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Dyddiad / Date: 20 Mai / May 2026

Dear Stakeholders,

Proposal to close the Cradoc Campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan – Decision Letter

As you will be aware, the Council recently published a Statutory Notice proposing to close the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan from the 31st August 2026, with pupils currently attending the Cradoc campus to transfer to the school's other campuses in Brecon.

1 objection was received to this proposal. The Council has prepared and published an Objection Report, which outlines the objection received and provides the Council's response to the issues raised. This is available on the Council's website at:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/19892/Ysgol-Golwg-Pen-y-Fan---Cradoc-Campus>

Paper copies are available by contacting the Council using the contact details above.

On the 19th May 2026, the Council's Cabinet considered the Objection Report and agreed to proceed with the proposal to close the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan from the 31st August 2026, with pupils currently attending the Cradoc campus to transfer to the school's other campuses in Brecon.

Having considered the issues raised in the objection received, the Council's view is that this proposal is the most appropriate response to the reasons identified for formulating the proposal, which were outlined in the Consultation Document published in respect of the proposal.

With reference to sections 1.3 to 1.6 and the relevant specific factors in sections 1.7 to 1.14 of the second edition of the School Organisation Code (2018), the reasons for proceeding with implementation of the proposal are as follows:

1.3 Quality and standards in education

- Pupils currently attending the Cradoc campus would transfer to the school's other campuses in Brecon which would provide education which is at least of equivalent quality as that provided at the Cradoc campus.
- It is anticipated that closure of the Cradoc campus would have a positive impact on standards and progress overall at Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan, as it would mean that the school would operate from two campuses instead of three, which would enable the school to focus on improving standards at a reduced number of locations.



- It is Estyn's view that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards in terms of education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

1.4 Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

- There are sufficient school places at Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan's other campuses to accommodate the current and projected pupil numbers attending the Cradoc campus.
- Based on the most recent condition surveys of the school sites, the Cradoc campus is assessed as category B, whilst the two Mount Street campuses are assessed as category C. However, there are significantly fewer pupils at the Cradoc campus, and this is the site which has experienced a decline in pupil numbers. Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan will eventually move to a new building in Brecon, which will ensure that all pupils will be able to access a new school building.
- There are alternative places available to pupils currently attending the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan within a reasonable distance of their homes.

1.5 Resourcing of education and other financial implications

- Implementation of the proposal would lead to an overall reduction in surplus places in the area.
- The proposal would lead to better strategic management of the Powys school estate.
- The proposal would result in an annual saving to the Council.

1.6 Other general factors that should be taken into account

- The proposal will impact on pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently attending the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan as they would have to transfer to a different campus or to an alternative school. However, it is not anticipated that the proposal will have a negative impact on their educational attainment.
- It is acknowledged that the proposal will impact on pupils with additional learning needs currently attending the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan. Support will be provided for any pupils with additional learning needs currently attending the school in accordance with the needs of the individual pupil(s), to ensure their successful transition to an alternative school.
- The council will need to determine the future use of the building on the Cradoc campus.

1.7 Specific factors in the consideration of school closures

- Whilst implementation of the proposal will lead to the closure of one campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan, there is sufficient capacity at the other two campuses and in nearby schools to ensure continued access to English medium education for pupils.
- A Community Impact Assessment was carried out as part of the proposal and whilst this did conclude that closure of the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan would have a negative impact on the community, on balance, it was considered that discontinuing the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan was the most appropriate response to the reasons identified for formulating the proposal.
- A number of alternative options were identified when developing the proposal. These were considered in the Consultation Document which was published in



respect of this proposal and additional options suggested during the consultation period were considered in the Consultation Report. The proposal to discontinue the Cradoc campus of Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan with pupils currently attending the Cradoc campus to transfer to the school's other campuses in Brecon was considered the most appropriate response to the reasons identified for formulating the proposal.

- The proposal supports the aims of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

1.8 Presumption against the closure of rural schools

Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan is not identified as a rural school in the School Organisation Code (2018). However, in recognition of the rural nature of the Cradoc campus, and the fact that Cradoc C.P. School, one of the schools which merged to establish Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan, was listed as a rural school, the additional steps required to comply with the presumption against the closure of rural schools have been undertaken as part of this process.

Whilst implementation of the proposal will lead to the closure of the Cradoc campus, this is seen as the most appropriate response to address the reasons identified in formulating the proposal due to the following factors:

- Operating on two campuses rather than three would allow leaders to focus efforts more effectively, reducing the complexity of managing multiple buildings, staff teams, and logistical challenges.
- Less time spent travelling between campuses or duplicating meetings and communications.
- Cost savings on maintenance, utilities, and administrative overheads.
- Reduction in surplus places.
- Leadership team can work more closely together, fostering a unified vision and consistent implementation of school improvement strategies.
- Pupil numbers across the school campuses would be more equal.
- More consistent offer would be available to all pupils.
- Ability to group pupils by ability or need across larger cohorts, which is harder with very small numbers on separate campuses.
- Pupils would benefit from larger peer groups, which supports social development, friendships, and collaborative learning.
- Would provide more certainty to the school in the period until the new building is ready.
- More viable to run clubs, sports teams, and enrichment activities with larger numbers in one place.

Following the Cabinet's decision to proceed with implementation of the proposal, the Council will work with the school to support the transition of pupils to alternative school sites from September 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Richard Jones

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