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# **OBJECTION REPORT**

**Future Primary Education Provision for Children Residing in the Llangennech area**

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# **Executive Summary**

## **The Consultation Process**

Carmarthenshire County Council has published proposals to change primary school provision within the community of Llangennech. The County Council's proposal is constituted of three elements as follows:

- To discontinue Llangennech Infants School, Llangennech, Llanelli, SA14 8YB (currently maintained by the Council) on 31 August 2017;
- To discontinue Llangennech Junior School, Llangennech, Llanelli, SA14 8YB (currently maintained by the Council) on 31 August 2017;
- To establish a new Welsh Medium (WM) school (the "New School") to be maintained by Carmarthenshire County Council at the existing sites and buildings of the current Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools for boys and girls aged 3-11 from 1 September 2017.

The consultation period for this proposal commenced on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and was due to close on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016 but in response to requests from some interested parties, the Director of Education and Children's Services agreed to extend the period for responses by one week until the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016. A total of **267** submissions were received in response to the formal consultation.

Following the closure of the consultation period, a Consultation Report was prepared summarising the observations received and the Local Authority's responses to these observations. The report was presented to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and then to the Executive Board for a decision on whether or not to publish a statutory notice. On the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 the Executive Board resolved to proceed to publish a statutory notice.

## **Publication of the Statutory Notice**

Following the Executive Board's approval, Carmarthenshire County Council published the proposal by way of a statutory notice on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 for 28 days until October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016. The published proposal constituted of the three elements as noted above.

The publication of the proposal by statutory notice has generated an extensive response from interested parties, both in support and objection to the proposal. **1,230** responses were received to the statutory notice by 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016. Following a request from an interested party, the Director of Education and Children's Services agreed to extend the statutory objection period by one week, until October 9<sup>th</sup> 2016.

It is important to note that another **188** responses were received within the week following the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016. Therefore, including these responses, the total number of responses received in response to the statutory notice is **1,418**.

From the **1,418** responses received; **698** were in support of the proposal whilst **720** were in objection to the proposal.

Please see **Appendix A** for a further breakdown of the objections received.

Please see **Appendix B** for a further breakdown of the supportive comments received.

### **The Responses Received**

The responses received to the statutory notice have been of a similar content to those received during the consultation period. Again, very little comment has been made within these responses in relation to the element of the proposal which proposes to establish new primary school to replace the current infant and junior schools. As stated in the consultation report, both schools have been operating under a formal federation since April 2015, with a single governing body and a shared head teacher. The responses received to this element of the proposal acknowledge that the federation has been a success and the formal amalgamation of provision within a single primary school is a natural and positive step forward for the schools.

Comments have been received in relation to the element of the proposal which proposes to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 and provide part-time nursery provision within the school. Again, broadly speaking there is support for the introduction of part-time nursery provision with acknowledgement that this will provide the children of Llangennech with the opportunity to receive a formal education from an earlier age. However, some respondents are concerned over the impact that this change may have on existing independent sector childcare and nursery providers in the community. In addition, some respondents have concerns whether there is enough capacity at the school to cater for 60 nursery pupils.

However, as previously, the element of the proposal which has generated the greatest response is the proposal to change the language category of the school to Welsh medium in place of the current dual stream arrangement. The current system allows provision in either Welsh or English language operating side by side, however changing the language category to Welsh medium would mean that all pupils starting at the school following the date of implementation would be educated through the medium of Welsh only. A large number of responses have been received from both respondents who are strongly opposed to changing the language category and respondents who strongly support the proposal. Those supporting the proposal have considered that this will be a natural change for the schools considering the changes that have been taking place in the balance of language provision over recent years and that this change provides all children with the opportunity to become bilingual

and benefit from the advantages of being bilingual. Those opposing the proposal have presented a number of reasons why they consider that this change would not be desirable and beneficial for the community of Llangennech.

### **The Objection Report**

Following the large number of responses received to the statutory notice, this Objection Report summarises the submissions received in support and in objection to the proposal and the Local Authority's responses to these submissions. The report also notes the number of times each point was raised within the submissions received.

For the purpose of this report, all **1,418** submissions have been considered.

# **Appendix A**

**Summary of Statutory Objections received following publication of the Statutory Notice and Local Authority related responses**

## The Objections Received

As stated in the Executive Summary, a total number of 720 objections were received in response to the statutory notice.

These were compiled of:

18 e-mails; and

702 letters formed on a standard objection letter template. (Some of these letters included additional attachments)

**However:**

1 objection was withdrawn in writing;

6 letters were unclear whether or not they were objecting.

