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**Date: 3rd April 2019**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach on Wednesday, 10th April, 2019 at 10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. 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

## AGENDA

1 To receive apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest.

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal

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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.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- |   |                                  |       |
|---|----------------------------------|-------|
| 3 | Cabinet held on 27th March 2019. | 1 - 8 |
|---|----------------------------------|-------|

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

- |   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| 4 | Caerphilly Centre for Children with Additional Needs.   | 9 - 12   |
| 5 | Progress Report - Residential Redevelopment of the Site of the Former Civic Centre, Pontllanfraith.                               | 13 - 34  |
| 6 | Improvements to the Fitness Suite at Newbridge Leisure Centre.  | 35 - 52  |
| 7 | Welsh Government Community Hub Grant 2019/20.   | 53 - 66  |
| 8 | Welsh Government 21st Century Schools and Education Programme - 3G Multi Use All Weather Pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School. | 67 - 72  |
| 9 | Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.  | 73 - 180 |

**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.

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## CABINET

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH MARCH 2019 AT 10.30 A.M.

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#### PRESENT:

Councillor D. Poole - Chair

#### Councillors:

C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing), N. George (Neighbourhood Services), C.J. Gordon (Corporate Services), Mrs B.A. Jones (Finance, Performance and Governance), P. Marsden (Education and Achievement), S. Morgan (Economy, Infrastructure and Sustainability), L. Phipps (Homes and Places) and E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection).

#### Together with:

C. Harrhy (Interim Chief Executive), E. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services), and M. S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director - Communities).

#### Also in Attendance:

L. Donovan (Head of People Services), V. Doyle (Policy Officer (Statistics & Funding)), C. Edwards (Environmental Health Manager), M. Godfrey (Team Leader – Environment Health), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing).

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N. George declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 6 (Proposed Community Resource Centre in Ty Sign, Risca) and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor S. Morgan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 7 (Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 – Proposed Increase in Re-Rating Fee) and left the meeting during its consideration. Details of which are recorded with the respective item.

### **3. CABINET – 13TH MARCH 2019**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **MATTERS ON WHICH EXECUTIVE DECISIONS WERE REQUIRED**

### **4. WELSH CHURCH ACTS FUND**

The report recommended to Cabinet a number of changes to the operation of the Welsh Church Acts Fund (WCAF). The WCAF was established on 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.

The report proposed three key changes to how the WCAF is currently operated; which included increasing the upper limit on the grant available to organisations, the introduction of formal criteria in relation to the grant scheme to ensure that applicants are fully aware of how the scheme is operated within Caerphilly County Borough Council and the introduction of limited support for 'exceptional' individuals in relation to the advancement of education.

Cabinet considered the report and sought further information around the advertising of the Grant Scheme. Officers explained that all Grants commissioned by the Authority are available on the Council's website, and there will also be a 'Good News' story in Newsline, which will provide details of the grant with particular reference to the progress made.

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 revised upper limit of £5,000 for applications to the WCAF grant scheme from community organisations and community based projects be approved, with effect from 1st April 2019;
- (ii) the introduction of a new category of grants be approved of up to £1,500 for 'exceptional' individuals in relation to the 'advancement of education' and offer such grants for up to three years to the same individual;
- (iii) all applications from individuals be reported to the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel for consideration, with recommendations to award to be referred to the Head of Corporate Finance for consideration under delegated powers;
- (iv) the introduction of Caerphilly County Borough Council criteria for the operation of the WCAF grant scheme be approved, with effect from 1 April 2019.

### **5. PUBLICATION OF GENDER PAY GAP DATA – EQUALITY ACT 2010 (SPECIFIC DUTIES AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES) REGULATIONS 2017**

The report sought approval from Cabinet for the publication of the Authority's gender pay gap written statement.

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.

It was noted that 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.

The Council's gender pay gap data is required to be published on the Council's website and a government website by 30th March each year. The data must include the hourly pay, as both a mean figure, (identifying the difference between 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.

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.

Cabinet considered the report and expressed the importance of making it clear for publication purposes that the report does not refer to equal pay, and refers to gender pay gap only. It was also noted that the Council employs a high number of female staff, a proportion of which are employed on a part-time basis, in order to manage their own work/life balance. This will have an impact on the data within the report. Cabinet were assured that each role within the Council is subject to Job Evaluation, and each employee is paid based on the role, not gender.

