

CABINET REPORT

3 July, 2018

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Thomas

Subject: Reorganisation of Primary Education Provision in the Bangor catchment area

Contact Officer: Diane Jones – Bangor Project Leader

THE DECISION SOUGHT

The Cabinet is asked to consider the comments received during the statutory consultation period and the response to those comments, and decide if it should:

- i. Approve the proposal to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.
 - ii. Approve the publication of statutory notices on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
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Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to report to Cabinet following a statutory consultation on the proposed closure of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.

1. INTRODUCTION

A report was presented to Cabinet on 17 January 2017; a recommendation was approved, 'to request the right to initiate local discussions in accordance with the report regarding the review of primary education provision in Bangor'.

1.1 At a Cabinet meeting in March 2018, a report was presented to Cabinet where the decision was approved to:

Conduct a statutory consultation, in accordance with Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, in the Bangor catchment area on a proposal to close Glanadda and Babanod Coedmawr schools on the 31st August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.

1.2 At the end of 2016, the Welsh Government reported that there was an opportunity for Local Authorities with the capacity to carry out additional projects within Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme. As a result, the Welsh Government has recognised Gwynedd as one of the most successful Authorities in delivering their Programme to date and we take pride that we are referred to as an example of good practice in this area.

1.3 The Bangor Catchment Area Review Panel (CRP) was established during June 2017, with four meetings held between June and November, the last being on 29 November 2017. Representatives

from each school in the catchment area were invited, including a head teacher, Chair of Governors and parent governors. Invitation was also given to the Local Members and to the representation of the Church in Wales (the Diocese of Bangor) and the Catholic Church.

1.4 During the meetings, several options for primary education in Bangor were considered to ensure sustainable provision for the future, responding specifically to the need for an increase in demand for places in the Penrhosgarnedd area, and improving provision for the city's learners.

1.5 As part of the process, a number of objectives have been identified to consider for provision in the Bangor catchment area, namely:

- Ensure enough places for each child in the appropriate locations;
- Ensure that no school is overcrowded;
- Ensure that no school is assessed to be in condition C or worse;
- Reduce surplus places in schools significantly or increase efficiency;
- Reduce the range of cost per head for the provision of education in the catchment area;
- Ensuring class sizes are appropriate in the primary schools;
- Ensure that there are no 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 spends more than 20% of his/her time teaching;
- Develop the use of schools as a community resource;
- Improve the additional learning needs provision in the catchment area.

1.6 An important context is the size of the package available to modernise primary education provision in the city of Bangor. Since the start of discussions in the catchment area, a Programme of capital investment was adopted by the Welsh Government under the 21st Schools Programme banner. It would be likely to include an investment of a total of £12.7 million, with £6.35 million of that amount being a grant from the Welsh Government. There is also a commitment from a housing development company, as part of an agreement for the new Goetre Uchaf development in Penrhosgarnedd.

2. Background - choosing a preferred model

2.1 A number of options were discussed before the long list was created. The rationale behind the options was to consider each school in the catchment area, seeking ways that would improve and maintain the quality of education in the catchment area.

- Option of collaboration/federation between some or all existing schools without school closures
- Option of collaboration/federation between schools following closure of some schools
- Closure of some primary schools by transferring pupils to neighbouring schools without capital investment or collaboration between the remaining schools
- Closure of some primary schools transferring pupils to neighbouring schools without capital investment, and establishing collaboration between the remaining schools
- Closure of some primary schools and establishing an area school(s) following capital investment
- Establish one school for 3-16 or 3-18 on one site for all pupils in the catchment area

2.3 The main issues identified by members of the CRP were;

- The need for any option to include improvements and capacity building for some Bangor school buildings
- That any impact on the transport situation in Penrhosgarnedd be considered
- Consideration of language issues
- Ensuring appropriate arrangements for children of Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda
- Consideration of any suitable development sites available in Bangor.

