

Responses to the Statutory Consultation to close Ysgol Y Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant and Establish a Welsh Medium 3-19 Learning Campus, Community status on the current site of Ysgol Y Berwyn in Bala Town

(Statutory Consultation Period 22 November 2017 - 10 January 2018)

28 written responses were received during the statutory consultation period.

Comments		Gwynedd Council Response
1	Support	
1.1	I wish to declare my support to establish model 2 - a 3-19 year old Community school for Bala town on the current Ysgol y Berwyn campus. Thanks	The Council notes the positive comments about the model that is the subject of this consultation.
1.2	The school's design and layout that incorporates a 3-18 school, community and diverse aspects is extremely effective. As the head of the school I appreciate the opportunities that I have had to attend the progress meetings with the stakeholders, although there have been frustration at times regarding the lack of funding to complete some aspects. The proposal to open a "community" school is a movement that has almost settled the community. Certainly this is the kind of school that reflects the requirements here in Y Bala	
1.3	Support the consultation and the purpose of change. The idea of creating such a Campus has always been a way forward for education in Penllyn. Ysgol y Berwyn has lost out on financial investments over the years and the decline of buildings has been evident for years. As a former pupil, staff, parent, I'm glad that this investment is coming to the area. There is a need for investment of resources here.	
1.4	Pleased that lifelong school status (without church status) that reflect our community is now being offered.	
1.5	I would like to note our support for the latest proposal to reorganise schools in the Berwyn catchment area. We are very supportive of the Community and Welsh medium elements of the proposal.	

1.6	The governing body of the Cysgod y Foel federation is generally supportive of the proposal that has been introduced providing new facilities for the primary pupils of the Bala area, and the secondary pupils of the region. The community status that will be designated will also be supported and we look forward to seeing the new provision in place for the benefit of our children and young people.		
2	The consultation process		
2.1	I am disappointed that the consultation process is taking place for the third time in this issue		<p>The main reason for the original delay was the impact on the Authorities due to a change in the Welsh Government's funding method. A separate consultation was held regarding Ysgol y Parc, although we acknowledged that it is related to reorganisation within the same catchment area.</p> <p>Following a review of the catchment area plans, at its meeting on February 19, 2015, the Cabinet of Gwynedd Council decided to approve a statutory consultation on the proposal to close Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Bro Tegid and establish a 3- 19, Welsh-medium, Voluntary Controlled (VC, Church in Wales) Learning Campus on the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn. Following a full statutory process to consult on the proposal, at their meeting on the 15 September 2015, the Council's Cabinet members decided to implement the proposed model.</p> <p>Subsequently, on 27 June 2017, Gwynedd Council Cabinet decided to withdraw the proposal approved on 15 September 2015 on the basis that it would be unreasonably difficult to implement the proposal due to the lack of support from governors to the current proposal to establish 3-19 Learning Campus, Voluntary Controlled (VC, Church in Wales) in the town of Bala.</p> <p>The responses received from the governing bodies of the catchment-area schools to the consultation held with them in March 2017, as well as the supportive correspondence of the St. Asaph Diocese were considered in deciding how to move the project forward.</p> <p>The Council is also disappointed that a proposal has not yet been implemented in the Y Berwyn catchment area. The nature of the school reorganisation process means that plans can change as the process develops. Depending on the next decisions of the Cabinet, the Council aims to implement the proposed model by September 2019.</p> <p>Over the last year Gwynedd Council has met with the headteachers, chairs of governors and local elected members of the catchment area on several occasions to discuss and receive their input on the way forward. In addition, letters have been distributed to</p>
2.2	The "new" school was supposed to open in 2014 but here we are in 2017 and we are still ... The consultation document includes options that are not possible, now and I live in hope that this will be the last consultation - for the benefit of all children of the area. Thanks		
2.3	The whole process (the consultation and construction) has already been a very lengthy one.		
2.4	There is some frustration that the timetable has slipped up to 2 years due to the change of category but the wait is acceptable considering the result.		
2.5	I feel that this consultation has been too long. Through my child's educational period now leaving May this year he has had experiences that are a great disadvantage to his education. Closure of Ysgol y Parc and then secondary reorganisation.		
2.6	Lack of correspondence regarding latest developments		