The following table summarises the points raised within the objections received and the Local Authority's responses to these points. The table also shows the number of responses raising each point:

<b><u>Point Number</u></b>	<b><u>Point Raised</u></b>	<b><u>Local Authority Response</u></b>	<b><u>Number of responses raising the point</u></b>	<b><u>% of responses raising the point</u></b>
1.	<p><b><u>Removal of Choice</u></b></p> <p>The removal of the option of choice from the community. Currently pupils have the option to attend the school via either the Welsh stream or the English stream – should this proposal be implemented pupils will no longer have the option to attend the English stream. The removal of the English stream removes the option of choice compared to other areas in Llanelli which have the option of Welsh medium or English medium education within easy reach. It is believed that parents should have the choice of which language their children should be educated through and this decision should not be made by the Local Authority/County Councillors. This removal of choice is against the rights of the parents and pupils.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy requires action on 73 points, 21 of which apply to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire’s WESP.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have,</p>	283	40%

		<p>therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh.</li><li>• More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school.</li><li>• More students have higher language skills in Welsh.</li></ul> <p>It also sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.</li><li>• Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017.</li></ul> <p>Choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to children as they progress through their education and early lives. This proposal provides all pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English</p>		
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		<p>languages by the time they leave primary school. The Local Authority's proposal to develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move forward to secondary school. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people.</p> <p>The schools in Llangennech have been identified as having the potential to move quickly to become Welsh medium due to the progressive increase in numbers in the Welsh stream over recent years, as evidenced by the data.</p> <p>Furthermore, standards across both schools have been consistently good, demonstrating that the children are succeeding well in all subjects and are able to thrive through a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Local Authority is advised that the proposals in this matter do not in any way contravene European or domestic law regarding human rights.</p>		
2.	<p><b><u>Dual Stream is Successful</u></b></p> <p>The dual stream system has been in place for a number of years and works extremely well as it is. As it stands, pupils from both streams are exposed to both Welsh and English languages. There is no need</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that both Llangennech Infants School and Llangennech Junior Schools are performing very well and are very successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the schools to secure continually improving</p>	228	32%

	<p>to change a system that is already working and the school should remain dual stream. Should there be a need to increase Welsh Medium provision in the Llangennech area, then the school remain dual stream but increase the percentage of the provision of Welsh medium education.</p> <p>As the school is currently working well with a dual stream arrangement and providing excellent education through both Welsh and English languages, it should be considered changing other English medium schools to dual stream schools. This will increase the provision of Welsh medium education in other areas but won't affect pupils' education.</p>	<p>outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy requires action on 73 points, 21 of which apply to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh.</li> <li>• More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school.</li> </ul>		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More students have higher language skills in Welsh.</li></ul> <p>It also sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.</li><li>• Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017.</li></ul> <p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium school, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The schools in Llangennech have been identified as having the potential to move quickly to become Welsh medium due to the progressive increase in numbers in the Welsh stream over recent years, as evidenced by the data.</p>		
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		Furthermore, standards across both schools have been consistently good, demonstrating that the children are succeeding well in all subjects and are able to thrive through a Welsh medium education.		
3.	<p><b><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will and is already causing a divide within the community. It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates English speaking families and families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils will be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against English speaking families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important</p>	124	17%

		component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.		
4.	<p><b><u>No reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their objection.</p>		100	14%
5.	<p><b><u>Transfer to English Medium schools</u></b></p> <p>It is unfair for pupils who desire/require an English medium education to have to transfer to another school outside of their local area. In addition, pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will also have to transfer to another school outside of the local area instead of transferring to the English stream. Pupils have a right to access English medium education within their local area.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school. Again, sufficient support will be provided for all future pupils, principally through the medium of Welsh.</p>	85	12%

		<p>Please see <b>point 9</b> which refers to the help and support which is currently and will continue to be provided to all pupils and parents with regards to the Welsh language.</p> <p>Please see <b>point 12</b> which refers to pupils with additional learning needs, special educational needs and the help and support which is and will continue to be provided to these pupils.</p>		
6.	<p><b><u>The Community</u></b></p> <p>The proposal is inconsistent with the make-up of community and goes against the wishes of the majority of community. It cannot be called a community school if it does not cater for the whole community.</p> <p>It is felt that this proposal will have a negative effect on the community due to families moving out of the village to seek English medium education elsewhere. In addition, only providing Welsh medium education may result in less people moving to the area due to unsuitable education provision. This will result in the decrease in value of properties and the economy within the local area.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that some members of the community are unable to speak the Welsh language and that many children attending the school come from non-Welsh backgrounds. It is, therefore important for the Local Authority to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to promote bilingualism in the area and to ensure that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the nature of communities changes over time and that social</p>	76	11%

		<p>mobility continues to increase. The Local Authority considers that this point reinforces the need to embed Welsh medium education in as many communities as possible in order to bolster the language and provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to develop as truly bilingual citizens and to benefit from the personal advantages that bilingualism brings.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school.</p> <p>It is hard to estimate the effect that changing the language category to Welsh medium will have on the number of families moving into the area. However, the Local Authority are hopeful that migrants will understand the benefits of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities and advantages that it can provide. This proposal will provide all future pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school</p>		
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		<p>and benefit from these advantages throughout their lives.</p> <p>The Local Authority is also hopeful that this proposal will have a positive effect on the local economy by providing community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills. Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p>		
7.	<p><b><u>The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that learning through the medium of Welsh will have a detrimental effect on the pupils' education and may disadvantage children from entering further or higher education and later on in life when applying for job vacancies etc. It is believed that not all pupils will be able to reach their full potential and attain the best grades possible by learning through the medium of Welsh. Consequently, this may disadvantage pupils when applying for places in further or higher education. In addition, some pupils may also find it difficult to adjust to learning in the medium of English at universities having previously</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Department, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p>	65	9%



