



Conwy Primary School Modernisation Project

Llandudno Junction Area

Community Impact Assessment

June 2011

Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	2
1.1 Conwy Community Strategy	2
1.2 Community focused schools	2
1.3 Local schools (catchment areas)	2
1.4 Rural village schools	3
2 Area profile	3
2.1 Llandudno Junction Area Profile	3
2.2 Community facilities	4
2.3 Businesses	4
2.4 Employment and income	5
2.5 Llandudno Junction Masterplan	5
2.6 Modernisation of libraries	5
3 School profiles	6
3.1 Further school information	8
4 Community Impact Assessment Method	8
4.1 Local Authority Options for Structural Change Community Impact Assessment	10
5 Conclusions and recommendations	17
Appendix	19

1. Introduction

Conwy County Borough Council has been carrying out an in-depth review of its Primary Schools over the last 3 years. This resulted in the publication of the *'Strategy for the Modernisation of Conwy Primary Schools'* and associated *'Implementation Plan'* in October 2010, following its adoption by Cabinet.

The Cabinet also agreed to:

- i) consult with communities in detail (full impact assessment) on the options within the Implementation Plan and
- ii) undertake stakeholder meetings with those areas identified for *'review in two years time'*.

Key information, including impact assessments on language; equality; transportation; community; and buildings fit for purpose, will be undertaken in order to inform an option appraisal.

Formal consultation meetings will take place with each school within an area for initial review to present in more detail the options considered for each area and the outcome of the option appraisal.

This document will consider the impact on the local community of the proposed options within the Llandudno Junction Area.

1.1 Conwy Community Strategy

'Encouraging learning and creativity' is one of the five themes of the Conwy Community Strategy.

Providing high quality education and training opportunities is vital in improving the communities of Conwy. The provision of high quality learning opportunities and education and training services is a key part of securing social and economic well-being. Children and adults learn in many settings including schools, colleges, training establishments, work places, community settings and the home. Conwy encourages a culture where individuals, organisations and businesses support and promote learning.

1.2 Community focused schools

The Local Authority will support schools to develop community links that provide opportunities and enrich experiences for all. Opportunities for curriculum enhancement and enrichment need to be developed with the school's local community and beyond, benefiting both the pupils and members of the community. When considering the options for future school structures the Authority will balance educational needs with community development, investment and support needs.

1.3 Local schools (catchment areas)

The Primary Schools Modernisation programme will support the Authority's policy of identifying local schools for communities. Each local school has a defined 'catchment area'. Catchment areas (in the main) are based on community ward boundaries as supplied by the Boundary Commission. Catchment areas are mapped out and are required to be reviewed periodically.

In rural areas, a catchment area will cover many square miles and may include one or more villages and their surrounding areas. In urban areas with two or more schools in a town, the catchment areas will be a collection of streets.

1.4 Rural village schools

The Authority recognises the vital role our village schools undertake within our rural communities to maintain the local culture, language and way of life. When considering the options for future school structures within the rural areas, the Authority will balance educational needs with community development, investment and support needs.

2.0 Area Profile

2.1 Llandudno Junction area profile

The settlement of Llandudno Junction is largely contained within the wards of Marl and Pensarn, and bordered by the ward of Deganwy along Pentywyn Road. There are two primary schools in the area, namely Ysgol Nant y Coed and Ysgol Maelgwn. Ysgol Nant y Coed teaches pupils with Welsh as a second language whereas Ysgol Maelgwn offers primary education to pupils with Welsh as a first and second language. The catchment of Ysgol Nant y Coed broadly follows the ward boundary of Pensarn but also extends into Marl. As Ysgol Maelgwn has both an English and a Welsh medium stream, it has two distinct catchment areas, with the English medium catchment occupying much of Marl ward and the Welsh medium catchment occupying this area plus an extended region beyond.

The combined population of the two wards is 6350.¹ This contains a slightly higher proportion of young people up to 15 years of age than the mean average for Conwy county, and a lower proportion of people of pension age.

The population of the catchment area of Ysgol Nant y Coed is 3024 with 3352 dwellings within 1 mile of the school. The population of the English medium stream catchment area of Ysgol Maelgwn is 2738 with 3835 households within 1 mile of the school.²