Finally, the Officer asked Cabinet to note that there is a typing error within the Appendix of the report, in the proportion of male and female employees in each quartile, under the second quartile, which should state "(£8.75 - £10.43)" and sought Members approval to amend prior to publication on the respective websites.

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 and in noting the amendment to Appendix 1, the written statement (as appended to the report) detailing gender pay gap data be agreed for publication on the Council's website and the Government website on line using the gender pay gap reporting service.

## **6. PROPOSED COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE IN TY SIGN, RISCA**

Councillor N. George declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this item as a member on a number of Committees involved in this area and as a result left the meeting during its consideration.

The report provided Cabinet with a proposal 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.

The report sought Cabinet approval in principle to support the delivery of a purpose built community centre on land at Holly Road, Ty Sign (shown edged black at Appendix 1 of the report) and to authorise officers to enter into further discussions and to undertake the necessary consultations.

It was noted that 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 Housing Revenue Account (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 proposal represents an opportunity for the development of a new community resource centre funded by external grant and which would replace existing facilities that are no longer fit for purpose and represent a liability for the Authority.

Officers provided Cabinet with details of the response received from a Member referring to strong objections on the grounds of a loss of green spaces. Cabinet were also asked to consider the response from residents and a Councillor representing that ward that were in support of the development, who felt it would benefit the area, and only a small portion of the land would be taken up by the centre.

Members sought further information on the process for releasing the land. It was noted that Cabinet are currently being asked to commit in principle to the development, as applications for grants for the scheme are dependent on the Council's commitment and provision of land. Planning Permission has been sought and approved on this project.

Whilst Cabinet were mindful of the concerns raised by one local member and some residents, they were keen to support the principle as it was felt that it would provide a great benefit to the community, and the current facilities are no longer fit for purpose.

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 outlined in the Officers Report the delivery of a purpose built community resource centre on land known as "Spar Fields" at Holly Road, Ty Sign be agreed in principle and officers be authorised to enter into further discussions and undertake the necessary consultations with a further report being brought to Cabinet for final determination.

## **7. FOOD HYGIENE RATING (WALES) ACT 2013 – PROPOSED INCREASE IN RE-RATING FEES**

Councillor S. Morgan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this item as a business owner of two food establishments, and as a result left the meeting during its consideration.

The report informed Cabinet of the review of the mandatory fee for businesses submitting re-rating applications under the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 and associated Regulations and sought approval for a revised re-rating fee.

The Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Act 2013 and Regulations introduced a mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme which came into force at the end of November 2013. Section 12 of the Act introduced a charge for businesses that require a re-rating of their food business establishment. It was proposed that the current fee for re-rating visits be increased from £160 to £180 and once the re-rating process has commenced the whole fee will be retained.

Cabinet were asked to note that the increase will provide consistency across Wales, and is in line with the increases proposed within other Local Authorities.

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 Officers Report, the increase of the food hygiene re-rating visit fee to £180 be approved, with effect from 1st April 2019.

## 8. HAFOD-YR-YNYS AIR QUALITY FEASIBILITY STUDY – FINAL PLAN

The report informed Cabinet of the findings of the Final Plan (Appendix 1 of the report) for achieving compliance with the Ambient Air Quality Directive at Hafod-Yr-Ynys in accordance with the Air Quality Direction issued to the Authority by Welsh Government.

In addition, the report sought Cabinet agreement for a preferred option that secures compliance with the Air Quality Directive and to undertake a 10 week public consultation on the Final Plan and the preferred option.

It was noted that the national nitrogen dioxide air quality objectives are being exceeded at receptor locations on Hafod-Yr-Ynys Road. The continuous nitrogen dioxide monitor at Hafod-Yr-Ynys forms part of DEFRA's national Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN). The AURN is a network of continuous monitors throughout the UK that inform a national Pollution Climate Model, which is used for air quality reporting purposes to Europe to demonstrate compliance with the Ambient Air Quality Directive. Caerphilly County Borough Council and Cardiff City Council are two local authorities in Wales that are highlighted in the National Nitrogen Dioxide Plan as having locations that fail to comply with the Ambient Air Quality Directive.

