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Date: 22nd March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 28th March, 2018** at **2.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days and a simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

All Committee meetings are open to the Press and Public, observers and participants are asked to conduct themselves with respect and consideration for others. Please note that failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the meeting and you may be escorted from the premises.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy'.

Christina Harrhy
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

Pages

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of Interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on the agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- 3 Cabinet held on the 14th March 2018. 1 - 6

To receive and consider the following reports on which executive decisions are required: -

- 4 Integrated Commissioning And Section 33 Agreement For Care Homes For Older People in Gwent Region (Pooled Funds). 7 - 22
- 5 Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre - Consideration of The Call-in in The Context Of The Leisure Review. 23 - 116
- 6 Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2018-2021. 117 - 194
- 7 Publication Of Gender Pay Gap Data - Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties And Public Authorities) Regulations 2017. 195 - 204
- 8 Data Protection Reform - Updates to Core Policies. 205 - 258
- 9 Welsh Church Act Fund. 259 - 270
- 10 To receive and consider the following report(s) which in the opinion of the Proper Officer may be discussed when the meeting is not open to the public and first to consider whether the public interest requires that the meeting should be closed to the public for consideration of this item(s):- 271 - 272
- 11 Proposed Mineral Working and Restoration of Bedwas Tips. 273 - 278

Circulation:

Councillors C.J. Cuss, N. George, C.J. Gordon, Mrs B. A. Jones, P.A. Marsden, S. Morgan, L. Phipps, D.V. Poole and Mrs E. Stenner,

And Appropriate Officers.



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH 2018 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillor D. Poole – Chair

Councillors:

C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing), C.J. Gordon (Corporate Services), Mrs B. A. Jones (Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Governance), S. Morgan (Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability), L. Phipps (Homes and Places) and Mrs E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection).

Together with:

C. Harry (Interim Chief Executive), M. S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director - Communities), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director – Children’s Services), R. Hartshorn (Head of Policy and Public Protection), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), T. Stephens (Interim Head of Planning), R. Kyte (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), S. Richards (Interim Head of Planning, Strategy and Resources), M. Headington (Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager), O. Ashton (RDP Delivery Manager) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N. George (Neighbourhood Services) and P. Marsden (Education and Achievement) and D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors: C. Gordon, C. Cuss, Mrs B.A. Jones, Mrs E. Stenner and L. Phipps declared personal interests at the commencement of the meeting in relation to agenda item 9 – Education Capital 2018/19, details of which are recorded with the respective item.

3. CABINET MINUTES – 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2018 (minute nos. 1 - 10) be approved and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED

4. PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER AT CEFN BRITHDIR

The report sought Cabinet's endorsement for the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to restrict vehicle access on to Cefn Brithdir on the Gelligaer and Merthy Common, for a period of 3 years. The restrictions would be included in a draft Order and the statutory process including formal consultation be commenced and the outcome be reported back to Cabinet for consideration. Should there be no objections, the decision to make the Order would be delegated to the relevant Head of Service.

It was explained that the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 brought in a new power for Local Authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour problems in a geographical area by imposing conditions on the use of an area. The aim is to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour. PSPO's replace a number of existing legal provisions including Designated Public Place Orders, Gating Orders and Dog Control Orders. It is no longer possible to make Orders under these various forms of legislation and any new orders made to control such activities should be made as PSPOs.

Cabinet discussed the purpose of PSPO's and the volume of formal complaints received by Caerphilly County Borough Council relating to the issue of fly tipping. Members expressed their concern in relation to the number of complaints they have received from residents within their wards close to the Cefn Brithdir area. Officers confirmed they have been working hard with colleagues in Cleansing and Environmental Health, Keep Wales Tidy and Natural Resources Wales in addressing this issue in moving forward. Details of the proposals and consultation were set out in the report.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the proposal to introduce a Public Space Protection Order to restrict vehicle access on to Cefn Brithdir for a period of 3 years is endorsed;
- (ii) the restrictions be included in a draft Order and the Statutory Process including Formal Consultation be commenced;
- (iii) the outcome reported back to Cabinet for consideration/or if there are no objections, the decision to make the Order be delegated to the relevant Head of Service.

5. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH DRAFT REGENERATION STRATEGY - A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS 2018-2023 SUPPLEMENTED BY THE DRAFT CAERPHILLY BASIN MASTERPLAN

The report sought Cabinet's endorsement on the Draft Regeneration Strategy entitled 'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' and the 'Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan' and for approval to carry out a Public Consultation exercise. Copies of the documents were appended to the report and a brief summary was provided in relation to both.

Cabinet were advised that The Draft Regeneration Strategy has been developed as an overarching document that concentrates on 4 Strategic Themes (Supporting People, Supporting Business, Supporting Quality of Life, and Connecting People and Places) which set out the broad principles for regeneration and the strategic priorities to be tackled. The Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan sets out the series of Strategic Objectives which will drive the

delivery for the vision of Caerphilly town and translate directly into a series of projects and actions. It seeks to harness the opportunities arising from the City Deal Investment Fund and will also incorporate the areas surrounding Caerphilly. It was explained that the Masterplan will be complemented by a number of other strategies, such as the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and future Regional Strategic Development Plan and how potential City Deal funding could be utilised in order to help deliver some of the proposals contained within the document.

The report and documents were presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 13th February 2018. The desire from the Scrutiny Committee was that the Consultation period for both documents would be extended from 4 to 6 weeks. The results of the Consultations will then be reported back to full Council in July 2018.

Cabinet thanked Officers for their hard work and commitment to the extensive work undertaken in developing the documentation and it was requested that this appreciation be reported back to colleagues within the team for their support and contribution.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that subject to the foregoing, the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report and subject to an amendment to recommendation 10.1. and 10.2. that the Consultation period be extended from 4 to 6 weeks: -

- (i) the Draft Regeneration Strategy 'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' be endorsed as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 26th March 2018 for a period of 6 weeks;
- (ii) the Draft Caerphilly Basin Masterplan be endorsed as the basis for a public consultation exercise commencing 26th March 2018 for a period of 6 weeks.

6. PROPOSED COMMUNITY CENTRE IN TY SIGN, RISCA TO REPLACE THE CHANNEL VIEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

The report sought Cabinet's approval in principle to support the delivery of a purpose built Community Centre on land at Holly Road, Ty Sign, Risca, subject to full Consultation. The proposal was presented by a newly created Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), the Ty Sign Community Hall and Resource Centre, to develop a new Community Centre in Ty Sign, Risca.

Cabinet were informed that the Channel View Community Centre Management Committee currently occupy the building on a licence at a peppercorn rent at Channel View, Risca (details of which were appended to the report). This land is in Council ownership through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Access to the site is through the Council's Hafod-y-Bryn Sheltered Housing Scheme. The existing Channel View Community Centre is not fit for purpose and houses another building that is leased to the Scout Association Trust Corporation, which is also in poor physical condition.

The Council has been approached by a newly created CIO, the Ty Sign Community Hall and Resource Centre, to work in partnership with them to explore the feasibility of developing a new purpose built Community Centre in Holly Road, Ty Sign, Risca on land also held by the HRA. The Ty Sign Community Hall and Resource Centre are seeking a lease period of at least 21 years (necessary to meet the requirements of the Big Lottery), and at a low, non-commercial, rent. The existing Channel View Community Centre would close under the above proposal.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the

recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the delivery of a purpose built Community Centre on land at Holly Road, Ty Sign be supported and Officers authorised to enter into further discussions and undertake the necessary Consultations with a further report being brought to Cabinet for final determination.

7. COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION FOR CARE LEAVERS

The report sought Cabinet's approval to amend the Council Tax Discretionary Reduction Policy - Section 13A (1) (c) (Appended to the report), effective from 1st April 2018.

The report sets out details of a proposal to 'exempt' care leavers between the ages of 18 and 25 as a specified class from the payment of Council Tax. This will require amendments to the Council's 'Council Tax Discretionary Reduction Policy - Section 13A (1) (c)' which allows a Council to reduce the Council Tax liability of a person, or a class of persons, to nil, if it sees fit to do so. A recent campaign by the Children's Commissioner has highlighted the difficulties that many young people face in managing their money and paying bills when leaving care.

Cabinet were advised that the current Council Tax Discretionary Reduction Policy only allows for applications to be considered on an individual basis. To implement this proposal, care leavers need to be specified as a class of cases in respect of which Council Tax liability can be reduced. Where a care leaver resides in a household and is not liable for Council Tax purposes, the Council Tax liable person(s) will be able to apply for a discretionary reduction if the presence of the care leaver results in an increase in the Council Tax payable for the household. In both instances, the care leaver needs to be aged between 18 and 25.

Cabinet were delighted to support the proposal with this 'good news' story.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the amended Council Tax Discretionary Reduction Policy - Section 13A (1) (c) as at Appendix A, effective from 1st April 2018, be approved.

8. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF) OPERATIONS: INSPIRE 2 WORK (I2W) BRIDGES INTO WORK 2 (BIW2) AND WORKING SKILLS FOR ADULTS 2 (WSA2)

The report sought Cabinet's endorsement to an extension of Inspire 2 Work (I2W), and an in principle agreement for a future extension to Bridges into Work 2 (BIW2) and Working Skills for Adults (WSA2). Endorsement was also sought for the use of up to £283k of the Education Directorates balances as additional match funding to support the extension of I2W, BIW2 and WSA2 in order to draw down additional European Funding.

Cabinet were informed that despite the recent upturn in the economy, unemployment and economic inactivity is still an issue for concern in the County Borough. Since 2013, Caerphilly Officers have participated in the development of regional proposals seeking to build on the success of employment support operations delivered under the 2007-13 ESF Programme, including Bridges into Work, Pre-Vent and Working Skills for Adults.

A number of operations have now been approved by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO). Those approved include the Welsh Government (WG) led Communities4Work Operation, that matches some of their investment in the Communities First (CF) programme,

with CF teams now supported to deliver employment support in the most deprived areas of Wales.

Details of the target groups within each of the Projects were set out in the report. Caerphilly's involvement in the 3 operations is part of a regional approach and other partners in the region are currently keen to extend all 3 operations to December 2022. This will allow projects more time to work with more people in order to change the life chances of more Caerphilly residents. Examples were provided of case studies, where apprenticeships have been obtained with Company's such as Wilmot Dixon, as a result of people accessing these projects.

It was explained that by extending the three operations to December 2022 would draw down up to £5,017k of grant funding (£2,100k more than currently approved) for a "real" cash cost to Caerphilly of £1,148k. However, this requires an additional cash commitment from the Authority of £283k (£1,148k - £865k).

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the offer to extend 12W and an in principle offer to extend BIW2 and WSA2 to December 2022, be endorsed;
- (ii) the use of up to £283k of the Education Directorates balances as additional match funding to support the extension of I2W, BIW2 and WSA2 in order to draw down additional European Funding, be endorsed.

9. EDUCATION CAPITAL 2018/19

Councillors C. Gordon (Governor of Bryn Primary School), C. Cuss (Governor of Idris Davies 3 – 18 School), Mrs B.A. Jones (Governor of St James Primary and St Cenydd Secondary Schools), Mrs E. Stenner (Governor at Phillipstown and Whiterose Primary Schools), and L. Phipps (Governor of Graig y Rhacca Primary School), declared personal interests at the commencement of the meeting as they are School Governor's within their respective wards. As the declarations were personal, the Members were not required to leave the meeting.

The report sought Cabinet approval for the proposals for the allocation of Education Capital Budgets for the 2018/19 financial year in the context of the 3 year Capital Programme 2018/19 – 2020/21. The 3 year programme includes works relating to Additional Accommodation, Asset Management, Health and Safety, School Security and Boiler Replacement.

It was noted that a sum of £2m towards electrical rewiring works in schools was allocated from the agreed programme amount over the 3 year period 2014/15-2016/17. These works are now at the completion stage and an underspend of circa £500k is currently predicted on this project.

Cabinet were advised that the Council's Health and Safety Team are currently in the process of updating Fire Risk Assessments in Schools. As a result of Grenfell there has been a greater focus on the type of build and the requirement to ensure adequate compartmentalisation in buildings. The Council's Health and Safety Team are working with the fire service in this regard. It was explained that at this stage neither the full cost implications or the impacted schools are known and it was proposed that the underspend of £500k referred to in paragraph 4.4 of the report be reserved for this use.

Members fully supported the proposal to reserve this underspend for possible structural fire safety works and welcomed the prioritisation of Health and Safety projects and the refocusing and updating of fire risk assessments in schools.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the proposals to utilise the Education Capital Budget for 2018/19, be approved;
- (ii) reserving the underspend on the School Electrical Scheme Project (Circa £500k) for the projected costs of structural fire safety works that may be required as a result of the updated Fire Risk Assessments currently being undertaken in schools, as outlined in section 4.5 of the report, be approved.

10. EXEMPT ITEM

Members considered the public interest test certificate from the Proper Officer and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as identified in paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

11. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT PARK LANE, CAERPHILLY

The report sought the approval of Cabinet under the Council's Protocol for Disposal of Property of Council owned land at Park Lane, Caerphilly.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report, and subject to an additional recommendation that Officers consider traffic flows, the recommendations at paragraph 10.1. be approved.

The meeting closed at 3.02 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 28th March 2018.

CHAIR



CABINET – 28TH MARCH 2018

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING AND SECTION 33 AGREEMENT FOR CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN GWENT REGION (POOLED FUNDS)

REPORT BY: DAVE STREET, CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend the establishment of a regional pooled budget in relation to the exercise of care home accommodation functions (in this case care homes for older people) between Caerphilly County Council, and other Gwent Local Authorities (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Borough Council, Newport City Council, Torfaen County Borough Council) and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB).
- 1.2 To advise Members on progress in developing other key elements required by Welsh Government guidance in support of the pooled budget arrangements, namely common contracts and developing an integrated approach to commissioning in the Gwent region.
- 1.3 To fulfil the statutory requirement on Local Authorities and Local Health Boards within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014) (SSWBA) which takes effect from April 2018

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Partnership and collaboration is a significant element within the SSWBA. Part 9 of the Act is where duties and expectations around partnership working are set out specifically.
- 2.2 Statutory guidance mandates the geographical footprint for regional partnership arrangements for social care and health. The Regional; Partnership Board (RPB), is established on a statutory basis and comprises ABUHB, 5 Local Authorities, 2 county voluntary service organisations and representatives of the regional citizen's panel and provider forum.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014)
- 3.2 Care Closer To Home Strategy
- 3.3 Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:
 - *A Prosperous Wales*
 - *A Resilient Wales*
 - *A Healthier Wales*
 - *A More Equal Wales*
 - *A Wales of Cohesive Communities*
 - *A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language*
 - *A Globally Responsible Wales*
- 3.4 More than just Words – Strategic Framework for Welsh Language Services in Health, Social Services and Social Care

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Development of arrangements to pool funds for care home arrangements between the 5 local authorities and ABUHB has been a major piece of work for the RPB since its inception. The legal requirement for these arrangements is set out in Section 62, Part 9 of the SSWBA. The establishment of a partnership agreement – known as a Section 33 Agreement - will enable integrated commissioning and pooled funds in relation to the exercise of care home accommodation functions. The aim is for this to be in place by April 2018, subject to approval by all partners to the agreement.
- 4.2 Supported by the National Commissioning Board (NCB) and Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) the Gwent region has been the pilot area for Wales for developing a Model Partnership Agreement (MPA) for pooled budget arrangements for older people.
- 4.3 The scope of the agreement, and its design principles, were aligned to the draft priorities for older people contained in the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) and the draft Area Plan, both of which were recently approved by Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 4.4 A national market analysis of the current size and scope of the care home sector in Wales was conducted in 2016 with a census undertaken at the same point in time across the country. This showed that in 2015/16 there were nearly 18,000 placements by local authorities and health boards, which included 4,877 placements of people funding their own care. There were 21,823 registered beds in care homes for older people on the census date and the combined local authority and health board spend was approximately £369 million. This *excludes* client contributions, third party payments and the fees paid by those individuals who fund their own care.
- 4.5 SSWBA Part 9 Statutory Guidance (Partnership Arrangements) that Regional Partnership Boards will be expected to develop written agreements concerning any formal partnership arrangements which involve a delegation of function
- 4.6 Regulations allow for the partners to enter arrangements for the establishment and

maintenance of a fund which is made up of contributions from the partners and out of which payments may be made towards expenditure incurred in the exercise of National Health Service functions or health-related (Local Authority) functions.

- 4.7 This is the 'pooled fund' and money from this fund may be used on purposes agreed between the partners (in this case to carry out the Care Home Accommodation Functions) in arranging care for Older People in Registered Homes. While the legislation suggests that the partnership agreement may cover all care home functions Welsh Government expect this to include care homes for older people (over 65) initially.
- 4.8 The Act envisages that this would be a single fund which removes the traditional health/social care division between partners, offering flexibility in the single fund's use according to locally agreed needs. However, in the Gwent region (and in other regions in Wales) the proposed approach adopted towards the 'mechanics' of the pooled fund arrangement is that at least in its initial stage, the fund **will not share financial risk nor introduce any potential cross-subsidy between the partners. Any changes to this approach will require further approval by all partners to the agreement.**

This approach has been deemed preferential after the completion of an options appraisal which is attached as Appendix 2.

- 4.9 Section 33 agreements require the establishment of a named 'pooled fund manager'. Consideration is currently being given to agreeing which of the six partners will assume this role. This will be the subject of a separate report once expressions of interest and recommendations from RPB are known.

Market Analysis of Care Homes for Older People in Gwent

- 4.10 The pooled fund represents one element of an integrated regional approach to the commissioning of care home provision. A market position statement and regional commissioning strategy is under development.
- 4.11 Initial market analysis, as at September 2017, shows there were a total of 95 care homes for older people in the Gwent region offering 3,363 beds. The total number of beds comprise 1,871 residential beds, including residential beds for people with dementia and 1,492 nursing beds, including nursing beds for people with dementia.
- 4.12 55 operators provide care homes in Gwent of which eight operate in more than one locality. 40 providers own and operate just one home. 52% of beds are provided by single home providers. 38 providers, operating 50 homes, are currently commissioned to provide Continuing Health Care Placements.
- 4.13 8 providers operate in more than one local authority area, three operating across Torfaen and Newport, two across Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly, one across Newport and Blaenau Gwent, one across Torfaen and Caerphilly and one across Blaenau Gwent and Monmouthshire
- 4.14 In summary, there is a mixture of sole providers that own and operate one home, medium sized providers that own and operate more than one home and a number of national companies that operate care homes across the region.

- 4.15 Few homes are registered solely for residential, residential care for people with dementia, nursing or nursing care for people with dementia. Many homes offer a combination of beds, across all types of care e.g. dual registration for residential and nursing or dual residential and nursing care for people with dementia.

Current risks and challenges in the care home sector

- 4.17 One of the anticipated benefits to an integrated regional commissioning approach to care homes is a coherent, strategic approach which will support the sector in its medium and longer term business planning and mitigate the current risks the sector is experiencing.
- 4.18 The recruitment and retention of registered general nurses and registered mental health nurses is becoming particularly challenging as is the recruitment and retention of registered managers and care staff.
- 4.19 There is an increasing demand for care provision for older people with mental health conditions such as dementia, in both residential and nursing care homes, whilst there has been a decrease in demand for residential and nursing only provision.
- 4.20 Across the region, older people are being supported to remain as independent as possible in their own homes for as long as they are able to. As a consequence people entering a care home for older people, are now older and often require more complex care.
- 4.21 Bed vacancies do not necessarily align with need as vacancies are often not in the required category of care or in the locality of need. Despite efforts to realign the market to better reflect need, the market can be slow to respond. Providers are, of course, independent operators.
- 4.22 There is also evidence that the size, structure, age, layout and location of care homes across Gwent is having an impact on sustainability.
- 4.23 Rising cost pressures is another feature that threatens sustainability. It is anticipated that the incremental increases each year until 2020 in the National Living Wage, the growing costs of recruitment and retention, employee pension costs and other costs such as the purchase of equipment will continue to exert an upwards pressure on operating costs.
- 4.24 The Regulation & Inspection (Wales) Act 2016 becomes extant in April 2018. Care homes will be required to place a much greater emphasis upon the 'statement of purpose' as the driver for business focus and registration criteria. This is intended to bring a greater flexibility for operators as long as they can demonstrate the capacity and capability to deliver. Care home workers are also subject to registration from April 2018, although this will be phased in over several years. There is a need to plan for registration so it does not adversely impact on retention and recruitment.
- 4.25 As part of developing regional commissioning arrangements, work is being undertaken to ensure that common contractual terms and conditions and a shared approach to contract monitoring become operational alongside pooled budget arrangements.

Risks and Issues in Pooled Budget for Care Homes

- 4.26 There are risks and challenges that have been identified in relation to joint commissioning and pooled budgets for care home commissioning:
- effective management of a Section 33 Agreement so that there is timely and sufficient local management information.
 - ensuring partner budget management and reporting requirements are fully met. The size of the spend on this care provision means that this is vital.
 - engaging providers in revised commissioning arrangements in due time and without compromising current provision.
 - ensuring joint commissioning arrangements do not cut across individual commissioners care home fees setting arrangements (which are determined at organisational level and approved by each organisation)
- 4.27 In order to mitigate the risks, the development of a Section 33 Agreement for care home placements draws on the experience and learning from the regional pooled budget arrangements put in place for the Gwent Frailty Programme (refreshed in 2016) and the Gwent Wide Integrated Community Equipment Service (GWICES). It is also recognised that this Section 33 Agreement will be on a much larger scale than anything that has been undertaken previously. This is one of the key reasons that the pooled fund recommended does not include a financial risk sharing arrangement at this stage.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 Residents of care homes for older people have high levels of care and support needs. Safeguarding is, therefore, fundamental to the commissioning of quality care provision with the right model of care and support to meet the needs of their residents. Sufficiency of the right type of care homes, delivered to sustainable business models, is critical in meeting the needs of our most vulnerable of our citizens.
- 5.2 Establishment of a pooled budget for care home placements for over 65's provides consistency of opportunity, access, contract arrangements and outcome monitoring assisting statutory bodies to meet those duties placed on them to promote wellbeing set out in both Wellbeing for Future Generations Act and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. A Well-being of Future Generations Assessment is included as Appendix 1.
- 5.3 A single, combined regional approach to commissioning aims to ensure that there is equity of information provision, needs consideration and exercise of choice as to care home placement, with one common process.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An EIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified, therefore a full EIA has not been carried out.

- 6.2 A combined regional approach to commissioning proposed will have no impact on service provision and therefore no direct impact on any groups or individuals who fall under the categories identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan.
- 6.3 The creation of an Integrated Commissioning and Section 33 Agreement for Care Homes for Older People in the Gwent Region will improve the service provision by ensuring the service delivery for all older people within the care homes system across Gwent is consistent.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A resource mapping exercise has been undertaken to understand the value of the pooled fund. In summary, across the Gwent Partnership the spend forecasts indicate a potential pooled fund of £89 million – comprised of £20 million from service user contributions and 69 million from public funding (£32m ABUHB and £37m Local Authorities).
- 7.2 . Using Full Year Estimates this Funds in excess of 900,000 bed days:
- 109,000 long term bed days in LA owned Homes.
 - 11,000 short term and step up/step down bed days in LA owned Homes.
 - 600,000 Long term and short term Independent sector bed days (including FNC and step up/step down beds).
 - 200,000 Continuing Health Care bed days.
- 7.3 Specifically for Caerphilly CBC this means pooling our older persons care home budgets, including the six care homes owned and run by the local authority which, based on current figures for 2018/19, equates to a gross annual expenditure budget of £21,989,175 (excluding income from client contributions and partners). As already outlined earlier within the report, the proposed agreement is on a non risk sharing basis and as such Caerphilly will retain local decision making around our pooled budget contribution, including our own internal care homes.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no direct Personnel implications.

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 As joint commissioning of care home placements and pooled budgets is a statutory requirement, consultation centres very much around 'how' work is done rather than 'why' it is done. Senior officers across local authorities and the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) have been part of this process, and so has the regional provider forum (spanning a wide range of care providers) and the regional citizen panel.
- 9.2 In addition to the above, a focus group of care home providers that represent the care home sector has been established. This group has supported this process and has

co-produced the development of the regional contract. This is a significant development and sets the 'direction of travel' for joint working in the region, not only between commissioning partners, but also between commissioners and operators. It is envisaged that partners build on this to develop a market that is both flexible enough to meet fluctuating need and is sustainable for the longer term.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To approve the pooled budget arrangements for care home accommodation functions to be overseen by the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and, in particular that the fund will not share financial risk nor introduce any potential cross-subsidy between the partners.
- 10.2 To agree that any changes to this approach will require further approval by all partners and further agreement by Cabinet.
- 10.3 To approve delegated powers to the Cabinet Member for Social Services & Wellbeing, as Caerphilly County Council member of the RPB, in the exercise of those functions, and consideration of any specific arrangements that need to be put in place to meet statutory duties at local and regional level.
- 10.4 To confirm the required key elements for these arrangements through development of a formal Partnership Agreement i.e a Section 33 agreement
- 10.5 To confirm resource implications for the local authority in relation to the pooled budget arrangements and oversight of the pooled budget agreements by the RPB.
- 10.6 To seek authority from Council for the Principal Solicitor to amend the Councils constitution to give effect to the delegation in 10.3.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To ensure compliance with the requirements of Part 9 of the Social Services & Wellbeing Act

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014)

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Social Services Senior Management team
Cllr Carl Cuss, Cabinet Member, Social Services & Wellbeing

Lisa Lane, Solicitor
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities & Welsh Language)

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Options Appraisal & Evaluative Methods
- Appendix 2 Wellbeing Assessment Template

OPTIONS APPRAISAL AND EVALUATIVE MEASURES

A range of options to meet statutory requirements of the SSWBA were developed for consideration by the RPB. Options ranged from the complex and high risk to the relatively simple and low risk.

The following outcomes have been developed and adopted against which each of the options were measured and evaluated:

- a. A consistent, timely equitable assessment and decision-making process which enables citizens to be supported in the right place at the right time by staff with the right skills.
- b. A consistent regional methodology is established for agreeing fee levels that improves transparency and efficiency for commissioners and care home providers, while recognising local difference and the autonomy of commissioners.
- c. A consistent, efficient and effective regional contract management and safeguarding system is established which could lead to process efficiencies for both commissioners and providers, as well as ensuring that the requirements of the regulatory bodies are met.
- d. A cross-stakeholder regional understanding of the care home market is reached leading to a market position that is responsive to population needs and is sustainable for the future.
- e. Use of scarce resources are maximised and value is added

The following risk factors have also been identified and a risk assessment matrix is set out below in the table below.

- Financial Risks
- Political and/or organisational acceptability
- Deliverability due to complexity of task
- Organisational capacity
- Market stability and volatility
- Workforce capacity at operational level
- Service users adversely affected

The following options were considered in detail by RPB:

- A Section 33 Agreement that encompasses all residential and nursing care homes for

older people over 65 years – full implementation in year 1.

- A Section 33 Agreement that encompasses all residential and nursing care homes for older people over 65 years (Consolidated Financial Statements (i.e. a pooled budget where contributions by each partner matches the costs committed by each partner) with a view to understanding the market so that the financial risks can be fully explored before committing to full implementation as recommended below).
- A pooled fund arrangements for all nursing homes registered for people with dementia
- Lead commissioning arrangement for commissioning and contracting functions is required as a stepped approach to enable and support section 33 arrangements

The findings of the option appraisal are set out in the tables below:






Option	No. Deliverable in year 1	Timescale proposed	Aggregated Risk Profile	Outcomes met
1. Pool all Care Home funds – full implementation in year 1	No	Year 3	30	a b c d e
2. Consolidated Financial Statements (i.e. a pooled budget where contributions by each partner matches the costs committed by each partner) with a view to understanding the market so that the financial risks can be fully explored before committing to any potential financial risk sharing in future years	Yes	Year 1	5	a b c d e
3. Dementia Nursing	No	Year 2	25	a b c d e
4. Commissioning & contract functions	Yes	Years 1-3	16	b c d e

RISK MATRIX 1 Low risk 5 significant risk

Risk Factor	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
	Pool all with risk	Virtual Pool years 1-3	Dementia nursing	Commissioning & Contracting
Financial	4	0	3	2
Acceptable	5	1	4	3
Deliverable	5	2	5	4
Capacity	5	2	4	3
Market	3	0	3	1
Workforce	5	0	4	3
Service Users	3	0	2	0
	30	5	25	16

Following extensive discussion, the RPB agreed to progress the development of a variation of option two - a non risk sharing Section 33 agreement for older people in residential and nursing care homes. This is essentially a pooled budget where the contributions by each partner match the costs they commit to for their population. This option enables a full assessment of the expenditure in the sector across the region.

WELL BEING ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Project Description (key aims): This is not a project – but outline of a statutory requirement under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, which places a number of duties on local authorities and on statutory partners.	
Section 1) Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.	
 Integration	<p>1. <i>How does your project/activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?</i></p> <p>Regional Partnership Boards, on local health board footprint, are a statutory requirement under the Social Services and Well-Being Act (Wales) 2014. This activity confirms that these requirements on partnership and collaboration are met and is set to ensure best use of available resources through pooling funds.</p>
 Long-term	<p>2. <i>How does your project/activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?</i> <i>This link may help you with long term planning: http://www.wlga.gov.uk/sustainable-development/generation-2050-better-long-term-decision-making-l-a-resource-for-local-government</i></p> <p>The whole emphasis with RPB's, Joint statements of Strategic Intent, and joint service planning and commissioning of care home placements is geared to meeting known short term care provision needs and longer term forward planning in relation to projected needs, based on population growth for older people.</p>
 Prevention	<p>3. <i>How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?</i></p> <p>A pooled budget approach combines partner resources to take a holistic and consistent approach focused on citizen needs, so as to provide the right services at the right time and in the right place with the right providers and the right funding. It fits with strategic direction for health and social care.</p>
 Collaboration	<p>4. <i>How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</i></p> <p>Regional Partnership Boards, and joint planing as to commisioning of care home palcementts, and polling of funding to do this demonstrates better working together – spanning not just statutory partners but also third sector, citizen and service provider representatives.</p>
 Involvement	<p>5. <i>How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?</i> <i>These links may help you think about involvement: National Principles for Public Engagement www.participationcymru.org.uk</i> <i>National Participation Standards for Children and Young People: http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/</i></p> <p>The required membership of Regional Partnership Boards does have a cross section of stakeholders, including third sector, citizen and carer representation. Joint</p>

	commissioning arrangements for care home placements allows for alignment of 'support' functions, such as information provision, available service funding, and commissioning experience to allow a common approach to outcomes, and a constant and equitable service offer across the Gwent region.
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Section 2) Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use Appendix 1 to help you).		
Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there anyway to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	Putting in place statutory joint commissioning and pooled budget arrangements is expected to allow for better joint use of resources across health and social care, including workforce support and development in a critical part of the care sector.	No negative impacts expected
<p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<i>No direct impact to biodiversity and ecological resilience, but jointly commissioning care home placements for older people across health and social care does allow for reduced environmental impact if there is a focus on the right care at the right time and in the right place – not least in aiding families to be close to where care support is arranged.</i>	No negative impacts expected.
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	Joint commissioning arrangements for care homes, including consistency as to information provision, choice and assessment, are all measures to impact positively on overall health and wellbeing.	No negative impacts expected.
<p>A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>	The Social Services and Wellbeing Act links closely with preceding Disability and Equality legislation, and any new specific service developments (of care homes) will need to go through Equality Impact assessment (EIA), noting that care homes and	No negative impacts expected on statutory partners

	pooled arrangements, are focused to the older adult age group.	
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A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	Regional Partnership Board arrangements, allied to joint statements of Strategic Intent, and planning for care closer to home, are all measures to allow for greater involvement of citizens in the planning and delivery of services to meet their wellbeing outcomes.	No negative impacts expected.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	Publication of information in the public domain will need to comply with Welsh Language measures, in line with all other information developed by local authorities and local health boards	No negative impacts expected
A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	Regional Partnership Board arrangements, allied to joint statements of Strategic Intent, and planning for care closer to home, have strong potential to improve overall well being in the region, although the focus is on those citizens in need of care and support.	No negative impacts expected

Section 3) Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts.			
Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age	Yes	No	Better integrated planning across health and social care
Disability	Yes	No	Better integrated planning across health and social care
Gender	Yes	No	Better integrated planning across health and social care
Gender reassignment	No	No	Planning is neutral – no change to expectations on statutory partners
Marriage and civil partnership	No	No	Planning is neutral – no change to expectations on statutory partners
Pregnancy and maternity	No	No	Planning is neutral – no change to expectations

			on statutory partners
Race	No	No	Planning is neutral – no change to expectations on statutory partners
Religion or Belief	No	No	Planning is neutral – no change to expectations

Sexual orientation	No	No	Planning is neutral – no change to expectations on statutory partners
Section 4) Identify decision meetings for project/ activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decisions taken by Executive Members and / or Chief Officers.			
Decisions are as set out in Cabinet report, to approve statutory arrangements under Social Services and Wellbeing Act, and high level priorities across Health and Social Care as set out in Joint statements of Strategic Intent			
Officer Name and Job Title: David Williams Theme Lead, Regional Transformation Team		Date: May 2017	



CABINET – 28TH MARCH 2018

SUBJECT: PONTLLANFRAITH LEISURE CENTRE – CONSIDERATION OF THE CALL-IN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LEISURE REVIEW

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR (COMMUNITIES)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To refer the recommendations from the Regeneration and Scrutiny Committee held on 18th January 2018 to Cabinet.
- 1.2 To update Cabinet on the outcome of additional consultation undertaken in relation to the potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and to establish whether Cabinet wishes to re-affirm its original decision or change its decision based on additional consultation.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 13th December 2017 Cabinet considered a report on the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and agreed a number of resolutions including the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
- 2.2 The Cabinet decision was the subject of a call-in which was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 18th January 2018 where it was resolved to refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration.
- 2.3 This report sets out the basis for the call-in, the further consultation that has taken place as a result and requests that Cabinet considers this additional information and either re-affirms its original decision or considers a change to the decision based on this additional consultation.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long-term, working with people and communities, looking to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals:
 - A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
 - A globally responsible Wales

The content of this report links into: A healthier Wales, A Prosperous Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities, a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language, a globally responsible Wales and a resilient Wales.

- 3.2 The Community & Leisure Services Divisional Service Plan contains specific objectives to meet a range of statutory and non-statutory targets. The plan also outlines the division's contribution to the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 As outlined above the Cabinet decision of 13th December 2017 was the subject of a call-in which was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 18th January 2018.

- 4.2 The basis of this call-in was as follows:-

"We the undersigned Councillors request the above decision is called in under the relevant procedure as this does not sit with the Well Being Policy (Act 2015) healthier objectives for residents of the County Borough, surely the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee should have been consulted, Children Commissioners should have been consulted, Young Persons Forum, and the relevant Regeneration Scrutiny Committee only discussed this matter less than 24 hours before the Cabinet meeting where it was reported verbally only to Cabinet, and we do not feel it proper that such an important matter which affects many service users has been given proper discussion, and fail to see how this is effective consultation especially when the three local members and Councillors in the affected Ward, and in nearby wards opposed the closure, and also was the detailed alternative supplied by Blackwood Town Council colleagues discussed and debated in detail please and given proper consideration".

- 4.3 In considering the call-in the Scrutiny Committee were asked to have regard to:

- (a) Did the Cabinet's decision conflict with the Council's Well-being Objectives?
- (b) Did the Council fail to properly consult by not consulting the Health Social Care and Well Being Scrutiny Committee, the Children's Commissioner and the Young Persons Forum.
- (c) Was sufficient time afforded to this Scrutiny Committee in order to consider the outcome of the consultation and provide its views to Cabinet prior to the decision being made?
- (d) Did Cabinet give proper consideration to the consultation responses generally but having particular regard to the response from Blackwood Town Council?
- (e) If yes to (a) and (b) and no to (c) and (d) was there any information not put before the Cabinet which would have led to a different decision being made by the Cabinet.

- 4.4 The Scrutiny Committee resolved to support the call-in and to refer the matter back to Cabinet with a recommendation that additional consultation takes place with the Future Generations Commissioner, the Youth Forum and the Children's Commissioner. The Scrutiny Committee also recommended to Cabinet that Blackwood Town Council be provided with a formal response to their detailed consultation. .

- 4.5 In relation to the additional consultation recommended, over the period 23rd-24th January 2018 emails were sent to:-

- Office of the Children’s Commissioner for Wales
- Office of the Well-being for Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
- Office of the Older Persons Commissioner for Wales
- The Youth Forum Co-Ordinator

4.6 These emails sought the views of the various Welsh Commissioners and Youth Forum on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and requested responses by 7th February 2018. The responses are discussed in more detail in section 4.13 below.

4.7 Prior to outlining the additional consultation responses it is worth Cabinet noting the scope and outcome of the original consultation which took place between 9th October and 24th November 2017.

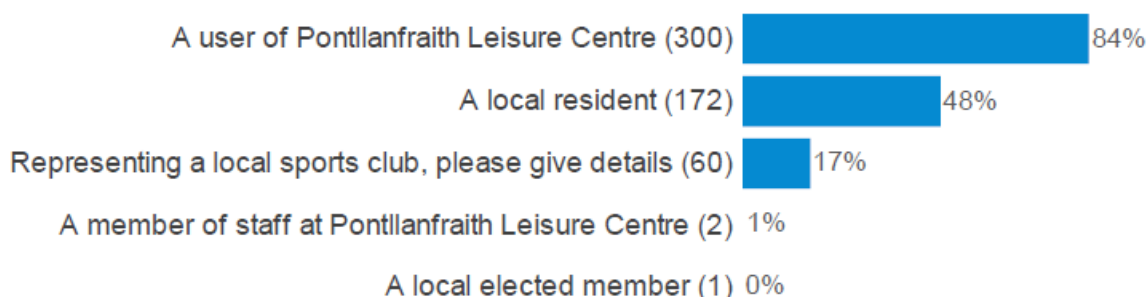
4.8 The original consultation process comprised of the following elements:-

- Notices in Leisure Centre advising of the process.
- Paper comments forms and associated deposit box in Leisure Centre.
- Notification of process on CCBC web-site.
- On-line form for submission of comments.
- 2 public meetings (held early evening on 17th & 19th October at the Leisure Centre).
- One to one consultation appointments with those that expressed interest in a more personal discussion (held on 7th November 2017 and 22nd November 2017).
- Meetings with local members representing wards immediately adjacent to the Leisure Centre (Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, Penmaen & Cefn Fforest).
- Notification to all Town & Community Councillors seeking their views on the potential closure of the centre.
- Consultation with the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 1st November 2017.
- Further meetings with the Head teacher and Governors at Islwyn High.
- Discussions with staff & Trade Unions.

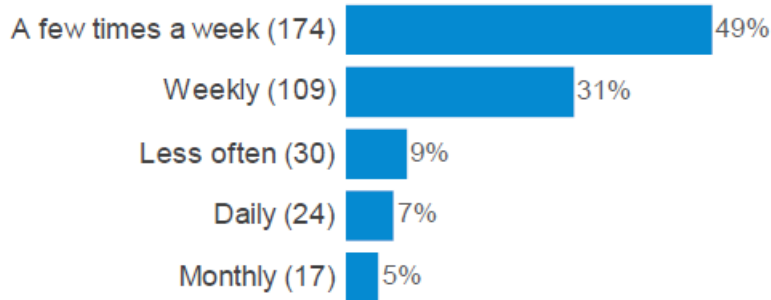
4.9 The outcome of the wider public consultation was analysed by staff in the Authority’s Communications Unit. This analysis resulted in a mix of graphical representations and a collection of specific comments. The summary report and specific comments are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4.10 The key graphs from the summary consultation report were as follows:-

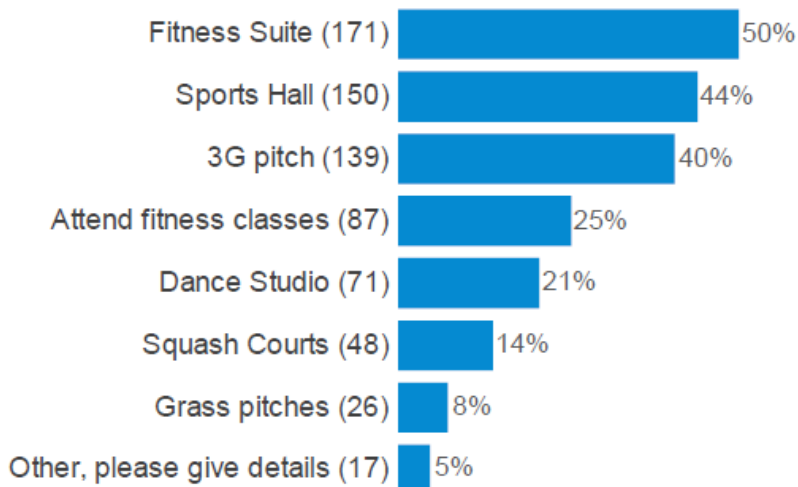
Please indicate your interest in this consultation *(please tick all that apply)*



How often do you use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre?



What facilities do you use at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre? *(please tick all that apply)*



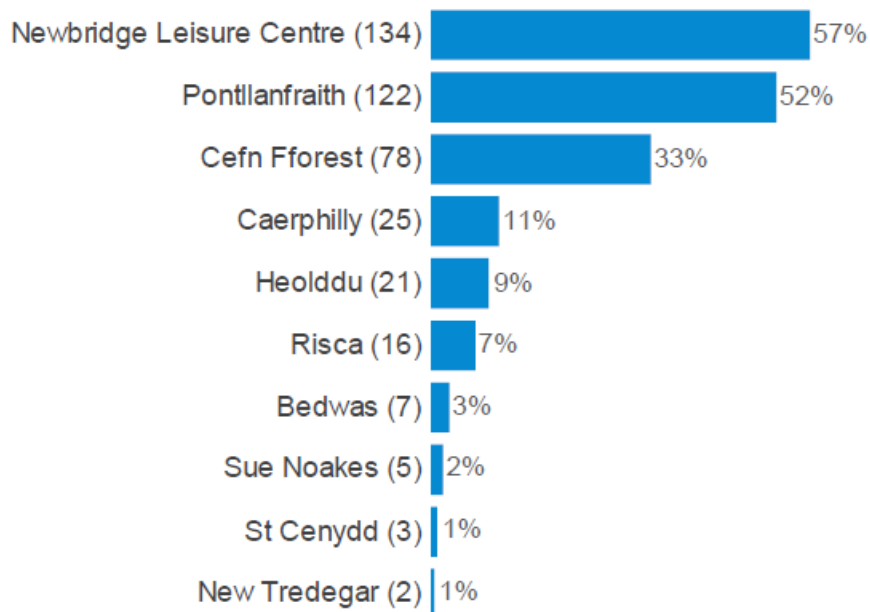
Are alternative arrangements/facilities in place to meet your needs?



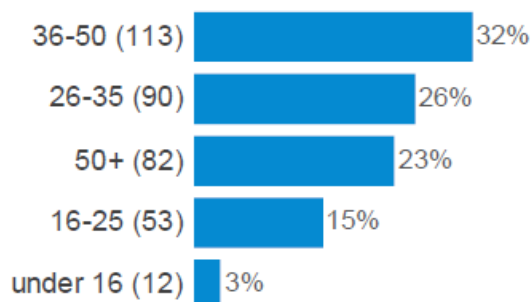
Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



Do you use any other leisure facilities in the Caerphilly county borough area?



What is your age group



Are you



- 4.11 There are a number of “themes” that have arisen as the consultation analysis has been completed. The table below illustrates the nature of these themes and the comments of officers.

COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES	
Consultation Question: <i>What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?</i>	
THEME	OFFICER COMMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to travel. • Will not be able to walk to a facility. • Pontllanfraith is more convenient for me. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 50% of the Pontllanfraith users travel from outside the NP12 postcode area and therefore travel by car or bus. Other facilities may therefore be closer to many of the centre’s users.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facility includes a 3G pitch which is available in all weathers. • Local 3G pitches are already oversubscribed. • If a 3G is not installed at Blackwood this would have a huge impact. • 3G demand in the area cannot be satisfied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is accepted that the demand for 3G facilities is significant given our changing weather conditions/climate. • While the Authority had no certainty over the development of a new 3G at Blackwood, the bid to Welsh Government was submitted and approved • A range of alternatives are being explored in terms of relocating 3G users to other facilities. • The potential for the 3G pitch at Pontllanfraith to remain until the 31st March 2017 would allow users to benefit from it for the entire duration of the winter period. There is less pressure after the clocks go forward at the end of March.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant loss of facilities and services in the Pontllanfraith area (Youth Centre, Ty Pontllanfraith, School and now Leisure Centre). • Housing Growth in area will place significant burden on local services/infrastructure. • More residents using other Leisure Centres will place additional burden on those other Centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is difficult to comment on changes that take place in society – some of these are for the better and some are not. Unfortunately, in modern society change is inevitable and is driven by economics (in the case of Ty Pontllanfraith), or the need to improve (eg: the education offer in the Pontllanfraith/Blackwood/Oakdale area). • Housing growth is needed as there is a shortage of housing within the County Borough. • The Authority has more Leisure Centres than any other Local Authority in Wales and this number, when combined with their age profile is unsustainable in the long-term. Leisure Centre rationalisation to a fewer number of strategic centres is therefore required in the medium to long-term. The provision of secondary leisure provision should also be noted with facilities for community use provided at Lewis School, Pengam, Y-Gwindy, Caerphilly, St Martins School, Caerphilly, Markham Community House, Blackwood Comprehensive School and Ysgol Cwm Rhymni, Fleur de Lys

COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES	
Consultation Question: <i>Are alternative arrangement/ facilities in place to meet your needs?</i>	
THREAD	OFFICER COMMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3G at Islwyn High is not enough – the Pontllanfraith 3G needs to be replaced at Blackwood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See comments above regarding 3G at Blackwood Comprehensive and 21st Century Schools submission to Welsh Government. • See comments above regarding option to keep 3G at Pontllanfraith open until 31st March 2017.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no alternative facilities that would meet may needs. • A lack of affordable facilities exists in the vicinity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See comments above regarding travel distances etc. • The Authority has a significant number of Leisure Centres, many of which offer all of the services on offer at Pontllanfraith and more (eg: Newbridge). • The Authority's Leisure Centre pricing structure is consistent across the County Borough and membership allows the use of all Centres.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of Leisure Centres are ageing and need significant investment to bring them to a modern standard. The use of Leisure Centres is cost prohibitive and should be subsidised for residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is accepted that the Authority's Leisure Centre stock is ageing and in need of investment. However, there is insufficient funding in the current climate to invest in the vast number of facilities across the County Borough. Consequently rationalisation is required followed by an investment programme in a smaller number of better equipped strategic facilities. • The use of the Authority's Leisure Centres is already subsidised (the subsidy varies from centre to centre dependant on facility mix and user profiles). However, this is unsustainable in the current financial climate.

COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES	
Consultation Question: <i>Please detail how the impact of closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?</i>	
THREAD	OFFICER COMMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the 3G pitch or creating another one. • Move or redevelop the 3G pitch quickly at another location. • Keep the 3G pitch but close the Leisure Centre. • If the current classes could be transferred to another local centre and my Caerphilly Leisure membership can still be used to attend classes then it would be acceptable, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See comments above regarding option to keep the 3G pitch until 31st March 2017 and 21st Century Schools submission to Welsh Government. • This is covered in paragraph 4.12 of the original report. However, it does not represent a financially viable proposal. • Other centres offer a wide range of classes and a Caerphilly Leisure Membership can be used at any of our Centres.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Newbridge Leisure Centre bigger and better. • Upgrade other Leisure Centres. • The question makes it sound like it is a pre-ordained event ie no notice will be taken of views expressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See comments above on future investment in a smaller number of strategic facilities. • The consultation process was detailed, thorough and held over an 8-week period and has involved a range of media (one to one interviews, on-line, written forms, public meetings, etc.) • No decision will be taken until the Scrutiny

	Committee has considered the consultation responses and made a recommendation to Cabinet.
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4.12 In terms of the other consultation mechanisms the outcomes were as follows:-

(i) Meetings with Local Members

- A meeting was held with the 3 Pontllanfraith members
- No response was received from Cefn Fforest or Penmaen members in relation to accepting or declining the meeting.
- 2 responses were received from the Blackwood members – one of the members attended the meeting with officers, one declared an interest as a result of a school governing body role and no response was received from the other member.

(ii) Town & Community Councils

3 representatives of Blackwood Town Council attended the meeting with the local member for Blackwood; subsequently a formal response has been received from Blackwood Town Council which is included as Appendix 2 to this report. The response from Blackwood Town Council was largely based around the Authority's duties and responsibilities associated with Well Being of Future Generations Act and maintains that any closure of the Leisure Centre would be in contravention of many of the principles set down by the Act. In addition, Blackwood Town Council has suggested that any closure would be in conflict with the Public Service Board draft well-being plan, "The Caerphilly we want". The Town Council eventually recommends that any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre should be deferred for 6 to 12 months and states that it intends to refer the matter to the Caerphilly Public Services Board and Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. Officers have considered the submission by Blackwood Town Council and are of the view that the Authority now needs to take a long-term view as we know that public services will need to change or be unable to cope with economic, social, and environmental future trends. As is pointed out, a Healthier Wales is a Well-being Goal within the Well Being of Future Generations Act and the Caerphilly Public Services Board draft Well-being Plan and the Council's own Well-being Objectives seek to make a contribution to that Goal. Clearly, the direct provision of leisure services can make a contribution to maximising people's physical and mental well-being, but the sustainability of that service provision needs to be considered in the context of available resources going forward. The Authority has more Leisure Centres than any other Local Authority in Wales and this number, when combined with their age profile, is unsustainable in the long-term.

With regard to the well-being of future generations a healthier Wales will be achieved in the long term, not only by providing leisure centres, but by people maximising their physical and mental well-being through healthy choices and behaviours. For example, the Daily Mile initiative was launched at Pontllanfraith Primary School in March 2017 and we now have over 8000 primary/infant pupils completing this exercise every school day, but many more are still to sign up. Smoking prevalence continues to fall, but still 18% of adults in the county borough are smokers. We agree that our direct provision of leisure services has a contribution to make to well-being, but as set out in the Caerphilly Public Service Board's draft Well-being Plan we also need to ensure that our assets and resources are used more intelligently and sustainably. There have been no responses from any other Town & Community Councils.

(ii) Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matter at its meeting on 1st November 2017. Prior to the meeting a member of the public asked to address the Committee and this was accommodated.

The Committee considered the officer report, the public representation and requested a slight extension to the consultation period which has been accommodated (extended

from 10/11/17 to 24/11/17). In addition, the Scrutiny Committee requested that the outcome of the consultation is brought to the next meeting (12th December 2017) which has also been accommodated. As a result of the 12th December Scrutiny Committee being less than 24 hours before the 13th December Cabinet meeting, a verbal recommendation from Scrutiny will be provided to Cabinet.

(iii) Meeting with Islwyn High School

Meetings have been held with the Head teacher and Governing Body of Islwyn High School. During the meeting with the Head teacher, the Corporate Director (Communities) agreed that a member of Sport & Leisure staff would be provided for a period of 3 months to assist the school with transition of the Sports Hall programme from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in the event of the decision being taken to close the centre. It was agreed that this 3-month assistance period would be at no cost to the school. Subsequently, a paper was presented to the Governing Body outlining the programme that would be transferred to Islwyn High School and the 3-months free of charge staffing assistance. It was also outlined to the Governing Body that the programme to be transferred is a mature, block booking programme which will represent guaranteed income for the school.

While the Governing Body were generally in favour of the transition of the mature programme from Pontllanfraith, it was keen not to be seen to prejudice the consultation process and would not therefore make a final decision until the consultation period is over. This was re-affirmed by the Governing Body at its meeting on 18th January 2018.

4.13 In terms of the additional consultation set out in paragraph 4.5 above, the responses from each Commissioner and the Youth Forum are as follows:-

(i) Children's Commissioner

The Office of the Children's Commissioner stated that it was unable to respond to consultations in respect of local funding as such interventions could prejudice the Commissioner's independent status. In addition, the response highlighted two points in relation to the existing requirements under the Local Authority's framework and its relationship with children's rights. These included:-

- Equality Impact Assessments require consideration of the impact of people within recognised protected characteristics including age. There is an expectation that children and young people should be a key consideration in respect of this section given the matter concerned.
- Under Article 12 Children and young people have a right to say what they think on matters affecting them and their opinions taken into account. All public bodies have a duty to contribute toward the realisation of children's rights. Whilst Local Authority consultation requirements vary as the Office of the Commissioner we would expect that children and young people would be afforded the opportunity for meaningful consultation along with evidence that their views, as well as those of other consultees, have been taken into account on matters which affect them such as this.

The email response from the Children's Commissioner is included as Appendix 2 to this report.

(ii) Well-Being for Future Generations Commissioner

A response was received from the Office of the Well-Being for Future Generations Commissioner on 21st February 2018. This response is also included as Appendix 2 to this report.

The response from the Future Generations Commissioner set out the provisions and ethos of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and the duties it imposes on public bodies. It also pointed out the desire of the Commissioner to empower individuals and community groups to understand how they can use the Act to challenge public bodies. In this regard the Commissioner suggested that individuals and community groups ask a series of questions around:-

- Involvement (the importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves)
- Long-term (the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs)
- Prevention (how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)
- Integration (considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)
- Collaboration (acting in collaboration with any other person or different parts of the body itself that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives)

In terms of these key question headings officer comments are as follows:-

- Involvement – the transition of services to the public from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to other establishments has been the subject of extensive consultation which is outlined in this report. The important fact is that services are not being removed but are being transitioned to other facilities. Much of the concern during the consultation focussed on the 3G pitch but this will be replaced with a better facility at Blackwood Comprehensive and in this regard the recent Welsh Government funding announcement articulated below in section 4.19 of this report is of particular relevance
- Long-term – the rationalisation of leisure facility stock and reducing maintenance liabilities across an ageing stock is crucial to the long term sustainability of the Authority's sport and leisure service. The current leisure estate is not sustainable.
- Prevention – acting to reduce its maintenance liabilities linked to the leisure stock and as a result contributing to a more strategic approach to financial planning assists with the ability to continue to deliver a range of other services (e.g. social care, education) which are inextricably linked to the well-being of future generations
- Integration – as stated above, there is no loss of service but a transitioning to other facilities, some of which are/will be state of the art and ultimately represent better service provision. Changes to the leisure service are necessary if we are to maximise the contribution that it can make across the well-being goals.
- Collaboration – the ability to transition services to other facilities/establishments has been/will be achieved by working in collaboration with local schools and the other local leisure centres within the Authority's portfolio

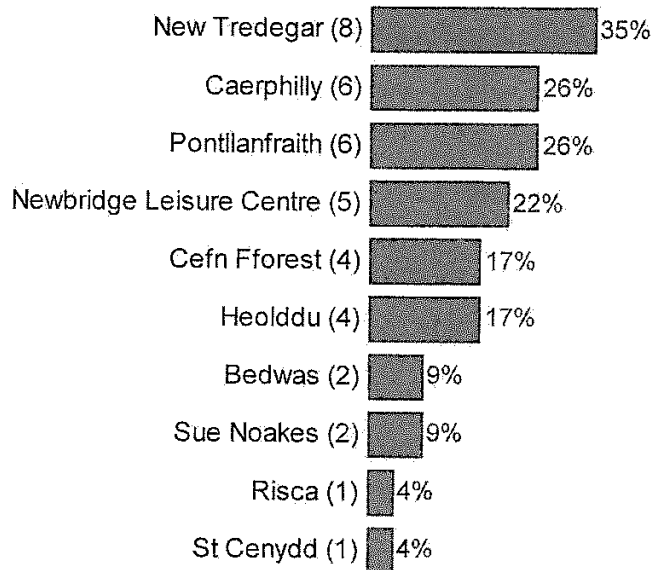
(iii) Older Persons Commissioner

No response was received from the Office of the Older Persons Commissioner.

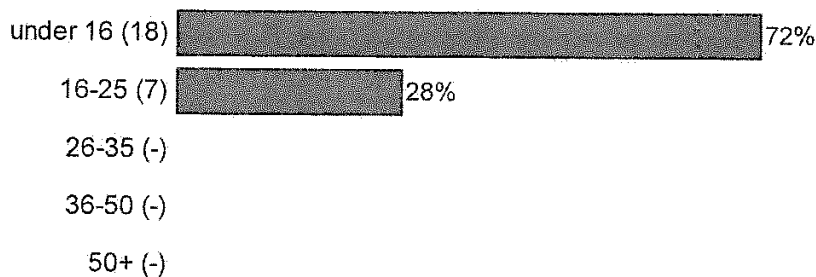
(iv) Youth Forum

This additional consultation was the second opportunity that the Youth Forum had to comment on the potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. The first opportunity was afforded to the Youth Forum as part of the 2018/19 budget consultation where very little comment was made. The additional Youth Forum consultation attracted a total of 28 responses after youth workers attended a number of groups including a forum in New Tredegar, two Borough wide forum meetings and a Borough wide innovate meeting. The key graphs from the additional Youth Forum consultation are as follows:-

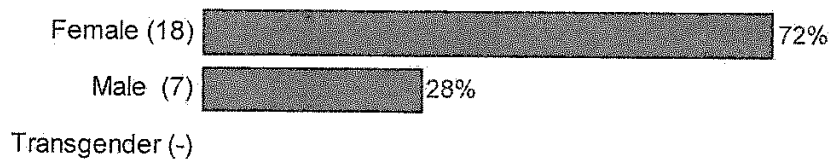
Do you use any other leisure facilities in the Caerphilly county borough area?



What is your age group



Are you



Are alternative arrangements/facilities in place to meet your needs?



Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

blackwood
I dunno
caerphilly leisure centre is close by (5 mins walk)
the rec caerphilly leisure centre
Leave the astroturf. do not close the leisure centre,
Netball, football
Have none
Have none
Have none

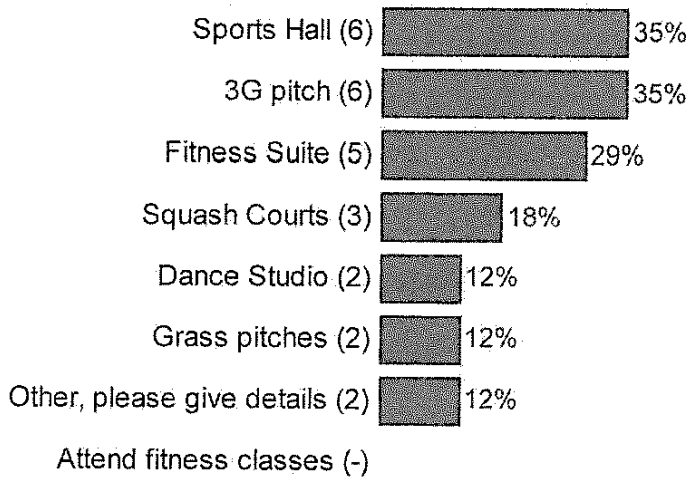
Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

new youth club
school uses the netball courts and dance studio/gym and 3G for pe lessons, if we didnt the school wouldnt have enough space for lessons
By not closing it!
letting people know where their nearest leisure centre is now. notify them of clubs they use i.e. dance which are close by outside of council services
have it open once a week
Dont' close it
More games
More games
More games

Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



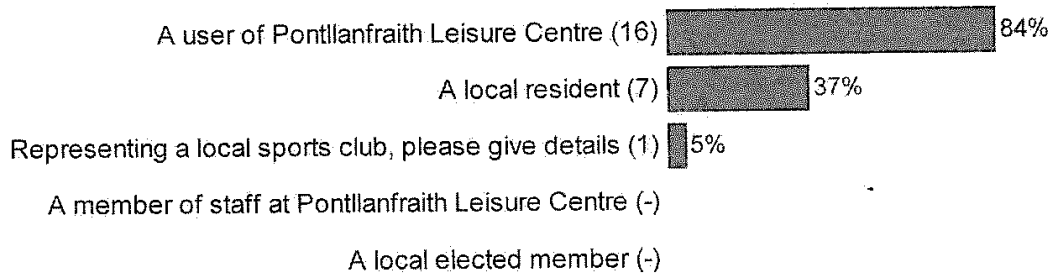
What facilities do you use at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre? (please tick all that apply)



Please give details

- youth club
- free time
- none
- never

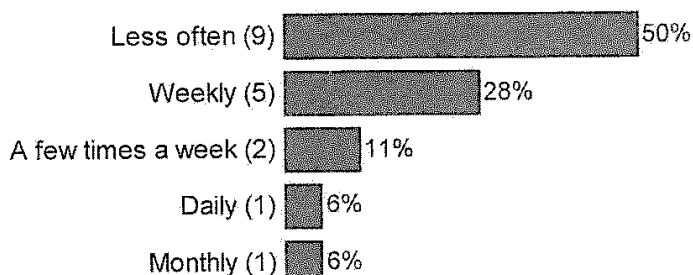
Please indicate your interest in this consultation (please tick all that apply)



Please give details

- Football
- i dont go to this leisure centre but use it at school
- youth forum
- Youth Forum Rep
- I attend inovate

How often do you use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre?



A full breakdown of the Youth Forum responses is included at Appendix 3 to this report.

- 4.14 Although outside the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet is also advised that on 29th January 2018 a letter was received from Chris Evans MP accompanied by 84 survey forms. These survey forms had been completed by 84 individuals but no addresses were included and no comments were included in terms of the individuals' connection with the Leisure Centre (e.g. member, casual user, club coach etc).
- 4.15 All 84 survey respondents stated that they felt that the consultation process was not detailed and thorough. However, when these comments were analysed it is clearly evident that the extent of the 8 week consultation (on-line, public meetings, one to one surgeries, written forms at Centre, posters at Centre etc) has not been understood. Some of the comments made included "what consultation?", "there was none", "wasn't aware of it", "process was intimidating", "didn't go sorry", "zero communication", "was away when meetings were held".
- 4.16 Cabinet are also advised that on Thursday 15th February 2018, the Authority received formal notification of a potential judicial review being launched in relation to the Cabinet Decision made on 13th December 2017. [At the time of writing this report the Authority's legal representatives are considering the grounds cited in the letter received from the claimant's solicitor].
- 4.17 Paragraph 4.3 above outlined the items that the Scrutiny Committee were asked to have regard to during its consideration of the call-in. Officer commentary is included for two of these specific items below:-
- (i) Potential conflict with the Well-Being Objectives
- There are four key objectives within the Public Services Board Draft Well-Being Plan (positive change, positive start, positive people and positive places) supported by a number of action areas. In addition the Authority currently has five well-being objectives (tackling poverty, maximising income, improving outcomes for all learners particularly those vulnerable to under achievement, closing the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas, carbon management and reducing our carbon footprint and investment in council homes to transform lives and communities). None of these objectives are explicit in terms of compelling the Authority to provide a specified number of leisure centres or outdoor sports facilities.
- (ii) Consultation with the Health, Social Care and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee, the Children's Commissioner and Young Persons Forum
- Provision of sport and leisure services is outlined in the Council's Constitution as forming part of the remit of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee and not the Health, Social Care & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee. Consultation with the Children's Commissioner and Young Persons Forum has been outlined above in the main body of the report.
- 4.18 A number of queries have been raised in relation to the input and views of the Public Services Board. However, the terms of reference of the Public Services Board is high level and strategic and does not include involvement in local decision making.
- 4.19 The Cabinet Report of 13th December 2017 included an aspiration to develop a replacement 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School. Since this report was considered confirmation has been received from Welsh Government in relation to its funding contribution of this new 3G pitch. Consequently the Head teacher and Governing Body of Blackwood Comprehensive School are extremely pleased with this Welsh Government decision and have committed to work with the Authority in developing the new 3G pitch at the earliest practical opportunity during 2018.