		parents, staff and governors following Cabinet's key decisions during the past year, in an attempt to update the stakeholder of the key developments. Regarding the building work recently, a newsletter has been released on a monthly basis to update Ysgol y Berwyn staff regarding the work that has been completed and the next steps.																																																																																																																																																
2.7	Also our home has received 4 copies of each document - how much has this cost	As part of the statutory consultation, the proposer, Gwynedd Council, is required to ensure that all the individuals listed in the School Organisation Code receive a copy of the consultation document. Hard copies of the document were distributed to all schools in the catchment area to ensure that parents, governors and staff receive a copy. It is emphasised that the consultation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code with appropriate costs attached to the statutory requirements.																																																																																																																																																
2.8	This document is complicated to read and unclear its purpose. It seems a mixture of old data (page 21 Estyn) which is now misleading, inaccurate data (page 44 7.2 Beuno Sant) which undermines the general interesting information. Therefore, it seems that the process so far is optional in fact and is lacking in terms of clarity.	We note that there was a mistake in the table on page 44 in the English version of the consultation document. Here's a copy of the correct table: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="3">School</th> <th rowspan="3">Distance from Y</th> <th rowspan="3">Age Range</th> <th rowspan="3">Pupil numbers Sept. 2017</th> <th rowspan="3">Capacity</th> <th rowspan="3">Surplus places</th> <th colspan="6">Predictions</th> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">2018</th> <th colspan="2">2019</th> <th colspan="2">2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Pupil numbers</th> <th>Surplus places</th> <th>Pupil numbers</th> <th>Surplus places</th> <th>Pupil numbers</th> <th>Surplus places</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pont y Gŵf</td> <td>52.2</td> <td>3 - 11</td> <td>113</td> <td>122</td> <td>9 (7%)</td> <td>111</td> <td>11 (9%)</td> <td>101</td> <td>21 (17%)</td> <td>96</td> <td>24 (20%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maesincla</td> <td>49.2</td> <td>3 - 11</td> <td>284</td> <td>360</td> <td>76 (21%)</td> <td>269</td> <td>91 (25%)</td> <td>271</td> <td>89 (25%)</td> <td>271</td> <td>89 (25%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y Faenol</td> <td>52.3</td> <td>3 - 11</td> <td>219</td> <td>232</td> <td>13 (7%)</td> <td>206</td> <td>26 (11%)</td> <td>206</td> <td>26 (11%)</td> <td>206</td> <td>26 (11%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Faelgeon</td> <td>48.9</td> <td>3 - 11</td> <td>40</td> <td>60</td> <td>20 (33%)</td> <td>42</td> <td>18(30%)</td> <td>42</td> <td>18 (30%)</td> <td>45</td> <td>15 (25%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Llandyrhai</td> <td>47.6</td> <td>3 - 11</td> <td>149</td> <td>176</td> <td>27 (15%)</td> <td>138</td> <td>38(22%)</td> <td>144</td> <td>32 (18%)</td> <td>141</td> <td>35 (20%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Llandwrog</td> <td>45.6</td> <td>3 - 11</td> <td>48</td> <td>86</td> <td>38 (44%)</td> <td>42</td> <td>44(51%)</td> <td>38</td> <td>48 (56%)</td> <td>32</td> <td>54 (63%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Llanvstumdwy</td> <td>36.5</td> <td>3 - 11</td> <td>22</td> <td>53</td> <td>31 (58%)</td> <td>23</td> <td>30(57%)</td> <td>23</td> <td>31 (58%)</td> <td>21</td> <td>32 (60%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trefarth</td> <td>45.3</td> <td>3 - 11</td> <td>115</td> <td>181</td> <td>66 (36%)</td> <td>116</td> <td>65(36%)</td> <td>112</td> <td>69 (38%)</td> <td>117</td> <td>64 (35%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cae Top</td> <td>50.7</td> <td>3 - 11</td> <td>240</td> <td>254</td> <td>14 (6%)</td> <td>240</td> <td>14(6%)</td> <td>240</td> <td>14 (6%)</td> <td>240</td> <td>14 (6%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beuno Sant</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>3-11</td> <td>38</td> <td>89</td> <td>51 (57%)</td> <td>30</td> <td>59 (66%)</td> <td>27</td> <td>62 (69%)</td> <td>28</td> <td>61 (69%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: September 2017 Data</p>	School	Distance from Y	Age Range	Pupil numbers Sept. 2017	Capacity	Surplus places	Predictions						2018		2019		2020		Pupil numbers	Surplus places	Pupil numbers	Surplus places	Pupil numbers	Surplus places	Pont y Gŵf	52.2	3 - 11	113	122	9 (7%)	111	11 (9%)	101	21 (17%)	96	24 (20%)	Maesincla	49.2	3 - 11	284	360	76 (21%)	269	91 (25%)	271	89 (25%)	271	89 (25%)	Y Faenol	52.3	3 - 11	219	232	13 (7%)	206	26 (11%)	206	26 (11%)	206	26 (11%)	Faelgeon	48.9	3 - 11	40	60	20 (33%)	42	18(30%)	42	18 (30%)	45	15 (25%)	Llandyrhai	47.6	3 - 11	149	176	27 (15%)	138	38(22%)	144	32 (18%)	141	35 (20%)	Llandwrog	45.6	3 - 11	48	86	38 (44%)	42	44(51%)	38	48 (56%)	32	54 (63%)	Llanvstumdwy	36.5	3 - 11	22	53	31 (58%)	23	30(57%)	23	31 (58%)	21	32 (60%)	Trefarth	45.3	3 - 11	115	181	66 (36%)	116	65(36%)	112	69 (38%)	117	64 (35%)	Cae Top	50.7	3 - 11	240	254	14 (6%)	240	14(6%)	240	14 (6%)	240	14 (6%)	Beuno Sant	0.0	3-11	38	89	51 (57%)	30	59 (66%)	27	62 (69%)	28	61 (69%)
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2.9	I would like to express my disappointment and the disappointment of Ysgol Beuno Sant's governors for the information presented in the consultation book regarding Ysgol Beuno Sant. It is based on the 2014 Estyn inspection and gives a negative impression of the school. As you know, the staff and governors have worked very hard since then and the school has now improved considerably. It is a yellow category school, and strong praise was received, especially on the school's leadership, when Estyn re-visited a year later. Not all of this is reflected in your information. It is unfair for teachers and parents and is misleading. I would like to receive a public apology.	Gwynedd Council has acted in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code in preparing the consultation document. The Code states that the consultation document must provide "information from the latest Estyn reports for each school that the proposal is likely to affect". This information can be found on page 21 to 24 of the document that refers to the outcome of the inspection carried out in 2014. However, on page 23, there is a paragraph stating that Ysgol Beuno Sant has been removed the list of schools that require significant improvement in 2015 following a monitoring visit in June 2015. The document also refers to Ysgol Beuno Sant as a yellow-category school, in accordance with the Welsh Government's guidelines, which is "an effective school that is already doing well and knows what areas it needs to improve".																																																																																																																																																
2.10	The consultation document refers to Ysgol Beuno Sant as a "red" school. This was the case two years ago but now the school is "yellow". The document refers to this later in this document, the reference to	Ysgol Beuno Sant is categorised as a "yellow" school. This was stated on page 21 of the consultation document. Below is a copy of the table:																																																																																																																																																