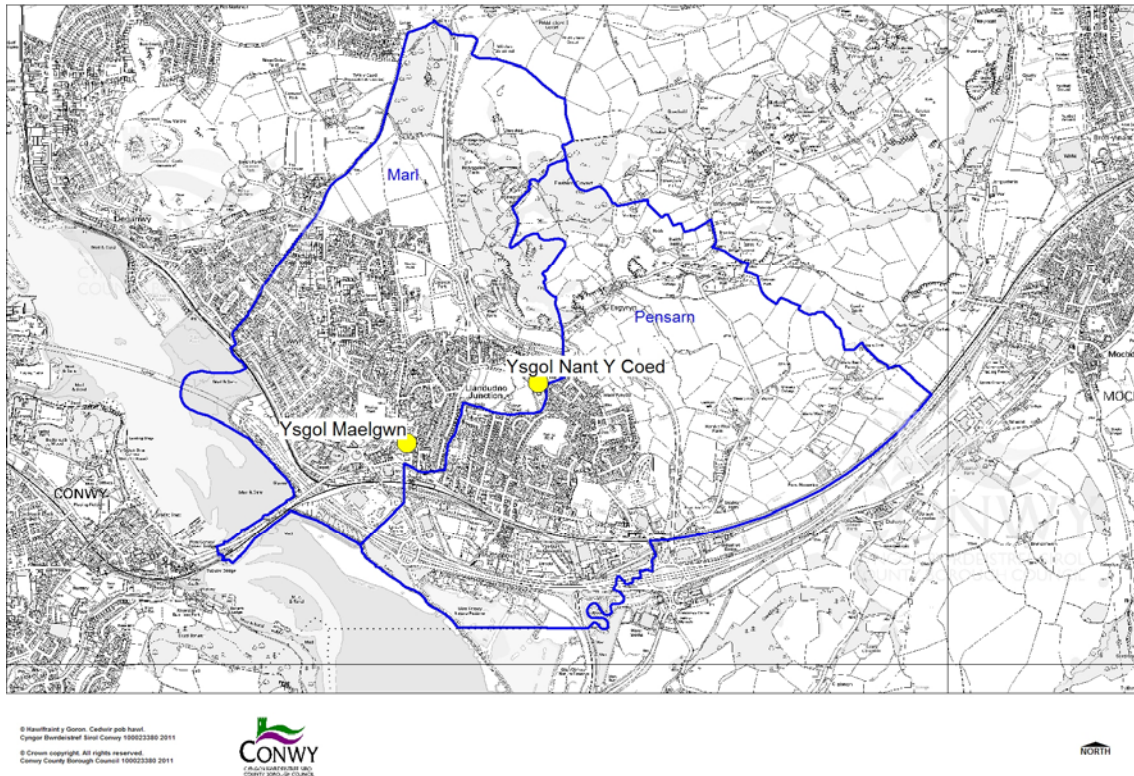
The current deposit Conwy Local Development Plan (2007 – 2022) indicates that new housing sites will be developed within Llandudno Junction, with intentions for the Maelgwn catchment to accommodate a further 241 dwellings and an additional 200 dwellings in the Nant y Coed catchment area. This is inclusive of new proposed housing allocations and sites with current planning permission. A potential 40 further primary school pupils are associated with these extra dwellings in the Maelgwn catchment and a further potential 30 primary school pupils are associated with the new dwellings in the Nant y Coed catchment. Large residential developments are planned (subject to the final approval of the LDP) for by 2022 at the Esgyryn and the social club sites (a different area to that being considered for the school site).³

¹ 2009 Mid-year estimates of population, Office for National Statistics; ONS experimental small area population estimates

² As Above

³ Conwy Deposit Local Development Plan 2007-2022 (Revised edition 2011) Strategic policy HOU/1 – Meeting the housing need

Map 1: Marl and Pensarn Wards with Llandudno Junction Schools



2.2 Community facilities

The following facilities are available for community use:

2.2.1 Ysgol Maelgwn catchment area

- Llandudno Junction Community Club and sports ground
- Llandudno Junction Youth Centre
- St Georges Drive Allotments
- Victoria Drive playing fields

2.2.2 Ysgol Nant y Coed catchment area

- Llandudno Junction Leisure Centre
- Library
- St Michaels Church Project
- War Memorial Hall
- Cae Derw playground and playing fields

2.3 Businesses

There are numerous businesses in the Llandudno Junction area, focused mainly within the ward of Pensarn. Several small retailers and service providers are located along Conwy Road, and the Tre Marl Industrial Estate contains a wide variety of business types. These include car showrooms, motor factors and refrigeration specialists. Public bodies also have depots here, including North Wales Fire and Rescue and Conwy County Borough Council. The considerable recent development of 'The Point' site has involved the construction of the regional office for the Welsh Assembly Government, 'Sarn Mynach'.