	<p>received their education through the medium of Welsh – consequently affecting their higher education. It must also be noted that the most common language used in day to day life, working life and the business world is English – therefore pupils’ understanding of the English language must be secure in order to ensure maximum success within the real world.</p>	<p>The evidence of recent years at the Llangennech schools is that children in the Welsh language stream achieve good standards in both the English and Welsh languages. Children in the English language stream, however, do not achieve equally high standards in the Welsh language as they follow a Welsh second language programme. The evidence also confirms that children in the Welsh language stream from non-Welsh speaking homes achieve consistently good outcomes in all subjects, including the English language.</p> <p>Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>Schools prepare young people with the skills to attend universities around the world and the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.</p>		
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8.	<p><b><u>Transport and Travel</u></b></p> <p>No transport will be provided for pupils whose parents opt for them to attend other English medium schools. It is unfair to expect parents to pay and provide transport for pupils to be able to attend other English medium schools. This will place extra financial difficulties on families and will be extremely difficult for families who do not have access to their own private transport. Yet, transport will be provided / costs will be met for pupils outside catchment wishing to attend the new school.</p> <p>Removing the English medium stream removes the children's access to safe routes to school and the ability to walk to an English medium school. There are no safe walking routes to other English medium schools and no risk assessment has been undertaken. This may be the only opportunity for some children to take part in healthy exercise.</p> <p>There will be an increase in traffic and congestion in the area due to families transporting their children to other English medium schools outside the area and families transporting their children into the area to attend the new Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including transport implications. If any parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.</p> <p>Pupils will continue to have access to safe routes to Llangennech school as the Local Authority are not proposing alternative schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including pupils' ability to walk to school and the access to safe routes to schools.</p> <p>As there will be no change for current pupils attending the schools, there is consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that all future pupils will attend their village school. However, due to parental preference some parents may choose for their children to attend other schools outside of the catchment area whilst families outside of the catchment area may choose for their children to attend Llangennech School. This is already the case for the catchment area of Llangennech and although it is difficult to estimate,</p>	62	8.7%
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		it is not expected that this proposal should have a drastic effect on the traffic and congestion within the local area.		
9.	<p><b><u>Coping with the Welsh Language</u></b></p> <p>It is believed that not all children will be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh, especially pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds. In addition, there are concerns that non-Welsh speaking parents may find it hard to support and help their children with their school work and home work should the school become Welsh medium. Little or no support has been provided thus far and parents are reluctant to believe promises.</p>	<p>The school and its staff are fully committed to providing the necessary support to all pupils and parents.</p> <p>The school will continue to provide support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, future pupils will receive their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of school. Sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils principally through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments when required to meet the needs of every pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to the schools around the county will also be supporting the school.</p> <p>The schools currently offer a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families. Pupils and parents are currently supported and will continue to be supported by the school through the following:</p>	60	8%

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open door policy where teachers can translate the work for parents and provide an explanation of what is required at that time e.g. either before or after school;</li><li>• Parents can contact the school via telephone or e-mail;</li><li>• Homework is provided bilingually when needed;</li><li>• Welsh lessons are provided to parents at specific periods throughout the year;</li><li>• In the Foundation Phase, special books are regularly sent home to parents in the home language which enables the parents to see what the pupils achieve in school;</li><li>• A homework club is held for an hour after school once a week to provide support for pupils who require help with their homework;</li><li>• Sports, choir and IPad club are held bilingually;</li><li>• Urdd club – many children from the English stream currently attend;</li><li>• Bilingual school website;</li></ul>		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bilingual staff members in both streams;</li><li>• Bilingual school assemblies and singing sessions. Pupils learn a mixture of Welsh and English songs;</li><li>• Bilingual school productions;</li><li>• “Athrawon Bro” provide support to help develop the Welsh skills of pupils;</li><li>• “Athrawon Bro” hold a language centre for a full week during the summer term for groups of year 5 pupils. These are pupils who currently perform at level 3 but who can attain level 4 with professional input.</li><li>• Older pupils have strong Welsh skills which enables them to explain the homework to their parents;</li><li>• “Athrawon Bro” provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh skills;</li><li>• The Welsh language is heard daily by English stream pupils.</li></ul> <p>The school are also intending to hold an evening for parents of all classes at the beginning of the</p>		
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		<p>year detailing the themes of work for the year and the contents of the work.</p> <p>Parents could also access support by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking the child to explain the homework – the pupil could translate the homework for non-Welsh speaking members of the family;</li> <li>• Using online translation tools.</li> <li>• Asking a Welsh speaking friend/family member/neighbour for help.</li> </ul> <p>Several organisations have also offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language. It is also important to note that many pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds attend through the Welsh stream and are progressing well and achieving good standards.</p>		
10.	<p><b><u>Forcing the Welsh language</u></b></p> <p>The community should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of Welsh or English and the Welsh language should not be forced on anyone. It is important to learn the Welsh language and some pupils may want to use the language in their day to day life however; not all pupils will want to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Forcing the Welsh language will not create more Welsh</p>	<p>The proposal of the Department for Education and Children is that future provision for all pupils in the new Llangennech Primary Schools should be through a Welsh medium designation, as happens successfully already in many schools across Carmarthenshire. The proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children</p>	45	6%

