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19 April 2021

Dear Parents / Stakeholders,

On Monday 15 March 2021, the Executive approved the proposal to :

**To approve the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Y Graig to take pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol Y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn.**

The Statutory Notice was published on 18 January 2021, and the objection period ended on 15 February 2021. A total of 46 objections were received to the proposal.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018, the Executive considered the objections and the original proposal was adopted. In deciding on the proposal, the Executive was satisfied that the proposal would ensure the following:

- Long term educational programme for pupils in this rural and town area.
- Opportunity to develop the quality of teaching and learning including, consistency in class sizes and age range within classes.
- Facilitate the development of strong school leadership and management, led by one Headteacher, with one Governing Body and financed as one single establishment.
- Offer a large measure of flexibility in planning and delivering the curriculum.
- Provide a more appropriate education for pupils of all abilities. Staff will be able to contribute to policies and practices in every area across the age range, especially in the encouragement of more able and talented pupils and provision for those who would benefit from additional support.

The reasons for the decision in respect to the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

#### **Quality and Standards of Education**

The Authority will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption to pupils in all schools, by working closely with the Headteacher and the relevant Governing Body. Additional support will be provided, if necessary, to assist pupils with the transition. The extended school will also help improve the attainment/results of all pupils, regardless of their background, by providing leadership time for one non-teaching Headteacher.

#### **The need for spaces and the effect on accessibility to schools**

This proposal will provide a new primary sector building for the Foundation Phase, (Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2), which will meet Building Bulletin 99 Criteria and Welsh Government Circular 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales'. The Council has drawn attention to the fact that some pupils will travel further to the school. Transport is provided from home to school for pupils in accordance with the Council's Transport Policy. The extended Ysgol y Graig will be able to accommodate the pupils currently attending

Ysgol Talwrn. The expanded school will fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and will remain a Welsh medium community school.

### Education resources

This proposal is funded by the Council's own funds, prudential borrowing, a Welsh Government grant of 65% and £150,000 of capital received through the sale of assets.

Funding analysis	Cost
Isle of Anglesey County Council 35%	£1,923,163 (after including £150,000 capital receipts)
Welsh Government 65%	£3,850,160
Projected total project cost	£5,923,323

The proposal will lead to reorganising the spend per pupil which will allow for more effective use of this expenditure across the schools.

### Specific factors in the consideration of school closures

Various options were considered by the Executive prior to deciding to proceed with the published proposal. Making space for Ysgol Talwrn pupils on the extended Ysgol y Graig site will be more financially viable and will ensure that there are sufficient places for children in the area given the proposed housing developments locally. Ysgol y Graig will be expected to continue to run a breakfast club, after school club and community activities using the community room in the school.

### Implementation

The extended Ysgol y Graig in Llangefni will open from September 2023 at the earliest. Once it opens, Ysgol Talwrn will close.

### Referral of Local Authority Decision to the Welsh Ministers

Under section 54 of the 2013 Act where proposals have been approved by a local authority the following bodies may within 28 days refer the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for consideration;

- i. Another local authority affected by the proposals
- ii. The appropriate religious body
- iii. The Governing Body of a voluntary or foundation school
- iv. A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school
- v. A further education institution affected by the proposal

The bodies making the referral will need to set out why they believe that the decision reached by the local authority is wrong.

Yours sincerely.

*Rhys Howard Hughes*

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