In February 2018 Welsh Government issued an Air Quality Direction to Caerphilly CBC to undertake a feasibility study for the area and to determine a preferred option or basket of options which will achieve compliance with the Ambient Air Quality Directive air quality objectives in the 'shortest possible time'. In the Final Plan, 8 measures were modelled with 4 being discounted from further detailed analysis as modelling indicated that they would contribute negligible improvement to local air quality. Measures involving the introduction of a Clean Air Zone (also combined with traffic management/ signal changes) and demolition of the properties on the south side of the A472 were considered in more detail.

As a result of the study findings it is anticipated that demolition of the properties would achieve compliance by 2023 and any measures including a Clean Air Zone would achieve compliance by 2026. Therefore demolition of the properties is assessed as achieving compliance in the shortest possible time. However, under the Do Minimum option modelling predicts delivery of air quality compliance by 2025. As demolition of the properties is likely to be preceded by a compulsory purchase process involving only market value payments to owners the potential for hardship to residents is a very real concern.

It was noted that the completed Final Plan and preferred option must be submitted to Welsh Government by the 30th June 2019 at the latest.

Officers provided details of an email received prior to the Cabinet meeting from Welsh Government, highlighting that whilst the report outlined two options for Cabinet consideration, one involving "Do Minimum" was not a viable option and therefore not acceptable to Ministers, the Council were reminded to focus on the shortest possible time.

The Monitoring Officer was invited to comment on the report. It was noted that Welsh Government and the public health legislation requires compliance as soon as possible in order to alleviate the public health concern. The Plan offers a number of options and a consultation recommendation prior to the preferred option being implemented. The demolition option would provide the earlier compliance date, which has been supported by the Welsh Government, however this may require a Compulsory Purchase Order, which can be a long process, depending on the willingness of residents to leave their homes voluntarily. The Monitoring Officer referred to recent Case Law, which would clearly support the option to demolish the properties, as it would ensure compliance with the Air Quality Directive in the shortest possible timeframe and reduce human exposure to the public health risk.

Cabinet members expressed their concerns regarding the financial wellbeing of residents, with particular concerns that a Compulsory Purchase Order, which would offer residents market value for their properties, could leave a number of residents in financial hardship, if their properties were the subject of a lower valuation. In addition, whilst members were very aware of the health impacts of the Air Quality in the area, concerns were expressed around the mental health and wellbeing of residents due to the stress and worry the situation has caused, with no regard from Welsh Government.

Members explored the Do Minimum option, which estimates that the area would be compliant by 2025, as a result of changes in engine technology and reducing emission levels, however Officers explained that this was just a model assumption and there is still uncertainty around this.

Having considered the report at length and the recommendations, the Leader wished it noted that the recommendations of Cabinet are solely based on the financial wellbeing of the residents of the area, to prevent any financial hardship and resultant stress..

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 Officers report and for the reasons outlined at the meeting:

- (i) Cabinet agree the 'Do Minimum Option' as the preferred option for securing compliance with the Air Quality Directive. However, the Council will lobby Welsh Government for additional financial support, in order to prevent those affected residents being forced into financial hardship if the demolition option is to progress;
- (ii) the draft Final Plan be agreed and the preferred option be subject to a 10 week public consultation.

## **9. PROPOSED CHANGES IN FEES AND CHARGES**

The report sought Cabinet approval for officer delegation to apply changes to certain fees and charges within the Communities Directorate and for officer delegation to be agreed for future changes to be applied in the interest of business efficiency.

The Authority's financial regulations require Cabinet approval for any increase in fees and charges over and above those agreed as part of the budget setting process at Council.

As there were no generic increases in fees and charges within the Full Council report on the 2019/20 budget, the report outlined a number of service areas within the Communities Directorate where fees and charges need to be increased as a result of inflationary and/or commercial market conditions and sought Cabinet approval in delegating responsibility for implementing any increases to the relevant Head of Service in consultation with the Director, relevant Cabinet Member and Head of Corporate Finance.

Cabinet invited Councillor K. Etheridge, who had requested to speak on the item to address the meeting.

Councillor Etheridge thanked the Leader and raised concerns, in the interest of openness and transparency that the report had not been presented to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee prior to its consideration by Cabinet, nor had it been considered as part of the Budget setting process.



Cabinet were referred to a number of points within the report, including the table at 5.11 of the report, which outlined a list of services where flexibility to apply fee changes need to be agreed for 2019/20 and explained that Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee should have been consulted on the report, as it had not been part of the Budget setting process, prior to its consideration at Cabinet.