	<p>speakers, in fact it will have the opposite effect. Changing the language category to Welsh medium will force pupils to seek English medium education at other English medium schools which will deny pupils exposure to the Welsh language.</p>	<p>to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the teaching and the development of the English language still occurs in Welsh medium schools to the highest of standards, as a statutory part of the curriculum.</p> <p>International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes</p>		
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		<p>that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p> <p>The evidence of recent years at the Llangennech schools is that children in the Welsh language stream achieve good standards in both the English and Welsh languages. Children in the English language stream, however, do not achieve equally high standards in the Welsh language as the follow a Welsh second language programme. The evidence also confirms that children in the Welsh language stream from non-Welsh speaking homes achieve consistently good outcomes in all subjects, including the English language. Standards across both schools have been consistently good, demonstrating that the children are succeeding well in all subjects and are able to thrive through a Welsh medium education.</p>		
11.	<p><b><u>Issues with other schools</u></b></p> <p>No alternative English medium schools are provided as part of the proposal.</p> <p>There is no capacity at other English medium schools, should parents want to send their children to other schools. With the potential closure of Llanedi School, this will put pressure on Hendy School resulting in even more capacity issues.</p>	<p>It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and the Department believes that a Welsh medium primary school in Llangennech will continue to offer high standards of education to children. It is the department's desire that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals, will not, therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they</p>	34	5%



	<p>Llangennech Schools are currently rated as 'green' schools. Other English medium schools are not of the same standard.</p> <p>There are surplus places at other Welsh medium schools within the Llanelli area where pupils could attend if they desire Welsh medium education.</p> <p>There is only one Welsh medium secondary school in Llanelli.</p>	<p>currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Therefore, the Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools. The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is consistent with the effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council's published admissions criteria, which favour children attending their local or "designated" school. Children are admitted to a school other than their designated school upon application by parents when places are available and subject to the over-subscription criteria set out in the published admissions policy. It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and it is upon this principle that school places are planned.</p> <p>The County Council will continue to monitor demand for places at Hendy School, in particular with regard to new housing developments being built in the locality in the foreseeable future and with regards to the review of Llanedi school and will respond as appropriate. The Council's Modernising Education Programme includes provision for investment at Hendy school in the medium term to expand and modernise the school's premises and facilities and it should be</p>		
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		<p>possible to align this investment with a need to increase capacity, should that need arise.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the Llangennech Schools are performing well and that standards are high and are categorised as 'green'. However, the Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the standards at the alternative schools.</p> <p>It is true that there are currently some surplus places at Ysgol y Ffwrnes and Ysgol Brynsierfel. The new Ysgol y Ffwrnes was built to ensure adequate capacity to meet projections in the Llanelli area where demand for Welsh medium primary education has been increasing over recent years. It was fully recognised that the new Ysgol y Ffwrnes would have surplus places at the point of opening but these would be taken up over a period of a few years. Having regard to applications for school places for September 2016, the department expects that there will be 400 children attending Ysgol Gymraeg Ffwrnes in the 2016/2017 academic year, compared to a school capacity of 480, with the early year classes at the school full or almost full, indicating that the school will be full in a few years' time. At Ysgol Brynsierfel a total of 209 pupils are expected to be registered at the school in September, compared to a capacity of 243.</p>		
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		<p>The Welsh Government expects local authorities to endeavour to manage surplus school places within a tolerance of 10% overall across all schools, accepting that figures at individual schools will vary as a consequence of a number of factors. The School Organisation Code notes that “some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils”. The Welsh Government regards a single school as having excess surplus places if it has more than 25% of its places empty. Neither Ysgol y Ffwrnes nor Ysgol Brynsierfel fall into this category. Therefore, in order to cope with fluctuations and the rising demand for Welsh medium education within the Llanelli area, there is a need to provide another Welsh medium school.</p> <p>Ysgol y Strade is a category 2A bilingual, secondary school located within the Llanelli area. The school teaches at least 80% of subjects (excluding Welsh and English) through the medium of Welsh only. One or two subjects are taught to some pupils in English or both languages. The day to day language of the schools is determined by its linguistic context, however both languages are used to communicate with pupils and for the school’s administration. The school communicates with parents in both languages. Ysgol y Strade has the capacity to accommodate pupils from all of its feeder schools and provides pupils with choice to</p>		
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		continue their secondary education through the medium of mainly Welsh should they desire.		
12.	<p><b><u>SEN / ALN</u></b></p> <p>Children with special education needs or additional learning needs may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh and may require English medium education. It is unfair to assume that all children with SEN/ALN will be able to learn through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council's policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible. In the vast majority of cases this it achieved, with all children benefitting.</p> <p>Whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners through an universal and inclusive approach, for a small number of children with significant and complex additional needs this is not always possible and specialised provision offers a more appropriate learning setting.</p> <p>In order to make sure that the needs of all learners are met the schools system in Carmarthenshire includes a range of provision for children with additional needs. A specialised school or unit offer education to children with the most profound or complex needs where a mainstream setting is either not suitable for the children's needs or where parents prefer an alternative setting. Selected secondary and primary schools across the county include specialised units for children with particular needs, such as autism, sensory impairment or speech and language delay. The Department for Education and Children provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local</p>	31	4%

