated further alongside those originally assessed. Details of the options considered, together with the outcomes of that evaluation, are included in the Consultation Report and the relevant supporting documents. These documents are available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation . Following this evaluation, it was concluded that the alternative options considered did not provide an adequate or sustainable response to the challenges facing the school. For example, options such as federation or establishing a multi-

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	site school were not, in themselves, expected to lead to a meaningful increase in learner numbers or address the underlying issues relating to the high level of surplus places, persistently low projected learner numbers and the associated costs. Throughout the statutory process, the Council followed the requirements set out in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. Consideration was given to the relevant information and evidence, including the impact assessments, the alternative options considered, and the comments and responses received during the statutory consultation and objection periods. Consequently, it was concluded that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo is the option that would provide the most appropriate response to the challenges identified, namely low learner numbers, a very high proportion of surplus places, small classes with a broad age range, persistently low projected learner numbers, a catchment area pattern whereby the majority of learners choose to attend other schools, and a cost per learner that is significantly higher than the county average.

10.4 A request to defer the decision, undertake full impact assessments and give appropriate consideration to stakeholders' views

Summary of issues	The Council's response
There were calls for any final decision to be deferred until further work on learners' needs had been completed and for a full assessment of the proposal's financial, educational, community and linguistic impacts to be undertaken. The need to give appropriate consideration to the views of children, parents, staff, governors and the local community was also emphasised.	The Council notes the comments. The proposal has been developed and considered in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (011/2018). This has included undertaking a statutory consultation, publishing a Consultation Report, publishing a statutory notice, providing an objection period and preparing an Objection Report.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	The Council is satisfied that the statutory process has been followed in full and that all relevant information submitted through the process has been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Code. In addition to considering the comments and objections received during the consultation and objection periods, specific assessments were undertaken of the proposal's impact on the Welsh language and the community. The relevant assessments were reviewed and updated following the consultation and objection periods to ensure that all relevant information was taken into account as part of the decision-making process. In accordance with the requirements of the Code, a dedicated consultation was also undertaken with learners to gather and understand their views on the proposal. The views expressed by learners were recorded and summarised as part of the Consultation Report and were considered alongside all other responses received. Although some respondents called for the process to be deferred or the proposal to be reconsidered, the Council's view is that the proposal has been assessed comprehensively against the relevant statutory requirements. This included consideration of the educational, community and linguistic impacts, together with the alternative options presented during the process. The proposal to close Ysgol Nebo was developed in response to a number of challenges facing the school. In particular, these include low learner numbers, a very high percentage of surplus places, projections indicating that this vulnerable position is likely to continue in the medium and long term, and a broad age range within small classes, which presents educational challenges. These factors have led to consideration of whether sustainable educational provision can be maintained in the long term under the current arrangements. The Council is of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo would address these challenges by:

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	• responding to the challenge of low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county.

10.5 A request to defer the decision until further work on ALN provision has been completed and Ysgol Nebo's potential role has been considered

Summary of issues	The Council's response
Specific requests were also made to defer a final decision until further work on ALN had been published and considered, particularly the report due in September 2026. Some respondents argued that it would not make sense to close Ysgol Nebo before considering whether the school could form part of a wider solution to meet the needs of children who experience difficulties in mainstream education or require a smaller and more supportive environment.	The Council notes the comments. The proposal to close Ysgol Nebo was developed in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (011/2018), having regard to the relevant statutory factors, the evidence gathered and the comments received through the statutory process. The school faces low learner numbers, a very high percentage of surplus places, projections indicating that this vulnerable position is likely to continue in the medium and long term, and a broad age range within small classes, which presents educational challenges. These factors have led to consideration of whether sustainable educational provision can be maintained in the long term under the current arrangements. The Council is of the view that the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo would address these challenges by:

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	• responding to the low learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo, together with projections that remain low and the high percentage of surplus places; • providing classes of a more appropriate size and age range; • improving opportunities for learners to socialise and collaborate with their peers on a daily basis in an educational environment with more learners of the same age; and • reducing the cost per learner for all learners across the county. In relation to the requests to defer a final decision until the ALN Report is published and considered in September 2026, it is noted that an alternative option was presented by the Governing Body of Ysgol Nebo during the statutory consultation period. Following the end of that period, the option was given full consideration alongside the comments and additional evidence submitted through the process. The option proposed using the school site as provision to support and nurture children with social and emotional needs who find mainstream education challenging, including learners with social, emotional and behavioural needs, as well as learners with mental health needs, including anxiety and neurodivergence. This alternative option was evaluated against a number of factors, namely learner numbers and surplus places, class sizes and age range, leadership and staffing, financial resources, the community, the Welsh language and geographical factors. Consideration was also given to the likely impact on the quality and standards of education, travel arrangements and the community. It was concluded that the option would not adequately address the main challenges facing Ysgol Nebo. The option was not expected to increase learner numbers at Ysgol Nebo. Consequently, it was anticipated that low learner numbers, small classes and a broad age range would continue, together with the associated financial challenges.

Summary of issues	The Council's response
	On the basis of this evaluation, it was not concluded that the alternative option provided sufficient grounds to amend the proposal or defer a final decision until the report on ALN provision is published in September 2026. The Council is satisfied that the alternative option presented by the Governing Body was given full consideration as part of the statutory process, which was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (011/2018). Should a decision be made to implement the proposal to close Ysgol Nebo, appropriate transition arrangements and suitable support would be considered and planned for every learner, including those with ALN, in accordance with their individual needs.