

**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, Voluntary Controlled (VC) Church in Wales on the present site of Ysgol Y Berwyn in Y Bala (Statutory Consultation Period 13 March – 28 April 2015)**

220 written responses were received during the statutory consultation period.

Comments Code	Comments	Number of responses that contain the comments	Gwynedd Council's Response
<b>1</b>	<b>Support for the proposal</b>		
1.1	I am extremely glad that the all-through school plan is happening / I support the plan but only in order to keep the presence of a school in the town since I am of the opinion that it is important for children to receive education as close to their home area as possible / I totally agree with the decision to develop a Lifelong Campus on the site of Ysgol y Berwyn, as well as the arrangements for special resources and centres / The aim of the Council to “ create a learning environment of the best quality for the children and teachers of the County” is an very commendable aim. I am sure that everyone in the Penllyn district will agree that there is real need for investment and renovation at Ysgol y Berwyn and that the Campus will be of benefit to the children and their education / I agree with Gwynedd Council for us to have one large school between Ysgol Beuno Sant, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn/ I have been supportive of the concept of an all-through school from the very start, especially amalgamating the schools in the town of Bala. / It is high time that the town had a new Campus for the all-through school / This will be of benefit to education in the town because it will make efficient use of resources. All this on top of the expertise that the teachers can offer.	8	<p>The Council notes the very positive comments about the proposed model during the consultation process.</p> <p>The proposal to establish a 3-19 Campus in Bala could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve educational standards across the catchment area by enabling flexibility across all ages so that sharing resources, staff and facilities become standard practice</li> <li>• Impact on the size and age range within classes</li> <li>• Improve the condition and quality of the schools in the area by investing £9.27m on creating a new Lifelong Campus and the disposal of two sites</li> <li>• Enable a new modern management system; this will free the head from the classroom, offer flexibility with staffing structure across sectors, and provide new career opportunities</li> <li>• Ensure that there is an educational site within a reasonable distance for all pupils in the catchment area</li> <li>• Reduce the catchment area's surplus places significantly</li> <li>• Yield approximately £85,000 of savings as a whole, and rationalize the range of the cost per pupil in the catchment area</li> <li>• Provide the best opportunity to try to achieve the language policy, by using the larger staff resources from one organization for best use across different sites in the catchment area</li> <li>• Protect and strengthen the post-16 provision in the catchment area</li> </ul>
1.2	It would be a good thing if the rural schools in the area could benefit from these resources – perhaps consideration should be given to financing transport back and forth between the primary school and the All-Through School.	1	
1.3	The members of Bala Town Council, Llangywer Community Council and Llanuwchllyn Community Council have expressed their support for the proposed development.	1	The current proposal to establish a 3-19 Learning Campus could provide an opportunity to improve educational standards in Bala town, which has recently been lagging behind the standards of the rural schools in the catchment.

1.4	On behalf of Bangor Diocese Statutory Education Board I would like to note that we support the plan outlined in the consultation documentation. / We believe that such a school has the potential to offer the best educational experiences for the young people in the town of Bala and the surrounding area.	1	<p>Establishing one 3-19 Learning Campus in Bala would enable flexibility across all the ages so that sharing resources, staff and facilities, becomes standard practice. These are some of the possibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an opportunity to take advantage of staff expertise across the age ranges</li> <li>• Specialist secondary teachers could teach subjects to the primary age e.g. music</li> <li>• In co-operation with rural schools the primary curriculum and timetable could be arranged across all the sites so all pupils of the same age are learning the same things at the same time – this would ensure they are all at the same level when entering year 7 at the secondary site</li> <li>• More primary staff could meet to discuss and share best practice, support, encourage and learn from each other</li> <li>• There would be improved continuation in all aspects of the curriculum as it is programmed across the catchment ensuring the same experiences and opportunities to all pupils</li> </ul> <p>The Learning Campus model should provide a more effective context for managers to manage resources and to plan education within the establishment. This, in turn, could provide a strong foundation for improving quality, the standard of education and the welfare of pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence shows that there is a closer relationship between the school and parents, and that a closer community is thus established. Research work in Scotland has revealed that <i>“...the strong relationship with parents often has its roots in connections established during the early years of the children’s education”</i> (Learning Together HMIe (Scotland), 2010). Such a relationship cannot be anything but healthy for the pupil and indeed for the wider community.</li> <li>• The welfare of pupils could be supported by reducing the concern and fear over the transition from the familiar primary sector into the secondary sector. A support system appropriate for the age and needs of pupils is established and thus a long term relationship is formed between parents and staff.</li> <li>• It has been found that teachers are better able to understand the educational requirements of pupils under the all-through school system.</li> <li>• The experiences of other areas show that there is an opportunity to support families by providing integrated services including health, child care, adult training services as well as a range of other services.</li> <li>• A comprehensive language policy could be developed through the primary and secondary sectors, to include community activities and adult education.</li> </ul> <p>A 3-19 Learning Campus could provide additional opportunities for maintaining the ethos and general values across the school and these should provide a more effective context for improving the quality of teaching and learning. In short:</p>
1.5	As the Governing Body of Ysgol Bro Tryweryn we would like to express our support for the establishment of the All-Through School and we welcome the long awaited investment in education for this area.	2	
1.6	On behalf of the Governing Body of Ysgol OM Edwards we wish to express the general support of the Governing Body for the proposed plans to establish an All-Through School in the town of Bala. Our experience at Ysgol OM Edwards is testimony to the significance of modern buildings and resources to effective teaching and getting the best attainment from every pupil. There is no doubt that a modern and enthusiastic educational environment is far reaching in the effort to reach the demands and challenges of the current curriculum.	1	
	In evaluating the options, it appears that the choice involving an all-through school campus offers the greatest benefits.		
1.7	I am in favour of the proposal.	32	
1.8	Support the proposal to establish a 3-19 school on a campus in the town of Bala – the consultation document shows plenty of evidence of the need for such a development.	1	
1.9	I want the best possible education for the children of Bala and I believe that this proposal makes sense. It brings the community together and offers a new learning environment which can provide all the benefits which a fit for purpose modern school can offer. I look forward to seeing the advantages which children of this area will gain from the investment / I would like this to go ahead because I believe that it will provide a learning environment where every pupil will be respected and encouraged in everything they do and where their contribution is appreciated.	8	
1.10	A new rural community school is most definitely needed.	1	
1.11	Happy with the new plans since they make sense and safeguard the school for the future. / The plans for the new all-through school appear to be modern and effective and certainly an improvement on the current provision. / I am totally in favour of the all-through school in Bala since the existing building is in real need of renovation in order to ensure a pleasant atmosphere and education of the best possible quality for the future.	3	

	Hope the plans are successful for the sake of the children of the catchment area.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is advantageous to use a combination of teaching and learning methods in both primary and secondary schools, in order to improve the pupils' learning across the transition from the primary to the secondary school.</li> <li>• Consistency can be ensured in teaching, learning and in assessment methods and opportunities given for developing ways of promoting innovative skills.</li> <li>• The transition from the primary to the secondary sector can be a challenging experience for some learners unless the transition is dealt with in a co-ordinated way. An all through school model can ease the transition since it would not involve a change of establishment between the primary and the secondary phases when the pupil reaches 11 years of age. There would naturally be differences in ethos and culture between primary and secondary sectors and for some pupils this can contribute towards difficulties in the transition between KS2 and KS3.</li> <li>• Progression could be ensured and also support and care for pupils with additional educational needs. This would ensure better continuity and consistency in the support given across all the key stages. There would also be more opportunities for early intervention – and thus a framework for tracking throughout the system.</li> <li>• This could offer an opportunity for appointing specialist teachers to ensure consistency in the curriculum across all age groups.</li> <li>• There are more opportunities for ensuring that children are taught according to their needs rather than according to their age group.</li> <li>• Experience of a secondary school is not a necessary qualification for all through school leaders, such a school can be led by special school head teachers or primary school head teachers. Regarding the management structures, it is important to ensure that there is appropriate balance between the different sectors.</li> <li>• Professional development, training programmes and specific development plans are advantageous as support measures for the whole-school ethos. Sharing expertise can improve knowledge of the curriculum across the various phases, together with support for best practice.</li> <li>• A number of responsibilities - curricular and managerial, which can be onerous for small establishments - can be centralised e.g. maintenance, health and safety, performance management, appraisal arrangements, development plans.</li> <li>• More effective managerial use can be made of human resources when teaching some specialist subjects to pupils.</li> </ul> <p>There will be various opportunities to develop on the current foundation of quality education and learning. The implementation of the proposal to establish a Lifelong</p>
1.12	I agree with the proposal to close the two primary schools, but it will transform the town of Bala. I have experienced of the closure of Ysgol y Sarnau and the children having to move to Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn – not a pleasant experience.	1	
1.13	Although I am not comfortable with the idea of closing schools and having pupils of ages 3-19 sharing one school, it seems that this is the way forward in order to improve education. So why not be 'in the forefront' at Bala? As with any new project, there is an element of concern, nervousness and uncertainty among the people in the catchment area, but I am certain that such a development will be a success. It is difficult to imagine how education can continue as it is at present within the catchment area – we have to ensure that the reorganisation process goes ahead in order to safeguard education in the Penllyn area.	2	
1.14	In principle, I am in favour of the proposal. However, I am concerned that my child - who is two years old at present and will start school one year before the proposal comes into force – will find it unsettling.	1	
1.15	Total support for the plans by Gwynedd Council to reorganise education in the Bala catchment area. The vision of having a follow-through school campus with modern resources will ensure the best education and opportunities for the children and young people of the area. / An exciting plan and we completely trust that the Council will manage to realise the dream. We are very grateful to everyone for working so hard on our behalf. I am keen to see an all-through school which will provide education of the best possible quality for the pupils of the Penllyn area, and ensure the future of education in the area.	2	
1.16	We would like to congratulate you and express our total support for the exciting plans for the Berwyn campus in Bala. A modern educational provision will be a great asset for education in the Penllyn area. It will be of key importance in the task of increasing pupil numbers, and will attract pupils back to the Berwyn site from the neighbouring areas of Denbighshire and Conwy / The influence that Ysgol y Berwyn used to have has weakened over the years in favour of the neighbouring areas of Denbighshire and Conwy. The promise of a new All-Through School is a golden opportunity to re-establish the popularity of Ysgol y Berwyn in these areas.	1	

1.17	This proposal brings together all the strengths of the existing schools and combines the talents and skills across the entire area. It also brings various education providers together for the benefit of the whole catchment area.	1	Campus 3-19 will have an impact on many of the challenges currently found in the Berwyn catchment area, the majority of which are those relating to the education provision in the town of Bala. Establishing a Lifelong Campus would provide an innovative opportunity to address the educational challenges in the catchment area. The Lifelong Campus buildings and resources would be suitable for curriculum provision and current vocational experiences. It would also be a new resource which would be available for use by pupils of rural schools in the catchment area as well as children and young people of the catchment area and the community outside school hours.
<b>2 Education</b>			
2.1	In my opinion, Gwynedd Council should invest the money in teaching facilities for the schools and continue to have collaboration/ federation between the primary schools.	1	<p>The area has been prioritized for review of educational provision as there are a number of challenges facing the education provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupil numbers in the catchment area have decreased over the past quarter century. Pupil numbers are therefore low, although consistent and stable at present in most of the schools in the catchment area</li> <li>• The cost per pupil in the majority of primary schools in the catchment area is slightly higher than the County average of £3,856, and is £5,174 at Ysgol Y Berwyn compared to the secondary county average of £4,623</li> <li>• There is a range within the catchment area in the cost per primary pupil of between £3,378 - £4,202</li> <li>• There are two primary schools in the town of Bala, located not far from each other. This is an inefficient use of resources</li> <li>• The three schools in the town of Bala have Acting Heads, or are assisted by heads of rural schools</li> <li>• Inconsistency in the quality of education in the catchment area, particularly in the town schools</li> <li>• The school buildings of Ysgol Beuno Sant, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn are not in the best condition or suitable for learning in the twenty-first century. Ysgol y Berwyn building especially is in very poor condition, the building has deteriorated significantly and has a backlog maintenance expenditure of £1,233,000</li> <li>• Ysgol Beuno Sant has 48% surplus places and Ysgol Y Berwyn 57% surplus places. In contrast to this, Ysgol Bro Tegid is full and the pupil numbers are in excess of its capacity.</li> <li>• There is a need to ensure the viability and sustainability of the educational arrangements in the catchment area for the future</li> </ul> <p>The investment of £9.27m will improve the pupils' learning environment significantly. A good learning environment promotes better education. However, the plans in Bala lead to more than just an investment in the learning environment. By bringing</p>

			schools in Bala town together as one 3-19 establishment, resources and expertise of the staff can be better shared, leading to an improvement in the quality of education.
2.2	Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain education standards in the area since the proposed development is likely to ensure permanent and consistent leadership with a focus on raising standards and improving the quality of the provision.	1	The Council notes Estyn's comments and agrees that this proposal offers the best opportunity to improve the quality of education in the area.
2.3	UCAC acknowledges that many advantages can be seen by implementing the proposal and that the plan will probably ensure that the children in the Berwyn catchment area will have “ a good start in life” and receive “ a comprehensive range of learning opportunities”	1	The Council notes the UCAC’s comments and agrees that this proposal offers an opportunity to ensure that children in the catchment area have the best educational opportunities.
2.4	A large, grand and costly building will not improve the children’s education, and the classes will be too big, which will cause some children to fall through the net!	1	The investment of £9.27m will improve the pupils' learning environment significantly. A good learning environment promotes better education. However, the plans in Bala lead to more than just an investment in the learning environment. By bringing schools in Bala town together as one 3-19 establishment, resources and expertise of the staff can be better shared, leading to an improvement in the quality of education.
2.5	<p>In general, I support the proposals, on the basis that there is room to structure and improve the standard of education, as long as the funding is sufficient and the best appointments are made when new leaders are appointed.</p> <p>The standard of the provision in Ysgol y Berwyn - especially in the middle years – is unacceptable, with many pupils choosing to attend Ysgol Brynhyfryd or Ysgol Dinas Bran. The sooner the better for a decision to be taken and for the reorganisation plan to be implemented. The lack of investment in the schools of the town and no permanent head teachers being appointed for the schools has hindered strong leadership and educational standards.</p> <p>I agree that modern resources are an important part of providing opportunities and creating a learning environment of the best possible quality. But the most important element in a child’s development is the members of staff who teach and inspire the future generation. The Council should concentrate on attracting and retaining the best possible staff. It causes me great concern that this is not given any recognition or discussion in the consultation document. It does not bode well for any model put forward in the consultation document if such a core element in the children’s education is not given recognition in a document of this kind.</p>	2	<p>By driving forward this development, the Council hopes that stability will be provided for school management structures. There could be a holistic vision, with one establishment controlling, planning and delivering education across the age range and thus resulting in better coordination and continuity in the child's education. There is a continuity of leadership across the age range. There could be one governing body, one staff team, one management team, which could achieve management savings, avoid duplication and make effective use of financial and human resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders could develop a general ethos that could give purpose and direction to all staff and pupils, an increase in teaching methods, and control and consistency of behaviour in class management and practice. With a single management structure, it would be possible to develop a universal system for assessing, recording and tracking pupils' progress.</li> <li>• Two teams of staff, who have traditionally been separate - primary and secondary - will benefit much more from each other's expertise.</li> <li>• An all-through school leadership provides positive benefits for children and young people. To realize the vision, senior management and middle managers must seriously embrace the work involved in the transition</li> <li>• The skills required for leaders of an all-through school are the same as those for any individual school, but they are more complex, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- effective communication across all key stages and establishing an effective team culture</li> <li>- ability to lead the organization through a period of significant change</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The role of the staff team is central to the success of any model, but it is believed that</p>