- 4.20 Cabinet is also asked to consider the Scrutiny Committee recommendation that Blackwood Town Council be provided with a formal response to their detailed consultation.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the sustainable development principle against which all public bodies in Wales should assess their decision-making. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the well-being of future generations through maximising the contribution public bodies make towards the well-being goals. In using the sustainable development principle it is incumbent that the authority considers the whole of the population it serves and considers the effect of its actions on future generations. The principle, also known as the five ways of working is assessed as below:

LONG TERM- The leisure estate across the whole of the authority is not sustainable in the long term due to cuts in the revenue available to the local authority. Securing the provision of sport and leisure services now and in the future requires that difficult decisions have to be made that balance short term considerations against long term sustainability. The financial climate means that this is not possible continue subsidising all sites and so decisions must be taken now to secure a sports and leisure service for future generations.

INVOLVEMENT- An extensive consultation has taken place with the community, leisure centre users and clubs, democratic representatives, young people and Welsh Government Commissioners. Views have been represented to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. Inevitably residents will wish to see as many local authority services as close to their homes as possible, and this view would be held by all communities within the county borough. In considering the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre we have sought to mitigate the concerns by accessing funding for a new FAW approved 3 G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive and ensuring that a programme of activity runs, and bookings can be taken to use the facilities, at Islwyn High School. The other leisure centres and sites in the area have capacity to accommodate the current users of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

PREVENTION- The promotion of well-being now prevents need in the future and reduces demand on public services. In planning the proposed closure we have sought to maintain sports and leisure services accessibility for the community as far as is practicable.

COLLABORATION- We have collaborated with the two comprehensive schools in the area and their governing bodies to ensure access to the facilities that they can provide.

INTEGRATION- We have considered how the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre may impact on the well-being goals and in so doing have been mindful of the requirement to provide a sports and leisure offer that is still accessible at other sites.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 4 to this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The detailed financial implications associated with the potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre were included in the Cabinet report of 13th December 2017. However, since this report was considered there have been a number of other changes in the financial landscape relevant to the future of the Leisure Centre and 3G pitch.

- 7.2 In the event that the Leisure Centre remains open there will be an additional National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR) liability. The Centre was previously classed as a “joint use centre” situated on a school site and as such attracted significant rate relief. The new rating valuation has recently been confirmed in lieu of the school closure which results in an increase in NNDR of £17k per annum for the Leisure Centre.
- 7.3 In addition to the increased rates liability there are costs associated with standing charges for utilities and for security of the vacated schools premises. These are currently estimated to be £12k per annum.
- 7.4 The Education & Lifelong Learning Directorate previously contributed £26k per annum for the school’s day-time use of the Leisure Centre and 3G pitch. This contribution will be completely lost in the event that the Centre remains open in 2018/19.
- 7.5 In total the anticipated annual costs of keeping the Centre open are £136k as summarised in the table below: -

	£000's
Existing net revenue budget for Centre	81
Additional NNDR liability	17
Utility charges and security of school	12
Loss of contribution from Education & Lifelong Learning	26
TOTAL: -	136

- 7.6 The 2018/19 Budget Proposals presented to Council on the 22nd February 2018 highlighted that alternative savings would need to be identified during the 2018/19 financial year in the event of the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre not proceeding. At the Council meeting the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance & Governance announced that the decision in respect of the proposed closure had been deferred at that time and that a report would be prepared outlining what savings would need to be reinstated in the 2018/19 financial year to meet the net operating costs of the Centre, pending a final decision on its future.
- 7.7 Cabinet will recall that the 2018/19 Budget Proposals presented to Council on the 22nd February 2018 recommended that savings totalling £537k should be deferred as summarised in the table below: -

Deferred Savings Proposal	£000's
Language Support in Primary Schools (vacant posts)	66
Reduction in School Improvement Initiatives budget	120
Introduction of charges for Rat Treatments	20
Deletion of vacant Community Safety Warden posts	40
Reduction in Air Quality/Contaminated Land budget	15
Partial reduction in proposed saving on Highways Maintenance	212
Introduction of charges for all bulky waste	50
Reduction in Traffic Signal Maintenance budget	11
Reduction in Tree Maintenance budget	3
TOTAL: -	537

- 7.8 As detailed in paragraph 7.5 of this report the annual revenue costs of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre now stand at £136k. Until such time as a final decision is made on the future of the Centre it is recommended that the following deferred savings proposals are reinstated for the 2018/19 financial year: -

- Language Support in Primary Schools (vacant posts) - £66k
- Partial reduction in proposed saving on Highways Maintenance to be reduced from £212k to £142k.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The personnel implications have been outlined in the previous reports to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
- 8.2 There have been no changes to the personnel implications that were previously outlined.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 The original and additional consultation undertaken is outlined in the main body of the report above.
- 9.2 The consultees listed below have been consulted on this report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Cabinet is asked to consider whether it wishes to:-
- (i) Re-affirm its decision of 13th December 2017; or
 - (ii) Make a new decision based on the additional consultation and other facts outlined in this report; or
 - (iii) Defer the decision (to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre) taken on 13th December 2017 and consider the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre later in 2018 once the 10 year Sport and Leisure Strategy for Authority has been adopted.
 - (iv) Write to Blackwood Town Council in accordance with the recommendation of Scrutiny Committee.
- 10.2 In the event that recommendation 10.1(iii) is supported then Cabinet is asked to endorse a recommendation to Council that deferred savings totalling £136k as detailed in paragraph 7.8 of this report are reinstated until such time as a final decision on the future of the Centre is made.

Author: Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director (Communities)
(willims@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
Jeff Reynolds, Sport & Leisure Facilities Manager
Steve Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance
Lisa Lane, Corporate Solicitor
Richard Harris, Internal Audit Manager
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager
Lynne Donovan, Acting Head of HR & Organisational Development
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Policy and Public Protection
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Interim Head of Education, Planning, Strategy and Resources

Background Papers:

- Report to Cabinet 20th September 2017 – “Proposals to commence a consultation exercise to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 1st November 2017 – “Consultation with respect to the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 12th December 2017 – “Outcome of consultation on the potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Cabinet 13th December 2017 – “The future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 18th January 2018 – “Consideration of call-in request – Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre” and relevant minute of meeting

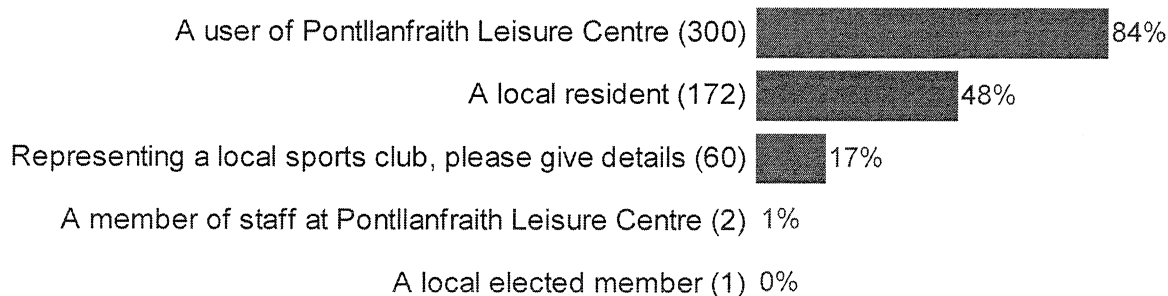
Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Original Consultation Analysis Report
- Appendix 2 Consultation response from Offices of the Children’s Commissioner & Future Generations Commissioner, and Blackwood Town Council
- Appendix 3 Breakdown of Youth Forum response to consultation
- Appendix 4 Equalities Impact Assessment

This report was generated on 27/11/17. Overall 360 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

Please indicate your interest in this consultation *(please tick all that apply)*



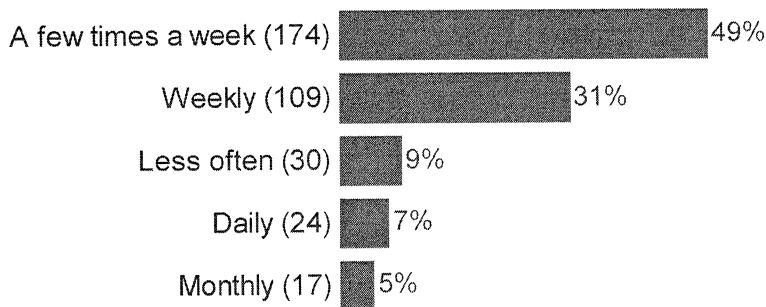
Please give details

Oakdale Mini Rugny
 Blackwood RFC
 Treowen Stars U10s girls
 Coed duon dragons
 Training for Sunday league team
 Coed Duon Dragons FC
 Ynysddu Welfare FC
 blackwood rugby club
 Blackwood RFC Under 10s Age Grade
 Oakdale Badminton Club
 Fleur de lys afc
 Ynysddu Welfare FC
 Blackwood Griffins
 Newbridge under 9s mini rugby team
 Blackwood under 6
 Secretary of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith Cricket Club
 Cefn Fforest boys and girls football club
 Promotion of the welsh language is less important to residents than losing local amenities.
 Mini rugby
 Secretary for cefn fforest boys and girls fc
 Islwyn Running club
 Ynysddu Welfare FC
 Play for Ynysddu Welfare football club

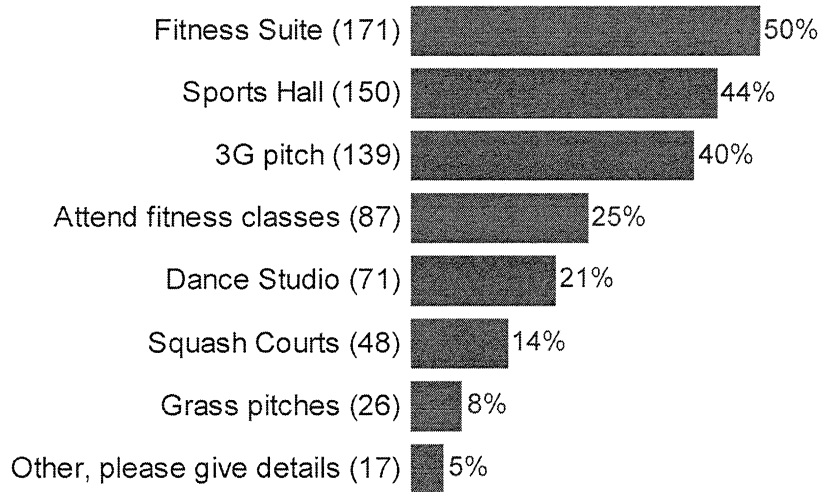
Please give details

Ynysddu Welfare
 Coach of Blackwood rfc u10s, player of oakdale badminton club
 Treowen Stars
 Pengam F.C.
 Kykushin Karate Club - Pontllanfraith
 Blackwood Netball Club
 Treowen Stars Girls under 11 Football Team
 Ladies Badminton (church group)
 Gym member
 in badminton group that play every week
 Pont Dragons - Disability Football Team
 Pont Dragons disability Football Club
 Fleur De Lys AFC/Soccer skills
 Friday night badminton club(we are also linked with a badminton club on Monday)
 Oakdale Badminton Club
 Oakdale Badminton Club
 Tir-Y-Berth footbal club
 Member of Islwyn Running club
 Blackwood Ladies Netball
 Blackwood Netball Club
 Blackwood Netball Club
 Netball
 I and my family have used Pont Leisure all our lives!

How often do you use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre?



What facilities do you use at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre? (please tick all that apply)



Please give details

None we have never been able to book the 3G

Outside pitch.

Outside rugby for son

None

karate twice a week

Islwyn running club

3 g facilities

Watch my nephew play football here

I believe my council tax contribution should be for caerphilly residents not welsh extremist ideals

Member of Islwyn Running club and we meet at the leisure centre

3G football field

Not yet used the centre

4g pitch with my son's under 10 rugby club football clubs during school holidays , football partys,

Also 3G pitch user

About to start badminton & join running club

Yoga

Yoga classes

Badminton

Yoga class

Son uses 3G pitch

Yogalates - Monday 7-8

Badminton

Badminton

Classes & circuits in the sports hall

Netball (Hall on Tuesdays)

Squash court

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

It will limit accessibility to fitness classes

Soccer skills provide soccer coaching to children. Closure of the LC will probably mean the loss of this class.

I can cycle or walk to Pont LC. I will need transport to access others. Also badminton courts are usually booked or not in use at Newbridge LC so this will impact greatly on my use so I will probably terminate my Lifestyle 5 membership. Exercise and attending yoga classes etc has a beneficial affect on me mental health and wellbeing. When you cut back classes a few years ago it had a very negative affect on me.

Increase distance to gym, costing more in time & money. Removal of a small , more personalised gym with a genuine community feel that has helped me lose weight & keep fit in a non intimidating, inclusive atmosphere.

The centre is on route from where I work and home. Due to working hours it is not only convenient but if it were to close most likely would have to give up going too the gym.

The loss of this centre will be a big loss for me as I am epileptic, I am unable to drive. Pont is the only centre within easy walking distance providing all that need and staff understanding of my disabilities.

Classes held at Pontllanfraith are always busy and full, its a central location, always easy to reach and park. Classes not available anywhere else in the local area. the classes are important for my fitness routine.

As a 70+ member use of the centre keeps me healthy. Closure would mean me travelling to Newbridge which is extra expense. Many use the facility to keep healthy,if not available people will lose their fitness which is then a burden on the NHS. Let the facilities remain.

It will impact greatly as I teach yoga at Pontllanfraith. The classes are usually full and offer a wide range of health benefits. The LC is well used and very important to its members. The people of Blackwood should have a leisure centre.

We have held a booking with the centre and used the 3G pitch for approx 6 years. A group of 16 friends have used the facility to keep fit & socialise by playing football. The closure could see and end to this due to limited availability at other sites.

Have been using the centre for over 35 years. We are members of SE Wales Netball league affiliated to Welsh Netball. We have commitments to the league & uncertainty jeopardises our position for future development. It would have an impact on our wellbeing, fitness, self esteem & confidence. Our age range is from 13 - 68 years

Impact not known because despite new facilities in area these are or will be in use. High demand in the area with additional houses being built will mean shortage of facilities

I won't be able to attend yoga class. My daughters football team train on 3G, there is nowhere else,all fully booked. Also sons football team play matches at centre every other Sunday, they have no alternative.

Our club will probably have to cease due to lack of suitable venue

Loss of friendly small gym where there is no embarrassment at doing gentle exercise

Further to travel, more buses

Have to travel further and take car, where as I am able to walk to the centre now.

A great impact on my wellness & fitness regime, and would mean long term health implications. I am paying for leisure lifestyle which is now being taken away.

Drop in health and fitness. Meeting people that has become more of a family than just friends

Less traffic blocking access to our houses. When new pitch was created, half of the car park was removed. When children's football held on Sunday morning, roads around are blocked by cars for parents taking children to centre. Similarly running club members park cars on Penllwyn lane blocking people's access to garages.

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

I was attending fitness classes at the centre twice a week, but they moved the said classes to other centre,s, which I have difficulty in getting to.

Myself and my family just won't be able to find an alternative.

My son who plays for an under 12 football team trains on 3G pitch, partner attends exercise classes twice a week, it would be a huge loss to the community,also with more houses planned in Pontllanfraith council offices etc, I feel it is short sighted.

I feel the closure will impact on my fitness. The location & classes are ideal for my needs and fit in my work /leisure time. I fear my fitness will suffer and in turn my overall health if I can no longer attend Pont centre.

I live in Risca & play badminton in Pontllanfraith so I would have further to travel

I would not attend a gym of a larger size - wouldn't feel comfortable or confident.

Lack of availability for sports pitches Currently there's a major push to reduce obesity & closing centres is not in the best interest of CCBC residents

I will not be able to attend the gym

Less choice in location & facilities and distance from home

Will involve more travel to attend sports centres further away

A massive effect. The exercise class I attend helps my physical & mental wellbeing. Good friendly atmosphere there.

Travel further to continue classes if a suitable venue is available

We are a parent run disability football club which caters for youngsters living in surrounding areas, we meet weekly. It provides well being & social interaction for youngsters who can not access main stream football due to various disabilities.

This may lead to closure of the disabilities football sessions held on Friday as many may refuse a different location for various reasons, such as travel distance.

Ease of use. I would not like to attend Newbidge as I feel uncomfortable

Reduced physical fitness. Wellbeing, Social Needs

I wouldn't have anywhere else to go. I have arthritis and attending the gym helps. I also have sons who attend football there a few times a week.

I wouldn't have any other centres that are local, as I walk to Pont and would then have to use bus daily

Have nowhere to keep fit, I don't drive and can't afford public transport.

The class I run at the LC will stop & the children will no longer have a class

Considerable. The loss of the extra court could result in the club folding. We have been told we can be relocated to the new school but due to pressure from other clubs for space we do not see how you can accommodate every ones needs.

The cancellation of my young childrens sports activities. Despite the need for youngsters to be active there is not an abundance of opportunities for them to do so.

I travel from Nelson to attend a class, which I have attended for 2 years. Even if the class continued at the new school I would have to travel further.

Possibly less opportunity to play sport on a regular basis, will have to travel further. May lose members of our badminton club if club nights have to change with a different venue - which we have not been able to identify

Force a large badminton club to find other facilities as readily available as Pontllanfraith. Causing a lot of inconvenience for the club, the clubs future & its members

May not be able to book at alternative leisure centre. Have to travel further

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

First I must say I work in the evenings & have been given no opportunity to engage in the face to face consultation meetings. Please consider arranging another date earlier in the day - before 2pm. I attend Joannes yoga classes at 11AM on Tues & Thurs, and swim at Cefn Fforest. Caerphilly & Newbridge are too far away & are holding no yoga classes.

Possibly exercising less a week due to travelling further. Similarly paying more as privately run classes charge per class as opposed to a monthly payment.

Play badminton regular struggle to book in other facilities.

Other leisure centres too busy and too far away as Pont is on our doorstep.

Make it much more efficient to book courts as there will be limited spaces available.

Struggle to use other leisure centres as this is on our doorstep. Also use of sports hall has allocated badminton times.

Devastating and will feel lost without it

This will have a massive impact on myself as I frequently use the leisure centre and have done for the last 27 years. The proximity of the LC is very convenient.

Lack of local sports centre in the area to use with access to a variety of activities and classes. Near to my place of work which is convenient and within easy reach of Blackwood town centre.

My club would have to relocate and I would not be able to attend any longer. There would not be a gym in my area.

No netball training

We would be unable to train.

Nowhere to train netball

Unable to train. No use of gym

No available netball court. Further to travel for the fitness suite.

No other netball training facilities nearby for Blackwood that's not already taken by another club. More cost travelling to another court.

No training facilities near so less exercising

Difficulty to exercise - no training facility near by. Have to travel further for exercise classes.

It would make it much more difficult for me to exercise regularly.

It means we have to stop training every Wednesday.

No other leisure centre around that's local

Unable to use sports hall to train for local netball club and will lose a facility to hold friendly matches from ages 5-67

No netball training

Limited opportunity for physical exercise

PLC is local to myself & my children. It provides fitness facilities for all family members. To take away an established centre is ridiculous. Spend the money on the centre.

Will make it harder to keep fit daily and I will not reach my goal of losing weight.

Have to travel further for facilities

I use the centre on a regular basis, both myself and the children I foster. I know that any club attempting to book the facilities at the new Islwyn High School are having difficulties, as they are now fully subscribed & booked out, plus there is no gym, squash courts etc. Pont LC is used by many clubs on a regular basis as always booked out. Islwyn High will always give preference to school activities over outside clubs wishing to use it.

It will impact on my mental health & general fitness. As a non driver the LC is a perfect location for me to access by foot (as many others)

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

Been trying to improve my health and wellbeing

Finding classes at different centres. Travel further.

Impact on health and fitness as I attend the gym 5 to 6 times per week

Pont leisure centre offers a convenient location for both courses & fitness suite uses. Loss of the fitness suite here would result in an influx of above to the already strained gym services, affecting service users. As an avid attendee of lifestyle classes, loss of instructor, fellow attendees & staff would make some of us 2nd guess our commitment to the local leisure centres.

Lack of badminton facilities. Coach girls football and struggle for bookings

Missing out on classes and workouts. Having to travel further.

I have visited the centre 3 times per week for approx. 34 years. Personally the impact of the closure would be huge. To strike a balance between work life and to fit in personal health and wellbeing training for me the centre is conveniently located. Its small enough not to feel intimidated by other users, the staff are friendly and knowledgeable. By closing Pontllanfraith the numbers in the other leisure centres will increase and they will become too full particularly at peak times.

Reduce my quality of health and life. I attend my local centre to improve my health and lifestyle.

Won't be able to have regular exercise or attend classes I enjoy

I wouldn't use the gym as often

I have been here for several years and my classes are busy!!! My users love this facility!

Have nowhere to go whilst children do their activities. Miss the social aspects of the group exercise. Need to think about poor weather so outside activity not always possible.

Struggle to attend exercise classes

My son uses the 3G pitch and grass pitch at least twice a week. This will impact greatly upon his ability to continue with his sporting activities

Won't be able to find the range of classes offered at other local facilities. Neither Cefn Fforest or Newbridge have the same range of classes during the evening. This will have a massive impact on my fitness and general health and wellbeing.

Will have a big impact on me because it is the nearest leisure centre.

Everything. My fitness level will change as I refuse to use any other LC. The centre in Pontllanfraith is fab and all staff are very helpful and polite. They are extremely friendly and welcoming. The LC in Pont is convenient as it is on my way home from work. Loss of the LC would mean loss of fab instructors who are knowledgeable and helpful. They get involved with the people here and help when needed.

Loss of local access to day time classes in the dance studio. Relocating opportunity for health & fitness classes during daytime for residents who cannot access evening classes.

Won't have a place to do Zumba

I live in Risca so further to travel

I feel the closure will impact upon me because it is due to the convenience of the LC and the atmosphere within it why I joined there in the first place. I feel that I would not get the service or good atmosphere at any other centre. The other centres are also out of the area too much for me to access as regularly as Pontllanfraith, which would impact on me keeping up with my health & fitness.

I will have to use the newbridge centre instead.

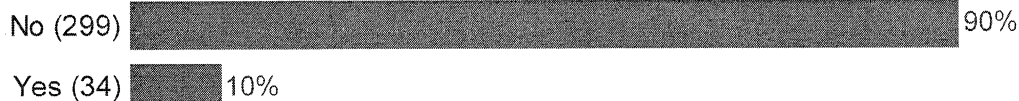
HUGE! Pont Leisure is local, easy to reach and a vibrant community hub. Both my sons have said they will not bother going anywhere else if the Council close this facility. My boys learnt the following skills at Pont Leisure: kyokushin karate Football skills Soft tennis Badminton Squash How to use gym equipment Both have accessed Dof E provision based at the site for their awards We simply not be minded to travel ever farther afield should this centre close. If CCBC cannot keep it open, then transfer it to a community trust or new community bas

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

Will have to travel further, which costs more money, if I want to go to a leisure centre which is less accessible

i will have to catch the bus to the nearest gym as i can't drive, whereas Pont Leisure is a 5 minute walk away from where i live and doesn't cost as much as other available gyms. It has everything that is needed, and the workers are really kind.

Are alternative arrangements/facilities in place to meet your needs?



Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

There are no badminton courts, no 3G football pitch, no fitness suite available locally, you are ruining our children's future for short term penny pinching

None

There has been no mention if the current classes/instructors would be relocated

Ticked the No box because the other leisure centres are 1 or 2 bus rides away and evening bus services very infrequent. Wouldn't be plausible to attend any evening activities. Use Newbridge swimming pool for aqua fit for the simple reason there is no swimming pool in Pontllanfraith!

No gym going in Islwyn high for public and Cefn Fforest gym is not big enough.

No gym or dance studio being put in Islwyn High. Cefn Fforest is insufficient to meet the needs of the larger community as it is too small and Newbridge and Heolddu is too far away.

There are no close amenities other than Pontllanfraith leisure centre. The closest are either Tetrads Mynach or Newbridge both over 2 miles away.

Not enough facilities available to cover the area, teams will miss out and eventually will have to merge into other sides thus clubs will lose identity, members will leave, players won't get game time, thus kids will stop playing. We already have a high percentage of obesity in the area in both adults and children so closing a facility will only increase this problem. CCBC should be investing in the health and welfare of its constituents.

The alternative arrangement is to go to Newbridge Leisure Centre but this is not convenient and lacking in availability.

Newbridge Leisure Centre

Alternative leisure centres are too far to travel to and would not have time to do my classes on weeknights due to this.

Time slots are too busy

When arranging ingredients eating last night, there was no carry answer that another facilities will be put in place. To replace the

Unsure.

Go to privately owned gym now

Classes at other nearby venues do not meet our needs/times/transport issues

There are none, the gyms elsewhere are fully booked, and that applies to dance studios if any in other leisure centres

The next decent facility is Newbridge. And they don't have a 3G pitch and Islwyn doesn't have one at a high enough spec. Islwyn doesn't have squash courts either.

Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

Other leisure centres do not have convenient classes times etc that fit around my work family commitments. Also even though other leisure centres ie newbridge due to being very popular the facilities and car park are always busy and sometimes hard to use said facilities so I think closing Pont will put a bigger strain on these leisure centres therefore classes / gym will be even busier

Through private local gyms

nothing within a few miles. i dont want alternate, i want the local leisure centre, its not a burden financially therefore should stay. its not about money its about the community

There are none Newbridge has no dance studio and we cannot use hall because of school use. The new school in Blackwood would not allow morning classes because of the children in school. Bargoed and Caerphilly are too far especially with road works in Caerhilly. So as you can see there is nowhere we can go.

Ystrad Mynach is way too expensive!

Islwyn high does not have squash courts or offer fitness classes...

Islwyn high is always booked especially for the days we need. Blackwood comp the flood lights are broke and they haven't got the funding to replace them plus it is always booked up on the days we need just like every other venue that has artificial pitches also it is too expensive. Our under 7s and 8s play matches at pont every Sunday and I was told that Islwyn high doesn't do Sunday opening

Islwyn high has no gym and would not be open in daytime or for casual users.

there is nowhere local that would suffice

Closing the local leisure centre reduces the options available to residents to access their local facilities making it more difficult and more expensive to travel to the next nearest facilities.

Are there leisure facilities still in the area, yes Newbridge leisure and the less than adequate facilities at Islwyn High but they are already highly in demand and there is not enough amenities to cater for everyone who wishes to use them.

No where else available to book courts! Not enough available facilities for our rugby team to be able to train effectively once a week and there aren't any reasonably priced fitness centres within walking distance

Yes but only if I start using a private fitness suite.

As discussed above

N/a

Other venue does not open on a Sunday !

There are no alternative arrangements available.

not at this time. Islwyn High School booked and too far away as most walk to Pontllanfraith - therefore the change will increase road traffic

Alternatives are available at Islwyn high, Newbridge and possible Blackwood school in the future but these are all further afield

Islwyn High school cant take any more groups so anyone using Pont has no where to go

Absolutely no alternative arrangements are in place. I've already stated that the new Islwyn High School is not fit for purpose.

Nil

As above I answered them all in the first question

Not happy that the alternative site proposed (Islwyn High) is closed in half term and summer hols. There has been no consideration for Allison (fitness instructor) to be relocated. Considering she works 5 nights a week I can see many leaving Caerphilly membership scheme to follow her training sessions elsewhere. I for one will be willing to reinvest my membership money elsewhere.

None

Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

Other facilities are booked to tge max already and are unable to accommodate reasonable times and space. It also means we have to travel 4+ milesto an altwrrnative leisure centre.

No available 4g are available for either of my sons teams.

None

Classes at Pontllanfraith are ran at suitable times, other leisure centres don't do this

There will not be enough courts in the area.

Don't know

I would have to travel further to other centres in the Caerphilly County Borough area, or cancel my membership and join a private gym.

Newbridge, Yoga class to resite

Gym, squash courts etc.

I use Cefn Fforest

We already use Newbridge LC. Family commitments of current class members will probably mean non-attendance at the different facility - as experienced when soccer skills (Pontllanfraith) Friday night class closed.

Newbridge LC has badminton courts but these are usually fully booked or being used for other sports. I need transport to access NLC I can walk to PLC.

None known of. I have epilepsy which means I am unable to drive, I have to use other means of travel.

Nearest similar alternatives are at Newbridge LC.

Alternative facilities available at Islwyn High,however due to significant demand there is limited or no availability. Other sited such as Newbridge & Centre of Excellance are also fully booked & have waiting lists.

Not known! Facilities in the area but availability is unclear.

Not sure of alternative arrangements. No spaces at other facilities for football. Closing PLC will not help the lack of facilities for football teams.

It has been proposed that our club booking will transfer to Islwyn High. This is too far away for us. It's also unavailable for a large part of the year, ie exam times Dec/Jan & May/June as sports hall is set up for exams.

Gym exercise will have to end

Newbridge - but I would have to take car.

Only alternative will be to travel further and incur extra costs - thereby removing my lifestyle membership

Apparently the new school at Oakdale has alternative facilities

I have ticked "YES" to this question because alternative arrangements were put in place but no consideration on how people who don,t drive were going to get to these places. As in my case Pontllanfraith is a 10 min walk for me but going to other centres (eg; Risca or New Tredegar) would require catching at the least two buses.

Islwyn school

We would attend Newbridge but not really happy with sports hall facilities. Pont is perfect for us as a group & for me as an older person.

No classes would match the standard of the ones I attend in Pont.

Other sites with facilities available but will they be available to book. less facilities - more users!!!

May relocate to Newbridge however many members are against this proposal. They are open to using the pitch at Islwyn High.

Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

No other arrangements would be good to me as I don't drive, Pont is local to me

None provided

See above. Although it has been indicated we can be accommodated we do not see how everyone can be satisfied with the loss of this centre which is heavily used by clubs & public. Have found in past that using school facilities is inconvenient as the school only seems interested in themselves & no one else using the sports hall.

How can the alternative venue provide facilities for all the current classes, gym, sports hall activities
Have not been able to find any alternative arrangements that can offer the same.

CCBC promotes exercise yet you move to take our 2 local amenities away - many people can walk there. I strongly urge you to reconsider closing Pontllanfraith & Cefn Fforest LC.

Newbridge - although hard to book courts

Newbridge

Newbridge - but very hard to book badminton court

None

Haven't been told anything, maybe Islwyn High.

No info given

N/A

?

No information given

No yoga classes available locally.

That club that I use on a Sunday cannot get any bookings at Islwyn High or Newbridge as always booked out.

Newbridge - but not keen

There are not enough to fulfil the demand

Attend other leisure centres which is a poor alternative.

There are no alternative arrangements that I am aware of.

N/A

Newbridge - but I'm not keen on the staff and the gym itself. Pont is the only place I feel comfortable exercising - the other centres are intimidating.

Not locally - would have to travel to Caerphilly - day time classes ie Yoga, limited

Don't know

There are no other arrangements to my knowledge

I'll use newbridge

There simply are not. Private facilities are too costly and cliquy. Community centres by their nature are too unpredictable and of poor standards.

I don't know of any and I don't drive so couldn't easily get to the other leisure centers

Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

Would save money by not building a new pitch and also I would like to point out at the new super school built Islwyn high school that their gym facilities are not even up to gym standards only got a couple of machines there and cannot be used during school times which will have a knock on effect with anyone working shift patterns and I will be one of those.

Build another leisure centre

By providing another facility of equal or better standard on this side of the valley.

Surely this decision contradicts the best interests of the community? Heart disease is a killer, exercise has been shown to be beneficial and helps rehabilitation. Let's get proactive with more not less leisure facilities before we have to build another Hospital. Diesel or petrol cars is very political, how about less reliance on vehicles with facilities closer to their home? Isn't the proposal to shut being taken with no consideration the the health and air quality of our environment and the people you represent

You need to decide that. You're making these decisions

Transport provided and same facilities

Simply don't give into corporate greed. We need these facilities for our children.

If the council were to relocate the leisure centre to a different site within the vicinity of Pontllanfraith.

It can not be reduced. the impact is eminent. There are classes that help those with mobility and weight loss that will now only be available at each end of the county in New Tredegar or Risca leisure centre. Everything is being taken from the Pontllanfraith and Blackwood wards of Caerphilly council which is not fair to the residents of the area.

Facilities and amenities should be, being added to the area to accommodate the families who will be moving into the area, as well as to continue to supply to the need of the current user. The facilities should be, being invested in to provide the new and existing residents with leisure activities. The new homes alone, would provide the council with substantial income from the council tax fees, this money should be fed back into to the area, to allow for more community friendly areas.

Keep it open Viable

The council need to understand that funding unrequired road works, social housing, unrequired huge staff bill (office based) and shocking redundancy pay offs for staff who have already profited from council tax payers - they need to look at funding for beneficial means such as sports and leisure.

Major

Hard to see how other leisure centres could run more classes/increase availability.

Leave the building open.

The centre is always very well attended and seems busier now than ever. I have been playing here for 25 years as I used to live in Blackwood area.

Keep the leisure centre open

Not Close it! There is nothing wrong with the leisure centre.

Keep venue open/ invest in the facility. Newbridge is full to capacity. Cwmcarn LC was the centre of the community. The community has suffered since its closure.

Don't close it altogether.

Increase facilities in Newbridge & classes. Make school facilities available. Need something in Blackwood.

By not closing it. Or plan a new one in this area, not one further away.

Keep it open

The lack of equivalent alternative facilities from the 3G pitch to the sports hall, from the squash courts to the fitness suite means the closure of the leisure centre will have a massive detrimental affect on those who use it.

Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

It can't be reduced - once closed these classes will stop - having a detrimental effect on members physical & mental wellbeing.

It just takes another facility away and the community needs this centre. Do not close the centre it is part of the community.

It could have been reduced/prevented/more difficult to close has Leisure Services Management been more pro active with community based events, using not only Pontllanfraith but other LC's as a hub or integral part of these activities.

Building more courts & facilities at NLC & CFLC & running more classes in both of these but that still leaves the issue of transport!!

By reducing the membership fee because you're going to provide less of a service and it will cost more to go to another gym. You provide less, you pay less. Please don't blame Westminster Gov, or cuts to local Gov funding, we pay more & more but get less for it.

Let there be no closure. Add a swimming pool to Pont leisure.

Can classes be held nearby? Can the same facilities be offered nearby? What will happen to all the local clubs that use the centre. Pont LC is very popular and provides excellent service to all.

By keeping the main building open

Build a new leisure centre for them, or keep Pontllanfraith open.

The relocation of the 3G to Blackwood would soften the blow of losing the pitch but the closure of the well used centre will see increase in demand at already busy centres.

Develop for current users (as per discussions with CCBC)

Why close the LC? The 3G is very popular. 2 schools have closed which both had pitches, replaced with just 1 pitch at Islwyn. Keep pont open & change Oakdale astroturf to 3G. Customers should be provided with alternatives if Pont LC closes.

Keep it open to provide facilities for the local community. The county promote health & wellbeing yet are looking to close well used facilities that allow the local community to keep fit and active.

Keep it open. It provides great facilities and is the most profitable in the county - why close it?

Providing a varied activity timetable at a nearby leisure centre such as Newbridge which currently does not have facilities to host activities, yoga, pilates, body conditioning etc. Don't close leisure centre at Pontllanfraith.

Do not close the centre - Pay a visit to the car park from Mon - Thurs and see how well this centre is used.

DON,T CLOSE IT.

By having local fitness class arrangements made by CCBC which are affordable & regular within Pontllanfraith.

Don't close it!!

Don't close it

By not closing it. There is already high demand for the facilities in Caerphilly & closing will mean less availability.

Keep the building open

Don't close it - it is well used

My view is it should remain open as over 90,000 persons use the centre each year. It would impact on numerous people and other centres are already overcrowded.

Ensure fitness instructors jobs are protected as well as CCBC staff jobs. Ensure classes will be facilitated elsewhere in another leisure centre with the same teacher.

Do not close

Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

By not closing it!

Another location becomes available which is easily accessible & still within the same area, at least closer to the area than Newbridge LC

Use sports hall for bigger fitness classes

By not shutting the leisure centre as many individuals use it.

Keeping it open. Rebuilding the leisure centre local to Pontllanfraith

By not closing it or building another LC to replace it. By closing this LC this will have a big impact on the health & wellbeing of the people in the area.

We have existed as a club since 1970's/80's we spent most of that time at Cwncarn school, when it closed we were offered 2 hours at Newbridge. We were subsequently accommodated at Pont as there was pressure at Newbridge due to other clubs from Cwncarn. We are happy here the staff are extremely helpful to everyone.

If funding is the issue why not consider focusing on spend that is irrelevant and of no benefit to the council tax payers. Food banks being used by the wrong client base. Millions wasted on accommodation for CCBC office staff (Tredomen) and foolish bonus/wages for management. You are not private, you are funded by us. Listen to those who pay for you.

I may either have to travel further which may dissuade me from attending & attend RCT centres instead as class may no longer be provided.

More information that is easily accessible, information shared as consultation progresses

A suitable replacement facility, available for regular & constructive use for all members

Build a new LC in Blackwood or better still Don't Close Pont! Some sports eg football will be catered for elsewhere but there won't be extra badminton courts. This means I cannot play at all. CCBC should be promoting sport not closing facilities.

It is hard to imagine an area as big as Blackwood not to have a leisure centre. A new and improved LC should be built to cater for the people from the new houses which are being built on the school site and adjacent to Grove Park. For the future use of the community. I strongly oppose these closures.

Probably if too difficult to get a court our group will drift apart.

More classes at other centres which are sadly lacking

Unless it is kept open the impact can not be reduced. As well as creating geographical and access issues, there will also be a great negative impact socially creating further magnitude of issues and problems.

Something else in the nearby area offering the same facilities. Alternatively keeping the centre open at peak times.

Don't close it

By giving us another place to train.

Tell us where the new training facility will be!

Do not close. Update the facilities resulting in a better centre for users. In particular with new housing planned.

Provide another leisure centre for us to train

Provide another sports location

Open sports hall in Islwyn High School

Opening a council facility leisure centre near the same area

Provide another leisure centre

Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

Be able to provide a suitable venue in the local area so players that cannot drive are able to get to training.

Continue yoga classes locally. Add additional well being classes locally - eg Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates

Spend the money on the building. Facilitate it better - encouraging more people from the local area to use the centre. An established karate lesson/group has been here for 35 years.

?

By not closing it, and spending some funds upgrading it!!!

Don't close it! It will be incredibly damaging to the community!!

Open a local facility or improve Cefn Forest

Could keep leisure centre if i.e. houses are built new customers & more revenue from locals - more profit for CCBC in long run.

loss of enjoyable classes as alternatives may result in having to travel multiple locations to attend rearranged classes, this would make it annoying and inconvenient for myself with scheduling. Also increased time spent travelling for what could be unnecessary if the gym remained open. Ideally find a closer location within the area offering current or similar class schedules if the gym has to close.

Need to keep present instructor for Zumba classes

Re Consider its Closure! The centre attracts a large catchment area. It is well used and supported by the individuals and various sporting clubs. With obesity rates rising particularly amongst young people it is more important than ever to provide leisure facilities throughout the borough to meet the needs of everyone.

By maintaining a local focus for health and wellbeing for the community by maintaining the LC within any new build plans. This will keep both new homes owners, employees and centre users happy.

Don't close it

Monitor usage. Caerphilly Borough needs leisure facilities as high levels of obesity & sedentary behaviour. Great classes.

This will be further reduced by the centre remaining open.

The simple answer to this would be to keep it open. The centre is well used. The range of classes offered here are the best in the local area. The instructors are fantastic and the staff are brilliant. I see no reason to close a well used facility.

To remain open

Loss of LC could mean loss of classes as people would have to travel to other LC which would result in a longer travelling time and distance in travelling. This would be very inconvenient to many members such as myself

More daytime classes in Blackwood/Pontllanfraith/Newbridge area

By remaining open, not just for myself but for others

N/a

If CCBC cannot keep it open, then transfer it to a community trust or new community based organisation...I for one would lend my skills to this as a volunteer!

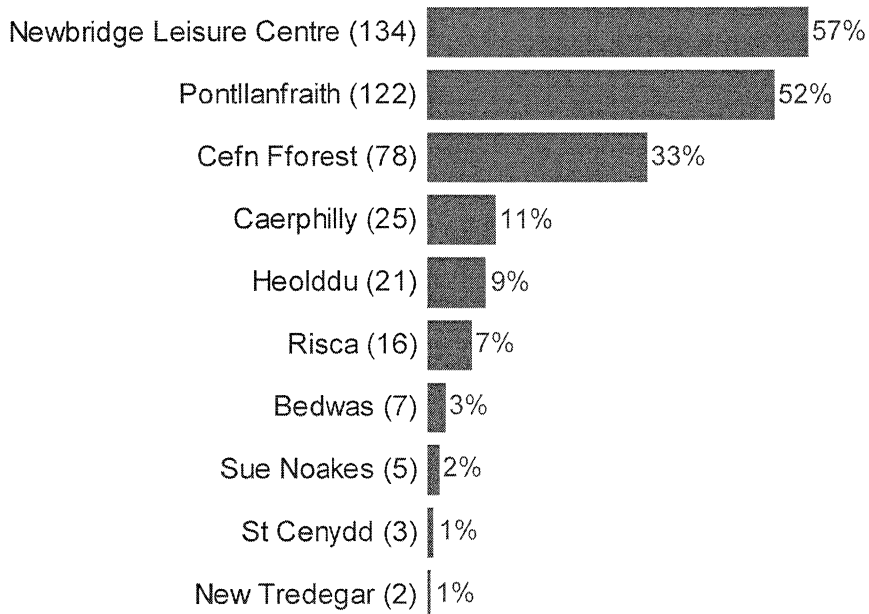
Don't close it refurbish it

not closing it would be a good start. everyone i know enjoys using the leisure centre and to close it would be a really bad idea. not to mention the fact that islwyn high school's new gym only includes 4 spins bikes and one set of weights. the dance studio is half the size of the pont studio, and there are no bus routes what so ever to the new school.

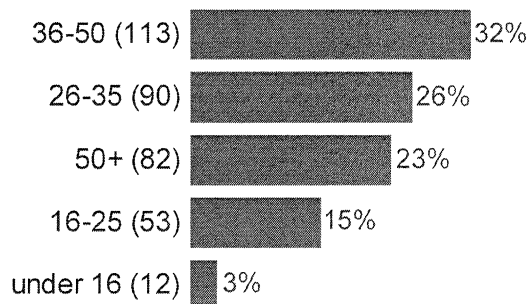
Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



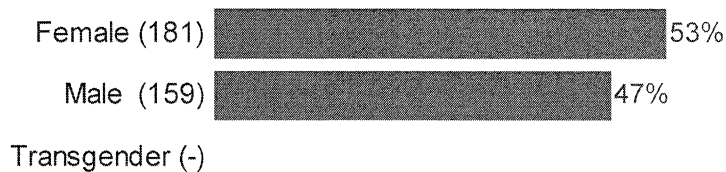
Do you use any other leisure facilities in the Caerphilly county borough area?



What is your age group



Are you



Please provide your postcode.

NP12 2NS	NP12 2ET	NP12 2HB
NP11 4HP	NP12 2NY	NP11 7FW
NP12 3NF	NP12 2NY	NP12 2FD
NP12 1QF	NP11 7AP	NP12 1HH
NP12 3JY	NP12 3RE	NP12 0GY
NP12 0SF	CF46 5BS	CF83 1SG
NP12 3NX	NP12 2ED	NP12 2PR
NP12 1DH	NP22 5BQ	NP12 2GP
CF82 7QQ	NP12 1SD	NP12 1HB
NP12 2FW	NP12 1DF	NP11 7DJ
NP12 1EG	NP12 1DX	NP12 0PE
NP12 0NG	NP11 7LG	NP12 1EW
NP12 2PJ	NP12 2HP	NP11 6QY
CF83 1DH	NP11 7GY	NP12 1ED
NP12 2PD	NP11 4TP	Np121ba
NP11 7LD	NP12 0DS	np12 1fs
NP11 7LD	NP12 2PY	np12 1fs
NP12 0AH	CF81 8TQ	NP12 1WX
CF83 3PA	NP12 2JA	
CF83 3PA	NP12 0UG	
NP12 2DP	NP12 2HP	
NP12 2JL	NP12 0RA	
NP12 2FT	CF82 7GR	
NP12 2FT	NP12 2HX	
NP12 2DA	NP12 0BG	
np12 2pf	NP12 1NW	
NP12 1QG	NP11 3AD	
NP12 2JT	NP11 3AF	
NP12 2JT	NP12 1NW	
NP11 6QY	NP12 1FS	
CF83 3PA	NP12 3RB	
NP12 1DD	NP12 0ES	
NP12 2ER	NP12	
NP12 3TR	NP12 2DE	
NP12 3TR	NP12 1JA	
NP12 1QA	CF83 3GU	
NP12 3NP	NP12 2EG	
NP11 3JF	NP12 2QN	
NP11 7LG	NP12 2GB	
NP12 2FJ	NP12 2PE	
NP12 2EJ	NP12 1HA	

To protect anonymity, a full range of monitoring questions has not been included. However, if your response to any of the questions in this survey have been impacted by any of the following (age, disability, ethnic origin, gender, gender reassignment, marital status, religious belief or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents) please give details below.

I have two teenage children who use this facility

At present, my priority is my daughter, I am not thinking about anyone else directly in my family or myself.

I suffer from bipolar, emotional personality disorder and anxiety.

None

You have an aging population in the borough who need local and accessible services.

The welsh language law was passed in more affluent times, perhaps it is now time for a rethink before we lose to many more important facilities or services?

think it should stay open

Na

None

This form does not work properly on a mobile device. Given that most people will be completing this on a mobile device, it should have been thoroughly tested. This is a requirement of government services.

Disability, mental health and physical health

Just starting my retirement & keen to keep fit & socialise.

As I don't drive, finding a way to get to the alternative centres will be very difficult

Q4 Impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

No sports facilities available in the local area, and no the edge of Blackwood is not local to Pontllanfraith. Pontllanfraith has nothing for children to do as it is, limited parks are available, broken Muga's and I think that's it. Leisure centre block bookings are tough enough to get as it is, Islwyn high should be opened as a further service to what is there not a replacement.

There aren't enough sports grounds for the children/adults as it is now, you can't train on grass pitches , very few grass areas have floodlights anyway, using pont and islwyn outside pitches would give the sports clubs more oppurunities to beable to offer the children of caerphilly more chance of being able to train on a safe pitch that is well lit. On one hand child exercise is encouraged and then Caerohilly borough aren't taking the chance to have more availability. Our club will continue to have some teams that aren't able to train during th.....

There are no other facilities by me to do fitness classes, the next nearest would be Caerphilly. Also my son's karate classes would be cancelled. The centre is always busy as I can barely ever park there.

As a club based in Oakdale we have struggled to book facilities outside of the village, Pontllanfraith and Newbridge included. Islwyn High has opened and we applied for use of the 3G in the evenings for 1 hour on a Wednesday and 1 hour on a Thursday. This is needed to accommodate 6 teams. We were allocated 1/2 a pitch for 1 hour on a Wednesday only, meaning during the winter when grass facilities are unplayable we will have 50+ children with nowhere to train . The closure of Pontllanfraith 3G, if the funding to transfer cannot be found will mean...

Many of my clubs teams have trained on Pont 3G pitch for years and it would have a massive impact on the club and the local community to lose such a wonderful resource. Teams have trained on the same day for years and losing this pitch and being unlikely to find another on the same day could result in teams folding. The staff in Pont, particularly John, have built a real community feel to the centre and would be greatly missed.

Won't be able to attend local fitness classes or use the gym. We've been going every week for several years and see the same people every week - it's a real community and friendly feel there. There's some great classes held there by the instructors and at much more convenient times than other leisure centres. The staff and instructors are excellent.

Very much against the closure

It will mean the loss of a training facility for clubs in the locality. Ultimately this could lead to clubs, sides folding and also reduce the opportunities for youngsters to get fit, make friends and enjoy themselves driving them back indoors on the Xbox etc. There are no where near enough facilities in this area, and we wonder why grass roots sports struggle, just look at the number of teams folding in both football and rugby, it's a trend on the increase and is robbing our children of their childhoods and adding to the obesity epidemic meltin

Will have to travel to different leisure centres, may cancel membership and go to a private gym. Really disappointed, and upset by this

I use this facility 5 days a week mostly for the gym. It's practical and perfect for me being able to attend from work and the leisure centre having a good group of employees and users. The gym is not like your ordinary gym where you cannot get on any machines or weights it has a close knit group and I love attending there and feel no other gym could offer me what this one does. Also all the classes that take place there throughout the week are fab and would be greatly missed if this gym was to close.

Only place near for residents of Pontllanfraith and children / families are able to gain access via walking distance Won't be able to attend fitness classes - yoga kettlebell or circuits. Attend regularly with my partner and neighbours and we've been going years now. The same people attend the classes and it's really nice to see familiar faces as it becomes more of a social thing rather than just exercise! We know the instructors really well and they are fab - highly skilled in their roles and so friendly and helpful. The other local leisure centres are tiny and don't run the same types of classes or have the same facilities. The bigger leisure centres are jus...

I don't believe the other Caerphilly leisure centres are able to accommodate the extra capacity of closure of pontllanfraith. Newbridge is at capacity for the 3G pitch and sports classes are full (plus instructors are rude there in my opinion). pontllanfraith has a clean and well maintained 3G pitch with ample parking and facilities of which will be missed greatly if demolished. Caerphilly Ccbc should be investing more in sports and health and well being not remove g facilities

I attend the yoga classes there. The only other leisure centre than runs yoga is Caerphilly. This is significantly further for me to travel.

I have tried the Newbridge leisure centre and found it very imposing and impersonal i didn't feel able to start my fitness regime and left very disappointed I wouldn't feel able to catry on with my fitness program

As a local resident and a user of the facility, it would have a great impact on my family if the facility were to close with no replacement made available.

It is the closest facility to my house that offers both my daughters the chance to play in a girls only football team.

Moving further away would stop them playing as our time is tight anyway so further travelling would be impossible. The council continually cut funding to leisure services and hide behind the fact that other areas have excellent facilities....well I want facilities local to me! Everything involves having to have a car because services are so far away. Closing the leisure centre would be detrimental to the health and well being of This closure will have a tremendous impact as I do not drive and would struggle to get to another leisure centre. I will have to use other gym facilities which will incur extra cost and travelling times won't be able to train there and won't be able to play soccer sixes

We have used the 3g pitch weekly for the last few years and find it an excellent venue as it's located for everyone to get too.

I'll have to travel a lot further to use the already oversubscribed Newbridge Leisure Centre where the car parking is awful and the fitness suite is ram packed full of people.

As well as myself, both of my children regularly use these facilities. They are both able to walk to and from the centre and keep themselves fit and active. There is very little around this area for teenage children to do and to take this facility away would be disgraceful. As a member of a local rugby team, the 4G is regularly used for training throughout the winter also.

Very big impact on me, it is the nearest centre to me and it is really handy. Please don't close it. Everyone loves this leisure centre and it is always busy

We will have to find alternative venues to train at we have been using the facilities for several years and feel that the leisure centre is used often enough to warrant a solid case for it to remain open to the public. Closing this site will have a negative effect on the community as there is not enough for the public as there is. Surely the council should look to minimise boredom for the youth of the surrounding areas of the centre by keeping what they have available open and running as for a lot this is the only outlet they have to play sports,

I will have to look for alternative fitness activities. I am very happy with the proximity of the leisure centre and the times the classes are taking place, as well as the instructors. It will be difficult to find the same level of service elsewhere

Travelling further away as a team to train.

The centre is within walking distance for my whole family that use it weekly. Oakdale is a car journey for my wife and myself. And a bus journey for my children. My son already uses the new facility at oakdale for football training and that seems to be very busy already. Surely we should be keeping and adding to anything that helps to get people active!!!!

At age 56 and actively playing squash to keep fit which is what we are all being told to do this will sadly end as we play at 4.15 and most courts would not be available at this time.

Massive. We currently use the 3G pitch as our home playing pitch and have done for 3 years. The closure would leave us without a home pitch and put us at a huge financial risk We also use the facility for our training sessions

None

I will have to miss out on a weekly fitness class

None if the pitch is moved to blackwood school in good time and not promised for later and never happens

Only full size AstroTurf football pitch available for use in the area.

There is no availability for slots for training on other pitches within the borough. Supply dies loss not currently satisfy demand & this will be worse if Pontllanfraith closes.

I believe this is a good move for the community and would benefit from a local community hall with organised events more.

I've recently started coming to this leisure centre as I have changed jobs and find the Zumba timetable suits me better at pont over Newbridge which I had been attending. I will be sad if it closes and I would considering cancelling my membership that I have held for almost 4 years now.

unsure whether the karate club will continue if closed or where it would be held. Would the 3G pitch still be as available to the existing clubs that use it with all the other clubs that currently use existing Blackwood comprehensive facilities?!

Further to travel with no access to car. People are trying to get fit/healthy and with closure of this facility this will be negative impact on local residents who won't/can't travel further afield.

I live within walking distance of the leisure centre and will now have to drive to use facilities elsewhere. The facilities at Pontllanfraith may not be the most modern but they are often available when other centres are fully booked.

Further to travel

A Huge and Great impact if this place closes I'm not interested in traveling further up to the new super school when I have it around the corner as it is now it's close and I don't have to travel far with kids. And why waste it if it's there and the council has spent the money on it, in the first place.

Once again left to travel miles to gain access to sport. Awful proposal. No way will I vote Labour again if this goes through. I'm a party member!

It's close to home and within walking distance so very handy and has many things going on that I am interested in! Badminton courts, Zumba etc

A lot as I live there locally and always use the leisure centre as it lbs the closest one to me. Also Islwyn high the football pitch is not big enough so they could use pontllanfraith Astro turf as a back up.

Will have to travel further

Absolute nightmare. Find it terrible. Pontllanfraith must say for everyone.

Will make it difficult to play sports weekly and will put facilities further away

As this is the nearest Leisure Centre to my address, closure of the centre would mean having to travel further to centres within the County Borough which may not have all the facilities. Also more residents will be using the other local centres making it more difficult to book a court on the day and time requested.

Travelling here to close to my home -my son goes to activites eg rugby and football club in school holidays - unable to travel

My child who suffers with chronic constipation will go backwards rather than forwards with his development. Both my boys get to do an activity that suits there needs, so taken it away from them will affect them on not only bonding but on the physical side of things.

It is already apparent that the new high school to replace 3 schools closing or about to close. Regarding funding, any proposed sale of the site will generate a substantial amount of money. We have already been told that Caerphilly c B C no longer prioritise leisure in their budgets. As part of the sale of the site, it would be useful and more effective to apply condition

Very little

Will have to travel extra distance to use facilities that have been made available to me in the last 25 years at Pontllanfraith. due to being ecologically minded, I walk to/from whenever possible but will have to now drive. parking has always been hit and miss at Pontllanfraith with a large car park. but due to the exceptionally small amount of parking available at nearby sites, cannot see this being a sensible option. the decision to close this leisure centre will cement my decision to not use CCBC facilities in the future and will happily

We use the 3g pitch on a week day evening for our team training. We use this facility because it offers a pitch that is not likely to be frozen or flooded and the benefits of lighting. We are a rugby team serving the community. For safety issues amongst many others, we need this facility to stay open. We cannot train on an unlit area. The latest school (Islwyn High) will not have the capacity to serve everyone's needs. It is full to the brim now..... and that's before any closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

Big impact on me and my child. The council should be encouraging more sports facilities but closing them and spreading them around the borough not just in Ystrad Mynach where the councillors live

Our club will have to find another place to play.

Already struggle to book a slot locally on any 3G or 4 G pitch so with the closure of Pontllanfraith this will make it impossible.

We have been playing football on this 3g pitch for the last few years and it has been ideal. Central to everyone who plays football there and loads of friensly staff. I think it will be a real shame if this is closed

As a casual user of the leisure faciltities I would like to know, with all this extra housing being built both in pontllanfraith and Hawtin park, what infrastructure is in place to accommodate all the extra influx of people. The new Islwyn High school won't be able to support this and neither will the local health centres, who are probably at full capacity as it is. Closing these leisure centres only makes it worse as the remaining few centres wont be able to cope or supply the activities of the closed centres. Pont leisure has a lot of footfall

The proposed closure of this leisure centre would be a big disappointment to me and would probably result in me not relocating the class i take there, in any other facility, thus children missing out on exercise. i visit a few of caerphilly leisure centres occassionally and none of them other than pontllanfraith have the same friendly staff and a centre that has a warm welcoming feeling. This centre is ideal size and not intimidating like the feeling you get at some of the other centres. I know of a few young people who live within walking dist

As I am a foster carer the children won't have any facilities that are local within walking distance to go.

It will be devastating for the local community to lose the facilities. My whole family use the gym, fitness classes and sports hall to keep fit, socialise whilst playing sport and remain active. Without the leisure centre, as non drivers, this would not be possible.

Massive impact and would force me into buying a gym membership i can't afford

It is already very difficult to book a court. Oakdale has 1 less court so that will make it even more difficult to make a booking. This will result in me having to give up playing badminton as there is no availability elsewhere.

A detrimental impact

It will have a massive impact, due to my mental health disabilities and anxiety I am only able to use a small quiet gym. I find the pont gym a very safe place to use in the morning as it's quiet and the staff are very friendly. Losing this facility will have a massive impact on my mental health and fitness as I don't feel able to use any other gyms in the area.

The leisure centre is in walking distance of my house, there is no other sports facilities within walking distance. This meaning I will have to drive to my next nearest centre, which is Newbridge. May I add that the Newbridge centre has the worst car parking facilities in all the borough.

I have used this Leisure Centre for a number of years, being a local resident and attending the former Comprehensive School. I have used a number of its facilities for a number of activities such as badminton, squash, but mainly football. At the moment a group of us try to book a pitch with CCBC leisure centres at least once a week, and we struggle weekly to find a suitable slot. I can see this being a future issue if even one of the leisure centre closes.

Because it's close to where I live I am able to walk there. I am a pensioner and would have to rely on others to take me to the next nearest leisure centre which is Newbridge, this would not be possible every day and would therefore interrupt my daily exercise routine which is an integral part of my life.

The leisure centre is a sports hub that is extremely useful to locals and one of the best pitches in our area, bookable to everyone until 10 which is great, pitch booking fills up fast, some now even block booking months in advance making booking a slot event harder, that's before this leisure centre has closed! Not to mention how over crowded the small gyms in other local leisure centres get crowded due to the size of them. The leisure centre is too useful to close right now and will end up sending more people to local leisure centers which all Travelling much further out of my way to play the sports I enjoy to facilities that are often fully booked.

I stopped using Newbridge leisure centre as the parking and gym was always full. Please don't close this facility. The 3g pitch is fantastic and is used every night.

At present I run outside and use the gym equipment occasionally. But as I hope to have more time on my hands in the next couple of years I was hoping to use the facilities more often, however if I had to travel further afield or use a car then this would not seem worth it, in my opinion the council should be encouraging its residents to be healthy by providing better facilities. If anything the place needs to be modernised not closed or relocated so the land can be sold to developers.

None, I go to newbridge anyway.

It will mean that personally I will have to travel much further a field for gym and classes to either Newbridge or caerphilly which are already too busy at peak times.. My sons Ruby team also use the 3G for training and there isn't enough of these facilities for local teams to use without closing down another leisure centre..

I live in the Pontllanfraith area and play badminton with my family at least three times per week at the Leisure Centre. This activity not only helps us to keep fit but offers valuable time for fun and socialising as a family. Since Pontllanfraith is an area of fairly low socio-economic status, local people need affordable access to sports facilities, without the need to travel further afield. The Sports Hall is almost always booked out every time we visit, and so closing the Leisure Centre will mean removing a well-used facility that enables loc

It is like more residents will use other leisure centres placing additional burden on other centres

This will mean further travel. Also if expected to use the new facilities at islwyn.. do they have squash courts.

What will the booking possibilities be with so many other people who will evidently want to be booking from a much wider community group than those that use Pontllanfraith. Also why spoil a good thing. Pont leisure is always busy and never goes unused therefore why can it not continue this way. It seems more and more is being taken away.

Me and my daughter enjoy going to the gym together as she used to go to pont school. We would miss the staff and have to change our regular routine plus the prices are much more expensive in other local gyms which would affect my ability to go as often

Would have to drive further to another sports place

The closure of the Leisure Centre followed by the obvious housing development will impact great upon the area of Pontllanfraith . The increase in houses in the area: Hawtin Park, the old Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site, the Council offices mean there will be a great increase in the local population who would be looking for local facilities. The facilities at Islwyn High for example are not even on a bus route whereas a number of buses pass within 200 yards of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

I won't be able to use another centre so a huge impact on my health. To build the additional houses you also need to consider the facilities needed for those additional residents.

Personally, not much but I have a car and can travel out. I understand that for people living closer who use the leisure centre and rely on public transport, the impact will be much greater. It could make the whole process of travelling to an alternative place almost impossible for maintaining their regime.

There are currently limited leisure facilities in the Blackwood area. space is limited and bookings challenging to get at a reasonable hour. The closure and loss of another facility in our area will impact significantly on a community that hasn't had any investment in recent years. Has anyone done an audit on the leisure facilities in Blackwood/Pont. Blackwood has no Football Pitches, No astroturf other than POnt (and please don't include Blackwood comps excuse for and astro turf which is highly unsafe and in Cefn Forest.) There is no respectab Making it difficult to attend gym and classes to keep up healthy lifestyle Make it more difficult to attend football team that I am a member of as I don't drive and live locally to this pitch! Preventing people from maintaining their hobbies and healthy lifestyle Impact my fitness activity.

If a 3G is not installed at Blackwood this would have a huge impact.

