

28/02/23

Dear Consultee

Proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity from 116 to 220.

The full statutory consultation process has now concluded on the proposal by Denbighshire County Council to increase the capacity at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn from 116 to 220 on 28th April 2025. The implementation is subject to a site being agreed, planning consent being approved, funding being available and the new build being ready.

Formal consultation was held from 17th May 2022 until 27th June 2022. A Statutory Notice was subsequently published on 8th November 2022 and the objection period ended on 5th December 2022. Two formal objections were received. The objections are summarised in the Objection Report together with the responses from the Local Authority.

The objections lodged and concerns raised, as set out in the Objection Report have been given full consideration by the Council's Cabinet.

Full details and all relevant documentation in relation to the proposal including the Objection Report can be found at <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/ysgol-plas-brondyffryn-denbigh>

On the 21st February 2023 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet made the final decision to proceed with the proposal and were satisfied that the proposal would:

- Maintain the quality and standards in education at the school,
- Meet the need for these specialist pupil places,
- Improve Additional Learning Needs facilities.

The implementation is subject to a site being agreed, planning consent being approved, funding being available and the new build being ready.

In determining the proposal the Council took into account the following factors as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 as follows:

Quality and standards in education

It was Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Estyn commented, in response to the consultation that "The expected advantages of the proposal include increasing the capacity to better meet the demand, all pupils and staff being on the same site, improved transition arrangements and having subject specific rooms.

Need for places and the impact on the accessibility of schools

The Council has considered the likely demand for these specialists places in the future and believe the proposal to increase the capacity to 220 is reasonable and realistic. Currently the demand for these types of places cannot be met.

This proposal will ensure that the new school build will meet the needs of the learners and that Denbighshire have enough pupil places such as this for the future.

Estyn stated, "The nominal capacity at the school is 116, the school currently has 136 pupils on roll and has been over capacity for the last 6 years. The school currently has pupils waiting to attend the school and the council expects the demand to increase over the next few years and suggests that a capacity of 220 is reasonable."

Transport arrangements will continue to be made in accordance with the County Council's home to school transport policy.

Resourcing of education

Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is funded in accordance with Denbighshire County Council's funding formulas and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within the County Council, based on the new schools pupil numbers and facilities.

This proposal will mean that significant capital investment will be made in transferring the school to a new site.

This decision is subject to the call in procedures as set out in the Council's constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet but yet to be implemented to be reviewed. Should a call in of the decision take place, all stakeholders would be informed.

Yours sincerely



Geraint Davies

Head of Education