			<p>it is this model which gives the best chance for the staff in the area to provide quality education for the future. At this point in the process, we cannot detail the staffing structure, the exact structure of the management and staffing structure will be determined by the shadow governing body. Of course, the school's staff is its most valuable resource and the hope is that the model will ensure opportunities for staff, but also that it offers the best way for staff to maintain and improve standards in the future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an opportunity to draw upon the expertise of staff across the age groups.</li> <li>• There are more opportunities to ensure that children are taught according to their needs rather than according to their age group.</li> <li>• Secondary school experience is not necessary a qualification for all-through school leaders, such schools can be led by the heads of special schools or primary school heads. In terms of the management structures, it is important to ensure an appropriate balance between the different sectors.</li> <li>• Professional development training programmes and specific development plans are advantageous as support measures for the whole school ethos. Sharing expertise can improve knowledge of the curriculum across the different stages, along with support in terms of best practice.</li> <li>• A number of responsibilities - curricular and managerial, which can be cumbersome for small organizations - can be centralized, e.g. maintenance, health and safety, performance management, appraisal arrangements, development plans.</li> <li>• Effective management of human resources can be utilised in teaching certain specialized subjects to pupils.</li> </ul>
2.6	The Acting Head is often seen around the school. However, I have yet to see the Strategic Head Teacher.	1	The Strategic Head provides strategic leadership, with a part-time presence. He does not have day to day care for the school, The Acting Head is responsible for this and has a full-time presence.
2.7	In the classes, will the pupils be grouped according to ability or with their friends? Primary age pupils should be with their friends and streamed according to ability for numeracy and literacy lessons only.	1	These are very valid issues. How pupils are allocated is a matter for the head teacher and the Governing Body, taking into account what is best for those pupils.
2.8	Will pupils be nurtured during the transition to the new school?	3	Arrangements and a work programme will be required for the transition period to ensure that the transition is smooth and easy.
<b>3</b>	<b>The Community</b>		
3.1	If a Cinema is needed at the school – why not support what is available in the town – in order to keep Neuadd Buddug open? / Due to the uncertainty over the future of Neuadd Buddug, locating the Cinema in the school is acceptable since there is no similar facility in the local area / Why is there a need for a cinema? A school does not need one.	3	In a time of financial hardship - the Council is looking to see if it can provide services in a different way. An opportunity to achieve this is through the development of library provision and arts as part of school development. Development of these resources will not take away resources for the development of the educational side - other funding sources will be used as well.

	Nobody could answer this question in the open day.		A Consumers/Users Team will be established to discuss the future of Neuadd Buddug. Developing a 3-19 Campus gives an opportunity to create an alternative provision in the school.
3.2	Glad to see that the library will continue at the school since it is an important asset for the school and the public.	1	The Council wants to ensure that the library remains, and wants the library to continue to be a resource for the school and the community.
<b>4</b>	<b>Staffing Matters</b>		
4.1	What will happen to the teachers who will leave during the transition period? / My daughter commented "It will be great to have a new school and I'm looking forward." But when I explained to her that the teachers will not be part of the new school and that they will have new teachers she added "Oh no – that isn't fair, our school teachers should come to the new school with us." / As a member of the existing staff at Ysgol y Berwyn I am very concerned that nobody has discussed the implications of the new school for our existing jobs. I am also the clerk for the governors and worried that nobody has discussed the implications for this post either.	3	<p>Teachers can leave their employment at any time, as in any other job.</p> <p>If the proposal is approved, there would be staffing implications which could lead to uncertainty and redundancies. Under this model, all staff positions in each of the three schools will cease. New appointments would be made by the shadow governing body of the Learning Campus.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council has developed a model relocation policy for schools, in conjunction with the Trade Unions and heads. It would be a matter for the shadow governing body to adopt this policy, to modify it, or decide not to adopt the policy. Open and clear communication with staff will play an integral part in the implementation of any proposal.</p> <p>Staff from the Human Resources department of the Council were present at the open day in Bala on 26 March 2015 and any member of staff could discuss their position. Staff were also welcome to contact the HR department directly if they wished to have one to one discussions.</p> <p>If the proposal to create a new Learning Campus is implemented, it would be necessary to establish a shadow governing body. This shadow governing body would be set up in accordance with national guidelines, well before the planned implementation date of September 2018. It would need sufficient time to create all relevant policies, instruments of government, appoint the head and create a staffing structure in conjunction with the head.</p> <p>The Council appoints and employs auxiliary staff (kitchen staff, maintenance and cleaning) working in primary schools in the catchment area. This means the shadow governing body of the new 3-19 Learning Campus would need to decide whether it wishes for the school governors or the Council to be responsible for employing auxiliary staff in the new school.</p>
4.2	Will there be one head teacher for the whole school or one for the secondary and one for the primary?	1	<p>The precise determination of the staffing structure of the campus will be a matter for the shadow governing body. It is anticipated that the campus will have one head, but possibly there will be a secondary field leader and a primary field leader on the management team.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council will work closely with the shadow body, and will do so as soon as reasonably possible during the process. Following this consultation, a request is being</p>
4.3	We are concerned about the staffing implications and the danger that reorganisation will lead to uncertainty and dismissals. The Authority must work closely with the staff. We agree that reorganisation can offer " an opportunity for sharing staff expertise in certain fields across the	1	

	teaching sector”, but it is a cause for concern that the document does not contain any proposed staffing model To note that the Shadow Governing Body will be responsible for setting up a staffing structure avoids the main challenge in establishing the new school. Although we accept that the final decision would be in the hands of that Body, we would still expect the authority to offer definite guidance since this matter is of core importance to the success of the school. It would be unfair to expect the Body to start with a clean sheet. The Shadow Body would expected to ensure that there is as little uncertainty as possible. UCAC would like to see the Head teacher appointed at least a year beforehand. A person of exceptional calibre would be required. As well as leading on a curriculum for 3-19 year olds, this person would need to manage a substantial team of staff from various different backgrounds.		presented to the Cabinet to appoint a headteacher at least a year before the proposed date the Campus would open, on 1 September 2018. This would mean that the individual would have time to put a clear staffing framework in place in good time before the school opens, plan and complete documents such as policies etc.
<b>5</b>	<b>The Welsh Language</b>		
5.1	We would ask Gwynedd Council to seriously consider designating the new school as a Welsh medium school. By doing this we can ensure the future of the language in one of its most important strongholds / We wish the school to be a Welsh medium school.	5	<p>Language status is a technical term that needs to be allocated in the creation of a new school in accordance with the School Organization Code.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council’s Education Language Policy (Welsh in Education 2014-17 Strategic Plan) applies to all schools in the county and means that there are the same linguistic expectations at every school. The objective of the policy is - <i>“ to ensure that all pupils in the county have the appropriate language skills in Welsh and English. The expectation is the same for each school ... although the overall aim of the Policy is bilingualism, the weight is biased in favour of the Welsh language in the early years in order to provide a sound foundation for further development. In the other key stages schools are expected to plan purposefully to develop pupils' grasp of Welsh ... all education institutions are expected to reflect and reinforce the County Language Policy in their administration, their social life and pastoral arrangements as well as in their curricular provision..... ”</i>.</p> <p>An assessment was made of the impact of the development of this model, and as part of the conclusions of the assessment it was noted <i>“... opportunities to strengthen the Welsh language are foreseen through the establishment of a Learning Campus in Bala, by ensuring that all pupils attend a school that is educationally and socially a Welsh medium school”</i>.</p> <p>The intention is to maintain the linguistic status of Bala town schools in the 3-19 Campus. Given the status and language medium of the current three schools in the town of Bala, this will mean that the linguistic provision of the 3-19 Campus will be amongst the most Welsh in Gwynedd and in Wales.</p>
5.2	We also object because of the negative impact that the Church in Wales would have on the school’s language policy. The Church is not famous	1	It is intended to allocate a Welsh medium category for the campus, which is the same category that is designated at the moment for all schools in the town of Bala.



	for its support for the Welsh language and they certainly do not understand the needs of the Welsh communities as they regularly fill posts in rural areas with officers who can only speak English.		Whatever the legal category of the Campus (Community or VC), it will not have any effect on the language of the Campus. The Head of the Campus would be responsible for ensuring compliance on a daily basis with the Council's language policy on the Campus.
<b>6</b>	<b>Legal Category – Objections to the Church Status</b>		
6.1	We most strongly object to the designation of the 3-19 Campus as one with Church status / The new school should be a Community School and not a Church School. / The new school should on no account be tied to the Church in Wales. / Concern over the Church Management status of the new follow-through school. / The new school should not be a Voluntary Controlled School. / I wish to express concern regarding the possibility of placing the Follow-through school under the Church umbrella. In this area, the proposal should be for a Community School. Listen to your own statistics. / I believe that the proposal to place Church status on the school is totally inappropriate and unnecessary / The school should be a Community School / Campus since that is the nature of the education of the largest percentage of pupils at present. / Disappointed at the status / We are unanimous that the school should be a community school with no Church ethos. It is unbelievable that Gwynedd should consider giving the school a Church status.	20	<p>The need to designate a legal status on the school is a matter which has received careful consideration - this is a legal requirement. Following an initial discussion at Cabinet level, as recorded in the report of February 19th 2015, it was decided to undertake a consultation on placing Voluntary Controlled (VC) status on the entire Learning Campus. Among the factors in favour of placing Voluntary Controlled status on the Campus were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The joint provision which exists at present within the catchment area and the fact that there is VA provision in the catchment area at present</li> <li>• The standpoint of the Church following a pre-consultation meeting</li> <li>• The similarity between Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) categories</li> <li>• The opinion that quality of the education and resources are the most important factors in a school according to an initial assessment undertaken</li> <li>• The strategic decision to ensure the continuation of a choice of provision within a wider area in the southern part of the County</li> </ul>
6.2	I write on behalf of the governors of Ysgol Bro Tegid who unanimously declare that they object to the designation of the proposed new school for 3-19 year olds as a Church in Wales school.	1	<p>In accordance with the Schools Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013, schools are defined under one of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Voluntary Controlled (VC) with religious designation (Church in Wales)</li> <li>• Voluntary Aided (VA) with religious designation (Church in Wales)</li> </ul>
6.3	Although I am a Christian and my faith is central to every aspect of my life, I would not wish the new school to be a Church school. I personally, like the governing body of Ysgol OM Edwards, support the standpoint of the governors of Ysgol y Berwyn, namely that the new school should be placed in the Community School category.	1	<p>The Council and the Church in Wales are joint education providers in the catchment area of Y Berwyn. Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Voluntary Aided (VA) school with religious designation (Church in Wales). This means that the Church has very specific rights through the VA status, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church has a majority on the Governing Body</li> <li>• The Church controls pupil admissions</li> <li>• The Church is responsible for appointing staff</li> <li>• The school is responsible for Religious Instruction which is of denominational character. Christian values and ethics will filter through the operation and the ethos of the school and will be an important part of the life of the school.</li> </ul>
6.4	With reference to the response from Llanywyr Community Council, Llanuwchllyn Community Council and Y Bala Town Council, I would like to make it clear that it was support for the principle of education reorganisation that was expressed when support was declared from these three Councils. The role of the Church in Wales was not discussed in relation to the proposed reorganisation, and no support was expressed for the role of the Church during discussions at these Councils.	1	
6.5	I sent my children to Ysgol Bro Tegid because I did not wish them to be educated at a Church school – if the follow-through school is a church school, I shall send my children elsewhere.	1	<p>The above features would not be applicable to the Voluntary Contolled category.</p> <p>In comparison – the Voluntary Contolled category is very similar to the Community</p>

6.6	<p>We do not wish our children to attend a church school. The history and tradition of the area is Welsh and chapel orientated. We do not feel that the Church can do this lightly / I have chosen not to send my children to a Church school.</p>	2	<p>category but with some variations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a Voluntary Contolled (VC) school the Church would have representation on the Governing Body, but this representation would be in the minority. It is not certain at the moment what the size of the Governing Body will be but it will be either 18 or 21 members - and the Church would have 4 members out of 18 or 5 out of 21.</li> <li>• There would be a technical legal practice of conditional transfer of the land to the Church. The land would return to Council ownership should the Church educational provision come to an end on the site.</li> </ul> <p>Otherwise – the following is true of both categories (Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council would control pupil entry</li> <li>• The Council and the governors would be responsible for appointing staff</li> <li>• In terms of joint worship, legal requirements for daily worship would have to be met. Individuals have the right to opt out of joint worship or religious education lessons.</li> <li>• The Head Teacher and the Management Team would be responsible for the day to day running of the school.</li> </ul> <p>The option consulted upon proposes placing a VC status (Voluntary Controlled) on the 3-19 Learning Campus.</p> <p>When discussing this matter, it is likely that the Cabinet will need to take into consideration a number of aspects, including the original reasoning for consultation on setting Voluntary Controlled (VC) status on the learning Campus, the comments that came to hand during the statutory consultation period, the response to those comments and the considerations of changing direction.</p> <p>If the Cabinet decided to change the legal category, the following steps would have to be taken.</p> <p>The Cabinet – as part of their deliberations - would have to make an assessment of the model put forward. This would be required as part of the statutory process of developing schools organisation proposals, but it would also be required as part of the process of developing the business plan which would attract a contribution of over £9 million from the Government towards the development. There are some models that cannot be achieved at the moment, for example - federation of the entire area on account of the proposal to set two different categories in the area. Schools of different categories cannot be federalized.</p> <p>With regard to the subsequent process – the process of pre-consultation meetings with the Church would have to be undertaken again and a report submitted to the</p>
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			<p>Cabinet on the response of the Church to any new proposal. The Cabinet then would have to consider undertaking a further public consultation, then obtaining another report on that consultation before issuing a statutory notice. This would involve a slippage of approximately 10 months from the point that we have now reached.</p> <p>After issuing statutory notices – a further report would have to be submitted to the Cabinet before the proposal could be referred again to the Government for a decision. The Church has a specific right to do this if they do not agree with any proposal put forward. This referral would involve around 6/7 months for consideration by the Government and at the end the Minister could either accept or refuse the proposal. Should the Minister refuse the proposal, then the process of developing a new proposal would have to be undertaken and also possibly the process of applying for funding from the Government. It is also possible for the proposal to become the subject of a Judicial Review.</p> <p>In the meantime, this would delay the submission of a business case until the beginning of 2016 and would push the expenditure towards the tail end of the existing Band A programme and could create problems in terms of ensuring Welsh Government funding.</p> <p>Change of direction would mean that the Learning Campus would not open until at least September 2019.</p> <p>Therefore, if the Cabinet wished to change the proposal, they would need to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The slippage in the time schedule</li> <li>- The need to consider other new models</li> <li>- Impact of the Church referral</li> <li>- The risk of the Government refusing the proposal</li> <li>- The risk of a judicial review</li> <li>- Further uncertainty for the business case</li> </ul>
6.7	I would object to any Church influence on the managerial system of Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	2	It is not intended to change the status of Ysgol Ffridd Y Llyn as part of this proposal.
<b>Education and Religion Should Not be Mixed</b>			
6.8	Deeply concerned that consideration is being given in the plan to any management by the Church – education is compulsory; religion is optional so where does this leave people of other religions or humanists? / On no account should the new school be answerable to the Church in Wales or to any other religious body for that matter.	2	The proposal does not include an element of control as regards the Church in Wales. The proposal includes the proposed status of a Voluntary Controlled (VC) school. This would mean that the school is run by the Head and Governing Body of the school in cooperation with Gwynedd Council (as happens in a community school). The Church in Wales would have members on the governing body but they would not be in the majority.
6.9	Penllyn is a strong nonconformist area – and the story of the battle against the conservative English Church is still not forgotten	1	School status is a technical matter. There are three different statuses already in existence in Gwynedd. These are the main differences between the different

statuses:

