

Appendix 3

Impact Assessments Ysgol Baladeulyn

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

September 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

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

Background

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

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

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

The consultation was held between 10 December 2025 and 28 January 2026, and 30 responses to the consultation were received.

Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet considered the consultation report at its meeting on 19 May 2026 and approved to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026 and offer places for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027 onwards. The Statutory Notice was published on 3 June 2026 and a statutory objection period of 28 days was held between 3 June and 30 June 2026. The objection period came to an end on 30 June 2026 and 25 objections were received during that period. A petition was also received from the Governing Body of Ysgol Baladeulyn objecting to the proposal, with 500 signatures.

2. THE OPTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- *Include a language unit on Ysgol Baladeulyn site*

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

Reasonable alternative options considered following the statutory consultation:

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

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

3. SUMMARY OF THE CATCHMENT AREA

3.1 The Area

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

3.2 The Economy

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

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

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

3.3 Deprivation

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.4 The Community

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

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

4. YSGOL BALADEULYN AND NEARBY SCHOOLS

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

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

Ysgol Baladeulyn

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

Source: Estyn Report, November 2017

Ysgol Talysarn

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

Source: Estyn Report, November 2025

4.2 Statistical information

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

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

Source: PLASC January 2026

4.3 Catchment information and learners' choice of schools

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

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

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

Source: January 2026 GIS Data

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

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

Community Centre

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

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

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

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

	Baladeulyn	Talysarn	Brynaerau	Bro Llifon	Bro Lleu	Llanllyfni	Nebo
Playgroups (School Holidays)							
Aelwyd yr Urdd						✓	
Plays							

Voluntary Groups						✓	✓
Morning/Evening Coffee	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Community Auction							
Choir Practice							
Welsh for Adults							
Town/Community Council Meeting							
Nursery School						✓	
Club/Sports Activity				✓		✓	
After School Club		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Local Interest Club							✓

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

School		Baladeulyn
Talysarn	Miles	2.5
	Minutes	6
Bro Lleu	Miles	3.3
	Minutes	7
Llanllyfni	Miles	3.7
	Minutes	10
Nebo	Miles	5.2
	Minutes	14
Brynaerau	Miles	6
	Minutes	16
Bro Llifon	Miles	6.3
	Minutes	13

Source: Google Maps 2026

5. ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

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

OPTION 1: NO CHANGE – CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION

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

General impact on the local community	There would be no change to what is currently provided so no impact on the local community is anticipated.	Neutral
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OPTION 2: FEDERATION WITH A NEARBY SCHOOL (YSGOL TALYSARN)

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

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

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

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

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and well-being	During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, concern was noted that learners would lose the current ability to walk or cycle to school safely if Ysgol Baladeulyn were to close, and this would reduce learners' independence and confidence. In addition, concern was expressed about the negative impact longer journeys to the alternative school would have on the well-being of learners. As the alternative school is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn, and further from the homes of some learners in the catchment area, it is not anticipated that Ysgol Baladeulyn learners would be likely to walk or cycle to the alternative school, should the proposal be implemented. School transport would be provided in accordance with the Authority's Transport Policy, which provides free transport for primary learners who live 2 miles or further from the catchment school or the nearest school. It is anticipated that being in a larger school would offer more opportunities to play and participate in team sports or clubs after school and therefore contribute positively towards the health and well-being of learners. During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, a number of comments emphasised that the school provides a solid and supportive start in life for children through offering a small and nurturing environment that supports well-being, confidence and social development. It was noted that vulnerable learners depend on the small and stable environment to develop and maintain their language skills, and concern was expressed that moving children to a larger school and further away from home could undermine these benefits, increasing stress and making the transition difficult for learners, especially for vulnerable learners or learners with Additional Learning Needs. Reference was made to the emotional impact of the proposal on the wider community, noting that the school had served local families for decades. The Council recognises that there may be some negative impact on the well-being of learners during the transition period, if Ysgol Baladeulyn were to close. Should the school close, the authority and the alternative school would work closely with the closing school, with the learners and their families, to ensure a smooth transition and to support the learners as they settle into their new schools. It is anticipated that carefully planned transition arrangements, with appropriate support, would be able to mitigate negative effects and support continued educational progress. As stated in the Gwynedd Parents' Handbook, ALN learners have the right to continue receiving the provision set out in their Individual Development Plan, and it is the Authority's duty to ensure that provision continues even when school arrangements change. The Council continues to be of the opinion that the proposal would ensure that children in the area gain experiences by socialising with a wider range of peers, age-related and receiving a quality education in a school that can offer a learning environment and experiences to a wider range of learners. It is noted that a significant percentage of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist. Should the Cabinet decide to move forward with closing Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council would try to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting ongoing links between the Nantlle community and the alternative school, promoting community collaboration where appropriate, and ensuring that Nantlle residents and	Neutral

	families are aware of the opportunities, facilities and activities of the alternative school. As a result, the impact on this criterion is expected to be neutral.	
The implications of the change on public transport provisions	It is not anticipated that there would be any impact on public transport provision as any transport to an alternative school as a result of any change will be arranged specifically for learners in the catchment area who are eligible in accordance with the County's Transport Policy.	Neutral
Impact on other facilities / services provided at the school	According to the Headteacher in November 2025, the school invites the community to the school for school activities within and outside of school hours like coffee evenings, presentations from the children and assemblies. During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, the role of the school in carrying out activities such as the above was highlighted, which bring families and local residents together and the strong inter-national relations they foster. Concern was expressed that the role of Ysgol Baladeulyn within the community cannot be replaced, and this may affect the sense of belonging to the community for future generations. It is recognised that if the Cabinet decided to move forward with closing Ysgol Baladeulyn, it is anticipated that there would be some negative impact on this criteria. If the proposal were to be realised, the Council would try to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting ongoing links between the Nantlle community and the alternative school, promoting community collaboration where appropriate, and ensuring that Nantlle residents and families are aware of the opportunities, facilities and activities of the alternative school. In addition, it is noted that if the proposal to close the school were to be realised, the Authority's Post-use Policy would act as a framework to undertake further discussions regarding appropriate options for the post-use of the school building, including community use where appropriate, in order to try to mitigate any negative impact on the local community. It is noted that Canolfan Llys Llywelyn is available to host community activities in the area as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn.	Negative
Impact on wider community safety	No impact on wider community safety is anticipated.	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school age children to leave the community, or that young families are less likely to move into the community	During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, concerns were expressed that the loss of the school as a community hub could negatively influence the village's attractiveness to young families in the long term. It was noted that the presence of a local school is an important factor in terms of the attractiveness of an area for young families who are considering settling down. Based on the available evidence, the Council's view is that a high proportion of children in the catchment area already attend schools outside the catchment (75%), with 50% of learners from Nursery to Year 6 from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment already attending Ysgol Talysarn. As a result, the Council does not anticipate that families with young children would leave the community should the school close. In addition, given that the alternative school is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ysgol Talysarn, the Council does not anticipate that this option would encourage families with school-age children to leave the community, nor that it would make young families less likely to move into the community. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting ongoing links between the Nantlle community and the alternative school, promoting community collaboration where appropriate, and ensuring that Nantlle residents and	Neutral

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

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

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

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

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

OPTION 7: INCLUDE A LANGUAGE UNIT ON YSGOL BALADEULYN SITE

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

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

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

6. CONCLUSION

This Community Impact Assessment has been prepared as a further assessment following the statutory consultation period, and has fully considered all the original options set out in the consultation document, together with the reasonable alternative option proposed by consultees as part of the statutory consultation. The assessment was further updated following the statutory objection period in order to consider the objections received.

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

The assessment shows that there would be some likely negative impact on the community if the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn were implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community. The concerns raised during the consultation and the statutory objection period regarding the implications of this on the vitality of the community, such as the activities that will be held at the school and the opportunities for families and local residents to interact, are acknowledged. Also noted are the comments received regarding Ysgol Baladeulyn as the centre of the community and the emotional impact of the proposal on the wider community, as well as concerns about the long-term negative impact on the sustainability of the community if the school were to close.

However, it is noted that a significant percentage of Nursery - Year 6 children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), suggesting that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist. Should the Cabinet decide to move forward with the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council would try to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting continued links between the Nantlle community and the alternative school, Ysgol Talysarn, and promoting community collaboration where appropriate to ensure that residents and families are aware of the opportunities, facilities and activities of the alternative school. In addition, if there was a decision to close the school, the Authority's Post-use Policy would act as a framework to undertake further discussions regarding appropriate options for post-use of the school building, including community use where appropriate, in order to try to mitigate any negative impact on the local community. It is noted that Canolfan Llys Llywelyn is available for community activities in the area as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn.

**LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT –
YSGOL BALADEULYN**

September 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

The consultation was held between 10 December 2025 and 28 January 2026, and 30 responses to the consultation were received.

Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet considered the consultation report at its meeting on 19 May 2026 and approved to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026 and offer places for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027 onwards. The Statutory Notice was published on 3 June 2026 and a statutory objection period of 28 days was held between 3 June and 30 June 2026. The objection period came to an end on 30 June 2026 and 25 objections were received during that period. A petition was also received from the Governing Body of Ysgol Baladeulyn objecting to the proposal, with 500 signatures.

1.1 The Situation in Gwynedd

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

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

1.2 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

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

1. More nursery children/ three-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.
2. More reception class children/ five-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.
3. More children continue to improve their Welsh-language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another.
4. More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh.
5. More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school.
6. An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for learners with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.
7. Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh.