2.4 Following discussions with the CRP members, a long list of options was created. Although the case for change has been established, the 'Status Quo' model is included for comparison purposes:

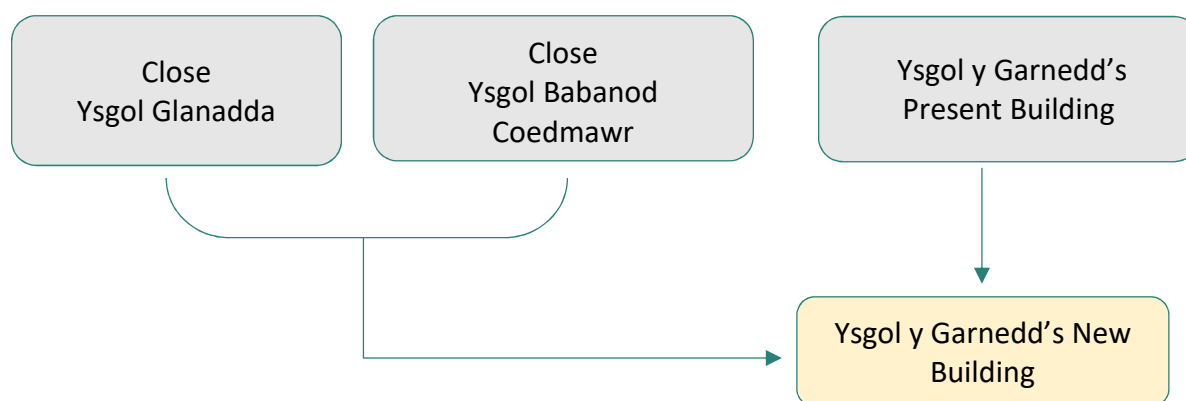
Status Quo	Do nothing.
Option 1	Extend Y Faenol increasing the capacity from 186 to 270. Close Ysgol Coed Mawr, Glanadda and Garnedd. Establish a new school on 2 sites (infant and junior) with the infants at Coed Mawr (180) and juniors at the Garnedd site (240). Increase the capacity of Glancegin to receive additional foundation phase pupils. Improvements made to part of Ysgol Hirael. 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 Hirael. 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 Hirael. 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 Hirael. 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 Hirael. 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 Hirael. 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 Hirael. 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 Hirael. 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 Hirael. 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 Hirael. 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 Hirael. Consideration given to Secondary provision to include the condition of existing buildings and a new build for Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes.

- 2.5 Following consideration, a short list of options was included, which included the options that addressed most of the investment objectives in full, and could be achieved within the limits of practical considerations. The three options (in addition to the status quo) that came top were options 3, 8, and 10. These options were discussed during CRP 3, and a questionnaire was sent to the CRP members presenting the comments of relevant schools regarding the proposed options in order to identify the preferred option.
- 2.6 The different options were evaluated and a further comparison of the models can be seen against factors agreed at the first CRP meeting. The full options appraisal can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.7 This was reported to Cabinet on 13 March 2018, where the recommendations were approved to hold a statutory consultation period on **option 3**, namely the closure of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1 This proposal means that Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda will close, and that a new building will be built for Ysgol y Garnedd.



- 3.2 The aim is that the proposed investment will address the strategic aspirations of Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Government to provide sustainable education; this would include:

- Improved consistency in the standard and quality of education provided in the catchment area
- Improved efficiency of the school estate, reducing the number of buildings in poor condition
- Make a significant contribution to reducing a number of surplus places
- Release a budget to spend on children within the education system rather than buildings
- Reconcile the number of schools to address demand
- Rationalise the cost per pupil in schools. Reduce the cost per pupil to equal or better than the County average of £3,777 for Primary.
- Improved consistency in class sizes and reduce the age range within primary school classes
- Improve the learning environment for more pupils and increase the number of pupils who will benefit from the 21st Century learning environment
- Ensure sound leadership and management

3.3 As part of the reorganisation process involving Bangor primary schools, full consideration will be given to the Education Department's Language Policy. Which sets the ambitious aim of ensuring that all the County's pupils have appropriate language skills in Welsh and English, to enable them to be complete members of the bilingual society of which they are part. This aligns well with the main aim of the Welsh Language Strategic Plan, which is to ensure the development of Welsh as a subject and pre-school learning medium, as well as promoting the use by our children and young people of Welsh as a social language.