The Corporate Director for Communities was invited to respond to the Councillor representation.

It was noted that the Communities area provide a large number of discretionary services, for which no increase in fees had been agreed this year, and provided examples of service areas or specific activities in which fee changes would need to be applied on a case by case basis taking account of the commercial market in which that service or activity operates in. In addition, Cabinet were asked to note that with the changing nature of the Local Authority, budget restraints and austerity measures, it has been essential for the Council to look at more dynamic ways in which to make savings. As a result, the Council are required to be more commercial and responsive to the environment, with an aim to maintain a number of discretionary services, which could otherwise be threatened as a result of Medium Term Financial Planning savings and meeting a balanced budget. Cabinet were also asked to note that a further report will be presented in due course regarding a Commercial Strategy, which would be available for Scrutiny consideration at the appropriate time.

The Monitoring Officer was asked to comment on the report. It was noted that there were potential grounds for the report to be called in, however the value of which was questioned as the reporting and decision making for fees and charges is clear within the report and publically available on the Council's website.

In addition, it was noted that relevant Cabinet Reports, which have been considered prior to each Scrutiny Committee are detailed on the Scrutiny Committee agenda, and Members have the option to "call forward" the report prior to the Committee, in order for discussion to take place at the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

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 Officers report:

- (i) The services where fee and charges changes need to be applied be noted and authorisation be given to the relevant Head of Service in consultation with the Director, relevant Cabinet Member and Head of Corporate Finance to implement changes in line with inflationary and/or commercial conditions prevailing for the service(s)
- (ii) The relevant Head of Service records and posts any increases in fees and charges in accordance with the authority's scheme or delegation

The meeting closed at 12:04pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on the 10th April 2019.

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CHAIR

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## CABINET – 10TH APRIL 2019

**SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

**REPORT BY: DAVE STREET CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To apprise Cabinet of the plans for the case for change for provision of a new centre for children with additional needs to replace the existing Caerphilly Children's Centre at Energlyn, Caerphilly.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval to proceed with a formal consultation exercise with regard to this potential new development.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Cabinet approved the allocation of capital funding to build a new Children's Centre in October 2016 as part of the Capital Programme for 2017/18. Although plans were ready to develop, further discussion with health colleagues around the need to link this to the integrated hubs work and ensure services are future proofed as much as possible delayed the decision to proceed.
- 2.2 We are now in a position to progress with the development as a suitable site has been identified namely the lower plateau of the now surplus Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School. Cabinet is requested to note this opportunity and allow key officers to proceed with a formal consultation exercise with regard to this potential new development.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Cabinet approve that officers proceed with a formal consultation exercise with regard to this potential new development.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The establishment of a new purpose built Children's centre will provide modern facilities that meet the needs of the relevant children in a more appropriate manner.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The current Children's Centre for Caerphilly is based in Energlyn, Caerphilly, which is to the South of the Borough. The building and the site are the property of Action for Children, a national charitable provider of services for children, young people and their families. The Council commissions Action for Children to provide some services and pays for some office accommodation in the Centre. However, the majority of the revenue running costs are funded

by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) who have a significant number of staff and services based there.

- 5.2 The existing Children's Centre building and facilities are no longer fit for purpose and will become more unsuitable as time progresses. The needs of the children accessing this service are becoming more complex and the numbers of children requiring services of this nature are rising due to advances in medical interventions leading to an increase in life expectancy. Therefore it is vital at this time that we commence plans to upgrade the services before they become completely unsustainable.
- 5.3 The layout of the building is not conducive to the integrated model and partnership working due to the limited office space available and the inability to re-arrange this space to ensure the right people are co-located due to the size of the rooms available and their layout within the building.
- 5.4 The treatment rooms and facilities are limited in size and number. There are a number of other professionals who would benefit from being co-located or from holding clinics at the centre should space be available. This would be of great benefit to families to prevent them needing to visit several different appointments in several different locations.
- 5.5 The hydro-therapy pool facility is ageing and maintenance costs are increasing significantly year on year. When essential works have to be undertaken there is considerable disruption to services.
- 5.6 The preferred site has been agreed, namely the lower plateau of the now surplus Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site which will otherwise be redeveloped for housing.
- 5.7 Negotiations with ABUHB have resulted in a commitment to fund the revenue costs of the new centre to the same level as with the current Children's centre. In addition, whilst the Health Board is unable to commit capital funding to properties they do not directly own, they have committed to fund the installation of specialist equipment for use by Health professionals e.g. tracking and hoisting and potentially a contribution to the hydro-therapy pool.
- 5.9 Cabinet have committed capital of £3.1 million, discussions with Health colleagues have identified we need £4 million to enable the centre to be fully integrated and provide a wider range of services such as contact facilities for children and their families and enable hot clinics/ with other primary care services. The additional funding will provide more space for professional both on a permanent and drop in basis that will extend the range of services that can operate out of the centre. Additional space could also allow the centre to operate on a "hub" basis allowing staff from social care and wider council services to have a presence at the centre.
- 5.10 Should the additional funding not be secured we would need to review the facilities to be provided at the centre.