	"red" gives an incorrect picture about the school as it is now after considerable hard work by the staff.		O.M. Edwards, Bro Tryweryn and Ffridd y Llyn is categorised as green meaning it is "a highly effective school which is well run, has strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvements Bro Tegid, Beuno Sant and Y Berwyn are banded as yellow, "an effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve"
2.11	I note that there is no apology from Gwynedd Council or the governors of Ysgol y Berwyn for their failures in providing education for children of the area in 2017-18 or for the overspend due to the confusion caused by withdrawal from the original plan.		The Cabinet of Gwynedd Council resolved to withdraw the proposal approved on 15 September 2015 on the basis that it would be unreasonably difficult to implement the proposal due to lack of governor support to the current proposal to establish a 3-19 Learning Campus, Voluntary Controlled (VC, Church in Wales) in the town of Bala. The responses received from the governing bodies of the catchment-area schools to the consultation held with them in March 2017, as well as correspondence by the St. Asaph Diocese were considered in deciding how to move the project forward.
2.12	I would like to see a public recognition of the role of the Church in Wales in providing education for the children of the area over the years.		As is noted on page 43 of the consultation document, Gwynedd Council and the Church in Wales are joint education providers in the Berwyn catchment area. Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Voluntary Aided (VA) school with a religious character (Church in Wales) and Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Bro Tryweryn and Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn are community schools. The Council has held regular discussions with representatives of the Church in Wales since the beginning of the school reorganisation in the catchment area.
2.13	Also to recognise how recent confusion has effected the numbers attending Ysgol Beuno Sant as a result of so much public prejudice against the Church by ----- and many others.		Gwynedd Council recognises that the reorganisation process is a time consuming process and one that can lead to a period of uncertainty. The Council is committed to delivering a plan that will improve the educational provision in the Berwyn catchment area and ensure any support for all schools in the catchment area in the meantime.
3	Construction work		
3.1	Despite the promise made years ago that the development would not affect the current pupils - undoubtedly all the changes / building have had an adverse effect on both pupils and staff - dust, noise, blocked toilet, our resources in boxes, lack of space, no light - a long list. Safety regulations?!		Since the commencement of construction work, the Council has attempted to structure the construction timetable to reduce any potential impact on staff and pupils in terms of the day-to-day operation of the current school. The primary block construction was scheduled first so that secondary school pupils could be educated there whilst the remainder of the building was being upgraded. As is known from the percentage of surplus places set out in the consultation document, there are a number of surplus places at Ysgol y Berwyn, and the building schedule is structured so that full advantage can be taken of this.
3.2	From the outset it was said that the construction would not affect the children's education. This has not been the case. The building now affects them daily and nothing is done - why do they have to walk in dusty corridors every day? Why do they have to walk in corridors without light? Why not have suitable toilets for them? Why do we have to walk through mud to come into school? What about the canteen situation - how in the world they have been so long without 'basic' cooking facilities?		Regarding the impact of the construction on the day-to-day running of the secondary school, we can ensure that the Council, since the commencement of the construction,