1.3 Language Policy

Primary

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

Secondary

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

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

1.4 A million speakers by 2050

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

The aims of *Cymraeg 2050* include:

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

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

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

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

1.5 Gwynedd Language Strategy 2023-2033

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

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

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

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

2. LINGUISTIC PROFILE OF THE BALADEULYN CATCHMENT AREA

2.1 Gwynedd Language Profile Background

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

2.2 Wards

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

	Llanllyfni	Dolbenmaen	Glaslyn	Waunfawr	Gwynedd	Cymru
Welsh identity only	1,316 (67.1%)	691 (59%)	934 (57.2%)	962 (65.9%)	69,560 (59.3%)	1,715,975 (55.2%)
No Welsh identity	28.2%	37.8%	39.2%	30.8%	36.3%	36.7%
Population 3+ years old	1,876 (100%)	1,146 (100%)	1,592 (100%)	1,411 (100%)	114,308 (100%)	3,018,172 (100%)
Able to speak Welsh	1,373 (73.2%)	752 (65.6%)	1,054 (66.2%)	1,018 (72.1%)	73,560 (64.4%)	538,296 (17.8%)
No Welsh skills	315 (16.8%)	290 (25.3%)	410 (25.8%)	291 (20.6%)	29,977 (26.2%)	2,259,017 (74.8%)
Able to understand oral Welsh only	137 (7.3%)	78 (6.8%)	109 (6.8%)	71 (5%)	8,166 (7.1%)	156,762 (5.2%)
Able to speak Welsh but unable to read or write Welsh	124 (6.6%)	84 (7.3%)	83 (5.2%)	65 (4.6%)	6,142 (5.4%)	68,391 (2.3%)
Able to speak and read Welsh but not able to write Welsh	56 (3%)	27 (2.4%)	36 (2.3%)	48 (3.4%)	3,170 (2.8%)	33,971 (1.1%)
Able to speak, read and write Welsh	1,157 (61.7%)	628 (54.8%)	927 (58.2%)	891 (63.1%)	63,256 (55.3%)	429,313 (14.2%)
Able to write Welsh but unable to speak or read Welsh	8 (0.4%)	4 (0.3%)	2 (0.1%)	5 (0.4%)	387 (0.3%)	4,970 (0.2%)
Able to read and write Welsh but not able to speak Welsh	14 (0.7%)	13 (1.1%)	5 (0.3%)	16 (1.1%)	1004 (0.9%)	17,560 (0.6%)

Another combination of Welsh skills	36 (1.9%)	13 (1.1%)	8 (0.5%)	14 (1%)	993 (0.9%)	6,621 (0.2%)
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Source: Census 2021, Office for National Statistics

2.3 Ysgol Baladeulyn

Ysgol Baladeulyn is a Category 3, Welsh medium school.

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

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

Source: Percentage of January 2026 respondents

2.4 Nearby schools

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

Linguistic data for the neighbouring schools can be seen below.

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

Source: Percentage of January 2026 respondents

2.5 Activities after school

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

	Baladeulyn	Talysarn	Bro Llew	Llanllyfni	Brynaerau	Bro Llifon	Nebo
Playgroups (School Holidays)			✓				

Aelwyd yr Urdd				✓		✓	✓
Morning/Evening Coffee	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Cylch/Ysgol Feithrin			✓	✓		✓	
Club/After school club/Sports Activity		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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

2.6 Community Activities

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

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

2.7 Additional Evidence

Ysgol Baladeulyn

The Estyn report in 2017 says:

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

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

Ysgol Talysarn

The Estyn report in 2025 says:

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

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

2.8 Statutory Consultation and Statutory Objection Period – Summary of the matters in relation to the impact on the Welsh Language

The main matters raised through the responses to the statutory consultation, specifically regarding the potential impact of the proposal on the Welsh language, are outlined below.

In this context, it was strongly expressed that the school is an important basis for the natural and daily use of the Welsh language amongst children and families. It was noted that the school provides an environment where children speak Welsh consistently and confidently, strengthening the language as the main medium socially as well as educationally.

Concern was raised that transferring learners to a larger school could lead to more use of the English language, particularly in informal contexts. Reference was made to clear differences in the use of Welsh in the current school and the proposed alternative school. It was noted that Ysgol Baladeulyn has a very strong Welsh-language profile in comparison with other schools in the area, and concern was expressed that moving to a school with a lower percentage of Welsh-language fluency could have a negative impact on the children's linguistic confidence. A respondent referred to Ysgol Baladeulyn's work in relation to the Welsh Language Charter, noting that the school had achieved the gold award, as evidence of the high standard of work to promote the Welsh language.

Concern was expressed that closing the school would undermine the wider community use of the Welsh language and it was emphasised that the school is an integral part of the community's linguistic identity. It was noted that the school serves as an important focal point for Welsh-language life in the village, contributing to the use of the language beyond school hours and integrating new families, including those who are not fluent Welsh speakers, into local Welsh-speaking life. Concern was expressed that the loss of the school could undermine the local linguistic ecosystem, leading to a gradual decline in the community use of the Welsh language.

During the statutory objection period, these concerns were reiterated, and further concerns were raised regarding the possibility that the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn could pose a risk to the sustainability of the Welsh language in Nantlle and that the proposal goes against the national aims of Cymraeg 2050. Some objectors expressed the view that Nantlle is one of the strongholds of the Welsh language, and emphasised the vital role rural schools like Ysgol Baladeulyn have in maintaining and promoting local culture and the Welsh language within rural communities. Concern was expressed that the loss of the school could lead to reduced opportunities to use Welsh naturally within the community, referring to the school's activities where local residents and families are able to interact.

The Council acknowledges these concerns and notes that the Welsh Language Impact Assessment has evaluated the likely linguistic impact based on the available background evidence. The assessment indicates that the options involving the continuation of educational presence on the Ysgol Baladeulyn site are unlikely to have a negative impact on the Welsh language, and in some cases there is potential for a positive impact, particularly where a Language Unit is developed on site.

Regarding the option to close the school, the Council recognises that this presents a linguistic risk in terms of the use of Welsh as a living community language within the village. At the same time, the Council does not anticipate that the proposal would have an adverse impact on Welsh as the language of instruction, as learners from the Baladeulyn catchment would continue to receive education in a Welsh-medium school. In this educational context, it is expected that teaching learners in larger age-group cohorts, with more peers, would maintain and potentially strengthen opportunities to use Welsh informally both within and outside the classroom.

Should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-Use Policy would act as a framework for further discussions on appropriate options for the future use of the building, including uses that support the Welsh language where appropriate, in order to mitigate any potential adverse impact on the Welsh language within the community.

3. Assessment of the impact on the Welsh Language

3.1 The Options

- No change - continue with the current situation

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

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

- Federation with a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Include a language unit on Ysgol Baladeulyn site

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

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

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

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

This option would involve re-categorising Ysgol Baladeulyn as a ‘hybrid’ mainstream primary school that includes specialist education provision for children with Additional Learning Needs on the school site.

This option would offer hybrid education, enabling primary learners in the local area to attend Ysgol Baladeulyn as a mainstream school and/or to access specialist ALN education provision.

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

3.2 Assessment of the impact on the Welsh language

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

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

	<i>differences in the use of Welsh between the current school and potential alternative schools.</i> <i>During the statutory objection period, these concerns were reiterated and comments referred to the fact that the proportion of Welsh speakers at Ysgol Baladeulyn is higher than at Ysgol Talysarn.</i> The concern outlined above is noted, and it is acknowledged that the January 2025 PLASC data showed that 55% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn spoke Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn. However, the most recent PLASC data from January 2026 show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn. As a result, no negative impact on this criterion is anticipated. As learners would be taught in larger classes and with more children from the same age group, the proposal could strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise through the medium of Welsh with their peers. As a result, it is anticipated that there would be more opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom.			
Access to Welsh medium education	Ysgol Talysarn is a Welsh-medium school, like Ysgol Baladeulyn. It is therefore not anticipated that the proposal would affect this criterion.	Neutral	Irrelevant	Irrelevant
Non-statutory provision	Learners would have access to increased provision in terms of staffing and would be part of a larger group of peers of the same age.	Positive	The local authority and Governing Body of Talaearau (Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau	Positive

			Federation) could discuss methods to ensure that learners can participate in extracurricular activities.	
Activities before/after school	Ysgol Talysarn is a larger school in terms of numbers of learners so the peer groups would be larger. As noted in Section 2.5 of the Impact Assessment, Ysgol Talysarn offers after-school activities such as an after-school club or sports activities.	Positive	The Local Authority and Governing Body of Talaerau (Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau Federation) could consider any additional opportunities for holding activities after school, ensuring that arrangements are in place to include learners in the Baladeulyn catchment area.	Positive
Use of the Welsh Language in the community	<i>In the responses to the statutory consultation, it was noted that the school plays an important role in integrating new families, including those from English-speaking backgrounds, into the Welsh-language life of the village. Concerns were expressed that the loss of the school could undermine this process, leading to less natural use of Welsh among new families. It was emphasised that the school makes a significant contribution to the use of Welsh in informal contexts, such as social gatherings, after-school play, and interactions between parents and local residents which ensures that the Welsh language remains a living language within the community.</i> <i>During the statutory objection period, these concerns were reiterated and strengthened, emphasising that the school plays an integral role in promoting and sustaining the Welsh language and Welsh culture within the local community. Concern was expressed that closing the school could reduce opportunities to use Welsh on a daily basis and weaken the process of inter-generational language</i>	Negative	The Local Authority and the Governing Body of Talaerau (Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau federation) can consider methods of promoting the use of the Welsh language by including the Nantlle community in the school's community activities. If the proposal is implemented, the Authority would have to consider options for the subsequent use of the school building, taking into account the community activities that are currently being held at the school. It is noted that	Neutral/ Partially Negative