5.11 **Conclusion**

The reasons outlined above state the case for change as the existing arrangements are not suitable and are not sustainable to meet the needs of children with additional needs within the county borough.

**6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 The assumptions on the costs are based on current prices and hence could be subject to change based on inflation increases etc.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

7.1 Children's Services Commissioning Strategy 2015-2020

### **7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

8.1 The report contributes to the Well-being Goals which are:-

- A healthier Wales\*

The report is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The five ways of working of the sustainable development principle, listed in the Act are:

- Long Term – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability of future generations to meet their long-term needs. The case for change has been outlined to meet long terms needs of individuals
- Prevention – This proposal will look to focus on well-being and prudent health care principles
- Integration – The centre will be a joint venture with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Collaboration – We will work internal with Directorate of Education and other parts of Adults and Children's Services to ensure the centre is fit for purpose
- Involvement –We will work with the third sector to reflect the e model in the other 2 Children's centres.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Total funding of £3.1million has been allocated within the Capital Funding Programme

10.2 As stated above, ABUHB currently provide the majority of the revenue costs for the existing Children's Centre because so many of their staff are based there. The Health Board's Divisional Director has committed to transfer the existing revenue funding and ensure future costs are met as their contribution to the new development. However, it must be acknowledged that it will be difficult to truly predict the running costs until the Centre is fully operational.

10.3 In addition, ABUHB have committed to fund the installation of specialist equipment for use by Health professionals e.g. tracking and hoisting and potentially a contribution to the hydro-therapy pool. Current estimates of the specialist equipment costs are in the region of £400k.

10.4 If additional funding isn't secured we would need to review the facilities offered at the centre.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no HR or personnel implications arising from this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 The report reflects the views of the consultees.

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Consultees Christina Harry Interim Chief Executive harrhyc@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Dave Street Corporate Director Social Services streed@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Rob Tranter Head of Legal Services trantj@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Lynne Donovan Head of People Services donnovl@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Nicole Scammel 151 officer scammn@caerphilly.gov.uk  
Cllr Carl Cuss Cabinet Member Social Services cusscj@caerphilly.gov.uk



## CABINET – 10TH APRIL 2019

**SUBJECT:        PROGRESS REPORT – RESIDENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE  
                     OF THE FORMER CIVIC CENTRE, PONTLLANFRAITH**

**REPORT BY:    CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE  
                     SERVICES**

- 
- 1.1     The attached report, which provided a progress update on the proposed residential redevelopment of the site of the former Civic Centre in Pontllanfraith, was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 12th March 2019. The report sought Member's views on the involvement of Caerphilly Homes in the Social Housing element, prior to its consideration by Cabinet.
  - 1.2     Members were advised that following the decision taken by Cabinet on 3rd October 2018, master planning for a residential development on the site of the former Civic Centre in Pontllanfraith has been progressed in conjunction with Registered Social Landlord Pobl. The outline proposals adheres to the Cabinet decision insofar as they are based on the Garden Village model and comprise broadly equal proportions of social rented, affordable housing and market sale, and approximately two thirds of the development will be classed as 'affordable'. Whilst the master planning to date is work in progress it gives assurance that the project is being developed in accordance with the direction given by Cabinet.
  - 1.3     Members noted the details of the masterplan presentation appended to the report, which outlined details of the collaboration between the Council and Pobl, the vision for this development (Chartist Gardens), examples of similar schemes elsewhere, and target programme milestones and the overview for the scheme.
  - 1.4     The Scrutiny Committee were pleased to note the progress made and the quality of the proposed scheme, and welcomed the benefits this would bring to the local area. During the course of the debate, Members sought clarity on the definition and criteria of affordable housing and the type of pricing structure involved. Officers explained that the definition is set in accordance with WG guidelines, in particular Technical Advice Note (TAN) 2 relating to planning and affordable housing, and that there are a number of different elements involved in regards to affordable housing. Further information will become available as the scheme develops. Members expressed concerns that the scale of affordability might be more achievable for those individuals living outside the county borough and looking to relocate in order to commute. They also enquired as to whether the new properties could be ring-fenced to existing residents of the county borough. Officers confirmed that if the social housing element is transferred to Caerphilly Homes, these particular properties would be allocated to those on the Common Housing Register.
  - 1.5     In response to Members' queries, Officers outlined the process by which the Council would purchase the houses which fall under the social housing element, including the use of a Section 106 agreement. The specifics of these will be brought back to Cabinet at a later date.
  - 1.6     A Member sought further information on a number of sections across the report and agreed to email his queries to Officers. He highlighted concerns regarding the amount of residential development in the Blackwood area, the impact of the development on the war memorial and

