



STATUTORY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



New school in Cricieth

6 November 2020 – 18 December 2020

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Foreword

At a meeting of Gwynedd Council's Cabinet on the **13 October 2020**, the Cabinet took the decision to undertake a process of statutory consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Trefferthyr to 150, relocating the school to an alternative site, referred to as the A497 site, on 1 September 2023, in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

The statutory consultation will be held between **6 November and 18 December 2020**.

Gwynedd Council would appreciate it if you could submit your comments on the proposal for consideration before a decision is made. At the end of the consultation period, we will submit a report to Gwynedd Council's Cabinet.

A copy of this document, and other background papers, is available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation. If you require more copies, you are welcome to contact the Modernising Education Office by phoning (01286) 679640 or by e-mailing modernisingeducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru.

PLEASE NOTE - any observations on the statutory consultation document should be sent electronically, via e-mail or in writing to Ysgol Trefferthyr, Cricieth by **13:00 on Friday, 18 December 2020**. The relevant contact details can be found at the end of this document.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



Gareem Jackson
Head of Education

1. Introduction

The 'Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd' strategy was adopted in April 2009 by the Council, with the aim of setting out a clear vision, objectives and principles for the relevant considerations in relation to the organisation of the County's schools. It was noted in the Strategy that there was a need to ensure a way of addressing the situation of some vulnerable schools: *"Relevant professional information should be considered so as to draw attention to urgent situations within the County that directly impact the quality of pupils' education and experiences (e.g. very low pupil numbers within a school, very poor condition of a school building, difficulties in headteacher recruitment)"*.

Following recent condition surveys, the Council's Property Service is of the opinion that Ysgol Treferythyr is in a very poor condition and is now beyond repair and maintenance. The condition surveys place the school in condition category C - having identified several issues which mean that there are a number of significant structural defects. Unless plans are made now for a long-term solution, there is a high risk of having to deal with an urgent situation during the next few years.

As well as the very bad state of the school, a recent suitability survey has identified that the current school is very poor and that the buildings significantly impair the staff's ability to deliver the curriculum. Neither the original building nor the two-storey extension/cabin help school staff to offer an education to the expected standard.

For these reasons, Gwynedd Council submitted an application for 21st Century Schools Programme capital funding from the Welsh Government to build a new school in Cricieth. Following the Government's approval of the application, the Council has been discussing the problems associated with the current school and considering options for the new school with representation from Ysgol Treferythyr at a Local Review Panel. After a number of meetings, the Panel membership agreed that building a new school with capacity for 150 pupils, on the A497 site, would be the best option for future primary education in Cricieth.

This document has been prepared in order to provide parents, staff and governors of Ysgol Treferythyr as well as any other interested parties with information about the proposal and provide relevant background information.

The consultation process gives people a chance to learn about the proposal, ask questions and offer observations. Any observations will be recorded and summarised in a report on the consultation. This report will be published on the Council's website and will be considered when the Cabinet decides on the actions to take.

1.1 What is the 21st Century Schools Programme?

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a strategic capital investment programme to improve schools in Wales. It is funded jointly between the Welsh Government and Local Authorities and its aim is to ensure schools are suitable for the 21st century in Wales.

The first wave of the programme (Band A) was conducted from 2014 to 2019 and Gwynedd Council succeeded in attracting a considerable investment in order to undertake work in several schools across the county including building two new primary schools to replace those that were in a poor condition.

We have now secured an investment from the 21st Century Schools Programme (Band B) which runs from 2019-26. Capital funding to build a new school in Cricieth was part of this successful application.

1.2 What are we aiming to do in Cricieth?

The main purpose of the project is to offer a better primary provision for the children of Cricieth due to the poor condition and unsuitability of the current school. The new school will offer primary resources to the size and standard expected for the 21st century, with capacity for 150 pupils. The school will include six classrooms with external access, a hall, kitchen, multipurpose room and library. This will all be on one floor, which means ease of access for all.

Outside, there will be a hard floor play area, multipurpose games area and grass playing field which means ideal resources for physical education and play for all ages.

We will also be locating an Early Years Observation and Speech Impairment Unit for the children of the area on site as well as a purpose-built room for use by pre-school children.

Vehicles will be able to gain easy access to the site with plenty of parking space and room for parents to drop off their children safely. There will also be safe pedestrian-only access from the direction of the town.

In order to make the most of the new facilities and resources, we will encourage community use at appropriate times.