	<i>transmission, with reference made to activities held in the school that encourages interaction between local residents and families. Concern was expressed that closing the school could pose a significant risk to the sustainability of the Welsh language in the community of Nantlle.</i> If the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn were to be implemented, then it is anticipated that some elements of community events will be affected. It is anticipated that there may be some negative impact resulting from the implementation of the proposal, as parents/ guardians/ families and local residents would not meet daily in the Baladeulyn community when dropping off/collecting children from school, nor during the school's activities. The school invites the community to the school for activities such as concerts, presentations and assemblies during school hours and outside of school hours. The school invites the community to the school for school activities within and outside of school hours like coffee evenings, presentations from the children and assemblies. However, it is noted that Canolfan Llys Llywelyn is available to host activities in the area as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn. However, it is also noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that the level of daily engagement with the school as a social or linguistic space varies among families within the Nantlle community. Impact on the local economy: Although the proposal is not expected to have a substantial negative impact on the local economy in Nantlle, it is acknowledged that, if Ysgol Baladeulyn were to close, it		Canolfan Llys Llywelyn, as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn, are available for the provision of community activities. To mitigate the impact on the Welsh language within the community, opportunities are noted to ensure that the Nantlle community is made aware of the activities of the alternative school, and community collaboration between Ysgol Talysarn and the Nantlle community is encouraged, where appropriate.	
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	would lead to a reduction in Welsh-medium employment opportunities in the village of Nantlle.			
Part 2 - How will the proposal affect/contribute towards/conform with the Welsh Language Standards, language policies, strategies and other relevant guidelines regarding the Welsh language				
Gwynedd Welsh Language Strategy 2023		Noted below is a summary of the anticipated impact on the areas of work in the Language Strategy:		
		Early years language: As the Cylch Meithrin is located in the village of Talysarn, and collaborates with Ysgol Talysarn (the alternative school), it is anticipated that the proposal would have a positive effect on early years language. Learning Language: Ysgol Baladeulyn is a Welsh-medium school, Category 3. As Ysgol Talysarn is also a Welsh-medium school (Category 3), it is concluded that the proposal would not have an impact on the language of the children's education. Work and Service Language: <i>Respondents to the consultation noted that the presence of Ysgol Baladeulyn strengthens the status and confidence of the Welsh language in practical contexts, supporting use of the language among families and new speakers in everyday life. Concerns were expressed that the loss of the school could lead to a gradual decline in the use of Welsh in community services and activities. Positive reference was made to Ysgol Baladeulyn's work in promoting the Welsh language through the Welsh Language Charter, noting that the school has been awarded the Gold Award for the quality and consistency of its provision.</i> <i>During the statutory objection period, these comments and concerns were reiterated. Some objectors raised that losing the school would mean losing a Welsh-language service within the community, and some comments referred to the dedication and service of the school staff.</i> It is acknowledged that, if the proposal is implemented, there would be some negative impact on the language due to the loss of a Category 3 Welsh-medium school presence in the village of Nantlle serving the area, and it would lead to redundancies among school staff/workforce.		

	However, it is noted that the alternative school (Ysgol Talysarn) that would serve the Nantlle area if the proposal is implemented, is also a Welsh-medium school (Category 3). It is not anticipated that the proposal would affect the language of work and service provided at the alternative school. Community Language: <i>Strong concern was expressed by respondents to the consultation that the proposals could have a detrimental impact on the Welsh language and the community's culture, with the view that the school is central to sustaining Welsh as a living and natural language in the life of the village. It was noted that the school functions as an important hub for the Welsh-language life of the village, contributing to the use of the language beyond school hours, and reference was made to how the school integrates new families, including those who are not fluent Welsh speakers, into local Welsh-language life.</i> <i>During the statutory objection period, these concerns were reiterated and strengthened by objectors. Concern was expressed that losing the school could reduce opportunities to use the Welsh language on a daily basis and weaken the process of inter-generational transmission of the language, with reference to the school's various activities, and this would pose a significant risk to the sustainability of the Welsh language in the Nantlle area.</i> The Council acknowledges that if the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn is implemented, it is anticipated that certain elements of community events would be affected. It is foreseen that there may be some negative impact on the language within the community resulting from the implementation of the proposal, for example, as parents/guardians/families and local residents will no longer meet daily in the Nantlle community when dropping off/picking up children from the school or during the school's activities. The school invites the community to the school for activities such as concerts, presentations and assemblies during school hours and outside of school hours. However, Canolfan Llys Llywelyn is available to host activities in the area as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn. In order to mitigate any negative effects, the Local Authority and the Governing Body of Talaerau (Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau Federation) could consider ways to promote the use of the Welsh language by including the Nantlle community in the school's community activities. In addition, if the proposal is implemented, the Authority will have to consider options for the future use of the school building, taking into account the community activities currently held at the school.
Cymraeg 2050, Welsh Government	<i>Through the responses to the consultation, concern was expressed that the proposal could have a negative impact as the school is considered central to sustaining the daily use of Welsh among children, families and the wider community. It was noted that the school provides strong linguistic immersion, supports the integration of new families into Welsh-</i>

language life, and normalises the use of Welsh beyond the classroom within community life. The view was expressed that the loss of the school could lead to a gradual decline in the use of the Welsh language.

During the statutory objection period, these viewpoints were reiterated and strengthened. A strong opinion was expressed by some objectors that the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn goes against the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 aim because Ysgol Baladeulyn services an area that is one of the strongholds of the Welsh language, and losing the school would lead to a gradual decline in the use of Welsh. The integral role rural schools such as Ysgol Baladeulyn have in sustaining and promoting local culture and the Welsh language in rural communities was emphasised. Concern was expressed that losing the school could lead to reduced opportunities to use the Welsh language naturally within the community, with reference to the school's activities where local residents and families can interact.

It is noted that any discussions relating to organisation need to note the Welsh Government's effort to reach the goal of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Should the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn be implemented, it is anticipated that some elements of community events would be affected. The Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. It is anticipated that there could be some negative impact from implementing the proposal, as parents/ guardians/ families and local residents would no longer meet on a daily basis in the Nantlle community during learner drop off/collection periods or during the school's activities.

In order to mitigate any negative impacts, the Local Authority and the Governing Body of the Talaerau Federation (the Federation of Ysgol Talysarn and Ysgol Brynaerau) could consider approaches to promoting the use of the Welsh language by involving the Nantlle community in the school's community activities. In addition, should the proposal be implemented, the Authority would need to consider options for the future use of the school building, taking into account the community activities that are currently held at the school. It is noted that Canolfan Llys Llywelyn is available to host activities in the area as well as Trigonos Plas Baladeulyn.

In terms of education provision, Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn are Category 3, Welsh-medium primary schools. As a result, if the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and transfer learners to Ysgol Talysarn is implemented, learners would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium, Category 3 school.

It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or learners' linguistic opportunities, primarily because:

	- January 2026 PLASC statistics show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, and 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn do so. - The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places to its learners at a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) would mean that Baladeulyn catchment learners would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school, category 3. - Learners would be taught in larger classes with more children of the same age group, and it is anticipated that the proposal would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with more of their peers. In the educational context, on the above basis, if the proposal is implemented, it is anticipated that there would be more opportunities for Baladeulyn catchment area learners to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and the vitality level of Welsh and informal use of the language would be stronger.
To what extent the proposal would support the targets in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan approved (Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2022-2032))	Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn are Welsh-medium primary schools, category 3. Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn operate the objectives of Cyngor Gwynedd's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032. This includes: • That all learners in the county have appropriate language skills in Welsh and English, and that this expectation is consistent across all schools. • That there is appropriate provision to enable every learner to develop bilingual proficiency. In this context, schools are expected to continue nurturing the skills of those learners who are Welsh speakers, and to introduce Welsh to those who are learners. • That all educational institutions in the county reflect and reinforce the Language Policy in their administration, social life, and routine management, as well as in their curriculum provision. As a result, if the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and transfer learners to Ysgol Talysarn is implemented, learners would continue to be taught in a Welsh-medium school, Category 3, which operates objectives and supports the targets of the WESP. On the basis of the above, it is not anticipated that implementing the proposal would have a negative impact on the achievement of Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the Cyngor Gwynedd Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032, namely: Outcome 1: More nursery/3-year-old children receiving Welsh-medium education. Outcome 2: More reception/5-year-old children receiving Welsh-medium education.

	Outcome 3: More children continuing to improve their Welsh skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another. Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts within the school. Outcome 6: Increase in Welsh-medium education provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN) (in accordance with the duties set out by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018). As a result, it is concluded that implementing the proposal would align with the objectives of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32, and the targets approved in the Welsh Strategic Plan.
How the proposal would expand or reduce Welsh-language provision, and in cases where it would reduce provision, explain why the provision would be reduced	The proposal would mean that a Welsh-medium school, Category 3 (Ysgol Baladeulyn), would close. However, if the proposal is implemented, learners would be offered a place in an alternative school, which is also a Welsh-medium, Category 3 school, namely Ysgol Talysarn. Ysgol Talysarn has sufficient capacity for current learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn who live in the Baladeulyn catchment area.
Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011)	The Council confirms that the entire statutory process in relation to reviewing the future of Ysgol Baladeulyn has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of Welsh Language Standards 88-93 under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. In accordance with Standards 88, 89 and 90, conscientious consideration was given to the possible effects that the policy decision could have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English, including consideration of the positive and adverse effects possible, how the proposal could be formulated or modified in order to ensure more positive effects, and how any potential adverse effects could be reduced. In addition, in accordance with Standards 91, 92 and 93, an opinion was considered and sought through the statutory consultation process regarding these linguistic effects, including an opinion on how the proposal could be formulated or modified in order to increase positive effects or reduce adverse effects on the Welsh language. These requirements were supported by carrying out this Linguistic Impact Assessment, together with related impact assessments, including the Equality Impact Assessment, and it is noted that these assessments have been reviewed and updated following consideration of the responses received during the statutory consultation, as well as the objections received during the statutory objection period.

4. CONCLUSION

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

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

The Council acknowledges that these concerns have been reiterated and strengthened during the statutory objection period, particularly in relation to Ysgol Baladeulyn's role in sustaining and promoting the Welsh language as a living language within the local community of Nantlle. It was also noted the concern raised by some objectors that closing the school could reduce opportunities to use the Welsh language on a daily basis and weaken the process of inter-generational transmission, and this would pose a significant potential risk to the sustainability of the Welsh language in the Nantlle area, which goes against the objectives of Cymraeg 2050, particularly in terms of increasing the natural and community use of the Welsh language.