		<p>school. Whilst the Council's preference is to meet the needs of all children in a mainstream setting wherever possible, this is not always practicable.</p> <p>All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed language medium. Staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents. Arrangements are made for the child to attend an appropriate school where their needs can be met. It may be the case that on</p>		
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		<p>a small number of occasions the needs of an individual child cannot be met at the local school as, notwithstanding the Council's commitment to inclusive education, it is simply not practicable to meet all needs at every school. In the last five years the Educational and Child Psychology Service has been involved in only one or two cases each year where a move of school has been advised. To place this into context, Carmarthenshire's school system serves around 27,000 pupils in total and so the frequency of pupil movement for additional learning needs is very low indeed.</p> <p>It is this Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit.</p> <p>For the Llangennech proposal the support provided to children currently in the schools with additional needs will continue through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh, with appropriate adjustments being made to meet pupils' individual additional needs.</p>		
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13.	<p><b><u>Consultation Process</u></b></p> <p>It is not believed that the consultation process has been conducted fairly and there has been a lack of transparency and openness during this process. There have been talks of a 'package deal' with reference to the proposal and the installation of a double mobile. Since the mobile has already been installed, it would seem that the proposal has already been agreed.</p> <p>Respondents do not feel that their views have been considered as part of this process. It is also felt that significant stakeholders were not appropriately informed of the consultation period, including Bryngwyn School. Other stakeholders, who may be affected by the proposal have not responded to the consultation. A significant number of stakeholders have raised concerns regarding the proposal including Unison, Bryngwyn School and Nia Griffith MP. In addition, whilst objectors have been forthcoming in sharing their names and relationship to the school, some supporters have withheld this information.</p> <p>In addition, there have been a number of inaccuracies within the consultation document including stating that there are no pupils attending the English stream within the reception years. It has come to light within recent months that the reception classes have been immersed in the Welsh language over recent years and have not been receiving English medium</p>	<p>The consultation process has been conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code.</p> <p>The Department for Education and Children has been in discussion with the governing bodies of both schools for a few years regarding the current proposal and correspondence has been exchanged between parties. The Department has shared correspondence on this issue with objectors, demonstrating openness and transparency.</p> <p>School governing bodies have statutory responsibility for their schools and discussions between the local authority and schools on proposals for change always commence with a conversation with the governing bodies. Discussions and consultations with other stakeholders take place at appropriate stages in the process in line with the statutory expectations.</p> <p>The correspondence exchanged between the Director of Education and Children's Services and the governing bodies was intended to establish an agreement between these parties on the principles of the proposal and how it could be implemented, whilst also addressing other separate factors, such as how restricted space in the infants school could be addressed and how planning gain funding available for the area could be usefully applied.</p>	25	3.5%
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	<p>education. It seems that parents/stakeholders have been given false/no information regarding this with varying responses. However, Llangennech Infant School is categorised as a Dual Stream School.</p>	<p>The Director's letter on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to the Chair of Governing Body of Llangennech Infants Schools, copied to the Chair of the Governing Body of Llangennech Junior School, makes it clear that it will be necessary for the County Council to undertake a statutory process to constitute a new primary school in place of the current two separate schools, to extend the age range of the school and to establish the new school as a Welsh medium school and highlights the timing challenges for completing the statutory process.</p> <p>The letter also refers to a commitments to provide an additional double mobile classroom to assist with space pressures at the infants school (which has now been completed) and agrees to release planning gain money for investment in the schools, through agreement with the Department.</p> <p>The fact that the new modular building has already been installed at the school clearly establishes that this element is not connected to the statutory proposal. Reference to a "package for the development of primary sector provision" in the Director's letter can, therefore, be clearly identified as seeking an agreement in principle.</p> <p>The WESP sets out the broad strategy for language developments within the education service. Where progress required change at individual schools in terms of the proportion of the</p>		
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		<p>curriculum delivered through either language, a statutory process will be required, involving a consultation on each specific proposal. This is what is happening at Llangennech currently.</p> <p>In line with the statutory expectations, a formal consultation period was held between January 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 and the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The consultation period allowed all stakeholders to submit their observations with the regards to the proposal. Following approval from the Director of Education and Children's Services, the consultation period was extended by a week, until 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016. All submissions received were presented in the form of a Consultation Report to the Executive Board for consideration along with the Local Authority's responses to these submissions. Similar to the consultation period, the Director of Education and Children's Services agreed to extend the statutory objection period by one week, until October 9<sup>th</sup> 2016, following a request from an interested party. Throughout this process, the Department has accommodated all requests from interested parties in order to make the process fully inclusive to all stakeholders.</p> <p>No final decision has yet been made on this proposal. Following the publication of the Statutory Notice on September 5<sup>th</sup> 2016, members of the full County Council will consider all of the submissions received to the Statutory Notice, both in objection and in support along with the Local Authority's</p>		
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		<p>responses to these submissions before making a final decision.</p> <p>Key stakeholders, including Bryngwyn School were informed of the consultation period via e-mail at the beginning of the consultation period in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. Whilst the Local Authority inform all key stakeholders of any consultation period, it is the individual stakeholders' decision whether or not to submit an observation in relation to proposals and they not obligated to respond. All stakeholders, have a right to express their views, irrespective of their individual status and all of these views will be considered when making a decision. Should the stakeholder wish, these views can be submitted anonymously.</p> <p>As stated previously, no final decision has yet been made on the proposal and the decision on whether or not to implement the proposal must, by virtue of the law, be made on the grounds of the best interest of learners. It is, therefore, the educational merits that must be the determining factor in decision making, rather than the number of responses received in favour of or against the proposal.</p> <p>The present arrangements in the school are that all pupils in the reception classes are taught principally through the medium of Welsh, with English used as a facilitator according to the needs</p>		
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		<p>of individual children. These arrangements have been introduced through discussions between the school and parents. A Council officer was party to the discussions at the request of the school.</p> <p>Parents of pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 classes presently have the option to place their children in either the Welsh stream or the English stream. Should the proposal be implemented, all pupils currently attending the school, prior to implementation will continue to have a choice of streams in Years 1 and 2.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Children's Services are not aware of any alleged false information being given to parents/stakeholders regarding the language provision in the reception years.</p> <p>All of the data and figures used within the development of the proposal are factual.</p> <p>The 2007 Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision document sets out definitions and categories of schools in Wales according to the language which is used as the medium of instruction and the normal business of the school. The definitions have no basis in legislation but they have been devised to provide better information for parents and for government on the extent to which pupils are learning through the medium of Welsh.</p>		
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		The definitions do not attempt to specify exactly what an individual pupil may receive in a school.		
14.	<p><b><u>Council Policies and Saving Money</u></b></p> <p>Many respondents do not feel that following County Council and Government policies such as WESP 2014-2017 is a good enough reason to approve and implement the changing of the language category. It is also believed that this proposal is proposed in order to save money and that Welsh Medium schools receive more funding than other schools.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in Llangennech as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>Every local authority in Wales, including Carmarthenshire County Council has a responsibility to respond to the Act and the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy and is accountable individually to the Welsh Government. Carmarthenshire County Council's WESP 2014-2017 has been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech proposal:</p>	15	2%