2. The Consultation

2.1 Why are we conducting a statutory consultation?

It is required under Section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 that we conduct a statutory consultation with relevant stakeholders when undertaking a 'regulated alteration' to a school. This proposal is subject to a statutory consultation as we are increasing the capacity of Ysgol Trefferthyr to 150, an increase of more than 25% on the school's current capacity.

2.2 Why change the capacity?

In recognising lessons learnt from previous projects, the Council is of the view that new school construction projects must be based on the total number of children residing in the catchment area of the existing school, rather than on the numbers currently attending the school.

As can be seen in **Table 1** below, based on September 2020 figures, Ysgol Trefferthyr numbers could potentially be 146, i.e. 117 in the school and 29 from the catchment area attending other schools.

For this reason, the intention is to build the new school to include 5 classes for children aged from reception to year 6 and a nursery class. Doing this will guarantee enough space for the current numbers and some from the catchment area who will possibly attend once the new school is open.

This means that we will need to increase the school's capacity to 150 and because the school's current capacity is 119, it means an increase of more than 25% in the capacity. We will therefore need to follow a statutory procedure in accordance with the requirements of Section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Table 1 – Pupil numbers at Ysgol Trefferthyr and the three other neighbouring schools and home catchment (September 2020)

		Home Catchment Area					
		Trefferthyr	Llanystumdwy	Garndolbenmaen	Y Gorlan	Other	Total
School	Trefferthyr	110	3	1	0	3	117
	Llanystumdwy	9	8	0	0	4	21
	Garndolbenmaen	3	0	27	0	6	36
	Y Gorlan	9	2	4	48	58	121
	Other	8	8	6	28		
	Total	139	21	38	76		

2.3 With whom do we consult?

The consultation process must follow Welsh Government guidance as noted in the School Organisation Code (011/2018). We will therefore be distributing the consultation document to the following consultees in accordance with the Code's requirements:

The requirements of the Organisation Code 011/2018	It will be distributed to...
The maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;	Gwynedd Council is submitting the proposal
Any other local authority (including those in England, where appropriate) likely to be affected - including in the case of dedicated SEN provision any authority placing or likely to place pupils with SEN in it;	
The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located;	Church in Wales Diocese
Any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals;	
The governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals;	The Governing Body of Ysgol Trefferthyr
The governing body of other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposals;	The Governing Body of Ysgol Llanystumdwy The Governing Body of Ysgol Garndolbenmaen The Governing Body of Ysgol y Gorlan

Welsh Ministers;	Welsh Ministers
Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	<u>Dwyfor-Meirionnydd Constituency MS</u> Dafydd Elis-Thomas MS <u>Regional MSs for North Wales</u> Helen Mary Jones MS Neil Hamilton MS Joyce Watson MS Eluned Morgan MS <u>Dwyfor-Meirionnydd Constituency MP</u> <u>Liz Saville Roberts MP</u>
Estyn;	Meilyr Rowlands - Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Representatives of NASUWT; NEU; UCAC; ASCL; UNISON
The relevant Regional Education Consortium;	Arwyn Thomas – GwE Managing Director
The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Arfon Jones - North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals;	Cricieth Town Council
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin;	Cylch Meithrin Cricieth
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Children and Young People’s Partnership and/or the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present;	Gwynedd Ni Mudiad Meithrin - Early Years Specialists
In the case of proposals affecting SEN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest;	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board Representative
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school;	Ysgol Eifionydd
In the case of proposals affecting Welsh language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner.	Welsh Language Commissioner
Other	All Gwynedd Council Councillors Mantell Gwynedd The wider community of Cricieth

2.4 How can you get more information?

As a part of the consultation on this proposal, the following documents have been drawn up and can be seen on the Council's website by following the link -

www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation.

- Consultation Document noting the proposal (this document)
- Reply form
- Language, Community, Equality and Well-being Impact Assessments
- Consultation document (children's version)
- Questionnaire (children's version)
- The School Organisation Code 011/2018
- School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013
- Excellent Primary Education for the Children of Gwynedd
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice, April 2019
- Cabinet Report and Decision Notice, October 2020
- Estyn inspection report April 2018

As the consultation falls in the middle of the COVID-19 period, we have adapted our usual arrangements where we provide hard copies of the consultation document to parents and staff. Because of the risks of transferring the infection by doing this, we will instead be sharing a PDF copy of the document and a link to additional documents on the Modernising Education site on the Gwynedd Council website. Having said that, in line with the Code's guidelines, if anyone needs a hard copy we will arrange to send one to you.