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

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

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

At the same time, having considered responses to the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. It is anticipated that there could be some negative impact from implementing the proposal, as parents/ guardians/ families and local residents would no longer meet on a daily basis in the Nantlle

community during learner drop off/collection periods or during the school's activities. The school invites the community to the school for activities such as concerts, presentations and assemblies during school hours and outside of school hours. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there.

In reaching this conclusion, the Council has considered the comments received during the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period. While it is acknowledged that the proposal could have a potential negative impact on certain aspects of the community use of the Welsh language within the Nantlle area, the Council's view is that the available evidence does not indicate that the proposal would have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or on learners' opportunities to use and develop the Welsh language within the educational setting.

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

September 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

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

The Council's vision:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The proposal:

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

The consultation was held between 10 December 2025 and 28 January 2026, and 30 responses were received during the consultation.

Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet considered the consultation report at its meeting on 19 May 2026 and approved to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026 and offer places for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027 onwards. The Statutory Notice was published on 3 June 2026 and a statutory objection period of 28 days was held between 3 June and 30 June 2026. The objection period came to an end on 30 June 2026 and 25 objections were received during that period. A petition was also received from the Governing Body of Ysgol Baladeulyn objecting to the proposal, containing 500 signatures.

Objectives	
Giving our children and young people the best possible start in life	During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, several comments received emphasised that the school provides children with a strong and supportive start in life through providing excellent education in a small and nurturing environment that supports wellbeing, confidence and social development. In addition, it was noted that vulnerable learners rely on the small and stable environment to develop and maintain their language skills. Concerns were expressed that moving children to a larger school further from home could undermine these benefits, increasing stress and making the transition difficult for learners, particularly vulnerable learners or those with Additional Learning Needs. The Council acknowledges that there may be some negative impact on learners' wellbeing during the transition period. Should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, the authority and the alternative school would work closely with the closing school, and with the learners and their families, to ensure a smooth transition and to support learners as they settle into their new schools. It is anticipated that carefully planned transition arrangements, with appropriate support, can mitigate negative impacts and support the continuity of educational progress. As stated in the Gwynedd Parents' Handbook, learners with ALN have the right to continue receiving the provision set out in their Individual Development Plan, and it is the Authority's duty to ensure that this provision continues even when school arrangements change. The Council is committed to prioritising individual needs, including those of vulnerable children and/or learners with additional learning needs, should the school close. However, the Council remains of the opinion that the proposal will ensure that children in the area gain experiences by socialising with a broader range of age-relevant peers, receive high quality education in a school that is able to offer a learning environment and experiences to a broader range of learners.
Strengthening the economy and supporting the residents of Gwynedd to earn a worthy wage	It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would likely have a negative impact on this objective, as it could lead to staff redundancies. Cyngor Gwynedd, in conjunction with Trade Unions and headteachers have developed a detailed staffing policy. The policy will form the basis for any change in staff employment deriving from any proposal. Clear and open communication will be a core part of the successful implementation of any proposals.
Supporting the people of Gwynedd to live in suitable and affordable homes in their communities	During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, concerns were expressed that the loss of the school as a community asset could negatively influence the number of young families moving into the village. It was noted that the presence of a local school is an important factor in the attractiveness of an area to young families considering settling there. Reference was also made to other factors, such as the presence

	of holiday homes in Nantlle, and concerns were raised that closing the school could result in a decline in the number of young families choosing to settle in the area and could contribute to the village's long-term decline. Based on the available evidence, a high proportion of children from the catchment area already attend schools outside the catchment (75%), with 50% of learners from Nursery to Year 6 in the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area already attending Ysgol Talysarn. As a result, the Council does not anticipate that families with young children would leave the community if the school were to close. Furthermore, given that the proposed alternative school is located 2.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council does not anticipate that this option would encourage families with school-age children to leave the community, nor that it would make young families less likely to move into the area. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting ongoing links between the Nantlle community and the proposed alternative school, promoting community collaboration where appropriate, and ensuring that Nantlle residents and families are aware of the opportunities, facilities, and activities available at the alternative school. As a result, no negative impact is anticipated on this Well-being objective.
Supporting the residents of Gwynedd to live full and safe lives in our communities	Ensuring that the learners receive education of the highest quality will be integral to the proposal, to ensure that they receive an education of the same standard and quality in the alternative school.
Ensuring that we give every possible opportunity for our residents to use the Welsh language in the community	Strong concern was expressed by respondents to the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period that the proposal could have a detrimental impact on the Welsh language and community life, with the opinion that the school is central to sustaining Welsh as a living and natural language in the life of the village. It was noted that the school acts as an important hub for Welsh-language life of the village, contributing to the use of the language beyond school hours, and reference was made to how the school integrates new families, including those who are not fluent Welsh speakers, into local Welsh-language life. Concern was raised that closing the school could reduce opportunities to use Welsh on a daily basis and weaken the process of transferring the language between generations, and that this would pose a significant risk to the sustainability of the Welsh language in the Nantlle area. As part of the statutory process, the Authority undertook an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language. This assessment was updated following consideration of the comments received during the statutory objection period. In the conclusion of the assessment, it is noted that the Council recognises the concerns raised regarding the role of Ysgol Baladeulyn in supporting the community use of the Welsh language within the village, and accepts that comments received highlight a potential negative impact on elements of local linguistic vitality outside the formal educational provision. However, based on the information available, the Council is of the view that the proposal is not likely to have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or learners' language opportunities, for the following reasons: • The January 2026 PLASC data show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn. • The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) means that learners in the Nantlle catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school. • It is anticipated that learners would be taught in larger classes and alongside more children from the same age group, and that the proposal would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a wider group of their peers. In the educational context, given the above, if the proposal were to be implemented, it is anticipated that there would be increased opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and

	outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and the level of informal language use would be stronger. At the same time, having considered the consultation responses, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. It is anticipated that there could be some negative impact from implementing the proposal, as parents/ guardians/ families and local residents would no longer meet on a daily basis in the Nantlle community during learner drop off/collection periods or during the school's activities. The school invites the community to the school for activities such as concerts, presentations and assemblies during school hours and outside of school hours. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there. In reaching this conclusion, the Council has considered the comments received during the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period. While it is acknowledged that the proposal could have a potential negative impact on certain aspects of the community use of the Welsh language within the Nantlle area, the Council's view is that the available evidence does not indicate that the proposal would have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or on learners' opportunities to use and develop the Welsh language within the educational setting.
Protecting the natural beauty of the county, and responding positively to the climate change crisis	No impact.
Putting the people of Gwynedd first and treating them fairly and ensuring that the Council performs effectively and efficiently	No impact.

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

Aim	Does the proposal contribute to this goal?	Negative impact mitigating measures for this goal:
A prosperous Wales An innovative society which uses resources proportionately, a well-educated population which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities.	The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and educate the children in Ysgol Talysarn would mean that the learners foster experiences by socialising with a broader range of age-relevant peers and receive a quality education at a school which can offer a learning environment and experiences to a broader range of learners. Introducing this proposal could lead to staff losing their jobs.	Staff and Union representatives will be consulted specifically as part of the statutory consultation period. Cyngor Gwynedd has developed a detailed staffing policy, jointly with Trade Unions and headteachers. Any redundancies resulting from this proposal will have to comply with that policy. Clear and open communication will play a core part in the implementation of any proposals.
A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse environment with healthy ecosystems that support resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to impact this aim.	No impact
A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, specific concerns were raised regarding the potential negative impact of the proposal on learners' emotional well-being should Ysgol Baladeulyn close and the learners transfer to a larger school. It was emphasised that the caring and nurturing environment at Ysgol Baladeulyn has a positive impact on learners' well-being, confidence, and development, particularly vulnerable learners or learners with ALN. Concerns were expressed that moving children to a larger school further from home could undermine these benefits, increase stress, and make the transition more difficult for learners, especially for vulnerable learners or learners with ALN. Reference was made to the fact that current learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn are able to walk or cycle to school, but if the school were to close, this would not be possible for the alternative school, as there is no safe route available. A number of concerns were raised regarding the negative impact that longer journeys to the	The Council acknowledges that there may be some negative impact on learners' wellbeing during the transition period. Should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, the authority and the alternative school would work closely with the learners and their families to ensure a smooth transition and to support learners as they settle into their new schools. It is anticipated that carefully planned transition arrangements, with appropriate support, can mitigate negative impacts and support the continuity of educational progress. As stated in the Gwynedd Parents' Handbook 2025/26, learners with Additional Learning Needs have the right to continue to receive the support specified in their Individual Development Plan, and it is the Authority's duty to ensure that this provision continues even when school arrangements change. As the proposed alternative school is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn, and further from the homes of some learners within the catchment area, it is not anticipated that Ysgol Baladeulyn learners would be likely to walk or cycle to the alternative school, if the proposal were implemented. It is not anticipated that any learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn

	alternative school could have on learners' well-being, should the proposal be implemented.	catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school, or expected for them to walk or cycle on dangerous routes to the alternative school, if the proposal were to be implemented. School transport would be provided in accordance with the Authority's Transport Policy, which provides free transport to primary-age learners living 2 miles or more from the catchment-area school or nearest school. It is anticipated that attending a larger school would offer greater opportunities to participate in team sports or after-school clubs, thereby contributing positively to learners' health and well-being, as well as providing opportunities to socialise with a broader range of age-appropriate peers.
A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).	During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, concerns were expressed that changes to the current arrangements could lead to less equitable experiences for some children, particularly the most vulnerable. Comments received noted that in small schools like Ysgol Baladeulyn, no child is excluded and is afforded equal opportunities to have prominent roles in activities or various responsibilities such as with the School Council. Specific concerns were raised regarding the experiences of learners with Additional Learning Needs, with the view that the school's small size supports continuity, stability and effective personalised support. Concerns were also expressed that transferring to a larger and unfamiliar school could have a negative impact on vulnerable children or those with ALN. A strong concern was expressed that the proposal would have a negative impact on the wellbeing of families experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, particularly families without easy access to a car, with reference made to unreliable public transport. In addition to this, concern was also expressed regarding additional costs for families, should the school close, such as having to buy a new school uniform or fuel costs to transport children. Some comments noted a potential negative impact of the proposal on families that live outside of the current Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area, as well as the potential impact on childcare arrangements if the school were to close. The Council remains of the opinion that that the proposal will improve the Authority's ability to <i>"provide education of the best</i>	Although concerns have been expressed regarding the potential impact on vulnerable children, including learners with additional learning needs and emotional difficulties, specific mitigation measures are in place to ensure that the proposal would not result in exclusion or disproportionate discrimination. In accordance with the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and the ALN Code for Wales, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that every learner with additional learning needs continues to receive the provision set out in their Individual Development Plan, regardless of any change in school arrangements. If the proposal were to be implemented, transition arrangements would be carefully planned, with appropriate support for learners and families, including early engagement with the receiving school, relevant support staff and support services. Should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, it is acknowledged that the local school would become more distant from homes within the current catchment area of Ysgol Baladeulyn, and in terms of deprivation, this would mean that one of the indicators 'access to services' would become more distant from residents of the area. However, should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that provision at Ysgol Talysarn would include access to a broader range of expertise, peers and professional support, with the aim of maintaining or improving learners' wellbeing, inclusion and educational experience. In relation to families from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, it is noted that school transport arrangements would be administered in accordance with the Council's statutory policy, ensuring that cost or

	<i>possible quality that will provide the county's children with the experiences, skills and confidence to develop into bilingual, successful and well-rounded citizens" in accordance with the 'Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd' strategy.</i>	accessibility of transport does not present a barrier to equal access to education. Potential impact on individual families would be considered where relevant. Following consideration of the comments submitted during the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, the Equality Impact Assessment was updated to reflect the concerns raised and their potential impact on protected characteristics and wider equality. This assessment identifies that the proposal could lead to potential partially negative effects on some groups, including in relation to Disability, Age, the Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Considerations. However, the further assessment also notes that potential positive effects could arise should the proposal be implemented, including in relation to access to broader educational provision, additional social and educational opportunities, and access to extended expertise and support. In order to mitigate any potential negative effects, it is noted that robust policies and procedures are already in place within the Authority, applicable to all schools across the county, to ensure compliance with equality duties, prevent unlawful discrimination, and promote equal opportunities for all learners. In addition, it is noted that robust policies and arrangements are in place to ensure that the proposal would take equal rights into account and align with them. It is also noted that measures are already in place to ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination or harassment.
A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, it was consistently expressed that the school is a core element of village life and central to the identity of the community. Attention was drawn to the school's role in facilitating daily social interaction between families and local residents such as activities like concerts and assemblies. Concerns were expressed that closing the school would reduce the natural opportunities for people to meet, socialise and maintain informal community connections. It was emphasised that a local primary school is an important factor in attracting and retaining young families, and that losing the school could have a negative impact on the long-term sustainability of the community. The community of Nantlle is strong and vibrant and it is acknowledged that the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn could have some negative impact on the community.	As part of the statutory process, the Authority undertook an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the community. This assessment was updated following consideration of the comments received during the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period. In the latest assessment, it is noted that there would be some likely negative impact on the community should the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community as a community hub. In addition, should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, it is acknowledged that the local school would be located further away from homes within the current Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area, and from a deprivation perspective this would mean that one of the 'access to services' indicators would move further away from residents of the area. As a result, some negative impact on the local community is anticipated if the school were to close. However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn

		(50%), which suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn, the Council would seek to mitigate the impact on the community by encouraging and supporting ongoing links between the Nantlle community and the alternative school, promoting community collaboration where appropriate and ensuring that residents and families are aware of the opportunities, facilities and activities available at the alternative school. In addition, it is noted that, should a decision be made to close the school, the Authority's Post-Use Policy would operate as a framework for undertaking further discussions regarding appropriate options for the future use of the school building, including community use where appropriate, in order to seek to mitigate any negative impact on the local community.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	During the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period, it was noted that the school plays a vital role in sustaining the Welsh language and culture. Reference was made to the school's role in integrating new families, including those from English-speaking backgrounds, into the Welsh-language life of the village. Concern was expressed that closing the school could reduce opportunities to use Welsh on a daily basis and weaken the intergenerational transmission of the language, which could pose a significant risk to the sustainability of Welsh in the Nantlle area. It was emphasised that the school makes a significant contribution to sustaining the use of Welsh in informal and formal contexts within the community, such as interaction between parents and local residents during collection/ drop off times for children and the school's activities. Respondents to the consultation also noted concerns that transferring learners to a school with a weaker linguistic profile could reduce the level of Welsh-language immersion. Reference was made to Ysgol Baladeulyn's work in relation to the Welsh Language Charter, noting that the school has achieved the Gold Award. The Council acknowledges the concerns regarding the potential impact of closing Ysgol Baladeulyn on the linguistic vitality of the local community. However, based on the most recent data and the fact that learners from the Baladeulyn catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school with broader	As part of the statutory process, the Authority undertook an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language. This assessment was updated following consideration of the comments received during the statutory objection period. In the conclusion of the assessment, it is noted that the Council recognises the concerns raised regarding the role of Ysgol Baladeulyn in supporting the community use of the Welsh language within the village, and accepts that comments received highlight a potential negative impact on elements of local linguistic vitality outside the formal educational provision. However, based on the information available, the Council is of the view that the proposal is not likely to have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or learners' language opportunities, for the following reasons: • The January 2026 PLASC data show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn. • The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) means that learners in the Nantlle catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school. • It is anticipated that learners would be taught in larger classes and alongside more children from the same age group, and that the proposal

	opportunities to socialise through the medium of Welsh, it is anticipated that the proposal would maintain or even strengthen the informal use of Welsh among learners. Nevertheless, the Council also recognises that, should a decision be made to close the school, the change could lead to a negative impact on the use of Welsh as a community language outside the school setting, and would consider mitigation measures such as involving the Baladeulyn community in the activities of the alternative school and exploring options for the future use of the school building.	would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a wider group of their peers. In the educational context, given the above, if the proposal were to be implemented, it is anticipated that there would be increased opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and the level of informal language use would be stronger. At the same time, having considered the responses to the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. It is anticipated that there could be some negative impact from implementing the proposal, as parents/ guardians/ families and local residents would no longer meet on a daily basis in the Nantlle community during learner drop off/collection periods or during the school's activities. The school invites the community to the school for activities such as concerts, presentations and assemblies during school hours and outside of school hours. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there. In reaching this conclusion, the Council has considered the comments received during the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period. While it is acknowledged that the proposal could have a potential negative impact on certain aspects of the community use of the Welsh language within the Nantlle area, the Council's view is that the available evidence does not indicate that the proposal would have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or on learners' opportunities to use and develop the Welsh language within the educational setting.
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A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to impact this aim.	No impact
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4. PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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

5. CONCLUSION

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

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

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

It is also acknowledged, that there may be some negative impact on learner well-being during the transition period, if the school were to close. Should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, the authority and the alternative school would work closely with the closing school, and with the learners and their families, to ensure a smooth transition and to support learners as they settle into their new schools. The Council is committed to ensuring that any transition arrangements prioritise individual needs, including those of vulnerable children and learners with Additional Learning Needs, should the school close.

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

Assessment of the Impact on the People of Gwynedd

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

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

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

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

Ysgol Baladeulyn

Author: Gwern ap Rhisiart

Date: September 2026

Version: 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet considered the consultation report at its meeting on 19 May 2026 and approved to publish a Statutory Notice on the proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn on 31 December 2026 and offer places for learners at Ysgol Talysarn from 1 January 2027 onwards. The Statutory Notice was published on 3 June 2026 and a statutory objection period of 28 days was held between 3 June and 30 June 2026. The objection period came to an end on 30 June 2026 and 25 objections were received during that period. A petition was also received from the Governing Body of Ysgol Baladeulyn objecting to the proposal, with 500 signatures.

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

- **Number of learners** – Census PLASC data from January 2026 shows that only 6 full-time learners were attending the school with 2 children in the Nursery Class. The school has a capacity for 55 learners Admission to Year 6 (+7 in the Nursery Class).
- **Learners in the catchment area** – January 2026 data shows that only 25% of Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area learners choose to attend the school. 75% of learners in the catchment area choose to attend schools outside the catchment area.
- **Projections of numbers** - Projections of numbers (including the Nursery Class) recommend that the numbers will remain vulnerable into the future: September 2026=9; September 2027 = 9; September 2028= 8
- **High percentage of surplus places** - Based on January 2026 figures, there are approximately 89% empty places (49 in number).
- **Small class sizes** – In Ysgol Baladeulyn (September 2025) there is one class which includes all learners in the school - namely 6 Reception-Year 6 learners (Reception, Years 1 and 2, and Years 4 and 5) and 2 Nursery learners. Within this class, different groups are formed at different times of the day, with the assistants leading the activities (with the youngest learners). This therefore means that the age range in the whole class extends up to 8 years.
- **Broad age ranges within classes** - There is an age range of 8 years in one class.
- **Additional funding to the usual allocation** - Ysgol Baladeulyn receives an additional amount to the normal allocation through the minimum staffing policy (which guarantees at least a headteacher and a teacher in every school, and a headteacher and an assistant in schools with less than 15 full-time learners). The total additional amount during the 2026-27 financial year (based on September 2025 numbers) is £74,446
- **Cost per learner** – The average cost per learner at Ysgol Baladeulyn in 2026-27 is £25,123 compared to the county average of £5,998.