	It is impossible to work at times because of the 'drilling' noise! ... In future - think seriously about not building such school again!		has put in place procedures to ensure that the work complies with health and safety regulations and requirements.
3.3	Concern about the condition of the building and that staff and pupils are expected to cope in these difficult circumstances daily and the unacceptable facilities.		
3.4	Please please please, never build a new school across a school that is operational again. It has been a havoc in terms of dust, drilling noise, difficulties, and food - no canteen for months. All staff must be packed and move in less than 2 weeks / as well as educating children! Restricting the place of movement of pupils was disrupting the whole ethos of the school.		
3.5	We as staff are disappointed with the work that is going on at the moment in the school. I know the work is temporary, but two years is a long time.		
3.6	The construction process has affected the education of the current pupils - very unfair. Lack of respect for staff concerns during the prolonged process.		
4	The design and resources of the new school		
4.1	The laboratories also cause me a great concern if they will not be upgraded significantly. The present laboratories have been here since 1964 and the water and gas plumbing in the Chemistry lab is particularly poor in quality. Benches that are stuck to the floor do not allow a room ... to create a suitable "place" for different activities e.g. discussion groups and ...		<p>Gwynedd Council is committed to ensuring that the “learning environment” of the children and teachers of the county - the school, classrooms, staff room, and play area - is suitable for twenty-first century education.</p> <p>As part of the plan to invest £10.27million to develop the 3-19 Learning Campus, 2 new laboratories will be installed at the school.</p> <p>In addition, investment will be made on the current Chemistry laboratory by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - upgrading existing services to benches - installing a new smoke cabinet - Install 4 new, two-sided benches, suitable for group work <p>The fourth laboratory will also receive a general upgrade to the electrical connections.</p> <p>In addition to the above, significant expenditure will be made to upgrade the fire escape from the Chemistry laboratory.</p>
4.2	What about Science laboratories - Why is there no money? Why not talk with the staff that work in the building about their requirements!!		
4.3	"Modernising Education"!!! Where are the modern laboratories?? There are no plans to establish modern, new, 21st Century laboratories!! Why? There were plans to set up labs on the "Pods" system! Now "the money has run out" – these are the rumours anyway!!Why? Where has the money gone? How can it run out if it was originally there? Is the answer a lack of planning? Wrongly planned is the answer? I would like to express my huge disappointment that brand new laboratories will not be part of the plans.		
4.4	As a parent with children moving to the secondary school in the near future I am very concerned that the resources and facilities will not be upgraded, e.g. The laboratories, these are in this school since its construction, and there are no plans to renew. It is vitally important		

	that the lifelong school is leading the way by offering the best possible resources and facilities for the children of the area and the future of our society		
4.5	It was a huge disappointment to learn that there was no funding allocated for the modernisation of the laboratories. With science promoted nationally and YyB, with 1960s labs? What is the educational value of the solar panels - would it not have been smarter investing in modern laboratories that would benefit each pupil and their attainment.		
4.6	Why are new Science laboratories not being installed here? The laboratories have not changed since the 1960s. Secondary pupils need new resources e.g. tables, new chairs!! Are there new staff toilets (girls!!)		
4.7	I'm very unhappy as a parent who has a child choosing GCSE this year there is no new Science equipment / room. In a Lifelong School?		
4.8	I also believe that the laboratories should be upgraded to offer the best experiences for our pupils		
4.9	Lack of resources and equipment - expressing concern that no new furniture and equipment resources are located in the section / secondary sector.		
4.10	Adequate funding for resources for the lifelong school must be secured - The resources MUST be upgraded e.g. IT resources extremely rare. It will not be acceptable for children to move from primary schools with great resources to a school without resources at all. It will have to be upgraded to respond to the Digital Competence Framework and educational vision ...To do this, sufficient funding must be identified and it should not come from the school's limited budget as it stands		In accordance with the 21st Century Schools Programme Business Case Guidelines (Welsh Government), new furniture and fittings are not included as part of capital expenditure for refurbishment of buildings, as is the case for the secondary element of this project. These guidelines also indicate that new computer resources can only be funded as part of the investment project that includes a new build.
4.11	Although there is no firm and accurate information currently available in regards to funding, I am concerned that funding will not be available at the end of the project to ensure that there is adequate and new resources for the secondary sector. Similarly the lack of funding to secure work to modernise some departments is possible (e.g. The science department)		As a result, at this point, there is no specific budget earmarked for upgrading the information technology resources or to furnish the secondary sector. Having said that, it will be for the Headteacher and governing body to decide how the new school's funding will be allocated and spent. They could make a decision to allocate a proportion of the budget for upgrading certain specific resources such as IT.
4.12	I am very concerned about how much money will be available to secure resources that will ensure the success of the pupils to learn in an atmosphere from a twenty-first century school. The quality of some of the Ysgol y Berwyn rooms is disastrous and out of date. I think that the whole building should be modernised and include resources such as		

	tables, chairs and ICT resources. We must give our pupils the best opportunities		
4.13	I understand that there is not enough money to furnish and provide recent resources in the secondary school due to this section of the school only being refurbished. No the school will not be a new building, which is completely unfair. The primary will have great resources and when they come to the secondary school the resources will be old. Surely the staff and children deserve better after all the disadvantages they have had to cope with.		
4.14	<p>Overall I am supportive of the proposal made in the statutory consultation document, but worried about one particular aspect. My concern is the lack of detail about investment in new resources within the building, especially the technical and computer resources that are essential for teaching pupils in the 21st century. I would like to see a clear commitment from the Council that there is an intention to allocate sufficient funds for that.</p> <p>As the plan is part of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Investment Program, the resources, and the teaching, within the new building should reflect that.</p> <p>In my opinion it is very important that a school refurbishment and upgrading scheme such as this takes advantage of the opportunity to ensure that there is a continuity in the teaching, including the education of those children who will come from O.M.Edwards, Ffridd y Llyn and Bro Tryweryn. It is therefore essential to ensure that children arriving at the new school are not disaffected from seeing that the resources they need, and that they currently use them extensively in the primary school, are not available to them now.</p>		
4.15	It is vital to make sure that funding / investment is ... the resources of the old Ysgol y Berwyn.		