3.4 Class sizes and age ranges within classes

The Education Department is planning to secure arrangements that will enable appropriate class sizes for the County's schools. Increasing the size of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420 would mean a structure that would include two classes for all ages i.e. access for 60 children in each year group, between Reception and Year 6 groups. It is anticipated that age range limits within existing classes in schools will disappear, which can help to overcome the challenges and effective teaching and learning problems that can occur when there is a wide age range in one class.

3.5 Number of pupils and surplus places

Pupil numbers in schools have changed significantly since 1980, with a 62% reduction in Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and 68% at Ysgol Glanadda. During the same period, Y Garnedd numbers increased by 55%.

4. Statutory Consultation

- 4.1** In accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the statutory requirements of the School Organisation Code (006/2013), a statutory consultation period was held on the proposal with relevant consultees between 10 April 2018 and 13:00hrs on 22 May 2018.
- 4.2** A statutory consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (006/2013). A copy of the document was distributed to all relevant consultees, either in hard copy or by sending an email that included a link to a dedicated page on the Council's website (www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation).
- 4.3** Hard copies of the consultation document were sent to the 3 schools that are part of the consultation, requesting that head teachers distribute these to the parents/ guardians of each pupil, members of staff and members of the governing body of the schools.
- 4.4** A background pack was also published, which included impact assessments of the proposal on the language, community and equality. Hard copies of the background packs and consultation document were distributed to all Catchment schools, local libraries, Bangor Leisure Centre and Siop Gwynedd Dolgellau, Pwllheli and Caernarfon, so that they were available for inspection by any member of the public. The document was also available to download from the Council's website.
- 4.5** During the consultation period, Gwynedd Council officers held "drop-in" sessions to discuss the proposal with Governors, teaching and support staff, parents/ guardians and the public. As part of the sessions, an exhibition of the information in the consultation document was held, and officers from relevant departments (e.g. education, property, Human Resources etc.) were available to

explain and respond to enquiries. There was also an opportunity for those attending to receive a hard copy of any documentation relevant to the proposal, and to submit written comments. 33 people attended the drop-in sessions.

The timetable for the sessions was as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Monday 30 April 2018	16:00 – 20:00	Neuadd Reichel, Ffordd Ffriddoedd, Bangor, LL57 2TR
Tuesday 1 May 2018	14:00 – 18:00	Neuadd Reichel, Ffordd Ffriddoedd, Bangor, LL57 2TR

4.6 In addition, a consultation document for primary school children was created with related questionnaires. It was arranged for a facilitator to visit the schools that were part of the consultation to hold sessions with the pupils, to glean their opinions, in consultation with the children of Ysgol y Garnedd Council and Ysgol Glanadda Council on behalf of the Bro Ddewi Federation. The facilitator's analysis of these sessions is available in **appendix 2** to this report.

In addition, additional questionnaires were received from Ysgol y Garnedd, in accordance with a session held directly with the Head teacher and pupils.

4.7 We received **68** responses to the statutory consultation, including responses from pupils, staff, governors, residents and individual as well as the following organisations.

- Estyn
- NASUWT
- Governing Body of Ysgol y Garnedd
- Staff at Ysgol y Garnedd
- Staff of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr
- Representatives of Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes
- Representatives of Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr

4.8 This table sets out the number of responses received according to their connection with a specific school

Number of responses noted and connection with the school.						
Ysgol y Garnedd	Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr/Glanadda	Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes	Ysgol Glancegin	Ysgol y Faenol	Ysgol Hirael	Ysgol Llandygai
15	6*	37*		1*	1*	
Ysgol Cae Top	Ysgol Tryfan	Ysgol Friars	Other			
	1*	3*	10			

* Note that some individuals responded on behalf of more than one school

5. Comments received during the Statutory Consultation

5.1 The purpose of this part of the report is to present some of the main points that emerged during the statutory consultation period. It is not possible to respond to all comments in detail in the body of this report; however, a copy of a table containing all the comments as well as the Council's response is attached. This information is in **appendix 1** of this report.