2.4 Employment and income

Annual unemployment JSA claimant rates for February 2011 show Marl had a lower unemployment rate (3.1) than both Pensarn (4.4) and the county average (4.1).⁴

According to the 2001 Census, in both wards employment is greatest in the motor industry (Marl 20.6% and Pensarn 22.1%), followed by health and social work (15.7% and 14.1%).⁵ Employment in both sectors was slightly greater than the Wales averages. Employment in the motor industry was slightly greater than the Conwy average and employment in health and social work is equal to the county average in Marl and slightly less than average in Pensarn. Employment in construction, hospitality, education and real estate were all represented at rates of between 4.8% and 14%. Less well represented were agriculture and forestry, utilities, transport and finance.

The mean household income for the county is £24,950. The average household income in Marl is higher at £26,556, and in Pensarn it is lower at £23,743.⁶

2.5 Llandudno Junction Masterplan

Following stakeholder workshops and public consultation in 2008, in 2009 Conwy County Borough Council published a plan of regeneration proposals for the future. A vision for the area was described;

“Llandudno Junction will become a distinctive community and a key economic hub at the heart of North Wales”

This masterplan includes Improvement and Development of Conwy Road, Development of Llandudno Junction West, Enhancing Community Facilities, Improving Transport and Accessibility, Primary School Modernisation, Regeneration and Renewal of Residential Neighbourhoods and consideration for the potential for rail freight at Llandudno Junction station.

To date, a property enhancement scheme fund has been allocated for businesses to improve the appearance of their properties in the area. A large capital project to improve pedestrian access to the leisure hub at Ffordd 6G has also started. The work will involve widening the verge to provide a new pavement on the eastern side of the Ffordd 6G Road, which runs over the railway and provides access to and from leisure and shopping facilities. Further investment will follow to improve the environment around some of the less attractive routes and to enhance the streetscape in the Conway Road area.

2.6 Modernisation of libraries

In 2006, Conwy Library Service undertook a review of the Service through widespread consultation with users and non-users. The results of the consultation, together with the requirements of the Welsh Public Libraries Standards, are the key drivers for the Library Modernisation programme.

A number of libraries in the county are subject to review within this programme, including Llandudno Junction Library. A single strategic library to serve Conwy, Deganwy and Llandudno Junction is proposed. A final decision regarding the location of this strategic library has yet to be made and this will be subject to an options appraisal and approval by Conwy.

⁴ Office for National Statistics NOMIS February 2011

⁵ 2001 Census

⁶ CACI Paycheck data

3.0 School Profiles

Ysgol Maelgwn

The latest ESTYN Inspection for Ysgol Maelgwn contains the following comments:⁷

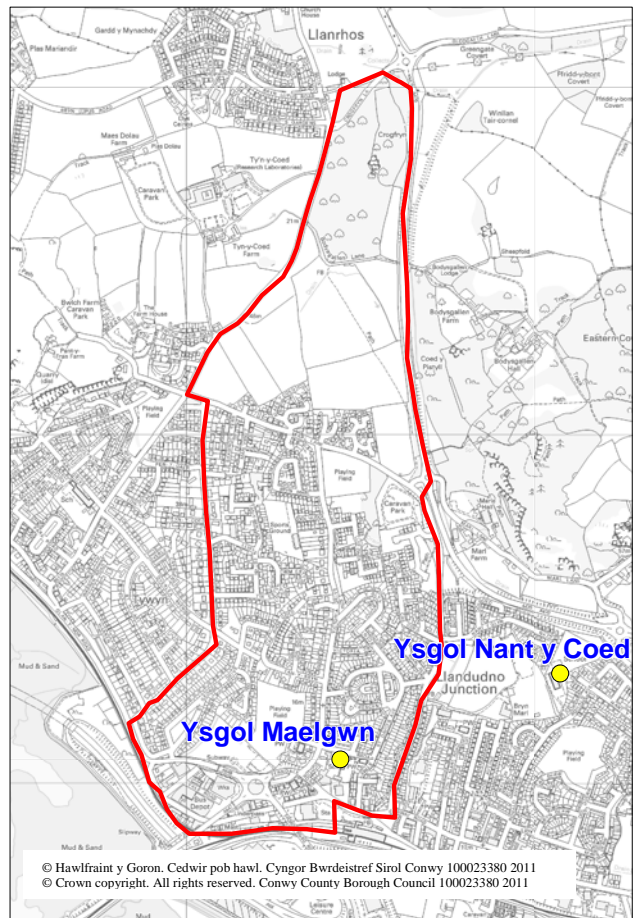
'The school offers a good range of activities and visits, which enrich the experiences pupils receive within classes. Effective use is made of a local information technology centre for the older pupils, and some of the pupils contributed towards creating an information pack on Prince Maelgwn for the BBC's local history website. The variety of experiences offered to the pupils in out-of-school activities is broad and of a high quality.'