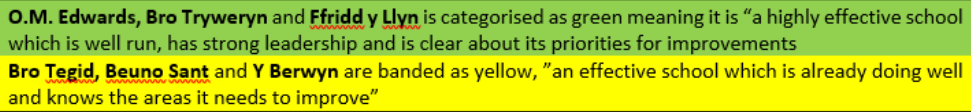
4.16	<p>There is a lack of balance in the scheme in terms of secondary resources - lack of funding to improve that! Losing respect for the adherence of the council to provide the best education for Penllyn children.</p>	<p>The scheme invests £10.27m to develop the 3-19 Learning Campus on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site. This represents a significant investment to ensure the best quality learning environment for Bala pupils.</p> <p>It is noted that the scheme involves the construction of new facilities for the primary sector on the current Ysgol y Berwyn site. But, in addition, the existing Ysgol y Berwyn building will be substantially upgraded. The improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create suitable learning areas by securing suitably sized classrooms and updating the condition in general. - create specific provision for the sixth form, including a common room and separate study room. - Expenditure on the laboratories. - refurbish and improve the technology block. <p>The above list is in addition to the planned improvements for the common facilities and shared facilities between the primary and secondary schools such as the dance studio and reception.</p>
4.17	<p>I'm worried that there won't be funding left for school resources. What is the point of having a new fitness / dance room without equipment? Will there be interactive whiteboards in each class? What about a gym? The new changing rooms look good but there is no money left for new tables / chairs. There are some here for over 30 years. The standard of IT equipment is poor. We are behind time with the computer equipment. We only have 20 laptops for 300+ children.</p>	<p>In accordance with the Business Case Guidelines for the 21st Century Schools Education Program (Welsh Government), new furniture and fittings are not included as part of capital expenditure for refurbished buildings, as is the case with the secondary element of this project.</p> <p>Having said that, it will be for the Headteacher and governing body to decide how the new school's funding will be allocated and spent. They could make a decision to allocate a proportion of the budget for upgrading certain specific resources such as IT.</p>
4.18	<p>It is also stated in the document that the hall will be upgraded, yet the details are limited. I know that mobile seats are very expensive, but very suitable for a hall like the Berwyn school. But there is also a need for significant investment in the Hall's lighting and sound resources (I've worked in the field for twenty years, so I'm not talking about me!) - The current equipment at its best is ineffective, and at its worst is dangerous and ineffective.</p> <p>It states "Pupils, staff and the public will benefit from this multi-use area". It must, of course, be suitable and safe to use.</p> <p>The hall at Ysgol Preseli, Crymych (similar to Ysgol y Berwyn in many ways) is a good example of a school hall that is used for school purposes, as well as the community and external companies.</p>	<p>An investment of around £ 200,000 will be made to upgrade the hall, to provide space for lectures, assembly as well as a resource to support a cinema system.</p> <p>The proposed plan includes the installation of the following resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - retractable seats - New lighting bars on the performing stage - New low level lighting infrastructure - New sound infrastructure - Structural work within the space to create a sound / projector room with storage for chairs.

5	The Proposal	
5.1	A new school should follow Model 1 - no school mergers. There is a reason that so many 11-18 schools exist. A 11-18 school is a financial solution not educational.	<p>The Council has considered a range of different models before deciding to carry out a statutory consultation on model 2.</p> <p>The Learning Campus is a model that offers many educational benefits, including the opportunity to share specialties across the primary and secondary sectors. Model 1, which is the 'status quo' does not offer the same benefits.</p> <p>In addition, as stated in the consultation document, the buildings of Beuno Sant, Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn schools are not in the best condition or suitable for learning in the 21st century.</p>
5.2	Unable to understand that one of the primary sites remains a separate entity.	<p>The Council has considered a number of possible options when considering school reorganisation in the Berwyn catchment area.</p> <p>As part of the proposal Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant will close, and the education provision they provide will be provided in the 3-19 Learning Campus. Ysgol y Berwyn will also close, education for pupils of secondary school age will be provided in the Learning Campus.</p> <p>As set out in a consultation document, the statutory consultation concerns schools in the town of Bala only. However, the reorganisation that's taking place in the town of Bala is part of Gwynedd Council's long term vision for the catchment area.</p> <p>The vision seeks to ensure that the three rural schools, Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Bro Tryweryn and Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn also benefit from the proposed investment in Bala, and Gwynedd Council therefore intends to establish a joint committee between the rural schools and the Learning Campus.</p> <p>Here's a picture of the vision for the catchment area:</p>