5.2 As noted above, Gwynedd Council's analysis of the comments received in response to the consultation has been included in this report. Full/ original copies of the responses can be viewed at www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation - the personal information on some of the responses has been redacted in order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

5.3 The responses received detailed the following issues

- Support for the proposal
- Transport/traffic issues
- Language issues
- The consultation process/the consultation document/The Proposal
- Educational
- Design and resources of the new building
- Other (staffing/ funding)
- Estyn

5.4 Support for the proposal

5.4.1 A number of responses welcoming the investment was received, with the majority announcing support for the new proposed plans for a new building for Ysgol y Garnedd. Specifically, several comments welcoming a new building for Ysgol y Garnedd, such as: "Very happy that Ysgol y Garnedd is receiving a new School, it is clear from the evidence presented that a new building is required at Ysgol y Garnedd." In addition, it was noted that the project was a positive one for the local area, and in the long run that it will be a success.

5.4.2 As stated in the statutory consultation document, the Council believes that a proposed investment will address the strategic aspirations of Gwynedd Council and the Welsh Government to provide education provision, this would include:

- Improved consistency in the standard and quality of education provided in the catchment area
- Improved efficiency of the school estate, reducing the number of buildings in poor condition
- Make a significant contribution to reducing a number of surplus places
- Release a budget to spend on children within the education system rather than buildings
- Reconcile the number of schools to address demand
- Rationalise the cost per pupil in schools. Reduce the cost per pupil to equal or better than the County average of £3,777 for Primary.
- Improved consistency in class sizes and reduce the age range within primary school classes
- Improve the learning environment for more pupils and increase the number of pupils that will benefit from the 21st Century learning environment

- Ensure sound leadership and management

5.4.3 A response received from Estyn, stated that the proposal was likely to at least maintain the current standards of education, provision and leadership and management.

5.5 Transport/traffic issues

5.5.1 Several comments were received regarding concerns about Penrhos Road, stating that the lane was dangerous and extremely busy during specific times. The Council agrees that there is currently traffic issues in the area and that the plan needs to ensure that the traffic flow is managed better than it is at present.

5.5.2 Surveys looking into how pupils travel to school have been carried out. In addition, traffic surveys have also been carried out on Penrhos Road. The design team will work to mitigate risks relating to the traffic flow, pedestrians and cyclists and create safe routes to the School. There are already a number of options being developed that will allow traffic to be removed off the highway quickly and easily so that congestion can be avoided on Penrhos Road. This plan will therefore be an opportunity to improve the current situation.

5.6 Language issues

5.6.1 Comments were received noting concern about the continuation of the Welsh language ethos at Ysgol y Garnedd e.g. *The Welsh language situation in the Bangor area is fragile, and it is essential that the proposed reorganisation does not inhibit the ability of the school to ensure that children achieve academically and be able to socialise through the medium of Welsh within and outside the school.* It is recognised that the change in language practices is a process that happens over time, with a number of different factors responsible for influencing the language habits of individuals. However, it is reasonable to expect that new pupils from non-welsh speaking families will benefit from the Welsh culture of Ysgol y Garnedd, which has a successful experience of promoting and using the Welsh language within the school.

5.6.2 It should be acknowledged that Gwynedd has led nationally on encouraging and influencing the social use of the Welsh language by children, by means of the introduction of the Welsh Language Charter that operates in every school in Gwynedd, and is a scheme that has now been extended nationally.

5.6.3 The same Language Policy applies to all Gwynedd primary schools. Looking at the evidence, and in accordance with the Language Policy, the medium of curricular provision is expected to be the same across primary schools, and all Bangor primary schools (apart from Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes) are successful in getting a significant percentage of the pupils to achieve the expected level in Welsh (first language) in the Foundation Phase and KS2.

The aim of the Language Policy “is to ensure that all the county’s pupils possess the appropriate linguistic skills in Welsh and in English”. This well matches the principal objective of the Welsh Strategic Plan namely to ensure the development of Welsh as a subject and learning medium from pre-school age onwards and promote our children and young people’s use of Welsh as a social language. To achieve this ambitious programme, every establishment is expected to address the following matters.