Because of the implications of COVID-19, we will not be able to conduct any face-to-face consultation sessions therefore we wish to offer you the opportunity to submit questions in order to gain clarity on any matter involving the consultation by sending an e-mail to: modernisingeducation@gwynedd.gov.uk ideally, during the first two weeks of the consultation, i.e. between **6 and 20 November 2020**. We will respond before the end of the consultation. Where appropriate, we will also include the question and answer on our website for the benefit of other consultees.

2.5 Children's views on the proposal

Arrangements will also be made to ensure that we receive the views of the children and young people who attend Ysgol Treferythyr. Designated sessions will be held with a group of pupils from the school with the help of the headteacher. The consultation document together with a response form/questionnaire for children and young people can be seen on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation. This means that the children and young people who have not attended a session at their school can also respond to the consultation.

2.6 What happens to the comments received?

The comments gathered during the consultation will be included in the final report on the consultation and submitted to the Cabinet for consideration once the consultation period has ended.

3. Information about the current situation at Ysgol Trefferthyr

Location of the School		The school is situated in the centre of the town of Cricieth adjacent to playing and recreational fields	
Age range		3 -11	
School Category		Community school	
Language Medium Category		Welsh	
		Reception - Yr 6	Nursery
Number of pupils on the register, September 2020		99	18
Number of pupils on the register for the previous four years	September 2019	98	16
	September 2018	102	12
	September 2017	97	13
	September 2016	107	14
Capacity		119	17
Surplus Places (Reception - Yr 6) September 2020		20	
Pupil Projections	September 2021	102	13
	September 2022	99	13
	September 2023	128	13
	September 2024	128	13
	September 2025	128	13
Schools Performance Data (Estyn)		5 x Good (2018)	
Building Condition Category (Council Criteria)		C-	
Financial Allocation 2020/21		£442,762	
Cost per pupil 2020/21		£4,215	

3.1 Numbers

The school's capacity is 119, with 99 pupils between 3 and 11 years of age and 18 nursery on the register in September 2020 with five mixed-age classes at the school. The majority of the pupils (110) are from Ysgol Trefferthyr's catchment area, with seven additional pupils from other neighbouring catchment areas. Twenty-nine children from the Trefferthyr catchment area attended other schools in September 2020.

Projected pupil numbers are based on the actual number of children who attend the school in 2020 and do not consider the children who attend out-of-catchment schools. Bearing in mind that 29 children went out of catchment in September 2020, and the possibility that this will not be the case once the new school opens, numbers can be expected to increase from 2023 onwards.

3.2 Estyn Inspection

The last Estyn inspection took place in 2018, when the five core inspection areas were assessed as "Good".

Standards	Well-being and attitudes to learning	Teaching and learning experiences	Care, support and guidance	Leadership and management	Welsh Government Support Category 2019
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Green

The Welsh Government Support Category placed Ysgol Trefferthyr in the 'green' category in 2019.

3.3 Finance

Ysgol Trefferthyr has received a budget allocation of £442,762 in the 2020-21 financial year, which means that the average cost per pupil is £4,215. The average cost per head for all Gwynedd primary schools for the same period is £4,198.

3.4 Condition and suitability

Following condition surveys, the Council's Property Service is of the opinion that the school is now beyond repair and maintenance. The condition surveys relating to the buildings at Ysgol Trefferthyr have identified several issues which mean that there are a number of significant structural defects. Parts of the structure are made from timber and are of poor quality. A substantial part of the school was built in the 1970s using a Vic Hallam type structure, which had a lifespan of approximately 25 years, and is now in a poor condition. Unless plans are made now for a long-term solution, there is a high risk of having to deal with an urgent situation during the next few years.

A recent suitability survey has identified that the current school is in a very poor condition and that the buildings significantly impair the staff's ability to deliver the curriculum. Neither the original building nor the two-storey extension/cabin help school staff to offer an education to the expected standard.

The survey noted a significant number of suitability defects including:

- Noise creating problems in some rooms
- Problems with controlling temperature
- Difficulties with teaching as a result of the design of the rooms
- Limitations to carrying out some activities
- The location disrupting teaching and learning, e.g. dinner trolleys having to go through classrooms
- No access to outside space from classrooms
- Considerable work is needed on several aspects to improve the school's external environment
- A number of steps inside and outside the school
- Sloping playing fields
- Parking and traffic problems

3.5 Possible impact on neighbouring schools

As can be seen in **Table 1** above, 29 children living in the Trefferthyr catchment area attended other schools in September 2020. Bearing in mind what has happened when new schools have been built in other areas, there is a tendency for children who would have gone out of catchment historically to attend the new school when it opens.