Map 2. Ysgol Maelgwn Catchment

'There are a number of sporting clubs, as well as weekly opportunities to learn foreign languages. Pupils take advantage of these opportunities and also contribute to their local paper by writing about events and activities at the school. Even so, some pupils feel that there aren't enough opportunities for everyone to participate in some activities.'

'The numerous opportunities to become involved in arts and musical activities, together with visits to places in the community and further away, enrich pupils' social experiences well and broaden their cultural experiences.'

'Aspects of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig have permeated well to a number of aspects of the life and activities of the school. Children's Poets for Wales, namely Gwyneth Glyn and Mererid Hopwood, were invited, in their turn, to work with the pupils; the story of the drowning of Cwm Tryweryn is an area studied by pupils in key stage 2'. "The school's provision for promoting pupils' bilingual skills shows outstanding elements. Teachers take advantage of every opportunity to use 'incidental' Welsh in the relevant contexts''.



⁷ ESTYN Inspection Report of Ysgol Maelgwn February 2008

Ysgol Nant y Coed

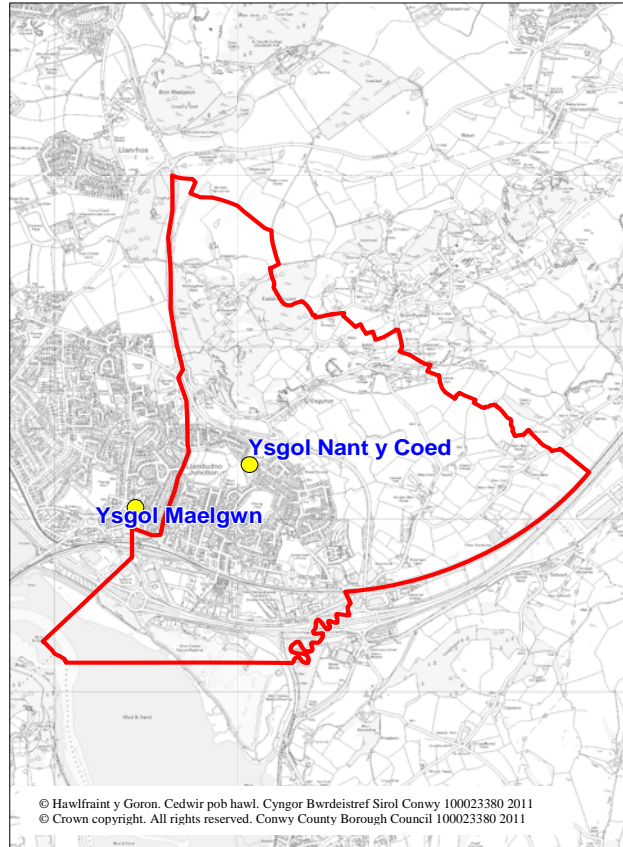
The latest ESTYN Inspection for Ysgol Nant y Coed contains the following comments:⁸

'The school offers good opportunities for out-of-school activities, which enhance and extend the curriculum. These include visits to places of educational interest, the contribution of visitors, clubs, homework and other suitable activities. The Urdd branch in the school provides opportunities for pupils to perform and compete in sports and eisteddfodau and thus fosters their confidence as they perform in public.'

Map 3. Ysgol Nant y Coed Catchment

'The school places good emphasis on promoting pupils' bilingual skills. Regular use is made of Welsh in the schools day-to-day routines and the pupils make appropriate efforts to use Welsh outside the lessons. The attention given to the Cwricwlwm Cymreig in the work of the school is good. The heritage and culture of Wales are studied effectively through subjects such as history, art and music, and through extra-curricular activities associated with the Urdd.'

'There are good links with parents, the community, schools and other establishments. The parents praise the work of the school although some of them would like to receive more information about what is taught. The vast majority find it easy to communicate with the school and the home/school agreements are completed appropriately. The Teacher/Parents Association raises significant funds for the school and these are used to purchase additional resources. Members of the community come to the school to listen to the pupils reading and they promote the pupils' confidence and skills effectively.'



⁸ ESTYN Inspection Report of Ysgol Nant y Coed February 2007

3.1 Further school information

		Ysgol Maelgwn	Ysgol Nant y Coed
Children living in the catchment area attending the school (within English medium catchment areas)			
		28% 51 (182)	53% 138 (262)
Services provided by the school for the community, including extra curricular activities			
Breakfast club	Term time	Daily	-
Football	Term time	Once weekly	10 sessions
Netball	Term time	Once weekly	15 sessions
Cookery club	Term time	Twice a month	-
Rugby	Term time	Once weekly	-
Urdd	Term time	Once weekly	20 sessions
Kick it football	Term time	-	5 sessions
Maths club	Term time	-	10 sessions
Cricket club	Term time	-	6 sessions
Community facilities used regularly by the school			
Church		-	Twice a year
Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises			
Out of school club	Term time	Daily	-
Welsh lessons	Term time	9 sessions	-
Choir practice	Term time	16 sessions	-
Cylch Meithrin	Term time	Daily	-
Zumba classes	Term time	-	Once weekly
Brownies	Term time	-	Once weekly
Rainbows	Term time	-	Once weekly
Impact on local businesses and employment			
Convenience retail businesses in catchment		1	2
Childcare businesses in catchment		2	1
Businesses supplying school in catchment		0	2