5.3	As Chairman of Gwynedd Cylch Meithrin, I'm very concerned that no venue has been considered for Bala's Cylch Meithrin.	We as a Council are aware that Cylch Meithrin provision is being held on the Ysgol Bro Tegid site and note the related responses to the statutory consultation.
5.4	<p>I would like the proposers to consider Cylch Meithrin Bala - location – which is currently established for 45 years and meets at the Bro Tegid campus.</p> <p>The number of 3-4 year olds also attend the Cylch have been consistent of 28 children a year feeding to both schools - Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant, this year 16 children attended, that is a huge fall. From discussing with various parents, there is a great concern about the location and future of the Cylch. In line with the Welsh Government's recommendations of having a million Welsh speakers by 2050 - there should be better co-operation and involvement of children from 2½ in the Lifelong campus.</p>	<p>As known, the school's intention is to provide education for 3 to 19 year olds, and as a result, nursery class age education will form part of Campus provision. However, in terms of Cylch Meithrin provision, the Council is keen to discuss possibilities with relevant representatives.</p>
5.5	I propose that the Beuno Sant building should be offered to the Cylch Meithrin because it is marginal to the new Campus.	
5.6	Still worried about the primary contact with the secondary school and that both are going to conflict on occasions. Also travel on school buses.	Although the Learning Campus is one legal entity (one school), the school's design enables the primary and secondary pupils to be segregated. There will be separate access and play area for the primary and the secondary and although it is intended that they share resources such as the gym, hall and canteen, the site layout enables the primary pupils to make use of these facilities without mixing with secondary pupils.
5.7	Feeling there is no balance between the provision for the Primary and Secondary.	
5.8	Whilst acknowledging that this is a consultation document about Bala schools, it is noted that past proposals have also secured investment in rural schools as part of a broader vision. There was, of course, considerable spending at Ysgol OM Edwards. It is anticipated that this principle will continue and that there will be investment in Bro	It was noted in the consultation in 2015 that expenditure would be made on the rural schools namely Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn in order to clear the backlog maintenance. This was in addition to the £10.27million capital investment that was to be invested to establish the Learning Campus.

	Tryweryn and Ffridd y Llyn schools to ensure that all schools in the catchment area are suitable for the 21st Century.		Since the consultation in 2015, a sum of around £20,000 has been spent at Ysgol Bro Tryweryn to install new windows. In addition, as part of the Gwynedd schools maintenance program, it is anticipated that a further £150,000 will be spent on Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn, and around £45,000 on Ysgol Bro Tryweryn, over the next two years.
6	Financial Matters		
6.1	Hopefully, there will be money and suitable finance for the new school and that the secondary site will benefit from the investment - as it's a refurb that's taking place here. It is hoped the funds to staff the school will be adequate and that the school follows the example of other schools throughout the country so that the children of the area get the best possible opportunities and education. Thanks.		The allocation of the Learning Campus will be based on the general allocation formula for Gwynedd schools. The allocation formula is based on the number of pupils attending the school in accordance with the appropriate legislation.
7	Staffing Matters		
7.1	Job uncertainty		
7.2	NASUWT believes that the Authority should learn lessons following the re-structuring of the Dolgellau catchment area - especially how the workforce has been. Bearing that, we are very concerned to read the comments in the consultation document on pages 39/40 which broadly mention how the workforce will be treated over the transfer period. It sounds probable that there is consideration for the same process that was followed in Dolgellau. We note that the unions object to this type of staff transfer. In NASUWT's view, the shadow body should not advertise any posts externally until the current workforce has had the opportunity to receive one of the jobs. Broadly speaking, the new posts in the proposed school should be "ring-fenced" for the existing school staff. Post holders that are in post that are identical or very similar to the new school posts should be slotted into new jobs. Post holders who appear as composite posts in the new school should be invited for an interview for those posts. New jobs - which do not exist at the existing Schools - should be available for existing staff to apply for. All of this is important because of the Employer's legal obligation to find appropriate alternative post for staff who are facing redundancy. In this situation, the jobs of the new school are the appropriate alternative post.		As the final decision will not be made until the end of the statutory process, there is currently no firm leadership regarding the arrangements for the appointment process for the new school. However, it is emphasised that consultants from the Human Resources department are available to the school staff in the catchment area throughout the process to support them and to discuss job issues. It should be noted that the precise management structure and also the appointment process that will be used e.g. to appoint internally or externally, will be a decision for the shadow governing body.