4. Developing the proposal

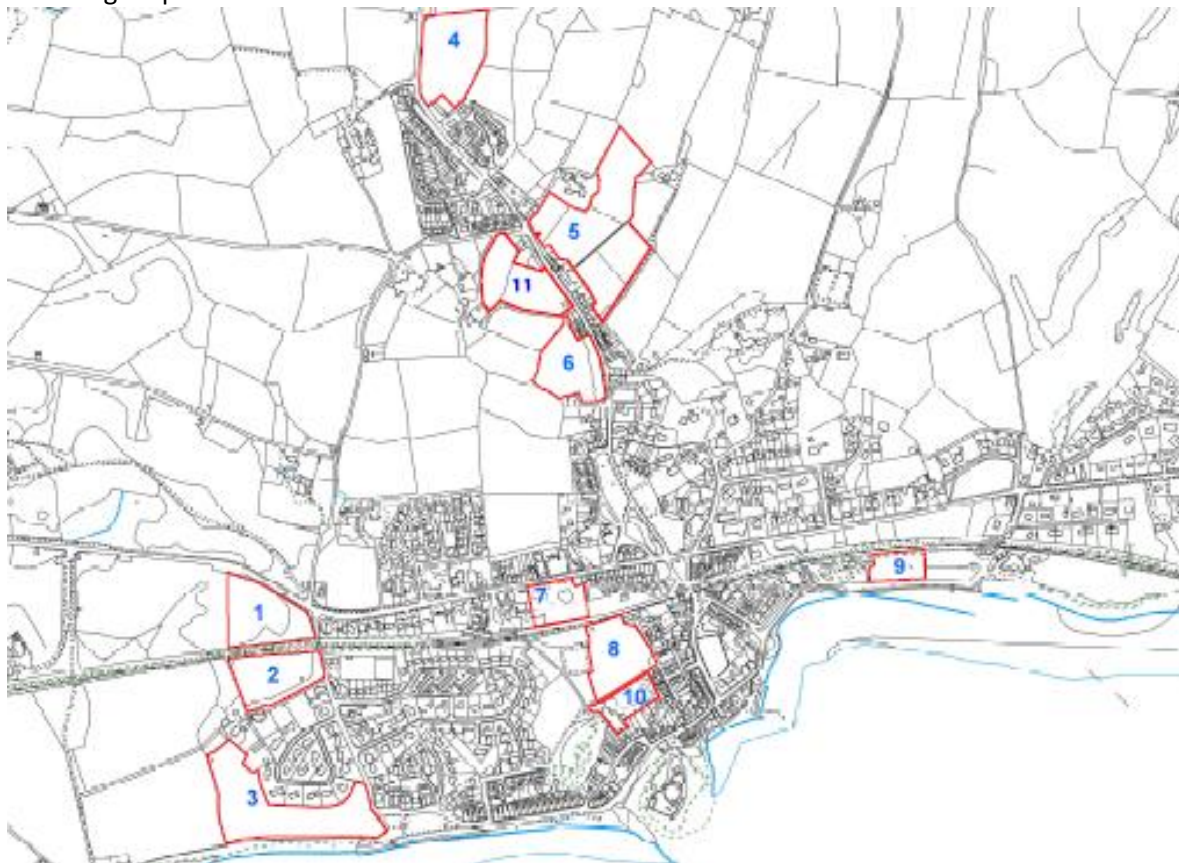
Following receiving confirmation of the successful 21st Century Schools SOP application, we set about gathering information about Ysgol Trefferthyr and its catchment area in order to prepare for local discussions. After looking at the numbers of children attending the school and the numbers of catchment area children attending other schools it was agreed that the new school needed to be bigger in order to provide enough places for all the children in the catchment (see 2.2). Following contacting the schools attended by several of the catchment area's children Ysgol Llanystumdwy expressed an interest in learning more about the plans.

Following the Cabinet's approval on 2 April 2019, discussions commenced with a representation from Ysgol Trefferthyr and Ysgol Llanystumdwy. Following the first meeting of the Local Review Panel, Ysgol Llanystumdwy decided that they would not be part of any further discussions.

The remainder of the Local Review Panel's meetings were held solely with representation from Ysgol Trefferthyr where the focus of the meetings was on the best site for locating the new school.