- Establish firm foundations in Welsh in the Early Years, ensuring that pupils from an English speaking background have an opportunity to learn Welsh as soon as possible.
- At the Foundation Phase, build on the foundation laid at the nursery and reception stage through continuing to develop pupils’ grasp of Welsh, and commence the process of developing their skills in English. In practice, this implies that the majority of schools will commence introducing English as a subject in the final term at the end of the Foundation Phase, focussing on developing reading, orally and writing skills in that language. Welsh will be the official language of assessment at the school at the end of the Foundation Phase.
- At KS2, continue to develop pupils’ grasp of Welsh focusing on developing their skills in both languages. Pupils’ progress in Welsh and English is assessed at the end of the key stage.
- At KS3, ensure that every pupil achieving level 3+ at the end of KS2 continues to follow Welsh as First Language to ensure appropriate progression and continuity.
- At KS4, ensure that every pupil studies Welsh as a subject until the end of Y11 and is assessed in Welsh at the end of KS4.
- At KS3 and KS4, use the information on previous achievement to ensure that every pupil continues to develop skills in Welsh and English through using both languages as learning medium.
- Ensure that pupils who learn Welsh at KS2 and KS3 learn Welsh as soon as possible and use Welsh as a learning medium.
- Improve pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and language features of Wales.
- Develop the pupils to be responsible citizens so that they make a significant contribution to their bilingual community.

5.6.4 We received a response from Estyn connected to the Welsh language assessment that noted:

“The proposer has given very detailed consideration to the impact on the Welsh language by fully analysing the language charter data and by considering the 2011 census data to look at the linguistic profile of the Bangor and Pentir wards. It is difficult to predict accurately any impact on the Welsh language, but it is reasonable to expect that the new pupils of non-Welsh speaking families will be influenced by the Welsh culture of Ysgol y Garnedd, which has a successful experience of promoting and using the Welsh language within the school.”

5.6.5 According to the language assessment, it shows (in addition to Ysgol y Garnedd) very high percentage of the children of Ysgol Glanadda believed that it was very important to speak Welsh. See the table below:

Percentage of children who think it is important to speak Welsh

I think it is important to speak Welsh	Very important	Important	Quite important	Not important	Not at all important
Ysgol Y Garnedd	84.4%	11.9%	3.8%	0%	0%
Ysgol Glanadda	95.2%	4.8%	0%	0%	0%

5.7 The consultation process/the consultation document/the Proposal

5.7.1 Some comments were received regarding the consultation process, specifically regarding the contents of the statutory consultation document. The relevant corrections are set out in the responses table in **appendix 1** (points 7.1 – 7.7).

5.7.2 Some comments received involving the proposed proposal which was the subject of the consultation, with some respondents indicating that they preferred option 10. It was noted that the Council had considered a range of different options before deciding to carry out a statutory consultation on option 3. All the options from the long list of options were evaluated to compare the main advantages and disadvantages of the options under consideration, and based on the results of that evaluation, it became apparent that option 3 would meet the requirements for primary education provision at Bangor, in line with the key factors prioritised by the Catchment Area Review Panel. It was also noted that option 3 meant that more pupils were likely to benefit from a world-class learning environment and resources.

5.8 Addysgol

5.8.1 Regarding the proposed size of Ysgol y Garnedd, comments were received about the proposal to build a new school with a capacity of 420. In response to these comments, the lack of capacity and poor condition of the existing Ysgol y Garnedd building has been one of the main drivers to reorganise the Bangor area. The Education Department considers that the capacity in question is appropriate and offers better opportunities to facilitate the arrangements of the new school's classrooms, as well as responding to the growing demand for future predicted places.

5.8.2 There were some comments indicating concerns about the proposed admission arrangements for the proposal. In response, if the proposal to close Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda is implemented, the Authority will provide places for the pupils of the existing schools (subject to parental choice) at Ysgol y Garnedd. It is intended to use the same closing dates for applications, and the same date of decision for all applications and transfers.

5.9 Design and resources of the new building

5.9.1 Several comments were received regarding the design and resources that will be available as part of the new building for Ysgol y Garnedd.

5.9.2 Several people were concerned that the school's playing field was too far from the school building. They also noted concerns that no toilets had been provided on the playing fields for the pupils. In response to the comments, it was noted that the design team is giving consideration to providing toilets on the field. It was also noted that the plan includes several playing areas near the building for pupils from Ysgol y Garnedd. There will only be a need to walk to the formal playing field and this is located within a reasonable distance, and it will be similar to the situation in a number of schools across the County.