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

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

STEP 2 – Engagement Data and Assessing the Impact

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

Yes

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

Action	Dates	Information
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Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel 1	17 March 2025	The Ysgol Baladeulyn School Review Panel (SRP) was established in March 2025 and a series of meetings were held between March and July 2025, with the last of these held on 7 July 2025. The SRP membership included the school's headteacher and staff, governors, the Local Member, parents and guardians. During the meetings, a number of options were considered for primary education in the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to ensure a sustainable provision for the future and respond specifically to the small numbers of learners.
Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel 2	19 May 2025	
Ysgol Baladeulyn Review Panel 3	7 July 2025	
Statutory Consultation	December 2025 – January 2026	A statutory consultation was held on the proposal, in accordance with the School Organisation Code. The consultation was held between 10 December and 28 January, and 30 responses to the consultation were received.
Statutory Objection Period	3 June – 30 June 2026	A statutory notice regarding the proposal was published on 3 June 2026, and a 28-day statutory objection period was held between 3 June and 30 June 2026. The objection period ended on 30 June 2026, and 25 objections were received during that period. A petition opposing the proposal was also received from the Governing Body of Ysgol Baladeulyn, containing 500 signatures.

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

	Evidence, Information and Relevant Data	Potential Positive and/or Negative Impact
Race	Gwynedd schools have relevant policies in place to protect individuals from any discrimination based on race, such as Equality, Inclusion and Anti-bullying Policies. The Anti-bullying Policy provided by Cyngor Gwynedd states anti-bullying guidelines and procedures based on factors such as race in the school. Also, it is states in the	None

	Equality policy that is implemented by Gwynedd primary schools that schools <i>"... are opposed to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledge that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i> Therefore, it is not anticipated that this proposal would have a negative impact on this characteristic.	
Disability	During the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, concerns were raised about the negative impact of the proposal on certain groups of learners, particularly those with complex Additional Learning Needs, of transferring to a new school that is larger and unfamiliar to them. Questions were also raised about whether the continuity of support, such as support staff and the number of support hours for an ALN learner, would transfer to the alternative school in order to mitigate the impact of moving to a new school. It was noted that parents had specifically chosen Ysgol Baladeulyn because of the care, learning environment and personal support that learners receive in a smaller school. Should Ysgol Baladeulyn close, the authority and the alternative school would work closely with the learners and their families to ensure a smooth transition and to support learners as they settle into their new schools. The Council is committed to ensuring that any transition arrangements prioritise individual needs, including for vulnerable learners and learners with Additional Learning Needs, should the school close. The Quality and Standards of Education Impact Assessment refers to elements such as improved conditions for the additional learning needs co-ordinator to meet statutory requirements, and the availability of a broader provision map in larger schools. It is not anticipated that the change would have a negative impact on this characteristic. An accessibility assessment of any relevant alternative schools would be held, and we will ensure that any transport provided (in accordance with the Education Department's	As a result of the comments received during the consultation, a potential negative impact was identified for some learners with complex Additional Learning Needs, due to concerns about transferring to a larger and unfamiliar school, and about whether continuity of support staff for the learner would be maintained at the alternative school in order to mitigate any potential negative impact. However, the Council's assessment is that there would be a neutral or positive impact on this characteristic should the proposal be implemented, as it is anticipated that the alternative school would be able to offer improved conditions for the Additional Learning Needs co-ordinator to meet statutory requirements, and the availability of a broader provision map. An assessment of any relevant alternative schools would be undertaken on the basis of accessibility, and we would ensure that any transport provided (in accordance with the Education Department's transport policy) is suitable for the individual's needs. The needs of any disabled child would be considered in line with the Education Department's Accessibility and Equality policies. Although it cannot be guaranteed that the continuity of support staff would be maintained at the alternative school, it is noted that each request is assessed on an individual basis. As stated in the Gwynedd Parents' Handbook 2025/26, learners with

	transport policy) is suitable for the needs of the individual. The needs of any disabled child would be considered in accordance with the Education Department's Accessibility and Equality policies.	Additional Learning Needs have the right to continue to receive the support specified in their Individual Development Plan, and it is the Authority's duty to ensure that this provision continues even when school arrangements change.
Sex	It is not anticipated that the proposal would have an impact on this characteristic. Implementing the proposal will mean that everyone will be treated according to their need, whatever their gender. Every school implements an Equality Policy stating that the school: <i>"... is opposed to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledges that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i>	None
Age	During the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, it was noted that the current school provides equal opportunities and experiences for all to participate, without excluding any learner, which fosters positive and inclusive relationships between learners, staff and families. Concern was expressed that moving to a larger school could weaken these aspects and experiences and specific concerns were raised regarding wellbeing, mental health and the risk that some learners may find it difficult to transition to a larger school, with potential implications for their educational experience, particularly for vulnerable children. Concern was expressed regarding the emotional impact of the proposal on learners, families and community wellbeing should the school close. The Council notes these concerns and notes that equality, inclusion and anti-discrimination safeguarding policies are in place within both the current provision and the alternative school. It is acknowledged that the transition period is naturally emotional for learners of all ages, and should the proposal be implemented, transition arrangements would place emphasis on individual needs to mitigate any negative effects. Should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn would benefit from having more age-related peers in their class as there are more learners at Ysgol Talysarn, and it will be a way to ensure age-appropriate educational and extra-curricular experiences, as well as access to additional extra-curricular activities. In addition, it is	As a result of the comments received during the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, a potential negative impact is identified on the wellbeing of learners (particularly those who are vulnerable), due to concerns that transferring to a larger and unfamiliar school could reduce individual attention and support, thereby increasing the risk of difficulties during the transition period. Should the proposal be implemented, transition arrangements would place emphasis on individual needs in order to mitigate any negative effects arising from the transition period, with priority given to addressing any specific individual needs. However, the Council's assessment is that the proposal would have a neutral or positive impact on this characteristic if implemented as the proposed alternative school would be able to offer classes with a greater number of age-appropriate peers, together with access to a broader range of extracurricular activities and educational experiences suited to learners' age groups. Learners at Ysgol Talysarn are taught in classes of a more appropriate size, ranging from 16 to 30 learners per class (September 2025). There are four mixed-age classes at Ysgol Talysarn, as well as a Nursery class.

	anticipated that there would be more opportunities to socialise with a greater number of age-related peers. We believe that learners will receive more age-appropriate experiences at the nearby alternative school since the learners will have learning experiences in collective groups, smaller groups, partner work and individually within their specific age range, along with lessons that have been appropriately differentiated for the age range in question. It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would mean that people of any age would be treated fairly and according to their need. Ysgol Baladeulyn and Ysgol Talysarn implement an equality policy stating that the schools: <i>"... are opposed to all types of prejudice and discrimination and acknowledge that pupils have different needs, requirements and objectives."</i> A number of comments received during the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period referred to the fact that current learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn are able to walk or cycle to school, however, if the school were to close, it would not be possible for them to do so to the alternative school, as there is no safe route available. Several concerns were raised regarding the negative impact that longer journeys to the alternative school could have on learners' well-being should the proposal be implemented. In addition, concerns were raised regarding eligibility for free school transport for children who are not of statutory school age (under 5 years old), as well as concerns about suitable safety arrangements for transporting young learners to non-statutory provision. As the proposed alternative school is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn, and further from the homes of some learners within the catchment area, it is not anticipated that Ysgol Baladeulyn learners would be likely to walk or cycle to the alternative school if the proposal were implemented. Should the option of closing Ysgol Baladeulyn be implemented, Cyngor Gwynedd would, in accordance with Gwynedd Education Transport Policy, provide free transport for learners who live 2 miles or more from their catchment school, nearest school, or where learners	As a result of the comments received during the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, a potential negative impact has been identified on learners' well-being should the proposal be implemented, with reference made to the longer journeys for learners to attend the alternative school and that they would no longer be able to walk or cycle to school. The Council's assessment is that there would be both some negative impact and some positive impact on the physical well-being element of this characteristic should the proposal be implemented. If the proposal were implemented, it is anticipated that some learners would travel further to school than they do at present, however, it is not anticipated that any learner from the Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school. Given the distance between the alternative school and Ysgol Baladeulyn, it is not anticipated that learners from Ysgol Baladeulyn would be likely to walk or cycle to the alternative school. However, it is anticipated that there could be a potential positive impact on this characteristic, as attending a larger school would offer greater opportunities to participate in team sports or after-school clubs, thereby contributing positively to learners' health and well-being, as well as providing opportunities to socialise with a broader range of age-appropriate peers. As noted in section 2.5 of the Linguistic Impact Assessment, Ysgol Talysarn offers after-school activities such as an after-school club and sports activities.
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	travel to school along a route that the Council considers to be highly dangerous. The policy can be found in the Parents' Handbook: Information for parents . Nursery-age learners are not eligible under the policy, and the policy does not assume that parents are responsible for providing transport where a learner qualifies for statutory transport. Should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that some learners would travel further to school than they do at present, however, no learner from the Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school, nor would they be expected to walk or cycle to school along a dangerous route.	
Religion and Belief	Ysgol Baladeulyn and the alternative school noted in the proposal (Ysgol Talysarn) are community schools. Every school has an Inclusion Policy that would deal with any discriminatory incident that may occur at the school, which is associated with religion or belief. Therefore, it is not anticipated that this proposal would have an impact on this characteristic.	None
Sexual Orientation	Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) is a statutory requirement in the Curriculum for Wales framework that was published under section 71 of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021 and is mandatory for all learners aged between 3 and 16. RSE has a positive and empowering role to play in learners' education and it is essential to form and maintain a range of relationships, that are all based on respect and trust on both sides, which is core to relationships and sexuality education. These relationships are crucial to developing emotional well-being, resilience and empathy. An understanding of sexuality with an emphasis on rights, health, equality and fairness empowers the learners to understand themselves, to take responsibility for their own decisions and behaviours and to form relationships. We believe that learners will receive more opportunities to develop relationships and learn collaboratively as part of a larger class in an alternative school.	None