8	Other	
8.1	Having said all that, the 2018-19 transition needs to start soon and be comprehensive. Gwynedd Council has a great responsibility to organise the transition year well for the benefit of the children of Bala town and beyond.	It is intended to hold further local discussions with the relevant stakeholders to try to develop a transition plan for the town's primary schools. This will enable the primary pupils to have regular access to the new resources during the year before the Campus officially opens in September 2019
9	Summary of Estyn's response	
9.1	It appears that the proposal is likely to at least maintain standards of education in the area as the proposed development would be likely to establish new, stable leadership with a focus on raising standards and improving the quality of provision	Gwynedd Council notes Estyn's comments and agrees that the proposal promotes an opportunity to raise standards and improve the quality of education provision in the town of Bala.
9.2	The proposer has provided a clear rationale for the proposal. It states that the proposal has been developed in line with the county's strategy to ensure strong and sustainable education provision across all sectors. It states reasonably that a number of issues face the three schools that could affect the ability to maintain educational standards and experiences in the future. These include surplus places, the condition and suitability of the school site, as well leadership challenges. Estyn agrees with this view.	Gwynedd Council welcomes the comment.
9.3	The proposer has provided clear evidence to show alternative options to this current proposal including maintaining the status quo. They have shown clearly the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reasons for the option that they favour. It appears that there are sufficiently robust reasons for the proposal and that advantages outweigh any disadvantages	Gwynedd Council notes the comment.
9.4	The proposer has given suitable consideration to transport implications but as Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Bro Tegid are in the middle of the town of Bala, the proposal will not have any effect on current travelling times..... It appears that the proposed development will not have an adverse effect on pupils' current travelling times.	Gwynedd Council agrees that the proposal that is the subject of the consultation will not have a negative effect on pupils' and travelling times and distances. As Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Bro Tegid are located in the Bala town centre, the proposal will not impact the current traveling times. In addition, as the secondary provision will remain on the Ysgol y Berwyn site, which is the current secondary school, there will be no difference in travelling or distance time for secondary school age pupils.
9.5	The proposer has shown effectively the way in which the number of surplus places will be affected by providing the current surplus places in Ysgol Beuno Sant (-57%), Ysgol y Berwyn (-55%) and Ysgol Bro Tegid (+10%).	From realising the proposal, the Learning Campus would be established with appropriate capacity for current and future pupil numbers. The Learning Campus will have a capacity of 560 pupils - 180 primary and 380 secondary.

9.6	The proposer shows that the Council wants to make the best use possible of the financial resources that are available to provide education in the county	Gwynedd Council notes the comment.
9.7	The proposer has acted appropriately in conducting an assessment of the effect on the Welsh language and has submitted a summary of this assessment	Gwynedd Council notes the comment.
9.8	The proposer's summary of the condition and suitability of each of the three school's buildings is concise and clear.... It is very likely that the proposed development would improve resources considerably.	Gwynedd Council is of the opinion that the £10.27m investment to develop the 3-19 Learning Campus would significantly improve the resources of the catchment area.
9.9	The proposal indicates that the new provision will be in the Community legal category, which appears to be a reasonable and balanced decision. It appears that the council has consulted widely with the Church in Wales, governors, parents and stakeholders in the community.	Gwynedd Council notes the comment.
9.10	The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the effect of the proposals on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership and management in each of the three schools.	Gwynedd Council notes the comment.
9.11	The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at the three schools in Bala along with the three other primary schools in the surrounding area. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection report.	Gwynedd Council notes the comment.
9.12	However, the proposer has not evaluated each school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. The proposer's summary of outcomes for all six schools does not make comparisons with local, national and family of schools averages. The proposer has not commented on comparisons with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals nor has it included data for foundation phase outcomes for each of the primary schools. The data analysis for the primary schools is therefore not inclusive enough and neither the analysis nor the commentary are detailed enough.	Gwynedd Council accepts the need for a more detailed analysis of the catchment area's school performance data. However, an evaluation of the performance of the catchment area schools is found on pages 21 to 24 and the findings are mainly based on the school's latest Estyn inspection reports. In addition, on page 21, there is a table that sets out the performance of each school in relation to the National System for School Categorisation. Here's a copy of the table: 
9.13	The proposer indicates reasonably that the new provision could result in better consistency in class sizes and that pupils would be more likely to be taught in classes with one age year group.	Gwynedd Council accepts Estyn's view that the proposal could lead to the reconciliation of the size of the primary age classes of the pupils of the town of Bala, enabling more pupils to receive education in consistently sized groups.
9.14	The proposer indicates appropriately that should the current proposal be implemented, a holistic vision, with one organisation managing, planning and providing education across the age range would lead to better co-ordination and progression in children's education. It is	Combining the educational provision of the existing three schools in Bala in one education establishment offers an opportunity to make better use of staff, especially in terms of management and leadership.