	Community Category	Church Category (Voluntary Controlled School) (VC)	Church Category (Voluntary Aided School) (VA)
<b>Ownership of the school land and buildings</b>	Local Authority	The Church owns the school building and the Local Authority owns the playing fields	The Church owns the school building and the Local Authority owns the playing fields
<b>Responsibility for funding</b>	Local Authority	Local Authority	Local Authority funds the running costs 100%. 85% grant towards capital works, the Church funds the remainder
<b>Responsibility for staff recruitment and appointment</b>	Local Authority	Local Authority	The Church
<b>Admissions Policy</b>	Local Authority	Local Authority	The Governing Body
<b>Governing Body Constitution</b>	Representatives from among parents, Education Authority, Teachers, staff, Community Council and County Council	Church governors in the minority	Church governors in the majority
<b>Joint Worship</b>	Meet with legal requirements for daily joint worship. The worship to be entirely or mainly of Christian nature	Meet with legal requirements for daily joint worship. The worship to be entirely or mainly of Christian nature	Meet with legal requirements for daily joint worship. The worship to be entirely or partly of Christian nature
<b>Curriculum and Religious Education</b>	Religious Instruction to be included in the school curriculum  Religious Education syllabus to be agreed upon at local level through SACRE	Christian values and morals to be an important part of the running of the school, but to a large degree dependent on leadership by the Head Teacher and the Governors. Religious Education to be taught in keeping with a syllabus agreed upon at local level through SACRE	The school to be responsible for Religious Education which is denominational in character. Christian values and morality to filter through the running and ethos of the school and to be an important part of school life
<b>Inspections</b>	Inspection by Estyn only	Inspection by Estyn The Governing Body to be responsible for supervising the religious character of the school and school worship.	Inspection by Estyn. The Governing Body to be responsible for supervising the religious character of the school and school worship.

Currently there is a choice of educational provision in Bala. Ysgol Bro Tegid is a community school and Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School (VA). The VC status is significantly weaker than the VA status. The Church In Wales will not have any influence on the language policy of the Campus.

6.10 We want a truly community school, but one which will respect and give

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It is possible to place Christian principles into a community school and a Church in

	prominence to the Christian principles which are an integral part of the local community.		Wales Voluntary Controlled (VC) school.																											
6.11	I do not believe that denomination should have a place in education / We have nothing against Churchgoers or any other religion but our area is a rural area and we should not be put under pressure on account of religious denominations. / In these days of equality, why should any denomination be favoured above another? / From the very start, it is vital that the school be seen as one which is independent of any external influences, so that no misimpressions are planted in people's minds / An educational establishment should not be tied to religion, especially the Church in Wales.	5	Comments are noted - the Cabinet will need to consider all comments received during the statutory consultation period before deciding whether to continue with the proposal.																											
6.12	The school must be run by a governing body with all its members elected in accordance with the guidelines customary for schools under the control of the County Council – and no members co-opted by a body such as the Church in Wales. / It should be designated as a Community School and run by Gwynedd Council only. I am a former pupil and mother to former pupils and I sincerely hope that you will listen to the voices and wishes of the governors of Ysgol y Berwyn / If the Campus had a voluntary status, the Church in Wales would have the right to appoint a proportion of the governors (without being in the majority, obviously). I doubt if that would be wise since the Estyn report on Ysgol Beuno Sant (April 2015) notes as follows: <i>“Over a period of time, the governing body has not contributed effectively enough towards setting a strategic direction for the work of the school.”</i> It was the Church in Wales that appointed the Governing Body for Ysgol Beuno Sant, and I ask the question- would the Governors appointed by the Church in Wales have a better understanding of their role of setting a strategic direction for the work of the Follow-Through School? / I am not happy that the Church representatives would have rights on the Governing Body – and thus being able to influence every aspect of the school and the education.	4	<p>It is true that the Church will have representation on the governing body, (namely the right to co-opt governors), if the 3-19 Learning Campus has a VC status. It seems, based on projections of pupil numbers in September 2017, that there would be about 18 governors. The composition of the body will need to match national guidelines and possibly it could look like the below examples:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Governor</th> <th>Number of Governors</th> <th>Number of Governors</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Head</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parent Governor</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>External Governor</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teacher Governor</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff Governor</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Established / Church</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>18</b></td> <td><b>21</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>From the above table possible, the members who can be from a Church background is prescribed by law, and they cannot be a majority on the body of a VC school.</p>	Type of Governor	Number of Governors	Number of Governors	Head	1	1	Parent Governor	5	6	External Governor	3	4	Teacher Governor	2	2	Staff Governor	1	1	Established / Church	4	5	Community	2	2	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>																												
6.13	The Governing Body is totally unanimous that the proposed school should remain a community school like the existing secondary school and also the primary school, Ysgol Bro Tegid. That is – community provision should continue as is the situation at present in the area. / Neither Ysgol y Berwyn or Ysgol Bro Tegid is controlled by the Church in Wales, therefore the new school should not be either. Not every child in Bala goes to church – why force them to attend a Church school? I am likely to send my child to one of the other schools if Berwyn	2	<p>Currently there is a choice of educational provision in the town of Bala. Ysgol Bro Tegid is a community school and Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Church in Wales VA school.</p> <p>The proposal to establish a 3-19 Learning Campus includes the proposed status of Voluntary Controlled (VC).</p>																											

	becomes a Church School since we are chapel members.		
6.14	Ysgol y Berwyn is a community school and this reflects the community – including the traditions and religious practices. Does this basic change mean that the Council is admitting that Ysgol y Berwyn is not reaching its aims at the moment? And if the Council is claiming that Ysgol y Berwyn is successful as it is, what factors have been raised to make the Cabinet suggest changes to the present successful system? Are there wider, “county” reasons for behind the decision rather than local reasons?	1	
6.15	UCAC questions the proposal to give the legal status “Voluntary Controlled” to the Follow-Through School. We can see no advantage at all to this, especially in view of the fact that it is not the parents’ wish, according to the response to the consultation on this matter.	1	In the Cabinet report on 19 February 2015, the status of the proposal was considered carefully. The Cabinet approved conducting a period of statutory consultation with a proposed Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled (VC) status on the 3-19 Learning Campus.  Of the 230 responses received to the consultation, 154 were aimed at the legal category status of the school. Of the 154 comments, 116 were in favour of setting Church Voluntary Controlled (VC) status for the Campus, and 38 against this status, favouring instead setting Community status on the Campus.
<b>Site Ownership</b>			
6.16	Why should public property such as educational buildings be transferred to the Church? Totally unacceptable / Strange to observe that the whole property is going to the Church which is a lot of money and value in terms of building site etc / How is it possible for the Council to transfer the school buildings – paid for by the taxpayer – to the Church? / The property should remain in the possession of the Council.	8	If the 3-19 Campus had a VC status, then the ownership of the site would be transferred to the Church in Wales for educational purposes only. The Church would hold the land temporarily, and the land would revert to Gwynedd Council if the campus for whatever reason stopped providing education or lost the Church status at any time in the future.  The VC status does not give ownership of the playing fields to the Church, and therefore Gwynedd Council owns the playing fields regardless of the status of the Campus.
6.17	I strongly oppose the proposal to transfer the ownership of the new school at Ysgol y Berwyn to the Church in Wales.	1	
6.18	Who owns the building of Ysgol Beuno Sant at present? Will the buildings of Beuno Sant be part of the new school campus? If not, will they be returned to the Church in Wales or to the land owner?	2	The Church in Wales owns the site and the current Ysgol Beuno Sant building. Currently, as part of the most recent plans, it is not intended to use the site as part of the 3-19 Learning Campus. If the proposal continues, and if there was no intention to use the Ysgol Beuno Sant site, then the future of this site would be the responsibility of the Church in Wales.
<b>Dissenting Tradition and Penllyn History, Concern about the effect of the Perception that the Church is English / Lack of Call for Church Education</b>			
6.19	Very surprised to understand that it will be a Church school. In this secular age why is there a need to connect the school with any religious denomination since the curriculum will not include any more Christian instruction / If any connection is needed, why with the Church? It is the nonconformist denominations that have put their stamp on Bala and Penllyn for centuries - Thomas Charles a Michael D. Jones – the giants	1	In response to these concerns, the Church has stated that they are totally aware of, and respect, the history of the area and are keen to ensure that the new Learning Campus reflects the history and traditions of the area. As stated previously, the proposal aims to ensure that part of the representation reflects the nonconformist tradition.

	of the Methodists and the Independents. Remember also the Quakers and the Tithe war.		Also, the Church – and indeed the Council – finds that there is an opportunity through the Campus to strengthen the Welsh language. The aim is to set Welsh language medium category for the campus, namely the same category that is designated at present on all the schools in the town of Y Bala.
6.20	The denominations in Penllyn have lived and worked together easily and happily and there is no intention to cause any dispute and hatred between us – only to note how little Gwynedd Council knows about the circumstances in our area	1	
6.21	Last Christmas the school children took part in the show ‘Er Mwyn Yfory’ (‘For the Sake of Tomorrow’) which deals with the Tithe war. It is ironic that you intend to establish a new Church school whose catchment area includes parts of Uwchaled where the “war” was at its most fierce.	1	Gwynedd Council’s Education Language Policy (Strategic Plan for Welsh in Education 2014-17) is relevant to all the schools within the County and means that the same linguistic expectations are set for every school. The purpose of the Policy is -“..... to ensure that all pupils in the County possess appropriate language skills in Welsh and English. The same expectation is made for every school... although the general aim of the policy is bilingualism, the balance is set in favour of Welsh in the early years in order to set strong foundations for further development. In the other key stages, schools are expected to plan carefully in order to develop the grasp of the pupils on the language.... all educational establishments within the County are expected to reflect and strengthen the Language Policy within their administration, their social life and their pastoral system as well as in their curricular provision.....” therefore the language category is a technical issue in Gwynedd.
6.22	Many more Independents and Presbyterians than Church members attend places of worship in the local area. Why should the minority have precedence over the majority? Bala was a stronghold of both these denominations for more than 250 years, and it is sad to think that you are thinking of establishing a new Church school within sight of the former Presbyterian college and the former home of Michael D Jones	1	
6.23	Not only does this give the primary school a voluntary status but it also gives voluntary status to a school with KS3 and 4 pupils – pupils who attend Sunday School and services in nonconformist churches – this is not acceptable.	2	An assessment was made of the impact of developing this model, and as part of the assessment findings “...it is predicted that there will be opportunities for strengthening the Welsh language through the establishment of the Learning Campus in Y Bala, by ensuring that all the pupils attend a school which is educationally and socially a Welsh medium school.”
6.24	A backward step where the Church can influence the education of our children. A secondary school attended by all the pupils in the area at some point should not be tied to any religious body. The option of being forced to send our children to a Church school is not at all acceptable.	1	The aim is to retain the linguistic status of the existing schools within Bala on the 3-19 Campus. In view of the language medium at the three existing schools in the town of Bala, this will mean that the linguistic provision in the 3-19 Campus will be among the most Welsh throughout Gwynedd and Wales.
6.25	It is a very small percentage which chooses education in a Church establishment at the present time / there is no justification for a church school because only a minority attends the Church in the Penllyn parish; why the Church rather than any other religion?	2	One of the challenges of establishing the 3-19 Learning Campus of the all-through catchment-area school will be establishing the right linguistic structure, across the age sectors. Responding to the challenge and the implementation of the Language Policy will be in the hands of the Head and the Governing Body, assisted by the Authority. It will be necessary to implement Gwynedd Council’s Language Policy appropriately and in a way that responds to the challenge in the language assessment.
6.26	Surprised and disappointed that Gwynedd Council is contemplating the designation of the school as a Church school. Ysgol y Berwyn had – and still has - a strong foundation in every aspect of its existence. The idea of a Church school is very offensive since it favours one denomination – a denomination which is alien to a rural community.	1	
6.27	I strongly believe that a Community School would best suit our area. Strong Christian values are respected here and our schools contribute to the religious activities in our communities each year. I feel that the	1	

	Church questionnaire is misleading. Everyone agrees that the most important thing is the best education - interesting to see the responses if the option of best education had not been included – how many would have given priority to a Community School over a Church School? I am afraid that if the Follow-through school was given Church status, the Church would have too much control and that this would impact the education of our children.		
6.28	New school should be designated a Community School, not a Church School. There is a Church School in Bala at the moment and the fact that families choose to send their children to other schools in Penllyn such as Ysgol Bro Tryweryn, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Llanuwchllyn because Ysgol Bro Tegid is full is an indication of what will happen in the future and impact the success of the New Community School.	1	
6.29	Historically, Ysgol y Berwyn has been successful in attracting pupils from neighbouring areas - Denbigh and Conwy. The ethos and the Welsh image will be totally shattered if a Church status is designated. This will have a detrimental effect on school numbers, the very problem it aims to solve.	1	
<b>Church Schools' Educational Standards</b>			
6.30	The statistics in the consultation document show that the existing Church school is a failure. Ysgol Beuno Sant - 48% surplus places, Ysgol Bro Tegid 0%. / Estyn report – Ysgol Beuno Sant – Sufficient, Ysgol Bro Tegid – Good / It is obvious that the Church cannot offer education of high standard in Ysgol Beuno Sant so why should the education of those children who attend Ysgol Bro Tegid be compromised?	1	Gwynedd Council recognizes that the quality of education at Ysgol Beuno Sant has been uncertain in recent years. However, there are various factors that influence the quality of education in schools.  The fact that Ysgol Beuno Sant has recently had a relatively poor Estyn inspection does not set a precedent that would mean that the 3-19 Campus with a VC status would perform poorly in the educational sense. A school is run and led by the Head and Governing Body in cooperation with the Council whether it has a community status or VC status. When a school has a VA status the Church in Wales has more input and guidance for the school.
6.31	Do Church schools improve the quality of education? The Church school is the only amber primary school in the area. Therefore, what does Bala have to gain from a Church Follow-Through School?	1	In fact, the whole idea of Gwynedd Council's approach to reorganizing school provision in Bala is to ensure consistency and improvement in the quality of education. Leadership structure and management at the school will be a powerful tool to achieve this.
6.32	At the moment numbers at Ysgol Bro Tegid are increasing and those at Ysgol Beuno Sant are deteriorating. It does not make sense that such a minority is having so much influence over the new school.	1	It is true that Ysgol Bro Tegid is full and that there are 48% surplus places at Ysgol Beuno Sant. The Cabinet will need to consider many factors when deciding on the way forward, including numbers, surplus places, and pupil projections of the schools concerned. There are other factors that must also be considered and these include elements of the county school organization strategy, catchment area vision, elements of the School Organization Code (006/2013) and other relevant factors.