4.0 Community Impact Assessment

The Community Development Service was asked to consider the impact on the Llandudno Junction community, of the following options from the 'Strategy for the Modernisation of Conwy Primary Schools' Implementation Plan:

Option 1 (driver-led)- Area school on one (new) site (either *Esgyryn* or *Albini House*)

Option 2 (community preferred)- Area school on one (new) site (either *Esgyryn* or *Albini House*)

Option 3 - Maintain Current Schools

Option 4 - Area school on existing 2 sites

Each of the schools within the area provided information about their role in the community (see 3.1 Further school information). Using these details and other information concerning Llandudno Junction, the Community Development Service investigated the potential impacts that each of the proposed options may present.

Five key measures were identified with weightings agreed by the Primary Schools Modernisation Programme Board and applied to ensure that particular issues are appropriately represented:

- Children living in the catchment area attending their local school (Weighting: 30)
- Services provided by the school for the community including extra curricular activities (Weighting: 25)
- Community facilities used regularly by the school (Weighting: 10)
- Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises (Weighting: 25)
- Impact on local businesses and employment (Weighting: 10)

Against each Option (e.g. 'Option 3, Maintain current schools'):

- The five measures (e.g. 'impact on local businesses and employment') were assessed to identify any negative or positive impacts on the community.
- A score was then applied ranging from -3 to +3 based on the balance of the evidence available.
- Each individual score was then multiplied by the agreed weighting for the measure.

Measure score	Measure assessment	Total measure score
-3	Large deterioration	-201 to -300
-2	Moderate deterioration	-101 to -200
-1	Slight deterioration	-1 to -100
0	No overall change	0
1	Slight improvement	1 to 100
2	Moderate improvement	101 to 200
3	Large improvement	201 to 300

Section 4.1 presents the outcome of the impact assessment for each Option. For full methodology see Appendix.

4.1 Local Authority Options for Structural Change Community Impact Assessment

MEASURE	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Albin House site	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Esgyryn site	Option 3 Maintain Current Schools	Option 4 Area school on existing two sites	Comments / Future mitigation of negative impacts
<p>Children living in the catchment area attending the school</p> <p>Weighting 30</p>	<p>-1 (-30)</p>	<p>-2 (-60)</p>	<p>0 (0)</p>	<p>-1 (-30)</p>	<p>Pupils currently living within the town of Llandudno Junction have the choice of two schools, whereas with Option 1 and 2, this choice is lost, and to some extent the same can be said of Option 4 due to the two sites being managed as one school.</p> <p>Within the catchment of Ysgol Nant y Coed around half of pupils choose to attend their local school (53%). At Ysgol Maelgwn it is 28%. Of the 47% of pupils living in the Ysgol Nant y Coed catchment not attending this school, around half choose to attend nearby Ysgol Maelgwn.</p> <p>Of the pupils living in the Ysgol Maelgwn catchment, proportionally fewer children choose to attend their local school, and fewer still choose their next nearest option, Ysgol Nant y Coed. More than twice as many pupils living in this catchment choose to attend Ysgol Deganwy rather than Ysgol Nant y Coed. In the context of this impact assessment, pupils attending either school are considered to be taking advantage of this local choice.</p> <p>Of the options presented here, the community's preferred option is for an Area school to replace the two existing schools. Consequently a slight positive impact is associated with Area School options 1 and 2.</p>

MEASURE	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Albini House site	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Esgyryn site	Option 3 Maintain Current Schools	Option 4 Area school on existing two sites	Comments / Future mitigation of negative impacts
					<p><i>For the current Ysgol Maelgwn pupils, the loss of choice is considered to be a slight deterioration (-1). With proportionally more pupils currently choosing their local school of Ysgol Nant y Coed, the impact for these pupils is considered to be a moderate deterioration in choice (-2). Overall, the ability of parents at present to choose between these two schools is considered here to be moderately important.</i></p> <p><i>The negative impacts associated with this loss of choice is offset slightly by a positive impact with the development of an Area School to replace the existing two schools, as this is the community's overall preferred option.</i></p> <p><i>For some pupils, the Esgyryn area school option could mean an increase in journey time (walking) compared with the current Maelgwn site to approx. 30 minutes each way. An area school at Esgyryn is considered to result in a large deterioration (-3) in the accessibility of the school for pupils walking from the Maelgwn catchment area. An area school in a more central location at Albini House would have minimal impact (0).</i></p> <p><i>Loss of a school may have an impact on the sustainability of a community itself. Such a loss may make an area less appealing to parents of young children. This effect is considered here to be potentially greater where an area school at Esgyryn may replace a school site at Ysgol Maelgwn.</i></p>