4.1 Long list

At the beginning of the discussions, 11 sites had been identified for consideration, including several proposed by the Governing Body of Ysgol Trefferthyr. The location of the sites can be seen on the following map.



When considering the longlist of 11 options at the meeting of the Local Review Panel on 9 October 2019, the following requirements were considered:

- The size of the site
- Planning considerations

- Access and traffic considerations
- Technical considerations
- Impact on development costs

We disregarded 8 options for not being suitable for consideration as a realistic option, e.g. not big enough, a problematic location, likely to be expensive. This included the current site because it was not big enough to develop a new school with a capacity for 150.

It was agreed to continue to consider 3 of the original sites; sites 1, 5 and 11, adding a combination of the current site (10) + the fields opposite (8) as an additional possible option for further consideration.

4.2 Short list

At the next meeting of the Panel on 10 December 2019, we gave further consideration to the four options on the shortlist by taking account of the criteria used for the long list, updated following further work, and a SWOT analysis of the 4 sites.

After discussing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the four options and any major problems that had become apparent since the previous meeting, the following way forward was agreed:

Site 5 - Disregarded due to problems negotiating with landowners, the likelihood that the purchase cost would be too high, and the technical problems of situating a school on the site.

Site 10 + 8 - Disregarded due to site access problems during the construction period and after the opening of the new school, the covenant on site 8 land (recreational use only), the difficulties of proceeding to teach during site-development work, the impact of changing the use of a green site and a popular path on the community.

Site 1 - The site seemed suitable but additional work was needed to confirm its suitability.

Site 11 - The site seemed suitable but additional work was needed to confirm its suitability, and the possibility of purchasing more land needed to be explored.

4.3 Agree a preferred site

Following additional work, the next meeting of the Panel was held on 24 June 2020 to discuss both sites further in order to agree on a preferred site. We went through what had been done and the issues/sisks that had been discovered.

Issues	Site 1	Site 11
Size	Big enough	Big enough
Ecological	No significant problems	Issues that present a significant risk to the project
Archaeological	No significant problems	Issues that could present a risk to the project
Technical	No significant problems	Issues that present a significant risk to the project
Traffic	No significant problems	Issues that could present a risk to the project
Cost	Within budget	Over budget

Timetable	No significant problems	Issues that present a significant risk to the project
Planning	No issues highlighted	No issues highlighted
Ground investigations	No significant problems	Not carried out

Site 11

As can be seen from the above table there were a number of issues with this site which created a risk to the project. It was therefore decided to disregard this site as an option.

Site 1

Following further work on this site, including ecological and archaeological surveys, no technical, archaeological or ecological problems were noted that would mean significant problems with developing the site. The only point to note was the need to protect trees and remove a plant from one area on the site.

Because of what was noted regarding the 2 sites all members of the Panel were in agreement that this was the most suitable site for locating the new school.

5. The Proposal

Following an appraisal of the possible options, the preferred direction and the proposal that is the subject of this statutory consultation is to increase the capacity of Ysgol Treforthyr to 150, relocating the school to an alternative site, referred to as the A497 site, on 1 September 2023.

5.1 Location of site

The site is located on the western side of the town of Cricieth.



Conceptual site plan

During the planning process, consideration will be given to ensuring the safety of all as they arrive at the school. Here are examples of what will happen:

- Changes will take place to the speed allowed on the main road with the A497 speed limit of 30mph moving to the western side of the site and a 20mph zone being located by the school entrance.
- There will be a right turn lane on the A497 into the school and an island in the road.
- There will be additional pedestrian-only access into the school from the direction of the town.
- Street lights will extend along the front of the site from the outskirts of the town.

5.2 How will the school look?

Architects have been working with officers from Gwynedd Council on a possible design for the school. The initial plans have been shared with the staff and governors of Ysgol Treferthyr in order to receive their comments and input. These discussions are ongoing and the school's input will be important on the journey to plan the opening of the school.

The plans will also be shared with the wider community in due course, as part of the planning process.

You can see below the latest conceptual plans of how the school could look.





5.3 What impact will the proposal have?

The proposal will entail building a new primary school on the A497 site to the west of the town of Cricieth. The school will be built for 150 children aged from reception to year 6 with a nursery class. The school will also offer space for early years use and an Early Years Observation and Language Impairment Unit.