The Reasons for Designating Church Status			
6.33	It is not the status of a school that creates an ethos, but the staff appointed. The facts do not show that parents want a school with Church status – there are more surplus places in Ysgol Beuno Sant than in any other primary school in the catchment area.	2	The Council agrees that it is not the status that develops the ethos of a school and it is hoped that the head and the governing body will work hard on developing the appropriate ethos for the Learning Campus, independent of its status.
6.34	I cannot understand the advantages or the reasoning for establishing a Church school in Bala. I understand that the Cabinet of Gwynedd Council has refused to establish a Church school in Dolgellau. Therefore I would like to know what criteria were used to come to that conclusion for Dolgellau as compared with the criteria used for a totally different decision in Bala. What were the criteria used to reach this decision for Bala compared to the criteria in rejecting the church school in Wales?	1	Options need to be evaluated on the basis of the position of school reorganization, depending on the situation of specific schools. The catchments of Y Gader and Berwyn schools cannot be compared as the number and type of schools are quite different, and the proposed models are different in order to meet the catchment area requirements.  The need to designate a legal status on the school is a matter which has received careful consideration - this is a legal requirement. Following an initial discussion at Cabinet level, as recorded in the report of February 19th 2015, it was decided to undertake a consultation on placing Voluntary Controlled (VC) status on the entire Learning Campus. Among the factors in favour of placing Voluntary Controlled status on the Campus were the following:
6.35	What is the reasoning for placing Church control status on the new follow-through school? / I would like to know what advantage there is for the people of Penllyn and for Gwynedd Council in associating the school with an Anglican establishment which will influence the education of our children and young people.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The joint provision which exists at present within the catchment area and the fact that there is VA provision in the catchment area at present</li> <li>• The standpoint of the Church following a pre-consultation meeting</li> <li>• The similarity between Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) categories</li> <li>• The opinion that quality of the education and resources are the most important factors in a school according to an initial assessment undertaken</li> <li>• The strategic decision to ensure the continuation of a choice of provision within a wider area in the southern part of the County</li> </ul> <p>The points noted regarding the control of the Church in Wales are correct. VC schools are run by the Head and Governing Body of the school in conjunction with Gwynedd Council, as happens in the Community schools status. The Church in Wales has members on the VC School governing body, but they are not in the majority.</p>
6.36	I understand that the Church will not have complete control over the school, that it will not be appointing the head teacher or the staff, it will not control the admissions policy, it will not be in a majority on the governing board, and will not be able to do anything with the building it owns. Therefore the basic question arises, what on earth is the point of establishing a church school in the first place? If the aim of establishing a church school is to have Church influence over the school, it is unreasonable for it not to have control. And on account of that, it is more unreasonable still to propose the establishment of a church school in the first place knowing that it will have little influence. What powers will the Church have over the school, and if it has no power over the school, what is the reason for transferring the school to the church in the first place?	1	
6.37	This would leave the parents and pupils of the area without any secular secondary education provision. I am not of the opinion that education should be of religious nature and I hope that the Council will think again about a proposal which could split the community. / Will there be alternative provision for parents who do not wish to send their children to a school influenced by the Church? Bus to the school in Dolgellau perhaps? / The question has to be asked – what is the option for parents who are not happy for their children to attend a Church school? Parents in Penllyn have no option. But the parents in the neighbouring	8	Admission to schools is always subject to parental choice and parents can choose the school for a wide range of reasons. As with a community school, in a church school (VC) a parent can withdraw their children from services and religious education, the right remains.  There is a need to highlight the very few differences there are between Voluntary Controlled and Community categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a Voluntary Controlled (VC) school the Church would have representation on the Governing Body , but this representation would be in the minority. It is not certain at the moment what the size of the Governing Body will be but it will be</li> </ul>

	<p>areas of Denbigh and Conwy will have the choice of sending their children to schools in Ruthin and Llangollen. By establishing a Church school, we are playing into the hands of the very schools we are in competition with – at the expense of Ysgol y Berwyn. / At present there is a choice of Church education or otherwise, the choice will not be there in the future. / In Bala there is a Community School and a Church School which is proof that there is strong feeling locally that there is a need for choice in this matter, and it is very unwise and unfair not to allow this choice and instead introduce denominational enforcement. / You have not shown justification of the need to create a Church school. There was no advantage to establishing a Church school in Dolgellau so why in Bala? It is not statutory to ensure a choice of Church education, so why is the need greater in Bala than in Dolgellau? / We need the best education and the best opportunities for the children of the area, and consideration has to be given to the nature of the community in the rural areas whose children will attend Ysgol y Berwyn at 11 years of age. The parents of the area have decided not to send their children to Ysgol Beuno Sant. Therefore they need to have a choice of not sending their children to a Church secondary school. Consideration should be given to the choice of the majority.</p>		<p>either 18 or 21 members - and the Church would have 4 members out of 18 or 5 out of 21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There would be a technical legal practice of conditional transfer of the land to the Church. The land would return to Council ownership should the Church educational provision come to an end on the site.</li> </ul> <p>Otherwise – the following is true of both categories (Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council would control pupil admissions</li> <li>• The Council and the governors would be responsible for appointing staff</li> <li>• In terms of joint worship, legal requirements for daily worship would have to be met. The act of worship would be entirely of Christian nature but the individual would have the right to opt out of joint worship and religious education lessons</li> <li>• The Head Teacher and the Management Team would be responsible for the day to day running of the school.</li> </ul> <p>The option consulted upon proposes placing a VC status (Voluntary Controlled) on the 3-19 Learning Campus.</p> <p>School Transport within Gwynedd Council is provided in accordance with the County's schools' Transport policy.</p>
6.38	<p>It is only a few years since the Church in Wales set about closing their churches in Llanuwchllyn, Llanycil and Llangywer with no concern for their communicants in those churches, but here they are now showing concern for the status of the Follow-through school – I ask what is their agenda?</p>	2	<p>Comments are noted - the Cabinet will need to consider all comments received during the statutory consultation period before deciding whether to continue with the proposal.</p>
<b>The Process</b>			
6.39	<p>It was the greatest disappointment to discover the true role of the Church establishment in the management of the school, especially at this late stage in the consultation. At every information meeting between the department and the Councillors questions were asked about the standpoint and role of the Church in the management of the Follow-through school . The response each time was to play the question down and assure us that the Church would interfere very little / Very disappointed in the cunning way that the truth came out. The local Councillors have had no input or feedback into this matter, which is by now very contentious.</p> <p>It is very unfortunate that there has been no dialogue between the officers and the local members in order to avoid the harmful situation that we now face. / I sincerely beg you to hold discussions with the</p>	1	<p>A number of discussions were held prior to the statutory consultation period. A series of local meetings were held, some with heads alone, some with only Local Members, and some with the whole PAD (which includes the head, chair of governors and parent governors of all the schools), as well as the local members and a representative of the Church in Wales.</p> <p>Details of the existing schools were highlighted including their status and it was made clear to the Local Members on a number of occasions that the proposal could include a church element. Information was presented on the three different statuses by explaining the difference to Local Members, allowing them to ask officers if they had any further questions. So there has been a clear dialogue between officers and local members on numerous occasions - through the meetings mentioned above, through emails and telephone conversations and through all of the documentation that forms</p>

	diocese again. There is great disbelief and dissatisfaction at ground level on account of these recent developments.		part of the consultation process, that the Local members were aware of. Throughout the process significant and sincere efforts were made to equip the local members with the necessary information.
6.40	It was only at this late stage of the consultation that the full significance of the interference by the Church has become evident. The Body feels that this is very unfortunate – if this Church status stands, our pupils will be forced to attend an establishment which is historically alien to their Welsh background and traditions.	1	The Cabinet report from February was released, which included a specific section on status choice / legal category of the 3-19 Learning Campus and Local Members were invited to speak at the Cabinet meeting.  So the status of the proposal should not be news to Local Members or the governing bodies, who have been included in the discussion every step of the way.
6.41	There was no presence by the Church at the open day that was recently held. If the Church has a role in the running of the school, representatives should have been present in order to greet the public and outline their role openly and sincerely.	1	It is Gwynedd Council who is reorganizing the Berwyn catchment area schools and carrying out the statutory consultation on the proposal, not the Church in Wales. There was no need for them to attend as it is not the Church that will be managing the campus.
6.42	We are of the opinion that neither you, as an education department, or the Diocese either, really appreciate the opposition at local level to this status. Indeed, the fact that the Diocese itself did not attend the open day speaks volumes. It is vital that a school should reflect the population that it serves.	1	The Council welcomes all comments on all aspects of the proposal. This is the purpose of creating a statutory consultation document with all details, so that consultees can respond and comment. Cabinet will receive a copy of each response received, and consider them before making a decision whether or not to continue with the proposal at their meeting in June 2015.
6.43	Where did this idea originally come from – was it a multiple call from the local people, or a proposal from the Church, or a proposal from Council officers?	1	Taking full account of the status of the schools which are part of the proposal for reorganization is essential according to the School Organization Code (006/2013). Initial research has been completed, including assessments of language, community, equality and the need for different types of schools as well as a full options appraisal.
6.44	It is easy to see that Gwynedd Council is offering to establish a Church school in response to a threat by StAsaph Diocese to refer the decision to the Minister for Education. There is no educational or financial advantage to this proposal.	1	This information was presented to the Cabinet, and approval was given to holding a statutory consultation period on the proposal.
6.45	There has been no public consultation on the status.	1	The Council is holding the statutory consultation period for comments on the proposal in its entirety. The Cabinet will consider all comments received during the statutory consultation period before deciding whether to continue with the proposal.
6.46	We have completed a questionnaire on this before and we are disappointed that there was no reference to the feelings of the local people in the consultation document. It is obvious that the Church has changed its mind because previously they had agreed to release their status.	1	An assessment of the need for different types of schools was conducted, and questionnaires were distributed as part of this assessment - this is the questionnaire referred to. The main conclusion of this assessment was presented to Cabinet as they made their decision to hold a statutory consultation on the proposal.
6.47	At the beginning of the consultation process, I was made to understand that the Church had agreed to release Ysgol Beuno Sant – this is an indication of the strength of the Church.	1	The Council does not understand what is meant when referring to 'releasing Ysgol Beuno Sant' in this statement.
<b>Other</b>			
6.50	I do not doubt that it is possible for a Church school to provide comprehensive education for pupils, but there are some aspects that	1	In the case of the 3-19 Campus, this table shows the likely composition of the governing body. It is true that the Church will have representation on the governing

	<p>worry me with regard to setting a Church status:-</p> <p>i) That the Church can appoint governors to the governing board without their being elected. The document states that they would be in the minority but I cannot see that this is a fair procedure anyway.</p> <p>ii) The document lists 11 Church schools and their distance from Bala in order to emphasise how far a child wishing to attend a Church school would have to travel. If such a table is used, it would be useful to find out how many pupils (of the 46) who attend Ysgol Beuno Sant do this specifically because it is a Church school.</p>		<p>body if the 3-19 Learning Campus has a VC status. It is likely, based on projections of pupil numbers in September 2017, that there would be about 18 governors. The composition of the body will need to match national guidelines and possibly it could look like the examples below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1146 256 2175 592"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Governor</th> <th>Number of Governors</th> <th>Number of Governors</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Head</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parent Governor</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>External Governor</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teacher Governor</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff Governor</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Established / Church</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>18</b></td> <td><b>21</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The table above shows that members from a Church background are limited and cannot be a majority on the VC school body.</p>	Type of Governor	Number of Governors	Number of Governors	Head	1	1	Parent Governor	5	6	External Governor	3	4	Teacher Governor	2	2	Staff Governor	1	1	Established / Church	4	5	Community	2	2	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>
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6.51	<p>Table 6.1 shows a comparatively small difference between a community school and a VC school. Establishing a Church school would lead to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gwynedd Council paying for the improvements to the buildings and then transferring the ownership to the Church.</li> <li>Gwynedd Council continuing to pay maintenance costs</li> <li>The Church appointing Governors to the Governing Board.</li> <li>Two inspections for the school instead of one.</li> </ul> <p>The advantage for the Diocese is obvious, namely to gain more influence without spending any money. A poor bargain for the residents of Gwynedd. So why the proposal to establish a Church school?</p>	1	<p>This comment is correct. The difference between a community and VC school is relatively small. There is a larger difference between VC and VA status. Gwynedd Council has clarified the distinction between the various statuses in the consultation document.</p> <p>It also correct that the Church in Wales would not have to make a direct financial commitment if the 3-19 Campus school was a VC school. Nevertheless, the Church in Wales is offering support to a VC school that a Community school would not receive.</p> <p>The rationale for giving voluntary status to the 3-19 Campus is set out in Section 6.1 of the consultation document.</p>																											
6.52	<p>Gwynedd Councillors are answerable to the people they represent. To whom is the Diocese answerable?</p>	1	<p>In the context of VC 3-19 Campus, it is indirectly and through the co-opted Church governors (in the minority) where the influence of the Church lies. The Church in Wales is therefore accountable to the Governing Body and Gwynedd Council, as is the case with the rest of the schools in the county.</p>																											
6.53	<p>I object to the Church status which is being recommended for the new school. The Authority provides a Christian element within our schools. Why not allow Ysgol Beuno Sant to continue as a Church school so that there is a Church option in the catchment area?</p>	1	<p>This comment opposes allocating a Church status on the proposed Campus, but supports retaining the current provision (VA) in the Berwyn catchment area by keeping Ysgol Beuno Sant open.</p> <p>The purpose of the reorganization is to improve education in the town of Bala and ensure consistency in the educational attainment of pupils. One reason for recommending a 3-19 Campus is to rationalize the current situation where there are two primary schools close together – Ysgol Bro Tegid is full and Ysgol Beuno Sant has</p>																											