MEASURE	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Albini House site	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Esgyryn site	Option 3 Maintain Current Schools	Option 4 Area school on existing two sites	Comments / Future mitigation of negative impacts
<p>Services provided by the school for the community, including extra curricular activities</p> <p>Weighting 25</p>	1 (25)	1 (25)	0 (0)	1 (25)	<p>Each school provides a comparable range of activities, none of which require specialist facilities. It is anticipated that a similar or greater complement of activities would be provided at any future school, working as a Community Focus school.</p> <p>Pupils could potentially benefit from a broader range of activities with the sharing of staff expertise and resources across the current two schools for Options 1, 2 and 4.</p>
<p>Community facilities used regularly by the school</p> <p>Weighting 10</p>	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	<p>Neither Ysgol Nant y Coed nor Ysgol Maelgwn have reported use of the community facilities within the Llandudno Junction area (e.g. Memorial Hall, Library). There is no reason to expect this to change with a new school.</p>
<p>Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises</p> <p>Weighting 25</p>	0 (0)	-1 (-25)	0 (0)	0 (0)	<p>A similar number of groups make use of facilities in each school, although Ysgol Maelgwn offers daily provision in term time of Cylch Meithrin (during school hours) and out of school clubs (directly after school), whilst Ysgol Nant y Coed is used more frequently in the evenings. Therefore, if these groups need to access the same facilities a conflict of use should not arise.</p> <p>In all options, investment would be planned to bring sites up to 'fit for purpose' standards, resulting in some improvement of facilities. Where the needs of the community are considered, Options 1 & 2 offer the greatest potential for this improvement as complete new builds.</p>

MEASURE	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Albini House site	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Esgyryn site	Option 3 Maintain Current Schools	Option 4 Area school on existing two sites	Comments / Future mitigation of negative impacts
					<p><i>This results in a slight improvement for Option 1 & 2 both sites (+1).</i></p> <p>However, these facilities may not be as accessible to the wider local community where they are located on a single site, particularly where that site is at one end of the main settlement (Esgyryn). <i>This results in a slight deterioration for Option 1 & 2 at the Albini site (-1), and a moderate deterioration for the Esgyryn site option (-2).</i></p> <p>For the After School Club currently leasing a mobile unit on the Maelgwn site, and the Cylch Meithrin using a school mobile unit, new local agreements would need to be reached. However, there is no reason to suggest that this would not be supported under any new arrangements.</p>
Impact on local businesses and employment Weighting 10	+1 (10)	+1 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)	The overall score is comprised of assessments of impact on employment, local convenience retailers, childcare businesses and local businesses supplying the schools (see breakdown of these assessments below).
Breakdown: <i>Employment</i>	0	0	0	0	<i>Based on the projected finances associated with a new area school (Options 1, 2 and 4), less than one teaching post would be lost out of a current total of 16.31 posts. From this we can determine that the impact on the community would be negligible.</i>

MEASURE	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Albini House site	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Esgyryn site	Option 3 Maintain Current Schools	Option 4 Area school on existing two sites	Comments / Future mitigation of negative impacts
<i>Local convenience retail businesses</i>	1	1	0	0	<p><i>Three convenience type retailers are located in the area, with two in the current Nant y Coed catchment. Location of a single area school at the Esgyryn site option is considered to be the only option which presents a potential negative impact, affecting the single newsagent shop in the Maelgwn catchment, opposite the train station.</i></p> <p><i>This shop is very close to Ysgol Maelgwn and may benefit from trade associated with the pupils, staff and parents travelling to and from the school each day during term time.</i></p> <p><i>However, where an area school is located at Esgyryn, pedestrian access to this site from the current Maelgwn catchment area would bring pupils and parents along Conway Road – where most businesses in the area are located. This could potentially result in an increase in trade for these shops.</i></p>
<i>Childcare Business within the Llandudno Junction Area</i>	0	0	0	0	<p><i>There is currently one childcare business within the Nant y Coed catchment and two within the Ysgol Maelgwn catchment. If the location of the latter school site was to move to Esgyryn, this could disrupt travel patterns for parents with younger children accompanying siblings on the school run and may result in parents choosing to switch providers. This may be negative for one provider but positive for the other.</i></p>