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

	It was also noted that the loss of the school could undermine opportunities for people to use Welsh in a living and practical way in everyday community life, with reference made to the natural opportunities for children, parents/guardians and local residents to gather and converse within the community during school drop-off and pick-up times or during school events such as concerts or assemblies. Strong concern was expressed that closing the school could result in the loss of these opportunities, thereby weakening the status of Welsh as a living community language and potentially undermining the principle of not treating the Welsh language less favourably. Several comments emphasised that the school functions as an important hub for Welsh culture and the Welsh-language life of the village, contributing to the use of the language beyond school hours. Reference was made to how the school integrates new families, including those who are not fluent Welsh speakers, into local Welsh-language life. Concerns were expressed that closing the school would undermine the wider community use of Welsh, and it was emphasised that the school is a key part of the community's linguistic identity and closing the school would pose a significant risk to the sustainability of the Welsh language in the Nantlle, which goes against the aims of the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050, particularly in terms increasing the community and natural use of the Welsh language. The Council acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the role of Ysgol Baladeulyn in supporting the community use of the Welsh language within the village, and accepts that the comments highlight a potential negative impact on elements of local linguistic vitality outside the formal educational provision. However, based on the information available, the Council is of the view that the proposal is not likely to have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or on learners' language opportunities, for the following reasons:	Welsh with a broader group of their peers. The Council is not of the view that the proposal would result in a negative impact on learners' Welsh-medium educational provision. As a result of the comments received during the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, a potential negative impact is identified on opportunities for people to use Welsh in a living and practical way in everyday community life, with reference made to the natural opportunities for children, parents/guardians/families and local residents to gather and converse within the community during school drop-off and pick-up times or the school's activities. The Council's assessment is that there would be some negative impact on the community element of this characteristic should the proposal be implemented, as parents/guardians and local residents would no longer meet on a daily basis within the Nantlle community when dropping off and collecting learners from school or during the school's activities. In order to mitigate any negative impacts, the Local Authority and Talaerau Governing Body could consider methods of promoting the use of the Welsh language by involving the Baladeulyn community in the school's community activities, as well as considering options for post-use of the school building, taking into account the community activities currently held at the school.
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	• The January 2026 PLASC data show that 29% of learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn speak Welsh fluently at home, compared with 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn. • The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners in a nearby school (Ysgol Talysarn) would mean that learners from the Baladeulyn catchment area would continue to be educated in a Welsh-medium school. • It is anticipated that learners would be taught in larger classes and alongside more children from the same age group, and that the proposal would strengthen opportunities for learners to socialise in Welsh with a wider group of their peers. In the educational context, given the above, if the proposal were to be implemented, it is anticipated that there would be increased opportunities for learners from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area to use Welsh informally with their peers both inside and outside the classroom, and that the vitality of the Welsh language and the level of informal language use would be stronger. At the same time, having considered the responses to the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. It is anticipated that there could be some negative impact from implementing the proposal, as parents/ guardians/ families and local residents would no longer meet on a daily basis in the Nantlle community during learner drop off/collection periods or during the school's activities. The school invites the community to the school for activities such as concerts, presentations and assemblies during school hours and outside of school hours. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there.	
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	The Community Impact Assessment shows that it is anticipated that there may be some negative impact on the community, if the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn were implemented. It is acknowledged that closing Ysgol Baladeulyn would lead to the loss of a school within the Nantlle community, however, the assessment notes that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), thus concluding that a connection between Ysgol Talysarn and the community of Ysgol Baladeulyn already exist. The Gwynedd Education Language Policy has the same aim for all of the county's primary schools, and every primary school (except for one) falls into category 3 in accordance with the Welsh Government's Guidance on school categories according to Welsh-medium provision. This means that the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn will be able to continue to receive their education through the medium of Welsh and bilingually in accordance with the Education Language Policy at Ysgol Talysarn.	
Socio-economic Considerations	Specific concerns were highlighted during the statutory consultation and statutory objection period regarding the lack of suitable public transport, unreliable timetables and lower levels of car ownership. It was noted that Talysarn is a deprived area and that this would pose a significant challenge for families who do not drive, low-income families, single parents, and families where limited mobility is a factor, making daily travel to a more distant school very difficult in practical terms or impact on childcare arrangements for families. Additionally, concerns were expressed regarding additional costs such as new school uniforms and fuel costs if the proposal were implemented. The Council acknowledges these concerns and notes that, should the school close, free transport would be provided to eligible learners in accordance with the County's School Transport Policy, which ensures that all primary-age learners living 2 miles or more from the nearest relevant school are eligible to receive free transport. The policy also includes consideration of walking route safety and individual needs where relevant. It is not anticipated that any learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area would be	As a result of the comments received during the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, the Council's assessment is that there would be some negative impact as well as a potential positive impact on this characteristic, if the proposal were implemented. A possible negative impact is acknowledged as implementing the proposal would lead to the loss of a school within the Nantlle community and the challenges this could pose for families experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, including new school uniform costs and costs arising from further travelling distances. However, the Council anticipates a potential positive impact on this characteristic, if the proposal were implemented, through ensuring access to a broader range of educational provision, additional social and educational opportunities within classes containing age-appropriate peers, and access to extended expertise and support. It is also noted that significant proportion of children from the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that

	required to travel an unreasonable distance to school should the proposal be implemented. The Community Impact Assessment shows that there would be some likely negative impact on the community should the proposal be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community, and in terms of deprivation, this would mean that one of the indicators 'access to services' would become more distant from residents of the area. However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist. With regard to families from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, it is noted that school transport arrangements would be administered in accordance with the Council's statutory policy. It is also noted that the Schools Essentials Grant is available for families that are eligible for support to buy equipment or school uniform. More information is available on the Council's website: Financial help and support with education It is anticipated that the proposal would reduce social disadvantage by ensuring more experiences and diversity of learning, more resources and access to more services and activities in the alternative school.	community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist.
Those Who Serve or Who Have Served in the Armed Forces, As Well As Their Families	It is not anticipated that the proposal would have an impact on those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, as well as their families. Learners from military or ex-military families will get the same fair play whichever school they attend.	None
Human Rights	It is not anticipated that implementing the proposal would have an impact on human rights.	None
Other	-	-

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

All assessments were updated after considering the responses to the statutory consultation. Following the statutory objection period, the assessment was reviewed further in order to consider the objections received and to assess whether they presented any additional relevant information in relation to equality.

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

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

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

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

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

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

During the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, it was noted that the current school provides equal opportunities and experiences for all to participate, without excluding any learner, which fosters positive and inclusive relationships between learners, staff and families. Concern was expressed that moving to a larger school could weaken these aspects and experiences and specific concerns were raised regarding wellbeing, mental health and the risk that some learners may find it difficult to transition to a larger school, with potential implications for their educational experience, particularly for vulnerable children. Concern was expressed regarding the

emotional impact of the proposal on learners, families and community wellbeing should the school close. The Council notes these concerns and notes that equality, inclusion and anti-discrimination safeguarding policies are in place within both the current provision and the alternative school. It is acknowledged that the transition period is naturally emotional for learners of all ages, and should the proposal be implemented, transition arrangements would place emphasis on individual needs to mitigate any negative effects. Should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn would benefit from having more age-related peers in their class as there are more learners at Ysgol Talysarn, and it will be a way to ensure age-appropriate educational and extra-curricular experiences, as well as access to additional extra-curricular activities. In addition, it is anticipated that there would be more opportunities to socialise with a greater number of age-related peers.

Additionally, a number of comments received during the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period referred to the fact that current learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn are able to walk or cycle to school, however, if the school were to close, it would not be possible for them to do so to the alternative school, as there is no safe route available. Several concerns were raised regarding the negative impact that longer journeys to the alternative school could have on learners' well-being should the proposal be implemented. In addition, concerns were raised regarding eligibility for free school transport for children who are not of statutory school age (under 5 years old), as well as concerns about suitable safety arrangements for transporting young learners to non-statutory provision. As the proposed alternative school is located approximately 2.5 miles from Ysgol Baladeulyn, and further from the homes of some learners within the catchment area, it is not anticipated that Ysgol Baladeulyn learners would be likely to walk or cycle to the alternative school if the proposal were implemented. Should the option of closing Ysgol Baladeulyn be implemented, Cyngor Gwynedd would, in accordance with Gwynedd Education Transport Policy, provide free transport for learners who live 2 miles or more from their catchment school, nearest school, or where learners travel to school along a route that the Council considers to be highly dangerous. Nursery-age learners are not eligible under the policy, and the policy does not assume that parents are responsible for providing transport where a learner qualifies for statutory transport. Should the proposal be implemented, it is anticipated that some learners would travel further to school than they do at present, however, no learner from the Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school, nor would they be expected to walk or cycle to school along a dangerous route. The Council acknowledges the importance of reliable transport for families. However, school transport is not normally provided to facilitate access to additional services, and such arrangements are considered in accordance with the transport policy and the relevant statutory criteria. However, the proposal is also expected to have a potential positive impact on this aspect. Attending a larger school would offer greater opportunities to participate in team sports and after-school clubs, thereby contributing positively to learners' health and well-being, while also providing opportunities to socialise with a wider range of age-appropriate peers.