			48% surplus places. Keeping the educational provision at Ysgol Beuno Sant would do nothing to solve the weaknesses that exist in the present school organization in Bala town.
<b>7</b>	<b>Legal Category – In Favour of the Church Status</b>		
7.1	I would like the new school to be a Welsh medium Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School	1	<p>The need to designate a legal status on the school is a matter which has received careful consideration - this is a legal requirement. Following an initial discussion at Cabinet level, as recorded in the report of February 19th 2015, it was decided to undertake a consultation on placing Voluntary Controlled (VC) status on the entire Learning Campus. Among the factors in favour of placing Voluntary Controlled status on the Campus were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The joint provision which exists at present within the catchment area and the fact that there is VA provision in the catchment area at present</li> <li>• The standpoint of the Church following a pre-consultation meeting</li> <li>• The similarity between Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC) categories</li> <li>• The opinion that quality of the education and resources are the most important factors in a school according to an assessment undertaken</li> <li>• The strategic decision to ensure the continuation of a choice of provision within a wider area in the southern part of the County</li> </ul> <p>The Council notes the comments and consideration will be given to the comments that are in favour of designating a Voluntary Controlled status to the 3-19 Learning Campus, while deciding whether or not to continue with the proposal.</p>
7.2	After careful consideration, the StAsaph Diocese fully supports and seconds the decision to close Ysgol Beuno Sant, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn and to establish a Voluntary Controlled Welsh medium learning campus for 3-19 year olds in Bala.	1	
7.3	I would like to note that we support the closure of Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn and to establish a Voluntary Controlled (VC) Church in Wales Welsh medium learning campus for 3-19 year olds.	1	
7.4	The document states that the new provision will come under the legal category of VC which appears a reasonable and balanced decision. It seems that the Authority has consulted widely with the Church in Wales and with parents and stake holders within the community on this matter.	1	
7.5	The choice to close Ysgol Beuno Sant, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol y Berwyn and to establish a voluntary Welsh medium learning campus is the choice supported by the StAsaph Diocese.	1	
7.6	I write on behalf of the Governing body of Ysgol Beuno Sant. We are in support of the proposal for an all-through school and wish the school to be a Church in Wales school.	1	
<b>Education and the Added Value of a Voluntary Controlled School</b>			
7.7	A Voluntary Controlled Campus would provide wideranging education of high quality for the pupils. St Asaph Diocese would like to see a model which provides a learning environment where all pupils are respected and encouraged in everything they do; and where every contribution is appreciated. We would like to work in partnership with all parties in order to achieve this.	1	<p>Gwynedd Council is aware of the characteristics of Church schools, whether they have Voluntary Controlled (VC) or Voluntary Aided (VA) status.</p> <p>The Welsh Government's document "<i>Faith in education</i>", outlines the characteristics of the religious nature of schools in Wales, identifies the ethos and character of those schools, and challenges assumptions and emphasizes and celebrates diversity.</p>
7.8	I believe that this proposal would be good for the community in Bala; the new school would have access to help and services from the Diocese Education team (in addition to Gwynedd Council) which can give help and advice on curriculum and ethos matters and which provides regular training for staff. The school would have access to a network of advisors commissioned by the diocese and it would also	8	<p>Gwynedd Council is also aware of the support and services of the Diocesan Education team in the Diocese of St Asaph. The School would be managed by the Headteacher and Governing Body, and therefore they could turn to the support should they wish to.</p>

	have access to training, resources and new equipment and access to the support and services of the Diocese Education team.		In accordance with the Schools Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013, schools are defined under one of the following categories:
7.9	I want the best possible education for the children of Bala, and I believe that this proposal makes sense. It brings the community together and offers a new learning environment which can achieve all the benefits which derive from a fit for purpose, modern school. I look forward to seeing the children of this area benefitting from the investment.	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Voluntary Controlled (VC) with religious designation (Church in Wales)</li> <li>• Voluntary Aided (VA) with religious designation (Church in Wales)</li> </ul>
7.10	In striving to serve everybody by offering a wide and balanced curriculum, the Church is also rooted in a strong belief that each one has spiritual needs that should be developed exactly the same as other skills and abilities. Therefore, the Church in Wales is unique among education provider of "faith" - balancing the concepts of serving everyone with opportunities to nurture the spiritual aspect of the lives of those who want to develop this area of their lives.	1	<p>The Council and the Church in Wales are joint education providers in the catchment area of Y Berwyn. Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Voluntary Aided (VA) school with religious designation (Church in Wales). This means that the Church has very specific rights through the VA status, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church has a majority on the Governing Body</li> <li>• The Church Controls pupil admissions</li> <li>• The Church is responsible for appointing staff</li> <li>• The school is responsible for Religious Instruction which is of denominational character. Christian values and ethics will filter through the operation and the ethos of the school and will be an important part of the life of the school.</li> </ul>
7.11	The Church arranges for pupils from Church schools to be included in a number of additional activities which help to develop confidence and improve welfare. I support the proposal.	4	
7.12	<p>I support the proposal on account of the advantages of establishing a new VC school as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving and strengthening the existing relationship with the Church</li> <li>• Pupils will be supported when transferring to the new school</li> <li>• The new Governing Board will include two representatives from the Church who will further support the Head Teacher and the local community.</li> </ul>	4	<p>The above features would not be applicable to the Voluntary Contolled category.</p> <p>In comparison – the Voluntary Contolled category is very similar to the Community category but with some variations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a Voluntary Contolled (VC) school the Church would have representation on the Governing Body , but this representation would be in the minority. It is not certain at the moment what the size of the Governing Body will be but it will be either 18 or 21 members - and the Church would have 4 members out of 18 or 5 out of 21.</li> <li>• There would be a technical legal practice of conditional transfer of the land to the Church. The land would return to Council ownership should the Church educational provision come to an end on the site.</li> </ul> <p>Otherwise – the following is true of both categories (Community and Voluntary Controlled (VC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council would control pupil admissions</li> <li>• The Council and the governors would be responsible for appointing staff</li> <li>• In terms of joint worship, legal requirements for daily worship would have to be met. Individuals would have the right to opt out of joint worship and religious education lessons</li> <li>• The Head Teacher and the Management Team would be responsible for the</li> </ul>
7.13	I would like this to go ahead since I believe that it provides a learning environment where every pupil is respected and encouraged in everything they do; where every contribution is appreciated. In seeking partnership with the Church, the new school would continue to ensure	6	

	that the pupils are guided to be future citizens, whilst respecting the rich variety of the communities in which they live and have an understanding of Welsh heritage and Christian values. This partnership will help the new school to develop a loving, caring and strong environment where Christian values and respect for the Welsh heritage and culture are a central part of everything that is undertaken.		day to day running of the school.
7.14	It will lighten the substantial banal load for many families who can afford access (at last) to an important and rich experience of education in an inclusive and special location.	6	The option consulted upon proposes placing a VC status (Voluntary Controlled) on the 3-19 Learning Campus.
7.15	A church school in Bala would not measure its success according to the number of pupils who recognise Christianity, but it would arm pupils with information and understanding so that they approach life's moral and ethical challenges critically and find their own responses - be that within Christianity or not.	20	Gwynedd Council will give careful consideration to these comments before making the decision whether or not to continue with the proposal.
7.16	I support the proposal because church schools measure how effective the Christian character forms a relationship with all the members of the school community, promotes an understanding of present day Wales and respect towards different communities. The school would meet the needs of all the learners in an inclusive way / Church schools teach a wide curriculum which allows children to receive information and to form a rational opinion / This partnership will help the new school to develop a loving, caring and strong environment where Christian values and respect for the Welsh heritage and culture are a central part of everything that is undertaken / I believe that this model offers a wide and balanced provision for the pupils of the Bala area. Pupils should be achieving their full potential in every school. But in Church schools, making the most of learning through values is vital. Pupils have academic, personal and spiritual needs and all these aspects can be met in an atmosphere where the values and the education are specifically Christian. / The proposals will improve and strengthen these connections, allow closer collaboration and strengthen the ethos and values of the whole school community. The school would also have access to a network of advisers and consultants commissioned by the Diocese, and it would have access also to training, resources and activities / Improve and strengthen the existing relationship with the church.	35	
7.17	As a parent, I wish to support the proposal to ensure that the new establishment has a Christian element. If the school has a Church status, all the better, not for the sake of the Church since faith	1	

	membership does not come through the school, but in order to protect future worship for the children of Bala.		
7.18	The aim of a Church school is to give the gift of wide education which allows the children to make informed decisions. Church schools try and provide the highest possible standard of education within a typically Christian context. They are not trying to force conversion, but to provide a service, and evidence shows that a strong Christian ethos and an educational vision help to raise the standards and attainment of every child and help them achieve their potential / This view is expressed in the Church in Wales Education Review and the Review of Church Schools of the Future, produced by the National Society, and inspection reports by GWELLA and SIAMS.	20	
7.19	A statistical breakdown compiled by the Church in Wales shows that Church schools perform better in their areas (according to Estyn results) in comparison with schools across Wales.	4	
7.20	It is important to understand the contribution made by the Church to education. We contribute to education because we believe in the wellbeing and the prosperity of the people of Wales.	1	
7.21	I know very well that the majority of the pupils do not attend Ysgol Beuno Sant because it is a Church School, but some do. And although faith is not important to many of the families, they are not opposed to it either. What they want is good education, in a happy atmosphere with a loving and caring ethos and best morals. Very often, people who know nothing about a Church School will discuss it with no wisdom or knowledge! The image they convey is frightening.	1	<p>The comments are noted. The needs assessment which was conducted by Gwynedd Council before deciding whether to allocate the VC status on the Campus in the statutory consultation held between 13 March and 28 April 2015 concluded that education was important and that school status was a secondary consideration.</p> <p>In the context of the Berwyn catchment area and the reorganization there, Gwynedd Council is satisfied that every reasonable effort has been made to explain the differences between the various categories of status.</p> <p>This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information in the consultation document which explained the different categories</li> <li>• Rationale for recommending the VC status in the consultation document</li> <li>• Discussions at the PAD meetings which explained the nature and role of the Church as a joint provider</li> <li>• Availability of the "Faith in Education" document during the open day</li> </ul>
7.22	I don't see that the parents, or the authority will agree to the school having a Church status and I am not silly enough to believe that either. However, I know from visiting Ysgol Sant Joseff in Wrexham – a Catholic and Anglican school – which is very popular with twice the number of applications as there are places, is an unbelievable school in terms of resources, staff, atmosphere, provision etc. It is the Church	1	<p>Gwynedd Council undertook a consultation on the proposal to create a 3-19 Campus with a Voluntary Controlled (VC) status.</p> <p>We do not know the nature of any discussions Ysgol y Berwyn Governors have had with regard to the status. However, Section 6 of the consultation document explains the different options for setting the legal category of school. In addition, Section 6</p>



	establishments that are responsible for the buildings and the money that comes in is certainly something to be desired. I do not believe that the Governors of Ysgol y Berwyn have received this information because all that was said was “the Church would own the building and the County Council the land.” Late in the day to learn that now, I believe, or if they did receive the information, they did not understand it.		contains a table that explains the main differences between a Community status, VC status and VA status. The catchment area Review Panel meetings held on 6 May 2014 and 14 January 2015 were attended by Heads of schools and Chairs of Governors to discuss the status of the Berwyn catchment area. In addition, during the open day held in Bala on 26 March 2015, the Welsh Government document, Faith in Education, was available to anyone who wanted a copy.  As part of the consultation process Gwynedd Council received comments in favour of allocating the status and comments objecting. Gwynedd Council will evaluate these comments before reaching a final decision on the status. Gwynedd Council are therefore satisfied that sufficient information has been given to anyone who is interested in this issue to come to an objective conclusion on the question of status.
7.23	Church status adds a tier of accountability / Church schools also have a specific “Bishop Visitor” who would support and challenge the school, offer advice and support the pastoral care that the Bishop of StAsaph has over the schools in his diocese.	4	Gwynedd Council is also aware of the support and services of the Diocesan Education team in the Diocese of St Asaph. The School would be managed by the Headteacher and Governing Body, and therefore they could turn to the support should they wish to.
<b>Gwynedd Council and the Church in Wales as Joint Providers</b>			
7.24	The relationship between the Local Authority and the Church in Wales has provided excellent education and still offers considerable benefits for our children.	1	The Council recognises that the Church in Wales are joint education providers in the catchment area of Y Berwyn. Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Voluntary Aided (VA) school with religious designation (Church in Wales). This means that the Church has very specific rights through the VA status, for example:
7.25	The Church in Wales is the second largest provider of schools in Wales, after the local authorities themselves: 15% of all the schools in Wales are Church schools. In the StAsaph Diocese there are 49 Church schools, which provide just over 6,450 primary places within the Diocese. These schools were established in order to provide the best possible education for every child in their local communities, and the new school as a new Church school would uphold that tradition and provide excellent education in a typically Christian context. Ysgol Beuno Sant already has a strong ethos and is in contact with the local church, and the proposal would improve and strengthen these elements and formalise the existing practice.	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church has a majority on the Governing Body</li> <li>• The Church controls pupil admissions</li> <li>• The Church is responsible for appointing staff</li> <li>• The school is responsible for Religious Instruction which is of denominational character. Christian values and ethics will filter through the operation and the ethos of the school and will be an important part of the life of the school.</li> </ul>
7.26	The Church agreed to lose Church status in Bala in the past, and this in order that the schools could amalgamate for the benefit of the community and the children. This was a great sacrifice since Ysgol Beuno Sant was a school under Voluntary Control of the Church in Wales. The promise then was to ensure that the new Church constitution would include a statement that the joint worship would be Christian worship. Although all the schools hold religious services, it is in Church in Wales schools that the worship has to be Christian. In all other schools it is up to the head teacher and therefore there is no	1	It is true that there has been a previous statutory consultation in the Berwyn catchment area between 13 December 2010 and 4 February 2011. Between 2010 and 2012, there was a change in the way the Welsh Government funded large projects, and there was uncertainty regarding the availability of funds to finance the Lifelong Learning Campus in Y Bala. The Council decided to guarantee the funds for completing the improvements to Ysgol OM Edwards, but the re-organisation in the rest of the catchment was not completed.  After a period of delay, a further report was submitted to the Cabinet on 1 April 2014,

	certainty that that their services will be Christian. Saying that we are all Christian schools does <b>not</b> ensure that the worship will be Christian. It would be a pity if the children of Bala in the future worshipped under another faith. Of course, being aware of the faith and beliefs and culture of others is all important especially in a society which becomes more multi cultural each year.		when a decision was reached: <i>i. To approve permission to extend the work and enable the formation of a range of models which would greet strategic, managerial and / or governing aspects for the catchment area in its entirety, with the aim of submitting specific recommendations for statutory consultation in accordance with Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013</i> <i>ii. Authorise an assessment to be undertaken in order to identify and measure the need for education provision of a specific category and designation within the catchment area and to meet the requirements of the process of identifying the recommendations noted in i. above.</i> <i>iii. Since one of the schools in the catchment area is a voluntary aided Church in Wales school (VA), in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013, delegate the right to hold a pre consultation meeting with the Church in Wales to the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People.</i>
7.27	Statistics show that fewer and fewer people attend places of worship. As has been clearly expressed in the public meetings - "Bala is a Presbyterian town. And we all know what the Church did to people. I don't think that more needs to be said. We are no longer living in the Thomas Charles era !!"	1	
7.28	St.Asaph and Bangor Diocese have been education providers to Gwynedd children for some time. We want parents to have the best facilities and resources of educational provision to choose from for their children.	1	A report was presented to the Cabinet on 17 February 2014, and <b>approval given to the following recommendations:</b> <i>i. To undertake a process of statutory consultation in accordance with Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to close Ysgol Bro Tegid, Ysgo Beuno Sant and Ysgol y Berwyn. The intention is that the schools will close on 31 August 2018.</i> <i>ii. To undertake a process of Statutory consultation in accordance with section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the favoured option, which is to establish a Welsh Medium 3-19 Lifelong Campus with voluntary controlled (VC) status, on the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn. It is intended hat the school will open on 1 September 2018.</i> <i>iii To undertake a process of statutory consultation on federating the three rural schools in the Berwyn catchment, Ysgol Bro Tyrweryn, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol OM Edwards</i>
7.29	The proposal ensures that provision of places in a Church in Wales school will continue in the South Meirionnydd area. I believe that a choice should be given to parents with regard to the provision of places in the schools of South Meirionnydd and giving the new Teaching Campus in Bala church status achieves this. / Gwynedd County Council has recently held a review of Y Gader catchment area. If that review did away with Church school status in that area, then the provision in Bala is the only choice for parents in a wide area of Gwynedd. / A 3-19 Voluntary Controlled campus would give parents a width of choice in Y Berwyn and Y Gader catchment areas / I believe that it is important to	21	The 3-19 Campus with a Voluntary Controlled (VC) status continues the Church in Wales education provision in Meirionnydd.