It will have a huge impact on my football teams, 6 of my teams use the 3g pitch for training, I also use the gym 4 times a week, I don't like using Newbridge or Risca as it is used by the school in the day and it make me feel embarrassed, I would be gutted if Pontllanfraith goes as I will have no where to go and it's the only gym I feel comfortable using.

The leisure centre is a vital part of the community. It's ironic that the council and schools are actively promoting a healthy lifestyle with exercise and yet are proposing the closure of local leisure centres. This leisure centre is in walking distance for many and if this closes, we would need to drive to another leisure centre, this is not eco friendly and goes against yet another initiative promoted by ccbc!

None. But it would be nice if you did a bit more for people. Roller derby is not allowed at the leisure center because it may hurt the court ! It won't now if you keep it open.

Myself and two teenage children use the gym all together as I don't drive and they have outgrown parks so nice family time

It will have a huge impact on me and my partner we both use the Lesiure centre regular. As local resisdnats its easy access for the both of us. Also I think it would huge shame after there has been a huge amount of tax payers money spent on the new 3G pitch and to remove that would be ridiculous. The development of the sites that have closed are going to be residential so there are going to be more people in the local area that are going to want to use these facilities. Overall I believe it would be truly daft to close pontllanfraith Lesiure cen I won't be able to train as I can't drive.

None on me personally. But Pontllanfraith residents have made strong representations to me that they wish this facility to be retained in situ. Many cite the previous loss from Pontllanfraith of other CCBC facilities (including the Youth Centre, Ty Pontllanfraith and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School), and they are angered at the proposal that this final local CCBC resource might be lost to our area.

It's ridiculous, if the gym closes, instead of walking to Pontllanfraith I will have to drive to Newbridge as the one in the school is not comparable

be no where 2 go for the kids round pont and i think this is a piss take of all the house what is going up round here

It will be inconvenient to me as the leisure centre is within easy travelling distance, as I don't drive closing it means there won't be a leisure on a local bus route.

My son uses the leisure centre more than I do, and it is such a shame that it's being taken away. It's all the local youngsters that will suffer. We are always being told to look after ourselves because of the obesity in the country and yet you're taking away opportunities for people to get fit. It so handy to have a facility like this so local, as people will have to travel now and if you can't drive it's not always convenient. Haven't we got enough houses in this area already? It's making me so angry to see so many areas having 200 odd houses

The loss of pontllanfraith would hard on a lot of clubs like our selfs yes you have put another facility in place at islwyn high but with the demand for 3g pitches as a replacement of grass this has been fully booked. And as for relocating the 3g pitch to Blackwood comp thats all well and good but they only open in term times meaning we have to find alternative facilities for half terms i use pontllanfraith to train the mini football teams aswell as our adult team we also use the sports hall for walking football plus my daughters use it to train Classes will be moved further afeild and as a school teach in libanus the tournament will also have to be moved which would impact travel arrangements for the pupils.

I love the current classes on offer and I would be disappointed if these were not available. I use the centre almost daily and it would disrupt my fitness routine. I would need to look elsewhere which would be disappointing as I love all the staff and pay a membership. I have made a lot of friends. The facility is well used for classes, squash, sports hall, clubs, Astro turf. The car park is always full so closing it will have a big impact on the community as they will have to go elsewhere to meet their needs.

Would mean catching a bus to Newbridge leisure centre just to be able to use the gym for an hour whereas now I can walk there. If I wanted to use the facilities in Cefn Fforest i would have to catch TWO buses (one from

Pontllanfraith to Blackwood then one from Blackwood to Cefn Forest) I know this might not seem a great hardship to some people but believe me if you are a regular bus user you would realise how time consuming it would be I believe it would deter a lot of people in my age group (over 65) from taking regular exercise in the gym and fitness Stop physical activity due to lack of facilities in the area

The impact of closing Pontllanfraith leisure centre will be immense, because I have two young children who use the facilities, and by closing the leisure centre will mean they won't be able to play football anymore as I live in close proximity to the leisure centre.

The impact will be significant the gym is better than Cefn Fforest. The likely hood is that I won't go to a leisure centre in the borough and I will cancel my membership.

This will have a significant impact on my health and the likely hood is I will not attend the gym. The facility is in close walking distance from my address.

The loss of a very convenient and well managed local amenity. It will mean that local residents and children will have to travel further to use similar amenities and Pontllanfraith will lose out again. It seems new houses are taking precedence over the health and well being of the locals and children. If there is an aspiration to locate a 3G pitch in Blackwood, then why not get the finance and install one there but leave ours alone. With all the planned development in and around Pontllanfraith there will be little local green space and sports amenity

Closing the centre will result in me having to use a car or public transport increasing my carbon footprint and extra cost to use sporting facilities which the government are urging us to use. Closing the centre will reduce my visiting which could affect my health.

It will have a huge impact on myself as I don't drive and Pontllanfraith leisure centre is the only leisure centre that is local to me and has everything that I need and use.

I currently frequent the facility with a family member for children's football (indoor and outdoor) I have also used both the squash courts and indoor 5-a-side football (adult). I am concerned at the loss of a community sports facility and for such a large town and population as Blackwood. The described alternative arrangements are insufficient for community sport and well-being.

This will have a terrible impact on myself and all the local community! This leisure centre is part of the community and its loss would be very sad indeed :(

prevent the 2 football teams that have 30 members from training in a dedicated, safe environment where they are able to develop physical, mental and social behaviours that will support and enhance their growth. Plus for some this is the only physical activity they get each week

I attend the leisure centre three times per week to play badminton. I am in my 50s and this keeps me fit. I enjoy it and I think that doing an activity that you enjoy is very important.

Harder to book squash games and events in other leisure centres.

I go to Pilates/yoga at the leisure centre as I have hip problems and this helps with the pain and strengthening.

It will be difficult to find morning yoga classes with a good instructor in the locality.

OUR SENIORS BADMINTON CLUB HAS USED FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS + & CLOSURE & RE-LOCATION WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE TO OUR USE

Hi. My son and myself use the facilities at Pontllanfraith leisure 4-5 times per week. The closure will affect both of us and probably stop using a gym as Newbridge is inconvenient due to the distance

It will make my life more difficult. Time is precious and having had the leisure centre on my 'doorstep' has enabled me to have the luxury of keeping myself as fit as possible. Having to travel further afield to another centre which will become more and more overcrowded will give less and less opportunity for me to use the facilities, and take up more of my already precious time.

Have to travel for the gym, where here I can walk.

Impact on my health in a negative way as well as losing out on the social aspect.

Less facilities for my children to use and my husband and I. There is already a shortage of facilities in this area.

Have to travel for similar recreational activity

It won't directly affect me, however, I believe it will greatly impact the Pontllanfraith/Penllwyn area of the borough; which is already a poor relation.

Youths need somewhere to socialise and develop

After playing squash for many years at this centre which I helped to keep me fit then I would sadly have to stop playing which would mean losing this fitness opportunity.

Hi my son plays football on the 3G pitch. If the funding is not secured and the pitch does not go to Blackwood comp then we will lose this facility completely.

As a local rugby club we failed to secure enough slots for training at Islwyn High. Surely it is evident that so many local football and rugby clubs need alternative training facilities for winter periods and many are unable to secure weekly bookings at any facility. If anything we need more facilities built rather than closed

Our well established running club has been meeting at the club for almost 20 years. If the leisure centre closes, there will be no safe place for the club to meet

This is a part of the community, being a mum of 3 we use these facilities way where I don't drive it is in walking distance, there isn't much facilities in the area was in the winter as children ain't safe out playing, I regularly take my children to the squash courts and we use the family gym which is lovely family time and suits myself and the children, my daughter also trains with her Football on a Saturday morning on the 3G pitch, this leisure centre is popular with other football teams and needs to remain,

i cant travel far and its a popular leisure centre used by local residents

I object to the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and any other leisure centre in Caerphilly county. The remaining leisure centres are struggling to cope with the amount of people using them now. It is vitally important to keep all our leisure facilities to help to maintain a healthy population within the borough. Closure of any centres will result in our health and wellbeing put under pressure by increasing more visits to GP'S and hospitals. It is well known that certain exercising can help with lots of joint problems and reduce obesit
My 6yr. old daughter attends karate here twice a week. You only have to be at the leisure centre at 6pm on a Thursday evening to see how well used it is. It's not like it isn't needed in this area. With the Welsh Assembly promoting a healthier active lifestyle I can't believe CCBC could even consider closing this fantastic asset to the community.

Not much, I now use private facilities.

will have to travel to caerphilly for same type of classes

My son attends rugby and football sessions there, he has also been to a few children's parties there.

I have played football at the leisure centre on a Thursday night for 17 years, first in the hall, then on the astro turf and now on the 3G. If it shuts there is no guarantee that our group will continue without an alternative available venue.

The classes that are run in Pont will not be able to be moved to other venues, there are a group of us who attend the late night classes and with the closure of the site these would not be able to be resited anywhere else due to space, all of us would there for no longer be members of Caerphilly leisure

My sons football team have not been offered alternative training arrangements

I will cancel my wife's and my joint membership

The centre has been part of my life since I was born. Ive used it on a weekly basis for 30 years. Having worked there, gone to school in Pont and a member of many clubs there it would be devastating to close it.

Attending Pont leisure is very confident to fit around work and family commitments, Classes are also at excellent times as some classes are not confident at other leisure centres .

Instead of a 600m walk as the crow flies it'll probably 2.5 mile walk at least

I will cancel my leisure membership if it closes as private gyms in the area have comparable memberships at same rate as CCBC leisure membership. The reason I chose CCBC membership is because of the fitness classes and gym at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Neither Cefn Fforest or Newbridge offer same range of classes and I also do not like gym at either of these venues. The gym at Cefn Fforest is horribly laid out, with users having to cross Reception area from changing rooms. Newbridge is always full, with a wait for equipment. I had never liked it will mean travelling a greater distance[more fuel/ more polution]cost for me ,a pensioner,loss of contact with staff and friends.this site is a valuable resource for the local community a hub for local events.the leisure centre is an asset for the people not to be discarded like a used tissue.

All the classes I attend are full. How you can close this centre and replace this land for more houses is ridiculous.The community need a leisure centre. The yoga classes in the day have men and women , some have different ailments, one young man is autistic, one lady has just lost her husband,my sister in law has to look after my brother who has dementia. These classes bring people together from the community.There is no other sports centre where all these people can go. These classes will be lost. We still need this.All the new houses that

There is not a local 3G pitch around and would be a shame to lose it.

circuit classes at this gym really suits my needs and its on days that i do not work....Astro turf although very busy is far better than that over newbridge

I won't be able to use it

Closure would mean no where for our children to play football and train for football. Yes there are other venues but due to the high demand of 3g pitch use nearly everywhere is either booked up or costs way to much. Our football club is funded by contributions and fundraising and it is becoming very hard to find the money for all the rising pitch fees as it is.

Huge loss to the local.community.

The club that I am part of will have to look for a new venue which will involve travelling further and will mean local community will not have access to us. We actively encourage our members to become Lifestyle members.

If we lose the facility it does mean that there will be no local running club in the area to support sport for adults. It decreases availability of leisure activities to those without transportation as other options are a distance away. This doesn't reduce car use amongst the population.

My daughter and her football team train here, they are unable to train at the new school during No school holidays so miss out, the 3G pitches are always in use whenever I go past them and here is no guarantee that they will be relocated to Blackwood school at all, in fact I bet if it does go ahead there will not be a relocation at all because you will say you don't have funds to do it.

Loss of leisure facilities means more unfit people and potentially a strain on healthcare in area.

My daughter and I use the 3G pitch for training and games.

We have two senior football sides who both use the 3G for matches and training. It's a great facility and meets the requirements of the leagues we play in. If this closure happens we will need to find an alternative facility which meets the requirements of our leagues. If we can't find an alternative there is a possibility that we would have no option other than to fold which would be a total disaster for us as a club with a long history and also the 50 adult players we have signed on.

It will force my football team to play and train elsewhere when the 3G is a fantastic facility.

We will no longer have a fantastic place to play our home games and train

By closing the centre it will have an impact on the other centres in the borough which are struggling to cope with the amount of people using them considering that most of them were built over 30 years ago when the population was a fraction of what it is now.

It will mean that there's no other leisure centre in a walking distance of my house as I don't drive meaning I will look at quitting the gym until I pass my test which isn't until 2018 meaning no gym for a period of at least 6 months fitness levels dropping meaning I get like many other locals unfit

There will be less facilities for young people and local residents to engage in.

I grew up in the local area using this leisure centre and others for numerous sporting activities, both for local clubs and as an individual. The population has grown significantly in the local area since I was a child yet the facilities have dwindled. I have a young child who is going to grow up in this community with less opportunities to get involved in sport based activities due to your lack of investment and closures of local amenities. The facilities at Islwyn High whilst impressive for a school do not meet the needs of the local community.

I would be devastated if this local amenity was to close. I grew up attending various sports clubs and sessions at this leisure centre! I now attend the centre three times a week to either play badminton, go to the gym or coach my U10s rugby side. If this was to close I'm not sure where we would be able to book our 3 courts on both a Monday and Friday as there just is not enough facilities locally. I would not be able to use a fitness centre as often as I do now due to not being able to drive and therefore this is the only centre within reasonable

Less places for my children to go which in result end in them walking the street. Childhood obesity is on the rise yet the council are thinking of shutting all the leisure centres and parks. In winter months how are children meant to exercise without being able to book the sports hall for an hour for 5 a side. Of play squash.

Not so much on me personally any more as I no longer play Badminton due to ill health, but I understand that the alternative facilities at the new school do not have squash courts, I was working in Ebbw Vale and when they built the new leisure centre there they did not include any squash courts even though the squash courts were always busy. The reason being that you cannot use squash court for anything other than squash - why would you need to if they are always busy. It is a very popular sport and it seems to be getting forced out. The other

The closure will have a big impact on my choice of facilities in the Blackwood area. I have regularly attended Pontllanfraith leisure centre for 6 years, it has good facilities and the staff are very helpful and friendly. There is a private fitness centre within a few minutes walk of my home but I prefer travelling to Pont for the reasons already stated. If I wanted to continue using Council leisure facilities I would either have to travel to Bargoed (where in my opinion the facilities are not as good and as it is small it gets overcrowded), or C

I won't be able to attend fitness classes nor will I be able to carry on with my fitness plan

Cefn Fforest no longer offers fitness classes so the loss of Pont also would be a massive pity. Caerphilly leisure centres make exercise affordable.

I will have to find an alternative gym. I am not aware of a local ccbc gym and therefore will have to move to an alternative membership scheme at a higher cost.

My son is using the leisure centre gym for his GCSE PE I wouldn't want him & others in his class to suffer GCSE results because of this closure. My son also uses the 3G regularly with his friends which is keeping them active & busy and not hanging around the streets

My son who is a Welsh national athlete uses this facility - without this on our door step his training plan will suffer greatly. My son also trained on this facility for many years for his local football - a facility that should not be lost! My husband also plays football on this - for a over40 team which as you will agree is a huge benefit on

older men and their health and fitness- these teams play on a Sunday afternoon the proposed replacement facility does not open when 32 over 40 year olds need a facility

I am recovering from hip replacement and attend Yoga twice a week. Which is aiding my recovery. I work full time and this is accessible for me

I will not be able to partake in these activities any longer as they are not available anywhere else in my locality. This will naturally have an impact on my health, fitness and wellbeing, as it will with many other local people of all ages.

Direct impact on the pupils I teach. Our department bring pupils to use the facilities at Pontllanfraith as there is insufficient provision currently with the facilities and equipment at our current school (Islwyn High). There is not a Health & Fitness suite at Islwyn High and as a result pupils cannot access specific sections of the curriculum in particular the new WJEC PE specification where pupils must complete an 8 week personal training programme. Used weekly for rugby training both on 3G and on grass pitch. Whilst the proposal considers upgrading the Blackwood School to 3G you are losing yet another playing field. This is discouraging the young people to take up sport and get healthy

Further to travel as both Blackwood, Islwyn High and Newbridge are further afield

My daughter plays football and uses the 3g pitch with her team. I coach there too. We are there up to 3 times a week. It is the nearest leisure centre to us and is in a good location for our other members of the club who come from Risca and Newbridge. It's very central considering. We use the centre to hire out for parties too. I have booked it for a football party and recently attended a few there too. I use the centre for badminton too. It's the nearest centre to me, we like the set up and it's easy to get to if we have not got the car that d the location is key to the surrounding area , it supports the youth in very needed area and also residents of pontllanfraith , blackwood and surrounding areas , closure will mean visiting the new school which is a considerable distance away for young adults and people without transport.

I don't drive and I won't be able to walk to the other leisure centre

Major impact as a retired older person this is local for me to enjoy and help keep healthy and have company to ensure I do not just sit at home. Any move to another facility will be very difficult for me.

My son is a member of a football team (one of many) that use the Leisure Centre. It has already been confirmed that Islwyn High are unable to accept our team along with others to use their facilities. So just where are we expected to go? Surely if your building houses below the use of the leisure center would be an added bonus & some where for the local children to go to keep out of trouble.

No transport to be able to travel to other facilities

Both children use sports hall and 3g pitch for football practice on Tuesday and Sunday

My son is currently in Year 11 of Islwyn High School, having previously attended Pontllanfraith Comprehensive. The new school is woefully inadequate. The admission numbers do not fit into the size of the school that's been built. This is a serious concern. But aside from that, the sports facilities are simply not adequate. My son does GCSE PE and I believe the head teacher has been heard saying that the facilities are not suitable for this curriculum. My son currently gets bussed over to Pontllanfraith leisure centre to do certain activities requ

The closure will adversely affect my health in that it provides a local accessible leisure facility allowing me to keep fit. The Local development plan proposes to create thousands of new homes in the community adding pressure to leisure facilities such as this. Councils already receive substantial funds and charge significant Community Infrastructure levies on new residential developments Those levies are to provide for infrastructure including Health facilities for new developments pontllanfraith site would easily accommodate approximately 300 h
Negative

Will not be able to attend Yoga which is very beneficial for my mental health problems and physical problems.

A lot as I train there with my football club and we will not have anywhere to train as all leisure centres are at full capacity and the new Islwyn High School is not full pitch standards and is also nearly full due to new clubs booking. Which if closing the leisure centre is a ridiculous thing to do as I live opposite and see the use of the centre. On a Tuesday evening it can be grid locked due to so many using the centre. Also in your proposal I think that it is wrong that you have only stated the 3G pitch users and sports hall without consideri

Will have to travel further

I will have to travel further to find similar classes

Not being able to have a facility to train on which is a great facility for the area.

I had CABG surgery at the beginning of the year and the BHF put a big emphasis on rehabilitation. I had to go to Caerphilly then Risca for this.

I will have to visit multiple sites to achieve what I currently do in Pont leisure. Fitness training staff, friends and a routine will be lost.

Pontllanfraith leisure centre allows people with very busy schedules to find an hour to attend a fitness class, the

fitness suite or their sports club etc. Whether their reasons be exercise, social interaction or to maintain or improve physical and/or mental wellbeing; all are benefited. The centre is so important as it allows those who live nearby and are without transport-including children and teenagers who are constantly encouraged to get more active- to attend the centre at their convenience or whenever they're free. Classes or clubs at Pon Huge impact. My daughter who is 15 goes to the gym 4 times per week and has lost weight. There is no where close that she will be able to work to if it closes

Local venue for the players of social group. Would require transport for other venues

Personally for my family and I we will lose a valuable resource open to the public, not just clubs. I'm a Labour party member and if it does close neither I or my family will EVER vote a Labour council in again.

I am a student living in Pontllanfraith. I have no access to personal transport and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is in walking distance from my house. The next nearest centre available for me to use is in Newbridge; I would need to use public transport for this. I have always used Caerphilly county leisure centres for their gyms as they are realistically priced and welcoming. I would always use a Caerphilly leisure centre but I am afraid that if Pontllanfraith closes I should need to use facilities more local to me. A leisure centre has been ava

During the winter months it is extremely hard to keep traing on grass pitches due to the inclement weather. Having this facility gives us local grounds to hire for training. As tge children in ourteams get older they will be requiring Gym facilities also, haveing these in the same area to split and rotate tge team is a madsive help as itmeans parents dont have to worry about traveling furtger afield.

Massive impact. You have reduced Cefn Fforest leisure centre and taken away the squash courts and have not invested anything in the surrounding land you have there. That was walking distance for me. I now use Pont more as facilities are better and you want to take it away at a time when children have obesity issues and no facilities to use. As long as you make money selling land to housing developments though eh.

The closure of this sight means many things to me. Both my sons rugby teams will need to relocate and finding available sights are impossible not to mention further away. I use the gym during the day because it's so close to home. I meet family members for games of badminton often as it's a convince that location to all our homes Personally I'm interested for my family's sake they use the facility's there often. Squash courts .fitness suite .and tennis court it's so handy for them .if we lose this fight they will be unable to make it further afield as they use them after work.

The impact would be traveling further to use a leisure centre. Costing more.

Unable to play badminton locally.

Extended travel time to a new facility

Fitness

Will be forced to go to another leisure centre provided the class timetable/availability is suitable

My childrens club has nowhere to re-locate. It would be terrible if the club had to close. The club enables kids to grow in confidence & self defence skills.

My children use the facility this will deprive them of sporting activities. I coach under 11's for Pengam FC. I would have to find an alternative venue.

Severe inconvenience. I book a badminton court x2 per week and I am concerned that if the centre closes there will be insufficient facilities for me.

We play badminton here 4 times a week. With no sports hall we won't be able to play and could possibly make the club fold because of lack of facilities.

Less choice and greater travel distance in order to attend the classes I want to attend.

Further to travel. Community needs this venue, Staff have provided a friendly professional service.

It's easy access for us. We've grown comfortable joining classes here.

Will have to travel further for classes. No yoga or badminton at Newbridge.

Its on my door step, one of the main reasons for moving to the area for me and now there's talk of closure. Its sad for the community.

Travel further for badminton court. Not enough 3G pitches available all year round for football clubs. School pitches unavailable in 6 weeks holidays and some half terms.

A facility will be removed from the community. Once a building is demolished it is never replaced. The demolition will be catastrophic for the Pontllanfraith community. There will be no leisure facilities for the young and old in the area. It will mean extra travelling costs for myself to attend the nearest existing leisure centre. The closure is political madness and should be stopped at all costs.

As a regular user of the centre we will no longer be able to play sports like table tennis or squash as there are no facilities at the suggested alternative venue Islwyn High. Furthermore there will be no fitness suite provision and the sports hall at Islwyn High is significantly smaller.

I used to take medication for anxiety. I am now off all medication and use yoga to control my anxiety. The centre

is one bus journey from Hollybush (hourly). The council should promote healthy lifestyles not close popular facilities.

It will limit accessibility to fitness classes

Soccer skills provide soccer coaching to children. Closure of the LC will probably mean the loss of this class.

I can cycle or walk to Pont LC. I will need transport to access others. Also badminton courts are usually booked or not in use at Newbridge LC so this will impact greatly on my use so I will probably terminate my Lifestyle 5 membership. Exercise and attending yoga classes etc has a beneficial affect on me mental health and wellbeing. When you cut back classes a few years ago it had a very negative affect on me.

Increase distance to gym, costing more in time & money. Removal of a small , more personalised gym with a genuine community feel that has helped me lose weight & keep fit in a non intimidating, inclusive atmosphere. The centre is on route from where I work and home. Due to working hours it is not only convenient but if it were to close most likely would have to give up going too the gym.

The loss of this centre will be a big loss for me as I am epileptic, I am unable to drive. Pont is the only centre within easy walking distance providing all that need and staff understanding of my disabilities.

Classes held at Pontllanfraith are always busy and full, its a central location, always easy to reach and park.

Classes not available anywhere else in the local area. the classes are important for my fitness routine.

As a 70+ member use of the centre keeps me healthy. Closure would mean me travelling to Newbridge which is extra expense. Many use the facility to keep healthy,if not available people will lose their fitness which is then a burden on the NHS. Let the facilities remain.

It will impact greatly as I teach yoga at Pontllanfraith. The classes are usually full and offer a wide range of health benefits. The LC is well used and very important to its members. The people of Blackwood should have a leisure centre.

We have held a booking with the centre and used the 3G pitch for approx 6 years. A group of 16 friends have used the facility to keep fit & socialise by playing football. The closure could see and end to this due to limited availability at other sites.

Have been using the centre for over 35 years. We are members of SE Wales Netball league affiliated to Welsh Netball. We have commitments to the league & uncertainty jeopardises our position for future development. It would have an impact on our wellbeing, fitness, self esteem & confidence. Our age range is from 13 - 68 years Impact not known because despite new facilities in area these are or will be in use. High demand in the area with additional houses being built will mean shortage of facilities

I won't be able to attend yoga class. My daughters football team train on 3G, there is nowhere else,all fully booked. Also sons football team play matches at centre every other Sunday, they have no alternative.

Our club will probably have to cease due to lack of suitable venue

Loss of friendly small gym where there is no embarrassment at doing gentle exercise

Further to travel, more buses

Have to travel further and take car, where as I am able to walk to the centre now.

A great impact on my wellness & fitness regime, and would mean long term health implications. I am paying for leisure lifestyle which is now being taken away.

Drop in health and fitness. Meeting people that has become more of a family than just friends

Less traffic blocking access to our houses. When new pitch was created, half of the car park was removed. When children's football held on Sunday morning, roads around are blocked by cars for parents taking children to centre. Similarly running club members park cars on Penllwyn lane blocking people's access to garages.

I was attending fitness classes at the centre twice a week, but they moved the said classes to other centre,s, which I have difficulty in getting to.

Myself and my family just won't be able to find an alternative.

My son who plays for an under 12 football team trains on 3G pitch, partner attends exercise classes twice a week, it would be a huge loss to the community,also with more houses planned in Pontllanfraith council offices etc, I feel it is short sighted.

I feel the closure will impact on my fitness. The location & classes are ideal for my needs and fit in my work /leisure time. I fear my fitness will suffer and in turn my overall health if I can no longer attend Pont centre.

I live in Risca & play badminton in Pontllanfraith so I would have further to travel

I would not attend a gym of a larger size - wouldn't feel comfortable or confident.

Lack of availability for sports pitches Currently there's a major push to reduce obesity & closing centres is not in the best interest of CCBC residents

I will not be able to attend the gym

Less choice in location & facilities and distance from home

Will involve more travel to attend sports centres further away

A massive effect. The exercise class I attend helps my physical & mental wellbeing. Good friendly atmosphere there.

Travel further to continue classes if a suitable venue is available

We are a parent run disability football club which caters for youngsters living in surrounding areas, we meet weekly. It provides well being & social interaction for youngsters who can not access main stream football due to various disabilities.

This may lead to closure of the disabilities football sessions held on Friday as many may refuse a different location for various reasons, such as travel distance.

Ease of use. I would not like to attend Newbridge as I feel uncomfortable

Reduced physical fitness. Wellbeing, Social Needs

I wouldn't have anywhere else to go. I have arthritis and attending the gym helps. I also have sons who attend football there a few times a week.

I wouldn't have any other centres that are local, as I walk to Pont and would then have to use bus daily

Have nowhere to keep fit, I don't drive and can't afford public transport.

The class I run at the LC will stop & the children will no longer have a class

Considerable. The loss of the extra court could result in the club folding. We have been told we can be relocated to the new school but due to pressure from other clubs for space we do not see how you can accommodate every ones needs.

The cancellation of my young childrens sports activities. Despite the need for youngsters to be active there is not an abundance of opportunities for them to do so.

I travel from Nelson to attend a class, which I have attended for 2 years. Even if the class continued at the new school I would have to travel further.

Possibly less opportunity to play sport on a regular basis, will have to travel further. May lose members of our badminton club if club nights have to change with a different venue - which we have not been able to identify

Force a large badminton club to find other facilities as readily available as Pontllanfraith. Causing a lot of inconvenience for the club, the clubs future & its members

May not be able to book at alternative leisure centre. Have to travel further

First I must say I work in the evenings & have been given no opportunity to engage in the face to face

consultation meetings. Please consider arranging another date earlier in the day - before 2pm. I attend Joannes yoga classes at 11AM on Tues & Thurs, and swim at Cefn Fforest. Caerphilly & Newbridge are too far away & are holding no yoga classes.

Possibly exercising less a week due to travelling further. Similarly paying more as privately run classes charge per class as opposed to a monthly payment.

Play badminton regular struggle to book in other facilities.

Other leisure centres too busy and too far away as Pont is on our doorstep.

Make it much more efficient to book courts as there will be limited spaces available.

Struggle to use other leisure centres as this is on our doorstep. Also use of sports hall has allocated badminton times.

Devastating and will feel lost without it

This will have a massive impact on myself as I frequently use the leisure centre and have done for the last 27 years. The proximity of the LC is very convenient.

Lack of local sports centre in the area to use with access to a variety of activities and classes. Near to my place of work which is convenient and within easy reach of Blackwood town centre.

My club would have to relocate and I would not be able to attend any longer. There would not be a gym in my area.

No netball training

We would be unable to train.

Nowhere to train netball

Unable to train. No use of gym

No available netball court. Further to travel for the fitness suite.

No other netball training facilities nearby for Blackwood that's not already taken by another club. More cost travelling to another court.

No training facilities near so less exercising

Difficulty to exercise - no training facility near by. Have to travel further for exercise classes.

It would make it much more difficult for me to exercise regularly.

It means we have to stop training every Wednesday.

No other leisure centre around that's local

Unable to use sports hall to train for local netball club and will lose a facility to hold friendly matches from ages 5-67

No netball training

Limited opportunity for physical exercise

PLC is local to myself & my children. It provides fitness facilities for all family members. To take away an established centre is ridiculous. Spend the money on the centre.

Will make it harder to keep fit daily and I will not reach my goal of losing weight.

Have to travel further for facilities

I use the centre on a regular basis, both myself and the children I foster. I know that any club attempting to book the facilities at the new Islwyn High School are having difficulties, as they are now fully subscribed & booked out, plus there is no gym, squash courts etc. Pont LC is used by many clubs on a regular basis as always booked out. Islwyn High will always give preference to school activities over outside clubs wishing to use it.

It will impact on my mental health & general fitness. As a non driver the LC is a perfect location for me to access by foot (as many others)

Been trying to improve my health and wellbeing

Finding classes at different centres. Travel further.

Impact on health and fitness as I attend the gym 5 to 6 times per week

Pont leisure centre offers a convenient location for both courses & fitness suite uses. Loss of the fitness suite here would result in an influx of above to the already strained gym services, affecting service users. As an avid attendee of lifestyle classes, loss of instructor, fellow attendees & staff would make some of us 2nd guess our commitment to the local leisure centres.

Lack of badminton facilities. Coach girls football and struggle for bookings

Missing out on classes and workouts. Having to travel further.

I have visited the centre 3 times per week for approx. 34 years. Personally the impact of the closure would be huge. To strike a balance between work life and to fit in personal health and wellbeing training for me the centre is conveniently located. Its small enough not to feel intimidated by other users, the staff are friendly and knowledgeable. By closing Pontllanfraith the numbers in the other leisure centres will increase and they will become too full particularly at peak times.

Reduce my quality of health and life. I attend my local centre to improve my health and lifestyle.

Won't be able to have regular exercise or attend classes I enjoy

I wouldn't use the gym as often

I have been here for several years and my classes are busy!!! My users love this facility!

Have nowhere to go whilst children do their activities. Miss the social aspects of the group exercise. Need to think about poor weather so outside activity not always possible.

Struggle to attend exercise classes

My son uses the 3G pitch and grass pitch at least twice a week. This will impact greatly upon his ability to continue with his sporting activities

Won't be able to find the range of classes offered at other local facilities. Neither Cefn Fforest or Newbridge have the same range of classes during the evening. This will have a massive impact on my fitness and general health and wellbeing.

Will have a big impact on me because it is the nearest leisure centre.

Everything. My fitness level will change as I refuse to use any other LC. The centre in Pontllanfraith is fab and all staff are very helpful and polite. They are extremely friendly and welcoming. The LC in Pont is convenient as it is on my way home from work. Loss of the LC would mean loss of fab instructors who are knowledgeable and helpful. They get involved with the people here and help when needed.

Loss of local access to day time classes in the dance studio. Relocating opportunity for health & fitness classes during daytime for residents who cannot access evening classes.

Won't have a place to do Zumba

I live in Risca so further to travel

I feel the closure will impact upon me because it is due to the convenience of the LC and the atmosphere within it why I joined there in the first place. I feel that I would not get the service or good atmosphere at any other centre. The other centres are also out of the area too much for me to access as regularly as Pontllanfraith, which would impact on me keeping up with my health & fitness.

I will have to use the Newbridge centre instead.

HUGE! Pont Leisure is local, easy to reach and a vibrant community hub. Both my sons have said they will not bother going anywhere else if the Council close this facility. My boys learnt the following skills at Pont Leisure: kyokushin karate Football skills Soft tennis Badminton Squash How to use gym equipment Both have accessed Dof E provision based at the site for their awards We simply not be minded to travel ever farther afield should this centre close. If CCBC cannot keep it open, then transfer it to a community trust or new community base.... Will have to travel further, which costs more money, if I want to go to a leisure centre which is less accessible I will have to catch the bus to the nearest gym as i can't drive, whereas Pont Leisure is a 5 minute walk away from where i live and doesn't cost as much as other available gyms. It has everything that is needed, and the workers are really kind.

Q6 Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

Some of our teams haven't got a 3G space, by using Islwyn and Pont this will give back the council more revenue and more opportunities for kids

There are none. You would rob me and my son of our classes and fitness

Islwyn High but as said above demand is very high from football and rugby

There are no local 3G facilities available when we train so it could lead to the team being unable to train and potentially food affecting nearly 20 local families.

Other leisure centres are either too far away or don't hold many classes (circuits kettlebell yoga) at convenient times for people who work full time. There aren't the facilities at the other smaller gyms in the local area - Newbridge Cefn Forest. Risca and Caerphilly especially are too far to travel

Islwyn 4G is currently over subscribed to, therefore those clubs/ teams will not have another suitable alternative available.

At present, a lack of affordable facility exists in the immediate vicinity.

Nearest gym facilities provided by CCBC are not within reasonable walking distance

Newbridge. But as stated above, it's over subscribed, very busy at peak times and rarely anywhere to park. I've resorted to parking in the train station car park or the health board car park. The walk to and from both these car parks is intimidating due to gangs of people hanging about, some taking drugs. This will put me off using the gym, particularly in the darker evenings. To be honest, I'm on the verge of cancelling altogether and going to a private gym where the facilities are better and where machines are fixed in a timely manner. I can see other people doing the same thing. The

The other facilities are too far for my children to get to without requiring lifts from a designated driver. There are very few leisure facilities in the area as it is and to reduce it further would be appalling. Please take into consideration the local clubs that use this facility as well as the elderly and young people that do not have access to transport.

There are none if the centre is relocated then there will be a shortage of availability to book facilities in the future

Not sure if there are any

There are none for the time we play squash

The facilities at Islwyn high school do not meet the requirement of our league (no perimeter fencing around the pitch and no dugouts)

Islwyn High Private Gym Ystrad Mynach Centre of Excellence

The yogalates class which I attend weekly is the only class available through Caerphilly leisure centres. A pilates class is available in Risca but that is too far to travel when I rely on childcare & is a different type of fitness class
See above just have Islwyn is not enough the 3g will need to move to Blackwood school

Swimming in Newbridge and fitness gym in Blackwood

I left Newbridge leisure centre as their timetable no longer met my needs and also because they cancelled bokwa.

I will need to drive in order to find similar facilities

Where will you work out

As you can't use the football 3G pitch because it ain't the right size could of moved the road out and used the opposite side to widen the pitch

None

Attend another Leisure Centre, i.e Cefn Fforest if necessary but not always convenient.

please read the above statement !

Newbridge or Risca

No information provided in regards to alternative facilities available at alternative sites. One thing for sure is that the alternative sites available will not be able to accommodate the demand.

I would have to travel further

Struggle to book a slot anywhere at the moment. Booking systems vary from site to site so clear system across Caerphilly would be useful.

No gym in the mentioned alternative. No squash courts in the mentioned alternative.

Other local gyms do not offer exactly the same facilities and classes and are much more costly which is not affordable for a family. As a non driver I would not be in a position to easily reach other Council leisure centres and the cost of busses and taxis are extortionate.

Badminton courts are over subscribed so the replacement courts at Oakdale are making less provision. If you are not a determined person then you will not do any sport because availability makes it easier to opt out. We have played in Pontllanfraith since Ystrad Mynach was closed for renovation and have to say John and the staff

are amazing and do their best to accommodate the public. They are aware of the lack of parking and an area to socialise as well as well used resources. We The government wants people to do more exercise and improve mental health and well being. This propos

There are no alternative arrangements which would meet my needs, losing this facility would be an incredible loss to someone like me and also to the surrounding community.

If the 3G pitch is relocated to Blackwood Comp it would be extremely beneficial if it is maintained the way it is now. Barriers around the pitch, dugouts for management/subs. It would also be useful for it to have a small stand built with it. This will support many clubs in the local area to progress but also offer cover from all weather for supporters/family etc.

Possibly could use facilities at Newbridge, however there are very limited slots available any day.

As mentioned last question the other leisure centre's such as Newbridge are too small and get very over crowded particularly at peak times. As well as that newbrosgd is fully booked in our usual time slots through Christmas Newbridge leusre centre isn't big enough to deal with the demands currently put on it. C3fn Forrest gym is too small and doesn't have a 3g football pitch.

Would have to use alternative leisure centres in the area which are already overrun

Go to newbridge leisure center

As stated above, already over subscribed to. No classes available at cefn fforest.

Whenever we have been unable to book a badminton court at Pontllanfraith, we have found that Newbridge (and other less local Centres) has little or no court availability. It is clear that, should Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre close, the area does not have enough resource or facilities to cope with local demand. I believe that if this were the case, my family and I are likely to have to give up our much loved hobby.

The majority of leisure centres are aging and need significant investment to bring them to a modern standard.

The use of leisure centres is cost prohibitive. The cost should be subsidised for residents. How can you promote heathly lifestyles when council leisure centres are to expensive to use.

I haven't visited it yet but I would use the Cefn Forest fitness suite.

None accessible without driving! Other facilities are already over crowded

There are no badminton courts, no 3G football pitch, no fitness suite available locally, you are ruining our children's future for short term penny pinching

None

There has been no mention if the current classes/instructors would be relocated

Ticked the No box because the other leisure centres are 1or 2 bus rides away and evening bus services very infrequent Wouldn't be plausible to attend any evening activities. Use Newbridge swimming pool for aqua fit for the simple reason there is no swimming pool in Pontllanfraith!

No gym going in Iswlyn high for public and Cefn Fforest gym is not big enough.

No gym or dance studio being put in Iswlyn High. Cefn Fforest is insufficient to meet the needs of the larger community as it is to small and Newbridge and Heolddu is to far away.

There are no close amenities other than Pontllanfraith leisure centre. The closest are either tetrad mynach or new bridge both over 2 miles away.

not enough facilities available to cover the area , team will miss out and eventually will have to merge into other sides thus clubs will loose identity , member will leave, players wont get game time, thus kids will stop playing.

we already have a high percentage of obesity in the area in both adults and children so closing a facility will only increase this problem. CCBC should be investing in the health and welfare of its constituents

The alternative arrangement is to go to newbridge,leisure centre but this is not convenient and lacking in availability.

Newbridge Leisure Centre

Alternative leisure centres are too far to travel to and would not have time to do my classes on weeknights due to this.

Time slots are too busy

When arrendingredients eating last night , the was no carry answer that another facilities will be put in place. To replace the

Unsure.

Go to privately owned gym now

classes at other near by venues do not meet our needs/times/transport issues

There are none, the gyms elsewhere are fully booked, and that applies to dance studios if any in other leisure centres

The next decent facility is Newbridge. And they dont have a 3G pitch and Iswlyn doesnt have one at a high enough spec. Iswlyn doesnt have squash courts either.

Other leisure centres do not have convenient classes times etc that fit around my work family commitments. Also even though other leisure centres ie Newbridge due to being very popular the facilities and car park are always busy and sometimes hard to use said facilities so I think closing Pont will put a bigger strain on these leisure centres therefore classes / gym will be even busier

Through private local gyms

nothing within a few miles. I don't want alternate, I want the local leisure centre, it's not a burden financially therefore should stay. It's not about money it's about the community

There are none Newbridge has no dance studio and we cannot use hall because of school use. The new school in Blackwood would not allow morning classes because of the children in school. Bargoed and Caerphilly are too far especially with road works in Caerphilly. So as you can see there is nowhere we can go.

Ystrad Mynach is way too expensive!

Islwyn high does not have squash courts or offer fitness classes...

Islwyn high is always booked especially for the days we need. Blackwood comp the flood lights are broke and they haven't got the funding to replace them plus it is always booked up on the days we need just like every other venue that has artificial pitches also it is too expensive. Our under 7s and 8s play matches at Pont every Sunday and I was told that Islwyn high doesn't do Sunday opening

Islwyn high has no gym and would not be open in daytime or for casual users.

there is nowhere local that would suffice

Closing the local leisure centre reduces the options available to residents to access their local facilities making it more difficult and more expensive to travel to the next nearest facilities.

Are there leisure facilities still in the area, yes Newbridge leisure and the less than adequate facilities at Islwyn High but they are already highly in demand and there is not enough amenities to cater for everyone who wishes to use them.

No where else available to book courts! Not enough available facilities for our rugby team to be able to train effectively once a week and there aren't any reasonably priced fitness centres within walking distance

Yes but only if I start using a private fitness suite.

As discussed above

N/a

Other venue does not open on a Sunday!

There are no alternative arrangements available.

not at this time. Islwyn High School booked and too far away as most walk to Pontllanfraith - therefore the change will increase road traffic

Alternatives are available at Islwyn high, Newbridge and possible Blackwood school in the future but these are all further afield

Islwyn High school can't take any more groups so anyone using Pont has nowhere to go

Absolutely no alternative arrangements are in place. I've already stated that the new Islwyn High School is not fit for purpose.

Nil

As above I answered them all in the first question

Nott happy that the alternative site proposed (Islwyn High) is closed in half term and summer hols. There has been no consideration for Allison (fitness instructor) to be relocated. Considering she works 5 nights a week I can see many leaving Caerphilly membership scheme to follow her training sessions elsewhere. I for one will be willing to reinvest my membership money elsewhere.

None

Other facilities are booked to the max already and are unable to accommodate reasonable times and space. It also means we have to travel 4+ miles to an alternative leisure centre.

No available 4g are available for either of my sons teams.

None

Classes at Pontllanfraith are ran at suitable times, other leisure centres don't do this

There will not be enough courts in the area.

Don't know

I would have to travel further to other centres in the Caerphilly County Borough area, or cancel my membership and join a private gym.

Newbridge, Yoga class to resite

Gym, squash courts etc.

I use Cefn Fforest

We already use Newbridge LC. Family commitments of current class members will probably mean non-

attendance at the different facility - as experienced when soccer skills (Pontllanfraith) Friday night class closed. Newbridge LC has badminton courts but these are usually fully booked or being used for other sports. I need transport to access NLC I can walk to PLC.

None known of. I have epilepsy which means I am unable to drive, I have to use other means of travel.

Nearest similar alternatives are at Newbridge LC.

Alternative facilities available at Islwyn High, however due to significant demand there is limited or no availability. Other sites such as Newbridge & Centre of Excellence are also fully booked & have waiting lists.

Not known! Facilities in the area but availability is unclear.

Not sure of alternative arrangements. No spaces at other facilities for football. Closing PLC will not help the lack of facilities for football teams.

It has been proposed that our club booking will transfer to Islwyn High. This is too far away for us. It's also unavailable for a large part of the year, ie exam times Dec/Jan & May/June as sports hall is set up for exams.

Gym exercise will have to end

Newbridge - but I would have to take car.

Only alternative will be to travel further and incur extra costs - thereby removing my lifestyle membership

Apparently the new school at Oakdale has alternative facilities

I have ticked "YES" to this question because alternative arrangements were put in place but no consideration on how people who don't drive were going to get to these places. As in my case Pontllanfraith is a 10 min walk for me but going to other centres (eg; Risca or New Tredegar) would require catching at the least two buses.

Islwyn school

We would attend Newbridge but not really happy with sports hall facilities. Pont is perfect for us as a group & for me as an older person.

No classes would match the standard of the ones I attend in Pont.

Other sites with facilities available but will they be available to book. less facilities - more users!!!

May relocate to Newbridge however many members are against this proposal. They are open to using the pitch at Islwyn High.

No other arrangements would be good to me as I don't drive, Pont is local to me

None provided

See above. Although it has been indicated we can be accommodated we do not see how everyone can be satisfied with the loss of this centre which is heavily used by clubs & public. Have found in past that using school facilities is inconvenient as the school only seems interested in themselves & no one else using the sports hall.

How can the alternative venue provide facilities for all the current classes, gym, sports hall activities

Have not been able to find any alternative arrangements that can offer the same.

CCBC promotes exercise yet you move to take our 2 local amenities away - many people can walk there. I strongly urge you to reconsider closing Pontllanfraith & Cefn Fforest LC.

Newbridge - although hard to book courts

Newbridge

Newbridge - but very hard to book badminton court

None

Haven't been told anything, maybe Islwyn High.

No info given

No information given

No yoga classes available locally.

That club that I use on a Sunday cannot get any bookings at Islwyn High or Newbridge as always booked out.

Newbridge - but not keen

There are not enough to fulfil the demand

Attend other leisure centres which is a poor alternative.

There are no alternative arrangements that I am aware of.

Newbridge - but I'm not keen on the staff and the gym itself. Pont is the only place I feel comfortable exercising - the other centres are intimidating.

Not locally - would have to travel to Caerphilly - day time classes ie Yoga, limited

Don't know

There are no other arrangements to my knowledge

I'll use newbridge

There simply are not. Private facilities are too costly and cliquey. Community centres by their nature are too unpredictable and of poor standards.

I don't know of any and I don't drive so couldn't easily get to the other leisure centers

Q7 Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfr

Keeping the 3G pitch or creating another as it is also used by the Islwyn league for Sunday club matches.

Making sure the same classes are held locally at times which suit people who work full time. However I don't see how this is possible given the relative small size of the other local gyms and lack of facilities to do the classes.

Keep it open

Do not close the site. Get the funds to move pitch to Cwm Rhymni, better access, more space, greater parking available than at Blackwood comp.

A massive part of community for clubs, children from Cwmfelinfach up and the whole community will suffer if closes .

You would need to provide similar classes and facilities in the local leisure centre like newbridge but this probably isn't possible due to the lack of facilities there (dance studio or place to hold fitness classes or yoga). You would need to make sure the classes are at a time to suit people who are working full time eg 7-8pm instead of all being at 5 or 6. The loss of another local gym is really sad as newbridge isn't a very big gym and you often struggle to use the facilities there during peak times and have

resite the centre on another site in the close vicinity to minimise any impact

More classes at other leisure centres.

At present, Pontllanfraith serves the local community with excellent accessibility being with the community.

Should the facility be moved to an alternative site (I would guess at present the council will be considering the new high school as that alternative) then there should be an equally adequate transportation policy to ensure residents of the area who currently walk or catch a bus can continue to do the same. Also, the facility currently has a gym and grass sports areas whereas the new school does not and d

Keep the 3G pitch and close the leisure centre. Not everyone needs access to the building just the pitches.

Don't close it.

If more people use the gym and other facilities that are available there

By opening another fitness suite somewhere else in the locality.

Simple really don't shut it. Tweet it to suit profits yes but let's not give the kids an excuse to start vandalising their communities out of boredom. Crime rates will increase and there isn't enough investment in the local police force as there is so you'd certainly create a lot of problems by closing this site.

Don't close it

I will no longer be able to keep fit having played squash at this centre for about 7 years

Relocating the 3G pitch. If the pitch was not able to be relocated at Blackwood School, could there be discussing about us taking a lease on the pitch if suitable relocation was found?

If the current classes could be transferred to another local centre & my caerphilly leisure membership can still be used to attend these classes then it would be acceptable. It mentions that the new Islwyn High has facilities available if this is an option but i would be looking for these classes to be paid out of my membership

Travel further

I understand cuts must be made and I can not offer any suggestions I will be sad to see it close but I would have to cancel my membership.

Good for local community by bringing locals from all walks of life together. Why not use the old council offices opposite (next to doctors) to relocate? Expansion and a swimming pool could make good use of all that land!

No close place to play sports

It cant

They haven't long done work to the leisure centre be a waste of money to get rid of it.

My children use the 3g pitch weekly for football practice for blackwood town football club and also blackwood rugby club use the facilities on a yearly basis for winter training where my children also play.

Improve facilities elsewhere.

Ridiculous - im assuming it will be sold for more housing, taking away from the kids to sell the land to build and more houses - no room in schools, docs lets just put everything under now pressure great i will continue to pay my council tax for nothing around here.

Don't close it

Please read my impact statement, this explains the bigger picture.

The facsimiles are old, however there are very few facilities for the public to use in this vicinity.

The question posed makes no sense to me.....logic tells me that the impact of closure can be reduced simply by NOT CLOSING! just throwing it out there..... money available to pay for the upgrade works required of the pontllanfraith leisure centre, although realistically, in the mentality of CCBC, if money can be made selling land etc. as opposed to spend

Need to have more facilities in area for children/families. If closing Pontllanfraith need to expand current leisure

facilities at leisure centres or develop a local park with playground and sports pitches in blackwood area. Something that ccbc is lacking in massively compared to other areas.

To reduce the impact on many other hundreds of people, including our team, a duplicate of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre Facilities needs to be built in this area

Leave it open and invest in it. Once it's closed it never comes back to the area

Assist us in our relocation. Ideally do not close this site.

More availability of football pitches 3G/4G across the borough as health and fitness should be promoted.

By not closing it. And update it if you feel the need, but its fine as it is.

Leave it open and also because of islwyn high their 3G pitch is not suitable for football use because the pitch is not the right size and that the Astro turf at pontllanfraith would be more suitable to use.

I don't see how a closure of the site couldn't all reduce the impact on me or my family.

Not closing it and instead scrapping the premise of a local council who seem to only serve themselves and their wallets

Keep Pontllanfraith open by insisting the developer of the site increases the building's capacity or replace with new building which provides extra cuts, pitches etc. There needs to be extra provision and also double the parking available. Last week I spent 15 mins trying g to get into the car park and another 5 mins finding a parking space. The car park is a nightmare.

It can't be reduced, there is no other gym in the area which would meet my needs.

Ensure that any facilities that are moving (3G) move quickly to disrupt all local clubs in the area.

Keep certain aspects. The 3G pitch seems to be used every week night continuously and finding slots seems to be difficult. Possible improvements to the sports hall and remove unnecessary other facilities at the location.

Can't be reduced as alternative leisure centre too far away,

Give us book able access to the new pitch in oakdale and more facilities or a bigger gym space at Newbridge.

By not closing it.

Just keep it or. Why waste a perfectly good facility to build more housing. There is a massive estate being built by hawrltin park I industrial estate.

Keep it open. Why has a community institution have to close to build even more housing

New facilities provided within walking distance of the present location.

Make Newbridge Leisure center better and bigger

By opening a new leisure facility, similar to that in Ebbw vale to meet the local residents needs. It's no wonder we have so much obesity and heart disease when it's so difficult to access local facilities in the valley area.

I do not think that the impact could be reduced. Whilst CCBC could build facilities elsewhere, this would take significant time, leaving us without these much-needed facilities. I also suspect that the people of Pontllanfraith would be less inclined to utilise facilities if they are required to travel further afield in order to access them.

Open new centres to spread the burden and subsidise the cost.

Not to close it at all. Provide further facilities for users.

Do not understand this question (further reduced?) the impact of the closure could mean the end of my sons football games and not having a local gym close to where we live

This question makes it sound like it is a pre ordained event . i.e. no notice will be taken of views expressed

This building needs to stay open. The access is not ideal and the gym is not busy mainly due to the size of the room and the lack of equipment. Moving the facilities to another building will only encourage others to use the services.

It's difficult to know as I appreciate that the centre stands in the way of the full development of the site for (presumably) housing.

Build a new one to replace it that we c an be proud of. Has anyone sought a private buyer for it?

Don't close it

Keep it open

It needs to stay open but you will shut it anyway.

Opening a 3G at Blackwood. Very worried by the comments about "if funding is found". This simply cannot go ahead without a guarantee that facilities will be built in blackwood.

Not close it.

Should defiantly not be closed would be huge loss for the community. After the money that has been spent there. Great parking faculties unlike newbridge.

Don't close it yet.

CCBC needs to emphasise that proposals are for the transfer of sport & leisure facilities from Pont Leisure Centre to Islwyn High School, rather than their loss to our local community. Transitional resources should be put in place to ensure that the new sport & leisure offer at Islwyn High School succeeds and is seen to match the offer at Pont

Leisure Centre.

It can't be, why are you removing all facilities from Pontllanfraith, oh yes it's to sell the soul for houses upon houses. You can build as many houses as you like but there will be nowhere in Pontllanfraith for them to go will there? No school, no Council Offices, no Leisure Centre

Any facilities removed from the area is not beneficial-Obviously this is just a paper service exercise and no views of the public will in reality be taken into account, the comprehensive school closed regardless of the public view and so will the leisure centre as it is quite clearly in the way of the demolition process of the school, presumably so that the land can be used to build yet more housing.

DON'T DO IT!

Relocate current classes and instructors. Keep the same time table of classes

Don't really know how any impact could be reduced. You'll be taking all leisure facilities out of a highly populated area.

If the bookings that I have are automatically continued at another suitable facility. Unfortunately I know that the times we require will not be available.

New gym facility in Iswlyn high for the public.

Not to close the facility.

This impact can not be reduced. You will be taking away a local facility that is used by a large catchment area which includes a great number of children who are able to walk to this amenity again fulfilling the government's initiative to get children active. You will be depriving the local children and adults of both leisure and playing field amenities. Not all parents have cars or are able to pay for buses.

By not closing it as it's busy all the time, especially the 3g pitch! Or if it does end up closing building a brand new leisure that is still local

Don't close it!

develop the site with investment. a school is a school and is not run to encourage after hrs usage for individuals so the islywn school should not be considered as an option. develop some of the site with housing but look to include a swimming pool and improve the parking this would benefit and support an area where housing is increasing. Cefn forest swimming centre could be closed and relocated allowing development of this site for needed housing.

The impact could not be reduced. The leisure centre should not be closed

Upgrade other leisure centres

By the same leisure facilities being available locally. Having more exercise classes in the community.

Does it need to close as it is well used and would be an asset to the area particularly with the proposed house building increasing the population. The alternative school Iswlyn High is not as central and I would not think it could be used by the public during the day.

AN ALTERNATIVE EARLY EVENING & EARLY WEEK (PREFERABLY MONDAY) or THURSDAY BADMINTON COURT PROVIDED IN REASONABLE PROXIMITY E.G. AT SUE NOAKES CENTRE YSTRAD MYNACH . OTHER LOCATIONS & OR TIMES MAY PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.

Do not Close it!

Keep it open

Easy don't close it.

Build more up to date facilities, more houses being built in the areas mean more people require leisure facilities.

Supposed to encourage people to be active and healthy.

Why is there a need to close the centre? The 3G pitch for football is the only one in the area and the closure will affect so many people.

Further to travel.

Even though I know the council thinks there is a need for more housing in the area, the infrastructure doesn't seem to in place to support more incomers. With a new housing development already started at Gelli Haf, how will the already clogged up roads cope with all the extra traffic. Are there places in the schools in area for all the extra Children? I think the closure should be delayed until after the development of the estate at Gelli Haf is finished to see what effect this has on the current infrastructure.

another centre with the facilities need to be available.. a new school with limited facilities that is already at capacity is not the answer?? why build more houses and reduce the facilities? where will these people going to go? FACILITIES NEED TO BE INCREASED NOT DECREASED! the new school cannot meet the needs of members of Caerphilly leisure

Build a new leisure centre and pool on Bedwellty playing fields and close Cefn Fforest Pontllanfraith and Heol Ddu

The centre should not be on the list to close, the new school at Oakdale has no where near the facilities that

point has and all the 3g pitches are fully booked else where. Point is used to full capacity from Monday to Thursday in the centre and every night on the 3g, so where you expect all the people to go is beyond me. Young football/rugby teams train every night of the week will be left to roam the streets turning to crime at no fault of their own. I myself have used the centre since it opened in the mid 70s

Have a leisure centre that meets all the same specs as Pontllanfraith. Islwyn School just doesnt match the size of Pontllanfraith, and I dont want to be in and out of a school when the kids are in.

A modern leisure centre built to cater for the needs of two large housing developments on its doorstep, which I'm sure will generate more than one additional user - how forward thinking a council!!!

Not sure that it can be as many sports groups, clubs etc will have to end as there are no facilities available locally . It seems bizarre that a town the size of Blackwood will not have a leisure centre, particularly in light of the number of new housing developments that will be completed in coming years. Surely we need a larger facility in the area for aa growing local population, not removing it completely.

keep it open

Why can't we still keep a leisure centre , the centre makes money , the pitch outside is always used . Badminton clubs use hall as well as other classes. The gym is always used.

A lot of people will leave caerphilly council membership and relocate to other private gyms within the area

Don't close it

It shouldn't shut full stop. It is valuable to the community and to the council. Even if some of the building was to shut the sports hall and the pitches are needed.

Don't close it. Upgrade it .

It cannot be reduced. The centre is on a convenient bus route and is easily accessible. Under future generations act I cannot see how asking the local community and users to travel further is sensible. This closure removes much needed facilities for clubs supporting children and encourages sports participation for residents of Caerphilly borough.

Change to plan to include existing leisure centre as an integral part of the proposed housing development.

Keep the 3g. The new school pitch doesnt have barriers around so doesnt comply with gwent county specifications.

We urge you to keep it open, if not we would need a 3G pitch with floodlights, barriers and dug outs and ideally a small stand which is a requirement of the welsh fa should we get promoted 2 divisions which is a strong possibility with the squad we have.

don't close it

The closure of the centre will have an impact on the local community meaning that the obesity levels will rise in gwent as the council try's to save money but don't think about people's health and other issues like the cardio team who use it to help in their recovery from heart attacks I speak to many of the users while doing my session on there and a lot have said it will have a major impact on their recovery

By not closing the centre.

It appears that the new facilities at the new school do not match those currently offered by this centre. Like for like replacement should be available

Build a new lesiure centre in the local area instead of just making money by selling the land off at the old council building, Oakdale and Pontllanfraith comprehensive schools.

Don't close the centre

Build something for our children you building houses everywhere with more families moving to the area and no where for our children to play!!

Increase the size of both Bargoed and Cefn Forest leisure centres to alleviate overcrowding. This would cost substantially more than keeping Pont open so KEEP PONT OPEN!

Don't close it!!! Or move ALL the classes/facilities in an unchanged format to a centre nearby

Bring more classes and gym facilities back to Cefn Fforest

Establishment of a fitness centre under the current ccbc scheme in the immediate vicinity (without having to travel further up the valley). Alternatively significant expansion of the already undersized Sue Noakes centre.

It can only be reduced by not closing the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

Providing 'like for like' facilities at our new school site so that Physical Education provision for all pupils is appropriate and fit for purpose, allowing all pupils to have the full benefits of Health, fitness and well-being providing 21st century PE in a 21st century school ie a full fitness suite and a grass pitch

open the Blackwood 3G before closing the Pontllanfraith one. make more playing fields / grass areas in the area available for young people to train upon

Pontllanfriath is a very central location with good facilities reasonably priced. Inhte demolition plan if the entrance could be widened to 2 lanes then the impact on local residents would be lowered

The 3g pitches should stay open if the building is the cause of concern and there is no investment into it's regeneration. 3g pitches could be transferred.

simple dont sell of the facilities needed by the local residents , there are more facikities needed , blackwood is growing in population and facilities shoud not be centralised ,

Will effect my mental and health. I am a oder person trying to keep fit and healthy plus having company is a great aspect. Affny futher distance will effect my ability to attend

lack of community spirit

Do not close the leisure centre. Simple! Or if you must, then build adequate facilities in the location. Not 4 miles up the road.

As above and our football team which uses the 3G at a convenient time for us would struggle to find an alternative locally Our fitness and health would be impacted. I am also over 50 and need to keep fit.The closure would affect me and other elderly members.

by not closing it in the first place...

At a minimum, all provisions at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre must be moved to the proposed new school site. Would save money by not building a new pitch and also I would like to point out at the new super school built islwayn high school that their gym facilities are not even up to gym standards only got a couple of machines there and cannot be used during school times which will have a knock on effect with anyone working shift patterns and I will be one of those.

Build another leisure centre

By providing another facility of equal or better standard on this side of the valley.

Surely this decision contradicts the best interests of the community? Heart disease is a killer, exercise has been shown to be beneficial and helps rehabilitation. Let's get proactive with more not less leisure facilities before we have to build another Hospital. Diesel or petrol cars is very political, how about less reliance on vehicles with facilities closer to their home? Isn't the proposal to shut being taken with no consideration the the health and air quality of our environment and the people you represent

You need to decide that. You're making these decisions

Transport provided and same facilities

Simply don't give into corporate greed. We need these facilities for our children.

If the council were to relocate the leisure centre to a different site within the vicinity of Pontllanfraith.

It can not be reduced. the impact is eminence. There are classes that help those with mobilirity and weight loss that will now only be available at each end of the county in New Tredegar or Risca leisure centre. Everything is being taken from the Pontllanfraith and Blackwood wards of Caerphilly council which is not fair to the residents of the area.

Facilities and amenities should be, being added to the area to accommodate the families who will be moving into the area, as well as to continue to supply to the need of the current user. The facilities should be, being invested in to provide the new and existing residents with leisure activities. The new homes alone, would provide the council with substantial income from the council tax fees, this money should be fed back into to the area, to allow for more community friendly areas.

Keep it open Viable

The council need to understand that funding unrequired road works, social housing, unrequired huge staff bill (office based) andfrom council tax payers - they need to look at funding for beneficial means such as sports and leisure.

Major

Hard to see how other leisure centres could run more classes/increase availability.

Leave the building open.

The centre is always very well attended and seems busier now than ever. I have been playing here for 25 years as I used to live in Blackwood area.

Keep the leisure centre open

Not Close it! There is nothing wrong with the leisure centre.

Keep venue open/ invest in the facility. Newbridge is full to capacity. Cwmcarn LC was the centre of the community. The community has suffered since its closure.

Don't close it altogether.

Increase facilities in Newbridge & classes. Make school facilities available. Need something in Blackwood.

By not closing it. Or plan a new one in this area, not one further away.

Keep it open

The lack of equivalent alternative facilities from the 3G pitch to the sports hall, from the squash courts to the fitness suite means the closure of the leisure centre will have a massive detrimental affect on those who use it.

