

Options Appraisal: Reviewing Bangor Education Provision

As part of the Process of identifying the preferred option, the options of the long list were evaluated to compare the main advantages and disadvantages of the options under consideration. Four meetings of the Catchment-area Review Panel (CRP) were held between June and November, with the final meeting held on November 29, 2017. During the meetings, several options for primary education in Bangor were considered to ensure sustainable education for the future, by responding specifically to the increased demand for places in the Penrhosgarnedd area, and to improve the provision for learners in the city. It was also explained that further funding would be available in Band B in addition to the Band A related funding, if a need was identified. As part of the process, a number of objectives to consider for the provision in the Bangor catchment-area were identified, namely:

- Ensuring enough places for each child in the appropriate locations;
- Ensure that no school is overcrowded;
- Ensure that no school is assessed in condition C or worse;
- Significantly reduce surplus places in schools or increase efficiency;
- Reduce the range of cost per pupil for the provision of education in the catchment area;
- Ensuring that class sizes are appropriate in the primary schools;
- Ensure that there are not more than 25 pupils of the same age in one class;
- Ensure there are no more than 20 pupils of different ages in one class;
- Reconcile the quality of education in the catchment area;
- Ensure that no head teacher spends more than 20% of his time teaching;
- Develop the use of schools as a community resource;
- Improve the additional learning needs provision in the catchment area.

Long list of possible options

The case for change has been established, however, the Status Quo/Do nothing model has been included for comparison purposes.

Status Quo	Do nothing.
Option 1	Extend Y Faenol increasing the capacity from 186 to 270. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Establish a new school on 2 sites (infant and junior) with the infants at Coed Mawr (180) and juniors at the Garnedd site (240). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements made to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 2	Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda, Y Faenol and Garnedd. Establish a new school with a capacity of 690. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements made to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 3	Extend Y Faenol increasing capacity from 186 to 315. New school for Garnedd increasing capacity from 210 to 420. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr and Glanadda. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 4	New build for Garnedd, capacity from 350 to 380. New school for Coed Mawr and Glanadda to include places for additional children from Pen y Ffridd (Goetre Uchaf). Extend Y Faenol to c.250 and address traffic problems. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings

	and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 5	One lifelong learning school in Bangor (2,746 + 306). Close all existing primary and secondary schools.
Option 6	Combine Ysgol Tryfan and Ysgol Friars and establish a new Welsh medium school (1,347 + 306) building a new primary school on the current Tryfan site (420) and extending Ysgol Y Faenol (270). Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. New build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 7	Combine Ysgol Tryfan and Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen on a new site (700 + 150?). New primary school built on the current Tryfan site (420) and Ysgol Y Faenol (270) extended. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. New build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 8	Close Glanadda and Coed Mawr. Extend Ysgol Y Faenol (270). New build for Garnedd (380-420 children). New Building for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes (120) during the second phase (through Church in Wales funding). Establish community sports facilities shared by Garnedd, Friars, Cae Top (as at Parc Eirias). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings.
Option 9	Rebuild Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes on the current site (120). Provide an extension for Glanadda (90) to merge with Ysgol Coed Mawr. Rebuild Coed Mawr to accommodate the overflow from Faenol and Garnedd (240). Possibly Parc Cegin. Re-introduce bus service for pupils. Ensure enough capacity for population growth. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings.
Option 10	Increase Y Faenol capacity (270). Garnedd to move to a new site and capacity increased (330). Modify the Glanadda site to accept Coed Mawr pupils (90). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 11	New build for Y Faenol (270). Garnedd to move to a new site and capacity increased (420). Close Coed Mawr and Glanadda. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Option 12	Extend Y Faenol to increase the capacity from 186 to 360. New school for Garnedd increasing capacity from 210 to 330. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr and Glanadda with pupils sent to Ysgol Y Faenol. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hiracl. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.

Options appraisal of the long list of possible options

	Status Quo	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7	Option 8	Option 9	Option 10	Option 11	Option 12
Investment Objectives	Ensure enough places for each child in the right location	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
	Ensure that no school is overcrowded	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
	Ensure that no school is assessed in condition C or worse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
	Significantly reduce surplus places in primary schools or increase efficiency	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Reduce the range of cost per pupil for the provision of education in the catchment area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
	Ensure class sizes in primary schools are appropriate	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Reconcile the quality of education in the area	✓	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓
	Ensure that no head teacher spends more than 20% of his / her time teaching	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓	✓
Practical Considerations	Is it possible to achieve the option within potential site constraints?	✗	✗	✓	?	✗	✓	✗	?	✗	?	✓	?
	No higher revenue costs	?	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	✓	✓
	Band A Timetable Priority (£12.7m Limitations)	✗	✗	✓✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓✓	✗	✓✓	✗	✗

Following consideration of the results of the above evaluation, a short list of options was created, which included the options that met the majority of the investment objectives, and could be achieved within the limitations of the practical considerations. The three options (in addition to the status quo) that ranked highest were option 3, option 8, and option 10. These options were discussed during the 3rd CRP meeting, and a questionnaire was sent to members of the CRP requesting them to submit the relevant schools comments regarding the proposed options to identify a favoured option. In addition members were asked to list the options from 1-3.

Main themes raised from the CRP responses

In terms of the comments received, the response for choosing the first option favoured option 10 and 3. The main general issues identified by members of the CRP were; the need for any option to include improvements and increase the capacity of some Bangor school buildings, that consideration be given to any impact on transport and the traffic situation in Penrhosgarnedd, consideration of language issues, ensure appropriate arrangements for the children of Coedmawr and Glanadda, and consideration for any suitable development sites available in Bangor. The tables below set out the main themes for the individual options, although it is important to note that some of the comments are relevant to all the options.

Option 3	Extend Y Faenol increasing capacity from 186 to 315. New school for Garnedd increasing capacity from 210 to 420. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr and Glanadda. Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Main themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport and distances ▪ Planning permission and the possibility of increasing the capacity ▪ Concerns regarding the effect on the Welsh language ▪ Need to define what is meant by giving consideration to the secondary provision.

Option 8	Close Glanadda and Coed Mawr. Extend Ysgol Y Faenol (270). New build for Garnedd (380-420 children). New Building for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes (120) during the second phase (through Church in Wales funding). Establish community sports facilities shared by Garnedd, Friars, Cae Top (as at Parc Eirias). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings.
Main themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friars attracts more children than Tryfan ▪ Support for non-Welsh education – undermines Tryfan ▪ Sports resources – what about the rest of the schools? ▪ Condition of Tryfan school building ▪ Loss of communities ▪ Not necessary – Adequate public and private resources.

Option 10	Increase Y Faenol capacity (270). Garnedd to move to a new site and capacity increased (330). Modify the Glanadda site to accept Coed Mawr pupils (90). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements to part of Ysgol Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.
Main themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the traveling times for pupils ▪ Capacity of 330 too small for Garnedd. ▪ Focus on the secondary soon ▪ Transport ▪ Need confirmation of where the 'new site' will be located ▪ Post-use and sale of sites

Decision on the current direction

During the 4th CRP meeting, the option that reflected the current direction was identified, namely **Option 3**. This was based on the evaluation of how the options met the investment objectives, practical consideration such as financial resources, time and suitable sites, and the comments received from members of the CRP. Following further discussions, based on comments set out in the 4th CRP meeting, Option 3 contains a revised capacity of 315 rather than 270 for the Faenol. This proposed element will allow access arrangements for a class and a half yearly.