MEASURE	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Albini House site	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Esgyryn site	Option 3 Maintain Current Schools	Option 4 Area school on existing two sites	Comments / Future mitigation of negative impacts
					<p><i>For established providers that may walk their charges to Ysgol Maelgwn, a move to the Esgyryn site may prove to be a disadvantage and negatively impact their ability to offer their current level of service.</i></p> <p><i>Where two schools are relocated onto a single site, travelling patterns may become simpler for child care providers, with only one site to visit.</i></p>
<i>Businesses supplying schools</i>	0	0	0	0	<p><i>No local businesses (Llandudno Junction Area) supply Ysgol Maelgwn, and two supply Ysgol Nant y Coed for maintenance and cleaning materials. There do not appear to be any significant contracts in place to provide either school with goods or services, and no local business is considered to be dependant on the schools' custom. Similar levels of trade would be expected with a single area school.</i></p>

Community Impact Assessment summary

Measure	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Albini House site	Options 1 & 2 Area school on Esgyryn site	Option 3 Maintain Current Schools	Option 4 Area school on existing two sites
Children living in the catchment area attending the school	-30	-60	0	-30
Services provided by the school for the community, including extra curricular activities	25	25	0	25
Community facilities used regularly by the school	0	0	0	0
Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	0	-25	0	0
Impact on local businesses and employment	10	10	0	0
Total Community Impact Score	5	-50	0	-5

A new build area school in Options 1 and 2 (Albini House site) is considered to result in a overall slightly positive community impact. The Esgyryn site option within Options 1 and 2 results in a slightly negative impact. Option 3 'Maintain current schools' is considered to result in no negative or positive impact. Option 4 is considered to result in a very slight negative impact.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

The outcome of the impact assessment based on the five measures in section 4 is that options 1 and 2 will result in an overall positive community impact where the site for the new Area School is Albini House. These options score slightly negatively where the Esgyryn site is chosen for the Area School. Option three 'Maintain current schools' results in a neutral impact with no changes being made other than the improvements to existing facilities in order to bring them up to 'fit for purpose' standards. Option 4 (an Area School on the existing two sites) results in a very marginal negative impact.

Of the options presented, the community's preferred option is for an Area School to replace the existing schools and to some extent this preference offsets wider negative impacts associated with losing one school from an area which previously had two. The main negative impact associated with Options 1, 2 and 4 is the loss of the current choice between two local schools which would result from a single area school replacing these, whether on one or two sites. There is evidence that many local pupils choose their local catchment area school, particularly pupils living in the catchment area of Ysgol Nant y Coed (53%). Of those pupils not choosing Ysgol Nant y Coed but living within its catchment around half choose the other 'local' option of Ysgol Maelgwn.

Of those pupils who are taught Welsh as a second language and living in the catchment area of Ysgol Maelgwn, slightly more choose to attend Ysgol Deganwy (58) than their local catchment school (54). This may be in part due to Ysgol Deganwy being more accessible than Ysgol Maelgwn to some of these pupils. Should proximity be a locally important issue for parents to consider when choosing a school, a new area school at either Albini House or Esgyryn could make Ysgol Deganwy a more favourable option.

The implications on travel time and distance for pupils and community users alike of an area school at Esgyryn replacing Ysgol Maelgwn may be considerable. Journey times would potentially increase from around 20 minutes to 30 minutes one way. Pupils walking from the current Ysgol Maelgwn catchment area to both proposed sites options would need to cross more roads, notably Marl Drive which can become busy at peak times. This issue is identified and assessed as part of the separate Transport Impact Assessment.

Traffic flow could be improved with an area school at Esgyryn, and should relieve rush hour congestion around the two current sites, both of which are in residential areas. This is countered by an increased walking time for pupils resident in the Maelgwn catchment. This issue is also considered separately in the Transport Impact Assessment.

Alternatively, an area school at the Albini House site would offer a more central location for all pupils, and may benefit from the close access to the A470 also afforded by the Esgyryn site option. Traffic flow around the Albini House site could increase substantially where both sets of parents would converge in morning and afternoon during term time. Marl Drive is well used by residents for parking towards Conway Road, although less so towards the Albini House site.

Relocation of a school within the area may have an impact on the attractiveness of a current locality for potential homebuyers, particularly those with or planning to have children. This is true for any service, such as a surgery, library or leisure centre.

Conversely, the relocation of a school away from an area may be considered to be beneficial by local residents and make the locality more appealing to homebuyers seeking a quieter neighbourhood. An overall positive or negative impact is not suggested here but the potential for a change in the composition of residents over time is recognised.