Location	Land on the western side of the town of Cricieth
Age range	3-11
School Category (community, voluntary aided, voluntary controlled)	Community
Language Category	Welsh medium
Implementation date	1 September 2023
Projected numbers - September 2023	141
Number admitted	21
Capacity (based on Welsh Government Circular 21/2011: 'Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales')	150
Quality of the building and classrooms (Building Condition Category)	A

The existing school will close with the pupils being moved to the new school on 1 September 2023.

5.4 Quality and standards of education

In implementing the project, the school will continue to receive the advice and support of the local authority, the school improvement service and any relevant stakeholders to help ensure that the school employs effective leadership methods and provides high-quality teaching and learning experiences.

Gwynedd Council acknowledges the importance of strong leadership at a school as a way of maintaining and improving standards. Measures are in place to ensure strong leadership in Gwynedd schools. Our hope is that headteachers will receive sufficient opportunity to provide professional leadership and management for their schools. We also expect governing bodies to lead schools efficiently within their budgets for the benefit of the pupils. We will expect schools to have the best staff to provide an education of the best quality.

Estyn and the Local Authority monitor the quality of standards in Gwynedd schools. Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales. Estyn inspects the quality and standard of education and training providers in Wales.

Estyn conducted an inspection of the school in 2018, where it was noted that:

'The staff create a happy, caring and inclusive ethos at the school, which nurtures a supportive and active learning environment. As a result, pupils behave well and have positive attitudes towards learning. They treat their peers, staff and visitors with respect. Teachers plan practical, stimulating and rich learning experiences, which meet pupils' needs effectively. As a result, most pupils make sound progress and achieve well. The school has a strong Welsh ethos and provision encourages pupils to make full use of the Welsh language in all aspects of school life. As a result, many pupils develop as competent and confident bilingual learners. The school benefits from robust leadership, which ensures a clear strategic direction for the school. All staff are dedicated and enthusiastic, and they work together closely as a team to ensure that pupils develop to their full potential and take pride in their school and their community. Governors have a sound understanding of the school and use their knowledge purposefully to challenge the school and hold it to account for its performance.'

The outcome of the most recent inspection of Ysgol Treferythyr, conducted in April 2018, is noted below:

Standards	Well-being and attitudes to learning	Teaching and learning experiences	Care, support and guidance	Leadership and management
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good

The full report can be seen in ['Estyn inspection report April 2018'](#).

It is anticipated that increasing the school's capacity to 150 and building a new school to 21st Century Schools standards will have a positive impact on raising standards, well-being and attitudes to learning, offer improved teaching and learning experiences, improve care, support and guidance and facilitate robust leadership and management.

Throughout the transition period, the school will continue to receive appropriate support and challenge from the local authority and the school improvement service to ensure that standards,

well-being and attitudes to learning, teaching and learning, care, support and guidance, and leadership, remain effective.

5.5 Governance arrangements

There will be no changes to the governance arrangements of Ysgol Trefferthyr as a result of this proposal. The governing body will remain in its current form.

5.6 Matters involving staff

School staff have an important role to play to ensure that pupils learn in a safe learning environment and by nurturing positive relationships based on trust with pupils, and involving parents and families in their children's education.

The Council acknowledges that retaining the experience and support of existing members of school staff will be important to help pupils during the transition period. The proposal will not consider making any changes to current staffing arrangements.

5.7 Land and buildings

As the land for the new school isn't in Council ownership, the land will need to be purchased. The Council's Estates Department has been in discussions with the landowner and has reached a purchasing option agreement.

The current site will not be needed for education use following the relocation of the school and the Council will consider its future use.

5.8 Capital costs

It is anticipated that the cost of developing the plan will be approximately £5.4m with the Welsh Government's contribution to the project being £3.51m and the Council's contribution £1.89m. Gwynedd Council has already agreed to set aside a fund towards the capital costs associated with 21st Century Schools Programme (Band B) projects under Gwynedd Council's Asset Plan 2019-2029. Despite an increase in the initial cost as a result of work on developing the new provision, it is anticipated that an improved strategic method of managing the school estate and a reduced backlog of maintenance work will generate long-term savings compared with attempting to improve and maintain the current provision.

There is a possibility that dispensing with the current site could generate a capital receipt that would help support strategic plans in the future.

5.9 Revenue costs

Schools' revenue costs are agreed annually, depending on pupil numbers and other matters. Ysgol Trefferthyr has received a budget allocation of £442,762 in the 2020-21 financial year, which means that the average cost per pupil is £4,215. The average cost per head for all Gwynedd primary schools for the same period is £4,198.