It can't be reduced - once closed these classes will stop - having a detrimental effect on members physical & mental wellbeing.

It just takes another facility away and the community needs this centre. Do not close the centre it is part of the community.

It could have been reduced/prevented/more difficult to close has Leisure Services Management been more pro active with community based events, using not only Pontllanfraith but other LC's as a hub or integral part of these activities.

Building more courts & facilities at NLC & CFLC & running more classes in both of these but that still leaves the issue of transport!!

By reducing the membership fee because you're going to provide less of a service and it will cost more to go to another gym. You provide less, you pay less. Please don't blame Westminster Gov, or cuts to local Gov funding, we pay more & more but get less for it.

Let there be no closure. Add a swimming pool to Pont leisure.

Can classes be held nearby? Can the same facilities be offered nearby? What will happen to all the local clubs that use the centre. Pont LC is very popular and provides excellent service to all.

By keeping the main building open

Build a new leisure centre for them, or keep Pontllanfraith open.

The relocation of the 3G to Blackwood would soften the blow of losing the pitch but the closure of the well used centre will see increase in demand at already busy centres.

Develop for current users (as per discussions with CCBC)

Why close the LC? The 3G is very popular. 2 schools have closed which both had pitches, replaced with just 1 pitch at Islwyn. Keep pont open & change Oakdale astroturf to 3G. Customers should be provided with alternatives if Pont LC closes.

Keep it open to provide facilities for the local community. The county promote health & wellbeing yet are looking to close well used facilities that allow the local community to keep fit and active.

Keep it open. It provides great facilities and is the most profitable in the county - why close it?

Providing a varied activity timetable at a nearby leisure centre such as Newbridge which currently does not have facilities to host activities, yoga, pilates, body conditioning etc. Don't close leisure centre at Pontllanfraith.

Do not close the centre - Pay a visit to the car park from Mon - Thurs and see how well this centre is used.

DON'T CLOSE IT.

By having local fitness class arrangements made by CCBC which are affordable & regular within Pontllanfraith.

Don't close it!!

Don't close it

By not closing it. There is already high demand for the facilities in Caerphilly & closing will mean less availability.

Keep the building open

Don't close it - it is well used

My view is it should remain open as over 90,000 persons use the centre each year. It would impact on numerous people and other centres are already overcrowded.

Ensure fitness instructors jobs are protected as well as CCBC staff jobs. Ensure classes will be facilitated elsewhere in another leisure centre with the same teacher.

Do not close

By not closing it!

Another location becomes available which is easily accessible & still within the same area, at least closer to the area than Newbridge LC

Use sports hall for bigger fitness classes

By not shutting the leisure centre as many individuals use it.

Keeping it open. Rebuilding the leisure centre local to Pontllanfraith

By not closing it or building another LC to replace it. By closing this LC this will have a big impact on the health & wellbeing of the people in the area.

We have existed as a club since 1970's/80's we spent most of that time at Cwncarn school, when it closed we were offered 2 hours at Newbridge. We were subsequently accommodated at Pont as there was pressure at Newbridge due to other clubs from Cwmcarn. We are happy here the staff are extremely helpful to everyone.

If funding is the issue why not consider focusing on spend that is irrelevant and of no benefit to the council tax payers. Food banks being used by the wrong client base. Millions wasted on accommodation for CCBC office staff (Tredomen) and foolish bonus/wages for management. You are not private, you are funded by us. Listen to those who pay for you.

I may either have to travel further which may dissuade me from attending & attend RCT centres instead as class

may no longer be provided.

More information that is easily accessible, information shared as consultation progresses

A suitable replacement facility, available for regular & constructive use for all members

Build a new LC in Blackwood or better still Don't Close Pont! Some sports eg football will be catered for elsewhere but there won't be extra badminton courts. This means I cannot play at all. CCBC should be promoting sport not closing facilities.

It is hard to imagine an area as big as Blackwood not to have a leisure centre. A new and improved LC should be built to cater for the people from the new houses which are being built on the school site and adjacent to Grove Park. For the future use of the community. I strongly oppose these closures.

Probably if too difficult to get a court our group will drift apart.

More classes at other centres which are sadly lacking

Unless it is kept open the impact can not be reduced. As well as creating geographical and access issues, there will also be a great negative impact socially creating further magnitude of issues and problems.

Something else in the nearby area offering the same facilities. Alternatively keeping the centre open at peak times.

Don't close it

By giving us another place to train.

Tell us where the new training facility will be!

Do not close. Update the facilities resulting in a better centre for users. In particular with new housing planned.

Provide another leisure centre for us to train

Provide another sports location

Open sports hall in Islwyn High School

Opening a council facility leisure centre near the same area

Provide another leisure centre

Be able to provide a suitable venue in the local area so players that cannot drive are bale to get to training.

Continue yoga classes locally. Add additional well being classes locally - eg Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates

Spend the money on the building. Facilitate it better - encouraging more people from the local area to use the centre. An established karate lesson/group has been here for 35 years.

?

By not closing it, and spending some funds upgrading it!!!

Don't close it! It will be incredibly damaging to the community!!

Open a local facility or improve Cefn Forest

Could keep leisure centre if i.e. houses are built new customers & more revenue from locals - more profit for CCBC in long run.

loss of enjoyable classes as alternatives may result in having to travel multiple locations to attend rearranged classes, this would make it annoying and inconvenient for myself with scheduling. Also increased time spent travelling for what could be unnecessary if the gym remained open. Ideally find a closer location within the area offering current or similar class schedules if the gym has to close.

Need to keep present instructor for Zumba classes

Re Consider its Closure! The centre attracts a large catchment area. It is well used and supported by the individuals and various sporting clubs. With obesity rates rising particularly amongst young people it is more important than ever to provide leisure facilities throughout the borough to meet the needs of everyone.

By maintaining a local focus for health and wellbeing for the community by maintaining the LC within any new build plans. This will keep both new homes owners, employees and centre users happy.

Don't close it

Monitor usage. Caerphilly Borough needs leisure facilities as high levels of obesity & sedentary behaviour. Great classes.

This will be further reduced by the centre remaining open.

The simple answer to this would be to keep it open. The centre is well used. The range of classes offered here are the best in the local area. The instructors are fantastic and the staff are brilliant. I see no reason to close a well used facility.

To remain open

Loss of LC could mean loss of classes as people would have to travel to other LC which would result in a longer travelling time and distance in travelling. This would be very inconvenient to many members such as myself

More daytime classes in Blackwood/Pontllanfraith/Newbridge area

By remaining open, not just for myself but for others

N/a

If CCBC cannot keep it open, then transfer it to a community trust or new community based organisation...I for one would lend my skills to this as a volunteer!

Don't close it refurbish it

not closing it would be a good start. everyone I know enjoys using the leisure centre and to close it would be a really bad idea. not to mention the fact that islwyn high school's new gym only includes 4 spins bikes and one set of weights. the dance studio is half the size of the pont studio, and there are no bus routes what so ever to the new school.

From: Emma Curtis [REDACTED]@childcomwales.org.uk]
 Sent: 30 January 2018 10:27
 To: Sharma, Elizabeth
 Subject: RE: Consultation on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

Dear Liz

Thank you for your email to the Commissioner,
 As the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales we are unable to respond to consultations in respect of local funding— such interventions could prejudice the Commissioner's independent status.
 However as you have taken the time to contact us we would like to take the opportunity to highlight two points in relation to the existing requirements under the Local Authority's framework and its relationship with Children's Rights. It may be useful for you to be aware that where we are contacted by members of the public in relation to matters such as this we would also make them aware of these points and may consider following up concerns related to these.

- Equality Impact Assessments require consideration of the impact of people within recognised protected characteristics including age. There is an expectation that children and young people should be a key consideration in respect of this section given the matter concerned.
- Under Article 12 Children and young people have a right to say what they think on matters effecting them and their opinions taken into account. All public bodies have a duty to contribute toward the realisation of children's rights. Whilst Local Authority consultation requirements vary as the Office of the Commissioner we would expect that children and young people would be afforded the opportunity for meaningful consultation along with evidence that their views, as well as those of other consultees, have been taken into account on matters which effect them such as this.

You may be aware that recently the Children's Commissioner has published - "The Right Way" A Children's Rights Approach. This guide is designed to help public bodies to meet their duties. The approach is about placing the UNCRC at the core of planning and service delivery and integrating children's rights into every aspect of decision-making, policy and practice. We are conscious that many Local Authorities are already undertaking excellent work in respect of some aspects of the approach on a whole, departmental or service level. I hope this document is useful and that you may like to share it and raise in relevant forums.

Kind Regards.

Emma

Emma Curtis

Cynghorydd Polisi | Policy Adviser

Comisiynydd Plant Cymru | Children's Commissioner for Wales

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Twitter: www.twitter.com/childcomwales | www.twitter.com/complantcymru

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth a galwadau yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a galwadau a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd cysylltu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi | We welcome receiving correspondence and calls in Welsh. We will respond to correspondence and calls in Welsh, and contacting us in Welsh will not lead to delay.

From: Sharma, Elizabeth [REDACTED]@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK]

Sent: 23 January 2018 12:04

To: Post <Post@childcomwales.org.uk>

Subject: Consultation on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you in regard to a consultation on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre within the county borough of Caerphilly.

Following an extended period of consultation with the local community during October and November 2017, it has been proposed that the consultation should be extended to a wider stakeholder group including yourself for further comment.

The following link will take you to the public consultation page on our website

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/involved/Consultations/Proposed-closure-of-Pontllanfraith-Leisure-Centre>

I have also attached a copy of the Cabinet report outlining the proposals and a copy of a survey for your information. If you have any comments, I would very much appreciate if you could return any these to me by midday on 7th

February 2018.

Kind regards

Liz Sharma

Swyddog Ymgynghori ac Ymgysylltu â'r Cyhoedd | Consultation and Public Engagement Officer

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili | Caerphilly County Borough Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@caerphilly.gov.uk

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Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau sy'n atodol yn gyfrinachol a dim ond ar gyfer defnydd yr unigolyn neu'r sefydliad y cyfeiriwyd atynt. Os ydych wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn ar gam rhwch wybod i reolwr eich system. Nodwch fod unrhyw sylwadau neu farn o fewn testun yr e-bost yw sylwadau a barn yr awdur yn unig ac nid yn angenrheidiol yn cynrychioli barn Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili. I orffen, dylai'r person sy'n derbyn yr e-bost sicrhau nad oes firws ynghlwm nac mewn unrhyw ddogfen atodol i'r e-bost. Nid yw'r Cyngor yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am unrhyw ddifrod achoswyd gan unrhyw firws sy'n cael ei drosglwyddo gan yr e-bost hwn. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog (yn unol â'ch dewis), ac mewn ieithoedd a fformatau eraill. Cewch ymateb yn unol â'ch dewis iaith os nodwch hynny i ni, ac ni fydd cyfathrebu â ni yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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We welcome correspondence in English, Welsh or bilingually (according to your choice) or in other languages and formats. We will respond in your declared chosen language, and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to any delay.



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By email

19/02/2018

RE: Consultation on the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you for your invitation to respond to the extended consultation on the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

I have seen in the press that you have decided to postpone your decision for now.

I have received letters from members of the public relating to this issue and also decisions relating to the closure of other sports facilities in the county. I monitor all correspondence I receive to seek to detect any systemic issue which can arise.

As you are aware, the Well-being of Future Generations Act gives a legally-binding common purpose and the seven well-being goals set out a full picture of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being for Welsh Government, local authorities including Caerphilly County Borough Council, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which specified public bodies must work to improve the well-being of Wales and it also requires them to set well-being objectives that enable them to maximise their contribution to the seven well-being goals.

The Act also provides for better decision-making by ensuring that those public bodies adopt the five ways of working: taking account of the long-term, helping to prevent problems occurring or getting worse, taking an integrated and collaborative approach, and considering and involving a diverse range of people. These ways of working are a very important part of the Act as they are about how public bodies need to work differently to make better decisions for future generations. Whilst there is no hierarchy within the five ways of working, involving citizens and community groups in decisions that affect them is crucial to achieving long-lasting change and the Act makes clear that the way public bodies involve people should reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves. Collaboration and integration include a consideration the impact of decisions or policies on the work or delivery of services in the area by others which might sit or not on the public service board, as another example.

As Future Generations Commissioner, I have a general duty to promote the sustainable development principle (including the five ways of working), to act as a guardian of the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and to encourage public bodies to take greater account of the long-term impact of the things that they do. As you

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know, while I do not have a case-work function to provide support to individual cases I cannot get involved in every consultation, the Act does give me the power to provide advice and assistance to public bodies and public services boards and promote and encourage them to consider the long-term impact of what they do and meet their well-being objectives. It is within this context that I provide the following comments.

As Caerphilly County Borough Council is directly covered by the Act, it is important that you apply the sustainable development principle (outlined above) in your work and show how the decision you are taking makes progress towards achieving the well-being goals through your well-being objectives, which includes a Healthy Wales.

To support this process, in collaboration with the Welsh Government, we have recently designed a Future Generations Framework for Service Design to help public bodies to use the Act. I attach it [here](#) as it could be useful to you. The framework can be used by those who design and oversee the provision of services, like leisure services, to prompt thought, have structured discussions, and make decisions to ensure services are resilient and are seeking to improve all four aspects of people's well-being (economic, social, environmental, cultural) now and in the future.

The tool provides a guide for public bodies to think through what the five ways of working mean in practice for services, setting out a series of questions to stimulate structured discussions and enable organisations to make decisions about how they work. We recognise that considering the ways of working throughout the design and delivery of services will, for many public bodies, involve a radical change of working practices. The tool has been developed by a cross-public service leadership group, and tested with practitioners representing a full range of public services. Early findings indicate it will be helpful in a range of ways; from planning a new service; reviewing an existing service; or articulating (and sharing) good practice which is already happening.

The tool is designed to be used flexibly, and adapted according to the particular circumstances being explored. This is an offer to use such tools, rather than an expectation - it is for you to decide if it will be of assistance to you, how you use it, and who to involve. My team would be happy to discuss this in more detail, provide support for using the tool, and would be pleased to hear experiences of using it in practice so it can be refined and made most useful to you. We are keen this should continue to be developed through use. Please contact Heledd Morgan (Heledd.Morgan@futuregenerations.wales) to discuss further.

There are a number of other tools in development that aim to support you in using the Act as a framework for thinking in different contexts. In particular, we have also developed a '[Future Generations Framework for projects](#)', which has been designed to assist public bodies to use the five ways of working and maximise contribution to the seven national well-being goals when designing, developing and reviewing projects.

With specific focus on Pontllanfraith, the letters that we received raised concerns around the integration and involvement of the decision-making process. As I am keen to empower individuals and community groups in understanding how they can use the Act to challenge public bodies, I suggested that they ask the following questions:



Involvement - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

For example, how have the relevant authorities involved people (e.g. residents, community groups, sport providers, health professionals and school children) in discussing how they can improve the health of people in the area, specifically, different options for sport facilities? How have they evidenced that they have responded to what people have told them and has the process been transparent? Have they made sure that the people involved reflect the diversity of the area which the authority serves?

Long Term - The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

For example, how will the loss of the facilities affect the well-being of the people of your area in the long term? How will it affect what your area looks and feels like in the year 2040 (a generations' time)? How have the relevant authorities identified the long-term trends that are most relevant to this issue (for instance, inequalities in health, obesity, youth disengagement). Are the underlying assumptions about future trends that the current provision is based on realistic? What impact does this proposal have on these trends?

Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

For example, how will the loss of the training facilities exacerbate problems that the local community faces - social, economic, cultural, environmental? Does the leisure centre support breaking negative cycles such as poverty, poor health or health inequalities? What are the conflicts emerging between different aspects of well-being and sustainability and how have these been resolved?

Integration - Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

For example, how will the loss of leisure facilities impact on economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being – it cannot focus on one of these areas, at the expense of the others. Has the decision connected different areas of public policy agendas to generate multiple benefits? Does it impact on both the Council's well-being objectives and the work of the Caerphilly public services board so far? How will this decision impact of the work and service delivery of other organisations in the areas considering organisation on the Public Service Board and beyond?

Collaboration - Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

For example, have the relevant authorities thought about how it could work in collaboration with other organisations - including public, private and third sector organisations, in finding a solution?

Under the Act, I have a duty to assess and monitor the extent to which Caerphilly County Borough Council meet its well-being objectives and I take into account the issues raised in public correspondence sent to me in my assessment and monitoring. One of your objectives is specifically focused on promoting the benefits of an active



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and healthy lifestyle (p. 10-12). Under the Act, public bodies must take all reasonable steps to meet their objectives.

Finally, for completeness, I attach our advice to Caerphilly public services board on their well-being assessment and on their draft well-being plan in case this could be of use to you. The draft well-being plan has objectives and steps relating to asset management with partners, preventative approaches to health and social care and increasing community resilience. One of the issues raised with us in public correspondence was the frustration that the Chair of the public services board (PSB) was not allowing the issue of Pontllanfraith to be raised at a PSB meeting. Whereas we understand that it is not practicable for every single issue to come through the public services board, PSB members could ask themselves what impact an important decision would have on other stakeholders and partners, and indeed on the work of the public services board so far. For example, the closure of the leisure centre could impact on the local health board and Public Health Wales.

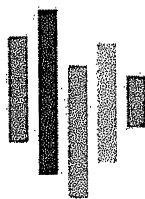
I hope that you will find this response useful. Thank you again for getting in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Marie Brousseau-Navarro
Director of Policy, Legislation and Innovation

p.p.



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Blackwood Town Council

Response to Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

November 2017

1. Introduction & Recommendation

1.1 Blackwood Town Council has been asked to provide its views on Caerphilly County Borough Council's proposals to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, demolish the facilities and profit by selling the land to private sector housing developers for the purposes of realising a one-off capital receipt payment.

We do so with a deep sense of concern.

1.2. Members are of the opinion that the Leisure Centre is a very popular community facility and as evidenced in the Cabinet report, is extremely well-used. More importantly members noted that the Centre is also one of the *lowest subsidised of all* leisure centres in the Borough, with the exciting potential to increase income streams and new business through new public and partner daytime usage following the closure of Pontllanfraith Comprehensive.

1.3. At a recent Special Meeting of Blackwood Town Council members were **unanimous in their opposition to the proposed closure** of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and that Caerphilly County Borough Council should **continue to operate and maintain** the Leisure Centre.

1.4. **Blackwood Town Council is of the view** that should the Cabinet, regrettably be *mind*ed to agree with their officers recommendations, then there is a third way the Cabinet *should agree to instead of closure*.

This is discussed in further detail in sections 7.9 and 8.2 below.

2. Links to National Strategy:

2.1. Members have grave concerns that the proposed closure and the way in which the proposal has been expedited, would in fact be contrary to the following Welsh Government Acts:

- **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014**
- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

2.2. *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014*

This Act states that local councils have a duty to support vulnerable young adults in Group 3 by:

- Helping with a young adult's **well-being**

2.3. Providing access to community-based services (non-statutory or otherwise) that help to maintain or improve health and well-being and is within reasonable walking distance for those most vulnerable within society who *A. do not own a car or B. subsist on extremely low disposable income levels*, is an undeniably important role for a local authority and as such, access to affordable local leisure provision can help a young person immensely in managing their health and well-being and *for those reasons alone is vitally important*.

2.4. *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*.

This Act emphasises the importance of our communities being:

- Prosperous
- Resilient
- Healthier
- More equal
- Cohesive

2.5. Perhaps more importantly in the context of the proposed closure of Pontllanfriath Leisure Centre, the Act talks about how public bodies like Caerphilly County Borough Council now have a duty to think about and publically state how they:

- Work together with others
- Involve people in making decisions

3. Analysis:

3.1. *Blackwood Town Council is of the view that the proposed closure conflicts with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in the following ways:*

3.2. A Prosperous Community

The *Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation* evidences very low levels of income locally. Pontllanfraith 2 is in the top 10% **of the most deprived communities in Wales** in terms of both the Household Income *and* Employment indicators (out of 1,909 communities) and as such provides a *very strong argument for maintaining this local community facility.*

3.3. A Resilient Community

Pontllanfraith has recently seen the closure of the *County's Civic Centre, the Caerphilly Music Services HQ, Pontllanfraith Comprehensive and now potentially it's Leisure Centre and surrounding public open spaces,* all to housing development. **The long-term cumulative effects of such a large-scale local authority service exodus is biting deep and its long-term consequences should not be underestimated.**

Nor should the short-term goal of realising *capital receipts* be the determining factor in this decision as the Department's report principally campaigns for. **A tipping-point** where local resilience cannot realistically be maintained, will be reached should the Leisure Centre close.

3.4 A Healthier Community

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation also evidences high levels of poor health locally. Pontllanfraith 2 is in the top 25% of the most deprived communities in Wales in terms of poor health.

The closure of Pontllanfriath Leisure Centre *will only serve to make this situation worse,* removing an established, well-used and popular centre of health and well-being *in easy walking distance to communities suffering from poverty and deprivation* flies in the face of the values and expectations expressed in both of the Welsh Government Acts referenced above and the Caerphilly Public Service Board's emerging Plan.

3.5 A More Equal Community

With a combined population of 17,048, the communities of Pontllanfraith and Blackwood represent a strategically important and significantly large population cluster around this Leisure Centre and this is demonstrated by the centre's usage data. Relocating (and reducing) provision outside of this large population cluster *will be detrimental to our most vulnerable residents.*

3.6. We reject the Department's assertion that Leisure Centre users will be easily able to travel to reduced provision elsewhere (the so-called 5x20 Rule). *Cabinet should note that the gulf in car ownership between the poorest and the most prosperous residents in Pontllanfraith who do not own a car is striking - 31% and 9% respectively.*

3.7. Therefore we believe that the proposed closure will *have its greatest impact on those who are the most vulnerable within our society* and who have no personal transport to mitigate the effects of costly, uncertain and time-limited public transport and the impossible to navigate on foot (at the distances expected) steep topography of our valley communities, whose road transport links are generally North/South as opposed to East/West and whose street designs and lighting is generally unsuitable for long-distance walking.

3.8. As mentioned above, there exists in both communities an extremely large variance in poverty and prosperity. Income levels in Pontllanfraith range from the top 10% **most deprived** in Wales to the top 4% **most prosperous**, the closure of the Leisure Centre will only serve *to further widen this gap.*

3.9. That is worth repeating, the loss of local provision *will not merely reduce* accessible and affordable community services to all, *but it will increase the poverty-gap* between our poorest and most prosperous residents.

3.10. This report also notes that *hundreds of skilled professional jobs have been relocated out of Pontllanfraith or lost through natural wastage* by the local authority through the closure of local authority buildings and services in Pontllanfraith over the last 18 months. (See 3.3 above and 3.11 below)

3.11. A Cohesive Community

Communities lose their cohesion when local services *are no longer local*. The Civic Centre was a vitally important service access point for residents from both Blackwood and Pontllanfraith. The closure of the local comprehensive school was a hammer blow to parents, grandparents, the community and most importantly the pupils themselves who fought so gallantly to turn the school around and keep it open and who now have to travel out of Pontllanfraith for their education on diesel and petrol emitting vehicles daily.

3.12. However, **Blackwood Town Council is of the view** that should the Cabinet be unfortunately minded to agree with their officers recommendations, then we clearly state *there is a third way*. This is discussed in further detail in sections 7.9 and 8.2 below.

4. A Healthier Wales – further analysis

4.1 Blackwood Town Council is of the view that should the closure proceed, there appears to be serious doubt whether the Islwyn High School facility could in fact have the capacity to take all existing users. Members also understand that the school has already entered into ‘gentlemen’s agreements with clubs and teams currently not using Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and therefore existing users of the 3G facility in Pontllanfraith will have *nowhere to go*.

This in fact highlights the huge unmet demand for 3G provision currently within the Borough, provision which will be severely damaged should the 3G facility at Pontllanfraith be closed without replacement.

4.2. With communities in close proximity to the centre having a relatively low car ownership, as mentioned in 3.6. above (compared with more affluent areas), there are concerns that *current users* would be deterred from continuing a physically active lifestyle, due to the difficulties and costs of public transport in accessing the somewhat isolated new school site and other venue’s in the Borough.

4.3. Blackwood Town Council reiterates its opposition to the Cabinet report and the Department’s assertion at consultation meetings that local people *can easily travel* to Cefn Fforest, Islwyn High, Heolddu and Newbridge, as this fails to take both our most deprived residents and the unforgiving valleys topography into account. Current Leisure Centre users without cars will simply be unable to access provision further afield.

4.4. This coupled with the loss of one of only two competition level 3G pitches in the Borough (funded and accredited by FAW) is a major *regional* concern. The current problems with facilities at the Centre of Sporting Excellence at Ystrad Mynach and *no guarantee or timetable regarding funding* any proposed replacement at Blackwood Comprehensive seems a recipe for disaster, with numerous teams and hundreds of individuals likely to suffer, potentially lose income, membership and even league status in the interim. For them *the winding up of their clubs and activities is a very real operational risk*.

4.5. **A Wales of Cohesive Communities** – Blackwood Town Council recognises that the current facility is at the heart of the community, and already delivers a well-connected, socially diverse and engaged community hub. The Leisure Centre’s closure, demolition and asset sale would decimate this.

4.6 **A Globally Responsive Wales** – the current high usage rates of the Centre is testament to the fact that the local community are already successfully attempting to lead a healthy, physically active lifestyle, and closure certainly would not guarantee the continuation of this but would, with the access problems already identified, **likely lead to a significant reduction in community engagement in healthy living activities.**

5. The Conflict with the Caerphilly Public Service Board's Draft Well-being Plan

5.1. Blackwood Town Council notes that Caerphilly County Borough Council is one of four statutory partners of the Caerphilly PSB and therefore notes *with particular concern* that this rushed proposal to close the Leisure Centre *is in direct conflict with* the following Caerphilly Public Service Board's emerging priorities:

The Caerphilly We Want Draft Well-being Plan:-

- **Positive People** - Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential
- **Positive Places** - Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable
- **Positive Change** - A shared commitment to cross-sectoral change

5.2. These shared commitments *must be more than words* on a strategic partner document and **Blackwood Town Council as your critical friend and local authority partner**, calls for these principles (detailed further under section 9. below) to be adhered to and enacted when considering the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

5.3. However, one priority above all is worth detailing here:

- To support our most disadvantaged communities to be resilient, cohesive and enable them to help themselves

6. The Financial Argument

6.1. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that *the financial implications in the Cabinet report are somewhat confusing and incomplete*. Members rightly point out that the Borough took the decision only last month to spend **over £3million** for demolition of the former much loved Islwyn Civic Centre and the schools at Pontllanfraith (which included the CCBC Music Service headquarters) and Oakdale.

Now to propose an additional **£325,000** to demolish the Leisure Centre *rather than spend £262,000* on Operational Costs & Maintenance Backlog Costs to keep the Leisure Centre as a thriving hub of the community is we believe a curious and strategically ill-considered move in such a short timescale.

6.2. Blackwood Town Council also queries the financial competency of proposing to spend **£500,000** on a new 3G Pitch (if monies can be found) rather than reinvest an additional £200,000 in 2020-2022 to retain the currently FAW endorsed pitch at Pontllanfraith.

6.3. Blackwood Town Council is gravely concerned that the County's planned maintenance and asset replacement policy at the Leisure Centre has been somewhat absent from the usual expectations of managerial financial planning for some years now if these maintenance liabilities are only now coming to light and indeed appear to be costs highlighted for *the future* as opposed to a statement of on-going prudent financial year-on-year budgeting.

7. Under "**Reasons for the Recommendations**" of the original Cabinet report

7.1. Cabinet Report Recommendation '11.1'

7.2. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that the closure proposal appears to be entirely based on the need to realise the full capital receipt potential *rather* than the health and well-being needs of the local community and members are eager to know what the **Caerphilly Public Services Board's view** on these proposals are as they are in direct conflict with the majority of the PSB's emerging draft priorities.

As such we will be writing to the **Caerphilly Public Service Board** separately to ask them to examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and how it may conflict against their emerging priorities.

Additionally, we will be writing to the **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales** to seek her comments on the Departments report and our concerns as expressed in this consultation response and of course to ask her to undertake a review to examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in the context of the *Well-being of Future Generations Act*.

7.3. Cabinet Report Recommendation ‘11.2’

7.4. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that to allow for the smooth transition of current users to Islwyn High School **without** a loss of service is wishful thinking at best and naïve ill-considered guesswork at worst –some very serious questions remain unanswered, how can this be so when the 3G Pitch at the school cannot accommodate any more users than have already been agreed to date and that there is *no guarantee of a replacement 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive any time soon.*

7.5. Cabinet Report Recommendation ‘11.3’

7.6. The Caerphilly Adventures Outdoor Education Service has survived *and thrived* at the existing site, members ask, why wasn’t Cwmcarn considered when they moved from Ynys Hywel initially and why should what seems a *profitable* service not continue on site and assist the Centre’s overall prosperity?

7.7. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that *the timing of this report is as a direct result* of the need for a speedy decision linked to the demolition of the Civic Centre & School Sites, *to the detriment* it seems of all else, especially the local community.

7.8. The report states the emerging Sport & Leisure Services strategy, whilst not fully adopted, does not recognise Pontllanfraith as a potential Leisure Centre.

7.9. That being said, Blackwood Town Council is of the view that any decision on closure *should be seen* in the context of the overall County Borough Strategy *once* agreed by Council and the ability (and responsibility) *to actively engage and empower the local community towards possible asset transfer and community ownership options* and not as a convenient opportunity to asset-strip through demolition and land-sale a successful Leisure Centre with the apparent primary objective of maximising capital receipts.

8. It is therefore recommended by Blackwood Town Council that:

8.1. Caerphilly County Borough Council **Continue to Maintain and Operate** the Leisure Centre in Pontllanfraith.

8.2. However, under the already agreed principals of “*Building Resilient Communities*” and “*Positive Places – Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable*”, if Cabinet members vote to close the Leisure Centre, **Blackwood Town Council as a statutory partner of the County Borough formerly requests** that the decision Cabinet makes would be to *defer closure to enable a six to twelve month grace period to enable discussions to take place* with:

- The local Community
- Leisure Centre users and groups
- Partners and other stakeholders

8.3. To explore the potential Asset Transfer of the Leisure Centre to community ownership and to enable all interested parties as described above to develop the most appropriate legal charitable operational model and to explore additional funding routes to ensure such a transfer of assets takes place.

8.4. Blackwood Town Council to formally write to the **Caerphilly Public Service Board** to request that the Board examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre that does not also allow for the investigation of asset transfer and community ownership of the Leisure Centre and how such a decision to close may conflict with the Public Service Board’s emerging priorities.

8.5. Blackwood Town Council to formally write to the **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales** to seek her comments on the Departments report and our concerns as expressed in this consultation response and to request that The Commissioner undertake a review (see powers at Appendix A) to examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre that does not also allow for the timely and thorough investigation of asset transfer and community ownership of the Leisure Centre and how such a decision to close may conflict with the principals and expectations as laid down in the *& Well-being of Future Generations Act*.

9. Reasons for Blackwood Town Council's Recommendations:

9.1. To enable Caerphilly County Borough Council to work in partnership with the local community and others to discharge its commitments and ambitions in accordance with the following National, regional and local strategic objectives:-

- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- The Caerphilly Public Service Boards:-

The Caerphilly We Want - Draft Well-being Plan:-

Positive Change – A shared commitment to cross-sectoral change

- Provide leadership to facilitate organisational culture change, and shift to new ways of working, aligning corporate priorities in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle
- Use our assets and resources more intelligently and sustainably
- Support our residents and partners to contribute fully to the Caerphilly we all want

Positive People – Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential

- Facilitate a shift towards collaborative working with an emphasis on prevention to address current and future health and well-being challenges.
- Develop a co-ordinated programme of volunteering, maximising it as a route to personal well-being and employment
- Equip our residents to manage their physical and mental health and well-being needs in partnership with services

Positive Places - Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable

- Support our most disadvantaged communities to be resilient, cohesive and enable them to help themselves
- Work with regional partners to create safe, confident communities and promote community cohesion.
- Increase the contribution that the environment makes to the health and well-being of our residents.

9.2. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that the Cabinet allow for reflection on both Acts and on the emerging priorities of the Caerphilly Public Service Board, whose joint partnership approach of all public sector organisations ***supports the rights of local communities to develop local solutions to local challenges, which includes local service delivery and ownership of community assets.***

End of report.

Circulation List:

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cabinet Members, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Pontllanfraith Ward Members
Blackwood Ward Members
Blackwood Town Councillors
Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Members

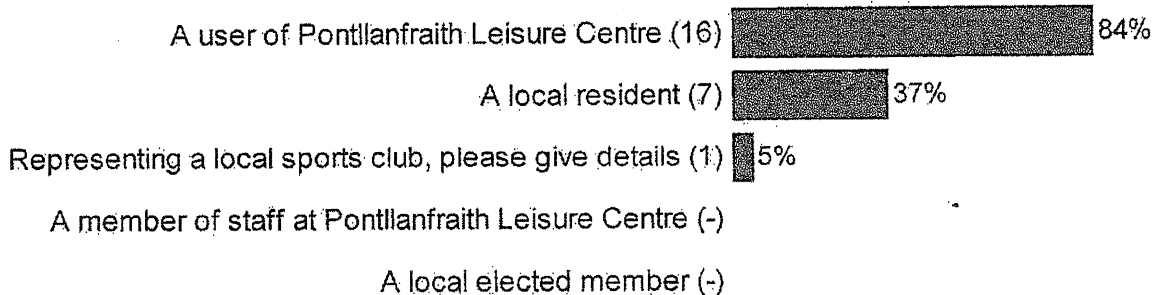
The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Caerphilly Public Service Board Members

This report was generated on 06/02/18. Overall 28 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

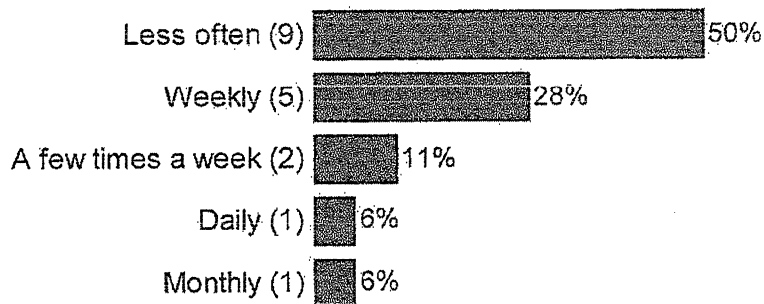
Please indicate your interest in this consultation (please tick all that apply)



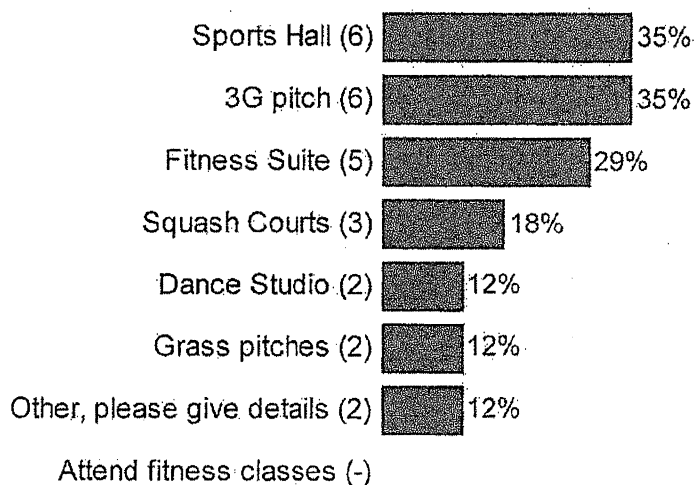
Please give details

Football
 i dont go to this leisure centre but use it at school
 youth forum
 Youth Forum Rep
 I attend inovate

How often do you use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre?



What facilities do you use at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre? (please tick all that apply)



Please give details

- youth club
- free time
- none
- never

What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?

- Nothing to do
- Wont be able to have football matches anymore
- no impact
- this may impact on my future choices and options
- school would have worse facilities
- my footballs team's training day may have to change resulting in me being unable to attend training and having to quit
- I am very disappointed
- not a lot
- not much as it's further away than the rec that i can use
- none
- I will need to move to next nearest leisure centre which will be much more costly
- The leisure centre is easy to access and keeps young people off the street and become active
- We can't keep playing netball.
- When we would train for netball it wouldn't continue for us
- We get to learn new things like this and play new games and have lots of fun
- lots
- I play football and my friends play netball
- We play netball in Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

Are alternative arrangements/facilities in place to meet your needs?



Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

- blackwood
- I dunno
- caerphilly leisure centre is close by (5 mins walk)
- the rec caerphilly leisure centre
- Leave the astroturf. do not close the leisure centre.
- Netball, football
- Have none
- Have none
- Have none

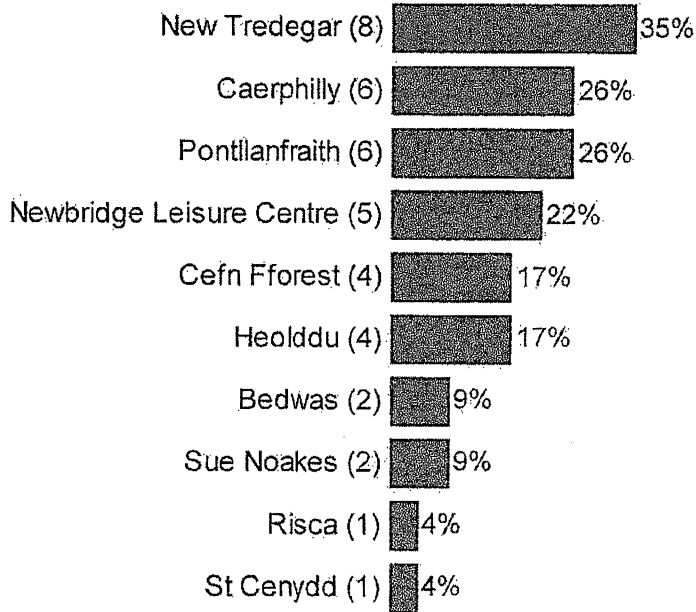
Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

- new youth club
- school uses the netball courts and dance studio/gym and 3G for pe lessons, if we didnt the school wouldnt have enough space for lessons
- By not closing it!
- letting people know where their nearest leisure centre is now. notify them of clubs they use i.e. dance which are close by outside of council services
- have it open once a week
- Dont' close it
- More games
- More games
- More games

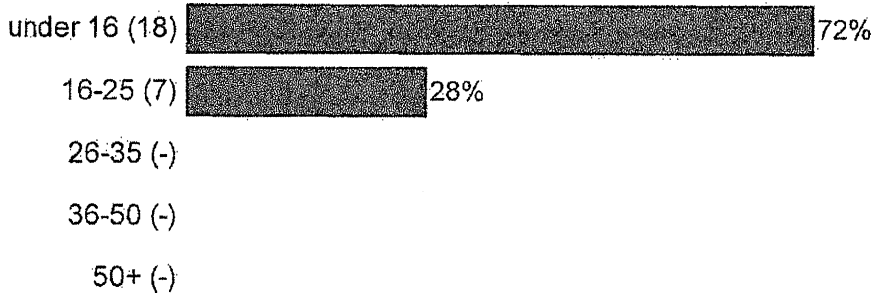
Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



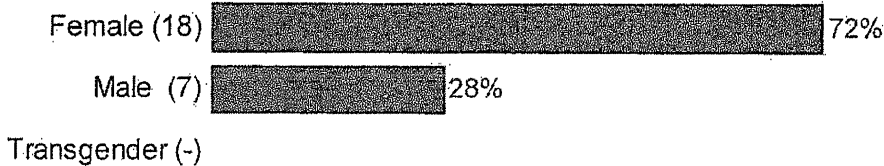
Do you use any other leisure facilities in the Caerphilly county borough area?



What is your age group



Are you



Please provide your postcode.

NP12 2ej	CF83 8TR	bedwas
np12 2nl	NP11 7Qh	CF831RS
NP12 1WB	NP11 7HB	NP12 2BP
NP12 1NX	NP11 3PJ	NP12 2BP

Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre Youth Forum Responses – comments Q4, Q6 and Q7

Q4
What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Ce...
Nothing to do
Wont be able to have football matches anymore
no impact
this may impact on my future choices and options
school would have worse facilities
my footballs team's training day may have to change resulting in me being unable to attend training and having to quit
I am very disappointed
not a lot
not much as it's further away than the rec that i can use
none
I will need to move to next nearest leisure centre which will be much more costly
The leisure centre is easy to access and keeps young people off the street and become active
We can't keep playing netball.
When we would train for netball it wouldn't continue for us
We get to learn new things like this and play new games and have lots of fun
lots
I play football and my friends play netball
We play netball in Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

Q6
Please give details of alternative arrangements below.
blackwood
I dunno
caerphilly leisure centre is close by (5 mins walk)
the rec caerphilly leisure centre
Leave the astroturf. do not close the leisure centre,
Netball, football
Have none
Have none
Have none

Q7
Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfr...
new youth club
school uses the netball courts and dance studio/gym and 3G for pe lessons, if we didnt the school wouldnt have enough space for lessons
By not closing it!
letting people know where their nearest leisure centre is now. notify them of clubs they use i.e. dance which are close by outside of council services
have it open once a week
Dont' close it
More games
More games
More games

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

April 2016

THE COUNCIL'S EQUALITIES STATEMENT

This Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce.

We will also work to create equal access for everyone to our services, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality, responsibility for any dependents or any other reason which cannot be shown to be justified.

NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL*	Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
DIRECTORATE	Communities
SERVICE AREA	Sport & Leisure Services
CONTACT OFFICER	Jeff Reynolds Sport & Leisure Services facilities Manager reynoj@caerphilly.gov.uk
DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW OR REVISION	N/A

***Throughout this Equalities Impact Assessment Form, 'proposal' is used to refer to what is being assessed, and therefore includes policies, strategies, functions, procedures, practices, initiatives, projects and savings proposals.**

INTRODUCTION

The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that Equalities and Welsh Language issues have been proactively considered throughout the decision making processes governing work undertaken by every service area in the Council as well as work done at a corporate level.

The form should be used if you have identified a need for a full EIA following the screening process covered in the [Equalities Implications in Committee Reports](#) guidance document (available on the [Equalities and Welsh Language Portal](#) on the Council's intranet).

The EIA should highlight any areas of risk and maximise the benefits of proposals in terms of Equalities. It therefore helps to ensure that the Council has considered everyone who might be affected by the proposal.

It also helps the Council to meet its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and supports the wider aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. There is also a requirement under Human Rights legislation for Local Authorities to consider Human Rights in developing proposals.

Specifically, Section 147 of the Equality Act 2010 is the provision that requires decision-makers to have 'due regard' to the equality implications of their decisions and Welsh Language Standards 88-97 require specific consideration of Welsh speakers under the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015.

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales has also published 'Good Practice Guidance for Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments and Scrutinising Changes to Community Services in Wales' to ensure that Local Authorities, and other service providers, carry out thorough and robust impact assessments and scrutiny when changes to community services are proposed, and that every consideration is given to mitigate the impact on older people and propose alternative approaches to service delivery.

The Council's work across Equalities, Welsh Language and Human Rights is covered in more detail through the [Equalities and Welsh Language Objectives and Action Plan 2016-2020](#).

This approach strengthens work to promote Equalities by helping to identify and address any potential discriminatory effects before introducing something new or changing working practices, and reduces the risk of potential legal challenges.

When carrying out an EIA you should consider both the positive and negative consequences of your proposals. If a project is designed for a specific group e.g. disabled people, you also need to think about what potential effects it could have on other areas e.g. young people with a disability, BME people with a disability.

There are a number of supporting guidance documents available on the [Equalities and Welsh Language Portal](#) and the Council's Equalities and Welsh Language team can offer support as the EIA is being developed. Please note that the team does not write EIAs on behalf of service areas, the support offered is in the form of advice, suggestions and in effect, quality control.

Contact equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk for assistance.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

1	<p>What is the proposal intended to achieve? <i>(Please give a brief description of the purpose of the new or updated proposal by way of introduction.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following the closure of Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School and the opening of Islwyn High School, it is proposed to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and transfer existing community usage to Islwyn High School that has similar facilities to accommodate the vast majority of the current programme.• The proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will allow CCBC to realise MTFP savings of circa £81, 000 and explore options to generate a significant capital receipt• There is currently a provision of 11 Leisure Centres within Caerphilly County Borough managed by Sport & Leisure Services, along with secondary provision at Ysgol cwm Rhymni, Lewis Boys, Islwyn High and Y-Gwindy School that provide community based sport and leisure facilities• Withing a 5 mile / 20 minute drive time of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre there is Cefn Fforest, Heolldu. Sue Noake and Newbridge Leisure Centre all with facilities that mirror the availability at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
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2	<p>Who are the service users affected by the proposal? <i>(Who will be affected by the delivery of this proposal? e.g. staff members, the public generally, or specific sections of the public i.e. youth groups, carers, road users, people using country parks, people on benefits etc.)</i></p>
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- Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre currently supports a broad programme of activities across a diverse age range. This includes a number of junior, youth and adult clubs and organisations across a range of activities from football, rugby, badminton and martial arts. There is a programme of leisure Centre delivery in areas such as fitness based classes. The facility also 'hosts' Islwyn Running club.
- There is a cohort of six staff employed by CCBC who are currently based at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

3

Does the proposal ensure that everyone has an equal access to all the services available or proposed, or benefits equally from the proposed changes, or does not lose out in greater or more severe ways due to the proposals?

(What has been done to examine whether or not these groups have equal access to the service, or whether they need to receive the service in a different way from other people?)

- **PUBLIC**

The vast majority of the existing programme can be accommodated either at Islwyn High School or with other Leisure Centres within the CCBC portfolio. Booking for Islwyn High School will be taken directly through the school, however there will be programme support from Sport & Leisure Services to ensure there remains a balanced programme of activity and availability of access

The current clubs, groups and associations using the 3G football pitch at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre are most at risk due to the same facility at Islwyn High School currently operating a community based programme. CCBC has articulated an aspiration to develop a new 3G facility housed within Blackwood Comprehensive School

- **STAFF**

Vacancies have been identified within the service area to support the staff based at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Two staff members have requested voluntary severance and these requests will be supported.

Trade Unions have been consulted on the proposal and have not raised any issues on the basis that substantive posts for all affected are protected within the service area

	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Further discussions with Islwyn High School to support the current Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre programme</p> <p>Ongoing investigation to support the aspiration to develop a new 3G facility at Blackwood Comprehensive School as part of 21st Century Schools Band B provision. Timescale to be confirmed</p>
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4	<p>What are the consequences of the above for specific groups? <i>(Has the service delivery been examined to assess if there is any indirect affect on any groups? Could the consequences of the policy or savings proposal differ dependent upon people's disability, race, gender, sexuality, age, language, religion/belief?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vast majority of user groups will be accommodated at Islwyn High School • Those groups who currently access facilities at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre that are not available at Islwyn High School will be able to access them at other CCBC facilities within the Sport and Leisure Services portfolio • Potential loss of service provision for existing 3G users • Those users without access to a car may need to consider public transport options
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Review of current bookings at alternative 3G / Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) facilities to support clubs currently housed at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre</p>

5	<p>In line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. (No.1) Regulations 2015, please note below what effects, if any (whether positive or adverse), the proposal would have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p><i>(The specific Policy Making Standards requirements are Standard numbers 88, 89, 90, 91, 92 and 93. The full detail of each Standard is available on the Equalities and Welsh Language Portal)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This proposal does not have any positive or adverse effects on the provisions set out in the Welsh Language Standards (No1)
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>N/A</p>

INFORMATION COLLECTION

6	<p>Is full information and analysis of users of the service available? <i>(Is this service effectively engaging with all its potential users or is there higher or lower participation of uptake by one or more groups? If so, what has been done to address any difference in take up of the service? Does any savings proposals include an analysis of those affected?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications have taken place with all existing users through a thorough consultation process • Meetings have been held with local ward members and ward members of neighbouring wards • Access to certain facilities at Islwyn High School has been placed on hold to accommodate clubs and organisations from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
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	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Ongoing review of 3G / ATP bookings to reduce the impact upon those clubs, groups, organisations who may be most at risk</p>

CONSULTATION

7	<p>What consultation has taken place? <i>(What steps have been taken to ensure that people from various groups have been consulted during the development of this proposal? Have the Council's Equalities staff been consulted? Have you referred to the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A full and comprehensive public consultation process has been undertaken and supported by CCBC Communications Team, to include all users, local members, town and community councils and other stakeholders• Two open forums have been held at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre providing current users with the opportunity to engage in discussion and register comments, observations and concerns• Two 'surgery' type forums have also been held with users to establish individual concerns and explore opportunities to mitigate
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Upon completion of the consultation exercise, a further report will be presented to cabinet for consideration</p>

MONITORING AND REVIEW

8	<p>How will the proposal be monitored? <i>(What monitoring process has been set up to assess the extent that the service is being used by all sections of the community, or that the savings proposals are achieving the intended outcomes with no adverse impact? Are comments or complaints systems set up to record issues by Equalities category to be able analyse responses from particular groups?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sport and Leisure Services operate a robust, systematic Customer Comments and engagement process that is regularly reviewed for trend
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	data.
	<p>Actions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to review customer feedback via established Sport & Leisure Systems.• Regular engagement with groups, clubs and organisations• Regular engagement with groups, clubs and organisations

9	<p>How will the monitoring be evaluated? <i>(What methods will be used to ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are being met?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport and Leisure Services operate a robust, systematic Customer Comments process that is regularly reviewed for trend data. • Consideration given to all observations and responses submitted as part of consultation process
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>As above</p>

10	<p>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified? <i>(Has the EIA or consultation process shown a need for awareness raising amongst staff, or identified the need for Equalities or Welsh Language training of some sort?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, Customer bookings at Islwyn High School will be taken through contacting the school directly as per any other CCBC Leisure Centre
	<p>Actions required:</p>

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11	<p>Where you have identified mitigating factors in previous answers that lessen the impact on any particular group in the community, or have identified any elsewhere, please summarise them here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vast majority of user groups will be accommodated at Islwyn High School. • Current daytime classes at Pontllanfraith, ie: Yoga, can be accommodated at Newbridge Leisure Centre • There are a number of CCBC Sport and Leisure facilities within a five mile drive time including Cefn Fforest, Newbridge, Sue Noake and Heolddu Leisure Centre's that can also accommodate aspects of the programme • Ongoing review of 3G / ATP bookings to reduce the impact upon those clubs, groups, organisations who may be most at risk
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12	<p>What wider use will you make of this Equality Impact Assessment? <i>(What use will you make of this document i.e. as a consultation response, appendix to approval reports, publicity etc. in addition to the mandatory action shown below?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To evaluate impact of any decision on particular groups, users, organisations, staff, members of the public and broader stakeholders. • Used as part of the Council's decision making process in support of the adoption and delivery of Sport & Leisure Service strategy. • The EIA will be an appendix to the report taken forward to cabinet for a decision.
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	<p>Actions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIA, when completed, to be returned to equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk for publishing on the Council's website.

Completed by:	Jeff Reynolds
Date:	
Position:	Sport & Leisure Services Facilities Manager
Name of Head of Service:	Mark S Williams



CABINET – 28TH MARCH 2018

SUBJECT: EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS) BUSINESS PLAN 2018-2021

REPORT BY: EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE

- 1.1 The attached report was presented to the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on the 26th February 2018. The report updated Members on the Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2018-2021 and the Caerphilly specific Annex (April 1st 2018 - March 31st 2019). EAS are required to submit their Business Plan to Welsh Government and Cabinet are requested to endorse it.
- 1.2 The report outlined the South East Wales EAS Business Plan 2017-2020. The plan sets out the priorities, programmes and outcomes to be achieved by the EAS on behalf of the South East Wales Consortium. The report also focuses upon the expected outcomes in Caerphilly and the specific programmes that will be implemented during 2017-2018, these are contained in the Local Authority (LA) Annex.
- 1.3 Having considered the content of the Officer's report, the Education for Life Scrutiny unanimously agreed the recommendations contained therein and

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that: -

- (i) the priorities contained within the Business Plan and the Annex and the impact of the plan for communities within its local authority area, be noted;
- (ii) the EAS Business Plan be endorsed prior to its submission to Welsh Government.

Author: Emma Sullivan, Senior Committee Services Officer

Appendix 1 Education for Life Scrutiny Report – 26th February 2018
Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2018-2021 (Final)



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26TH FEBRUARY 2018

SUBJECT: EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE (EAS) BUSINESS PLAN 2018-2021

REPORT BY: DEBBIE HARTEVELD, MANAGING DIRECTOR, EAS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek members views on the draft EAS Business Plan 2018-2021 and the Local Authority Annex 2018-2019, prior to consideration by Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The EAS is required to submit an annual overarching regional Business Plan with accompanying annexes for each of the five Local Authorities (LAs). This Business Plan (2018-2021) outlines the programme of work that is required to continue to accelerate outcomes for children and young people across all schools in South East Wales. The plan focuses on the urgent need to raise aspiration and accelerate improvement in pupil outcomes, improve the quality of teaching and leadership and build a self-improving system within and across schools and settings. The priorities for the Business Plan 2018-2019 have been derived from the progress that has been made towards the previous Business Plan and progress made across the region with the areas that have been identified as requiring improvements through self-evaluation processes and feedback from Estyn on the inspection of the EAS.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The recommended course of action contributes to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016:
- A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
 - A globally responsible Wales

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The EAS is required to submit an annual overarching regional Business Plan with accompanying annexes for each of the five Local Authorities (LAs). This Business Plan (2018-2021) outlines the programme of work that is required to continue to accelerate outcomes for children and young people across all schools in South East Wales . The plan focuses on the urgent need to raise aspiration and accelerate improvement in pupil outcomes,

improve the quality of teaching and leadership and build a self-improving system within and across schools and settings. The priorities for the Business Plan 2018-2019 have been derived from the progress that has been made towards the previous Business Plan and progress made across the region with the areas that have been identified as requiring improvements through self-evaluation processes and feedback from Estyn on the inspection of the EAS.

- 4.2 The delivery model for the Business Plan is on a regional basis, the needs of each school and trends within Caerphilly are met through bespoke work with each school. The EAS offers a wide range of bespoke support that is based upon best practice.

Expected outcomes

- 4.3 The Business Plan is now in the process of consultation which will last until mid-February 2018. All feedback from the Caerphilly Scrutiny Committee will be considered and the final plan will be updated and shared with all LAs from March 2018 onwards. The final version of the Business Plan will commence on April 1st 2018.
- 4.4 The expected outcomes of the EAS Business Plan actions are noted in the success criteria section in Section 3 of the plan. These are ambitious and progress will be mapped against these. In addition, regional and Caerphilly pupil level targets and attendance targets are noted in Section 6 of the plan and later in this report. Members will be provided with update reports on progress made towards these targets at key points in the year.

Issues and Findings

Progress made towards EAS Business Plan 2017-2018

- 4.5 The progress made towards the Business Plan and LA Annexes is reported to The Joint Executive Group (JEG) and the EAS Company Board on a biannual basis. This is also complemented by a range of additional reports (such as pupil outcomes, progress towards targets information, regional value for money and progress of schools causing concern) that are shared with the above groups and also LA Education Scrutiny Committees and termly Challenge and Review events with Welsh Government Officers (with the Cabinet Secretary for Education in the autumn term event). This report is not intended to duplicate previous reports that have been provided and reports only against previous Business Plan priorities.
- 4.6 Section 2 of the Business Plan (Appendix A) highlights a summary of wider regional improvements over the last 12 months.
- 4.7 Appendix C details the mid-year review of the current Caerphilly Annex.
- 4.8 It is important to note that not all actions within the Business Plan will have an immediate impact on end of key stage outcomes. It is also important to note that outcomes cannot be attributed to solely to the work of the regional consortium as other partners in the system also play an important role. The role of school leaders and governing bodies in holding these leaders to account are a key factor in securing school improvement.

Current Business Plan Priority 2017-2018	Progress Judgement (October 2017)
1. Support for School Improvement	Satisfactory Progress
2. Pupil Wellbeing and Equity in Education	Satisfactory Progress
3. Professional Learning: Pedagogy and Leadership	Satisfactory Progress
4. Curriculum and Assessment	Satisfactory Progress
5. Curriculum and Pedagogy: Wider Curriculum and Pioneer Development	Satisfactory Progress
6. The Self-Improving System (SIS)	Strong Progress
7. Wider Regional and EAS Company Developments	Strong Progress

The progress judgements made above are set against the success criteria contained within the Business Plan for 2017/2018. These judgements are made by the EAS using internal self-evaluation processes to gather a wide range of first hand evidence. All judgements are shared through the governance structures.

Outcomes from Regional Estyn inspection (May 2016) and progress made towards the recommendations

- 4.9 In May 2016 Estyn and Wales Audit Office re-visited the region to undertake the inspection of the regional school improvement services provided by the EAS. The structure of the inspection report is based on those aspects of Estyn's Common Inspection Framework that apply to regional consortia, which are covered by five quality indicators, each are graded (Excellent, Good, Adequate or Unsatisfactory). Additionally, an evaluation of standards featured as a performance profile in the context section of the report. A summary of the outcome is below:

Section	Grade
Support for school improvement	Good
Leadership	Good
Quality improvement	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource Management	Good

- 4.10 Estyn revisited the EAS in September 2017 to conduct an inspection of the progress the EAS had made towards the recommendations from a good baseline. A summary of the judgements is below:

Recommendation	Estyn Progress Judgement
R1 Consider the use of a wider range of performance indicators at school and regional level to ensure that the progress of all groups of learners is challenged and supported	Satisfactory Progress
R2 Improve consistency in the quality of evaluation of school improvement activities throughout the service	Strong Progress
R3 Identify and manage risks more effectively	Very Good Progress

- 4.11 The Estyn team considered a range of evidence including the consortium’s business planning, evaluations, challenge advisers’ reports, target setting procedures, risk assessments and the views of headteachers. Estyn does not plan to make any further follow-up visits to the EAS. Any remaining areas for improvement will be monitored informally by Estyn’s regional link inspector and the relevant local authority link inspectors, and considered during future inspections of local government education services.
- 4.12 Estyn noted in their report that “EAS senior managers make honest and accurate evaluations of the strengths and shortcomings in the school improvement activities that they provide for schools. They have a clear understanding of how to link the findings from self-evaluation activities to improvement planning.”
- 4.13 The improvements that are required at regional and LA level will continue to require a strong commitment of partnership working to be successful with Caerphilly making full use of their statutory powers, as appropriate, and wider support services such as HR to ensure that all schools make improvements at the required pace.
- 4.14 School leaders in schools in Caerphilly requiring the most improvement will need to fully engage with the improvements that need to be made and, alongside governing bodies will need to drive forward this change at pace. The EAS will offer support and challenge through this process but will not be able to effect change on a whole level without the commitment from each tier within the system.

Implications

The South-East Wales Regional Mission: Business Plan (2018-2019)

- 4.15 This Business Plan focuses upon the actions that are required to accelerate improvement across the region and across all schools, PRUs, Special Schools and non-maintained nursery settings in Caerphilly. Whilst this plan is regional, the bespoke approach at school level and through each individual LA Annex enables all nuances in need to be addressed. The actions contained within the plan align with the Welsh Government strategic document Education in Wales: Our National Mission (Action Plan 2017 – 2021). Further details on delivery can be found in the Detailed Delivery Document and the Professional Learning Offer 2018-2019 (these will be updated and refined following the final version of the attached plan). The content of the Business Plan will be used to populate and report against the regional elements within the Wales Education Report Card.

4.16 The final version of the Business Plan will be supported by a range of supporting documents:

- Local Authority Annex documents April 2018-March 2019
- Detailed Business Plan April 2018-March 2019
- Detailed Resource Overview 2018-2019
- Long Term 3-year Business Plan Overview
- Regional Self-Evaluation Report
- Regional Professional Learning Offer 2018-2019
- EAS Risk Register (Executive Summary)
- Self-Evaluation Timetable 2016-2018

4.17 The focus for improvement for 2018-2019 will continue to secure improvements in the following areas:

- To continue to raise aspiration, improve pupil outcomes, particularly for vulnerable groups of learners (FSM, Gender, EAL, MA and LAC) and reduce the variance within and across schools, settings and LAs.
- To accelerate improvement in schools and settings where progress is too slow by ensuring a more consistent approach is applied to schools causing concern and the use of Local Authority statutory powers to accelerate progress in identified schools.
- To continue to improve the quality of leadership, teaching and learning, particularly within the secondary phase.
- Supporting schools to ensure the effective development of pupil skills at all phases.
- Supporting the national approach and further development of the regional professional learning opportunities to ensure the success, equity and well-being of every learner.
- Preparing schools to meet the curriculum and assessment demands in line with new accountability arrangements.
- Supporting the development of a 'world-class curriculum' that will help raise standards for all in Wales.
- To embed the regional approach to developing a self-improving system.

The Regional Ambition is, by 2021 that:

4.18 Working with our key partners we will aim to transform the educational outcomes and life chances for all learners across South East Wales. We will do this by:

- Ensuring successful learning experiences and high levels of wellbeing particularly for those facing the greatest challenges;
- Building effective networks of professionals, across the five Local Authorities and beyond and working together to improve leadership, teaching and learning; and
- Attracting and retaining a team of outstanding people who embed our core values in their work and share a passion for excellence.

4.19 The delivery elements within the plan are centred around 7 key Improvement Strands: Support for School Improvement, Professional Learning (Teaching and Leadership), Excellence, Equity and Wellbeing, Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability, Supporting Collaboration, Curriculum Reform and EAS Company Developments). Each of these strands detail 'What we will do' and a section that will be used to monitor progress against detailed success criteria 'How will we know we will have made progress by March 2019'

4.20 The EAS has invested in building the capacity of schools and educational settings within the region over the last four years to enable more collaborative ways of working. This approach is enabling teachers and leaders to learn from each other, to try out new approaches and to engage with educational research as the backdrop for improvement. Across the region there are a number of well-established networks of professional practice, these will continue to be encouraged and the practice from within them shared.

- 4.21 The approach to build capacity and schools taking more of a collective ownership for the development of teaching and leadership has been developed further and the cluster model will be embedded over the next few years across the region.

Regional Key Stage Targets 2017-20 and Local Authority Attendance Targets

- 4.22 The Business Plan targets in Section 6 are derived from the information submitted by all schools across South East Wales during the statutory target setting process in autumn 2017. The target setting process across the region is robust with all LA / school aggregate targets linked to individual pupils.
- 4.23 To ensure that appropriate aspiration is applied across schools, a joint challenge process has been introduced by LA Officers and EAS staff. This process considers an analysis of projected future performance against previous performance, projected Free School Meal benchmark quarters, FFT estimates and WG modelled expectations.
- 4.24 The regional and LA targets for 2018 are final and Members will have had involvement with Directors in agreeing these. Targets for 2019 and 2020 remain draft and subject to additional challenge and scrutiny during the next iteration of the process in autumn 2018. **The targets for Caerphilly schools can be found on pages 2-5 in the LA Annex 2018-2019 (Appendix B).**

LA Annex Documents

- 4.25 Each LA Annex contains an overview of the performance and the main areas for development at a LA level. A summary of the schools that require the highest levels of support, inspection outcomes and an overview of categorisation for the LA. Pupil level targets and attendance targets are also included.