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh.</li><li>• More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school.</li><li>• More students have higher language skills in Welsh.</li></ul> <p>It also sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.</li><li>• Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017.</li></ul> <p>Should the Local Authority not seek to achieve the specific outcomes as detailed in WESP, then it would not meet its aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh as recommended by the Welsh Government.</p> <p>Generally speaking it is more expensive to operate a dual stream school than a monolingual school so should the proposal succeed it will deliver greater financial efficiency over time, however this proposal has not been proposed in order to save</p>		
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		money. Welsh medium schools do not receive more funding than any other schools.		
15.	<p><b><u>Separation of Siblings</u></b></p> <p>The proposal may separate siblings who may not be able to attend the same school due to the removal of the English stream. Within some families, due to different needs some pupils attend through the Welsh stream whilst others attend through the English stream. This works well in a dual stream school such as Llangennech and allows all children within the same family to attend the same school. This may not be possible if the school becomes Welsh medium. This may then results in transport implications for families having to transport pupils to two different schools.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is not proposing alternative schools to Llangennech school for local children.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school. Again, sufficient support will be provided for all future pupils, principally through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Please see <b>point 9</b> which refers to the help and support which is currently and will continue to be provided to all pupils and parents with regards to the Welsh language.</p>	10	1.4%

		<p>Please see <b>point 12</b> which refers to pupils with additional learning needs, special educational needs and the help and support which is and will continue to be provided to these pupils.</p> <p>Should parents elect to place siblings in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the separation of siblings and any transport implications. If parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.</p>		
16.	<p><b><u>Inside and Outside Catchment pupils</u></b></p> <p>Many pupils from within the catchment area of the Llangennech schools are attending other English medium schools outside of their catchment area – potentially due to being declined a place at the English medium streams at Llangennech school. However, many pupils have been accepted into the Llangennech schools from outside of the catchment area. These pupils are mainly attending through the Welsh streams and therefore boost the number of pupils attending through the Welsh streams.</p>	<p>The Llangennech schools are able to accommodate all children living within the catchment area. These children receive preference to children living outside the catchment area under the established admissions policies.</p> <p>No children from within the Llangennech schools catchment area have been denied a place at Llangennech schools by the County Council as the statutory Admissions Authority.</p> <p>The published Admissions Numbers for the Llangennech schools apply to the school as a whole and do not consider language choice. Children can only be admitted to the schools by the local authority as the statutory admissions body. Schools do not have the right to admit pupils themselves or decline places. The County Council has not refused a place at the normal admission</p>	8	1.1%