The new building will lead to a change in the 'premises' elements within the funding formula.

5.10 Transport

Because the new school will remain in the town of Cricieth and will serve the same catchment area, no changes to the current transport arrangements are anticipated. The Authority's transport policy notes that transport is offered if the journey to school or school site is more than two miles. At present, three children receive transport to Ysgol Trefferthyr.

5.11 Learning environment

The new school in Cricieth will replace a school that is in a very poor condition with suitability problems. This means that the children of the Trefferthyr catchment area will enjoy being taught in a modern, fit for purpose learning environment once the new school is completed.

5.12 Welsh language impact assessment

Welsh Government guidance (School Organisation Code 011/2018) notes that a Welsh language impact assessment should be held as part of any proposal for school reorganisation. An assessment of the impact that relocating the school to a new site would have on the Welsh language was completed. See the full report in [Language, Community, Equality and Well-being Impact Assessments](#).

Our expectation is that the County's primary schools support and enhance the use of the Welsh language as their pupils' social language and educational language. When developing any proposals relating to schools' reorganisation, full consideration must be given to the potential impact on the Welsh language. Sustaining and improving the use of the Welsh language as a social language and educational language is always a key consideration when drawing up proposals and when assessing options.

The assessment notes that relocating Ysgol Trefferthyr to a new site in Cricieth would not have a negative impact on the Welsh language. On the contrary, it is anticipated that there would be more opportunities for Cricieth children to use the Welsh language extracurricularly and socially with their peers, as the new school would mean better resources to conduct more activities outside school hours.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20

Ysgol Trefferthyr implements the objectives of Gwynedd Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020. This includes:

- Setting a strong foundation for the Welsh language at the Early Years stage, ensuring that pupils from a non-Welsh speaking background are given the opportunity to learn Welsh as soon as possible.
- During the Foundation Phase, building on the foundation established at the nursery and reception stages by continuing to develop pupils' grasp of Welsh, and begin the process of developing their English language skills. On a practical level, this means that most schools would start introducing English as a subject during the final term at the end of the Foundation Phase, focusing on developing reading, speaking and writing skills in that language. Welsh will be the school's official assessment language at the end of the Foundation Phase.
- In KS2, continue to develop the pupils' mastery of Welsh, paying attention to the development of their skills in both languages. Pupils' progress in Welsh and in English are assessed at the end of the key stage.

As we will be relocating the existing Ysgol Trefferthyr, and that there is no intention to change any other school, it is anticipated that implementing the proposal will mean continuing with the objectives of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20, and the targets approved in that Strategic Plan.

5.13 Equality assessment

An equality assessment on relocating the school to a new site was completed. The assessment gives specific attention to various equality elements such as race, gender, disability, language,

religion or belief and age. The assessment notes the current situation and the policies and arrangements that are in place to ensure that the proposal considers and is in accordance with equal rights. See the full report in [Language, Community, Equality and Well-being Impact Assessments](#).

The conclusion reached is that relocating Ysgol Trefferthyr to another site would not affect equality, whether characteristics or the general duty.

It is anticipated that building a new school will strengthen aspects of equality because it will be better suited to educating every child, especially those with disabilities, by following the guidelines on the construction of modern schools.

Ysgol Trefferthyr implements robust equality and anti-bullying policies that will continue to be implemented at the new school.

5.14 Well-being assessment

The Education Department has a role in promoting well-being objectives amongst pupils in the county 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 '2018-23 Gwynedd Plan'.

A well-being assessment on relocating the school to a new site was completed. See the full report in [Language, Community, Equality and Well-being Impact Assessments](#).

Following consideration and an assessment in line with the requirements of the Well-being Act, the conclusion was reached that the proposal did satisfy the seven well-being goals within the Act, and the Council's well-being objectives. This proposal will allow us to respond to and address the children's needs today, and strengthen their future well-being.

5.15 Community impact assessment

An assessment of the impact that relocating the school to a new site would have on the community was completed. See the full report in [Language, Community, Equality and Well-being Impact Assessments](#).

No significant negative impact on the community is anticipated by relocating Ysgol Trefferthyr to the new site.

It is anticipated that the modern facilities of the new school will offer themselves to community activities that are held at the current school, as well as new ones. In establishing the new school, in order to make full use of the new provision and modern resources, it is intended to promote community use on a wider level for the community.

Building the new school will ensure more space for learners, offering more options for extracurricular clubs and activities.