A summary of overall pupil performance in Caerphilly LA

- Since 2014, attainment at Foundation Phase has been above the Wales average, although the rate of improvement is below that of Wales. Since 2016, attainment at Key Stage 2 has been above the Wales average. The rate of improvement between 2014 and 2017 is higher than Wales.
- Attainment at Key Stage 3 is still below the Wales average, although the rate of improvement from 2016 and from 2014 is above the Wales rate.
- Attainment declined at Key Stage 4, but at a slower rate of improvement than that across Wales. Performance is still below the Wales average, but the gap has narrowed from 2014 and 2016.
- Attainment at Key Stage 5 is stable, with the same level of attainment in 2017 as in 2014. Performance remains below Wales.
- Since 2014, attainment at Foundation Phase has been above the Wales average. Since 2016, attainment at Key Stage 2 has been above the Wales average. The rate of improvement between 2014 and 2017 is higher than Wales.
- Attainment at Key Stage 3 is still below the Wales average, although the rate of improvement from 2016 and from 2014 is above the Wales rate.
- Attainment at Key Stage 4 shows a faster rate of improvement than that across Wales. Performance is still below the Wales average, with the gap narrowing from 2014 and 2016.

Gender

- Between 2014 and 2017 the gender gap narrowed at FP, and was below the Wales gender gap.
- At KS2 the gender gap narrowed in this time, and is also below the Wales gender gap.
- Between 2014 and 2017 the gender gap narrowed at KS3, but is still wider than the Wales gender gap.
- At KS4 the gender gap is wider than Wales, and has widened between 2014 and 2017.

FSM

- At FP and KS2, the performance of FSM pupils in 2017 is above the Wales average. But the FSM/non FSM gap is above the gap for Wales and has grown since 2014.
- At KS3, performance of FSM pupils has been below the Wales average between 2014 and 2017, and despite the FSM/non FSM gap narrowing, it is still wider than the gap across Wales.
- At KS4 performance of FSM pupils remains below the Wales average. In 2017, the FSM/non FSM gap widened, but is narrower than across Wales. FSM pupil performance has declined since 2014 although non FSM performance has improved in this period.

FSM benchmarking quartiles

- At FP, 59% of schools are above the median for FPI. At KS2, 54% of schools are above the median for CSI. At KS3, 40% of schools are above the median for CSI. At KS4, 77% (10 out of 13 schools) are above the median for L2 inc.
- Blackwood, Risca, St Martin's, Lewis Girls', Rhymney, Bedwas and Cwmcarn are all in Quarter 1 for L2 inc
- Heolddu, Lewis School and Ysgol Cwm Rhymni are all in Quarter 4 for L2 inc.

Attendance/Exclusions

- Over the past 4 years, attendance at primary schools has increased by 0.3pp.
- Attendance at secondary schools has increased overall since 2014, but at a slower rate to that across Wales, and attendance is still below the Wales average.
- Unauthorised absence in primary schools has increased to 0.9% since 2014.
- At secondary schools, unauthorised absence has increased since 2014 from 1.4% to 2.1%. The Wales figure has remained stable between 1.3% and 1.4% in this time.
- Since 2013/14 there has been a significant rise overall at primary and secondary level for exclusions of 5 days or fewer
- Since 2013/14 there has been a significant increase at secondary level for exclusions of 6 days or more. It has been fairly stable at primary level.
- There has been 1 permanent exclusion from primary in 2016/17, although there were no permanent exclusions from primary schools in the past 4 years
- Secondary permanent exclusions
2013/14 - 14
2014/15 - 8
2015/16 - 14
2016/17 - 20

Inspection/Categorisation

- The percentage of schools judged at least Good for current performance has increased since 2014 to 80%. One school was deemed unsatisfactory in 2016/17. Increase in schools judged at least Good for prospects for improvement has increased to 93%.
- The percentage of primary schools categorised Green has almost doubled to 44% in 2017/18. One secondary school categorised Red, seven Amber, five Yellow (provisional and confidential).

Business Plan 2018-2021 is designed to address the areas required improvement noted above.

Risks

4.26 Risks to delivery of the Business Plan occur when the following points are not adhered to:

- There is a lack of clarity about respective roles and statutory responsibilities leading to misconceptions about the role of the EAS.
- Agreed actions are not carried out in a timely manner by EAS and / or LA e.g. Schools Causing Concern Register actions

- EAS and LA staff do not demonstrate a united front when dealing with schools, particularly those that give cause for concern.
- Schools are not held to account in a timely manner using the existing mechanisms.
- There is not consistent application of agreed regional protocols e.g. meeting deadlines for target setting, elected Members attending selected EIBs
- Timely consideration is not given to the use of LA Statutory Powers e.g. low standards, attendance, exclusions, leadership
- Full use is not made of the training offers to ensure that all Elected Members are up to date with key messages.
- Full use is not made of consultation events to help shape the direction of the EAS.

4.27 Uncertain financial projections make it difficult to fully cost the Business Plan at this stage.

4.28 Continued changes in reporting arrangements and performance measures at KS4 for a number of subjects continues to present risks to LA and regional outcomes.

4.29 Limited impact of the work of the EAS in schools where underperformance in leadership is not challenged effectively.

4.30 The work of the EAS in improving outcomes for vulnerable learners will remain slow unless there is greater engagement with all key partners across LAs to ensure effective joint targeting of resources.

4.31 Officers from the EAS and Council are working together to ensure that these risks are minimised and mitigated.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 This report content (Education attainment) contributes to the Well being Goals. This report is for consultation only and so does not analyse the 5 ways of working in terms of decision making but it does recognise that going forward support is put in place to improve attainment. This must take a long term view as part of its impact on life chances, employment and quality of life. Causes within attainment are complex although one of the main ones is deprivation. The measure that is commonly used to measure deprivation is a pupil's eligibility to receive Free School Meals. One of the Council's Well-being Objectives is to 'Improve outcomes for all learners but we want to particularly focus on those vulnerable to underachievement.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The EAS have their own Equalities and Welsh Language plans in place. CCBC has therefore not undertaken any specific impact assessment on the EAS Business Plan.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The EAS was set up to be reliant on three funding streams to remain financially viable: core funding from councils, grant funding (this includes a contribution from the regional Education Improvement Grant (EIG) and other Welsh Government (WG) Grants) and income generated from trading services to schools, which due to the notion of a self-improving school system has reduced overtime.

7.2 By way of context, the EAS has seen funding reductions in each of the areas noted above:

- A reduction in the EIG of 14% (since 2014 and a further potential 11.2% to the regional allocation which would equate to £192k reduction planned for EAS in 2018/2019);

- A reduction in a WG grant to support new GCSE specifications of 50% which equates to £182k; and
- A 92% reduction in trading income equating to £1.15m (since 2012 with a further £100k planned for 2018/2019). We do not intend reverting back to a trading organisation because we feel this compromises our legitimacy and is at odds with the strategic direction Members have asked for.

7.3 The service continues to be hampered by short term, ad hoc grant awards from Welsh Government. The EAS continues to manage staff changes and are now some 40% smaller in payroll staff than when the service started in 2012. Whilst this has been effectively managed to date it has been a contributing factor in increased cash contributions to the pension fund (£170k for the next two financial years). In addition, Members will be aware that the total regional EIG reduction for 2018/19 totals £3.028m. Whilst the detail surrounding this reduction is becoming clearer the regional position is still to be determined.

7.4 Over the past three financial years the EAS has been able to contribute to the efficiency savings of Councils by reducing the core funding commitment by 3%. Following a recent meeting of the EAS Company Board the funding profile for 2018/2019 and indicative funding for the following 2 financial years was discussed. Taking all factors into consideration, the Company Board agreed that it can offer a 2% efficiency saving on last year's core funding contribution for 2018/19 and an indicative 2% efficiency for the next 2 financial years.

EAS 'As Is' Model Aug 2012	2014/15 (funding levels set by WG, based on RSG formula to LA)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	% Movement 2011/12 to 2017/18	2018/19 Efficiency Saving
		-3.4%	-3%	-3%		2.0%
1,187,541	1,169,666	1,129,897	1,096,000	1,063,120	-10%	1,041,858

7.5 These efficiencies have been thought through carefully in what will be a challenging financial climate for the EAS and councils. It is likely that the EAS will need to implement a change management programme to enable a balanced budget to be set for the coming financial year. Considering this the Company Board will meet early January 2018 to formulate the detailed approach to this and will communicate with JEG Members as necessary

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1

- Education Achievement Service staff
- South East Wales Directors / Chief Education Officers and Diocesan Directors
- Joint Executive Group
- Education Achievement Service Company Board
- Education Achievement Service Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Circulated to individual Local Authority Education Scrutiny Committees via Chief Education Officers / Directors in January 2017
- Regional Headteacher Strategy Group
- Regional Governor Strategy Group
- Regional Youth Forum

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 For members to receive the report for information and take the opportunity to comment on the contents of the Business Plan as part of the consultation process, prior to consideration by Cabinet.
- 10.2 For members to consider the main strengths and areas for development within Caerphilly, as detailed in LA Annex and to consider how LA services can be aligned to meet the ambitious targets within the Business Plan, therefore ensuring all pupils meet their full potential, prior to consideration by Cabinet.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 EAS are required to submit their Business Plan to Welsh Government and Cabinet are scheduled to approve it.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.
Children's Act 2004.
Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Author: Debbie Hartevelde, Managing Director, Education Achievement Service
Consultees: Christina Harry, Chief Executive
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Interim Head of Planning, Strategy and Resources
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Councillor Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member, Education & Lifelong Learning
Councillor Wynne David, Chair, Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Gaynor Oliver, Vice Chair, Education for Life Scrutiny Committee
Richard Harris, Acting Deputy Monitoring Officer
Steve Harris, Acting Head of Finance & S151
Headteachers
SEWC Directors
Joint Education Group (JEG)

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Education Achievement Service Business Plan 2018-2021
Appendix 2 Local Authority Annex 2018-2019
Appendix 3 Mid-Year review Caerphilly Annex 2017-2018 (for information only)

This is the draft version for consultation.
The final plan will be available in both Welsh and English.



The South-East Wales Regional Mission: Business Plan (2018-2021)

“Transforming pupil outcomes, creating capacity through networks, enabling excellence in teaching and leadership.”



The Education Achievement Service Business Plan has been through a thorough consultation process prior to agreeing the final version. The list of consultees is listed below:

- Education Achievement Service staff
- SEWC Directors and Diocesan Directors
- Joint Executive Group
- Education Achievement Service Company Board
- Education Achievement Service Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Individual Local Authority Education Scrutiny Committees
- Regional Headteacher Strategy Group
- Regional Governor Strategy Group
- Regional Youth Forum

This Business Plan is the regional strategic plan for accelerating educational outcomes during 2018-2019. It has been agreed by each Local Authority Director of Education / Chief Education Officer, the Joint Executive Group and the Company Board:

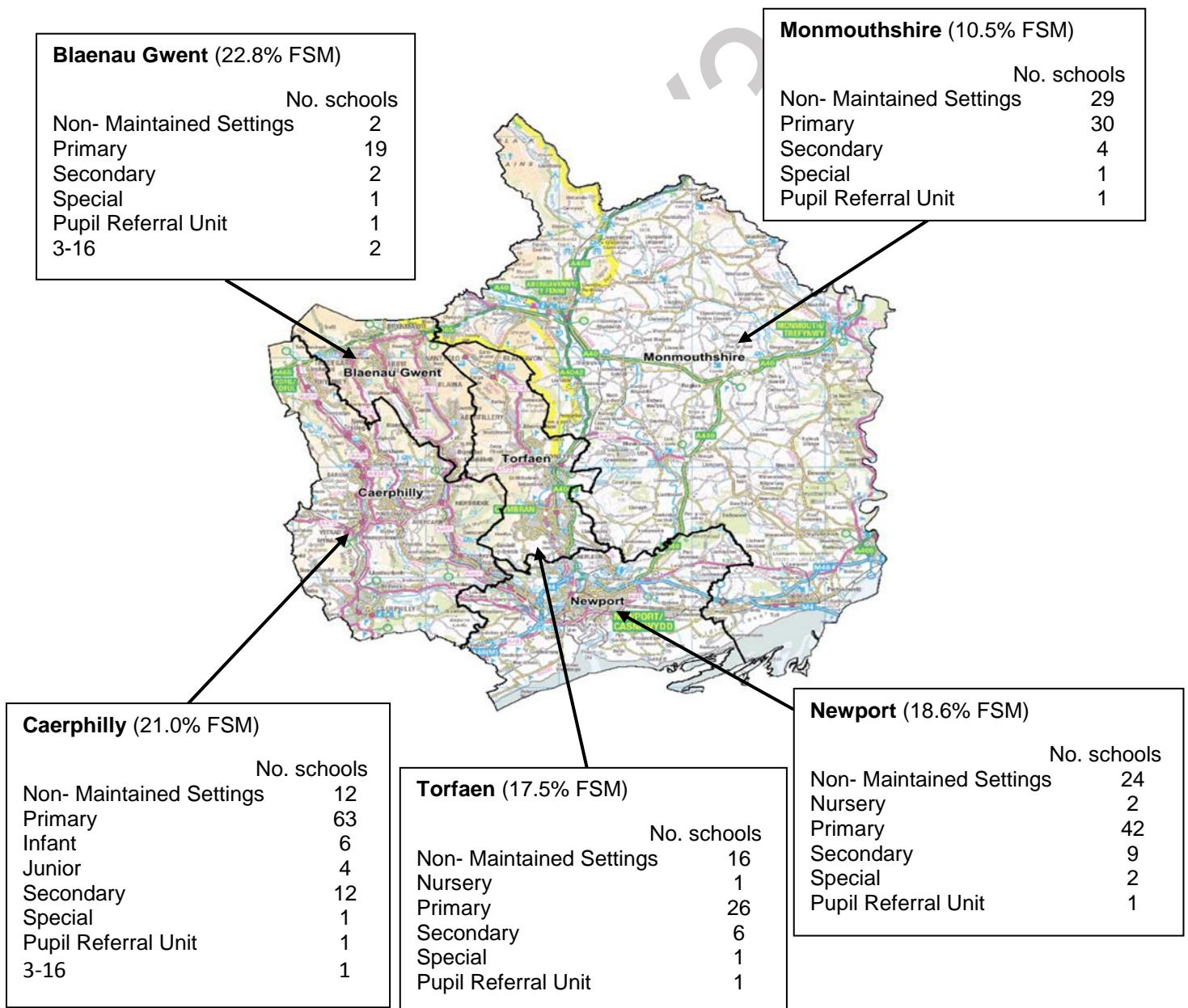
<p>Cllr R Jevons Chair of Education Achievement Service Company Board</p>	
<p>Cllr G Giles Chair of Joint Executive Group</p>	
<p>Mrs Lynette Jones Lead Director on behalf of South East Wales Directors Group</p>	
<p>Ms D Hartevelde Managing Director, Education Achievement Service</p>	

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7	Additional Supporting documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority Annex documents • Detailed Business Plan April 2018-March 2019 • Detailed Resource Overview 2018-2019 • Long Term 3-year Business Plan Overview • Regional Self-Evaluation Report • Regional Professional Learning Offer 2018-2019 • EAS Risk Register (Executive Summary) • Self-Evaluation Timetable 2016-2018 	23
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1. Regional Context

The EAS is the school improvement service for the five Local Authorities (LAs) in South East Wales (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen). The number of pupils of compulsory school age in 2017 was 71,234. This represents 19% of all pupils in Wales. There are 240 maintained schools in the region, 16% of all maintained schools in Wales (EAS figure correct from Jan 2018, Wales figure from PLASC, 2017). The percentage of pupils of compulsory school age who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) is 18.5%, which is higher than the national figure of 17.8%. This level of eligibility is the second highest of the four regional consortia (PLASC, 2017). In the region, 10% of people aged three and over say that they can speak Welsh compared to the Wales average of 19% (2011 Census, ONS). The percentage of pupils aged 5-15 from an ethnic minority background is 9.7%, an increase from 7.3% in 2013. This is a similar rate of increase to that nationally (10.1% from 8.3%). These overall figures mask significant differences between LAs, with the proportion of ethnic minority pupils in Newport increasing from 23.0% to 23.7% in 2017. As of March 2017, 816 children in the region are looked after (LAC) by a LA and attend a school in the region. This represents 14% of LAC in Wales.



2. Introduction

This Business Plan (2018-2021) outlines the programme of work that is required to continue to accelerate outcomes for children and young people across all schools in South East Wales. The plan focuses on the urgent need to raise aspiration and accelerate improvement in pupil outcomes, improve the quality of teaching and leadership and build a self-improving system within and across schools and settings. Priorities for the Business Plan 2018-2019 have been derived from the progress that has been made towards the previous Business Plan, areas that have been identified as requiring improvements through self-evaluation processes and feedback from Estyn on the inspection of the EAS. The improvements that are required at regional and Local Authority level require a strong commitment of partnership working to be successful.

Progress made toward EAS Business Plan 2017-2018

Business Plan Priority	Progress Judgement (October 2017)	Progress Judgement (March 2018) – to be updated
1.Support for School Improvement	Satisfactory Progress	
2.Pupil Wellbeing and Equity in Education	Satisfactory Progress	
3.Professional Learning: Pedagogy and Leadership	Satisfactory Progress	
4.Curriculum and Assessment	Satisfactory Progress	
5.Curriculum and Pedagogy: Wider Curriculum and Pioneer Development	Satisfactory Progress	
6.The Self-Improving System (SIS)	Strong Progress	
7.Wider Regional and EAS Company Developments	Strong Progress	

Outcomes from Regional Estyn inspection (May 2016) and progress made towards the recommendations

In May 2016 Estyn and Wales Audit Office re-visited the region to undertake the inspection of the regional school improvement services provided by the EAS. The structure of the inspection report is based on those aspects of Estyn's Common Inspection Framework that apply to regional consortia, which are covered by five quality indicators, each are graded (Excellent, Good, Adequate or Unsatisfactory). Additionally, an evaluation of standards featured as a performance profile in the context section of the report. A summary of the outcome is below:

Section	Grade
Support for school improvement	Good
Leadership	Good
Quality improvement	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource Management	Good

Estyn revisited the EAS in September 2017 to conduct an inspection of the progress the EAS had made towards the recommendations. A summary of the judgements is below:

Recommendation	Estyn Progress Judgement
R1 Consider the use of a wider range of performance indicators at school and regional level to ensure that the progress of all groups of learners is challenged and supported	Satisfactory Progress
R2 Improve consistency in the quality of evaluation of school improvement activities throughout the service	Strong Progress
R3 Identify and manage risks more effectively	Very Good Progress

Summary of wider regional improvements 2017-2018

Regional Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Assessment outcomes at the end of foundation phase and key stage 2 at the expected and higher levels are good and continue to improve. Attainment has been above the Wales average since 2013. Teacher Assessment outcomes at the end of key stage 3 are improving but still remain below the Wales average. • The gender gap in both foundation phase and key stage 2 continues to narrow at the expected level and is below the Wales average. At key stage 3, the gender gap is narrowing however remains higher than the Wales average. At the higher levels, gender gaps have widened in foundation phase, key stage 2 and key stage 3. • FSM regional performance at the expected level has continued to improve at foundation phase and key stage 3 but declined at key stage 2 in 2017. Between 2014 and 2017, the gap between the attainment of FSM pupils and non-FSM pupils has narrowed at each of these key stages. • The performance of Looked After Children (LAC) pupils has improved considerably at key stage 3 from 2014. Performance of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and those with English as an additional language (EAL) has improved since 2014. • At key stage 4, this year it is not possible to meaningfully compare results to previous years. However, performance of the region compared to national performance is still relevant. At the L2+ performance indicator, performance across the region declined by 2.6pp, compared with a decline of 5.7pp across Wales. This has resulted in the gap between regional performance and national performance narrowing to 1.7pp. • At key stage 4, 13 out of 35 (37.1%) schools are placed in benchmark quarter 1 for the L2+ indicator. More schools are now able to predict pupil outcomes with greater accuracy, 19 out of 35 schools had L2+ performance within 5pp of their June progress estimate. • Overall performance at L2 English Language, L2 Welsh Language and A*-C grades in GCSE Science has improved. • Between 2014 and 2017, the gap between attainment of FSM pupils and non-FSM pupils for the L2+ has remained fairly static. The gender gap between girls and boys and the Wales averages are narrowing due to a larger decline in performance of these groups across Wales this year. • Regional performance of learners achieving 5A*/A grades has improved for the first time in 4 years. • Overall performance at the L3 threshold has declined slightly. The performance of boys is at the Wales average, performance of girls is 1.3pp below that of Wales. Performance at A*/A Grades across the region has declined overall between 2016 and 2017 by 2.7pp. • Over the past 4 years, attendance at primary schools has continued to improve. Despite secondary school attendance improving at a slightly faster rate than Wales, it remains below the Wales average. • The percentage of Year 11 leavers known to be NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) across the region has reduced at a faster rate of improvement than that made nationally, and is below the Wales average.

Provision

- There is a clear understanding of the respective roles of the LAs and the EAS in supporting school improvement across the region and the implementation of National Categorisation and the SEWC Intervention Framework of schools across the region has been applied consistently to ensure accurate levels of support are provided.
- The EAS has appropriate differentiated procedures for monitoring, challenging, supporting and intervening in schools and non-maintained settings which are applied more consistently and have resulted in the majority of schools and non-maintained settings making good progress. The processes for holding schools in a red category to account have been robust and well understood.
- Refined quality assurance protocols across the service are evidencing increasing consistency in practice and highlighting inconsistencies that need to be addressed.
- The quality and range of data from pupil level up that the consortium now uses is improving. The process of collecting progress towards pupil level targets now enables the CA team and subject specialist to support and challenge potential underperformance within the academic year.
- There is a clear and coherent regional strategy for the self-improving system. The region has made good progress in developing mechanisms to facilitate school-to-school support in key areas including the recent introduction of the Learning Network Schools and cluster working.
- The support for new curriculum specifications at key stage 4 in core subjects, Welsh Bacalaureate and the implementation of WG initiatives such as Successful Futures is good.
- Challenge advisers monitor diligently schools' plans for their use of the Pupil Development Grant. They ensure that the plans meet requirements and focus appropriately on improving outcomes for vulnerable learners. The provision for these pupils is beginning to improve their outcomes at each key stage.
- There are good arrangements to identify the overall development needs of governors which are effectively met in most cases through a centrally delivered training programme.
- Specialist HR support has complemented and enhanced the provision that is already in place in LAs providing support and training for school leaders, disseminating regional policies and protocols.

Leadership

- The Business Plan sets out the regional strategic vision, aims and priorities aligned closely to WG guidance and key national, regional and local priorities with good progress has been made towards recommendations from Estyn.
- Self-evaluation and improvement planning processes are accurate, evaluative and balanced.
- A wider range of performance indicators at school and regional level are now being used in self-evaluation activity to ensure that the progress of all groups of learners is challenged and supported.
- Strategic leadership and management is good with an effective governance and communication structure, which is becoming increasingly effective.
- School strategic partnerships are good and continue to improve.
- Working practices with LAs are becoming increasingly effective in relation to schools causing concern.
- Where warning notices have been issued in LAs linked to standards, most schools have improved their performance.
- There are sound financial processes in place and processes to evaluate Value for Money (VFM) have been improved and refined and are now appropriate.
- Appropriate partnerships with other consortia have been forged with the main aims to improve provision and to raise standards for learners across the region.

The focus for improvement for 2018-2019 will focus on continuing to secure improvements in the following areas:

- To continue to raise aspiration, improve pupil outcomes, particularly for vulnerable groups of learners (FSM, Gender, EAL, MA and LAC) and reduce the variance within and across schools, settings and LAs.
- To accelerate improvement in schools and settings where progress is too slow by ensuring a more consistent approach is applied to schools causing concern and the use of Local Authority statutory powers to accelerate progress in identified schools.
- To continue to improve the quality of leadership, teaching and learning, particularly within the secondary phase.
- Supporting schools to ensure the effective development of pupil skills at all phases.
- Supporting the national approach and further development of the regional professional learning opportunities to ensure the success, equity and well-being of every learner.
- Preparing schools to meet the curriculum and assessment demands in line with new accountability arrangements.
- Supporting the development of a 'world-class curriculum' that will help raise standards for all in Wales.
- To embed the regional approach to developing a self-improving system.

The Regional Ambition is, by 2021 that:



Working with our key partners we will aim to transform the educational outcomes and life chances for all learners across South East Wales. We will do this by:

- Ensuring successful learning experiences and high levels of wellbeing particularly for those facing the greatest challenges;
- Building effective networks of professionals, across the five Local Authorities and beyond and working together to improve leadership, teaching and learning; and
- Attracting and retaining a team of outstanding people who embed our core values in their work and share a passion for excellence.

A detailed three year overview is available within the additional support documentation.

3. The South-East Wales Regional Mission: Business Plan (2018-2019)

This Business Plan focuses upon the actions that are required to accelerate improvement across the region. Whilst this plan is regional, the bespoke approach at school level and through each individual LA Annex enables all nuances in need to be addressed. The actions contained within the plan align with the Welsh Government strategic document Education in Wales: Our National Mission (Action Plan 2017 – 2021). Further details on delivery can be found in the Detailed Delivery Document and the Professional Learning Offer 2018-2019. The content of the Business Plan will be used to populate and report against the regional elements within the Wales Education Report Card.

Improvement Strand (Link to Education in Wales)	What will we do?	How will we know we will have made progress by March 2019? (These are in addition to the pupil targets at regional and LA level in Section 6 and in Annexes)
<p>A. Support for School Improvement</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>1</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #4a4a9a; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"> Developing a high-quality education profession. </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>2</p> </div> <div style="background-color: #e64a9a; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"> Inspirational leaders working collaboratively to raise standards. </div>	<p>To continue to raise aspiration, improve pupil outcomes, particularly for vulnerable groups of learners (FSM, Gender, EAL, More Able (MA) and LAC) and reduce the variance across schools and LAs through improving the quality of leadership, teaching and learning by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that all schools and settings receive high quality bespoke support in line with their needs to accelerate progress and improve outcomes. • Further developing pupil level target setting and progress measures for all learners and groups of learners across all key stages using prior attainment information and WG modelled estimates where appropriate. • Collecting progress towards targets information through a differentiated approach, using a range of first hand evidence to verify submitted data. • Challenging the use and impact of early entry using models of best practice. • Supporting and challenging school level planning documents to ensure best use of grant spend so that maximum progress is made by all vulnerable groups of learners. • Reviewing the quality of provision at KS3 across the region, providing support to accelerate improvement, focusing on the development of pupils' skills in literacy, numeracy, IT and reducing within school variation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Challenge Advisers (CAs) will effectively implement the CA work programme for 2018-2019 and the Consortium Intervention Framework will be implemented consistently, ensuring that nearly all schools, including non-maintained settings make at least strong progress against the bespoke actions within support plans. • There will be a more consistent approach to the use of statutory powers across the region through the implementation of the Schools Causing Concern Register meetings. • L2+ regional achievement will be >60%. No secondary school will be below 45% at L2+. Around half of secondary schools will be above or at least in line with WG 2b modelled expectations for L2+. The gap in performance between FSM and non-FSM learners for L2+ will continue to close, with the improvement of FSM learners. • >55% of secondary schools will be within 5% of their target set for the L2+. • Most secondary schools will use early entry appropriately for Y10 and Y11 learners. • Categorisation outcomes will evidence that schools require reduced support levels over time. <45% of secondary schools will require amber or red support levels for 2018-2019 with evidence of reduced levels of within school variation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to work closely with LAs, through the implementation of the Schools Causing Concern Risk Register to ensure a more consistent approach to schools causing concern and the use of statutory powers to accelerate progress. • Implementing the regional Foundation Phase action plan in line with WG priorities. • Implementing the Post 16 Learning Action Plan. • Identifying and sharing examples of best practice across the region, focusing on effective support for vulnerable learners and measuring and improving learner well-being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of schools placed in or remaining in Estyn statutory categories, particularly in the secondary phase, will reduce. • Most Grant Plans (PDG/EIG) meet requirements and focus appropriately on improving outcomes for vulnerable learners. The majority of secondary schools focus appropriately on meeting the target of 60% spend at KS3. • There are increased opportunities for primary and secondary schools to engage in school to school working through cluster working and networking opportunities that impact on pupil outcomes and develop leadership capacity. • Case studies of identified best practice will be created and shared across the region. • The regional approach to consistent target setting at key stage 5 using ALPS will be embedded. • At least satisfactory progress is being made to implementing the actions within the Regional Foundation Phase Action Plan. • At least satisfactory progress is being made to implementing the Post 16 Learning Action Plan.
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<p>B. Professional Learning</p> <p>1</p> <p>Developing a high-quality education profession.</p> <p>2</p> <p>Inspirational leaders working collaboratively to raise standards.</p>	<p>Review the current regional delivery model for professional learning in line with the national professional learning model so that it remains fit for purpose. Work in collaboration with EWC to ensure maximum impact of the PLP. Addressing the quality of teaching to improve learner outcomes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting teachers and school support staff so that they benefit from opportunities to improve the quality of their pedagogy and have opportunities for professional learning in a research-driven culture. • Supporting the adoption and implementation of new professional standards for all education professionals. • Improving the quality and consistency of teaching in the secondary phase by providing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further shift in the balance away from centrally delivered programmes so that, during the year, all programmes have school-based components and measurably impact upon classroom practice. • The Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Framework will have been disseminated in nearly all clusters. • Most school leaders will have adopted the ETLF or an equivalent instrument that impacts effectively on improving the quality of teaching across schools. • A minority of secondary schools will improve the profile of teaching from the initial baseline within year one moving towards around half in year two. • There will be an increased take-up on professional learning
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schools with an initial profile of the quality of teaching which has been derived from a variety of sources and access to appropriate support.

- Improving the quality of teaching, especially for the realisation of the new curriculum using the new Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Framework (ETLF).
- Providing guidance to ensure that all teachers, including supply teachers, have access to an individual professional learning plan.
- Delivering at a regional level the induction programme for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs).
- Implementing a pilot scheme to prepare Welsh medium graduate support staff for teaching through the medium of Welsh (GTP route / PGCE) concludes with evidence of progression to Initial Teacher Education (ITE).
- Supporting LAs in the delivery of the cluster based pilot models for supply teachers and Business Managers.
- Supporting the national development and regional delivery of pathways for Learning Support Workers.
- Delivering Higher Level Teaching Assistant accreditation as part of the national development pathway for Learning Support Workers.
- Collaborating with HEI and ITE providers to ensure high quality initial education and readiness to enter the workforce.
- Continuing to work collaboratively with key partners to attract and retain high quality teachers through the #Discover Teaching campaign.

Ensure that Leaders at all levels across the region are well supported to develop and aspire colleagues and to work collaboratively to embed the new curriculum and improve outcomes for our learners by:

- Providing an extensive portfolio of leadership development opportunities available for the regional education community. To include: Middle Leader, Aspiring

programmes for pedagogy and leadership from the current baseline.

- A majority of schools will have engaged with teachers having access to individual professional learning plans.
- An improved impact capture methodology for professional learning on practice.
- Evaluative reports commissioned from Higher Education Institutions demonstrate the positive impact of the induction programme for NQTs.
- Increased numbers of applicants and successful candidates for Higher Level Teaching Assistant accreditation from the current baseline.
- A majority of schools will have participated in the professional learning programme for Learning Support Workers.
- ITE graduates will be better prepared to undertake their NQT process and enter the fully qualified workforce within the region.
- A regional succession plan for leadership will be created and agreed by LAs to ensure more effective recruitment and retention of high quality leaders across the region.
- Increase take up of NPQH by highest quality candidates and secure more effective conversion from NPQH accreditation to employment as Headteachers within the region.

	<p>Senior Leader, Aspiring Headteacher, New to Headship, Experienced Headteacher and Executive Headteacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing secondary school leaders opportunities to experience and learn from a range of successful settings within and beyond the region. • Providing specialist HR training for school leaders in areas such as effective performance management and addressing performance concerns are effectively implemented in schools. • Delivering the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) to provide more effective preparation for headship. • Embedding the use of the Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Framework across the region to maximise the impact of leadership on standards of teaching and learning. • Developing professional learning programmes that will satisfy accreditation processes of the National Academy for Educational Leadership. • To support the development and implementation of the Associates Programme for the National Academy for Educational Leadership. 	
	<p>The Governor Support & Development team will support and develop skilled, focused, effective governing bodies that work in partnership with School Leaders to raise standards by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to offer a Professional Learning Offer that includes the EAS Mandatory Training and Strategic Development Programme for Governors. • Making E-Learning available for each priority area from within the professional learning offer for governors. • Providing support to Governing Bodies that require improvement by sharing and promoting best practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual questionnaires for stakeholders deem the majority of governing bodies as effective by July 2019 • Increased numbers of governing bodies that complete the online Governing Body Self Evaluation (initial pilot 29%) to increase year on year. • Attendance at Mandatory Training and engagement in online Mandatory E-learning to remain in line with the annual turnover of governors (35% of governor population). • Increase engagement at Link Governor Seminar and on the Link Governor Hwb Network by 20%.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminating the EAS Excellence in Governance Framework to ensure that all Governing Bodies are effectively challenging and supporting schools to improve. • Continuing to develop the effectiveness of priority Link Governors in improving outcomes for groups of learners by providing guidance on: More Able, Pupil Development Grant and Looked After Children. • Providing an effective clerking service to schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor awareness of the link role for deprivation via the annual questionnaire will raise from 78% to 82% and the role for More Able and Looked After Children will be no lower than 75%. • Maintain the percentage of governors agreeing that overall, they are satisfied with the service they receive from Governor Support at over 95%.
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<p>C. Excellence, Equity and Wellbeing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity and well-being.</p>	<p>Support the national approach and develop regional professional learning opportunities to ensure the success and well-being of every learner by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a wellbeing toolkit using a wide range of data for vulnerable groups to identify school, LA and regional needs, sharing and improving practice. • Supporting schools and settings to improve their use of the Pupil Development Grant (PDG) and to develop more integrated approaches to reducing the impact of poverty on outcomes. • Working with key partners such as the Regional Equity and Wellbeing Strategy Group to provide a more coherent approach to the relationship between education provision and other services available to support schools in disadvantaged areas. • Maximising the impact of commissioned research on practice in relation to more vulnerable groups at school, LA and regional level. • Embedding the regional strategy for LAC. • Further refining the collaborative arrangements in place for Pupil Referral Units and Special Schools which are designed to improve the outcomes for these groups of learners. • Supporting schools to improve their work in measuring and improving learner wellbeing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A majority of schools in year 1 will utilise the wellbeing toolkit to improve provision and more effective resourcing for vulnerable groups. • The regional More Able Strategy will be understood and implemented over a two-year period by all schools, leading to improved outcomes for learners. • Improved quality in PDG plans, especially in secondary schools with around half of plans in year 1 making the shift to proven approaches that lead to sustainable improvements in outcomes. • Most clusters access and make use, at school level of new professional learning opportunities in relation to ACEs. • An agreed definition of wellbeing will operate across many clusters in year 1. • Improved outcomes based upon the baseline from 2017 and uptake in university placements for learners within the SEREN programme.
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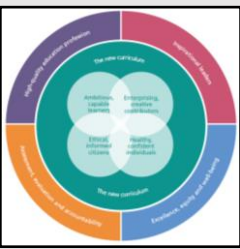
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on the success of the Seren Network to embed the regional strategy to deliver improved outcomes for our more able learners at each key stage. • Expanding professional learning opportunities to enable key school practitioners to become more aware that the effect of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have on learners. • Working closely with key partners to support The Children’s Rights Approach to education. • Working with Regional Leads for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) to implement, as appropriate, professional learning for school based practitioners. • By working closely with LAs to support the implementation of Additional Learning Needs (ALN), attendance, exclusion and for those pupils Educated other than at school (EOTAS) strategies at school level. 	
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<p>D. Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robust assessment, evaluation and accountability arrangements supporting a self-improving system.</p>	<p>Robust delivery of support and challenge for identified departments leading to improvements in provision and outcomes.</p> <p>Schools are prepared to meet the curriculum and assessment demands in line with new accountability arrangements.</p> <p>Supporting schools to ensure the effective development of pupil skills at all phases.</p> <p>In collaboration with key partners refine the regional Welsh medium Education Strategy and continue to deliver on the key principles within the Global Futures Programme.</p> <p>To implement the Regional Strategy for Literacy and Numeracy in collaboration with key partners to accelerate outcomes at all key stages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most departments engage well with the regional support programmes leading to improvements in provision and outcomes. • By March 2019, all schools will have developed understanding of the emerging transformational curriculum coupled with a flexible approach to the changing performance measures. • A majority of schools make effective use of guidance materials for effective skills development at school level. • Increased numbers of practitioners enrolled onto language training events demonstrating improved confidence in language use. • Increased number of clusters with a member of staff trained to Higher Level through the one-year Welsh Language Sabbatical Scheme. • Increased proportion of Welsh medium teachers and support staff trained through the Sabbatical Scheme. • National Language Charter objectives will be met in all schools
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	<p>Refine and develop support for Skills Challenge Certificate/Welsh Baccalaureate.</p>	<p>(Silver Award) according to individual school timetables towards verification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cymraeg Campus objectives (Bronze / Silver) met in all participating English medium schools. • Improved standards in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) and increased numbers of young people choosing to study modern foreign language subjects at GCSE and A level. • Improved learning experiences of modern foreign languages for learners from 7-19. • Outcomes from the Excellence in mathematics and Science National Networks become embedded across the region. • Most schools will implement through their planning recommendations of the regional strategies for Literacy and Numeracy. • Regional average Skills Challenge Certificate results to be in line with the National Average (-4/+2 tolerance).
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<p>E. Supporting Collaboration</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robust assessment, evaluation and accountability arrangements supporting a self-improving system.</p>	<p>Ensure that education professionals within the region can thrive in a supportive and collaborative environment to raise standards and ensure that every young person can fulfil their potential. We will achieve this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising investment in clusters of schools to build capacity encouraging clusters to take collective ownership of outcomes, improve the quality of teaching and learning and develop the new curriculum. • Piloting a cluster based self-assessment and development tool across selected clusters to enable accurate assessment of needs. • Increasing opportunities for university-school engagement to support an increased research-engaged profession. • Supporting schools to develop as learning organisations (SLOs), enabling their capacity to adapt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A majority of cluster improvement plans are of a good quality focusing on shared data and a common commitment to collective working that enhances transition arrangements for learners. • The self-assessment cluster tool will be used effectively by 3 clusters as a pilot programme in year 1. • At least 12 comprehensive schools and 40 primary schools will have engaged in collaborative work with Higher Education Institutions. • by the end of the summer term 2018 to produce school level research on improving practice. • Outcomes of research will inform future design of provision for Learning network schools, the cluster model and bespoke support for departments. • All schools will have engaged with the SLO model within year 1 and a majority of schools will have completed a self-assessment in
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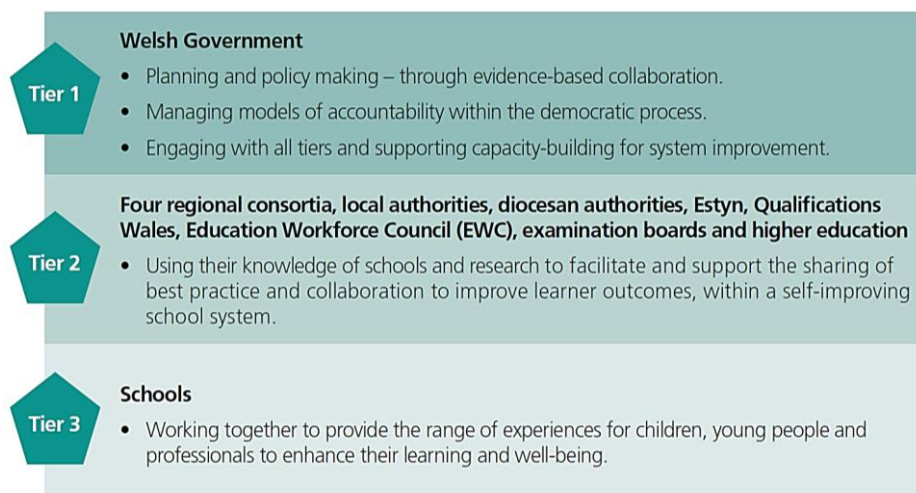
	<p>quickly and explore new approaches, with a means to improving learning and outcomes for their learners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing and refining the Learning Network School approach, the cluster model and the approach to supporting GCSE specification changes in partnership with a Higher Education Institution. • Developing further the school based peer enquiry model. • Working in partnership with Local Authorities to develop a model for school federations. • Continuing to work in partnership with other regions to realise delivery of pan regional plans. 	<p>relation to the OECD model for SLOs in year 2 to enable schools to become more effective learning organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A majority of clusters have examples of school based peer enquiry work in relation to curriculum development and professional learning. • Outcomes of pan-regional collaborative programmes covering leadership, pedagogy, assessment, performance measurement and Equity and Wellbeing will inform provision and future planning.
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<p>F. Curriculum Reform</p> 	<p>Support the development of a 'world-class curriculum' that will help raise standards for all in Wales by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with a partner Higher Education Institution to develop and deliver a focussed programme of professional learning that supports cluster based curriculum development. • Working in partnership with Welsh Government to lead the development of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE). • Continuing to provide support to and monitor the work of pioneer schools, providing opportunities for sharing of learning across the region. • Supporting schools, through effective brokerage in continuing to embed the Digital Competence Framework (DCF) and work realising the strategic aims of cracking the code. • Supporting schools trialling and testing of curriculum; planning and preparation for changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All schools will have a nominated lead practitioner for curriculum design and development, who will have worked through the professional learning programme. • Most clusters will have begun to develop principles for a collaborative approach to curriculum planning. • Humanities Area of Learning and Experience will be developed and tested through professional inquiry, in time for publication in the new Curriculum for Wales in March 2019. • All pioneer schools will pro-actively contribute to national AoLE development and the regional development programme. • DCF school survey to show most schools making good or better progress with implementing DCF. • Many schools will be actively engaged with Hwb platform. • Few schools receive Estyn recommendations to improve provision for ICT. • Many schools will be actively engaged with the 360 audit tool. • Identified clusters engage well with the Coding Club initiative.
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<p>G. Company Development</p>	<p>To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the EAS by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging fully with all consultation groups to ensure increased engagement with regional strategies. • Using of a wider range of performance indicators at school and regional level to ensure that the progress of all groups of learners is challenged and supported more fully. • Refining the funding processes and budget monitoring systems in line with the workforce strategy and regional need. • Introducing a regional Management Information System to enable more efficient of a range of data. • improving the process to evaluate the effectiveness of grant spend on pupil outcomes. • Ensuring that the EAS remains compliant with current and future legislative changes. • Ensuring governance and accountability structures are robust and that roles and responsibilities between the LA and EAS remain clear. • Engaging with any future changes to the National Model for regional working. • Learning from the other regions and sharing best practice in approaches to accelerating pupil outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EAS remains compliant with Company Law. • There is a sustainable three-year financial plan in place. • Evaluating VFM at individual project level. • The majority of schools audited evidence effective use of grant money which will contribute to improved provision and outcomes for vulnerable learners. • A Management Information system will be implemented from September 2018 enabling a more refined use of data. • Performance Management systems remain robust and self-evaluation processes present an accurate picture of the region. • The governance and accountability structures are robust and roles and responsibilities between the LA and EAS remain clear. • Collaboration and learning from other regions demonstrate an impact on the provision and outcomes within the region.
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4. National and Regional Implementation Strategies

The EAS will work closely with all key partners to ensure the realisation of this Business Plan. The implementation of the Tiers, noted below, are embedded in way in which we will continue to work across the sectors.



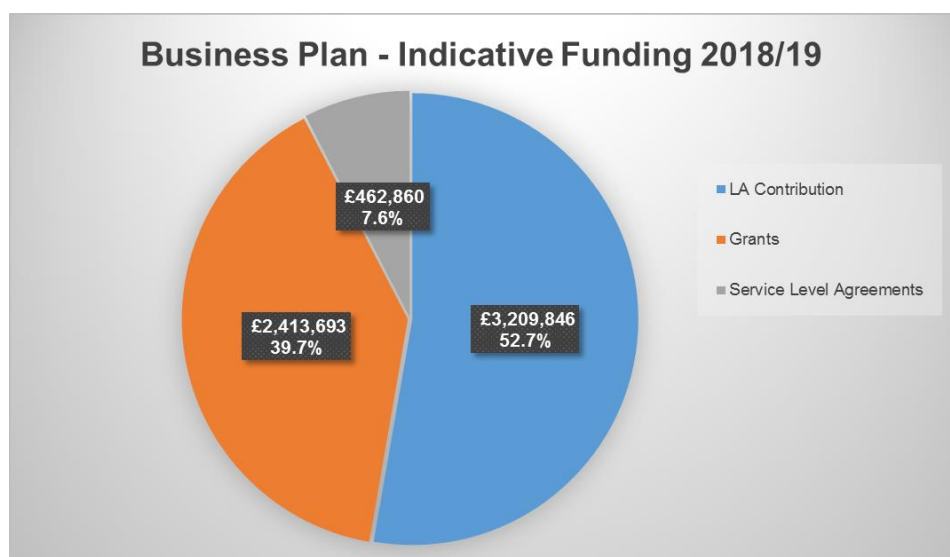
Source: *Education in Wales: Our National Mission*

The EAS has invested in building the capacity of schools and educational settings within the region over the last four years to enable more collaborative ways of working. This approach is enabling teachers and leaders to learn from each other, to try out new approaches and to engage with educational research as the backdrop for improvement. Across the region there are a number of well-established networks of professional practice, these will continue to be encouraged and the practice from within them shared.

The approach to build capacity and schools taking more of a collective ownership for the development of teaching and leadership has been developed further and the cluster model will be embedded over the next few years across the region.

5. Funding Information (indicative – will be updated)

The EAS is funded on an annual basis from three sources as illustrated below. A detailed spending plan accompanies this Business Plan and is intrinsically linked to all actions contained within the Business Plan.



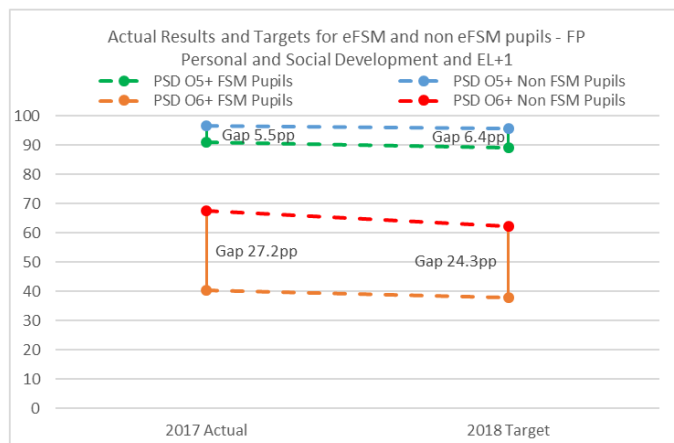
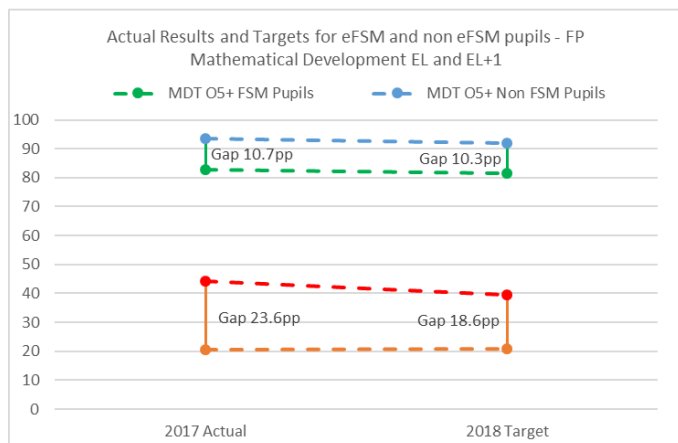
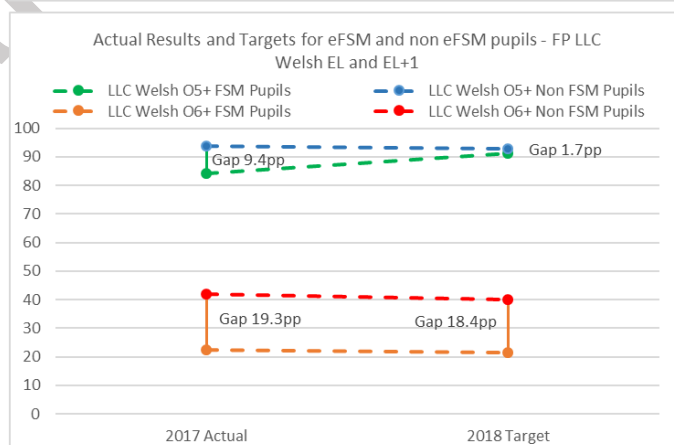
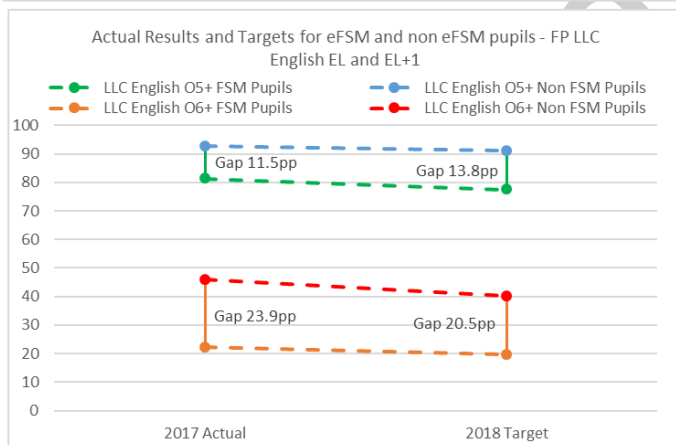
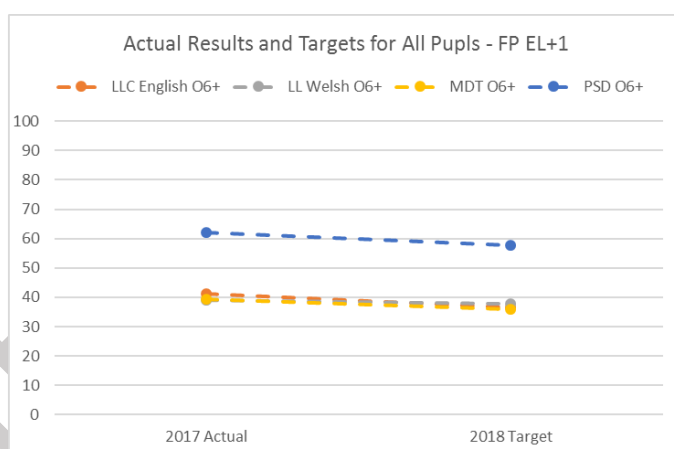
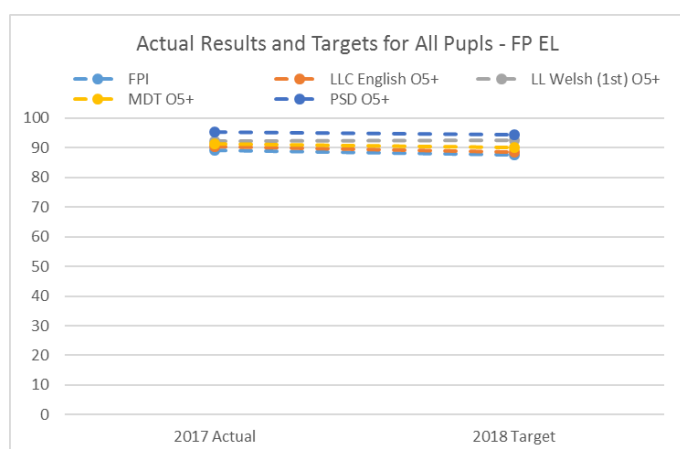
6. Regional Key Stage Targets 2017-20 and Local Authority Attendance Targets

The targets below are derived from the information submitted by all schools across South East Wales during the statutory target setting process in autumn 2017. The target setting process across the region is robust with all LA / school aggregate targets linked to individual pupils.

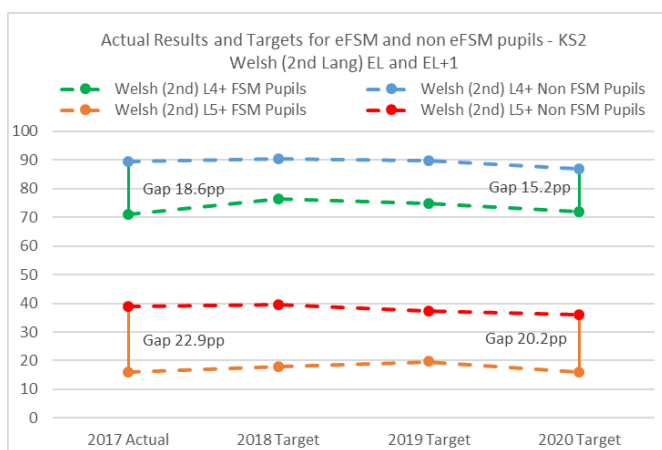
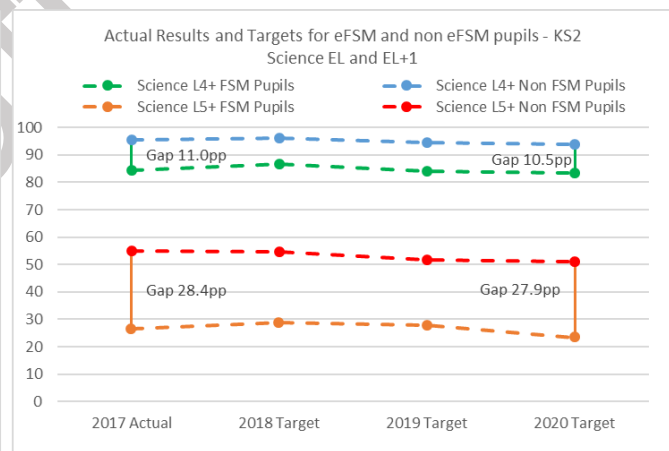
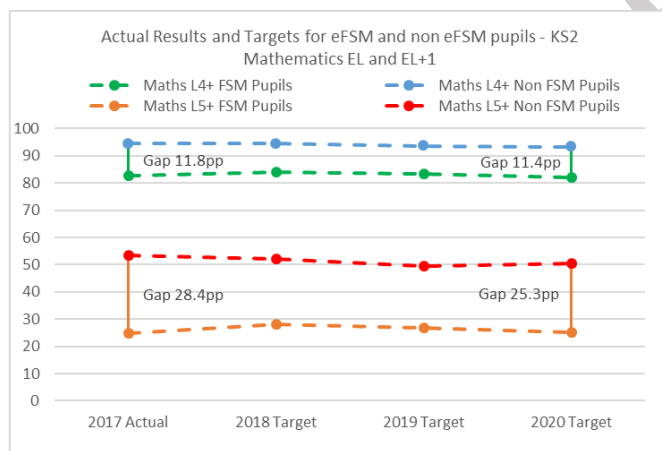
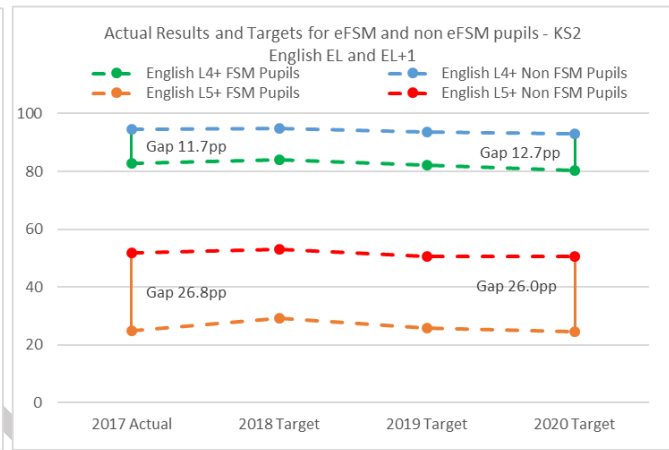
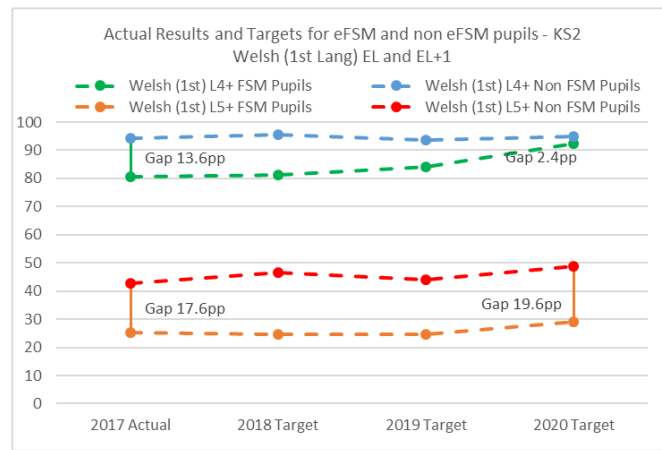
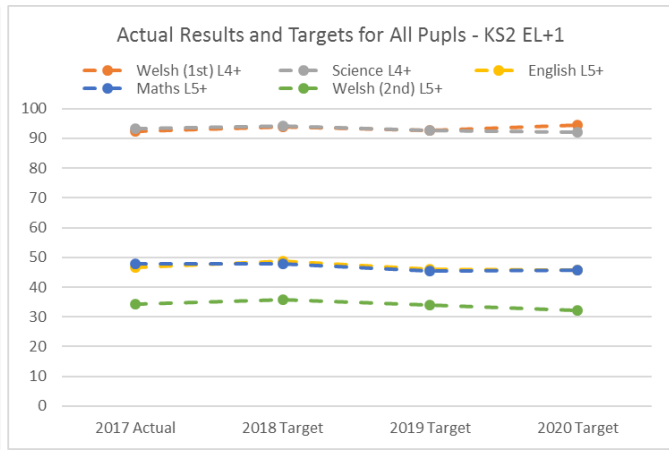
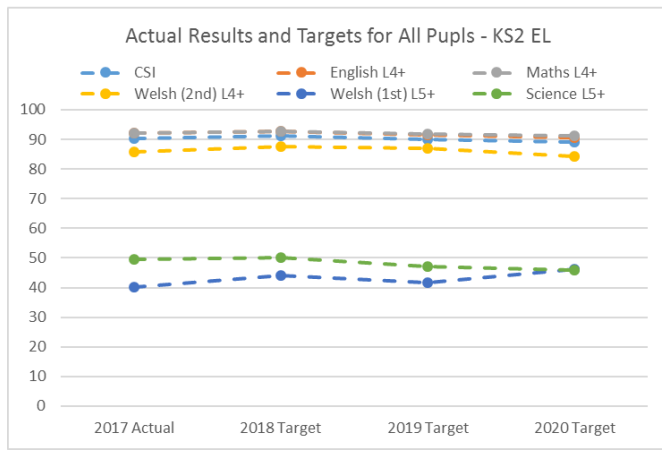
To ensure that appropriate aspiration is applied across schools, a joint challenge process has been introduced by LA Officers and EAS staff. This process considers an analysis of projected future performance against previous performance, projected Free School Meal benchmark quarters, FFT estimates and WG modelled expectations.

Targets for 2019 and 2020 remain draft and subject to additional challenge and scrutiny during the next iteration of the process in 2018. Individual LA aggregate targets can be found in the accompanying LA Annex documents.