	reasonable to note that the proposed development would be likely to ensure new, stable leadership with a focus on raising standards, provision and leadership. This would be likely to have a positive effect for pupils to be able to have contact with a wider number of teaching staff who provide expertise in a number of curricular areas.	We believe that the 3-19 Learning Campus could offer new leadership and leadership structure opportunities by combining all the resources in the area in one school.
9.15	The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with special educational needs. The proposal indicates that arrangements that are in place for pupils at present, such as one-to-one support, would be continued in their new learning environment. However, the proposer has not indicated clearly enough how any possible short term disruption to learners will be minimised. For example, there is no information on the likely effect of the internal restructuring of the building at Ysgol y Berwyn on the day-to-day running of the school or on pupils' education.	<p>The Council accepts that this period of change can cause instability for staff and pupils. However, since the commencement of the construction work, the Council has attempted to structure the construction timetable to reduce any potential impact on staff and pupils in terms of the day-to-day operation of the current school.</p> <p>It was scheduled to build the primary block first so that secondary school pupils could be educated there while the remainder of the building was being refurbished. As known from the percentage of vacancies set out in the consultation document, there are a number of vacancies at Ysgol y Berwyn, and the building timetable is structured so that full advantage can be taken.</p> <p>Regarding the impact of the construction on the day-to-day running of the secondary school, we can ensure that the Council, since the commencement of the construction, has put in place procedures to ensure that the work complies with health and safety requirements.</p>
10	Church in Wales Response	
10.1	Thanks for the pre-consultation documentation. Cyngor Gwynedd has considered carefully the future of education in Bala and Penllyn. We appreciate that this second consultation is required after the decision by cabinet to reconsider the future of educational provision in Bala and Penllyn.	Gwynedd Council notes the comment.
10.2	The consultation documentation reiterates the current position of all schools in the area and we firmly believe at the heart of any school is its children and their needs are the most important consideration. We have considered the contents of the documents that you sent carefully.	Gwynedd Council notes the comment.
10.3	The Diocese of St Asaph is the trustee of Ysgol Beuno Sant, but the day to day running of the school is the responsibility of the Governors. The Governors of all three schools indicated in their response earlier this year to the informal consultation that they wished to support a new proposal that would see a community campus built in Bala.	Gwynedd Council notes the comment. Following the consultation with the governing bodies of the catchment-area schools in March 2017, it became clear that the opposition of the governing bodies to the status and to cooperate on the plan posed a fundamental risk to the success of the project.
10.4	This will mean the end of Church school provision in Bala and there is no other alternative provision within a reasonable distance for pupils to attend. While the Diocese would find it difficult to support any proposal	Gwynedd Council notes the comment- designating a legal category for the Learning Campus has implications for the nature of the educational provision of the entire catchment area. The designation of the Campus as a community school would remove

	that removes parental choice for a school with or without a religious character, the foundation governors who have the corporate responsibility for the school have indicated their support for such a proposal.	<p>the Church's provision in the Church in Wales in the area. To the contrary the designation of the Campus as a Church in Wales school would eliminate the provision of community primary and secondary schools in the town of Bala.</p> <p>In designating a legal category for the optional model, the outcome of recent local discussions with the head teachers and governing bodies of the catchment area schools (as referred to in the Cabinet report on 27 June 2017), as well as the findings of the assessment of the need for Different types of schools (2014) which confirmed that the quality of education is the main factor that is considered important in a school.</p> <p>On that basis, it was proposed, in terms of legal category, that 'community' status would be a favourable option for a statutory consultation.</p>
10.5	Our hope from the outset was that the new school would give the children of Bala and Penllyn the very best opportunities and experiences. There has been much debate about the new school and what it might be like, our vision was for an education rooted in Welsh culture, language and heritage based on Christian values.	Gwynedd Council notes the comment.
10.6	However, despite the best intentions of officers and the cabinet of Cyngor Gwynedd and the Diocese as partners in the project, we have been unable to persuade the Governing Bodies of the three schools to support our proposal. As we are not a proposer this leaves us with limited options to protect and safeguard the project. If we continue as planned, we proceed without the support of the Governing Bodies, which cannot be good for the stability of the new school. The Diocese recognises that implementing the proposals could prove to be unreasonably difficult and the authority must now undertake this new statutory consultation. There is also the question of the funding. This was granted for a new Church school. We did not want to see the project losing this necessary investment in a new school.	<p>The Council notes the comment, and agrees that the priority is to ensure the provision of the best quality education for the children and young people of the Y Berwyn catchment area. The Council has held regular discussions with representatives of the Church in Wales since the beginning of the reorganisation process in the Y Berwyn catchment area. As part of the process, a pre-consultation with the Diocese was held between August 31 and 28 September 2017 to receive their initial comments on the new proposal.</p> <p>We note that the work is progressing in line with the schedule and we anticipate that new facilities, following an investment of £10.27 million, will be made available to local residents to take full advantage of the resources from September 2018 onwards.</p>
10.7	The needs of current and future pupils at the new school are our priority, The Diocese of St Asaph wishes to support a way forward that protects the investment of £10 million and allows the new school to open as soon as possible so that the children of Bala, Penllyn and the wider community can benefit.	
10.8	We discussed the matter for long with Gwynedd Council officers, local elected members and the Chairs of Governors and we all agree that we should work together to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.	

10.9	To enable this to happen the Diocese will in partnership with Cyngor Gwynedd concur with the request of the Governing Bodies and wider community regarding the status of the new 3-19 learning campus. This will allow the construction to proceed unimpeded, protecting the investment in Y Bala and Penllyn		
10.10	We wish to work together with all stakeholders creating a school that gives every child the very best opportunities to learn and achieve their full potential.		