An aspect which serves to minimise negative impacts is the commitment of Education Services to invest in all options in order to ensure that all schools are 'fit for purpose'. The 'new build' Options of 1 and 2 present an opportunity for new facilities to be designed without any need to compromise in a retrofit, and so would be expected to be better equipped. However, Options 3 and 4 would also benefit from some development of facilities and still retain two separate sites across the area, rather than a single relatively less accessible site at Esgyryn.

However, in terms of community facilities, it is not clear that a 'new build' school would provide significantly better facilities than those used by groups at present on both sites and so this potential positive impact may be offset by the negative impact associated with access, particularly at Esgyryn.

Of the groups currently using the facilities in both schools, no conflict is foreseen where common facilities could be used in the future. This is principally because the frequency of use of the groups is sufficiently low to allow all to be served. The relocation of both the After School Club and Cylch Meithrin currently operating from cabins at Ysgol Maelgwn would require new local agreements to be arranged should an area school be built. A new build could potentially offer improved facilities compared to those currently used and in any event would not result in an offer of inferior facilities.

At present there is minimal use of community facilities within the area made by either school. Consequently, no community facility is identified as being vulnerable to such a loss of use.

Options 3 and 4 both involve retaining existing sites but under different organisational arrangements. In favour of Option 3 is the retention of parental choice in the area. In favour of Option 4 is the pooling of resources and the expected benefits that such an arrangement may bring, such as broader staff expertise and experience to be offered to a greater population of pupils, including those living in the local community. Both options would benefit from future investment although this is not likely to improve facilities for pupils and community users to the same extent as a complete 'new build'.

Given the broad range of community facilities in the Llandudno Junction area there is no significant community gain identified in building a new area school, although it is anticipated that a full community needs consultation would precede a new build design. On this basis, and considering that parental choice is locally important, Options 1 and 2 sites 'New build Area School' (Albini House site) is the favoured option here. Option 3 'Maintain current schools' is considered to result in an overall neutral Community Impact.. The Esgyryn site option for Options 1 and 2 is considered to result in a slight negative impact, as is an Area School at the two existing sites (Option 4).

Appendix

Community Impact Assessment Methodology

The Community Development Service was asked to consider the impact on the Llandudno Junction community, of the following options from the 'Strategy for the Modernisation of Conwy Primary Schools' Implementation Plan:

Option 1 (driver-led)- Area school on one (new) site (either Esgyryn or Albin House)

Option 2 (community preferred)- Area school on one (new) site (either Esgyryn or Albin House)

Option 3 - Maintain Current Schools

Option 4 - Area school on existing 2 sites

Each of the schools within the area provided information about their role in the community (see 3.1 Further school information). Using these details and other information concerning Llandudno Junction, the Community Development Service investigated the potential impacts that each of the proposed options may present.

Five key measures were identified with weightings agreed by the Primary Schools Modernisation Programme Board and applied to ensure that particular issues are appropriately represented:

- Children living in the catchment area attending their local school (Weighting: 30)
- Services provided by the school for the community including extra curricular activities (Weighting: 25)
- Community facilities used regularly by the school (Weighting: 10)
- Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises (Weighting: 25)
- Impact on local businesses and employment (Weighting: 10)

Against each Option (e.g. 'Option 3, Maintain current schools'):

- The five measures (e.g. 'impact on local businesses and employment') were assessed to identify any negative or positive impacts on the community.
- A score was then applied ranging from -3 to +3 based on the balance of the evidence available.
- Each individual score was then multiplied by the agreed weighting for the measure.

Measure score	Measure assessment	Total measure score
-3	Large deterioration	-201 to -300
-2	Moderate deterioration	-101 to -200
-1	Slight deterioration	-1 to -100
0	No overall change	0
1	Slight improvement	1 to 100
2	Moderate improvement	101 to 200
3	Large improvement	201 to 300

Section 4.1 presents the outcome of the impact assessment for each Option.

The total score for each option was then translated into the overarching Option Appraisal, with a score of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest score and 5 the highest:

- 5 – Strongly Agree / Improvement
- 4 – Agree / Slight Improvement
- 3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree / No change
- 2 – Disagree / Slightly Worse
- 1 – Strongly Disagree / Worse

Measure impact assessment and Option scoring

Measure score	Measure assessment	Total measure score	Option score	Option assessment
-3	Large deterioration	-201 to -300	1	Worse
-2	Moderate deterioration	-101 to -200		
-1	Slight deterioration	-1 to -100	2	Slightly worse
0	No overall change	0	3	No change
1	Slight improvement	1 to 100	4	Some improvement
2	Moderate improvement	101 to 200	5	Improvement
3	Large improvement	201 to 300		