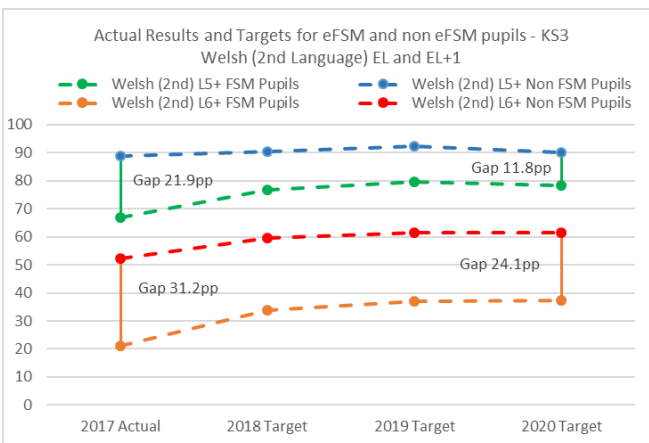
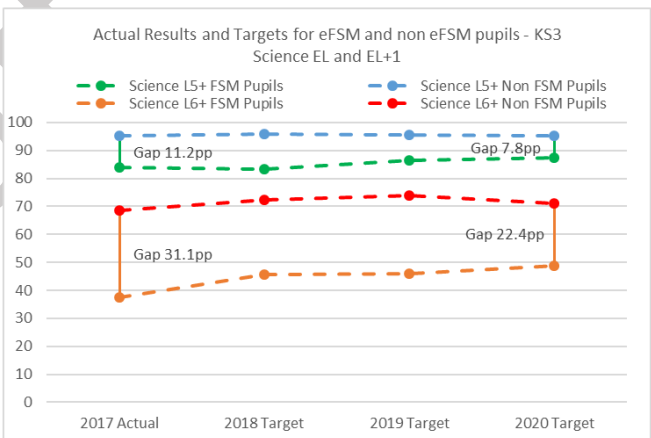
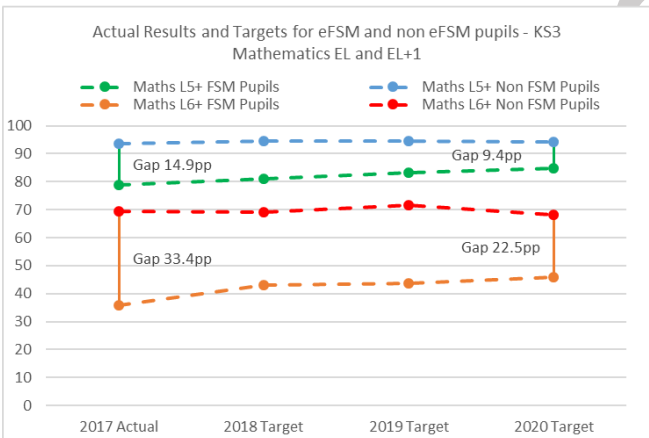
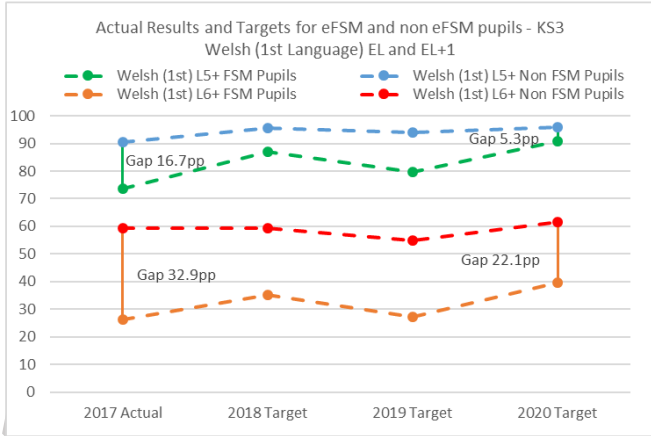
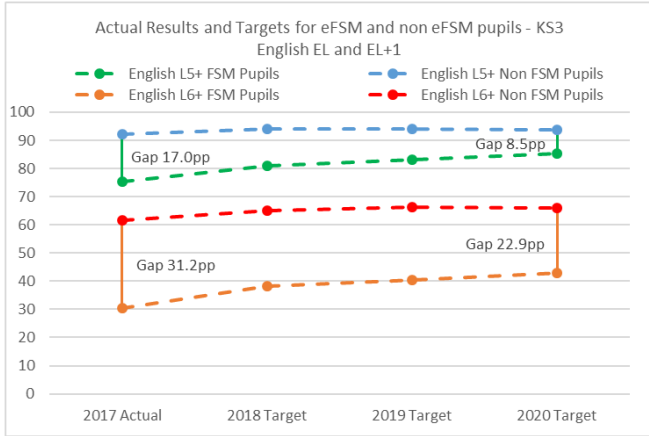
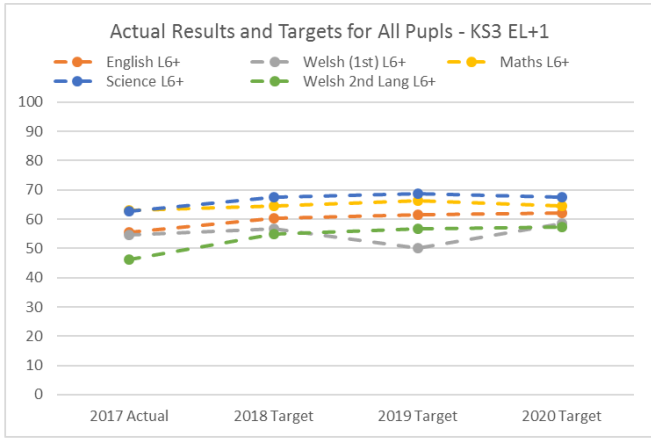
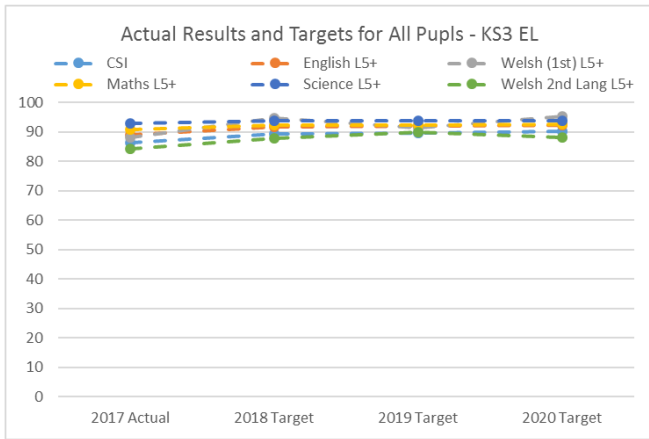
Foundation Phase



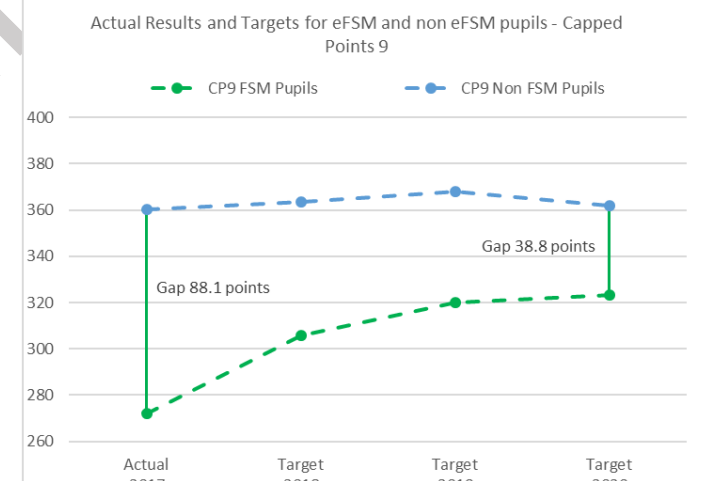
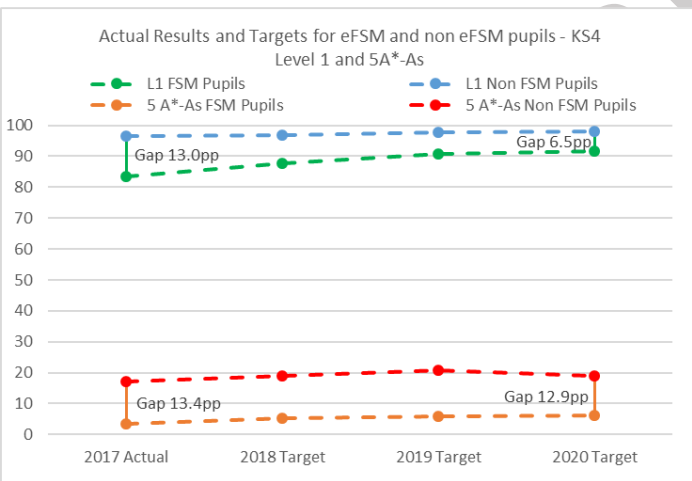
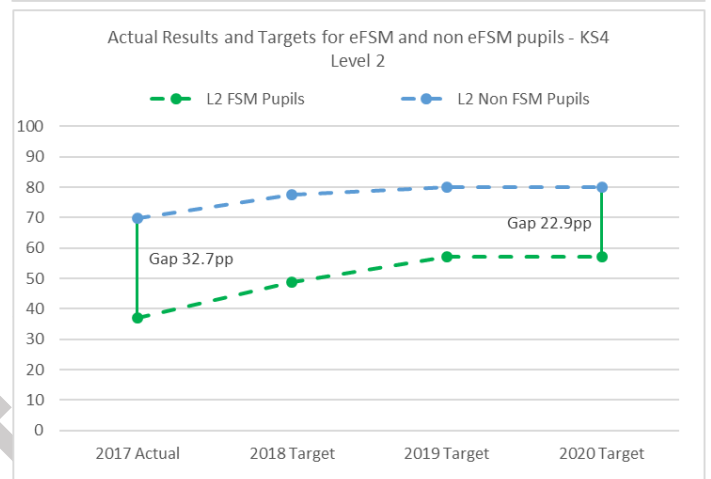
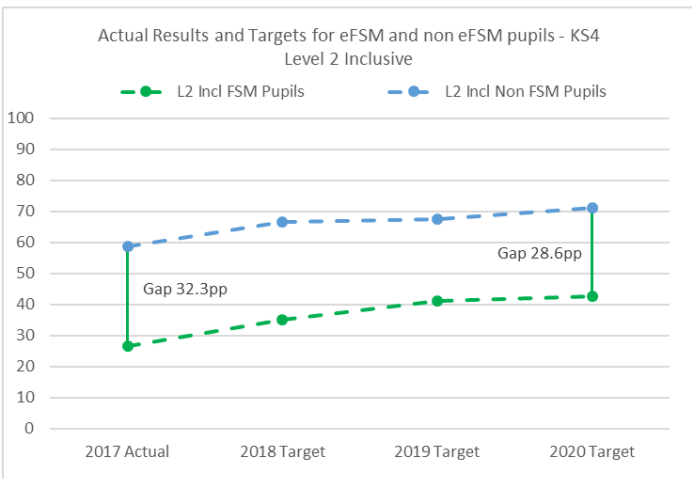
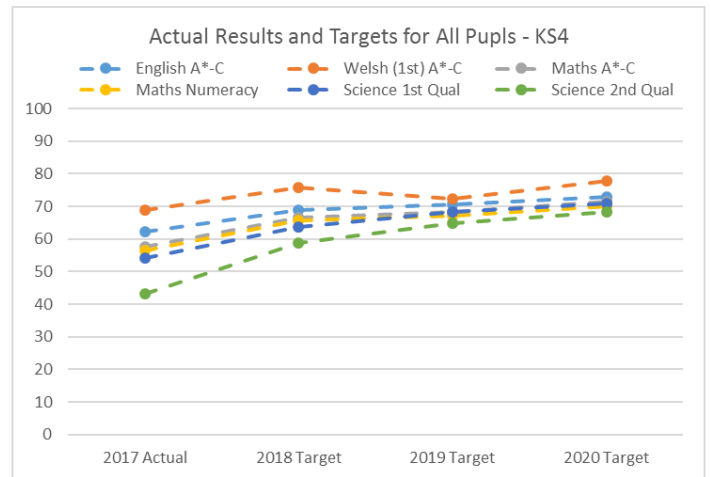
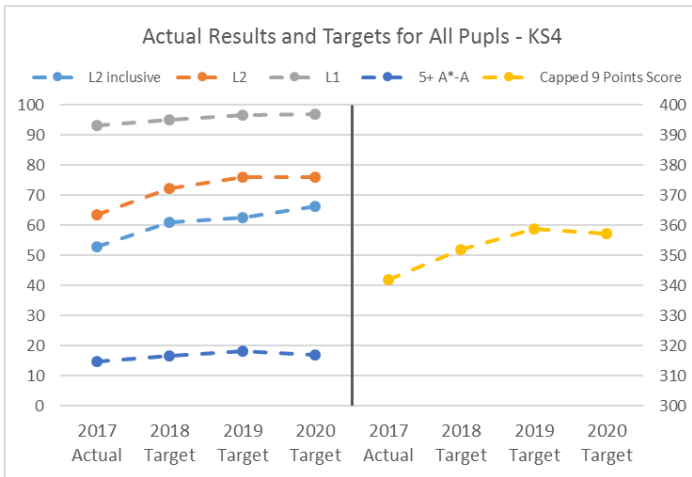
Key Stage 2



Key Stage 3



Key Stage 4



Local Authority Pupil Attendance Targets

Pupil Attendance				
Primary	2017 Actual	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target
Blaenau Gwent	94.6	94.9	95.0	95.1
Caerphilly	94.7	95.1	95.2	95.3
Monmouthshire	95.6	96.2	96.2	96.2
Newport	94.7	94.8	94.9	95.0
Torfaen	94.6	96.0	96.0	96.5

Pupil Attendance				
Secondary	2017 Actual	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target
Blaenau Gwent	93.7	94.5	94.7	95.0
Caerphilly	93.3	94.2	94.3	94.4
Monmouthshire	95.0	95.2	95.25	95.3
Newport	93.6	93.8	94.0	94.1
Torfaen	93.7	95.0	95.0	95.5

7. Additional supporting documents

Ref	Document
1	Local Authority Annex documents 2018-2019
2	Detailed Business Plan April 2018-2019
3	Detailed Resource Overview 2018-2019
4	Long Term 3-year Business Plan Overview 2019 - 2021
5	Regional Self-Evaluation Report
6	EAS Risk Register
8	Self-Evaluation Timetable 2016-2018
9	Regional Professional Learning Offer 2018-2019
10	Estyn Inspection Reports (May 2016 and September 2017)

Draft V3

8. Glossary of Key Terms

ACE	Adverse Childhood Experience
ALPS	Advanced level performance system (used for A levels)
AoLE	Area of Learning and Experience from the new curriculum
DCF	Digital Competence Framework
EAL	English as an additional language
EAS	Education Achievement Service
eFSM	Eligible Free School Meals
ETLF	EAS Excellence in Teaching and Leadership Framework
EOTAS	Education Other Than At School
EY	Early Years
FP	Foundation Phase (Curriculum year groups Yr 1 and Yr 2)
FSM	Free School Meals
GTP	Graduate Teacher Programme
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HR	Human Resource
ITE	Initial Teacher Education
KS2,3,4	Key Stage 2, 3, 4 (KS2 age 7 – 11 “Juniors”, KS3 age 11- 14, KS4 age 14 - 16)
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked after Children
LLC	Languages, Literacy and Communication
LLC Cym	Languages, Literacy and Communication - Cymraeg
LLC Eng	Languages, Literacy and Communication - English
MA	More Able learners
MAT	More Able and Talented
MD	Mathematical Development
NC	National Curriculum
NPQH	National Professional Qualification for Headship
NMS	Non- maintained Nursery Setting
PGCE	Post Graduate Certificate in Education
PLASC	Pupil Annual School Census
PLO	Professional Learning Offer
PSD	Personal and Social Development
PSE	Personal and Social Education
PSHE	Personal Social Health Education (also PSCHE including citizenship)
SIS	Self-Improving System
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEWC	South East Wales Consortium
SEREN	Network of regional hubs designed to support Wales’ brightest 6 form students to achieve their academic potential and to gain access to leading universities.
SLO	Schools and Learning Organisations
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
VFM	Value for Money
WG	Welsh Government

Expected National Curriculum Levels	<p>By the end of the Foundation Phase, at the age of seven, pupils are expected to reach Foundation Phase outcome 5 and the more able outcome 6.</p> <p>By the end of the key stage 2, at the age of eleven, learners are expected to reach level 4 and the more able to reach level 5.</p> <p>By the end of the key stage 3, at the age of fourteen, learners are expected to reach level 5 and the more able to reach level 6 or level 7</p>
Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI)	<p>Progress in learning through the Foundation Phase is indicated by outcomes (from outcome 1 to outcome 6). The Foundation Phase indicator (FPI) relates to the expected performance in three areas of learning in the Foundation Phase: literacy, language and communication in English or Welsh first language; mathematical development; personal and social development, wellbeing and cultural diversity. Pupils must achieve the expected outcome (outcome 5) in the three areas above to gain the Foundation Phase indicator.</p>
Core Subject Indicator (CSI) in key stages 2,3 and 4	<p>The core subject indicator relates to the expected performance in English or Welsh first language, mathematics and science, the core subjects of the National Curriculum. Learners must gain at least the expected level in either English or Welsh first language together with mathematics and science to gain the core subject indicator.</p>

Level 1 qualification	The equivalent of a GCSE at grade D to G.
The Level 1 threshold (L1)	Learners must have gained a volume of qualifications equivalent to five GCSEs at grades D to G.
Level 2 qualification	The equivalent of a GCSE at grade A* to C.
The Level 2 threshold (L2)	Learners must have gained a volume of qualifications equivalent to five GCSEs at grade A* to C.
The Level 2 threshold including English or Welsh first language and mathematics (L2+)	Learners must have gained level 2 qualifications in English or Welsh first language and in mathematics as part of their threshold of 5 Level 2 qualifications.
Level 3 qualification	The equivalent of an A level at A* to C
The Level 3 threshold (L3)	Learners must have gained a volume of qualifications equivalent to two A levels at grade A* to E.
The capped average points score (CPS)	Only includes the best nine results (with subject restrictions) for each pupil from all qualifications approved for use in Wales at age 16.

Appendix 2

Local Authority Specific Annex 2018-2019

Local Authority: Caerphilly

The targets below are derived from pupil level targets submitted by all schools across South East Wales during the statutory target setting process in autumn 2017. The target setting process across the region is robust with all school targets linked to targets for individual pupils and a comprehensive challenge process by Challenge Advisers and quality assurance by Principal Challenge Advisers and Local Authorities including analysis of projected future performance against previous performance, projected Free School Meal benchmark quarters and WG Modelled Expectations.

Foundation Phase										
All Pupils	2017	2018		FSM Pupils	2017	2018		non-FSM Pupils	2017	2018
	Actual	Target			Actual	Target			Actual	Target
FPI	88.9	88.9		FPI	76.5	77.8		FPI	92.6	91.2
LLC English O5+	89.6	89.6		LLC English O5+	78.5	77.9		LLC English O5+	93.3	91.3
LLC Welsh O5+	93.8	93.8		LLC Welsh O5+	86.2	86.0		LLC Welsh O5+	95.1	93.2
Math Dev.O5+	91.2	91.2		Math Dev.O5+	81.2	82.6		Math Dev.O5+	94.2	92.6
PSD O5+	95.0	95.0		PSD O5+	89.7	90.6		PSD O5+	96.7	95.9
LLC English O6+	38.9	38.9		LLC English O6+	20.8	18.0		LLC English O6+	45.0	40.0
LLC Welsh O6+	38.0	38.0		LLC Welsh O6+	24.1	16.3		LLC Welsh O6+	40.6	40.6
Math Dev. O6+	37.8	37.8		Math Dev. O6+	18.1	18.8		Math Dev. O6+	43.8	41.0
PSD O6+	57.8	57.8		PSD O6+	35.7	32.7		PSD O6+	64.5	62.1
Target										
FSM/non FSM gap	2017	2018								
	Actual	Target								
FPI	16.1	13.4								
LLC English O5+	14.8	13.3								
LLC Welsh O5+	8.9	7.2								
Math Dev.O5+	12.9	10.0								
PSD O5+	7.0	5.3								
LLC English O6+	24.2	22.0								
LLC Welsh O6+	16.5	24.3								
Math Dev. O6+	25.7	22.2								
PSD O6+	28.9	29.4								

Note: The targets highlighted in blue above are the figures Caerphilly have agreed to use for their Key Performance Indicators, they have not been generated from the school/pupil targets.

Key Stage 2																
All Pupils	2017	2018	2019	2020		FSM Pupils	2017	2018	2019	2020		non-FSM Pupils	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Actual	Target	Target	Target			Actual	Target	Target	Target			Actual	Target	Target	Target
CSI	90.1	90.1	89.5	89.9		CSI	78.8	80.1	80.6	80.7		CSI	93.2	92.7	91.7	92.4
English L4+	91.8	92.2	91.0	90.8		English L4+	82.1	82.7	83.1	81.3		English L4+	94.4	94.7	93.0	93.3
Welsh (1st) L4+	94.7	94.7	93.0	93.2		Welsh (1st) L4+	86.3	84.8	84.4	90.9		Welsh (1st) L4+	96.3	95.8	94.3	93.5
Maths L4+	92.1	92.1	91.5	92.1		Maths L4+	83.0	81.3	84.5	84.0		Maths L4+	94.6	94.4	93.2	94.2
Science L4+	92.9	93.3	91.8	92.2		Science L4+	83.3	84.2	83.8	83.8		Science L4+	95.5	95.7	93.8	94.4
English L5+	44.5	44.9	44.1	41.9		English L5+	24.0	26.7	24.9	20.4		English L5+	50.1	49.6	48.9	47.6
Welsh (1st) L5+	40.5	42.5	43.6	43.9		Welsh (1st) L5+	19.6	21.7	24.4	15.9		Welsh (1st) L5+	44.4	45.6	46.5	48.1
Maths L5+	45.7	45.7	43.0	42.8		Maths L5+	23.5	25.8	26.6	21.8		Maths L5+	51.7	48.6	47.2	48.4
Science L5+	46.3	46.3	43.6	42.7		Science L5+	24.9	26.5	25.6	20.9		Science L5+	52.2	49.2	48.1	48.6
Welsh (2nd) L4+	84.4	85.9	85.9	85.4		Welsh (2nd) L4+	67.3	71.6	75.5	76.6		Welsh (2nd) L4+	89.6	90.0	88.7	88.0
Welsh (2nd) L5+	33.9	33.9	33.5	30.8		Welsh (2nd) L5+	16.1	16.7	18.8	12.0		Welsh (2nd) L5+	39.2	38.7	37.5	36.3
FSM/non FSM gap	2017	2018	2019	2020												
	Actual	Target	Target	Target												
	14.3	12.6	11.1	11.7												
English L4+	12.3	11.9	9.8	12.0												
Welsh (1st) L4+	10.0	11.0	9.9	2.6												
Maths L4+	11.6	13.0	8.7	10.2												
Science L4+	12.3	11.5	10.0	10.6												
English L5+	26.2	22.9	24.0	27.2												
Welsh (1st) L5+	24.8	23.9	22.0	32.2												
Maths L5+	28.3	22.9	20.6	26.6												
Science L5+	27.3	22.7	22.4	27.7												
Welsh (2nd) L4+	22.3	18.3	13.2	11.5												
Welsh (2nd) L5+	23.1	22.0	18.7	24.3												

Note: The targets highlighted in blue above are the figures Caerphilly have agreed to use for their Key Performance Indicators, they have not been generated from the school/pupil targets.

Key Stage 3															
All Pupils	2017	2018	2019	2020	FSM Pupils	2017	2018	2019	2020	non-FSM Pupils	2017	2018	2019	2020	
	Actual	Target	Target	Target		Actual	Target	Target	Target		Actual	Target	Target	Target	
CSI	84.1	87.9	87.9	89.3	CSI	68.6	73.1	77.3	79.9	CSI	88.7	91.5	90.6	91.8	
English L5+	86.2	90.2	90.8	91.4	English L5+	72.3	77.3	82.0	84.4	English L5+	90.2	93.4	93.0	93.2	
Welsh (1st) L5+	86.6	93.8	88.9	96.3	Welsh (1st) L5+	66.7	84.6	72.2	91.8	Welsh (1st) L5+	89.6	95.1	92.6	97.0	
Maths L5+	88.9	90.9	90.5	91.2	Maths L5+	75.1	77.8	80.3	83.5	Maths L5+	92.7	94.1	93.1	93.2	
Science L5+	90.7	92.0	92.7	92.1	Science L5+	80.0	79.5	84.0	85.6	Science L5+	93.8	95.1	94.9	93.8	
Welsh 2nd Lang L5+	83.4	84.6	86.9	81.6	Welsh 2nd Lang L5+	66.3	69.7	75.4	71.7	Welsh 2nd Lang L5+	88.9	88.5	89.9	84.3	
English L6+	50.2	54.6	54.9	58.0	English L6+	28.4	30.4	32.5	39.3	English L6+	56.5	60.5	60.6	62.9	
Welsh (1st) L6+	54.7	54.7	45.0	54.1	Welsh (1st) L6+	23.3	33.3	18.5	34.7	Welsh (1st) L6+	59.4	55.5	50.8	57.6	
Maths L6+	58.4	58.8	59.2	59.7	Maths L6+	33.5	35.3	37.5	41.0	Maths L6+	65.5	64.6	64.7	64.6	
Science L6+	57.6	61.6	60.7	61.9	Science L6+	35.1	38.8	36.8	45.1	Science L6+	64.0	67.2	66.8	66.4	
Welsh 2nd Lang L6+	41.8	50.1	51.4	49.9	Welsh 2nd Lang L6+	19.3	24.0	29.5	30.7	Welsh 2nd Lang L6+	48.7	57.0	57.1	55.2	

FSM/non FSM gap	2017	2018	2019	2020
	Actual	Target	Target	Target
CSI	20.1	18.4	13.4	11.9
English L5+	17.8	16.1	11.0	8.8
Welsh (1st) L5+	22.9	10.5	20.4	5.2
Maths L5+	17.6	16.3	12.8	9.8
Science L5+	13.8	15.6	10.9	8.1
Welsh 2nd Lang L5+	22.7	18.8	14.5	12.6
English L6+	28.1	30.1	28.1	23.6
Welsh (1st) L6+	36.1	22.1	32.3	22.9
Maths L6+	32.0	29.3	27.2	23.6
Science L6+	28.9	28.5	30.0	21.3
Welsh 2nd Lang L6+	29.4	33.0	27.7	24.5

Note: The target highlighted in blue above is the figure Caerphilly have agreed to use for their Key Performance Indicators, they have not been generated from the school/pupil targets.

Key Stage 4				
All Pupils	2017 Actual	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target
L2 inclusive	49.9	59.5	60.2	63.0
L2	59.9	69.1	75.5	73.6
L1	94.0	95.2	96.6	97.1
Capped 9 Points Score	336.2	344.6	357.7	345.1
5+ A*-A	13.5	14.6	14.3	13.8
English A*-C	59.9	68.3	70.1	70.0
Welsh (1st) A*-C	66.2	73.7	70.4	79.6
Maths A*-C	54.7	65.0	65.5	67.7
Maths Numeracy	53.7	64.1	64.4	66.2
Science 1st Qual	53.5	64.2	68.0	69.8
Science 2nd Qual	43.1	60.7	66.7	68.5

FSM Pupils	2017 Actual	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target
L2 inclusive	24.5	33.0	38.4	37.5
L2	33.0	44.1	53.7	55.1
L1	85.4	87.9	89.6	91.9
Capped 9 Points Score	263.3	299.6	317.2	301.5
5+ A*-A	3.3	5.3	4.2	3.7
English A*-C	34.3	43.3	47.2	48.6
Welsh (1st) A*-C	45.0	53.1	50.0	68.3
Maths A*-C	28.0	38.0	42.1	43.5
Maths Numeracy	27.5	37.5	40.3	40.2
Science 1st Qual	27.7	38.0	44.4	48.6
Science 2nd Qual	17.9	35.3	43.5	46.9

non-FSM Pupils	2017 Actual	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target
L2 inclusive	56.1	66.4	66.2	69.2
L2	66.4	75.8	81.6	78.1
L1	96.5	97.1	98.5	98.4
Capped 9 Points Score	354.7	360.2	370.8	355.6
5+ A*-A	15.9	17.1	17.2	16.3
English A*-C	66.0	74.9	76.4	75.2
Welsh (1st) A*-C	68.5	76.8	73.7	81.4
Maths A*-C	61.1	72.2	72.0	73.7
Maths Numeracy	59.9	71.1	71.1	72.5
Science 1st Qual	59.6	71.1	74.5	74.9
Science 2nd Qual	49.2	67.4	73.1	73.8

FSM/non FSM gap	2017 Actual	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target
L2 inclusive	31.6	33.4	27.8	31.7
L2	33.4	31.7	27.9	23.0
L1	11.1	9.2	8.9	6.5
Capped 9 Points Score	91.4	60.6	53.6	54.1
5+ A*-A	12.6	11.8	13.0	12.6
English A*-C	31.7	31.6	29.2	26.6
Welsh (1st) A*-C	23.5	23.7	23.7	13.1
Maths A*-C	33.1	34.1	29.8	30.2
Maths Numeracy	32.5	33.6	30.8	32.3
Science 1st Qual	31.9	33.1	30.1	26.3
Science 2nd Qual	31.3	32.2	29.6	26.9

Note: As advised by LA, there are no EOTAS pupils in the Yr11 cohort this year to inform 2018 target setting.

Primary Attendance

Pupil Attendance				
	2017 Actual	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target
LA	94.7%	95.1%	95.2%	95.3%

Secondary Attendance

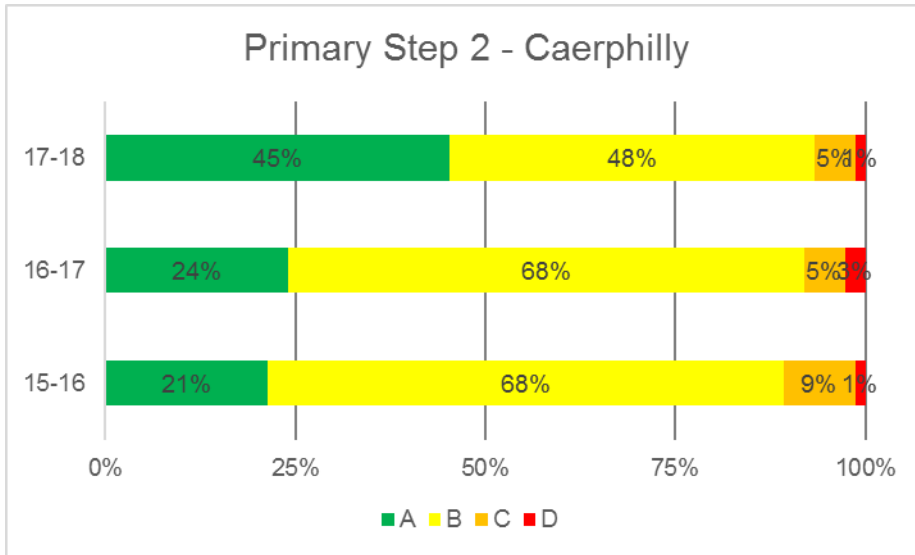
Pupil Attendance				
	2017 Actual	2018 Target	2019 Target	2020 Target
LA	93.3%	94.2%	94.3%	94.4%

Summary of National Categorisation of schools in the Local Authority in 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018

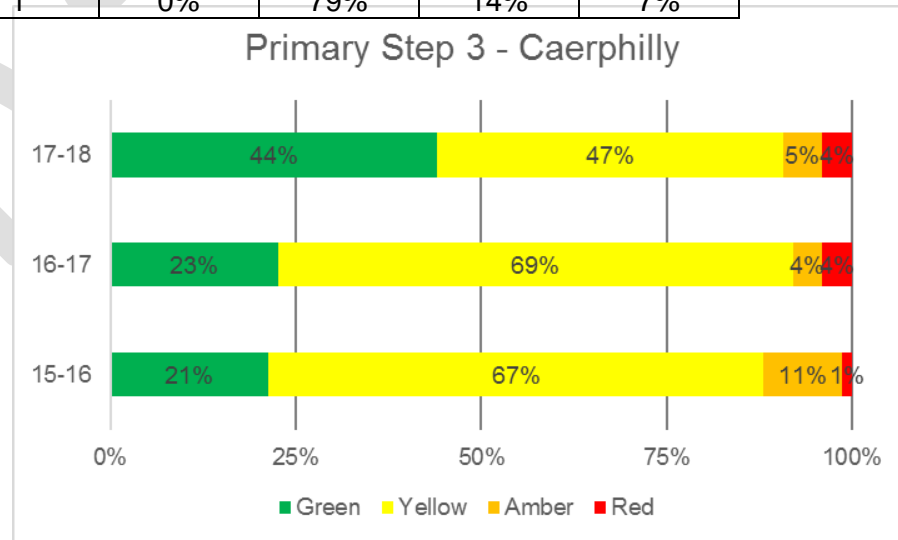
Step 1 – Primary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1
Caerphilly	15-16	0	9	35	31	0%	12%	47%	41%
	16-17	0	8	22	45	0%	11%	29%	60%
South East Wales	15-16	2	24	90	79	1%	12%	46%	41%
	16-17	2	19	61	113	1%	10%	31%	58%

Step 2 - Primary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		D	C	B	A	D	C	B	A
Caerphilly	15-16	1	7	51	16	1%	9%	68%	21%
	16-17	2	4	51	18	3%	5%	68%	24%
	17-18	1	4	36	34	1%	5%	48%	45%
South East Wales	15-16	4	27	113	50	2%	14%	58%	26%
	16-17	2	19	106	63	1%	10%	56%	33%
	17-18	3	17	86	88	2%	9%	44%	45%

Step 3 - Primary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Red	Amber	Yellow	Green	Red	Amber	Yellow	Green
Caerphilly	15-16	1	8	50	16	1%	11%	67%	21%
	16-17	3	3	52	17	4%	4%	69%	23%
	17-18	3	4	35	33	4%	5%	47%	44%
South East Wales	15-16	5	29	109	51	3%	15%	56%	26%
	16-17	4	17	110	59	2%	9%	58%	31%
	17-18	9	15	83	87	5%	8%	43%	45%



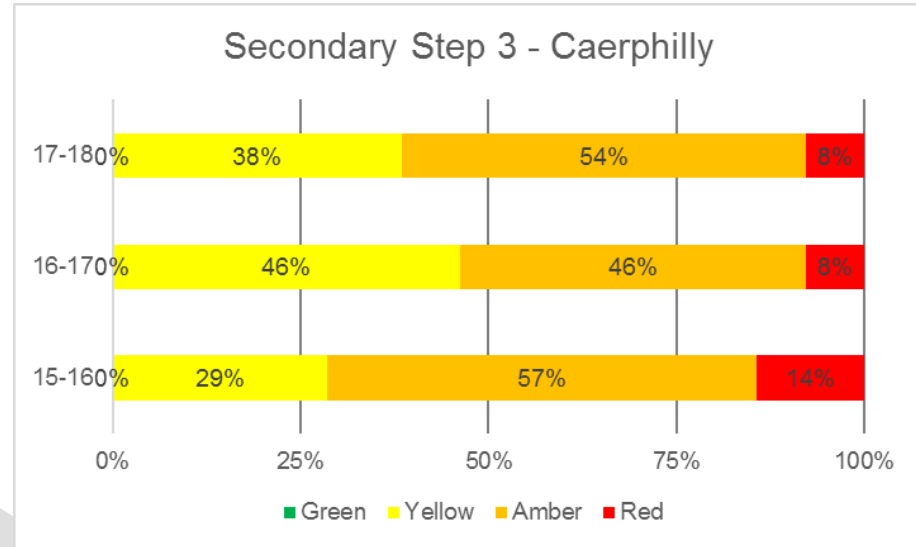
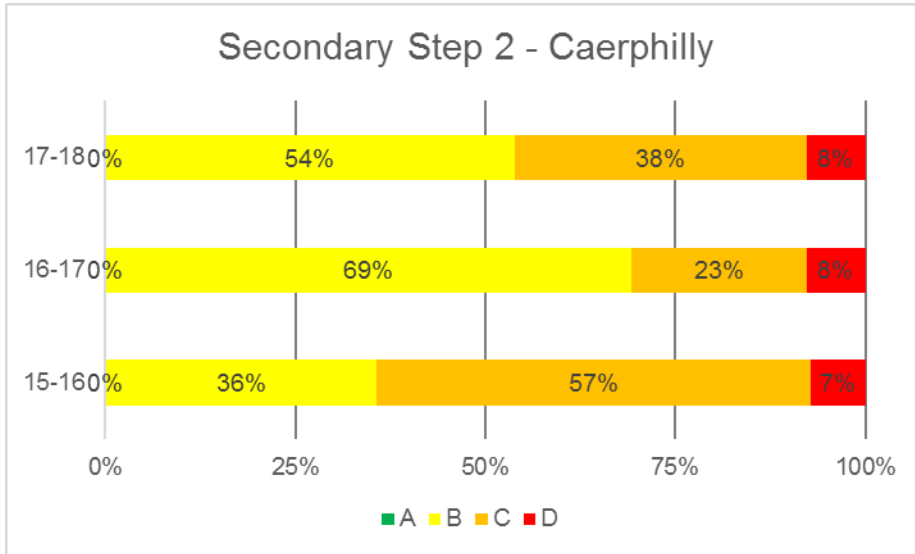
Step 1 - Secondary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1
Caerphilly	15-16	1	11	1	1	7%	79%	7%	7%
	16-17	0	11	2	1	0%	79%	14%	7%



South East Wales	15-16	3	22	6	4	9%	63%	17%	11%
	16-17	3	19	8	5	9%	54%	23%	14%

Step 2 – Secondary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		D	C	B	A	D	C	B	A
Caerphilly	15-16	1	8	5	0	7%	57%	36%	0%
	16-17	1	3	9	0	8%	23%	69%	0%
	17-18	1	5	7	0	8%	38%	54%	0%
South East Wales	15-16	3	17	15	1	8%	47%	42%	3%
	16-17	6	9	17	4	17%	25%	47%	11%
	17-18	6	12	13	5	17%	33%	36%	14%

Step 3 – Secondary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Red	Amber	Yellow	Green	Red	Amber	Yellow	Green
Caerphilly	15-16	2	8	4	0	14%	57%	29%	0%
	16-17	1	6	6	0	8%	46%	46%	0%
	17-18	1	7	5	0	8%	54%	38%	0%
South East Wales	15-16	6	17	12	1	17%	47%	33%	3%
	16-17	6	12	15	3	17%	33%	42%	8%
	17-18	9	12	12	3	25%	33%	33%	8%



6A schools currently in any Estyn follow-up category

Phase	School	Date of last inspection	Date report published	Follow-up status of last inspection
Primary	St James Primary*	May-16	Jul-16	Estyn monitoring

Phase	School	Date of last inspection	Date report published	Follow-up status of last inspection
Secondary	Bedwas High	May-17	Jul-17	Special Measures
Secondary	Lewis Girls Comprehensive	Nov-14	Nov-14	Estyn monitoring
Secondary	Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni	Apr-16	Jul-16	LA monitoring

LA Summary and issues

Overall pupil performance

- Since 2014, attainment at Foundation Phase has been above the Wales average, although the rate of improvement is below that of Wales. Since 2016, attainment at Key Stage 2 has been above the Wales average. The rate of improvement between 2014 and 2017 is higher than Wales.
- Attainment at Key Stage 3 is still below the Wales average, although the rate of improvement from 2016 and from 2014 is above the Wales rate.
- Attainment declined at Key Stage 4, but at a slower rate of improvement than that across Wales. Performance is still below the Wales average, but the gap has narrowed from 2014 and 2016.
- Attainment at Key Stage 5 is stable, with the same level of attainment in 2017 as in 2014. Performance remains below Wales.
- Since 2014, attainment at Foundation Phase has been above the Wales average. Since 2016, attainment at Key Stage 2 has been above the Wales average. The rate of improvement between 2014 and 2017 is higher than Wales.
- Attainment at Key Stage 3 is still below the Wales average, although the rate of improvement from 2016 and from 2014 is above the Wales rate.
- Attainment at Key Stage 4 shows a faster rate of improvement than that across Wales. Performance is still below the Wales average, with the gap narrowing from 2014 and 2016.

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Gender

- Between 2014 and 2017 the gender gap narrowed at FP, and was below the Wales gender gap.
- At KS2 the gender gap narrowed in this time, and is also below the Wales gender gap.
- Between 2014 and 2017 the gender gap narrowed at KS3, but is still wider than the Wales gender gap.
- At KS4 the gender gap is wider than Wales, and has widened between 2014 and 2017.

FSM

- At FP and KS2, the performance of FSM pupils in 2017 is above the Wales average. But the FSM/non FSM gap is above the gap for Wales and has grown since 2014.
- At KS3, performance of FSM pupils has been below the Wales average between 2014 and 2017, and despite the FSM/non FSM gap narrowing, it is still wider than the gap across Wales.
- At KS4 performance of FSM pupils remains below the Wales average. In 2017, the FSM/non FSM gap widened, but is narrower than across Wales. FSM pupil performance has declined since 2014 although non FSM performance has improved in this period.

FSM benchmarking quartiles

- At FP, 59% of schools are above the median for FPI. At KS2, 54% of schools are above the median for CSI. At KS3, 40% of schools are above the median for CSI. At KS4, 77% (10 out of 13 schools) are above the median for L2 inc.
- Blackwood, Risca, St Martin's, Lewis Girls', Rhymney, Bedwas and Cwmcarn are all in Quarter 1 for L2 inc
- Heolddu, Lewis School and Ysgol Cwm Rhymni are all in Quarter 4 for L2 inc.

Attendance/Exclusions

- Over the past 4 years, attendance at primary schools has increased by 0.3pp.
- Attendance at secondary schools has increased overall since 2014, but at a slower rate to that across Wales, and attendance is still below the Wales average.
- Unauthorised absence in primary schools has increased to 0.9% since 2014.
- At secondary schools, unauthorised absence has increased since 2014 from 1.4% to 2.1%. The Wales figure has remained stable between 1.3% and 1.4% in this time.
- Since 2013/14 there has been a significant rise overall at primary and secondary level for exclusions of 5 days or fewer
- Since 2013/14 there has been a significant increase at secondary level for exclusions of 6 days or more. It has been fairly stable at primary level.
- There has been 1 permanent exclusion from primary in 2016/17, although there were no permanent exclusions from primary schools in the past 4 years
- Secondary permanent exclusions
2013/14 - 14
2014/15 - 8
2015/16 - 14
2016/17 - 20

Inspection/Categorisation

- The percentage of schools judged at least Good for current performance has increased since 2014 to 80%. One school was deemed unsatisfactory in 2016/17. Increase in schools judged at least Good for prospects for improvement has increased to 93%.
- The percentage of primary schools categorised Green has almost doubled to 44% in 2017/18. One secondary school categorised Red, seven Amber, five Yellow (provisional and confidential).

Schools requiring Improvement 2017-2018 (Amber and Red Overall Categories of support)

The information below indicates the additional support that will be given to schools in the overall category of Amber or Red in the Local Authority in the academic year 2017-2018. The support is in line with the guidance within the National Categorisation System and within the SEWC Intervention Framework 2017-2018. Each of these schools will have a detailed Intervention or Support Plan, the progress each school makes over the next academic year will be captured through regular Education Improvement Boards (EIBs) or Intervention Meetings.

Schools requiring Amber levels of support	Schools requiring Red levels of support
Cwmcarn High	Bedwas High
Cwmcarn Primary	Bryn Arwel Primary
Glanynant PRU	Llanfabon Infants
Heolddu Comprehensive	St James Primary
Isafwyn High	
Lewis Girls	
Lewis School Pengam	
Pantside Primary	
Park Primary	
Rhymney Comprehensive	
Upper Rhymney Primary	
Ysgol Cwm Rhymni	

The content of this LA Annex has been agreed by:

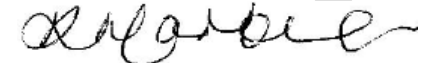
LA Director / Chief Education Officer:

Mrs. Keri Cole

Cabinet Member for Education:

Cllr Derek Havard

EAS Managing Director



Ms. Debbie Hartevelde

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DRAFT

Appendix 3

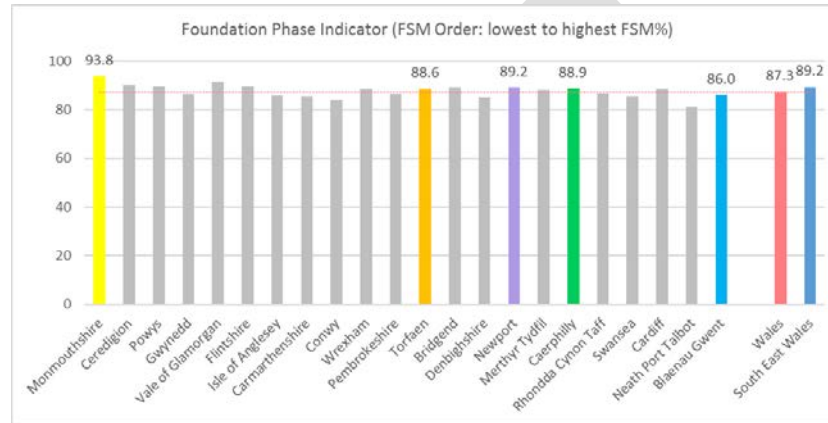
Local Authority Specific Annex 2017-2018

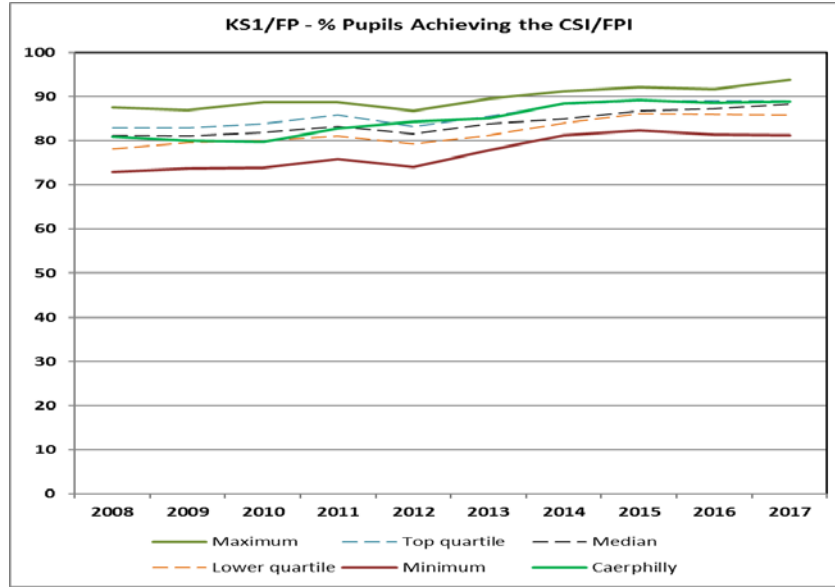
Local Authority: Caerphilly

Review of LA level performance set against target and previous performance

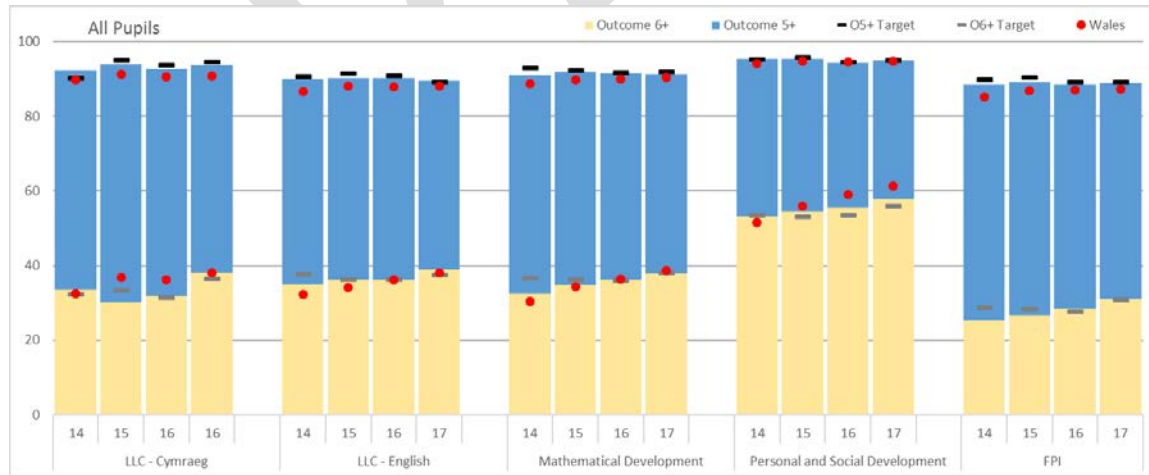
Foundation Phase										
All Pupils	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2017 Perf. v Target	2017 LA Target		FSM Pupils	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2017 Perf. v Target	2017 LA Target
FPI	88.6	88.9		89.2		FPI	77.1	76.5		77.2
LLC English O5+	90.1	89.6		89.1		LLC English O5+	81.1	78.5		77.6
LLC Welsh O5+	92.6	93.8		94.5		LLC Welsh O5+	82.9	86.2		88.1
Math Dev.O5+	91.4	91.2		91.9		Math Dev.O5+	82.2	81.2		81.8
PSD O5+	94.3	95.0		95.0		PSD O5+	89.8	89.7		89.4
LLC English O6	36.1	38.9		37.4		LLC English O6	18.0	20.8		18.4
LLC Welsh O6	31.7	38.0		36.4		LLC Welsh O6	9.8	24.1		15.3
Math Dev. O6	36.2	37.8		38.1		Math Dev. O6	18.0	18.1		19.0
PSD O6	55.5	57.8		55.8		PSD O6	36.3	35.7		33.1

Performance in the foundation phase improved slightly from 88.6% in 2016 to 88.9% pupils achieving the foundation phase indicator (FPI) in 2017, an increase of 0.3 percentage points. Caerphilly currently ranks 8th in Wales for the FPI when compared with other local authorities, which is above the LA's FSM ranking (18th, 2017 PLASC data), same ranking as last year.





There have been improvements at the expected level (outcome 5+) in all areas, apart from LLC English and Mathematical Development, which have marginally declined by 0.5 and 0.2 percentage points respectively. At the higher outcome (outcome 6+) there have been improvements in all areas.



Percentage of pupils achieving Outcome 5+:

	FPI	LLC English	LLC Welsh	Mathematical Development	PSD
Caerphilly 2017	88.9	89.6	93.8	91.2	95.0
Target	89.2	89.1	94.5	91.9	95.0
Caerphilly 2016	88.6	90.1	92.6	91.4	94.3
Wales 2017	87.3	88.1	90.9	90.3	94.7

Percentage of pupils achieving Outcome 6+:

	LLC English	LLC Welsh	Mathematical Development	PSD
Caerphilly 2017	38.9	38.0	37.8	57.8
Target	37.4	36.4	38.1	55.8
Caerphilly 2016	36.1	31.7	36.2	55.5
Wales 2017	38.1	38.1	38.7	61.3

Performance in the Foundation Phase Indicator improved by 0.3 percentage points and is ranked 8th in Wales.

Performance in LLC English has declined slightly at outcome 5+ but has improved by 2.8 percentage points at outcome 6+. Performance is ranked 10th in Wales at outcome 5+.

Performance in LLC Welsh has improved by 1.2 percentage points at outcome 5+ but has improved by 6.3 percentage points at outcome 6+. Performance is ranked 9th in Wales at outcome 5+.

Performance in mathematical development has declined slightly at outcome 5+, but has improved by 1.6 percentage points at outcome 6+. Performance is ranked 9th in Wales at outcome 5+.

Performance in PSDWCD has declined by 0.7 percentage points at outcome 5+ and has improved by 2.3 percentage points at outcome 6+. Performance is ranked 11th in Wales at outcome 5+.

Performance is within 1% of the schools' aggregate targets for each area of learning.

Gender differences at outcome 5+ (boys' performance – girls' performance):

	FPI		LLC English		LLC Welsh		Mathematical Development		PSD	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Caerphilly	-8.1	-6.1	-8.1	-6.9	-7.5	-4.6	-5.3	-4.0	-6.7	-4.2
Wales	-8.2	-7.1	-8.3	-7.2	-7.0	-6.0	-5.3	-4.1	-5.3	-5.0

Gender differences at outcome 6 (boys' performance – girls' performance):

	LLC English		LLC Welsh		Mathematical Development		PSD	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Caerphilly	-12.5	-7.3	-23.5	-9.8	-3.4	0.9	-22.9	-13.0
Wales	-11.7	-12.7	-15.1	-13.7	0.1	-0.9	-18.3	-18.0

At outcomes 5+ and 6+ gender differences have decreased in all indicators, and the gender gaps are narrower than that across Wales.

Wales rankings:

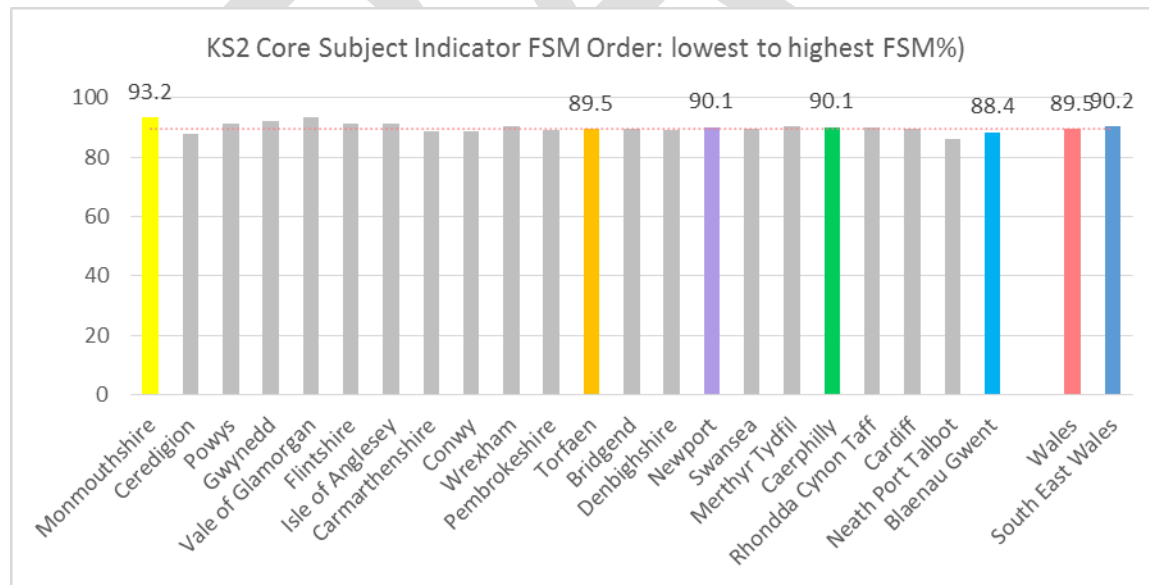
When compared with other LAs in Wales, performance in Caerphilly is higher than could be expected for each area of learning. However, rank positions have declined for LLC English and Mathematical Development.

	FPI	LLC English	LLC Welsh	Mathematical Development	PSDWCD
2017	8 →	10 ↓	9 →	9 ↓	11 ↑
2016	8 ↓	7 ↑	9 ↓	7 ↓	16 ↓
2015	6 ↑	8 ↓	6 ↓	4 ↑	12 ↓

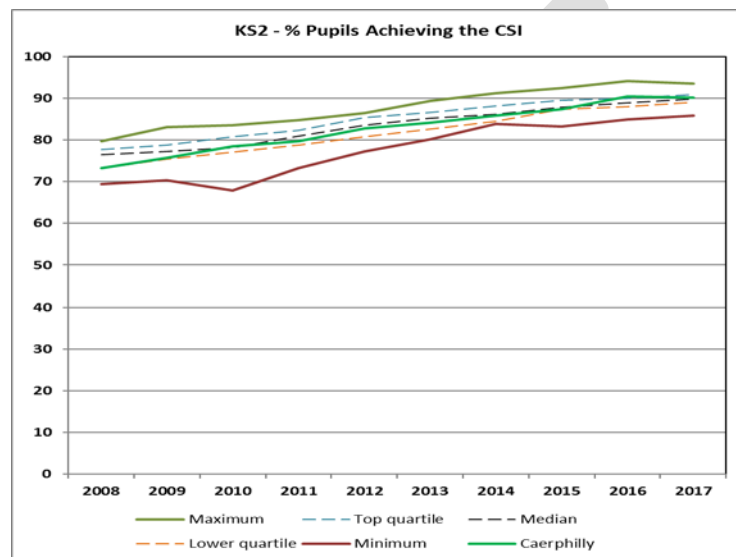
FPI		LLC - English		LLC - Welsh		Math. Dev.		PSD	
Monmouthshire	93.8	Monmouthshire	94.7	Monmouthshire	98.1	Monmouthshire	94.4	Monmouthshire	97.9
Vale of Glamorgan	91.4	Ceredigion	92.1	Blaenau Gwent	96.8	Vale of Glamorgan	93.7	Vale of Glamorgan	96.7
Ceredigion	90.2	Vale of Glamorgan	91.8	Vale of Glamorgan	96.6	Ceredigion	92.8	Flintshire	96.1
Powys	89.6	Torfaen	90.8	Powys	95.2	Bridgend	92.3	Ceredigion	96.0
Flintshire	89.5	Newport	90.5	Newport	94.5	Flintshire	92.2	Powys	96.0
South East Wales	89.2	South East Wales	90.4	Bridgend	94.4	Merthyr Tydfil	91.8	Bridgend	95.6
Newport	89.2	Flintshire	90.3	Flintshire	94.1	Powys	91.6	Gwynedd	95.3
Bridgend	89.1	Wrexham	90.0	Swansea	93.8	South East Wales	91.4	South East Wales	95.2
Caerphilly	88.9	Bridgend	90.0	Caerphilly	93.8	Newport	91.3	Cardiff	95.1
Torfaen	88.6	Powys	89.9	Merthyr Tydfil	93.3	Caerphilly	91.2	Wrexham	95.1
Cardiff	88.5	Caerphilly	89.6	South East Wales	92.4	Cardiff	91.2	Torfaen	95.1
Wrexham	88.4	Cardiff	89.1	Rhondda Cynon Taff	92.2	Wrexham	91.1	Caerphilly	95.0
Merthyr Tydfil	88.1	Merthyr Tydfil	89.1	Cardiff	92.1	Torfaen	90.7	Isle of Anglesey	94.9
Wales	87.3	Pembrokeshire	88.5	Ceredigion	91.8	Gwynedd	90.3	Merthyr Tydfil	94.8
Rhondda Cynon Taff	86.9	Wales	88.1	Wales	90.9	Wales	90.3	Cardiff	94.8
Pembrokeshire	86.6	Rhondda Cynon Taff	87.7	Denbighshire	90.6	Rhondda Cynon Taff	90.2	Swansea	94.7
Gwynedd	86.6	Blaenau Gwent	86.8	Cardiff	90.5	Blaenau Gwent	90.0	Newport	94.7
Blaenau Gwent	86.0	Denbighshire	86.4	Isle of Anglesey	90.3	Cardiff	89.6	Wales	94.7
Isle of Anglesey	85.8	Swansea	85.8	Neath Port Talbot	89.2	Pembrokeshire	89.3	Denbighshire	94.4
Cardiff	85.6	Conwy	85.7	Wrexham	88.7	Isle of Anglesey	89.1	Conwy	94.3
Swansea	85.5	Isle of Anglesey	84.1	Gwynedd	88.3	Swansea	89.0	Blaenau Gwent	94.2
Denbighshire	85.3	Neath Port Talbot	82.5	Conwy	87.2	Denbighshire	88.8	Rhondda Cynon Taff	93.8
Conwy	84.0	Cardiff	82.1	Pembrokeshire	86.3	Conwy	87.4	Pembrokeshire	93.4
Neath Port Talbot	81.2	Gwynedd	57.9	Torfaen	83.8	Neath Port Talbot	85.4	Neath Port Talbot	91.3

Key Stage 2													
All Pupils	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2017 Perf. v Target	2017 LA Target	2018 LA Target	2019 LA Target	FSM Pupils	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2017 Perf. v Target	2017 LA Target	2018 LA Target	2019 LA Target
CSI	90.4	90.1	🔴	90.4	88.8	88.9	CSI	80.6	78.8	🔴	80.2	77.6	79.6
English L4+	92.4	91.8	🔴	92.1	90.4	90.7	English L4+	83.2	82.1	🔴	83.6	80.8	82.6
Welsh (1st) L4+	91.8	94.7	🔴	95.6	93.0	94.2	Welsh (1st) L4+	88.5	86.3	🔴	88.5	83.3	89.2
Maths L4+	92.0	92.1	🟢	92.1	91.2	90.8	Maths L4+	84.1	83.0	🔴	83.1	81.2	82.1
Science L4+	93.2	92.9	🔴	92.9	92.4	91.1	Science L4+	85.9	83.3	🔴	84.7	82.2	82.8
English L5+	40.9	44.5	🟢	44.0	40.8	41.7	English L5+	23.0	24.0	🟢	23.9	23.8	21.5
Welsh (1st) L5+	34.1	40.5	🔴	43.9	36.5	37.8	Welsh (1st) L5+	5.8	19.6	🟢	13.5	14.8	16.2
Maths L5+	42.5	45.7	🟢	43.1	40.3	41.2	Maths L5+	19.8	23.5	🟢	21.6	23.8	22.1
Science L5+	42.2	46.3	🟢	43.9	41.3	41.6	Science L5+	20.0	24.9	🟢	24.3	25.2	21.3

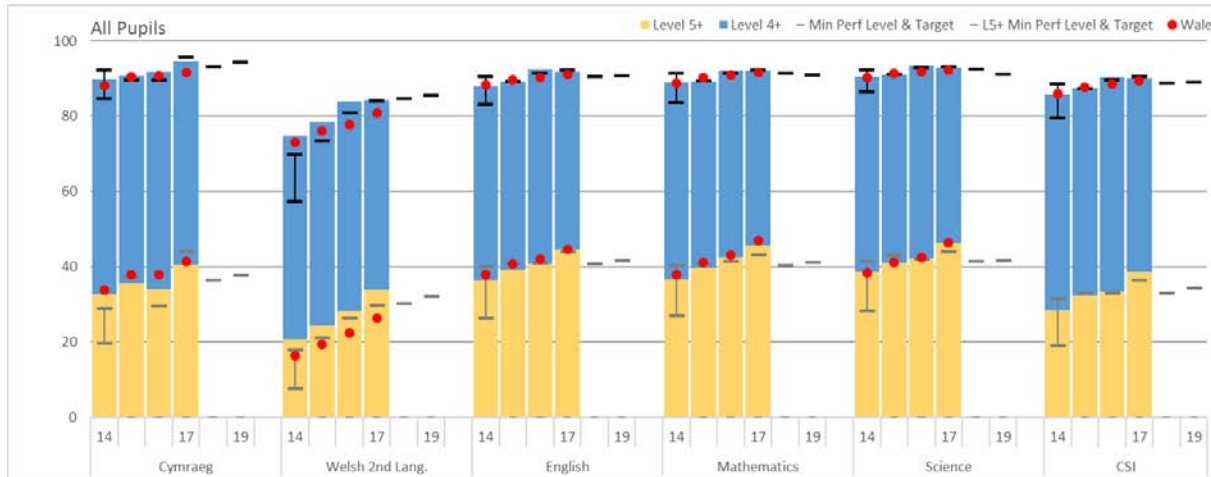
Performance decreased slightly in 2017, with 90.1% pupils achieving the core subject indicator (CSI), 0.3 percentage points below 90.4% in 2016. Caerphilly is ranked 10th in Wales, which is higher than could be expected given the LA's FSM ranking.



10 Year Performance Summary – Key Stage 2 CSI



Performance at the expected level (4+) has improved in Welsh 1st language, Welsh 2nd Language and mathematics. At level 5+, performance has improved in all subjects.



Percentage of pupils achieving level 4+:

	CSI	English	Welsh (First Language)	Mathematics	Science
Caerphilly 2017	90.1	91.8	94.7	92.1	92.9
Target	90.4	92.1	95.6	92.1	92.9
Caerphilly 2016	90.4	92.4	91.8	92.0	93.2
Wales 2017	89.5	91.1	91.6	91.6	92.2

Percentage of pupils achieving level 5+:

	English	Welsh (First Language)	Mathematics	Science
Caerphilly 2017	44.5	40.5	45.7	46.3
Target	44.0	43.9	43.1	43.9
Caerphilly 2016	40.9	34.1	42.5	42.2
Wales 2017	44.7	41.5	47.0	46.4

Performance in the CSI has declined slightly by 0.3 percentage points and is ranked 10th in Wales.

Performance in English at the expected level 4+ has declined by 0.6 percentage points and is ranked 10th in Wales. Performance at the higher level 5+ has improved by 3.6 percentage points.

Performance in Welsh (first language) at the expected level 4+ has improved by 2.9 percentage points and is ranked 6th in Wales. Performance in Welsh (first language) at the higher level 5+ has improved by 6.4 percentage points.

Performance in mathematics at the expected level 4+ is stable at 92.1% and is ranked 9th in Wales. Performance in mathematics at the higher level 5+ has improved by 3.2 percentage points.