	offer parents a choice of education provision for their children, and giving Church status to the follow-through school would achieve this.		
<b>Right not to take part in Joint Worship or to receive Religious Instruction</b>			
7.30	As in any other school, parents will have the choice of whether to send their children to the new Voluntary Controlled school, the right to choose whether their children take part in joint worship and receive religious instruction. Therefore, this means that the new school will be serving the whole community and attending to the needs of everybody's needs and wishes. / A Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled school teaches the same agreed Religious Education syllabus as community schools, which includes other religious creeds and standpoints as well as Christianity.	35	<p>It is true that parents have the right to choose that their children do not jointly worship or receive religious education in Voluntary Controlled (VC) as happens in a school with a community status. In truth, there are a number of elements true to both categories (Community and Voluntary Controlled, VC);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council would control pupil admissions</li> <li>• The Council and the governors would be responsible for appointing staff</li> <li>• In terms of joint worship, legal requirements for daily worship would have to be met. Individuals would have the right to opt out of joint worship and religious education lessons</li> <li>• The Head Teacher and the Management Team would be responsible for the day to day running of the school.</li> </ul> <p>The option consulted upon proposes placing a VC status (Voluntary Controlled) on the 3-19 Learning Campus.</p>
7.31	The Governing Body accepts and agrees that the all-through school would be a Controlled School – and if so, every pupil would follow the same Religious Instruction syllabus which includes the other religious creeds and standpoints as well as Christianity. The aim of the curriculum is to arm pupils with the knowledge and understanding to evaluate the moral and ethical challenges of life – essential key skills for the age in which we live.	1	
7.32	The proposal sounds like a good choice for the community of Bala. The new school's admission arrangements will be administered by the Admission Team in Gwynedd Council. The details regarding the arrangements for admission would be stated in the School Booklet. However, if the proposals are implemented, the admission policy would remain as it is now: open to everyone, no matter what their faith might be. There would be no under subscription criteria which would place Anglican children or children from any other faith above anyone else.	6	
<b>Governors</b>			
7.33	The new Board of Governors will include two Church representatives who will further support the Head Teacher and the local community.	3	<p>In a Voluntary Controlled School (VC) the Church would have representation on the Governing Board, but in the minority – it would be less than a quarter of the Board membership. They would not have the power to force any decisions because they would be in the minority.</p> <p>With regard to the Shadow Governing Body – it has been noted that membership of that Body would be appointed from the Governing Bodies of the existing schools, namely Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant. Therefore, every effort would be made to ensure fair representation from these establishments through a specific procedure and following statutory guidelines.</p> <p>During discussions held after the consultation, the Church has been keen to respond</p>

			<p>to the concerns expressed and has noted that they wish to ensure that half of their share of the representation on the Governing Board goes to the nonconformist denominations in the area i.e. if there were 4 representatives from the Church – the Church would release 2 of those seats in favour of other denominations in the area. They want to ensure that the school’s Governing Body reflects the nonconformist tradition in the area.</p> <p>Otherwise, of course, the constitution of the Shadow Governing Body and - in due course - the Permanent Body would include the usual mixture of school staff, parents, members of the community and Local Members as is the case in the majority of schools in the County.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Building and Site Matters</b>		
	<b>3G Playing Field and Improved Physical Training Equipment</b>		
8.1	<p>There is a need for a 3G field / The football field grass in Bala can be problematic. A 3G field would be a valuable asset / It is essential for the town to have 3G provision and I hope that the reorganisation will not negatively impact the 3G arrangements or the discussions now ongoing / The area and the whole of North Wales would benefit from having a 3G Field / On account of the deterioration of the astroturf it would be a good idea for the school and the Football Club to come together to establish new resources to be used by the public and the sports clubs.</p>	5	<p>Gwynedd Council support the principle of a 3G provision in Bala, and initial discussions have begun between the Council and Bala Football Club with the intention of trying to ensure a 3G provision in the area, which could be used by the proposed 3-19 Campus pupils.</p> <p>The purpose of this statutory consultation period, is to consult on establishing a Welsh medium, VC 3-19 Learning Campus on the present site of Ysgol Y Berwyn.</p>
8.2	<p>There is a need for better sports resources. There is no equipment available to undertake tests and physical training work / The sports department does not benefit from additional facilities – only renovation / Lack of sports facilities in the school is an obstacle in attracting children and young people to take an interest in sport.</p>	2	<p>It is up to the senior management team of any school to decide on the equipment that is provided in the school.</p>
8.3	<p>We need a larger and fully operative sports hall / need for a large sports hall to replace the four badminton courts and a full size netball court / The gym is very small in comparison with those in other schools. / Other schools have better equipment than we have in Ysgol y Berwyn and I find it unfair that we do not have the same opportunity to do well in different sports because we do not have the proper equipment / buildings. When the weather is not favourable – frost, rain, cold - all the pupils from one year cannot be accommodated in the gym / there is nowhere to go to complete the lesson. / After seeing the plans, I feel that the sports department is not fit for our needs / The size of the gym is a cause for concern - too small! Only one gym will be available for all the classes/With an increased number of pupils on the new site, consideration must be given not only to upgrading the gym but also to extending its size so that it meets the needs of the school.</p>	14	<p>The exact provision and design of the Gymnasium is something to be discussed as the plan goes ahead and the work is designed.</p> <p>Following the upgrade, all pupils will benefit from the improvements to the facilities and resources for physical education in the Campus. There are a number of important considerations in designing a gym, which is something that will be discussed as the plan progresses and in the design work.</p> <p>One advantage of the 3-19 model is the ability to share resources, expertise and facilities in order to reduce duplication of expenditure, and to offer wider and educational experiences for children. Careful timetabling will ensure that all children and staff of the campus can access the sports facilities.</p> <p>The current gym will be upgraded as part of the plan and is of a size similar to many</p>

	<p>The consultation document states that there will be around 180 primary age pupils, and that the capacity of the teaching campus has been designed to provide for the current requirements and pupil numbers. I am not of the opinion that upgrading and renovating the existing gym is sufficient at all. The primary pupils will need to have as much use of the gym as the secondary pupils, and they will need more indoor facilities since the weather will have more impact on the activities for small children. / According to the plans the gym and the changing rooms seem to be exactly the same size. At the moment there are around 340 children at the school and approximately 50-60 in each year. During the poor weather throughout the autumn, winter and spring, these need room in one small gym Would it not make more sense to have better wet weather facilities in order to try and improve health and fitness in the area? / Where will the primary school children go – there will not be enough room for them, it is already full.</p>		<p>other secondary schools with similar pupil numbers.</p>
8.4	<p>As a member of staff in the physical education department, I am concerned about the existing plans because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The size of the existing gym is not extended</li> <li>• There will be many more pupils in the school so better physical education facilities and more space will be needed since the present gym is too small.</li> <li>• The health and fitness of the present population is in a state of crisis and this should be considered as a priority for the next generation</li> <li>• There will only be one opportunity to build a new school and it is important to make the most of this and build a school which that other areas could be envious of</li> </ul> <p>The gym in Ysgol y Berwyn at the moment is too small for the number of pupils. Without doubt, if the classes were bigger and more pupils needed to use them it would certainly be too small. It would be useful to extend the size of the gym in order to ensure the greatest benefit from its use. / 170 pupils in addition to the present numbers. Will there be enough room, equipment for all of these? Concern over the size and structure of the gym.</p>	2	<p>The exact design and provision Gym is something that will be discussed as the plan progresses and in the design work.</p> <p>The current gym will be upgraded as part of the plan and is of a size similar to many other secondary schools with similar pupil numbers.</p> <p>There are insufficient funds in the budget to increase the size of the current gym, but a programme of upgrades will be made to ensure that the resource is suitable to provide physical education in the twenty-first century.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council believes that improving resources through investment will promote health and fitness within the Penllyn area and expand participation in sport, and opportunities within the physical education curriculum.</p> <p>In addition to the use of the school hall and gym, careful organization of interior spaces will allow the campus to control access to the space in the hall and fitness area to ensure it is also a resource for the community .</p>
8.5	<p>At the moment the physical education curriculum is being taught a whole year at a time. Therefore there are approximately 50 children being taught in one group.</p> <p>The group is split into boys and girls. The existing gym accommodates 20-25 children, and one group in every lesson has to use outdoor</p>	1	<p>Careful timetabling will ensure that the existing gym has sufficient capacity to accommodate the needs of every child.</p> <p>A number of schools of the size proposed only have one gym.</p>

	facilities. This is a problem in wet weather. At some periods during the year there is insufficient room on the existing site to ensure fair opportunities for everyone in Physical Education.		
8.6	Another concern that we have is the playing fields. Are we going to lose them on account of the car park?	1	There is no intention to reduce the current area of playing fields. The proposed parking provision will not have any effect on them.
8.7	In the document it states that the gym and the fitness room will be upgraded. What does this entail? A coat of paint? The fitness room is too small, there is no room for a physical exercise session and not enough equipment for everyone.	3	The current fitness room is located in the part of the building with a flat roof, which has been identified as an area in poor condition. The fitness room will be relocated to a dedicated room for school and community use.
8.8	The changing rooms are too small, they are cold and the showers are no good. Also there is not enough room to store equipment / Need for new showers! Renovate the whole building and extend it.	3	It is intended to transform the upgrading of the changing rooms including showers.
8.9	A quality sports hall would attract more pupils to take part in sports. As the number of pupils increases, use of the gym will also increase. Here we have an opportunity to extend and to upgrade the gym properly. We need a gym and facilities of the same size / standard as the sports hall in a leisure centre, at least a standard size netball court. Otherwise the pupils will have to go to the leisure centre as is the practice at present. / The distance between the school and the leisure centre prevents us from using it during the school dinner hour. The facility would be valuable for several teams and community clubs as well as the competitive teams of the school. / I strongly feel that there is a true need to build a new and extra Games Hall on the site. This would mean that the gym could be used to teach dance, gymnastics, fitness and minor games, whilst games such as netball, badminton, tennis, 5 aside football, volleyball, athletics and fitness could be taught in the Games Hall.	2	The Council does not consider it necessary to have a sports hall of leisure centre size, and also the available budget would not be sufficient for this. Significant upgrades will ensure that the gym is suitable for the provision of physical education in the twenty-first century, and is a resource that would enable the community to use it as well.
<b>Improving the Learning Environment and the Facilities</b>			
8.10	During the three months that I have been employed at Ysgol y Berwyn, I must express my disappointment and shock regarding the condition of the school and the lack of facilities. It is shameful that political negligence and negligence by the local authority has been suffered here for so long. This is the worst teaching environment that I have seen in a period of almost 40 years of working in education!	1	Gwynedd Council recognizes the lack of investment that has been in Ysgol y Berwyn in recent years. The proposed investment of £9.27m will be significant in improving the learning environment
8.11	Will a new building make the project more attractive?/ The union welcomes the aim of having fit for purpose buildings and equipment suitable for the twenty first century and to reduce the number of buildings in poor condition. Having the best learning environment is essential for pupils' education.	3	There is an intention to create a wholly new primary resource. The rest of the Ysgol y Berwyn building will be significantly refurbished, with parts demolished, other parts upgraded, and re-designed and re-organized in terms of suitability in other parts.

8.12	It is very important that the facilities for special needs pupils are of the best standard to suit individual needs. Having help for those children who need help is very difficult during the early years.	1	We will consider this when designing work
8.13	The IT system is very old fashioned.	1	This is noted. Investment in IT happens every now and then as IT equipment becomes dated. This comment will be considered.
8.14	Since there is no guarantee that the proposal will go ahead, what essential maintenance work will now be undertaken ?	1	We expect to know by the October 2015 term if the plan is going ahead or not. It is possible thereafter to reach a decision on what work needs to be done.
8.15	A better and more modern sixth form room is needed, with more computers and comfortable chairs/ There is a need for a new sixth form room with more computers to work on.	2	It is intended to offer a new sixth form room. Gwynedd Council notes the comment and will consider this when designing the work.
8.16	Classrooms are too small, especially for classes of 30 pupils / Concern over class sizes / Concern over th space in the secondary classes – current teaching methods mean that there is insufficient space in some of the classrooms to meet the needs of the pupils / At present, the foundation phase at Ysgol Beuno Sant is exceedingly large – will this be reflected in the new building?	4	There are government guidelines which have to be followed in relatin to class size and area
8.17	I am concerned that there is not much play space – field and yard for the primary – there is a huge yard in Ysgol Bro Tegid	1	It is proposed to provide a playground specifically for primary age pupils. The primary pupils will also have access to existing playing fields resources in Ysgol y Berwyn which include an Astroturf pitch and two large playing fields. Ysgol Beuno Sant does not have access to a grass playing field at the moment. We are confident that the play provision for primary age pupils will be better than that presently provided.
8.18	It is important to consider the location of the toilets in a school. My concern stems from the fact that my children – who are pupils at Ysgol OM Edwards – are unwilling and unhappy to use the toilets there because they are open to the corridor. The location of the toilets can affect the emotional welfare of a child.	1	The location of the toilets will be considered as part of the design. We understand the importance of design and location of toilets in order to reduce bullying. We are not aware of any adverse comments about school toilets in Ysgol OM Edwards, and they were designed in cooperation with the school.
8.19	Lost a chance in terms of planning office space for teaching staff / storage space for individual classes / interview rooms /examination rooms etc.	1	These comments will be considered in the design work.
8.20	The primary block has been located close to the main road into Bala and the play area and all weather play area is also on the main road. Does the primary block have to be at the front of the building when there is plenty of building space at the back?/ Where are the play areas under canopy for the foundation phase? Close to the main road again?/ A high fence will be required to protect the primary pupils from the main road.	2	Initial plans of the campus have been made at this time, but a site assessment by an architect has concluded that the primary block would be better at the front of the existing building. By demolishing the old learning block, additional space will be created at the front of the site for the primary block.  Although the primary block could be located at the back of the building, that would reduce the space for the playground.  The primary block playground will be separated from the road and nearby pavement by a dedicated security fence.