Specific concerns were highlighted during the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period regarding socio-economic matters such as the lack of suitable public transport, unreliable timetables, and lower levels of car ownership. It was noted that Talysarn is a deprived area and that this would present significant challenges for non-driving families, lower-income families, single parents, and families where limited mobility is a factor, making daily travel to a more distant school very difficult in practical terms or having an impact on family childcare arrangements. In addition, concerns were expressed about additional costs, such as purchasing a new school uniform and increased fuel costs, should the proposal be implemented. The Council notes these concerns and notes that, should the school close, free transport would be provided to eligible learners in accordance with the County's School Transport Policy, which ensures that all primary learners living 2 miles or more from their nearest school are eligible to receive free transport. The policy also includes consideration of the safety of walking routes and individual needs where relevant. It is not anticipated that any learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school if the proposal were implemented. The Community Impact Assessment indicates that there would likely be some negative impact on the community should the proposal be implemented, as it would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community, and from a deprivation perspective, this would mean that one of the indicators 'access to services', would become more distant from residents of the area. It is also noted that a significant proportion of children from the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), suggesting that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist. With regard to families from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, it is noted that school transport arrangements would be administered in accordance with the Council's statutory policy. It is also noted that the Schools Essentials Grant is available for families that are eligible for support to buy equipment or school uniform. More information is available on the Council's website: [Financial help and support](#)

[with education](#) . It is anticipated that the proposal would reduce social disadvantage by ensuring access to a broader range of learning experiences, greater diversity of educational opportunities, more resources, and access to a broader range of services and activities at the alternative school.

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

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

Specific concerns were highlighted during the statutory consultation and statutory objection period regarding the lack of suitable public transport, unreliable timetables and lower levels of car ownership. It was noted that Talysarn is a deprived area and that this would pose a significant challenge for families who do not drive, low-income families, single parents, and families where limited mobility is a factor, making daily travel to a more distant school very difficult in practical terms or impact on childcare arrangements for families. Additionally, concerns were expressed regarding additional costs such as new school uniforms and fuel costs if the proposal were implemented. The Council acknowledges these concerns and notes that, should the school close, free transport would be provided to eligible learners in accordance with the County's School Transport Policy, which ensures that all primary-age learners living 2 miles or more from the nearest relevant school are eligible to receive free transport. The policy also includes consideration of walking route safety and individual needs where relevant. It is not anticipated that any learner from the Ysgol Baladeulyn catchment area would be required to travel an unreasonable distance to school should the proposal be implemented. The Community Impact Assessment shows that there would be some likely negative impact on the community should the proposal be implemented, as this would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community, and in terms of deprivation, this would mean that one of the indicators 'access to services' would become more distant from residents of the area. However, it is noted that a significant proportion of children in the catchment area (75%) already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn (50%), which suggests that community and educational links with neighbouring communities already exist. With regard to families from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, it is noted that school transport arrangements would be administered in accordance with the Council's statutory policy. It is also noted that the Schools Essentials Grant is available for families that are eligible for support to buy equipment or school uniform. More information is available on the Council's website: [Financial help and support with education](#) .

It is anticipated that the proposal would reduce social disadvantage by ensuring more experiences and diversity of learning, more resources and access to more services and activities in the alternative school. It is anticipated that implementing the proposal would reduce inequality arising from socio-economic disadvantage by ensuring that learners have access to a broader range of experiences and greater access to services and activities at the alternative school. By implementing the proposal, the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn would have a better learning environment at a school with more learners of the same age, and it would ensure that they make the most of their education. It is anticipated that learners would benefit from having more age-related peers at a school with more learners, which will be a way to ensure suitable educational and extra-curricular experiences for them, as well as access to additional extra-curricular activities.

10. How does the proposal show implementation in line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011), to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language, and to ensure opportunities for people to use the Welsh language? Also, how does the proposal operate in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Welsh Language Strategy to take advantage of every opportunity to promote the Welsh language (beyond providing bilingual services) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?

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

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

Through the responses to the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, concerns were expressed that the closure of Ysgol Baladeulyn could lead to the Welsh language being treated less favourably than English in practice, despite Welsh-medium educational provision continuing. Respondents emphasised that Ysgol Baladeulyn provides an environment in which Welsh is used naturally and socially on a day-to-day basis, not solely as the language of instruction, and that the loss of the school could significantly reduce these opportunities within the local community. It was noted that Ysgol Baladeulyn has a very strong Welsh-language profile compared with other schools in the area, and concern was expressed that moving to a school with a lower proportion of Welsh-language use could have a negative impact on children's linguistic confidence.

It was also noted that the loss of the school could undermine opportunities for people to use Welsh in a living and practical way in everyday community life, with reference made to the natural opportunities for children, parents/guardians and local residents to gather and converse within the community during school drop-off and pick-up times or during school events such as concerts or assemblies. Strong concern was expressed that closing the school could result in the loss of these opportunities, thereby weakening the status of Welsh as a living community language and potentially undermining the principle of not treating the Welsh language less favourably.

Several comments emphasised that the school functions as an important hub for Welsh culture and the Welsh-language life of the village, contributing to the use of the language beyond school hours. Reference was made to how the school integrates new families, including those who are not fluent Welsh speakers, into local Welsh-language life. Concerns were expressed that closing the school would undermine the wider community use of Welsh, and it was emphasised that the school is a key part of the community's linguistic identity and closing the school would pose a significant risk to the sustainability of the Welsh language in the Nantlle, which goes against the aims of the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050, particularly in terms increasing the community and natural use of the Welsh language.

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

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

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

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

At the same time, having considered the responses to the statutory consultation and statutory objection period, the Council recognises that the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn could have a potential negative impact on the use of Welsh within the local community, particularly in terms of its use as a community language outside the educational context. It is anticipated that there could be some negative impact from implementing the proposal, as parents/ guardians/ families and local residents would no longer meet on a daily basis in the Nantlle community during learner drop off/collection periods or during the school's activities. The school invites the community to the school for activities such as concerts, presentations and assemblies during school hours and outside of school hours. However, it is noted that consideration could be given to mitigation measures, by promoting the use of Welsh through involving the Nantlle community in the alternative school's community activities, as well as considering suitable options for the future use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities currently held there.

In reaching this conclusion, the Council has considered the comments received during the statutory consultation and the statutory objection period. While it is acknowledged that the proposal could have a potential negative impact on certain aspects of the community use of the Welsh language within the Nantlle area, the Council's view is that the available evidence does not indicate that the proposal would have a negative impact on Welsh-medium education provision or on learners' opportunities to use and develop the Welsh language within the educational setting.

The Community Impact Assessment shows that some negative impact on the community is anticipated should the option to close Ysgol Baladeulyn be implemented. It is acknowledged that closing Ysgol Baladeulyn would result in the loss of a school within the Nantlle community, however, the assessment notes that a large proportion of learners living within the school's catchment area already attend other schools, including Ysgol Talysarn, thus it is concluded that a link between Ysgol Talysarn and the Ysgol Baladeulyn community already exists. The Gwynedd Education Language Policy has the same aim for all of the county's primary schools, and every primary school (except for one) falls into category 3 in accordance with the Welsh Government's Guidance on school categories according to Welsh-medium provision. This means that the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn will be able to continue to receive their education through the medium of Welsh and bilingually in accordance with the Education Language Policy at Ysgol Talysarn.

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

Through the responses to the statutory consultation, it was stated that Ysgol Baladeulyn makes a significant contribution to the long-term wellbeing of learners, families and the community by providing a stable and supportive environment that promotes wellbeing, equality and community cohesion. It was noted that the current provision

supports vulnerable learners or learners with Additional Learning Needs, and sustains Welsh as a living language, with concerns expressed that any changes could undermine these benefits. Attention was also drawn to the way in which the school contributes to several wellbeing objectives by providing local access to education that is central to social interaction and the everyday life of the village, and that promotes the natural use of the Welsh language among people of all ages and backgrounds. Following consideration and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the well-being act, the seven well-being act goals and the Council's well-being objectives were considered, and it is concluded that the proposal meets the requirements.

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

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

The Well-being and Future Generations Act Impact Assessment is available to read fully on the Council's website: [Modernising Education](#)

STEP 3 – Procurement and Partnerships

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

No

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

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

Significantly Positive Impact:

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

By implementing the proposal, the learners of Ysgol Baladeulyn would have a better learning environment at a school with more learners of the same age, and it would ensure that they make the most of their education and allow access to more activities that are appropriate for their ability level. The learners would benefit from having

more age-related peers at a school with more learners, which will be a way to ensure suitable educational and extra-curricular experiences for them, as well as access to additional extra-curricular activities.

Significant Negative Impact:

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

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

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

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

No

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

Not applicable.

Note the reason for stating this and the justification for proceeding

Not applicable.

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

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

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

With regard to families from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, it is noted that school transport arrangements would be administered in accordance with the Council's statutory policy. It is also noted that the Schools Essentials Grant is available for families that are eligible for support to buy equipment or school uniform. More information is available on the Council's website: [Financial help and support with education](#) .

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

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

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

The proposal is expected to have a positive impact on the Welsh language, as learners at Ysgol Baladeulyn would benefit from increased opportunities to use Welsh with a broader range of peers both in the classroom and socially. The proposal to close Ysgol Baladeulyn and offer places for learners at Ysgol Talysarn would ensure continuity of Welsh-medium education, with PLASC (January 2026) data showing that 37% of learners at Ysgol Talysarn (compared with 29% at Ysgol Baladeulyn) speak Welsh fluently at home. While the Council acknowledges concerns about the potential impact on community use of Welsh in Nantlle, it is noted that mitigation measures could be considered such as promoting the use of the Welsh language through involving the Nantlle community in the community activities of the alternative school, as well as considering appropriate options for the post-use of the school building, taking into consideration the community activities that are held there currently.

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

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

Yes

STEP 5 – Decision to Proceed

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

Continue with policy or practice in its current form

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

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

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

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

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

Monitoring and Review Arrangements (including where outcomes will be recorded)	Timeframe and Frequency	Lead Responsibility	Add to the Service Plan

Should the proposal be realised, we will monitor the impact of the closure of the school and endeavour to assist with any negative impact that may derive from the policy.	Continuous	Education Department	No
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