Performance in science at the expected level 4+ has declined slightly by 0.3 percentage points and is ranked 10th in Wales. Performance in science at the higher level 5+ has improved by 4.1 percentage points.

Performance at the expected level 4+ for all indicators was within 1% of the school aggregate targets.

Gender differences at level 4+ (boys' performance – girls' performance):

	CSI		English		Welsh (First Language)		Mathematics		Science	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Caerphilly	-5.3	-4.0	-4.9	-4.8	-5.0	-5.6	-3.9	-2.2	-4.2	-3.2
Wales	-5.2	-4.5	-5.6	-5.0	-5.2	-6.0	-3.2	-2.8	-3.6	-3.4

At level 4+ gender differences have decreased in each subject area except Welsh. Gender differences are narrower than the national gender differences in all subjects.

Gender differences at level 5+ (boys' performance – girls' performance):

	English		Welsh (First Language)		Mathematics		Science	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Caerphilly	-13.3	-13.8	-15.7	-22.7	-0.1	-4.4	-5.4	-9.2
Wales	-12.0	-12.9	-13.8	-17.3	0.7	-0.8	-3.6	-5.2

At level 5+ gender differences have increased for all subjects. The gender gaps are still wider than the national averages.

Wales rankings:

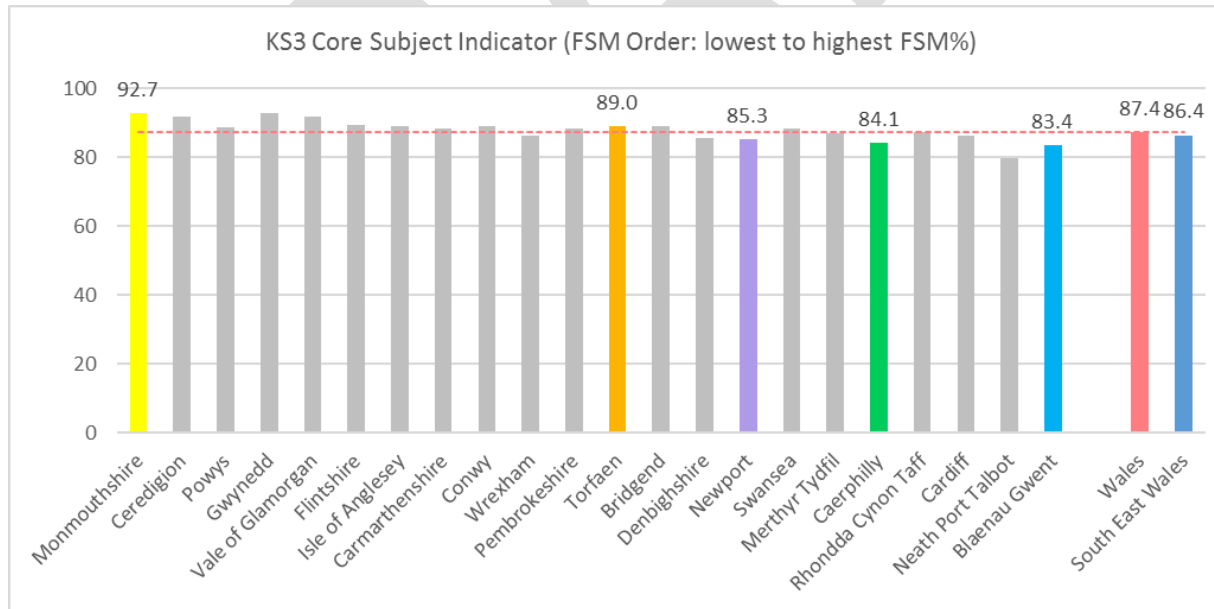
The LA's rankings against other LAs in wales in all subjects has declined this year.

	CSI	English	Welsh (first language)	Mathematics	Science
2017	10 ↓	10 ↓	6 ↓	9 ↓	10 ↓
2016	3 ↑	3 ↑	13 ↓	5 ↑	4 ↑
2015	=15 →	=15 →	10 →	18 ↓	15 ↓

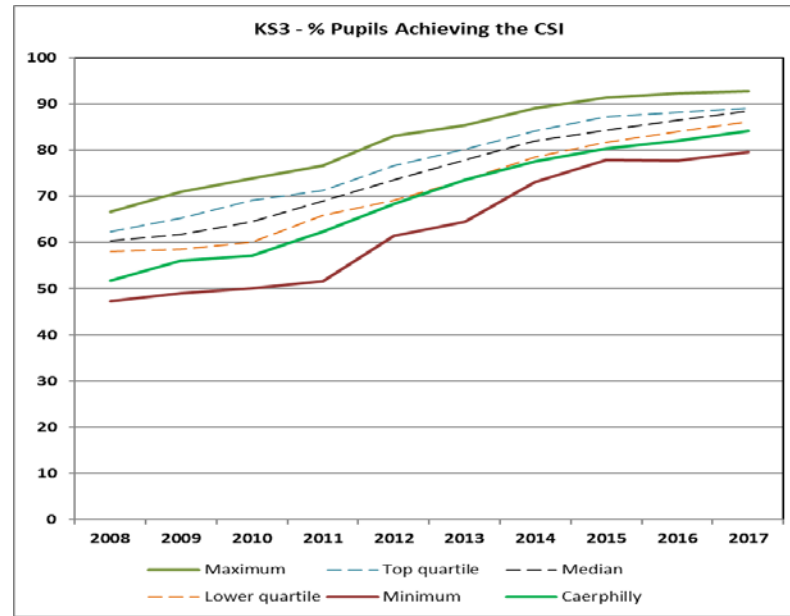
CSI		English		Welsh 1st Lang.		Mathematics		Science	
Vale of Glamorgan	93.5	Monmouthshire	95.3	Bridgend	98.3	Vale of Glamorgan	94.8	Monmouthshire	95.3
Monmouthshire	93.2	Vale of Glamorgan	94.2	Merthyr Tydfil	97.7	Monmouthshire	94.5	Vale of Glamorgan	94.9
Gwynedd	92.1	Gwynedd	93.2	Vale of Glamorgan	96.7	Gwynedd	93.3	Powys	94.3
Isle of Anglesey	91.4	Powys	93.2	Powys	95.9	Isle of Anglesey	93.1	Torfaen	93.8
Powys	91.2	Newport	93.0	Swansea	95.3	Flintshire	93.0	Isle of Anglesey	93.8
Flintshire	91.0	Isle of Anglesey	92.6	Caerphilly	94.7	Powys	92.8	Gwynedd	93.8
Wrexham	90.3	Flintshire	92.6	Neath Port Talbot	93.3	Wrexham	92.5	Newport	93.4
Merthyr Tydfil	90.2	South East Wales	92.3	Rhondda Cynon Taff	93.0	Rhondda Cynon Taff	92.2	South East Wales	93.3
South East Wales	90.2	Wrexham	92.0	Cardiff	92.8	South East Wales	92.1	Flintshire	93.2
Newport	90.1	Torfaen	92.0	Denbighshire	92.4	Caerphilly	92.1	Wrexham	92.9
Caerphilly	90.1	Caerphilly	91.8	South East Wales	92.3	Newport	91.9	Caerphilly	92.9
Rhondda Cynon Taff	90.0	Merthyr Tydfil	91.4	Wales	91.6	Denbighshire	91.8	Denbighshire	92.7
Wales	89.5	Rhondda Cynon Taff	91.4	Conwy	91.3	Swansea	91.7	Rhondda Cynon Taff	92.6
Torfaen	89.5	Swansea	91.3	Gwynedd	91.1	Wales	91.6	Swansea	92.4
Swansea	89.5	Wales	91.1	Carmarthenshire	90.6	Cardiff	91.6	Wales	92.2
Cardiff	89.4	Bridgend	90.8	Pembrokeshire	90.4	Torfaen	91.5	Merthyr Tydfil	92.0
Bridgend	89.4	Cardiff	90.8	Newport	90.1	Merthyr Tydfil	91.4	Carmarthenshire	91.7
Pembrokeshire	89.2	Pembrokeshire	90.7	Wrexham	89.7	Carmarthenshire	91.4	Cardiff	91.7
Denbighshire	88.9	Denbighshire	90.6	Torfaen	88.9	Bridgend	91.4	Bridgend	91.6
Carmarthenshire	88.8	Carmarthenshire	90.2	Blaenau Gwent	88.6	Pembrokeshire	91.3	Pembrokeshire	91.5
Conwy	88.4	Conwy	90.2	Isle of Anglesey	88.3	Blaenau Gwent	90.8	Conwy	91.2
Blaenau Gwent	88.4	Ceredigion	89.3	Ceredigion	87.2	Conwy	90.5	Blaenau Gwent	91.1
Ceredigion	87.9	Blaenau Gwent	88.9	Monmouthshire	86.8	Ceredigion	90.5	Ceredigion	91.0
Neath Port Talbot	85.9	Neath Port Talbot	87.4	Flintshire	86.6	Neath Port Talbot	87.6	Neath Port Talbot	89.4

Key Stage 3													
All Pupils	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2017 Perf. v Target	2017 LA Target	2018 LA Target	2019 LA Target	FSM Pupils	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2017 Perf. v Target	2017 LA Target	2018 LA Target	2019 LA Target
CSI	82.0	84.1	↓	86.1	84.9	88.1	CSI	65.1	68.6	↓	71.9	73.1	76.8
English L5+	85.3	86.2	↓	89.0	87.7	90.1	English L5+	70.0	72.3	↓	77.2	77.0	80.3
Maths L5+	87.6	88.9	↓	89.5	89.4	91.5	Maths L5+	74.5	75.1	↓	78.1	80.3	82.3
Science L5+	89.8	90.7	↓	92.3	90.7	93.7	Science L5+	78.8	80.0	↓	81.9	81.7	86.6
English L6+	46.6	50.2	↑	50.1	50.2	48.5	English L6+	23.9	28.4	↓	34.4	32.0	27.5
Maths L6+	54.3	58.4	↑	54.7	53.6	55.3	Maths L6+	34.9	33.5	↓	35.5	37.4	34.3
Science L6+	57.0	57.6	↑	57.2	55.3	57.0	Science L6+	35.8	35.1	↓	37.9	37.8	35.1

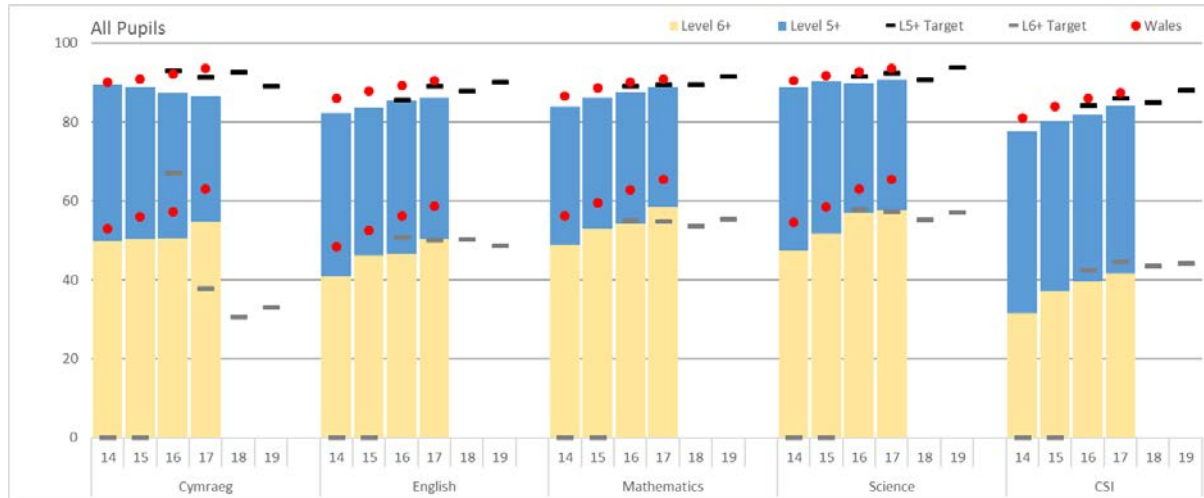
Performance continues to improve, with 84.1% pupils achieving the core subject indicator (CSI), an increase of 2.1 percentage points from 82.0% in 2016. Caerphilly remains ranked 20th in Wales.



10 Year Performance Summary – Key Stage 3 CSI



Performance has improved across all indicators at expected level 5+, level 6+ and level 7+ except for Welsh 1st Language at both L5+ & L7+..



Percentage of pupils achieving level 5+

	CSI	English	Welsh (First Language)	Mathematics	Science
Caerphilly 2017	84.1	86.2	86.6 -1.0	88.9 +1.0	90.7 +1.0
Target	86.1	89.0	91.3	89.5	92.3
Caerphilly 2016	82.0	85.3	87.3	87.6	89.8
Wales 2017	87.4	90.5	93.5	90.8	93.5

Percentage of pupils achieving level 6+

	English	Welsh (First Language)	Maths	Science
Caerphilly 2017	50.2	54.7	58.4 +1.0	57.6
Target	50.1	37.7	54.7	57.2
Caerphilly 2016	46.6	50.4	54.3	57.0
Wales 2017	58.7	58.7	65.5	65.6

Percentage of pupils achieving level 7+

	English	Welsh (First Language)	Maths	Science
Caerphilly 2017	14.1	12.1	20.0	19.5
Caerphilly 2016	12.4	12.3	19.9	15.7
Wales 2017	20.7	20.7	30.8	26.5

Performance in the CSI has improved by 2.1 percentage points and continues to be ranked 20th in Wales.

Performance in English at the expected level 5+ has improved by 0.9 percentage points and is ranked 21st in Wales. Performance in English at level 6+ and level 7+ has improved by 3.6 and 1.7 percentage points respectively.

Performance in Welsh first language at the expected level 5+ has declined by 0.7 percentage points and is ranked 18th out of 18 in Wales. Performance in Welsh at level 6+ has improved by 4.3 percentage points, but has declined slightly at level 7+ by 0.2 percentage points.

Performance in mathematics at the expected level 5+ has improved by 1.3 percentage points and is ranked 20th in Wales. Performance in mathematics at level 6+ and level 7+ has improved by 4.1 and 0.1 percentage points respectively.

Performance in science at the expected level 5+ has improved by 0.9 percentage points and is ranked 21st in Wales. Performance in science at level 6+ and level 7+ has improved by 0.6 and 3.8 percentage points respectively.

Performance at the expected Level 5+ was less than 3% below school aggregate targets, except for Welsh first language, which was 4.7% below target.

Gender differences at level 5+ (boys' performance – girls' performance):

	CSI		English		Welsh (First Language)		Mathematics		Science	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Caerphilly	-10.9	-8.8	-10.3	-8.2	-8.3	-11.6	-5.4	-5.3	-6.2	-5.5
Wales	-7.4	-7.4	-8.0	-7.3	-5.8	-4.9	-3.7	-4.5	-4.4	-4.4

Gender differences have decreased for all indicators except Welsh first language, and are still wider than the Wales average gender difference.

Gender differences at level 6+ (boys' performance – girls' performance):

	English		Welsh (First Language)		Mathematics		Science	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Caerphilly	-22.7	-20.1	-20.6	-16.9	-4.9	-7.5	-10.0	-13.4
Wales	-18.4	-18.6	-18.8	-19.2	-5.0	-7.3	-11.0	-12.2

Gender differences have decreased for English and Welsh, and have increased for maths and science. The gender gaps are still wider than the Wales average gender difference for English, mathematics and science.

Gender differences at level 7+ (boys' performance – girls' performance):

	English		Welsh (First Language)		Mathematics		Science	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Caerphilly	-9.4	-8.9	-14.1	-11.6	-1.2	-5.1	-7.0	-7.4
Wales	-11.0	-12.7	-10.5	-12.0	-3.6	-4.1	-8.3	-8.1

Gender differences have increased for mathematics and science. However, the gender gaps are narrower than the Wales average gender difference in all subjects except mathematics.

Wales rankings:

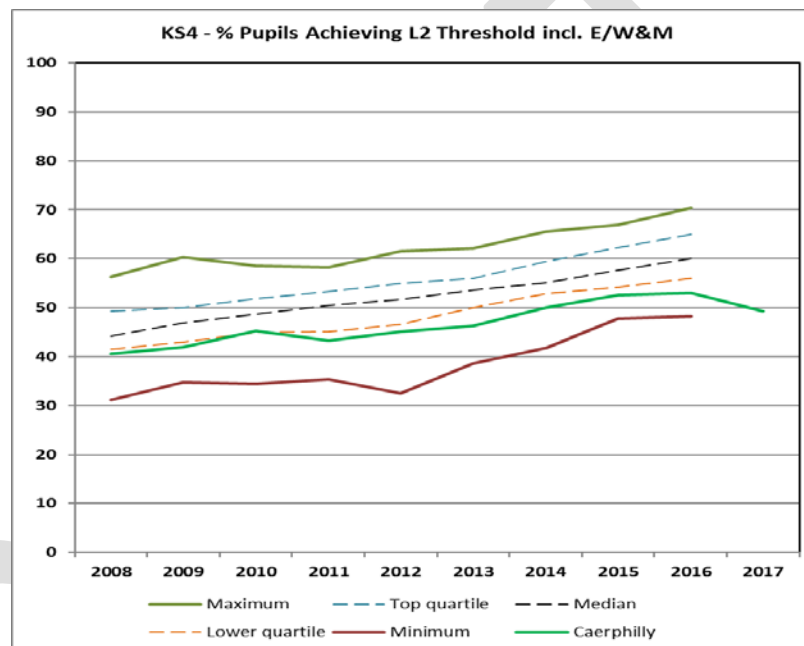
Whilst there have been some performance improvements in 2017, Caerphilly's ranking has remained the same for all subjects except English, which has declined from 20th to 21st.

	CSI	English	Welsh (first language)	Mathematics	Science
2017	20 →	21 ↓	18/18 →	20 →	21 →
2016	20 →	20 ↑	18/18 ↓	20 ↓	21 ↓
2015	20 ↓	22 ↓	13/18 ↓	19 →	19 ↓

CSI		English		Welsh 1st Lang.		Mathematics		Science	
Gwynedd	92.8	Ceredigion	95.2	Pembrokeshire	99.3	Gwynedd	94.8	Monmouthshire	97.0
Monmouthshire	92.7	Monmouthshire	94.5	Wrexham	96.6	Monmouthshire	94.5	Gwynedd	96.8
Ceredigion	91.9	Vale of Glamorgan	93.9	Powys	96.3	Vale of Glamorgan	93.4	Ceredigion	96.6
Vale of Glamorgan	91.8	Gwynedd	93.6	Vale of Glamorgan	95.6	Ceredigion	93.3	Vale of Glamorgan	95.7
Flintshire	89.5	Isle of Anglesey	92.9	Cardiff	95.4	Flintshire	92.7	Bridgend	95.5
Bridgend	89.0	Flintshire	92.5	Swansea	95.4	Carmarthenshire	92.4	Conwy	95.4
Torfaen	89.0	Powys	92.3	Flintshire	95.1	Torfaen	92.4	Isle of Anglesey	95.3
Conwy	88.9	Bridgend	91.6	Isle of Anglesey	95.0	Conwy	92.1	Powys	95.2
Isle of Anglesey	88.9	Conwy	91.2	Rhondda Cynon Taff	94.1	Bridgend	92.1	Torfaen	95.2
Powys	88.6	Swansea	91.2	Gwynedd	93.7	Pembrokeshire	91.6	Flintshire	95.1
Pembrokeshire	88.4	Pembrokeshire	90.8	Wales	93.5	Powys	91.2	Carmarthenshire	94.1
Carmarthenshire	88.4	Cardiff	90.8	Ceredigion	93.0	Swansea	91.0	Denbighshire	93.8
Swansea	88.2	Torfaen	90.7	Bridgend	92.7	Isle of Anglesey	91.0	Cardiff	93.7
Rhondda Cynon Taff	87.4	Merthyr Tydfil	90.7	Denbighshire	92.4	Wales	90.8	Wales	93.5
Wales	87.4	Wales	90.5	Conwy	92.2	South East Wales	90.7	Rhondda Cynon Taff	93.3
Merthyr Tydfil	87.1	Rhondda Cynon Taff	90.4	Carmarthenshire	92.1	Rhondda Cynon Taff	90.7	South East Wales	93.0
South East Wales	86.4	Carmarthenshire	90.0	Neath Port Talbot	91.6	Denbighshire	90.7	Newport	92.9
Wrexham	86.3	Denbighshire	90.0	Torfaen	89.9	Newport	90.6	Pembrokeshire	92.8
Cardiff	86.2	Wrexham	89.8	South East Wales	88.0	Cardiff	89.3	Merthyr Tydfil	92.6
Denbighshire	85.6	Newport	89.3	Caerphilly	86.6	Wrexham	89.2	Swansea	91.6
Newport	85.3	South East Wales	89.0	Merthyr Tydfil	-	Blaenau Gwent	89.1	Blaenau Gwent	91.4
Caerphilly	84.1	Blaenau Gwent	86.3	Blaenau Gwent	-	Caerphilly	88.9	Wrexham	91.4
Blaenau Gwent	83.4	Caerphilly	86.2	Monmouthshire	-	Merthyr Tydfil	88.6	Caerphilly	90.7
Neath Port Talbot	79.6	Neath Port Talbot	85.6	Newport	-	Neath Port Talbot	84.4	Neath Port Talbot	89.0

Key Stage 4 (PROVISIONAL)

Please note that this section is compiled using provisional data provided by schools on exam results day. This data is subject to a validation process throughout September and October. Final confirmed data is not likely to be available until December 2017. A full analysis will be provided on the final validated data set.



	Cohort Number	% L2 E,W+M		
School	2017	2016	2017	2017 Target
Caerphilly	1,965	53.0	49.2	56.0
EAS - South East Wales	6,025	55.5	52.1	59.2
Wales		60.3		

Primary Attendance

Note: 2017 attendance data is available Dec 2017

Pupil Attendance				
	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 Target	2019 Target
LA	94.6	95.3	95.5	95.7

Secondary Attendance

Pupil Attendance				
	2017 Actual	2017 Target	2018 Target	2019 Target
Page 186	93.3	94.0	94.5	94.8

Summary of National Categorisation of schools in the Local Authority in 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017

Step 1 – Primary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1
Caerphilly	14-15	2	23	34	16	3%	31%	45%	21%
	15-16	0	9	35	31	0%	12%	47%	41%
	16-17	0	8	22	45	0%	11%	29%	60%
South East Wales	14-15	7	52	88	49	4%	27%	45%	25%
	15-16	2	25	90	82	1%	13%	45%	41%
	16-17	2	19	63	115	1%	10%	32%	58%

Step 2 - Primary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		D	C	B	A	D	C	B	A
Caerphilly	14-15	2	15	44	14	3%	20%	59%	19%
	15-16	1	7	51	16	1%	9%	68%	21%
	16-17	2	4	51	18	3%	5%	68%	24%
South East Wales	14-15	9	45	101	44	5%	23%	51%	22%
	15-16	4	29	116	50	2%	15%	58%	25%
	16-17	3	18	109	64	2%	9%	56%	33%

Step 3 - Primary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Red	Amber	Yellow	Green	Red	Amber	Yellow	Green
Caerphilly	14-15	2	17	44	12	3%	23%	59%	16%
	15-16	1	8	50	16	1%	11%	67%	21%
	16-17	3	3	52	17	4%	4%	69%	23%
South East Wales	14-15	9	50	100	40	5%	25%	50%	20%
	15-16	5	31	111	52	3%	16%	56%	26%
	16-17	5	18	111	60	3%	9%	57%	31%

Step 1 - Secondary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1	Group 4	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1
Caerphilly	14-15	5	6	2	1	36%	43%	14%	7%
	15-16	1	11	1	1	7%	79%	7%	7%
	16-17	0	11	2	1	0%	79%	14%	7%
South East Wales	14-15	10	14	10	3	27%	38%	27%	8%
	15-16	3	22	6	4	9%	63%	17%	11%
	16-17	3	19	8	5	9%	54%	23%	14%

Step 2 – Secondary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		D	C	B	A	D	C	B	A
Caerphilly	14-15	0	11	2	1	0%	79%	14%	7%
	15-16	1	9	4	0	7%	64%	29%	0%
	16-17	1	3	9	0	8%	23%	69%	0%
South East Wales	14-15	0	25	11	1	0%	68%	30%	3%
	15-16	3	18	14	1	8%	50%	39%	3%
	16-17	6	9	17	4	17%	25%	47%	11%

Step 3 – Secondary		Number of Schools				Percentage of Schools			
		Red	Amber	Yellow	Green	Red	Amber	Yellow	Green
Caerphilly	14-15	3	8	2	1	21%	57%	14%	7%
	15-16	2	9	3	0	14%	64%	21%	0%
	16-17	1	6	6	0	8%	46%	46%	0%
South East Wales	14-15	5	19	10	3	14%	51%	27%	8%
	15-16	6	18	11	1	17%	50%	31%	3%
	16-17	6	12	15	3	17%	33%	42%	8%

LA schools currently in any Estyn follow-up category

Phase	School	Date of last inspection	Date report published	Follow-up status of last inspection	Current Follow-up status
Primary	St James Primary*	01/05/2016	20/07/2016	Estyn	Estyn
Primary	Park Primary	01/04/2015	25/06/2015	SI	SI

Phase	School	Date of last inspection	Date report published	Follow-up status of last inspection	Current Follow-up status
Secondary	Bedwas High	01/05/2017	26/07/2017	SM	SM
Secondary	Blackwood Comprehensive	01/11/2015	15/01/2016	Estyn	Estyn
Secondary	Lewis Girls Comprehensive	01/11/2014	09/01/2015	Estyn	Estyn

Pupil outcomes

A high-level analysis of pupil outcomes for the Local Authority indicates that the following aspects require improvement over the next phase of the Business Plan:

Focus for 2016-2017

- Attendance
- Efsm
- Raising standards KS 4
- Continuing development of 21st schools
- ALN review
- EOTAS review

Schools requiring Improvement 2017-2018 (Amber and Red Overall Categories of support) The information below indicates the additional support that was given to schools in the overall category of Amber or Red in the Local Authority in the academic year 2016-2017. The support was in line with the guidance within the National Categorisation System and within the SEWC Intervention Framework 2016-2017. Each of these schools had a detailed Intervention or Support Plan, the progress each school made over the academic year has been captured through regular Education Improvement Boards (EIBs) or Intervention Meetings.

School	National Categorisation 2016-2017			Draft National Categorisation 2017-2018 (Confidential)		Overall judgement on progress made against detailed actions
	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 2	Step 3	
Cwmcarn Primary	3	C	Amber	B	Yellow	Strong
Pontlottyn Primary	1	C	Amber	B	Yellow	Strong
Upper Rhymney Primary	1	C	Amber	C	Amber	Satisfactory
Bedwas High	3	B	Amber	D	Red	Limited
Holddu Comprehensive	3	C	Amber	C	Amber	Satisfactory
Islwyn High	N/A	C	Amber	C	Amber	Satisfactory
Lewis Girls	3	C	Amber	B	Amber	Satisfactory
Rhymney Comprehensive	3	B	Amber	C	Amber	Satisfactory
St Cenydd Comprehensive	3	B	Amber	B	Yellow	Strong
Glan y nant PRU	N/A	C	Amber	C	Amber	Satisfactory
Park Primary	3	C	Red	B	Amber	Strong
St James Primary	3	D	Red	C	Red	Satisfactory
Cwmcarn High	3	D	Red	C	Amber	Satisfactory
Pantside Primary	3	D	Red	C	Amber	Strong

Local Authority specific activity financial year 2017-2018

The section below indicates additional school improvement activity that will be undertaken in the Local Authority through this financial year (2017-2018). The additional activity is linked to specific need arising from pupil outcomes.

A detailed programme delivery plan is available. Progress towards each of the additional interventions will be measured at the end of each term.

Nature of Additional Activity	Expected Outcomes	Update
<p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedwas High School • Tyn Y Wern Primary • Graig Y Racca Primary • St Helen's RC Primary • Bedwas Infant • Bedwas Junior • Machen Primary </p> <p>Page 191</p> <p>develop the role of the deputy head teacher in working collaboratively with primary Deputy Head colleagues across the cluster and Bedwas Deputy, Yr 7 lead, Transition and MAT lead.</p> <p>This Peer Working Project would allow release time for deputies from all schools in the cluster to share best practice, undertake learning walks across each school and monitor the quality and standards of books, with a focus on writing, planning and the learning environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on KS 3 curriculum working with primary colleagues from New Deal and Curriculum Pioneer Primary Schools • Shared approaches to KS2 – KS3 Pedagogy and AFL strategies • Closer tracking of pupils between KS2 & KS3 • Focused supported transition for vulnerable groups, eFSM, LAC, EAL • Shared approach to supporting and challenging More Able and Talented Pupils. • A more focused use of Iris software • An improvement in standards in all schools • 6 weekly meeting with deputy group to monitor progress 	<p>Transition - curriculum and pedagogy Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Stage 3 practitioners (literacy, history, geography KS3 teachers) observed best practice in literacy in Year 6. New units of work have been created as a result. Shared discussion around adapting effective teaching strategies have taken place. • KS3 Literacy and numeracy coordinators have met with KS2 colleagues with a focus on improving the quality of curriculum. • KS2 teachers have worked alongside secondary colleagues to make appropriate adaptations to KS2 literacy curriculum in light of feedback/changes to requirements and a focus on key skill development. A focus on grammar through 'Grammar for Writing' is

<p>Developing this capacity amongst the deputies, with support from the head teachers will raise standards in all schools and support the secondary school in the process.</p> <p>The deputy heads are best placed to implement curriculum reform across the schools, sharing the expertise of the group (Pioneer schools, Creative Lead schools etc) will inform future decisions. Training has already been organised in the form of an inset day, across the cluster to consider the DCF.</p> <p>The model for transition can be shared across the authority.</p> <p>LA Strategic lead and EAS to meet with the group to write the action plan and meet half termly to review actions and progress,</p> <p>Funding: 21.5K through LA annex</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.3; transform: rotate(-45deg);">DRAFT</p>	<p>being used in KS2 and this is detailed in the Cluster improvement plan for the year.</p> <p>Transition: Wellbeing Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of KS3 inclusion manager is currently underway with a focus on attendance, parental engagement, emotional health and wellbeing. Liaison with the LA is good and the systems are improving including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ individual attendance targets with vulnerable pupils set shared with parents and other relevant stakeholders. ✓ Implementation of ‘Callio’ – attendance strategy alongside school leaders. ✓ regular contact made with vulnerable families; e.g. parental engagement sessions. ✓ Support provided for pupils who are identified as vulnerable through 1-1 or group support. • Substance misuse – training on effective intervention and education - A working party has been created including other clusters. Meeting with a range of
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agencies police, EOTAS, substance misuse agencies to collect a holistic picture. There have been a high number of EOTAS exclusions due to substance misuse. Outcome – a robust action plan has been created (Adam Thomas, Healthy Schools Practitioner). Pupil feedback has been sought in high school and cluster. Looked at research – creating pastoral guidance around this issue and creating a curriculum based on latest guidance.

Aspects to be completed:

Assessment for Learning strategy for cluster to be fully explored. Training/support to be provided, school visits to be arranged.

Visits to other schools – Pioneer/Lead schools to see curriculum developments and links to Successful Futures

Tracking of Pupil Progress from Year 6 to Year 7 – meetings to take place

DHT/Literacy Coordinators to report outcomes and updates to other senior leaders

The content of this LA Annex has been agreed by:

LA Director / Chief Education Officer: _____

Cabinet Member for Education: _____

Principal Challenge Adviser:

DRAFT



CABINET – 28TH MARCH 2018

SUBJECT: PUBLICATION OF GENDER PAY GAP DATA – EQUALITY ACT 2010 (SPECIFIC DUTIES AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES) REGULATIONS 2017

REPORT BY: ACTING HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the publication of the Authority's gender pay gap written statement.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017, all organisations listed at Schedule 2 to the regulations that employ over 250 employees are required to report annually on their gender pay gap from 2017.
- 2.2 The provisions under these Regulations only apply to employees directly appointed and managed by the Council. Employees who are appointed and managed by school head teachers/Governing Bodies are, therefore, not required to be included within the scope of the Council's Gender Pay Gap Data. This reflects the unique employment legislation position whereby all schools employees are employed by the local authority, but decisions about the appointment and management of such employees are mostly discharged by head teachers/governing bodies, as appropriate. Caerphilly Schools will not be required to publish and report their own specific figures as no School employs more than 250 staff.
- 2.3 The Council's gender pay gap data is required to be published on our own website and a government website by 30 March each year. The data must include the hourly pay, as both a mean figure, (identifying the difference between the average of men's and women's pay) and the median figure, (identifying the difference between the midpoints in the ranges of men's and women's pay). Employers are encouraged to produce a written statement explaining the data.
- 2.4 The Regulations further require the Council to publish the mean and median gender pay gap relating to bonus pay. Cabinet will be aware that the Council does not offer piecework or bonus incentive schemes.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report links to the efficient and effective management of the Council's activities. The remuneration of employees is an integral feature of our People Strategy and frameworks, and is a fundamental feature of the employment relationship.

4. THE REPORT

The Gender Pay Gap Data and Supporting Statement

- 4.1 The Council's gender pay gap data is required to be published on an annual basis, once accepted. There is a requirement under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations for this to be undertaken no later than the 30th March each year.
- 4.2 There are six calculations to carry out, and the results must be published on the employer's website and a government website within 12 months. Where applicable, they must be confirmed by an appropriate person, such as a chief executive.
- 4.3 Gender pay reporting is a different requirement to carrying out an equal pay audit.
- 4.4 Employers have the option to provide a narrative with their calculations. This should generally explain the reasons for the results and give details about actions that are being taken to reduce or eliminate the gender pay gap.
- 4.5 The written statement that is attached to this report contains the full details of the Council's gender pay gap position that the Council is required to publish under legislation.
- 4.6 With Cabinet's agreement, the statement will be published on the Council's Website and to the government on line using the gender pay gap reporting service (<https://www.gov.uk/report-gender-pay-gap-data>), and will be available for access by members of the public, press and interested pressure groups.
- 4.7 The Council's gender pay gap data and written statement is based on a high level snapshot of pay within the Council that shows the difference in the average pay between all men and women in our workforce. In accordance with the Specific Duties and Public Authorities Regulations, the data includes all employees of the Council who were paid on 31 March 2017.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 Having considered the five ways of working, the Council's gender pay gap written statement highlights its commitment to the common vision principle of a more equal Wales.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The data highlights a gender pay gap in favour of males. In this data snapshot the mean gender pay gap difference is 8.9% and the median gap is 8.6%. This does not mean that the Council is paying males and females differently for work deemed to be of equal value. The identification of a gender pay gap provides a trigger for further investigation about the reasons why the gap exists.
- 6.2 The Council has committed to Equal Pay which is a more specific legal concept that deals with the pay differences between men and women carrying out comparable jobs. Equal Pay requires the scrutiny of information at the level of the individual employee to satisfy that there is equal pay for equal work. The Council continues to use the GLPC job evaluation scheme and the HAY job evaluation scheme to satisfy this specific purpose.
- 6.3 The Council recognises the importance of equality not only in the Well-being of Future Generations Act but explicitly through its Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020; its introduction of

Equal Pay through Single Status and withdrawal of piecework and bonus incentive Schemes in 2009 and its introduction of the Living Wage Foundation minimum hourly rate in 2012.

- 6.4 The gender pay written statement attached confirms the pay received by employees in March 2017 and reports on the facts of the current pay arrangements in place; therefore no specific Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. Any previous changes to pay, terms and conditions that have led to this data have been assessed for equalities issues, as have other reports relating to CCBC employee pay issues such as the Living Wage report.
- 6.5 In determining the pay and remuneration of all of its employees, the Council has complied with all relevant employment legislation, including:
- The Equality Act 2010, including the requirements specifically in relation to Equal Pay
 - Part Time Employment (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000
 - The Agency Workers Regulations 2010
 - The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006, where relevant;
 - The National Minimum Wage Act 1998.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the requirement to publish the Council's gender pay gap position.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The personnel implications arising from the gender pay gap data and the measures taken and proposed to close the Council's gender pay gap further are outlined in the written statement attached to this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 All consultation responses have been reflected in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Cabinet are asked to agree the attached written statement detailing gender pay gap data for publication on the Council's website and Government website on line using the gender pay gap reporting service.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To comply with the legislative requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Act 1972
Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
Localism Act 2011
Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011
Local Government (Wales) Act 2015

The Council's Constitution

- Author: Lynne Donovan, Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development
- Consultees: Corporate Management Team
Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance
Lisa Downey, Acting HR Service Manager
Shaun Watkins, Acting HR Service Manager
- Appendix 1 Written Statement – Gender Pay Gap 2017

CAERPHILLY CBC

GENDER PAY GAP STATEMENT 2017

1 BACKGROUND

Under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017, all organisations listed at Schedule 2 to the regulations that employ over 250 employees are required to report annually on their gender pay gap. Other organisations in the private and voluntary sectors with 250 or more employees will need to comply with the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.

This data is required to be published on the Council's website and a government website by 30 March each year. The salary data within this statement is based on the snapshot date of 31 March 2017. The regulations also require employers to calculate and publish a separate gender bonus pay gap report. The Council however has no bonus schemes in place.

The gender pay gap is a high-level snap-shot of pay within an organisation and shows the difference in the average pay between all men and women in a workforce. This requires the examination of aggregate workforce data. Where the data highlights a gender pay gap, this does not mean that the Council is paying males and females differently for work deemed to be of equal value. The identification of a gender pay gap however provides a trigger for further investigation about the reasons why the gap exists.

In contrast, 'equal pay' is a more specific legal concept that deals with the pay differences between men and women carrying out comparable jobs. It requires the scrutiny of information at the level of the individual employee to satisfy that there is equal pay for equal work.

2 GENDER PAY GAP DATA

The employees included in this snapshot data are predetermined by the Specific Duties and Public Authorities Regulations. The Regulations apply the same definition of employee as the Equality Act 2010. This is a broad definition which includes zero hours' workers, apprentices and self-employed people.

Whilst the Council does not employ workers on zero hour's contracts, it does employ people on casual/supply contracts and these are included in the data.

In the table below 'Ordinary pay' means basic pay; allowances; pay for leave; and shift premium pay. It does not include overtime pay; redundancy pay; pay in lieu of leave, or non-monetary remuneration. The Council does not offer piecework or bonus incentive schemes.

Appendix 1

The data is based on a snapshot date of 31 March 2017.

Total Number of Employees included in this data: 6791

Number of Females: 4760 (70%)

Number of Males: 2031 (30%)

	%
1. Mean gender pay gap - Ordinary pay	8.9%
2. Mean hourly Rate - Ordinary pay (Male/Female)	(£12.18 / £11.09)
3. Median gender pay gap - Ordinary pay	8.6%
4. Median hourly rate - Ordinary Pay (Male/Female)	(£10.91 / £9.97)
3. Mean gender pay gap - Bonus pay in the 12 months ending 31 March	0%
4. Median gender pay gap - Bonus pay in the 12 months ending 31 March	0%
5. The proportion of male and female employees paid a bonus in the 12 months ending 31 March:	Male 0 Female 0

Proportion of male and female employees in each quartile

Quartile	Female % (People)	Male % (People)
First (lower) quartile (£7.60 - £8.45)	84.05% (1428)	15.95% (271)
Second quartile (£8.45 - £10.33)	72.1% (1222)	27.9% (473)
Third quartile (£10.33 - £12.52)	60.6% (1029)	39.4% (669)
Fourth (upper) quartile (£12.52 - £74.61)	63.63% (1081)	36.37% (618)

3. ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

The data identifies that there are significantly more women than men occupying posts in every quartile of the data due to the predominantly female population of the Council.

Proportionately however, the data shows against the pure male population of the workforce that 13.34% of the 2031 employed occupy posts in the lower quartile, 23.29% in the 2nd quartile, 32.94% in the 3rd quartile and 30.43% in the 4th quartile.

This compares to 30% of the 4760 pure female population of the workforce that occupy posts in the lower quartile, 25.67% in the 2nd quartile, 21.62% in the 3rd quartile and 22.71% in the fourth quartile.

The Council is confident that its gender pay gap does not stem from paying male and female employees differently for the same or equivalent work. The gender pay gap is the result of roles in which male and females currently work and the salaries that these roles attract.

Our gender pay gap is reflective of the causes of gender pay gap at a societal level. For example research has identified that, although parents are increasingly flexible, the responsibility of childcare still falls disproportionately upon women. It is a fact within this data that the vast majority of part time posts are held by females and that these are the posts that attract salaries in the lower quartiles.

The Council's services are diverse and include cleaning, catering, refuse and recycling, housing, social services/care services, leisure, youth, libraries, education services including adult education, technical services, planning and highways.

In seeking to address the pay differential:

The Council is transparently opposed to discrimination in any form and our Elected Members and employees work to ensure that everyone in the communities we serve have access to and benefit from the full range of services, regardless of their individual circumstances or backgrounds. The Council is committed to doing all that it can to respect the diverse nature of those who live in, work in and visit the County Borough.

The different areas covered by the Council's legal requirements, called "protected characteristics" which include gender and other, wider equalities, human rights and language strands are covered in detail in the Council's Strategic Equality Plan <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/My-Council/Strategies,-plans-and-policies/Equalities/Strategic-Equality-Plan.aspx>.

This link will take you to the Council's third Strategic Equality Plan (2016 - 2020). This plan followed a pilot version in 2011-2012 and four years of implementing a full plan from April 2012 to March 2016.

The Council has developed, and will continue to develop policies, procedures and programmes of action to meet its legal and moral obligations in the area of equal opportunities and is committed to equal opportunities in all aspects of employment. The Council takes positive steps to reduce any disadvantage experienced by all individuals and groups. It recognises that equalities contribute to the most effective utilisation of employee skills and abilities.

The Council became the first Welsh Local Authority to pay its workforce the living Wage Foundation minimum hourly rate in October 2012, to support some of its lowest paid members of staff across all directorates of the Council. It has invested heavily in creating a non-discriminatory, transparent pay and grading structure and

conditions of service that fully comply with the Equal Pay Act and any other anti-discriminatory legislation. All employees of the Council receive at the very least the current foundation Living Wage Foundation rate. As at 31 March 2017, this was £8.75 per hour. You will note in the data quoted that our lowest hourly rate is £7.60 per hour. This is not the employee's basic rate as all employees receive the Living Wage Foundation rate. This is due to a salary sacrifice deduction that a number of employees have chosen to take, i.e. car salary sacrifice or childcare vouchers.

Using the Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) Job Evaluation Scheme to determine the relative size of all posts, the Council is confident that all employees are paid on an objective and consistent assessment of the key factors of their job. The Council's pay structure incorporating grades 1 to 12 was developed to eliminate bias and discrimination by showing that all jobs have been treated in the same way and to ensure that employees are paid fairly and equally for equal work. The Council uses the national HAY evaluation process to determine the pay grade of Chief Officer Posts.

The Council has over many years, ensured a gender balance on appointment panels, carried out name anonymous recruitment, supported apprenticeships and joint partnership working in the provision of its services including Inspire 2 Work, Bridges Into Work and Working Skills for Adults.

The Council is committed to ensuring that employees have the right skills, knowledge and experience to carry out their roles and develop to fulfil their potential. All new employees take an on the job induction within the first 6 months of starting in the post and an in-house Corporate Learning and Development Programme is available to all employees offering a wide selection of courses. An annual Performance Development Review (PDR) provides an opportunity for employees to discuss their job in depth with their manager and identify how their learning and development needs will be met.

The Council offers numerous benefits aimed at making it easier for employees to balance home and work life commitments including flexible working, home working, career breaks, adoption leave, carers leave, a flexible working hours scheme, salary sacrifice childcare voucher scheme, job share, leave of absence, parental, shared parental and paternity leave, part-time working, shift/day swapping and term-time working opportunities.

The Council is working consistently to close its Gender Pay Gap and no employer can afford to be complacent. The Council is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity in all aspects of employment and service delivery as outlined in its Strategic Equality Plan.

4. CLOSING THE GENDER PAY GAP

The Council has committed to the following in its Strategic Equality Plan over the period 2016 - 2020:

- To exercise its community leadership role in order to promote equality and good relations within and between all communities in the area so that all residents of,

workers in and visitors to the area feel confident they are in an environment that is free of any prejudice and discrimination;

- To ensure that the consequences of all new and updated policies and initiatives on specific groups are considered during the Council's consultation and decision-making processes in order to ensure that all policies, processes, assumptions and practices that may lead to discrimination have been eliminated;
- To carry out comprehensive Equality Impact Assessments on all corporate policies that form part of the Council's policy framework. The policy framework list can be found on the Council's website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk/equalities
- To ensure that for the Council to meet its legal duties, all service areas must develop and implement Equalities and Welsh Language Actions and targets in line with the agreed corporate objectives;
- To work in partnership with stakeholders and communities to ensure that all consultation exercises undertaken support the Council's equality objectives;
- To promote equality of opportunity and fair treatment in employment and training and to ensure equal pay for work of equal value;
- Have a workforce that reflects the diversity of its communities and to support staff members to be who they are in the workplace and provide them with a working environment in which they can develop professionally;
- Help and support members of the public and staff who face harassment and to take appropriate action against perpetrators where possible;
- Publish a comprehensive annual report and supplementary information to allow the public, partner organisations and all stakeholders to be fully informed and updated on the Council's progress in terms of its Equalities Objectives and action plans.

5 CONCLUSION

The Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we are working actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce. Please take time to read the progress that the Council has made across all aspects of our equalities work. <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Equalities/StrategicEqualityPlanAnnualReport20162017.aspx>

Signature(s)

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CABINET – 28TH MARCH 2018

SUBJECT: DATA PROTECTION REFORM – UPDATES TO CORE POLICIES

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the amended versions of four core information governance/security policies. The updates are required to meet the forthcoming requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulation, reflect industry best practice and underpin the Council's information security provisions.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be directly applicable in the UK from 25 May 2018. A Data Protection Bill is currently progressing through Parliament that not only ensures the UK's compliance with the requirements of GDPR but also a new EU Law Enforcement Directive, aspects of the Digital Economy Act and national security considerations. As reported to Cabinet in October 2017, there will be a greater requirement for accountability and "Privacy by Design", greater rights for data subjects, including rights to know what the Council will do with their data and mandatory breach reporting within 72 hours. The maximum monetary penalty for breaching the Data Protection Act currently set at £500,000 will increase to the equivalent of €20 million or 4% of global annual turnover under GDPR.
- 2.2 GDPR comes at a challenging time when services must become leaner, requiring more efficient ways of working and collaborations with other organisations. Effective information governance controls to reduce risk to service users and to the Council are vital to this process. This presents an opportunity to make better use of all of the Council's information assets, not just those containing personal information, to aid service delivery and potentially save costs, as well as addressing increasing demands of requests made under FOI and associated information rights legislation.
- 2.3 This report summarises key updates to four information governance/information security policies to meet the forthcoming requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulation, reflect industry best practice and underpin the Council's approach to security, access and use of information.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Information governance is a key part of the Council's corporate governance arrangements and is reflected in the Corporate Risk Register and Annual Governance Statement section of the Statement of Accounts.

3.2 Effective governance of the Council's information underpins all Council activities, safeguarding information assets and using them to maximum effect to help achieve the Council's Priorities and Wellbeing Objectives, as well as the seven Well-being Goals of the Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:

- *A prosperous Wales*
- *A resilient Wales*
- *A healthier Wales*
- *A more equal Wales*
- *A Wales of cohesive communities*
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
- *A globally responsible Wales*

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be directly applicable in the UK from 25 May 2018 and a Data Protection Bill is currently going through Parliament to pull together protection of personal information with aspects of the Digital Economy Act and national security considerations. GDPR comes at a financially challenging time, when local authorities are looking for more efficient ways of working including more collaboration with other organisations. This requires effective information governance controls to reduce risk to service users and to the Council, but also presents an opportunity to make better use of all of the Council's information assets, not just those containing personal information.

4.2 One of the changes introduced by GDPR is an overarching principle of accountability for any activity involving personal information. Adoption of effective policies related to the management of information in all formats is a vital element of CCBC demonstrating its commitment in this area.

4.3 In October 2017 Cabinet approved updates to the Information Risk Management Policy, which modified the time period for updates by Heads of Service as Information Asset Owners to the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO), together with embedding Privacy/Data Protection Impact Assessments at an early stage when using personal information in a new way.

4.4 A number of other core policies also require updates and are appendices to this report. The opportunity is being taken to refresh not only the policies that have a direct impact on processing of personal information but also on Access to Unpublished Information in line with the Council's legal duties. The changes to each policy are summarised below:

Changes to Data Protection Policy

4.5 The original policy was approved by Cabinet on 28 November 2000 in preparation for full implementation of the Data Protection Act 1998. The Council's commitment to protecting personal information has not changed but the policy has been updated to reflect the needs of the GDPR. In addition to the existing data protection principles being replaced, there is an increasing focus on the rights of individuals and definitions of personal information and special category data have also been updated. Responsibilities for evidencing accountability and for monitoring compliance have also been specified, together with key tools that the Council can use to evidence this.

Changes to Records Management Policy

4.6 The original policy was approved by Cabinet on 16 October 2013. The updated version includes the new GDPR statutory Data Protection Officer role; reinforces the role of each Head of Service as Information Asset Owners and their responsibilities in line with the Council's Information Risk Management Policy and reflects the evolution of the Information Governance Steward role from having a directorate remit to a more specific Service Area remit.

Changes to Access to Unpublished Information Policy

- 4.7 The original Code of Practice on Access to and Requests for Unpublished Information was approved by Council on 28 June 2005. 13 years of experience of handling requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act and associated legislation has demonstrated that a shorter, more focused policy is more useable, enabling the day to day processes for handling information requests to be adapted as necessary to ensure compliance with the law with minimal impact on daily service delivery and to account for changes in expectation from the Information Commissioner. The core principles of the original Code have been retained in a high level policy statement, with a greater emphasis on Open Data commitments. Detailed procedures for complying with the policy are detailed separately, with updates reviewed by Information Governance Project Team as necessary.

Changes to Information Security Policy

- 4.8 The current Information Security Policy has remained unchanged since May 2009. Whilst it was still fit for purpose, a number of minor revisions are required to reflect changes to job titles, updated IT Security standards, modified email policy and disclaimer and revised ways in which users now utilise IT through mobile technologies. To simplify the document some detailed password information has been deleted and the email and Internet usage policies have been segregated from the main document and added as appendices. The revised draft document has been reviewed by Human Resources, the Trade Unions and all Directorate Senior Management Teams and all comments made have been reflected in the revised draft.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that effective management of the Council's information will ensure reliable, high quality information is held which could be shared with other partners to ensure a joined up approach to providing services and preventing problems, as well as to enable close working with communities affected by the Council's activities. Reliable information also ensures that decisions are more robust now and in the long-term and preservation of the Council's historic record means that current and future generations can hold the Council to account for its decisions and learn from previous activities.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications of this report and its recommendations for groups or individuals who fall under the categories identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan. There is no requirement for an Equalities Impact Assessment Questionnaire to be completed for this report.
- 6.2 The Council provides FOI information in the format that the applicant requests and this combined with Welsh language responses to FOI requests made in Welsh contributes to compliance with the Council's Strategic Equality Objective 4 – Improving Communication Access and the Council's Welsh Language Standards Compliance Notice.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Monetary penalties that can be levied for data breaches are increasing from £500,000 to the equivalent of €20 million or 4% of global annual turnover following the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in May 2018.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications related to this report.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves adoption of the amended versions of four core information governance/security policies as set out in Appendix 1,2 3, and 4 of this report.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The updates are required to meet the forthcoming requirements of the new EU General Data Protection Regulation, reflect industry best practice and underpin our on-going campaign to assure information security within CCBC.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 General Data Protection Regulation 2016; Data Protection Act 1998 (due to be repealed by the Data Protection Bill); Data Protection Law Enforcement Directive 2016 and UK Data Protection Bill (expected to be enacted during 2018).

12.2 Other privacy legislation such as Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 and Human Rights Act 1998.

12.3 Information rights legislation such as Freedom of Information Act 2000, Environmental Information Regulations 2004, Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 and INSPIRE Regulations 2009.

12.4 Section 60 Local Government (Wales) Act 1994 on duty to maintain records, supplemented by the FOI Section 46 Statutory Code of Practice on Records Management.

Author: Joanne Jones, Corporate Information Governance Manager
Consultees: Paul Lewis, Acting Head of ICT and Customer Services and Council SIRO
Cllr Colin Gordon, Cabinet Member
Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
Dave Street, Social Services Director
Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities
Bethan Manners, Principal Solicitor
Lisa Lane, Corporate Solicitor
Steve Jordan, IT Security Manager
Bev Griffiths, Information Officer
Carl Evans, Assistant Information Officer
Information Governance Project Team
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer - Equalities & Welsh Language

Background Papers

- Cabinet report on allocation of Statutory Data Protection Officer role, 28th February 2018
- Cabinet report on preparation for Data Protection Reform, including an updated Information Risk Management Policy, 18th October 2017

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Data Protection Policy

Appendix 2 – Records Management Policy

Appendix 3 – Access to Unpublished Information Policy

Appendix 4 – Information Security Policy

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Data Protection Policy

Version:	Version 4
Date:	February 2018
Author/s:	Corporate Information Governance Manager
Consultee/s:	Corporate Management Team; Senior Information Risk Owner; Legal Services; Information Governance Project Team
Approved by:	Cabinet
Review frequency:	Every 2 years
Next review date:	February 2020

Data Protection Policy

1. Policy objective

- 1.1 Administration and delivery of quality services involves processing personal information about people. The Council is committed to managing personal information effectively and legally to maintain confidence between those with whom we deal and the Council.
- 1.2 This policy describes Caerphilly County Borough Council's approach to personal information.

2. Scope and definitions

- 2.1 This policy covers the Council's obligations under all legislation applicable in the UK covering data protection and privacy, and references the definitions in the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR).
- 2.2 'Personal Information' is defined as any information relating to an identifiable person who can be directly or indirectly identified. Certain categories of data are subject to additional protections, and includes:
 - Criminal allegations, proceedings, outcomes and sentences
 - Physical or mental health or condition
 - Politics
 - Racial or ethnic origin
 - Religion or other beliefs of a similar nature
 - Sex life
 - Sexual orientation
 - Trade union membership
 - Genetics
 - Biometrics (where used for identification purposes)
- 2.3 'Processing' personal information means any activity involving personal information throughout the information lifecycle, from collecting and creating the personal information, to using it, making it available to others when necessary, storing it, and disposing of it when no longer required.
- 2.4 The policy applies to all employees, elected members, and other individuals/organisations acting on behalf of the Council who have access to personal information that the Council is responsible for. Detailed procedures accompany this policy to direct the processing of personal information in a fair, lawful and transparent manner.

3. Data protection principles

3.1 Personal information of all stakeholders – current, former and prospective service users, employees, suppliers and others - will only be processed in compliance with laws on privacy and data protection, specifically adhering to the GDPR principles that personal information must be:

1. processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner;
2. collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes;
3. adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary;
4. accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
5. kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than necessary; and
6. processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

3.2 The Council will demonstrate accountability in adhering to the rights of individuals set out in data protection law, including their right:

- to be informed
- of access
- to rectification
- to erasure
- to restrict processing
- to data portability
- to object
- and rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

4. Accountability and monitoring

4.1 A Statutory Data Protection Officer (DPO) is designated to oversee the management of personal information Council-wide, reporting to the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO).

4.2 Heads of Service as Information Asset Owners adhere to the Council's Information Risk Management Policy, supported by Service Area Information Governance Stewards.

4.3 Data Protection/Privacy Impact Assessments will be undertaken at an early stage whenever use of personal information is proposed and particularly during new collaborations.

4.4 A record of personal information processing activities is maintained by each Service Area, and the way that the information is managed is regularly evaluated using Privacy Impact Assessments where appropriate.

4.5 Clear and timely privacy notices are communicated that enable the subject of the data to understand how their personal information is being used.

4.6 Sharing of personal information is carried out in compliance with approved protocols, including the Wales Accord on Sharing Personal Information and data processor agreements.

4.7 Disposal of personal information will be strictly in line with the Council's Records Retention and Disposal Procedure.

4.8 Everyone processing personal information understands their responsibilities and receives appropriate information to support them, including annual training.

5. Complaints and data security incidents

5.1 Failure to comply with the law on data protection may result in:

- Serious consequences for individuals that the data relates to, including embarrassment, distress, financial loss
- Irreparable damage to the Council's reputation and loss of confidence in the Council's ability to manage information properly
- Monetary penalties and compensation claims
- Enforcement action from the Information Commissioner
- Personal accountability for certain criminal offences and for breaching the Employee or the Elected Member Code of Conduct

5.2 Complaints or concerns can be made to the Council's Data Protection Officer, and will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Information Governance Complaints Procedure.

6. Related policies and resources

6.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Council policies:

- Records Management Policy
- Information Risk Management Policy
- Access to Unpublished Information Policy
- IT Security Policy

6.2 Additional guidance and resources:

- For the public - see the Council's website.
- For employees - the Council's Information Governance intranet pages.

7. Further Information

7.1 Further Information is available from Data Protection Officer/Corporate Information Governance Unit, 01443 86 4322; dataprotection@caerphilly.gov.uk

Caerphilly County Borough Council

Records Management Policy

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Version:	Version 1. <u>56</u>
Date:	<u>Oct 2013 (reviewed Nov 2015)February 2018</u>
Author/s:	Corporate Information Governance <u>Unit (ICT Services—Corporate Services)Manager</u>
Consultee/s:	<u>Corporate Management Team; Senior Information Risk Owner; Legal Services;</u> Information Governance Project Team
Approved by:	Cabinet

Review frequency:	Every 2 years
Next review date:	Oct 2017 Feb 2020

A record is defined as: *'Information created, received and maintained as evidence and information by an organization or person, in pursuance of legal obligations or in the transaction of business'* ~~(BS ISO 15489, 2000)~~.

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Commitment to records management

1. Caerphilly County Borough Council recognises that its records are ~~its~~ collective assets.
2. Records comprise the Council's corporate memory of its policies, services and decision-making processes and reflect its business requirements. The Council is dependent on its records to operate efficiently and to account for its actions.
3. The Council is committed to ensuring its records are maintained in accordance with the Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Management of Records under Section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Objectives

4. The Council will effectively manage its records from planning and creation through to disposal to fulfil the following objectives:
 - Create and capture accurate, authentic, reliable and useable records to produce evidence and demonstrate accountability
 - Maintain records to meet the authority's business needs for as long as required for operational efficiency
 - Dispose of records that are no longer required in an appropriate manner
 - Protect vital records
 - Conform to legal and statutory requirements relating to record-keeping

Scope

5. This policy applies to all records created, received or maintained by current and former Council ~~staff~~employees, elected members, volunteers or those otherwise acting as ~~its~~ agents of the Council in the course of carrying out their Council business.

6. All types of records are covered, regardless of whether they are held electronically (including emails), on paper or audio-visual media, whether in English, Welsh or other formats or languages, and regardless of their age.
7. The policy covers records stored in any location, whether in office accommodation, corporate record centres, network drives, portable media (e.g. laptops and memory sticks) or held by other organisations on behalf of the Council, for example contractors.
8. The organisation's Record Retention and Disposal Policy should be consulted for detailed information on retention of records.

Responsibilities

All staff

9. All staff (permanent and temporary) are responsible for creating, managing, and timely disposal of accurate records to evidence the Council's activities.

Members

MembersElected members

10. Elected members create, use and manage Council information day-to-day, including outside the Council offices within their home or constituency office environment. Therefore it is crucial that Membersselected members understand their responsibilities to create and maintain this information appropriately.

Directors

11. Directors as members of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) must ensure the discipline of records management is given recognition and profile within the Council equal to management of other corporate assets such as staff and finance.
12. Directors are responsible for ensuring their directorates manage records effectively to provide evidence of the Council's activities, and that staff are supported accordingly. Individual Directorates must only develop records management policy and procedures in line with this corporate Records Management Policy.

Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO)

13. The Council's SIRO is the Council's Information Governance Champion, and takes a leading role in ensuring CMT are briefed in order to make decisions on key records management issues that arise. The SIRO is the Head of ICT Services and the Council's Data Protection Officer. The SIRO chairs the Information Governance Project Team and takes the lead on developing

information governance policy and best practice, and cascading this information across the organisation.

Data Protection Officer

14. The Council's Data Protection Officer (DPO) is a specialist role introduced by the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 and reports to the highest level of the Council via the SIRO. The DPO oversees responsible management of all personal information processed by the Council, and makes sure that records containing personal information are suitably created, updated, shared, used, stored and disposed of at the end of the records lifecycle.

Heads of Service/Information Asset Owners

14-15. Heads of Service Heads of Service are Information Asset Owners for their service area, and report to the SIRO regularly in line with the Council's Information Risk Management Policy. They have a crucial role in translating the Council's records management aspirations into reality by maintaining an awareness of how records are managed within their Service Area, being proactive in identifying potential improvements, and cascading corporate initiatives to their staff. Heads of Service are also responsible for monitoring records management practice within their Service Area to ensure best practice is adhered to, ~~and providing reports as required.~~

15-16. Heads of Service must also ensure staff are fully supported in managing records effectively, and must ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for contractors and other partner organisations to adhere to the Council's high records management standards.

Directorate Service Area Information Governance Stewards

16-17. Information Governance (IG) Stewards sit on the Information Governance Project Team and have a key role in developing information governance best practice that fits the work of each directorate-service. IG Stewards also communicate support their Head of Service in communicating and ~~monitor~~ monitoring compliance with records management best practice throughout their directorates-service.

Corporate Information Governance Unit and Records Centres

17-18. ~~The Specialist staff within the~~ Corporate Records Centres and Information Governance Unit ~~supports all divisions of the Council and Members~~ support service areas and elected members by providing advice and guidance on all aspects of effective records management practices, including hard copy and electronic records.

Corporate Record Centres

~~18. The Corporate Record Centres advise on storage and retention of hard copy records, working closely with Corporate Information Governance Unit to ensure consistency in records management practice across the Council and across all types of records (hard copy and electronic).~~

IT Section Service

19. IT, including IT Security Team, advise on certain technical aspects of creating ~~and~~, maintaining and disposing of electronic records in conjunction with Corporate Information Governance Unit.

Equalities and Welsh Language Team

20. This team, ~~within Legal and Governance~~, can provide guidance and support on language and format issues relating to Welsh, British Sign Language, Braille and other spoken languages where it relates to any records held by the Council.