		<p>round to any child residing within the catchment area, irrespective of language preference.</p> <p>The movement of pupils between school catchment areas is a common circumstance across the country in both urban and rural areas. As stated before, children living within catchment areas receive preference to attend their catchment schools before children living outside the catchment area. However, parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school and they do this for a number of reasons, e.g. access to extended family for working parents, ease of transporting children, proximity of the home to schools, reputation, faith character, etc.</p> <p>Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted. This is the case for pupils living outside of the catchment area attending the Llangennech schools and for the pupils living within the catchment area of Llangennech attending other school.</p> <p>Aggregated together, the total number of pupils attending both schools in January 2016 is 446, with 336, or 75%, living in the catchment area and 110 children, or 25%, living outside the catchment area.</p>		
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		<p>In January 2016 there were 96 children living within the catchment area of the Llangennech schools attending other schools. Of these, 16 children attended Welsh medium schools, 7 attended dual stream schools and 73 attended English medium schools, with a significant number of 39 children, over half those leaving the catchment area, attending Bryn school. 3 of the children attended faith based schools.</p> <p>It is relevant to note that due to the configuration of the catchment area of the Llangennech schools, a significant number of children living in the south of the catchment area reside closer to other schools than they do to the Llangennech schools. Prominent among these is Bryn School, which in January 2016 was receiving 39 pupils from the Llangennech catchment area who live in or close to Penllwyngwyn Road, Hendre Park, Harddfán, Bryn Uchaf and Pendderi Road and live much closer to this school.</p>		
17.	<p><b><u>Nursery Provision</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents have raised concerns whether there is need for the school to provide nursery provision as there are already nursery providers within the community, providing excellent education and care. In addition, these nurseries are also able to provide care for longer hours in comparison to what the school will be able to offer. Providing nursery provision within the school may have a detrimental</p>	<p>Whilst the provision of nursery education across Carmarthenshire is delivered through a “mixed economy” model of schools, independent sector organisations and private companies, it is the view of the County Council that nursery education is more effectively delivered in a school setting wherever practicable under the professional guidance of qualified teachers and under the leadership of a professional head teacher. Locating nursery provision on a school site in generally</p>	5	0.7%

	<p>effect on the independent nursery providers within the community. Some respondents are concerned if the school has capacity to incorporate 60 nursery places, as the school is already at capacity.</p>	<p>considered to be preferable as it facilitates a child's entry to full time education more effectively. It is generally the model favoured by Carmarthenshire schools.</p> <p>Nursery pupils are entitled to part-time education from the beginning of the term following their third birthday. Part-time is defined as 5 morning or afternoon sessions per week. Nursery pupils will be entitled to attend on a full-time basis at the start of the term preceding their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Local Authority acknowledges that there will be a need for childcare outside of the hours that the school provide provision.</p> <p>There are presently 4 registered childcare providers in Llangennech, 2 of which are commissioned to provide part-time nursery education and 1 of which is able to deliver through the medium of Welsh. The County Council acknowledges that there will be implications for these two providers should the proposal proceed as the funding they presently receive for providing part-time nursery education will cease.</p> <p>With regards to capacity at the school, a new double mobile classroom has already been installed at the infant school in order to assist with space pressures. The Local Authority will continue to monitor and assess the capacity situation and should there be a need, appropriate action will be taken.</p>		
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18.	<p><b><u>Staffing</u></b></p> <p>Changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium will restrict opportunities to staff who do not speak the Welsh language and will restrict employment opportunities for anyone who does not speak the Welsh language. In addition, are there are enough Welsh speaking staff employed at the school for this change to be effective? There are also concerns regarding the Head teacher's commitment to the school.</p>	<p>There are bilingual staff members currently working in both streams at the schools. Rather than restrict opportunities for staff who do not speak the Welsh language, this proposal will help staff to improve their Welsh language skills. "Athrawon Bro" will provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh language skills and the Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh language skills. It is also important to note that the proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become a completely Welsh medium school. This allows time for the school and staff to amend their current arrangements in order to provide staff with the opportunities to develop their Welsh language skills within the school environment and to prepare the school as a whole to become Welsh medium.</p> <p>The Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these can be recommended for implementation if needed. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.</p> <p>The Head teacher along with staff members are fully committed to the school and to the development of the school.</p>	5	0.7%
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# **Appendix B**

**Summary of Supportive Comments received following publication of the  
Statutory Notice and Local Authority related responses**

## **The Supportive Comments Received**

As stated in the Executive Summary, a total number of **698** supportive comments were received in response to the statutory notice.

These were compiled of:

119 e-mails; and

579 letters. (These letters were compiled of individual letters and standard template support letters.)