5.9.3 Some comments indicate concern about the plan for the car park at the new building, and the need to be close to the building in order to facilitate the transport of resources. It is intended that a designated parking for staff would be located within a reasonable distance. It was noted also that there would be unloading areas located near the school building.

5.9.4 In addition, comments were received regarding the design of the drop off location for children, along with one comment requesting protected use of the car park for Ysgol y Garnedd parents only. Careful consideration will be made as part of the design process and it is intended to place signs in the car park in order to identify any parking restrictions.

5.9.5 Two comments were received noting the need for an external learning area for the Foundation phase. In response to the comments, it was noted that this has been brought to the attention of the design team and that the current plans will include the installation of a canopy and fenced area for the Foundation phase.

5.10 Other

5.10.1 Some comments regarding staffing issues were received. Some of the responses from staff indicate concerns about posts should the proposed proposal be approved to close Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and Ysgol Glanadda. There was also a response regarding the staffing of Ysgol y Garnedd following the opening of the new building.

5.10.2 As the proposal only includes a new building (and increasing capacity) for Ysgol y Garnedd, it is not anticipated that there would be a change to school staffing unless there is an increase in the number of pupils, and that the staffing structure needs to be reviewed to meet the need.

5.10.3 If Ysgol Babanod Coed Mawr and Ysgol Glanadda close, then existing staff posts will terminate. The Council will make every possible effort to try and support staff to relocate. In addition, it is the governing body's right in any school is to determine who they appoint to their schools, so the Council is not in a position to require a governing body to appoint specific staff.

5.10.4 Comments were received in relation to financial matters, including the cost per head for pupils. Based on the total allocation for a school, the 'cost per pupil' difference can vary from school to school due to a variety of factors, including minimum staffing, ALN, and the number of pupils eligible for free dinners.

5.11 Responses to the consultation with children and young people

As noted in paragraph 4.6 above, consultation sessions were held with a representation of primary pupils subject to this statutory consultation. It was arranged for a children and young people's facilitator to visit the schools to hold sessions with the pupils to find out their opinions. The facilitator's analysis of these sessions is available in **appendix 2** of this report.

The main points raised during the consultation with children and young people were as follows:

Ysgol Y Garnedd	Ysgol Glanadda
Majority in favour of the change.	Majority against the change.
Having friends is very important.	Worry what would happen to school and teachers.
Eager to have every possible opportunity with the best equipment/resources possible.	Eager to have every possible opportunity with the best equipment/resources possible.
Expand the opportunities available.	Worry about traffic due to location and numbers.

5.12 Estyn

5.12.1 Comments received from Estyn were noted as part of the consultation. They included:

“In deciding on this proposal, the proposer has considered in detail twelve different options for education reorganisation in the city of Bangor. The proposer has evaluated the options fairly against the advantages and disadvantages of a number of criteria, including; ensuring enough places for each pupil in the appropriate location, reducing surplus places, reducing the range of cost per head, ensuring a suitable size for classes, ensuring that head teachers do not spend more than 20% of their time teaching, and developing the school's use in the community.”

“The proposer has provided tables showing the percentage of pupils achieving the expected outcome at key stage 2 for Ysgol y Garnedd and Ysgol Glanadda, and the foundation phase for the Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr. They show corresponding figures for Gwynedd and Wales for 2017. However, the proposer has not provided a summary analysis of the performance of the schools.”

5.12.2 In response to the comment regarding the lack of analysis of the performance of the schools, it is noted that an appraisal of the performance of Garnedd, Babanod Coedmawr and Glanadda schools can be seen on pages 20 and 21 of the consultation document, and the findings are based mainly on the school's latest Estyn reports. In addition, on page 20, there is a table setting out the performance of the three schools in relation to the national system for the categorisation of schools.

6. Future Generations Act

6.1 The Education Department has a role to promote well-being goals within the Act among pupils of the County through activities and projects. The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty, the Council has published its well-being objectives in “Gwynedd Plan 2018-2023” which outlines how it will improve well-being.

6.2 Section 3.1 above sets out the proposed reorganisation provision for primary education in the Bangor catchment area. Following consideration and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Act, it is concluded that this direction intertwines with the 7 well-being aims of the Act, and the Council's well-being objectives. This direction will allow us to respond to and meet the needs of children today, and also strengthen their well-being for the future. The proposed reorganisation will ensure that children in the area are educated on a modern site that provides a learning environment that is fit for the 21st century.