Although the location is not as central to the town as the current school, the new school will still be convenient to the town and within easy reach to allow learners and the wider community to be able to use its resources.

5.16 The advantages and disadvantages of the proposal

Advantages	Disadvantages
Providing a new school with a capacity of 150 suitable for the 21st century	The location not as central to the town despite being less than half a mile from the school's current site
Sufficient space for all catchment area children	It will still be necessary to conduct a bridging period for the pupils and to consider the appropriate support they need to make a smooth transition to the new school
Creating a new Early Years Observation and Language Impairment Unit	A location off the main road but steps will be taken to ensure that this will not create access problems nor any hindrance to users
Creating an early years provision space	
Everything on one level, which means ease of access for all	
Providing an energy-efficient facility	
Providing an improved learning environment, which meets modern requirements for space, light and ventilation	
Classrooms of the highest quality	
A new catering facility and adaptable hall	
A new facility for outdoor activities	
A learning environment in which to achieve high-quality outcomes for learners	
A flexible provision that can be used by the wider community	
Dispensing with a school that is in a poor condition and unsuitable for 21st century education	
Being able to retain the current staffing structure	

5.17 Possible risks attached to the proposal

The risks will be managed proactively in accordance with the Council's risk management procedures

Risk	Impact	Mitigating measures
The location of the new school site	A need to consider how the children will arrive safely at school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes will take place to the speed allowed on the main road with the A497 speed limit of 30mph moving to the western side of the site and a 20mph zone being located by the school entrance • There will be a right turn lane on the A497 into the school and an island in the road • Emphasise the unsuitability of some roads to the school • Consider erecting signs to warn vehicles of children using the road • Install street lights to extend along the front of the site from the outskirts of the town • Create pedestrian-only access to the school site from the direction of the town
A reluctance locally to support the new school	This could reduce the number of pupils and financial resources available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a local community link, informing them of developments and the advantages of the resources contained in the plan

6 Next steps

6.1 Consultation process

The formal consultation process will commence on **Friday, 6 November 2020**

This consultation document is available in electronic format on the Council's website.

A simplified version of this consultation is available for children. This version is available on the Council's website.

For more information see the: [Modernising Education website](#)

If you wish to receive a hard copy of this document or to receive it in a different format, please contact the Modernising Education Office by e-mailing modernisingeducation@gwynedd.llyw.cymru or by phoning 01286 679640.

Comments on the proposal must be submitted in writing or by completing the online response form to allow them to be considered as part of the consultation.

The closing date to submit responses to this consultation is **13:00 on Friday, 18 December 2020**.

Unfortunately, we cannot consider any responses received after this date.

Following the consultation, a consultation report will be prepared and submitted to the Cabinet of Gwynedd Council. The report will note all the comments received during the consultation period and the responses to them. At this stage, Cabinet members will decide whether to continue with the proposal, make changes to the proposal or abandon the proposal.

6.2 Proposed timetable

Date	Stage
6 November 2020	Statutory consultation period commences: A minimum of 42 days to be allowed for consultees to respond, with a minimum of 20 of those days to be school days.
18 December 2020	Closing date of the statutory consultation: The closing date for receiving comments on the proposal
January 2021	Cabinet: Following the statutory consultation, a report of the responses will be submitted to the Cabinet. The Cabinet will discuss the report and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. This report will be published on the Council's website.
February 2021	Publication of statutory notice: If the Council decides to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice will be published and an objection period will be held. Any objection must be submitted within the 28 day objection period.
May 2021	The Cabinet: Following the objection period, the Cabinet will discuss the objections report and decide whether or not to confirm the proposal.

June 2021	Decision referred to Welsh Ministers: In accordance with section 54 of the 2013 Act, within 28 days of the Cabinet's decision, the following bodies can refer the proposal to Welsh Ministers for a decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Another Local Authority affected by the proposals; ii. The appropriate religious body for any school affected; iii. The governing body of a voluntary or established school subject to proposals; iv. A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or established school subject to proposals; v. A further education establishment affected by the proposals.
June 2021 – June 2023	Purchase of land, design, construction, furnishing
1 September 2023	Implementation of the proposal: Ysgol Trefferthyr moving to a new site

6.3 How to respond to the consultation

Your opinion is important and we would like to hear your views on the changes we have proposed in this document. All views are welcomed, whether for or against the proposal. This is your opportunity to ask questions and submit observations for consideration when the Council decides what action to take.

You can respond to this consultation by either completing the [online response form](#) or completing it and returning it to:

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