**However:**

1 letter was unclear whether or not they were supportive of the proposals.

The following table summarises the points raised within the supportive comments received and the Local Authority's responses to these points. The table also shows the number responses raising each point:

<u>Point Number</u>	<u>Point Raised</u>	<u>Local Authority Response</u>	<u>Number of responses raising the point</u>	<u>% of responses raising the point</u>
1.	<p><b><u>Bilingualism</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will provide all pupils with the opportunity to become bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak fluently in both Welsh and English languages. This will also help develop bilingualism within the community of Llangennech and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Bilingualism offers many advantages to all pupils and learning through the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Many of the advantages of being bilingual include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration;</li> <li>- ease of flexibility between languages;</li> <li>- social and economical advantages;</li> <li>- helps with the ability to learn a third language</li> <li>- enhanced career prospects and personal development;</li> <li>- broadens individuals' cultural experiences.</li> </ul>	<p>It is the belief of the Department, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Department acknowledges that bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	617	89%

	All pupils should be provided with the opportunity to benefit with the many advantages of being bilingual			
2.	<p><b><u>Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh language</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will increase the number of Welsh speakers within the area of Llangennech and Carmarthenshire, in line with the Welsh Government's aim of reaching 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Following the decline in the number of Welsh speakers as shown by the 2011 census, this proposal will help preserve the future of the Welsh language</p>	<p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	544	78%
3.	<p><b><u>The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies</u></b></p> <p>The proposal ensures that the Local Authority is adhering to Council and Welsh Government policies with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The proposal ensures that the Local Authority meet their aim of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in Llangennech as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of</p>	405	58%

	<p>secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages</p>	<p>Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy requires action on 73 points, 21 of which apply to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh.</li> <li>• More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school.</li> <li>• More students have higher language skills in Welsh.</li> </ul> <p>It also sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of</li> </ul>		
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		<p>Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017.</li> </ul> <p>This proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
4.	<p><b><u>Pupils will have access to formal education at an earlier age</u></b></p> <p>Changing the age range of the school to 3-11 provides the children of Llangennech with access to a formal education from an earlier age, as is already available in other schools across the County. This will prepare young children to adapt to school life and benefit from the advantages of a school setting.</p>	<p>Whilst the provision of nursery education across Carmarthenshire is delivered through a “mixed economy” model of schools, independent sector organisations and private companies, it is the view of the County Council that nursery education is more effectively delivered in a school setting wherever practicable under the professional guidance of qualified teachers and under the leadership of a professional head teacher. Locating nursery provision on a school site is generally considered to be preferable as it facilitates a child’s entry to full time education more effectively. It is generally the model favoured by Carmarthenshire schools. This proposal does provide the pupils of Llangennech with this opportunity, as is already available to many pupils across the County.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	187	27%

5.	<p><b><u>Immersion</u></b></p> <p>It is clear that learning Welsh as a second language is ineffective in creating bilingual individuals. The best way to create bilingual young people who are confident in reading, writing and speaking in both Welsh and English languages is through immersion. The Welsh Government have also cited that the best way in creating bilingual individuals is through immersion in the less common language.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges the international evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirming that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	134	19%
6.	<p><b><u>The change will be a natural progression for the school</u></b></p> <p>Following the formal federation of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior Schools along with the increase in demand for Welsh medium education, the change will be a natural progression for the school. The number of pupils attending the English stream have been declining over recent years whilst the number of pupils attending the Welsh stream have been increasing. There is a clear increase in demand for Welsh medium education provision in the area.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the formal federation of both schools is successful and that the next natural step is to establish the schools as one new primary school. It would also seem appropriate due to the decline in the number of pupils attending the English stream and the increase in number of pupils attending the Welsh stream to establish the school as a Welsh medium primary school due to the increase in demand for Welsh medium education provision.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	132	19%
7.	<p><b><u>Standards and Support</u></b></p> <p>Pupils in the Welsh stream are performing well and are achieving good standards in all subjects including both Welsh and English languages. Parents should</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the evidence of recent years at the Llangennech schools is that children in the Welsh language stream achieve good standards in both the English and Welsh languages. Children in the English language</p>	37	5%

	<p>not be worried about their child's education should their children attend through the Welsh stream. In addition many non-Welsh parents are extremely supportive of Welsh medium education and have already placed their children in the Welsh stream and are happy with their children's progress.</p>	<p>stream, however, do not achieve equally high standards in the Welsh language as the follow a Welsh second language programme. The evidence also confirms that children in the Welsh language stream from non-Welsh speaking homes achieve consistently good outcomes in all subjects, including the English language.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
8.	<p><b><u>No reason</u></b></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>		18	3%
9.	<p><b><u>Supportive Staff</u></b></p> <p>The school have a responsible Headteacher and staff members who are committed to the school. All staff members should be commended for their dedication and passion to providing all pupils with the best education possible.</p>	<p>The Local Authority applauds all staff members for their dedication and their commitment to the school and all its pupils. This is evidenced in the high standards achieved consistently by pupils across the schools.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	9	1.3%