			Foundation Phase play areas are part of the present primary playground.
8.21	<p>At present there are 4 laboratories in Ysgol y Berwyn. Concerned if the new school only has 2 . At least 3 laboratories will be needed since 3 Sciences are taught in KS 4 and KS5 - Biology, Chemistry, Physics. Specialist equipment for Biology, Chemistry and Physics will need to be installed in the three laboratories. Also what about the use of the labs by KS2 pupils? New Higher Grade courses will be starting in September 2015 - these will include practical work which the pupils will have to follow throughout the course. From September 2015 onwards, students will be expected to complete MORE practical work. In addition, there will be new GCSE courses from September 2016 onwards. There will be more practical work in KS4 as well. It is totally unreasonable and impractical for three science teachers to have to SHARE two laboratories. More laboratories are needed. – not fewer. This makes no sense at all and does not signify a new 21<sup>st</sup> century school. Will the downstairs laboratory be retained? Great cause for concern. This laboratory is not suitable - poor design. The gas taps, electricity sockets and sinks are located in the middle of the tables –no room for pupils to work properly. Of the 4 existing laboratories this is the worst to install in the new school, despite the fact that it is a new laboratory. Will the head of Science at Ysgol Y Berwyn be given an opportunity to discuss the needs with the people who make the decisions?</p>	1	These comments will be considered when designing the work.
<b>Impact of the Construction Work</b>			
8.22	So will the construction work affect the existing pupils at Ysgol y Berwyn? Will they have to receive their education in cabins for the duration of the construction period? Will the construction work affect the education of the pupils?	3	The scheduling of work will be structured and carefully timetabled in order to minimize the impact on Ysgol Y Berwyn pupils. The first phase of construction will be building the primary block. It will be possible to use this block for some pupils as work proceeds in the rest of the building. In addition, the existing building of Ysgol Y Berwyn is large enough for work to be done on it step by step to minimize any problems. The work that would cause the greatest impact can be scheduled during the school holidays.
8.23	The old block building of red brick is a historical building. Has it been registered with CADW? Has anybody researched into this?	1	Research has been done showing that the old red brick block is not registered with CADW.
<b>Hall</b>			
8.24	Shouldn't a hall/assembly room be provided for the primary section of the Learning Campus? When internal and national examinations and tests are being held it is likely that the main secondary hall will not be available for the primary pupils. Also, where will the tests for Years 2,3,4,5 and 6 be held/I do not believe that it will be possible for the	2	<p>The intention is to have one hall for the whole campus.</p> <p>There is no hall currently in Bro Tegid or Beuno Sant schools, and so the provision available in the Campus will be a significant improvement on the current situation.</p> <p>The existing hall at Ysgol Y Berwyn, which is a large hall, can meet all the current</p>



	primary to provide good, effective education without a separate hall for primary section use. e.g. practices for Eisteddfod yr Urdd.		needs and numbers in Ysgol Y Berwyn. This hall will be adapted and significantly upgraded. It is intended to provide cinema facilities in the hall, as well as a mobile partition which will enable the hall to be divided into two.
8.25	What will happen to the hall when examinations are held in the hall and the primary also needs to use it e.g. practices for Eisteddfod yr Urdd?/ Community space at a school i.e the hall not available for pupils for extended periods during the year on account of internal /external examinations . This is likely to affect the availability of the space / have you considered what this could do to our traditions – Eisteddfodau?! Consider what this will do to the language.	1	It will be possible to use the dining room, which is of significant size, if the hall is being used for activities such as exams.
8.26	Will the hall be for the use of both primary and secondary sectors?	1	The hall is available for primary and secondary use.
<b>Site Management</b>			
8.27	I am concerned that both primary and secondary pupils will be using the same entrance.	1	There will be a separate entrance for the primary and secondary school pupils.
8.28	Will the primary and secondary pupils be using the same playground and hall? / Often foundation phase pupils and infants are separated into two areas during playtime. Will all the primary pupils be playing on the same playground? Will secondary pupils be playing here as well? / Will there be any contact between primary and secondary pupils during the playtime and during dinner time in the canteen?/ Who will have their dinner first? Primary I hope. / How will the safety of small children be protected if they are to be in closer contact with older pupils	4	Primary age pupils will not share the playground. The playground will be separate to the new primary block.  The intention is that the primary and secondary age groups share the hall. Pupil numbers and careful timetabling will make this possible. The use made of the Hall by the two age groups will be carefully managed to ensure that the two age groups are kept separate. The building plan will also promote and ensure this.
8.29	Shared amenities e.g. refectory. How can all ages/sizes be accommodated with regard to the height of tables and chairs for a large number of pupils using the area at the same time.	1	It is up to the senior management team of any school to decide on the equipment that is provided in the school. In response to the concerns raised during the statutory consultation, a request is being presented to the Cabinet to appoint a headteacher at least a year before the Campus proposed opening date, on 1 September 2018. This would allow the headteacher sufficient time to plan, prepare and create a staffing structure before the school opens.
8.30	Parking is a problem at the moment in Ysgol Bro Tegid – staff and parents’ cars everywhere. I noticed that on the plans places for only 50 cars are provided. Is this sufficient for all the primary and secondary staff and the parents of all the pupils?	1	The existing car park will be expanded and redesigned. Ensuring safety is an important part of the design considerations
8.31	It seems that the primary building is being built first. Will the primary pupils be using this building first? If they will be, it is a stupid idea. The toilets, sinks etc should be much lower for primary age pupils. Use by the secondary will spoil the building before the primary are able to use it.	1	The exact structure and construction programme of the Campus is to be determined. However, it is likely that the primary block will be built first, and it is likely that some secondary pupils will use the primary block while construction work is being carried out on the secondary section of the building. This reduces disruption to pupils of Ysgol Y Berwyn while construction work is being completed, and is therefore sensible.
<b>Other</b>			
8.32	During the three months that I have been employed at Ysgol y Berwyn, I	1	The Council realises that Ysgol Y Berwyn is in poor condition. An investment of £9.27m

	must express my shock and disappointment regarding the condition of the school and the lack of resources. It is shameful that political negligence and negligence by the local authority has existed for so long here. This is the worst teaching environment that I have seen for almost 40 years of working in education!		will address this.
8.33	Since there is no guarantee that the proposal will go ahead, what essential maintenance work is to be carried out now?	1	It is acknowledged that there is no guarantee that the proposal will go ahead. However, it is the intention and wish of the Council that the proposal be realised. It would not be the best use of public money and resources to spend on the existing schools in the short term, if the intention is to close them and establish a new 3-19 Learning Campus. If the situation changes, the Council would have to reconsider the situation.
8.35	The plans that are being exhibited show improvements to the town campus only. Are there any intentions to upgrade and improve Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn? Considerable expenditure has already been made on Ysgol OM Edwards and it would only be fair to offer the same resources in every school in the catchment area / The Governing Body is looking forward to receiving further information regarding the investment that the Council has in mind for Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn as a result of the deficits identified in the Consultation Document.	3	It is intended to invest approximately £100,000 on Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and £55,000 on Ysgol Bro Tryweryn. This expenditure will be completed to clear the backlog maintenance. This is in addition to the intended £9.27million of capital expenditure to establish the 3-19 Learning Camppus.
8.36	The location of the office and the car park has surprised me, Would it not be wise to discuss with the present staff regarding the equipment and the resources needed?	1	The plans of the proposed campus that are currently shared are initial plans. These plans which include the offices and car park have received input from senior management at Ysgol Y Berwyn. Staff will have the opportunity to comment on the location of the offices and car park as the design and construction process progresses.
8.37	Will it be a two storey building? What about injured/ disabled children? Will it be possible for them to reach the second floor without having to climb the stairs?	1	The intention of the current plans is for the primary block to be on two floors. A lift will be provided to ensure easy access to the second floor.
8.38	In my opinion, it is a good idea but what will happen to the schools that close e.g. Ysgol Bro Tegid and Ysgol Beuno Sant? I would suggest that the land be used as a football pitch and a park for the children to play in (Ysgol Bro Tegid). / What will happen to the site of Ysgol Bro Tegid? Will it be available for the community to use? Or will the site be sold?	1	Gwynedd Council has a school post-use policy. If this proposal is realised, discussions on the post-use of sites that do not continue as part of the proposal will be conducted in accordance with the policy. If there is local demand, the Council will ask the Regeneration Officers to support the community while considering any post-use of land and buildings released as a result of the proposal.
8.39	Any decisions regarding children's education is very important. Every Council has its ideas about what is good for "them" and not for the community. At the end of the day, this is business but if there were no government grants, what would be the council's response to the closure of small rural schools? Ysgol y Parc and a number of small schools have been closed, yet small rural schools are the heart of the community. And it is the Council's aim to close small schools in order to save money but yet to spend money on an extension for Ysgol OM	1	Gwynedd Council considers that the proposal will ensure rural education in the Bala area within a sustainable and effective system, and strengthen the provision in the long run.

	Edwards and Ysgol y Berwyn. If everyone in Y Berwyn catchment area objected to these changes in the area, would the Council abandon its plans altogether?		
<b>9</b>	<b>Children and Young People Consultation</b>		
9.1	Hope that the Council will provide questionnaires which are suitable for children and that the voice of the children will be central to the consultation.	1	The Council values the views of children and young people in the schools and pleased to see the specific features that pupils are looking forward to and consider important in a school.
<b>General Comments on the Consultation with Children and Young People</b>			
9.2	Have responded to the question "Does anything about this worry you?" with "I don't like the fact that the schools will close. And I don't want the teachers to lose their jobs"	1	<p>If the proposal is approved, there would be staffing implications which could lead to uncertainty and redundancies. Under this model, all staff positions in each of the three schools end. New appointments would be made by the shadow governing body of the Learning Campus.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council has developed a model relocation policy for schools, in conjunction with the Trade Unions and heads. It would be a matter for the shadow governing body to adopt this policy, to modify it, or decide not to adopt the policy. Any redundancies resulting from the proposal would need to comply with the necessary employment law and Gwynedd Redundancy Scheme. Open and clear communication with staff will play an integral part in the implementation of any proposal.</p> <p>Staff from the Human Resources department of the Council were present at the open day at Bala and any member of staff could discuss their position. Staff are also welcome to contact the HR department directly if they wish to have one to one discussions. A support package is offered, including training where appropriate, during the transition to all staff affected by the proposal.</p> <p>If the proposal to create a new Learning Campus is implemented, it would be necessary to establish a shadow governing body. This shadow governing body would be set up in accordance with national guidelines, well before the planned implementation date of September 2018. It would need sufficient time to create all relevant policies, Instruments of Government, the appointment of the head and create a staffing structure in conjunction with the head.</p> <p>The Council appoints and employs auxiliary staff (kitchen staff, maintenance and cleaning) that work in primary schools in the catchment area.</p> <p>This means the shadow governing body of the new 3-19 Learning Campus would need to decide whether it wishes the school governors or the Council to be responsible for employing auxiliary staff in the new school.</p>
9.3	Have ticked the happy face in the children's questionnaire - ☺	2	The Council notes the comments – the Cabinet will consider all comments received during the statutory consultation period before deciding whether or not to continue with the proposal.
9.4	Have responded to the question "What is most important for you in a school?" with: <i>Interesting lessons and good education/Having good</i>	2	

	<i>lessons and happy teachers</i>		
9.5	Have responded to the question “What are you looking forward to with this change?” with:“ Having French and Spanish lessons / It’s wonderful for Bala to have a follow-through school. We need new resources and buildings / Ysgol Bro Tegid is falling apart.”	2	The Council notes the response and agrees that new opportunities arise in terms of what could be taught and when, but also to secure investment in the provision
9.6	Have responded to the question “What suggestions do you have for the new Learning Campus?” with: <i>Having colourful rooms and outside play area. A park with climbing ropes, slides, wheels, swings, see-saws / A good library with computers and books, sports teams with more than one for every sport..</i>	2	The Council is grateful for the suggestions and notes the response.
<b>10</b>	<b>The Statutory Processes</b>		
10.1	Incorrect factual information in the consultation document / I feel that the consultation document in itself is biased e.g. why include the latest attainment data for some schools and less recent data for others?	1	When completing research before starting the process there was an opportunity for heads of schools in the area to check the statistics in the statistical package. As the statutory process takes time, a snapshot of data was taken for one academic year (2013/14) and then these were used consistently, to avoid any confusion. The consultation document therefore contains information based on 2013/14 data.
10.2	Several mistakes in your document regarding Ysgol Bro Tegid, in terms of parking arrangements, the playground and the playing field.	1	The Council notes your comments but without the information about which mistakes are referred to specifically it cannot be answered.
10.3	Unfortunate that the word “Yes” (“Ia”) is used in the consultation document, it is not grammatically correct, nor is it part of the dialect of Bala and Penllyn – disappointing since the document has come from a public body.	1	The comment is noted, the Council does not believe that this will have an impact on the statutory consultation period.
10.4	Instead of using negative points from the Statutory Consultation Document to strengthen your case, why not point out the positive points regarding the schools? / I am disappointed that negative aspects only are emphasised in Section 3.1 of the consultation document, namely the Estyn inspection reports on Ysgol Beuno Sant.	2	It is necessary to include a wide range of information when formulating school reorganization proposals, whether they convey positive or negative attitudes. The Bala statutory consultation document has been designed in accordance with the requirements of the School Organization Code (006/2013).
10.5	Delay in the reorganisation process in the catchment area has been a disadvantage for Ysgol y Berwyn because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children living on the County boundary have chosen to attend schools in Conwy and Denbigh due to the uncertainty over the future of Ysgol y Berwyn</li> <li>• Staff are uncertain about their future and of their jobs</li> <li>• The school building has been neglected because of the promise that improvements will be made when the follow-through school is established.</li> </ul> The response to the above points at the open day was disappointing and the remark that “everything is in the air” was a further cause for concern.	1	Gwynedd Council recognises that the re-organisatiionn process takes time and can create a period of uncertainty. The Council is committed to realizing the proposal to improve the educational provision in Y Berwyn catchment-area. Considering the statutory processes are currently being followed, with key milestones and an outline timetable published, it is hoped that this reduces the period of uncertainty. It is not possible to provide details on some aspects of the proposal e.g. the effect on school staff jobs, as the final decision has not been made yet.

10.6	The consultation document is misleading, point 1.3 states that the document is a consultation on schools in Bala, but that it intends to establish a catchment area joint committee between the Learning Campus and the rural schools. There is no explanation of the role and responsibilities of this body and the proposal to establish such a body is unacceptable whilst there is no consideration of its impact on rural schools. You are tying the hands of any consultation regarding the federation of rural schools through the irreversible decision of this consultation without considering the impact on the rural schools and without allowing the residents of the rural areas to voice their opinions on the side effects of the restructuring within the town of Bala.	1	<p>It is true that the statutory consultation document states that the statutory consultation held concerns about schools in Bala only. It is further explained in section 1.2 of the document that reorganization 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 intends to establish a federation between the three schools, and a joint committee between the federation and the Learning Campus.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council's aim to establish a federation between the three rural schools in the catchment area, (Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn), will be the subject of a separate consultation, and interested parties can give their views on this as part of a separate process, which will be held over the coming months.</p> <p>The Council does not prejudge the federation processes and joint committee but having drawn up long-term vision, it intends to consult upon it.</p> <p>The statutory consultation document has been distributed to staff, governors and parents in each school in the catchment area - including the rural ones – so that anyone may respond to the consultation.</p>
10.7	The consultation document is misleading from the start. Regarding the proposal which is the subject of the consultation, Section 1.1 states clearly "This proposal deals with schools within the town of Bala only" So why does section 4.2 go on to discuss models which impact the three rural schools? Why some kind of "catchment area joint committee" between the proposed Learning Campus (namely the subject of the consultation) and some kind of federation of the three rural schools? What is the joint committee?/ It would have been good to have received further information in relation to Cyngor Gwynedd's vision and how federation will work for the benefit of our rural schools.	2	<p>The Council does not prejudge the federation processes and joint committee but having drawn up long-term vision, it intends to consult upon it.</p> <p>The statutory consultation document has been distributed to staff, governors and parents in each school in the catchment area - including the rural ones – so that anyone may respond to the consultation.</p>
10.8	It should have been ensured that the response form could be completed online.	1	Unfortunately it was not possible to put a Word version of the form on the website but a copy was available upon request to the School Organization Office. The Council will look into this for future consultations.
10.9	Sad to think that this is the third consultation. It has cost money and it has also affected the community, families, staff and children in the area. From the start, unopposed support was given by the schools in the town for establishing a follow-through school.	1	Gwynedd Council recognizes that this is the second consultation regarding school reorganization in Bala. The main reason for the delay has been a change in the Welsh Government's funding method and the need to prioritize work in other catchment areas. Consultation was also carried out on the closure of Ysgol Y Parc, but this was a consultation on a different issue of reorganization, although it is recognized that it is related to reorganization within the same catchment area.
10.10	Sad that the statement by the Governors of Ysgol y Berwyn was released prematurely – before the statutory consultation came to an end. Lack of respect and vision on the part of the members with the intention to influence I would say was the purpose.	1	This is a matter and decision of the governing body of the school. The comment will be considered in the same way as all comments received during the statutory consultation period.
10.11	What evidence is there of support from the people and parents of Penllyn for this proposal? That is, how many letters/comments did the Council receive prior to the consultation?	1	In accordance with the requirements of the School Organization Code (006/2013) the Council needs to develop and decide on a reorganization of schools proposal so that a statutory consultation may be held.
10.12	I would like to remind you of our letter of 22 July 2014, in response to the pre-consultation talks with the Church in Wales regarding	2	The Council is aware of the Church in Wales' request during the Gader catchment-area pre-consultation period and every effort will be made to joint-timetbale the