21. Supporting documents

- Corporate Record Retention and Disposal Policy
- Information Risk Management Policy
- ~~Environment Directorate Retention Schedule~~
- ~~Social Services Directorate Retention Guidance~~
- Data Protection Policy
- IT Security Policy
- ~~Policy on Requests for and~~ Access to Unpublished Information Policy
- Publication Scheme
- ~~Wales Accord on Sharing of Personal Information (WASPI)~~
- ~~Information Sharing Protocols (WASPI and non-WASPI)~~
- ~~Strategic Equality Plan~~
- ~~Welsh Language Scheme~~

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Caerphilly County Borough Council

Access to Unpublished Information Policy

Version:	Version 5
Date:	February 2018
Author/s:	Corporate Information Governance Manager
Consultee/s:	Senior Information Risk Owner; Head of Legal Services; Corporate Management Team, Information Governance Project Team
Approved by:	Cabinet
Review frequency:	Every 2 years
Next review date:	February 2020

1. Guiding principles

1.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council values its information as a critical asset for effective service delivery. The Council aims to make as much information as possible available for consultation and re-use to facilitate open and transparent government, and for the benefit of the local and national economy.

1.2 The Council is committed to:

- openness and transparency in the way it conducts its business, encouraging partner organisations engaged in public service to do the same, to help improve public services and empower citizens;
- making as much information available as possible without copyright, patent or other control restrictions, subject to the terms of the Open Government Licence, to foster innovation in the local area and drive economic growth;
- respecting principles of privacy and confidentiality whilst making available information that is in the public interest, in line with laws governing the release of information;
- providing a prompt, courteous and comprehensive response to requests for information, presenting information in clear language, in a format that takes account of different needs and free of charge wherever reasonable;
- providing a right of complaint where an individual is not satisfied with the response received.

2. Scope of policy

2.1 This policy outlines the Council's commitment to making unpublished information available in accordance with principles of open government and with the law, which includes:

- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Environmental Information Regulations 2004
- Data protection law including the 1998 Act, the new 2018 Act, and the General Data Protection Regulations 2016
- Digital Economy Act 2017
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015
- INSPIRE Regulations 2009
- The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007
- The Access to Information Act 1985

2.2 This policy does not cover elected members' rights of access to information, as these rights are covered by a protocol in the Council's Constitution.

- 2.3 This policy does not cover the sharing of personal information with other organisations in order to deliver services to individuals. Provisions within data protection law together with agreements such as the Wales Accord on Sharing Personal Information (WASPI) would cover this activity.

3. Principal Information Access Laws

- 3.1 The principal laws that cover access to unpublished public sector information are described below. These laws and case law change from time to time, and the Council adapts to these changes to ensure full compliance with the law.
- 3.2 In cases where an applicant requests information which needs to be considered under more than one information access law, applicants will be advised of which information is being considered under which law and the relevant timescales.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI)

- 3.3 The FOI Act is a general right of access to unpublished information. Once in receipt of a request made in writing, the Council has a duty to confirm or deny whether information is held, and supply the information, normally within 20 working days, as long as an exemption does not apply.
- 3.4 The FOI Act also imposes a duty for the Council to proactively publish certain categories of information. To fulfil this duty, the Council has adopted the Information Commissioner's Model Publication Scheme for Local Government. The Publication Scheme can be found on the Council's website, but the information listed can be located in a variety of places as outlined in the Scheme, for example via the Council's website, library, or reception of main public buildings.

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)

- 3.5 Information that is classed as 'environmental information' must be dealt with under EIR, rather than FOI. The definition of environmental information is very broad ranging, and can include information on the state of the environment e.g. flooding; on measures that affect the environment such as policies and legislation; and on state of human health and safety, the food chain, cultural/built structures, air pollution etc.
- 3.6 Requests can be made verbally as well as in writing; in some circumstances exceptions may apply where the public interest is against disclosure of information; and whilst the timescale is usually 20 working days, it can be extended in certain circumstances.

Data protection law (DPA)

- 3.7 A great deal of the information that the Council holds is personal data, and FOI does not make this information available to the public.
- 3.8 The Council takes its legal duty to protect personal information of individuals very seriously, and any request for information that contains personal data will be carefully

considered with reference to data protection law. This includes the 1998 Act (DPA), the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR), the new UK Data Protection Act expected to be enacted during 2018, as well as the common law duty of confidentiality and the Human Rights Act 1998.

- 3.9 If any person wants access to information that is held about themselves they can make a Subject Access Request under data protection law.

Routine requests for information

- 3.10 Examples of a routine request could be a request for a copy of a document produced by a service area or a request for opening hours or details of service. The Council will not fully engage FOI, EIR or DPA procedures, but will seek to comply with the statutory deadlines.

4. Making a request for information

- 4.1 The Council would encourage any individual seeking to make a request for information from the Council to follow the guide on the Information Commissioner's website at www.ico.org.uk. In line with the Section 45 Code of Practice under FOI, the Council will provide applicants with advice and assistance in making requests for information.
- 4.2 In most cases requests for information must be made in writing (including email), but requests for environmental information can be made verbally. The request for information must include the following:
- a name and address to which a reply may be sent;
 - sufficient detail for officers to identify what information is required - if a request does not contain enough detail, clarification will be sought from the applicant;
 - in the case of a Subject Access Request, proof of identification is also required.
- 4.3 Applicants may express a preference for how the information is to be supplied and where reasonably practicable the Council will comply with the stated preference or provide an explanation if this is not possible.

5. Third party information that does not contain personal data

- 5.1 The approach to handling any request for third party information that is personal in nature is described in Section 3.3.
- 5.2 If non-personal information is requested from the Council that relates to a third party, for example a supplier or a partner organisation, the request will be considered with reference to exemptions available under FOI/EIR law, many of which are subject to a public interest test, to judge whether disclosure would be in the public interest.
- 5.3 The Council will endeavour to consult with third parties affected by disclosure of information as long as timescales permit, but the final decision must rest with the Council.

- 5.4 Contracts/agreements in place between the Council and partner organisations will include terms outlining the Council's legal responsibilities to consider disclosure of information on receipt of a request.

6. Charging for Information

- 6.1 The Council aims to make as much information as possible available free of charge. If there are charges for Council publications or information listed in the Publication Scheme, these charges will be advertised in advance.
- 6.2 The law enables a charge to be made to respond to a request for unpublished information in some circumstances, for example if it takes a significant amount of time to locate, retrieve or extract information to answer a request, or to cover the costs of communicating information to the applicant, e.g. for photocopying, printing and postage.
- 6.3 If a charge applies, it will be calculated in accordance with the law and guidance from the Information Commissioner, and will be explained to the applicant in advance.
- 6.4 There is no charge for inspection of public registers held at Council offices or for information held at public libraries including during normal working hours.

7. Equalities and Welsh language

- 7.1 The vast majority of information published by the Council is available bilingually, in line with Welsh Language Standards. If a request is made for unpublished information in Welsh, the information will be provided in the format in which it was originally produced, but the covering letter will be sent in Welsh.
- 7.2 The Council will make every effort to make information available in other formats. In some cases a charge will apply, and this would be explained to applicants in advance.

8. Complaints

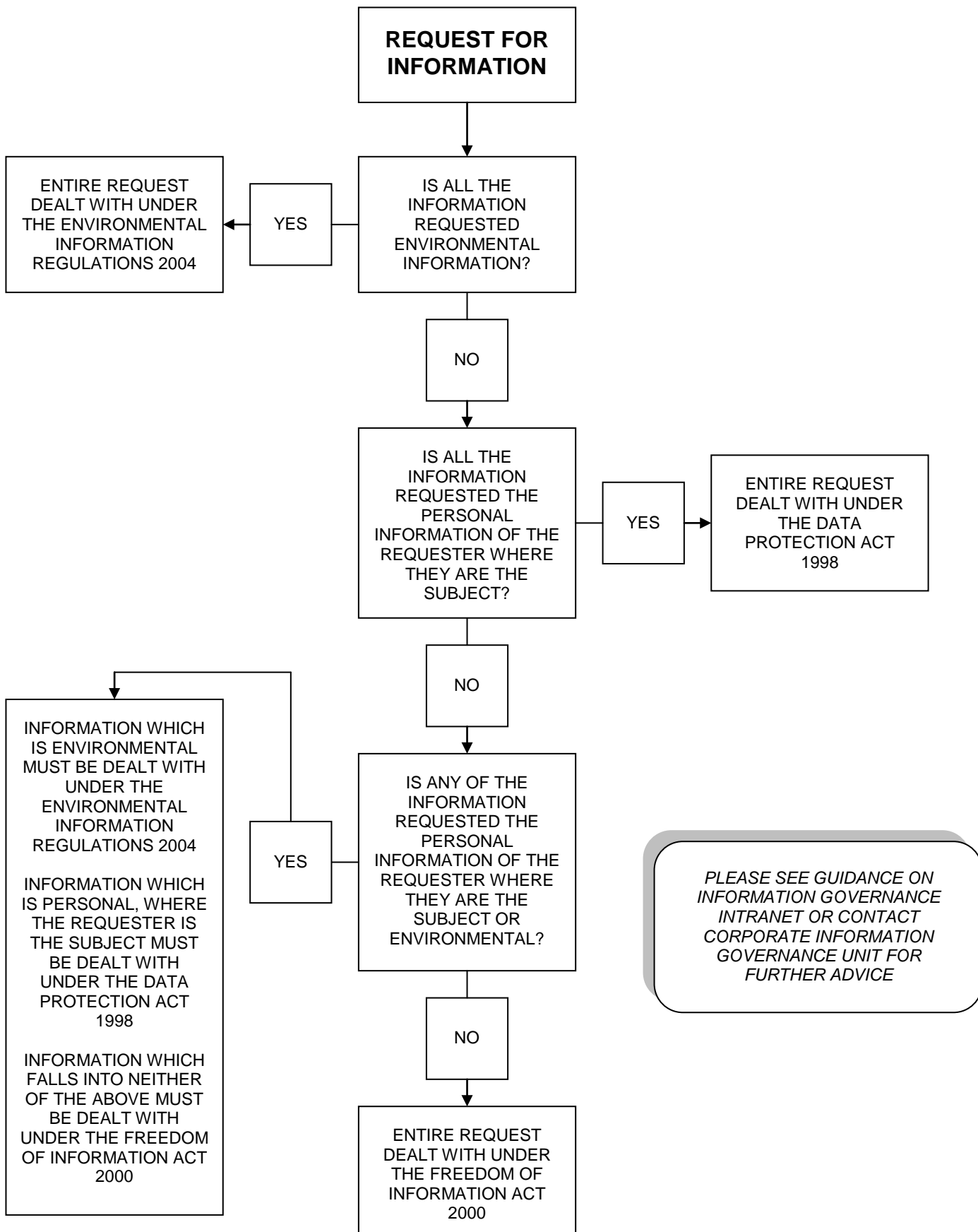
- 8.1 The Section 45 FOI Code of Practice requires the Council to provide advice and assistance to people seeking information, to state the basis for any refusal of a request for information, and to provide advice on how to make a complaint.
- 8.2 Advice on how to make an Information Request Complaint can be obtained from Corporate Information Governance Unit on 01443 864322 or at foi@caerphilly.gov.uk.
- 8.3 If the applicant is still not satisfied after the internal Information Request Complaint has been dealt with, they have a further statutory right of complaint to the Information Commissioner.

9. Related policies and resources

- 9.1 Caerphilly CBC Data Protection Policy

- 9.2 Caerphilly CBC Records Management Policy
- 9.3 Information Commissioner website www.ico.org.uk

Appendix 1 Which access regime is applicable?





Gwasanaethau Technoleg Gwybodaeth
Information Technology Services



CCBC Information Security Policy

A greener place to work
Man gwyrddach i gweithio



DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION

Department: Information Technology Section
 Title CCBC Information Security Policy
 Reference PO-G-003
 Date: Jan 2018
 Version: 11.0
 Author: Stephen Jordan/Wesley Colyer
 Assurance: I.T. Security Forum

REVISION	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION
1.0	Jan 2006	Version for IT Security Forum
2.0	April 2006	Version for CITSG
3.0	May 2006	Live version after Council approval
4.0	Aug 2007	Amended following Internal Audit Review
5.0	Jan 2008	Amended to incorporate Mobile Policy reference
6.0	June 2008	Amended to incorporate updated Mobile Policy
7.0	Aug 2008	Amended to include IT Helpdesk changes
8.0	Oct 2008	Amended to include IT Training Start Date change
9.0	Feb 2009	Amended to include GCSX section
10.0	May 2009	Amended to include reference to Paper Documents (Information Unit)
11.0	Jan 2017	BS ISO27001:2013 version

REVISION	DISTRIBUTION LIST
1.0	IT Forum Members
2.0	IT Forum Group
3.0 – 11.0	All staff - Intranet
	DOCUMENT LIBRARY
ISMS – Secure Server	O:\IT\Shared\IT Security\ISO27001\Policies

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1 INFORMATION SECURITY

1.1 Introduction

Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has, and will continue to make a large investment in the use of Information Technology, which will be used to the benefit of all directorates. Our information assets (encompassing facilities, data, software, paper documents and people) are essential for our day-to-day operational, financial and general information needs. It is therefore essential that the availability, integrity, and confidentiality of these corporate assets be protected against any potential security incident.

This Information Security Policy has been developed by IT Security and is based on the Code of Practice for Information Security Management under the International Standard BS ISO/IEC 27002:2013, and the Information Security Managements Systems - Requirements of the International Standard BS ISO/IEC 27001:2013.

The Information Security Policy is relevant to all information services provided, irrespective of the equipment or facility in use, and applies to:

- a) All employees and agents;
- b) Employees and agents of other organisations who directly or indirectly support or use the information technology services provided;
- c) All use of information assets throughout Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- d) Interested parties. (As defined by the ISO27001:2013 I T Security Standard)

Caerphilly County Borough Council takes information security very seriously, and any breach of this policy could lead to disciplinary action being taken against employees under the Council's agreed disciplinary procedure.

1.2 Definition

Information Security is the protection of information from a wide range of threats in order to ensure business continuity, minimise business risk, and maximise return on investments and business opportunities.

We must protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of Caerphilly County Borough Council's information assets.

To protect the confidentiality of our information assets we must ensure that our information is accessible to authorised users only.

To protect the integrity of our information assets we must safeguard the accuracy and completeness of our information and processing methods.

To protect the availability of our information assets we must ensure that our users have access to information and its associated assets in conjunction with agreed service levels.

1.3 Objectives and scope

There are three main objectives of this policy, which are detailed below: -

1. To ensure that the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of Caerphilly County Borough Council's information assets, are adequately protected from all threats, whether internal or external, deliberate or accidental;
2. To ensure that staff are aware of, and fully comply with, all *current and relevant security policies and legislation*;
3. Legislation. Caerphilly County Borough Council has to comply with all UK legislation affecting information management. All employees and agents must adhere in the provisions detailed in the Acts detailed below and future legislation that may be enacted: -
 - a) The Data Protection Act, 1998 / General Data Protection Regulations 2018;
 - b) The Computer Misuse Act, 1990;
 - c) The Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act, 1988;
 - d) The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, 2000;
 - e) Electronic Communications Act, 2000;
 - f) Freedom of Information Act, 2000.
 - g) Human Rights Act 1998
4. To create and maintain, within all directorates, a level of awareness of the day to day importance of information security, and for all staff to understand their own information security responsibilities.

N.B. This policy must be read in conjunction with the E-Mail usage Policy and the Internet Usage Policy.

2 CORPORATE SECURITY POLICY STATEMENT

Objective

The objective of information security is to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the Councils information assets.

Policy

- The Chief Executive has approved the Corporate Security Policy Statement.
- The purpose of the Information Security Policy is to protect the organisation's information assets from all threats, whether internal or external, deliberate or accidental.
- It is the policy of the organisation to ensure that:
 - Information assets will be protected against unauthorized access;
 - Confidentiality of information assets will be assured;
 - Integrity of information will be maintained;
 - Regulatory and legislative requirements will be met;
 - Business continuity plans will be produced, maintained and tested;
 - Information security training will be available to all staff that use IT services;
- All breaches of information security, actual or suspected, will be reported to, and investigated by the Information Security Officers.
- Business requirements for the availability of information and information systems will be met.
- The Information Security Officers have direct responsibility for maintaining the Information Security Policy and providing advice and guidance on its implementation.
- All managers are directly responsible for implementing the Information Security Policy within their business area, and for adherence by their staff.
- It is the responsibility of all staff to adhere to the Information Security Policy.

3 SECURITY FRAMEWORK

Caerphilly County Borough Council adopts a proactive approach to information security management.

It uses the Code of Practice for Information Security Management under the International Standard BS ISO/IEC 27002:2013, and the Information Security Managements Systems - Requirements of the International Standard BS ISO/IEC 27001:2013 as the framework for setting control objectives and controls, including the structure of the Council's information assets risk assessment and risk management procedures.

4 CCBC MOBILE COMPUTING – POLICY

4.1 Definition of mobile devices covered by this policy

The definition of a mobile device for the purpose of this policy is any mobile computing device that is owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council that can be used to store or view information or data. These include, but are not limited to, the following: -

Laptop	External hard drives
Notebook	External CD
Tablet	CD-R
PDA	CD-RW
USB memory sticks (pen drives)	DVD
Card readers	DVD-R
Cameras	DVD-RW
USB memory cards	External disk drives
	Smart Phone

These devices can be standalone or have the ability to connect to a network.

4.2 Purpose

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all mobile computing devices issued to CCBC Staff and members have the required protection and security controls in place to ensure that the risk of information contained on the devices being compromised is minimised to an acceptable level. This includes physical protection (risk of theft), access controls, backup, virus protection, encryption, and connectivity to the Authority's network as well as defining what is acceptable and unacceptable use of such devices.

4.3 Use of Mobile Computing equipment

Mobile computing devices must only be used for Caerphilly CBC business. They must not be used for personal use. In particular it is strictly forbidden for a device to be connected to a private, or other phone line to facilitate personal Internet or E-mail use. Any access to the network using a mobile device will require the user to have a Username and Password as the minimum level of security authentication. This also applies to laptops, PDA's etc that do not connect to the network. Mobile devices may need to be connected to the Internet to gain communication back to the CCBC network, in these cases this must be done via a Virtual Private Network (VPN) arrangement that has been set up by CCBC IT Services.

When being used in public places, meeting rooms etc., steps should be taken to reduce the risk of information stored on a mobile device being overlooked by unauthorised persons.

4.4 Anti-Virus & Security updates

Mobile computing equipment must be updated regularly with the latest anti-virus software and security updates. For devices that are connected to the network this will be done automatically, however it is important that equipment is connected on a regular basis in order for the updates to take place. For stand-alone devices, virus software must be updated on a regular basis; advice on this can be sought from IT Security.

4.5 Encryption

Whenever possible information of a sensitive or confidential nature should not be stored on mobile computing devices. The appropriate corporate encryption solution must be used on all CCBC mobile devices. If in doubt consult IT Security.

4.6 Remote Access

Remote access across a public network (i.e. phone line) will only be allowed after authorisation has been obtained from an individual's Head of Service and approved by the Head of Information Communications Technology & Central Services or his appointed deputy. Authorisation for members of Council will be processed via Members Services, and confirmed by the Head of Information Communications Technology & Central Services or his appointed deputy prior to connection. Controls are in place to ensure that connection and user authentication to systems is from a legitimate source.

4.7 Non CCBC Mobile Computing Equipment / BYOD

Non-CCBC mobile computing devices must not be connected to any part of the CCBC network or any CCBC device, or used to store information belonging to the authority.

4.8 Physical Protection

Important: CCBC insurance only covers equipment on Council premises or employees homes. It does not cover equipment that has been left in vehicles, for example.

All mobile computing devices are valuable pieces of equipment and as such must be protected against theft and the risk of damage. Equipment should be kept with you at all times or stored in a secure location. If appropriate equipment can be further protected by the use of security products e.g. cable locks. Advice can be sought from IT Security in relation to this. Mobile equipment must not be left in a vehicle if at all possible. If it is necessary, steps should be taken to ensure that they are locked away securely out of sight, in a car boot for example, and for as short a time as possible. Equipment must not be left unattended in public places.

Any mobile computing device owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council must be returned when leaving the organisation or if it is no longer required.

4.9 Legislation

Where personal data about individuals is stored on mobile computing equipment this must comply with CCBC Data Protection guidelines. Advice on this can be obtained from our Corporate Information Governance Unit.

4.10 Auditing

The IT Security team reserve the right to recall mobile devices for auditing, to ensure compliance with this policy.

4.11 Corporate network connectivity

It is the responsibility of all laptop users (who have network access) to make their best efforts to ensure that the device is connected to the corporate network at least every 28 days (as a maximum). Connectivity to the corporate network is required in order to achieve compliance with CCBC encryption, anti virus, operating system updates, and auditing security protection we have in place.

4.12 Public Services Network (PSN - GCSx)

GCSx stands for Government Connect Secure Extranet, which is part of the GSI community.

It is a secure private Wide-Area Network (WAN), which enables secure interactions between connected Local Authorities and other government organisations, whose security management processes and procedures adhere to commercial best practice.

These are typically English and Welsh Local Authorities under the Department for Communities, and Local Government (DCLG) led Government Connect Programme.

4.13 Training and awareness

All new employees of Caerphilly County Borough Council will receive information security training and awareness via the Human Resources induction process undertaken by Managers.

There is a continuous security awareness programme in place for existing employees, issued periodically by I.T. Security officers.

4.14 Business continuity

System backups of computer hosts, and servers operating on the corporate network will be taken on behalf of users by IT Services and other authorised personnel at agreed predefined frequencies.

System backups for all other stand-alone computer systems located within directorates are the responsibility of the staff within the relevant directorate.

The safekeeping and availability of physical records located within directorates is the responsibility of the staff within the relevant directorate.

5 SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES AND SECURITY INCIDENTS

5.1 Security responsibilities

Information security is the responsibility of Caerphilly County Borough Council as a corporate entity and all members of staff, and agents.

The Information Security Policy will apply to all staff and agents that use information assets, whether they are computer hosts, servers, network, PC, mobile users, paper records, and electronic data.

Senior and line managers in service areas are responsible for the policing of the Information Security Policy. Any queries or questions regarding the policy, please contact the IT Helpdesk or IT Security.

5.2 Security Incidents

It is the duty of all members of staff to report any suspected breach of information security to their Head of Service and the IT Security Officers.

Examples of information security events and incidents are:

- a) Loss of service, equipment or facilities;
- b) System malfunctions or overloads;
- c) Human errors;
- d) Non-compliance with policies, guidelines, rules
- e) Breaches of physical security arrangements;
- f) Uncontrolled system changes
- g) Malfunctions of software or hardware;
- h) Access violations.

6 SECURITY RULES

6.1. Computer Equipment

The IT Services Department is responsible for the control and maintenance of all computer equipment within the authority.

No equipment may be connected to the network or attached to any equipment connected to the network without prior authorisation of I.T. Security.

The 'Policy for Mobile Equipment' ensures the proper use of mobile equipment, owned by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all mobile computing devices issued to Caerphilly County Borough staff, have the required protection and security controls in place to ensure that the risk of information contained on the devices being compromised, is minimised to an acceptable level. The policy states that 'Non-CCBC mobile computing devices must not be connected to any part of the CCBC network or device, or used to store information belonging to the authority.

It is forbidden to install, disconnect or move any computer equipment.

This is the responsibility of the IT Services, Installation and Support Team.

It is forbidden to remove any Caerphilly County Borough Council information asset stickers.

Desktop, servers, and portable computers (laptops, tablets, Smart Phones etc.) must not have any software installed, removed or modified without authorisation from the IT Services Department.

Computer equipment must not be used for any personal or private work.

Computers must not be left unattended, logoff your computer when you leave your desk, power off your computer when you finish work.

6.2 Network Access

Access to the Council's private corporate data network is restricted to authorised employees and agents and is conditional that you comply with the CCBC Information Security Policy.

Staff requests to provide access to the network must be made to the IT Services Helpdesk using the User Profile Request Form.

A staff request for remote access to the network is granted when IT Security, has receipt of a signed and authorised Request for Remote Access form. This request has to be approved by the Head of Information Communications Technology & Central Services or his appointed deputy.

Staff (agents) from outside organisations or companies must not be given access to any computer systems without the permission and involvement of IT Security.

Third party access to the corporate network is only granted by IT Security on receipt of a signed and approved Third Party Access Contract, which is obtained from IT Security.

6.3 Data Storage Drives - Usage

Information stored on any storage drives must not breach Data Protection Legislation, and confidential information must not be made available for any unauthorised access.

The following must not be stored on any network drives:

- Information that is not related to the business of Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- Pornographic, offensive, derogatory or discriminatory material.
- Unauthorised or illegal software.
- Non-business images or executable files/programs.
- Games or non-business applications.

6.4 Passwords

Passwords must not be disclosed to anyone, written down or displayed in a way, which would allow the password to become known to unauthorised staff or members of the public.

The use of another persons Login ID and password is strictly forbidden. Login information setup by the IT Services department is specific to the user the login was created for and

must not be shared with other users. Employees will be held liable for any misuse of a computer resulting from the use of their Login ID and password.

6.5 Information

Information held on Caerphilly County Borough Council's information technology computers or subsequent output, for example, printed letters/tabulations, is the property of Caerphilly County Borough Council and is governed by the provisions of Data Protection Legislation.

Data Protection Legislation requires that computer processing of data relating to living individuals, i.e. personal data, be registered with the Crown appointed Registrar. Information required for registration includes details of the type of data, the purpose for which the data is held, and the sources and disclosure of data. There are a number of offences, which, if the provisions of the Act are not complied with, will affect the Council, and its employees.

The general provisions of Data Protection Legislation are:-

- all processing of personal computer data must be registered;
- personal data must only be processed as specified in the registration;
- computer personal data must not be disclosed to an unauthorised person;
- on request, and when appropriate for a fee; individuals have a right to a written copy of the data held; requests should be directed to the Corporate Governance Information Unit;
- appropriate security measures must be taken to protect computer personal data.

Any queries relating to the provisions of Data Protection Legislation should be directed through your line manager, to the Corporate Information Governance Unit.

6.6 Virus Protection

All Caerphilly County Borough Council computers are protected by virus detection software. This software must be operational at all times and never deactivated by the users. Any detected viruses must be reported to IT Services immediately.

All software (whatever media) must be virus checked before it is copied to any Caerphilly County Borough Council device.

6.7 Software Copyright

The copying of proprietary software programs or the associated copyrighted documentation is prohibited and is an offence which could lead to personal criminal liability with the risk of a fine or imprisonment.

The loading of proprietary software programs for which a licence is required but not held is prohibited.

Personal software should not be loaded onto Caerphilly County Borough Council devices under any circumstances. If the software is deemed to be of use to the organisation then it should be duly acquired under licence via IT Services.

6.8 Computer Misuse

All employees should be aware of their access rights for any given hardware, software or data, and should not experiment or attempt to access hardware, software or data for which they have no approval or need to access to conduct their duties.

The following is regarded as misuse of Caerphilly County Borough Council's information assets.

Fraudulent activity such as: -

- altering input in an unauthorised way;
- destroying, suppressing, misappropriating computer output;
- altering computerised data;
- altering or misusing programs.

Distributing a program with the intention of corrupting a computer process.

Theft of data, software or hardware, including copyright infringements.

Using illicit copies of software, which may also infringe copyright law.

Unauthorised use of Caerphilly County Borough Council's computer facilities for private gain or benefit.

Unauthorised disclosure of information from computer input or output to unauthorised personnel.

Deliberately gaining unauthorised access to a computer system, usually through the use of communications facilities.

Interfering with the computer process by causing deliberate damage to the processing cycle or to equipment.

Introduction of pornographic or other unsuitable offensive material, on to the corporate network.

6.9 System Monitoring

To protect the Council, employees, service users and public funds, the Council will monitor the use of IT activity in order to ensure the proper and lawful use of the system and will be performed by I.T. Security Officers or I.T. Management. Requests for I.T. Security Officers to monitor users I.T. activity must be in writing and have at least Head of Service authority containing the reasons for the request. Such monitoring will be undertaken in line with the Data Protection Code, Part 3 Monitoring at Work.

Requests for I.T. Security Officers to monitor users I.T. activity must be in writing and have at least Head of Service authority containing the reasons for the request, including a Privacy Impact Assessment. Requests will be checked with Exemption Panel'.

6.10 Acquisition and Disposal of Information Technology Equipment

All acquisitions must be in accordance with the provisions of the organisation's information technology strategy and its financial regulations and standing orders.

All acquisitions of additional hardware and software must be made via or with the approval of the Head of Information Communications Technology & Central Services or appointed deputy. All purchases of additional information technology equipment must be made via IT Orders and accompanied by a Business Case justification.

The disposal or permanent handing over of equipment, media or output containing personal or sensitive data must be arranged via IT Services to ensure confidentiality.

Prior to the disposal of any PCs, IT Services should be consulted to arrange for the permanent removal of all data and programs unless the recipient is taking over the software licence or is authorised to use it.

Disposals must be in accordance with the provisions of financial and environmental regulations and standing orders, which require the approval of the Head of Information Communications Technology & Central Services and the Head of Procurement & Customer Services.

IT Services will conduct all corporate equipment disposals.

6.11 Paper Files and Records

All employees must ensure that:

- Paper records are kept secure; for active records these should be kept in lockable filing cabinets making sure they are only accessible to authorised personnel on a 'need to know' basis. Inactive/semi active records should be kept in a secure storage area.
- Sensitive personal information must not be left on desks and must be locked away when not required.
- Records are kept for at least the minimum length of time (for retention periods refer to your departmental Retention Schedule, or contact the Records Management team for advice).
- Records can be accessed when required.
- Records scheduled for destruction are disposed of in an appropriate manner to ensure confidentiality is maintained.

7 PUBLIC SERVICES NETWORK (PSN)

PSN stands for Public Services Network (previously called GCSX Network - Government Connect Secure Extranet), which is part of the GSI community.

It is a secure private Wide-Area Network (WAN), which enables secure interactions between connected Local Authorities and other

organisations, whose security management process and procedures adhere to commercial best practice.

These are typically English and Welsh Local Authorities under the Department for Communities, and Local Government (DCLG) led Government Connect Programme.

All Local Authorities in England and Wales have been instructed by Central Government to use this secure network.

8 POLICY VIOLATIONS

Violations of security procedures established within this Information Security Policy must be reported to the Head of Information Communications Technology & Central Services or IT Security. Violations may include, but are not limited to, any act that: -

- a) Exposes Caerphilly County Borough Council to actual or potential monetary loss through the compromise of information technology security;
- b) Involves the disclosure of confidential information or the unauthorised use of personal and/or corporate data;
- c) Involves the use of data for illicit purposes, which may include violation of the law, regulation, or any reporting requirement of any law enforcement or government body.

9 SOCIAL MEDIA ACCESS

Not all staff are granted Social Media access. For those that have access to Social Media staff are reminded that the council has a Social Media Policy and that even for staff using Social Media channels when not in work that there is advice and guidance within the Social Media Policy that is useful to them.

10 POLICY COMPLIANCE

I have read, understood and acknowledge receipt of the CCBC Information Security Policy. I will comply with the guidelines set out in this policy (including the Email, Internet, and Mobile policies) and understand that failure to do so might result in disciplinary or legal action.

N.B. E-mail usage and Internet usage are separate policies and must also be read and agreed to when accepting this policy.

Signature:

Start

Date:

Printed

Name:

Job

Title:

Directorate:

Department:

Team:

Site/Location:

Telephone

Number:

The above fields **must** be completed before a Network/Email account can be created.

Please tick for access required:

Network User ID

Email

On completion please forward this page to:

I.T. Service Desk, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed, CF82 7PG

Classification – Official



Gwasanaethau Technoleg Gwybodaeth
Information Technology Services

CCBC E-Mail Usage Policy



Document CCBC Information Security Policy
Filename

Author: Stephen Jordan / Wesley Colyer
Date: Jan 2018

Document Version 11.0
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Page 246

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION

Department: Information Technology Section

Title CCBC E-Mail Usage Policy

Reference PO-G-006

Date: January 2017

Version: 1.1

Author: Stephen Jordan / Wesley Colyer

Assurance: I.T. Security Forum

REVISION	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION
1.0	Nov 2015	Version for I.T. Security Forum
1.1	Jan 2017	Amended following Trades Union consultation

REVISION	DISTRIBUTION LIST
1.0 – 1.1	I.T. Forum Members
	DOCUMENT LIBRARY
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E-MAIL USAGE POLICY.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the proper use of Caerphilly County Borough Council's email system and make users aware of what CCBC deems as acceptable and unacceptable use of its email system. Should policy amendments be required, then staff will be made aware and Trades Unions consulted prior to any amendments being implemented. For any Legislative amendments required both staff and Trades Unions will be notified in a timely manner. This policy is applicable to all Caerphilly County Borough Council employees and agents.

LEGAL RISKS

Email is a business communication tool and users are obliged to use this tool in a responsible, effective and lawful manner. Although by its nature email seems to be less formal than other written communication, the same laws apply. Therefore, it is important that users are aware of the legal risks of email:

- If you knowingly send emails with any libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks, you and CCBC can be held liable.
- If you knowingly forward emails with any libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks, you and CCBC can be held liable.
- If you unlawfully forward confidential information, you and CCBC can be held liable.
- If you unlawfully forward or copy messages without permission, you and CCBC can be held liable for copyright infringement.
- If you send an attachment that contains a virus, you and CCBC can be held liable.

In order to minimise the legal risks to both yourself and to the Council, it is prohibited to:

- Knowingly send emails with any libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks, you and CCBC can be held liable.
- Knowingly forward emails with any libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks, you and CCBC can be held liable.
- Unlawfully forward confidential information, you and CCBC can be held liable.
- Unlawfully forward or copy messages without permission, you and CCBC can be held liable for copyright infringement.
- Send an attachment that contains a virus, you and CCBC can be held liable.
- Send or forward emails containing libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks.
- If you receive an email of this nature, you must promptly notify your supervisor.
- Forge or attempt to forge email messages.
- Disguise or attempt to disguise your identity when sending mail.
- Send email messages using another person's email account.

It is not necessary to obtain permission of an outside sender to forward that person's email, however please have regard for passing on indiscriminately something that was copyright.

Additionally there are a number of Acts that can be applied to E-Mail use:

- Data Protection Legislation (The Data Protection Act, 1998 & the General Data Protection Regulations, 2018)
- The Computer Misuse Act, 1990
- The Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act, 1988
- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, 2000
- Electronic Communications Act, 2000
- Freedom of Information Act, 2000
- Monitoring at Work - Code of Practice, 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998

GOOD PRACTICES

CCBC considers email as an important means of communication and recognises the importance of proper email content and speedy replies in conveying a professional image and delivering good customer service. Users should take the same care in drafting an email as they would for any other communication. Therefore CCBC wishes users to adhere where possible to the following guidelines:

- Writing emails:
 - Write well-structured emails and use short, descriptive subjects.
 - CCBC's email style is informal. This means that sentences can be short and to the point. You can start your email with 'Hi', or 'Dear', and the name of the person. Messages can be ended with 'Best Regards'. The use of Internet abbreviations and characters such as smileys however, is prohibited.
 - External email signatures must include your name, job title and company name.
 - A disclaimer will be added underneath your signature (see Disclaimer)
 - Users should spell check all emails prior to transmission.
 - Do not send unnecessary attachments.
 - Do not write emails in capitals.
 - If you require any action by the recipient ensure they are included in the "To" field not the CC or BCC fields.
 - If you forward emails, state clearly what action you expect the recipient to take.
 - Only send emails of which the content is appropriate. If they cannot be displayed publicly in their current state, consider rephrasing the email, or use other means of communication.
 - Only mark emails as important if they really are important.
 - Please ensure that Senior Officers are only included into e-mails that require their attention.
 - Please note that by copying Senior Officers into e-mail communications does not ensure they agree with your e-mail or are authorizing your actions.
- Replying to emails:
 - Where possible internal emails should be answered within 3 working days, please try to answer priority emails within 1 working day.
 - Replying to External emails should fall in line with the authority's policies on responding to letters.
- Out of Office notifications:-
- It is good practice to activate your Out of Office messages (Internal and External) when not in the workplace. N.B. These need to be in Welsh followed by English and can follow the two recommended

- wordings detailed at the end of this policy.
- Users of GCSX E-Mails need to activate Out of Office messages within the GCSX E-Mail browser separately in addition to their Outlook e-mail messages.
- Newsgroups:
 - Users need to request permission from their supervisor before subscribing to a newsletter or news group.
- Maintenance:
 - Delete any email messages that you do not need to have a copy of, and set your email client to automatically empty your 'deleted items' on closing.

PERSONAL USE

It is strictly forbidden to use CCBC's email system for anything other than legitimate business purposes. For example, the sending of personal emails, chain letters, junk mail, jokes and executables is prohibited. All messages distributed via the Council's email system are CCBC's property.

The Council and the Trade Unions have agreed that the email system may be used for communication between an individual and his or her trade union, or vice versa, for matters relating to the individual's employment with the Authority. This will not be classed as personal use.

However, should an individual be concerned over access to their works email accounts, they should consider receiving Union emails to their personal email accounts or request that any communications are sent via a password protected attachment to the email.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Please be aware of the security implications when sending confidential information via the email system. Confidential information needing to be emailed to other public sector organisations should be via GCSX email and to other third parties should be by encrypted e-mail using Egress Switch.

ENCRYPTION

Users may not encrypt any emails without obtaining written permission from their supervisor. If approved, the encryption key(s) must be made known to the council. The Council's preferred encrypted email solution is Egress Switch.

EMAIL RETENTION

Staff are responsible for ensuring that emails that constitute Council records or are of significance in other ways are moved to suitable repositories. Such facilities may be provided by line of business application software, electronic document management systems or suitably secured network drive locations. Once this has been done successfully, emails should be deleted from Outlook. All information must be managed in compliance with Data Protection Legislation and the Council's retention timescales.

SYSTEM MONITORING

To protect the Council, employees, service users and public funds, the Council will monitor the use of the email system in order to ensure the proper and lawful use of the system and will be performed by I.T. Security Officers or I.T. Management. Requests for I.T. Security Officers to monitor users I.T. activity must be in writing and have at least Head of Service authority containing the reasons for the request. Such monitoring will be undertaken in line with the Data

Protection Code, Part 3 Monitoring at Work. Such monitoring will be primarily confined to address/heading unless there is a valid and defined reason to examine content such as potential offences under the Computer Misuse Act, compliance with the Information Security policies and the Officers Code of Conduct.

If there is evidence of a failure to follow the guidelines set out in this policy, CCBC reserves the right to take disciplinary action.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

The Council has a statutory duty to comply with information requests made under Data Protection Legislation, Freedom of Information Act 2000, and associated legislation. All users of the Council's IT systems must be aware that this will require searching any information held by the Council, including on email systems, networked drives and mobile devices, and considering disclosure in line with the law.

DISCLAIMER

The following disclaimer will be added to each outgoing email:

Anfonir yr e-bost hwn at ddibenion darparu gwasanaethau'r Cyngor. Mae'r e-bost a'r atodiadau yn gyfrinachol ac fe'u bwriedir yn unig at ddefnydd yr unigolyn neu'r endid y cyfeirir atynt. Os ydych wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn mewn camgymeriad, rhowch wybod i DiogeluData@caerffili.gov.uk drwy anfon e-bost yn ôl a dinistriwch yr holl gopiâu heb eu hanfon at unrhyw drydydd parti. Sylwch fod unrhyw safbwyntiau neu farn a gyflwynir yn yr e-bost hwn yn perthyn i'r awdur yn unig, ac nid ydynt o reidrwydd yn cynrychioli rhai'r Cyngor. Yn olaf, dylai'r derbynnydd wirio'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiadau ar gyfer presenoldeb firysau. Nid yw'r Cyngor yn derbyn unrhyw atebolrwydd am unrhyw ddifrod a achosir gan unrhyw firws a drosglwyddir drwy'r e-bost hwn.

Os hoffech i ni gyfathrebu â chi mewn ffordd benodol, rhowch wybod i ni. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog (yn ôl eich dewis) neu mewn ieithoedd a fformatau eraill. Byddwn yn ymateb yn eich dewis iaith, ac ni fydd gohebu â ni yn Gymraeg yn arwain at unrhyw oedi.

I ddarganfod mwy am sut mae'r Cyngor yn gweithredu, ewch i'n gwefan yn: www.caerffili.gov.uk ac am ragor o wybodaeth am bethau i'w hystyried wrth gyfathrebu â ni drwy e-bost, ewch i <http://www.caerffili.gov.uk/ebost>

This email is sent for the purpose of delivering Council services. The email and attachments are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify DataProtection@caerphilly.gov.uk by return email and destroy all copies without passing to any third parties. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Council. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The Council accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

If you'd like us to communicate with you in a particular way please let us know.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually (according to your

choice) or in other languages and formats. We will respond in your declared chosen language and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to any delay. To find out more about how the Council operates please visit our website at: www.caerphilly.gov.uk and for more information about things to consider when communicating with us by email, visit www.caerphilly.gov.uk/email

Should the employer require access to emails issued or received from a trades union or its member further dialogue is to take place with the Head of HR and Head of IT Services prior to any access being granted.

Questions

If you have any questions or comments about this Email Policy, please contact the IT Service Desk tel. 01443-864111 or IT Security tel. 01443-863227.

If you do not have any questions CCBC presumes that you understand and are aware of the rules and guidelines in this Email Policy and will adhere to them.

OUT OF OFFICE SAMPLE WORDING for non monitored emails.

Dydw i ddim ar gael tan (DD/MM/YYYY) ac ni chaiff eich e-bost ei ddarllen yn fy absenoldeb. Byddaf yn ymdrin â'ch e-bost ar ôl dychwelyd i'r gwaith. Os bydd eich ymholiad yn un brys cysylltwch ...

I am currently unavailable until (DD/MM/YYYY) with no access to my emails. My emails are not being monitored in my absence. Your email will be responded to following my return to work. If your communication is urgent please contact...

OUT OF OFFICE SAMPLE WORDING for monitored emails.

Dydw i ddim ar gael tan (DD/MM/YYYY), fodd bynnag bydd eich e-bost yn cael ei flaenyrru at (Insert another officer's email address and external telephone number) yn fy absenoldeb.

I am currently unavailable until (DD/MM/YYYY), however your email will be forwarded to (Insert another officer's email address and external telephone number) in my absence.

Classification – Official



Gwasanaethau Technoleg Gwybodaeth
Information Technology Services

CCBC Internet Usage Policy



A greener place to work
Man gwyrddach i gweithio



CCBC Information Security Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION

Department: Information Technology Section

Title CCBC Internet Usage Policy

Reference PO-G-007

Date: January 2017

Version: 1.1

Author: Stephen Jordan / Wesley Colyer

Assurance: I.T. Security Forum

REVISION	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION
1.0	Nov 2015	Version for IT Security Forum
1.1	Jan 2017	Amendments following Trades Union comments

REVISION	DISTRIBUTION LIST
1.0 -1.1	IT Forum Members
	DOCUMENT LIBRARY
ISMS – Secure Server	O:\IT\Shared\IT Security\ISO27001\Policies

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Caerphilly County Borough Council - Internet Usage Policy.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the proper use of Caerphilly County Borough Council's Internet facilities and make users aware of what Caerphilly County Borough Council deems as acceptable and unacceptable use of the Internet. Should policy amendments be required, then staff will be made aware and Trades Unions consulted prior to any amendments being implemented. For any Legislative amendments required both staff and Trades Unions will be notified in a timely manner. This policy is applicable to all Caerphilly County Borough Council employees and agents.

LEGAL RISKS

Internet facilities enable the user to access a very wide range of information, including personal data, linking to large numbers of computers and other individuals across the world. In this relatively uncontrolled environment, it is particularly important that users are aware of and conform to legal requirements:

- If you view, create, access, download or publish material that is pornographic, libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene, you and Caerphilly County Borough Council can be held liable.
- If you unlawfully view, create, access, download or publish confidential or personal information, you and Caerphilly County Borough Council can be held liable.
- If you unlawfully or without permission view, create, access, download or publish material that is copyrighted, you and Caerphilly County Borough Council can be held liable for copyright infringement.

Additionally there are a number of Acts that can be applied to Internet use:

- Data Protection Legislation (The Data Protection Act, 1998 & the General Data Protection Regulations, 2018)
- The Computer Misuse Act, 1990
- The Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act, 1988
- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, 2000
- Electronic Communications Act, 2000
- Freedom of Information Act, 2000
- Monitoring at Work - Code of Practice, 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998

ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

Access to Internet facilities will be authorised only via established procedures that require the user to agree to conform to this policy.

ACCEPTABLE USE

The primary purpose for a user to have access to Internet facilities is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of that user's work for the Council.

Caerphilly County Borough Council's Internet facilities must only be used for legitimate business purposes, personal use is prohibited.

The Council and the Trade Unions have agreed that the Internet system may be used for communication between an individual and his or her trade union, or vice versa, for matters relating to the individual's employment with the Authority. This will not be classed as personal use.

UNACCEPTABLE USE

Caerphilly County Borough Council's Internet facilities must not be used to view, create, access, download or publish material that is:

- Pornographic or Adult
- Racist, offensive, or derogatory
- Obscene
- Bullying
- Violent
- Fraudulent
- Likely to cause harassment to others
- Confidential
- Prejudicial to the Council's best interests
- Not relevant to the business of the Council
- Likely to irritate or waste time of others
- Likely to breach copyright

It is unacceptable to use Caerphilly County Borough Council's Internet facilities for:

- Gambling
- Shopping (including online auctions, holidays, cars etc.)
- Gaming
- Instant Messaging (IM) (e.g. Microsoft Messenger)
- Utilising Peer to Peer (P2P) applications (e.g. Napster or Kazaa)
- Accessing personal web mail (e.g. Hotmail, Yahoo, Wanadoo)
- Publishing or creating personal websites or pages
- Accessing chat rooms
- Accessing newsgroups other than those on an approved list

It is prohibited to use Caerphilly County Borough Council's Internet facilities for downloading:

- Software *
- Music, videos, etc.
- Games

* If required, business related software may be downloaded provided it is from a legitimate and secure source and that a member of staff from IT Services carries out the download. The software must be virus checked before installation.

Any accidental access to inappropriate content must be reported to IT Security.

SECURITY

To address the security risks posed by having access to the Internet the Council has a number of security controls (Anti-Virus applications, Firewalls and Web-filtering software) in place to protect its network and information systems.

It is prohibited to:

- Circumvent, or attempt to circumvent these or any other security controls that are in place.
- Gain or attempt to gain unauthorised access to information (e.g. by introducing keyloggers, spyware or malware).
- Attempt to test or detect weaknesses in the security infrastructure (e.g. testing firewalls, cracking passwords).
- Attempt or intentionally disrupt the normal functioning of the Internet or related services (e.g. by downloading illegal software or introducing viruses).

SYSTEM MONITORING

To protect the Council, employees, service users and public funds, the Council will monitor the use of the email system in order to ensure the proper and lawful use of the system and will be performed by I.T. Security Officers or I.T. Management. Requests for I.T. Security Officers to monitor users I.T. activity must be in writing and have at least Head of Service authority containing the reasons for the request. Such monitoring will be undertaken in line with the Data Protection Code, Part 3 Monitoring at Work.

If there is evidence of a failure to follow the guidelines set out in this policy, Caerphilly County Borough Council reserves the right to take disciplinary action.

The Council uses web-filtering software to control access to websites and pages and to monitor user activity. The software will block access to websites, pages or content that is inappropriate or not relevant to the business of the Council.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCESS.

Not all staff are granted Social Media access. For those that have access to Social Media staff are reminded that the council has a Social Media Policy and that even for staff using Social Media channels when not in work that there is advice and guidance within the Social Media Policy that is useful to them.

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CABINET – 28TH MARCH 2018

SUBJECT: WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

REPORT BY: INTERIM HEAD OF CORPORATE FINANCE & ACTING SECTION 151 OFFICER

-
- 1.1. The attached report was presented at an informal meeting of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel (the Panel) on the 17th January 2018.
 - 1.2. The Monmouthshire Welsh Church Act Fund (WCAF) was established on the 1st April 1996 from the former Gwent Fund and part of the former Mid Glamorgan Fund. The Fund covers the administrative areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen and Monmouthshire, with Monmouthshire being designated as the lead Authority. Details of the charitable purposes for which the funding may be applied are set out in Appendix 1 of the attached report.
 - 1.3. Caerphilly CBC receives an annual allocation of circa £62k from Monmouthshire County Council and as this allocation has not been fully spent in previous years it is currently anticipated that a balance of £263k will be carried forward into the 2018/19 financial year.
 - 1.4. At previous meetings of the Panel it was decided that for Caerphilly CBC the following criteria would apply when considering applications for assistance from the Welsh Church Act Fund: -
 - (i) A grant of no more than £2,000 to be given to partly fund projects of £6,000 and over.
 - (ii) Smaller projects less than £6,000 be grant aided up to a third of the total cost.
 - (iii) All organisations receiving grants produce the necessary financial records to show the expenditure has been incurred.
 - (iv) No organisation is allowed to apply in consecutive years.
 - 1.5. At its meeting on the 13th July 2009 the Panel agreed that in future, Officers would approve grant applications meeting the Welsh Church Act Fund criteria, using delegated powers. Such decisions would then be reported to the Panel for information, where Members could ask for further information if required.
 - 1.6. The Panel has raised concerns for some time regarding the high level of balances being carried forward for the Welsh Church Act Fund. As a result, at its informal meeting on the 17th January 2018 the Panel was presented with 5 options in respect of the level of grants awarded from the Welsh Church Act Fund. These options were as follows: -

Option 1 - Applications of up to £2,500 to be fully grant funded with applications above £2,500 to be subject to a grant rate of 50% on the sum in excess of £2,500 e.g. an application requesting £4,000 that meets the criteria would receive £3,250 (£2,500 plus 50% of £1,500). Members may wish to consider a maximum grant award.

Option 2 - Award all applications that meet the WCAF criteria at 50% with a maximum award of £10,000.

Option 3 - Award grants of up to 90% with a maximum award of £10,000

Option 4 - Applications of up to £5,000 to be fully grant funded with applications above

£5,000 to be subject to a grant rate of 75% on the sum in excess £5,000 e.g. an application requesting £8,000 that meets the criteria would receive £7,250 (£5,000 plus 75% of £3,000). Members may wish to consider a maximum grant award.

Option 5 - Keep grant awards as they currently stand.

- 1.7 Following consideration of the options the preferred approach of the Panel was option 4 with a maximum grant payable of £10,000. The Panel also requested that the grants process be reviewed to expedite payments wherever possible and that options be explored for publicising the Fund more widely. The Panel also requested that the number of quotes/estimates to be provided with applications should be reduced to 2 for grant applications under £5,000 and 3 for applications over £5,000.
- 1.8 To ensure that there are maximum community benefits from funding awarded through the Welsh Church Fund it is recommended that grants should be restricted to community organisations and community based projects in the first instance and that this position should be reviewed in 12 months time.
- 1.9 Cabinet is asked to: -
- 1.9.1 Consider the recommendation of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel that Option 4 be implemented with effect from the 1st April 2018.
- 1.9.2 Agree that grants should be restricted to community organisations and community based projects in the first instance and that this position should be reviewed in 12 months time.
- 1.9.3 Note that grant awards that meet the agreed criteria will continue to be approved by the Head of Corporate Finance using delegated powers.
- 1.9.4 Note that officers will undertake a review of the application process to expedite payments wherever possible.

Author: Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance
Tel: 01443 863022 E-mail: harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Grant to the Voluntary Sector Panel
Corporate Management Team
David Roberts, Principal Group Accountant
Lisa Lane, Solicitor

Appendices:

Appendix A Report to the Informal Meeting of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel (17/01/18).

Background Papers: -

Minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel Meeting held on the 13th July 2009.

GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL – 17TH JANUARY 2018

SUBJECT: WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & SECTION 151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Panel with background information on the Welsh Church Act Fund and to seek views on revising the level of grants currently awarded.
- 1.2 To make appropriate recommendations for Cabinet consideration.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report advises the Panel of the current criteria for awarding grants from the Welsh Church Act Fund and asks Members whether consideration should be given to revising the level of grants awarded.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Voluntary and community sector organisations make an important contribution to services to the public across the borough and are key participants in the Compact Agreement between the public and third sector.
- 3.2 This report links to the following Well-Being Goals within the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: –

- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A prosperous Wales
- A healthier Wales

4. REPORT

4.1 WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND (WCAF)

4.1.1 Background

The Monmouthshire Welsh Church Act Fund was established on the 1st April 1996 from the former Gwent Fund and part of the former Mid Glamorgan Fund. The Fund covers the administrative areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen and Monmouthshire, with Monmouthshire being designated as the lead Authority.

- 4.1.2 At previous meetings of the Panel it was decided that for Caerphilly CBC the following criteria

would apply when considering applications for assistance from the Welsh Church Act Fund: -

- (i) A grant of no more than £2,000 to be given to partly fund projects of £6,000 and over.
- (ii) Smaller projects less than £6,000 be grant aided up to a third of the total cost.
- (iii) All organisations receiving grants produce the necessary financial records to show the expenditure has been incurred.
- (iv) No organisation is allowed to apply in consecutive years.

4.1.3 At it's meeting on the 13th July 2009 the Panel agreed that in future, Officers would approve grant applications meeting the Welsh Church Act Fund criteria, using delegated powers. Such decisions would then be reported to the Panel for information, where Members could ask for further information if required.

4.1.4 Monmouthshire CC have confirmed that there is no individual limit on WCAF award so the Panel may wish to consider revising the level of grant awarded to make better use of the funds available. We cannot change the criteria listed in Appendix 1. The funding available for 2017/18 is £280,168.33 (inclusive of brought forward balances unspent in previous years).

4.1.5 The following Information has been obtained from other Local Authorities showing the level of funding they provided from their WCAF grants in 2017/18: -

- **Monmouthshire CC**

- No prescribed upper limits but awards are usually up to a maximum of £2,500 due to limited funding. Individuals are limited to £500.

- **Torfaen CBC**

- Awards are only now made to support hardship.
- Previously Torfaen CBC made awards up to £350 for one off project costs, £500 for equipment to enhance a project, with churches allocated up to £1,000

- **Newport CC**

- During the last two years the grants awarded have been an average of 60% of the sums requested. In 2015/16 grants were awarded up to 90% to reduce carried forward balances. The maximum award available £10k.

- **Blaenau Gwent CBC**

- Grants are only awarded once a year in October to ensure that all applications can be considered together and awards made fairly. Churches/Chapels/Museums are given higher allocations (ranging from £300 to £862) with other organisations only awarded £250 due to the low level of funding available.

4.1.6 Members are asked to consider whether the current limits set out in paragraph 4.1.2 of the report should be reviewed and if so, to discuss options and make appropriate recommendations for Cabinet consideration. Below are some suggested options, although this is not an exhaustive list: -

4.1.6.1 **Option 1**

- Applications of up to £2,500 to be fully grant funded with applications above £2,500 to be subject to a grant rate of 50% on the sum in excess of £2,500 e.g. an application requesting £4,000 that meets the criteria would receive £3,250 (£2,500 plus 50% of £1,500). Members may wish to consider a maximum grant award..

4.3.6.2 **Option 2**

- Award all applications that meet the WCAF criteria at 50% with a maximum award of £10,000.

4.3.6.3 **Option 3**

- Award grants of up to 90% with a maximum award of £10,000

4.3.6.4 Option 4

- Applications of up to £5,000 to be fully grant funded with applications above £5,000 to be subject to a grant rate of 75% on the sum in excess £5,000 e.g. an application requesting £8,000 that meets the criteria would receive £7,250 (£5,000 plus 75% of £3,000). Members may wish to consider a maximum grant award.

4.3.6.5 Option 5

- Keep grant awards as they currently stand.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 Grants awarded from the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget and the Welsh Church Fund contribute to the following Well-Being goals: -

- A Wales of cohesive communities – Through financially supporting community groups.
- A prosperous Wales – By helping organisations to be financially resilient.
- A healthier Wales – Through encouraging participation in sports.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct equalities implications to this report and so no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The financial implications are those set out in the report.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications

9. CONSULTATIONS.

9.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been reflected in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That Members consider the content of this report and determine whether a recommendation should be made to Cabinet that grant levels should be reviewed.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To ensure that grant limits are appropriate.

12. STATURORY POWER

12.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2003 and the Councils Financial Regulations.

Author: D. Roberts - Principal Group Accountant (Financial Advice and Support)

Consultees: Stephen R Harris – Interim Head of Corporate Finance
A Southcombe – Finance Manager

Appendices:

Appendix A (i) – Welsh Church Act Fund Criteria

The Charitable purposes for which the Fund may be applied

The Advancement of Education

Educational

1. The provision of benefits which are not readily available from other sources for persons of any age in one or more of the following ways -
 - (i) The award of scholarships, bursaries, loans or maintenance allowances to enable or to assist study at any school, university or other place of learning, approved by the Council, which may if the Council think fit include allowances to dependants.
 - (ii) The provision of financial assistance, outfits, clothing, tools, instruments, other equipment, or books or loans to enable pupils or students on leaving school, university or any other educational establishment to prepare for, or to assist their entry into a profession, trade or calling.
 - (iii) The award of scholarships or maintenance allowances or loans to enable beneficiaries to travel abroad to pursue their education.
 - (iv) The provision, or assistance towards the provision of facilities of any kind not normally provided by a local education authority, or a grant maintained school, for recreation, social and physical training at a school, university or other educational establishment.
 - (v) The provision of financial assistance to enable pupils and students to study music or other arts.
 - (vi) The provision of financial assistance to enable beneficiaries to undertake apprenticeships.

Libraries, museums, art galleries etc

2. The advancement of knowledge and appreciation of the arts and literature of Wales and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof –
 - (i) the establishment, maintenance, replenishment or aiding of charitable institutions, libraries, museums, art galleries; or art, scientific or industrial exhibitions (including exhibitions relating to industrial archaeology); whether national or local, for the principal use and benefit of the Welsh people;
 - (ii) the assistance of charitable societies for study and research in subjects connected with Welsh history, topography, literature and life;
 - (iii) the provision of lectures, exhibitions and equipment;
 - (iv) the acquisition, preservation and publication of records and documents;
 - (v) the provision of suitable premises (by erection, purchase, lease or hiring for occasional use) for any of the purposes authorised by this paragraph.

The Relief of Poverty

Relief in need

3. The relief either generally or individually of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by the making of grants of money or the provision of, or payment for, items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons.

The Advancement of Religion

Places of worship and burial grounds

4. The contribution towards the restoration and maintenance of any place of public worship or any burial ground.

Other Purposes Beneficial to the Community

Relief in sickness

5. The relief in cases of need of persons who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm by the provision of, or payment for, items, services or facilities which are calculated to alleviate the suffering or assist the recovery of such persons, but which are not readily available to them from other sources.

Elderly persons

6. The provision, or assisting in the provision of accommodation for elderly persons who by reason of the infirmities and disabilities of age have need of such reception, care and attention. The provision of funds to organisations promoting the welfare of elderly persons.

Social and recreational

7. (1) The provision of, or assisting in the provision of, facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation being facilities which are available to the members of the public at large and which are provided in the interests of social welfare with a view to improving the conditions of life of the persons for whom they are intended and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof, the provision of, or assisting in the provision of, playing fields, other sporting facilities, parks, open spaces and centres or halls for meetings, lectures or classes.

- (2) Sub-paragraph (1) is intended, in particular, to be concerned with the provision of, or assisting in the provision of, facilities etc to persons in need by reason of their youth, old age, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances.

Aesthetic, architectural, historical and scientific matters

8. The advancement of the education and public benefit of the Welsh people by promoting their interest in aesthetic, architectural, historical or scientific matters relating to Wales and in particular in furtherance of those matters but without prejudice to the generality thereof –

- (a) the acquisition and preservation of –
- (i) land of special interest in relation to science and natural history
 - (ii) land, buildings or objects of beauty or of historic or architectural interest.
- (b) the acquisition, preservation and publication of records and documents of historic interest.

Medical and social research, treatment, etc.

9. The preservation and protection of the physical and mental health of society and, in particular, in furtherance of those purposes but without prejudice to the generality thereof –

- (a) the advancement of education in the theory and practice of medicine;
- (b) the promotion of medical and social research and schemes for the prevention and treatment of disease and publishing the results of such research;
- (c) the provision of nursery and convalescent homes and hostels.

Probation etc

10. Making grants in cases of need for the assistance of –
 - (a) persons placed on probation, or children and young persons from community homes or any other institution of a substantially similar nature established under statutory authority;
 - (b) the families of any such persons, children or young persons; or
 - (c) discharged prisoners.

People who are Blind or Visually Impaired

11. Provision for the welfare of persons who are blind or visually impaired, including the provision of charitable homes and holiday homes.

Emergencies or disasters

12. The contribution towards the alleviation of the effects of emergencies or disasters involving destruction of or danger to life, and property and directly assisting persons in need as a result of such emergencies and disasters.

Other charitable organisations

13. Contributions towards charitable organisations, the purposes of which are consistent with the provisions of this Scheme or the Welsh Church Acts 1914 to 1945.

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CABINET – 28TH MARCH, 2018

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS PARAGRAPH 14 SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MINERAL WORKING AND RESTORATION OF BEDWAS TIPS

REPORT BY: PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

I have considered grounds for exemption of information contained in the report referred to above and make the following recommendations to the Proper Officer:-

EXEMPTIONS APPLYING TO THE REPORT:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) to any terms of proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority in the course of negotiations for contracts for the acquisition of or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services (paragraph 14).

FACTORS IN FAVOUR OF DISCLOSURE:

There is a public interest in the way in which the Council enters into contractual arrangements and manages its financial affairs.

PREJUDICE WHICH WOULD RESULT IF THE INFORMATION WERE DISCLOSED:

The report contains detailed information about the current consultations and negotiations regarding proposed mineral working and restoration of Bedwas Tips together with details and information regarding the background to the proposals. It also contains information regarding the business affairs of a third party. Revealing this information at this stage has the potential to prejudice the successful outcome of the project and the Council's longer term proposals should this particular proposal fail to be concluded.

MY VIEW ON THE PUBLIC INTEREST TEST IS AS FOLLOWS:

That paragraph 14 should apply. I am mindful of the need to ensure the transparency and accountability of public authorities for decisions taken. However disclosure of the information contained in the report at this stage could potentially prejudice the successful outcome of the project and the Council's longer term proposals should this particular proposal fail to be concluded. It also contains information regarding the business affairs of a third party.

The information is not affected by any other statutory provision which requires the information to be publicly registered.

On that basis I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Members are asked to consider these factors when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED DECISION ON EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE:

On the basis set out above I feel that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, and that the report should be exempt.

Signed:  Dated: 21.3.18

Post: **Principal Solicitor**

I accept/~~do not~~ the recommendation made above.

Signed: 
Proper Officer

Date: 21/3/18.

Agenda Item 11

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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