7. Summary

7.1 It is therefore recommended that statutory notices be released on the proposal to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr and offer places to pupils in Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420. The intention is that the schools will close on 31 August 2020 and the new Ysgol y Garnedd building will open on 1 September 2020.

7.2 This recommendation follows the consideration of a wide range of possible options. These proposals were condensed to a long list of possible options, and these options were fully evaluated

when comparing major advantages and disadvantages against specific factors. The factors of the 'Primary Education of the Highest Quality for Gwynedd Children' strategy, factors in the Code of Organisation, the Bangor catchment vision, and other relevant factors were used.

The factors included, but were not limited to:

- Quality of Education
- Class sizes and age ranges within classes
- Pupil numbers and surplus places
- Learning Environment - quality and construction suitability
- Status/School Category
- Leadership and staffing
- The Community
- The Welsh Language
- Equality Impact
- Financial Resources
- Geographical Factors

This full options appraisal has already been submitted to the Cabinet for consideration on 13 March 2018, and can be found in **appendix 3**.

7.3 As part of this options appraisal, the findings of the **Community, Linguistic and Equality impact assessments** were also used. These assessments are included in **appendix 4**, and all the background documentation of the proposal is available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/modernisingeducation. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, an equality impact assessment was carried out regarding the proposals. The assessments set out the current situation and showed that there are policies and arrangements in place that would ensure that the proposal considered corresponded to equal rights. Having taken into account the relevant factors, it is concluded that there is a guarantee that equal opportunities will be promoted positively as a result of the proposal, and that measures are in place to ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination and harassment. There are also arrangements in place to monitor and review the situation. Therefore it is considered that the findings of the assessments remain current and relevant to a recommendation. *(Note that a correction has been made to Table 14 in the Community Impact Assessment: Community use of school facilities, this is due to an error in the original information published.)*

7.4 Following consideration of all the comments received during the statutory consultation period, it is considered that the proposal consulted upon continues to offer the best option for the future of education in the Bangor catchment area. An analysis of the comments received is contained in section 5 and **appendix 1** of this report, and the full responses are available on the Council's website www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru

8 The next steps

8.1 If the Cabinet decides to support the recommendations presented in this report, statutory notices will be required in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the guidance of the School Organisation Code (006/2013).

- 8.2** The statutory notices would be published on a school day and there will be an objection period of 28 days from the publication of the notices. Anyone can object to the proposal.
- 8.3** Following the objection period, a report will be presented to Cabinet for a final decision. It must be remembered that there are some situations where the final decision of the Council can be referred to the Minister for Education and Skills, the Welsh Government in accordance with the School Organisation Code (006/2013).
- 8.4** Subject to Cabinet’s decisions, here are the next stages of the process, with an outline timetable;

Steps on the journey	Outline timetable
Cabinet report following statutory consultation	3 July 2018
Publication of Statutory Notices and opportunity for consultees to object	September 2018
Final decision by the Council's Cabinet (possible for the proposal to be referred to the Welsh Government Minister for Education and Skills after this decision)	October / November 2018
Start the process of transferring to the new building	June 2020
Opening of the school	1 September 2020

9 Recommendations

It is recommended therefore to:

- iii. Approve the proposal to close Ysgol Glanadda and Ysgol Babanod Coedmawr on 31 August 2020, and offer places to pupils at Ysgol y Garnedd (subject to parental choice); and increase the capacity of Ysgol y Garnedd to 420.
- i. Approve the publication of statutory notices on the proposal in (i) above in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Local Members' Views

Any comments from the Local Members will be presented at the meeting.

Statutory Officers' View

Monitoring Officer

"The contents of this report has been the subject of legal advice by the Legal Service. No further comments regarding propriety"

Head of Finance

"I support the decision sought, and I encourage the relevant members and officers to continue with the wider project to review school organisation without delay."

Appendices

Appendix 1	Analysis of the consultation's responses
Appendix 2	Children and Young People's Consultation
Appendix 3	Options Appraisal
Appendix 4	Language, Community and Equality Impact Assessments