	reorganisation in Ysgol y Gader catchment area, and in particular paragraphs 2 and 4. Paragraphs 2 and 4 of the letter refer to the fact that the Church in Wales supports the reorganisation proposed for Y Gader catchment area, on condition that – unless there is more Church provision in Y Berwyn catchment area – they retain the right to challenge and respond negatively to any Statutory Consultation in Y Gader catchment area.		Gader and Berwyn projects.
<b>11</b>	<b>3-19 Learning Campus (All-through School)</b>		
11.1	At present, my 6 year old daughter feels safe and happy in a small school - Ysgol Bro Tegid is a very homely school. How can a large school such as this one generate the same feeling?	1	The ethos and atmosphere of the school is a key part of establishing the 3-19 Learning Campus by the head and the shadow governing body. Primary pupil numbers will not be significantly higher than those at Ysgol Bro Tegid at the moment, and therefore it should be possible to ensure a homely atmosphere.
11.2	I do not support the concept of school reorganisation in Y Berwyn catchment area because I would not like my reception age child to share a school with eighteen year old pupils / I am of the opinion that primary age children should not share their playtime or dinner hour with older children / I do not support the concept of school reorganisation in Y Berwyn catchment area because I would not like my reception age child to share a school with eighteen year old pupils / As a parent of a nursery age child, it worries me that nursery age pupils should be on the same site as older pupils.	3	The 3-19 Learning Campus in one legal entity (one school), but pupils of primary age and secondary age pupils are kept separate. The primary block will have its own access and play area. It is intended to share resources such as the gym, hall and dining room, but the design of the school will make it possible for primary pupils to use these facilities without having to come into contact with the secondary age pupils.  Primary age pupils will have their own playground. Although the intention is to share the cafeteria, careful timetabling means that dinner sittings of primary and secondary age pupils are maintained separately.
11.3	I am concerned that primary and secondary pupils will share the same refectory. There will not be the same feeling of closeness as in Ysgol Bro Tegid since the refectory will be used by older pupils.	1	.
11.4	Any amalgamation, combination or federation would be better than parts which make separate contributions	1	The Council notes the comments and agrees that there is a need to strengthen and ensure the robust provision of education in the whole catchment in the future. The federation process will be subject to a separate process.
11.5	I have always appreciated the advantages of lifelong education. Young pupils benefit from the example and support given by older pupils as mentors and “role models”, and older pupils are given the opportunity to contemplate leadership and how they can support and promote their community and how every pupil can contribute, no matter what their ages.	1	The Council notes the comments and agrees that there are opportunities to develop the educational curriculum and pupils as individuals within the new educational model.
<b>12</b>	<b>Cylch Meithrin</b>		
12.1	We in Cylch Meithrin Y Bala (Bro Tegid) are concerned that there is no mention of a place for the group within the reorganisation programme. As a group, we would like to know what your intentions are / We would like to ask the Council to consider the future of Cylch Meithrin Y Bala which meets on the Ysgol Bro Tegid site / There is nothing in the local	4	The Council is aware that a Cylch Meithrin is being held at present on the site of Ysgol Bro Tegid and notes the consultation responses.  It is correct to note that the intention would be to provide school education from 3 years upwards, so that nursery age will become part of the Campus. But in terms of

	<p>plan about relocating the Group. If the Learning Campus is for 3-19 year olds, there should be room for the nursery group on that site. More than 50 children attend the Group. There has been no consideration given to the fact that the proposed school has room to accommodate 25 nursery age children only. But because the group has a register of 28 children and is full to capacity every year, consideration should be given to establishing two groups – namely the nursery group and the younger children who will receive no provision at all. At the moment 24 children between two and a half and three years of age attend the group.</p>		<p>the provision of the Cylch Meithrin, if this plan goes ahead, the Council is keen to discuss the possibilities with relevant representatives - including possibilities that it could remain in the current location, relocating to the proposed teaching Campus, or move to another site in the town of Bala.</p>
<b>13</b>	<b>Statistics and finance</b>		
13.1	<p>Ysgol y Berwyn receives £5,174 annually for every pupil. How is this sum allocated? For a fortnight in March we do not have any toner or copy paper. How can year 10,11,12 and 13 pupils complete their course work without basic resources?</p>	1	<p>It is a matter for the management and the Governing Body of the school to decide how to allocate their annual budget. The Council encourages the best use of resources for the benefit and education standards of the pupils.</p>
13.2	<p>It is sad that, in the document, you have chosen to pick and choose the most negative data / comments about the existing schools /Surprised too that – of all the schools in the area - it is Ysgol Bro Tegid that receives the lowest budget per pupil. I would like to know why the children who attend Ysgol Beuno Sant receive almost a thousand pounds more per pupil. I am aware that the costs are higher in rural schools, but schools within the same town should receive the same budget. / Figures are presented regarding the current cost of the provision per pupil in the different schools. The document does not contain any figures regarding what the cost of providing education would be per pupil under the different models put forward. It is therefore not possible to make a like for like comparison or to scrutinise more closely any justification from a business point of view for the proposal to reorganise schools in Y Berwyn catchment area.</p>	3	<p>A wide range of information is presented as part of any consultation in order to give a full illustration of the situation. In terms of school funding – it can be reported what has been or is being allocated up to the current year.</p> <p>It is correct to note that the financial information shows that there is a range of per capita spending within Bala town and that there is almost £1,000 per head of difference in the per capita cost between the two primary schools in the town.</p> <p>In bringing resources together and creating a campus - the cost per pupil will become more equal.</p> <p>A school budget is being drawn up according to the formula. Because this school is going to be a 3-19 school it will be necessary to develop a new financial formula in order to compile a budget. This formula is being developed - but the basis of the formula will be pupil numbers. If the development goes ahead, detailed budget work will be required to draw up a draft budget for the Shadow Governing Body to enable it to draw up a staffing structure etc.</p>
<b>14</b>	<b>Alternative Options</b>		
14.1	<p>I would like the Council to consider if it is possible to develop Ysgol Beuno Sant to accommodate all primary pupils so that primary and secondary are on two different sites.</p>	1	<p>Various options have been considered before the Council decides on the statutory consultation for the favoured option.</p>
14.2	<p>Why keep Ysgol Bro Tryweryn open with so few pupils? Under 50 is small but the number there is under 50.</p>	1	<p>The main distinction of the favoured model is the idea of a lifelong school. A lifelong school has educational benefits, such as the ability to share expertise across a wide range of ages. This means one school for 3-19 age range on one site. Keeping the primary and secondary on two separate sites would contravene this principle.</p> <p>In addition, the building of Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Victorian building with limited</p>

			<p>facilities and rooms that vary widely in size. The building is not suitable for 21st century learning environment.</p> <p>When discussing different models and before an agreement on the preferred option there has been a discussion about rural provision. Rural schools such as Ysgol Bro Tryweryn serve unique dispersed communities, and it is the intention of Gwynedd Council as part of a long-term vision for the catchment area to federate rural schools by setting up a joint committee, so that rural schools in the catchment area will also benefit from the 3-19 Campus.</p>
14.3	I object to the Church status which is being recommended for the new school. The Authority provides a Christian element within our schools. Why not allow Ysgol Beuno Sant to continue as a Church school so that there is a Church option in the catchment area?	1	<p>This comment opposes the designation of Church status on the proposed Campus, but supports keeping the current provision (Voluntary Controlled) at Beuno Sant open.</p> <p>The purpose of school re-organisation in Bala is to improve and ensure consistency in the educational attainment of children. One reason for proposing a 3-19 Campus is in order to rationalise the current situation where there are two primary schools close to each other – Ysgol Bro Tegid is full whilst Ysgol Beuno Sant has 48% of surplus places.</p> <p>Continuing with the educational provision at Ysgol Beuno Sant will not resolve the current deficiencies which currently exist in the current school estate in Bala.</p>
<b>15</b>	<b>General Matters</b>		
15.1	Change can make children feel unsettled. I am worried that the proposed changes will affect my son who is in his first year at Ysgol y Berwyn.	1	<p>Change can be difficult and cause instability. However, the Council will plan construction work at the site so as not to affect pupils' education. Teachers will continue to be the same ones until the campus is open, and it is likely that the majority of teachers will continue to teach at the campus after it is established.</p>
15.2	Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tegid are schools with many strengths. What will be their future?	1	<p>Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn are not part of this statutory consultation. The Council intends to create a federation of the Berwyn catchment area rural schools, but this will be followed by separate statutory process which will take place over the coming months. The intention is to ensure that the process of federating rural schools will benefit from the provision of the 3-19 Campus.</p>
15.3	The school will need to have a very special name.	1	<p>The Shadow Governing Body will decide on the school name.</p>
15.4	I would like to know what will happen to the school buildings after they close.	1	<p>If the proposal were to be implemented, two sites would discontinue educational provision, namely Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Bro Tegid. Ysgol Beuno Sant site would not be a school anymore, but it would remain as the property of the Church in Wales. The Council has a policy for after-use of school buildings and the policy would be followed. The Council would need to discuss and consider any legally binding terms or restrictions that can come into force if any site is discontinued as regards the provision of education.</p> <p>Although it is a matter for the Church in Wales to determine the use of the site of Ysgol Beuno Sant in future, the Council would be willing to discuss and co-operate</p>



		<p>with the Church in Wales on the future and any potential community use of the site.</p> <p>Cylch Meithrin Y Bala is currently located on the site of Ysgol Bro Tegid. If this proposal leads to the closure of Ysgol Bro Tegid, then consideration must be given to the future location of the Cylch Meithrin. Gwynedd Council will work with the public and parties involved to discuss alternative provision for the future.</p>
15.5	<p>The justification for radically interfering with the existing situation in three rural schools which already perform well with excellent elements is not at all clear..... / In looking at the various models to see the options for the three rural schools I believe that a governing body for every school should be retained. It has to be remembered that the three schools have received excellent Estyn reports and that the standard of their education is excellent. Since the governors do the work on a voluntary basis, the argument for financial savings does not hold water.</p> <p>I have my suspicions regarding the proposal to have one Head Teacher for the THREE rural schools. The present head teachers are efficient and are successful in maintaining good and excellent standards – so why change something that is successful? / What is the catchment area joint committee and what would its responsibilities be? / I do not support the concept of federating the rural schools and establishing a joint committee with the campus. This is because of lack of details regarding the structure and role of the federate body. / I am not convinced that restructuring the primary schools would improve education for the children or offer additional opportunities for the teachers. The number of surplus places in the three rural schools is very low and indeed, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn offers taxpayers value for money in terms of costs and the standard of the education.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>The statutory consultation concerns schools in Bala only. However, the reorganization that is happening at Bala forms part of Gwynedd Council's long-term vision for the catchment area.</p> <p>The vision seeks to ensure that the three rural school, 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 federation between the three schools and joint committee between the federation and the Learning Campus.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council's intention to establish a federation between the three rural schools in the catchment area, (Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn), will be <b>the subject of a separate consultation</b>, and interested parties can give their views on this as part of a <b>separate process</b></p> <p>When negotiating and carrying out work on possible options and models in the catchment area, it became clear that closing rural schools would not contribute to improving the education and experiences of pupils in the catchment area. However, it also became clear that it would not be sensible to create a Lifelong Campus without considering at the same time the future of rural educational provision.</p> <p>The standard of education of the rural schools is among the best in Gwynedd. Relatively recently, Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Bro Tryweryn and Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn received good or excellent inspections by Estyn. Although the projected pupil numbers in these schools is consistent, the sizes of some schools are relatively small.</p> <p>As part of strategic planning, it is reasonable that Gwynedd Council is considering federation as an option for providing effective schools in communities. With an investment of £9.27m in the town, it makes sense that the Council considers how children from rural schools can benefit from the investment in the town. In addition, during discussions with the Welsh Government to secure the investment in the catchment area, it became clear that the Welsh Government would not be willing to contribute without the rural schools also benefitting from the investment.</p> <p>One way to strengthen rural provision and to ensure that rural pupils can receive a benefit from the Lifelong Campus is by federating the rural schools and establishing a</p>

			<p>joint committee between them and the Campus in the town.</p> <p>Not only can the federation of rural schools strengthen the strategic relationship between the rural schools and the Lifelong Campus, there are other valid reasons for the federation and these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the viability of schools and rural communities in the catchment area</li> <li>• Strengthening and ensuring consistency in current co-operation</li> <li>• Wider opportunities for the pupils and staff</li> <li>• Maintaining and improving standards of learning and attainment</li> <li>• Coping with the cuts agenda by sharing resources across the federation</li> <li>• Changes in the catchment area - enabling rural schools to benefit from the Lifelong Campus</li> <li>• Ensuring that the education system within the catchment area is within a robust framework of co-operation to ensure the opportunities for all pupils in the catchment area</li> </ul> <p>Federation would ensure a balance between protecting the identity and character of the rural schools, but also it would lay a robust infrastructure for working strategically together and would provide access to the resources of the Lifelong Campus through the Joint Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One governing body for the three schools</li> <li>• Each school funding allocation remains the same</li> <li>• Name and status of each school continues</li> <li>• It is a matter for the governing body to change any arrangements in the school</li> <li>• Estyn inspection for all schools</li> <li>• Not closing or merging schools, the three schools would continue but as part of a federation</li> </ul>
15.6	I have doubts regarding the proposal to have one head Teacher for the THREE rural schools. The present head teachers are efficient and are successful in maintaining good and excellent standards – so why change something that is successful?	1	As part of a long-term vision of the Council, there is an intention to federate rural schools in the catchment area. A consultation process must be undertaken before deciding to proceed with the federation or not. If the federation is established in the catchment area, rural schools funding allocation will remain the same. It would be a matter for the governing body of the federation to decide on the staffing structure. This can mean one head for the three schools, or three heads for the three schools.
15.7	The Governing Body was surprised to realise that the Consultation Document has adopted the principle of federating schools although the document claims that the consultation only deals with the schools within Bala. The Body strongly objects to this principle where no evidence has been presented to support the proposal, and no consultation held on the matter.	1	<p>The long-term vision of the Council is the federation of rural schools.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council’s intention to establish a federation between the three rural schools in the catchment area, (Ysgol OM Edwards, Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn and Ysgol Bro Tryweryn), will be <b>the subject of a separate consultation</b>, and interested parties can give their views on this as part of a <b>separate process</b></p>

<p>The Governing Body objects to the principle of establishing a Catchment Area Joint Committee since neither the role nor the responsibilities of this Body have been defined and there is concern that such a body could detach the school from the community. Also no evidence has been presented of the need for a joint committee. The Governing Body also doubts whether there would be any financial savings from establishing such a committee.</p>	<p>The Joint Committee will not come into operation until the rural schools are federated. There will be an opportunity to provide input and discuss the role and responsibilities of the Joint Committee after the catchment area rural federation is established.</p> <p>There have been initial discussions about the role, purpose and justification of the Joint Committee, to ensure that the rural schools will benefit from the investment in the 3-19 Campus.</p> <p>There is no reason why establishing a Joint Committee should weaken the link between rural schools in the catchment area and their communities. The intention of the Joint Committee is to establish the relationship between the rural schools and the Campus at a strategic level.</p> <p>The purpose of establishing the Joint Committee is not to make financial savings.</p>
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