encroachment on the neighbouring park. He also suggested that there is a covenant in place to protect use of this area. Officers confirmed that the planning process would address any concerns regarding over-development. They explained that no covenant exists and development would anyway be confined to the civic site itself. The war memorial will remain in its current location but the Sir Harold Finch memorial plaque and adjacent buried time capsule will be relocated in consultation and agreement with family representatives.

1.7 Following consideration of the report and in noting its contents, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) the proposal to transfer the social element of this development to Caerphilly Homes, with the purchase cost being covered from the Housing Revenue Account, be approved.

1.8 Members are asked to consider the report and the above recommendations.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 12th March 2019 - Agenda Item 9





## **POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12TH MARCH 2019**

**SUBJECT:        PROGRESS REPORT - RESIDENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE  
                     OF THE FORMER CIVIC CENTRE, PONTLLANFRAITH**

**REPORT BY:    INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

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### **1.        PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1        This report provides a progress update to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee in relation to the proposed residential redevelopment of the site of the former Civic Centre in Pontllanfraith and seeks the committees view on the involvement of Caerphilly Homes in the Social Housing element prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

### **2.        SUMMARY**

- 2.1        Following the decision taken by Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 master planning for a residential development on the site of the former Civic Centre in Pontllanfraith has been progressed in conjunction with Registered Social Landlord Pobl.
- 2.2        The outline proposals adheres to the Cabinet decision insofar as they are based on the Garden Village model and comprise broadly equal proportions of social rented, shared ownership and market sale and approximately two thirds of the development will be classed as 'affordable'.
- 2.3        Whilst the master planning to date is work in progress it gives assurance that the project is being developed in accordance with the direction given by Cabinet.

### **3.        RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1        That members of the committee note the contents of this report.
- 3.2        The Committee provides its view to Cabinet on proposals to transfer the social housing element of this development to Caerphilly Homes, with the purchase cost being covered from the Housing Revenue Account.

### **4.        REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1        To ensure members are appraised of progress to date.

## 5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Cabinet took the decision on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 to give approval to develop a residential scheme for the site of the former Civic Centre in Pontllanfraith in conjunction with a Registered Social Landlord (RSL). The full decision taken was:

Site C - Pontllanfraith House. A scheme is developed with an RSL to include broadly equal proportions of social rented, shared ownership and market sale dwellings, and commercial terms are established for both outright sale and the Lease models for further consideration and approval by Cabinet;

- 5.2 Under the Welsh Government's Social Housing Grant funding programme, Housing Associations (also known as RSLs) are zoned to operate in specific local authority areas for affordable housing development. The current RSL for the Eastern Valleys zone is Pobl (part of the Seren Group).
- 5.3 The Cabinet's vision for the site was discussed with Pobl and they have enthusiastically developed outline proposals in conjunction with Council officers. Preliminary meetings have been held with planning, highways and drainage officers and site surveys have been carried out. The outline proposals are based on the 'Garden Village' model which aspires to create a development which:

*Feels welcoming and green with a strong sense of community  
Looks well portioned with a timeless character and built around attractive landscaping and external spaces  
Promotes shared resources and community and neighbourly values.*

- 5.4 The site is well positioned and the masterplan is designed to make best use of the setting and the proximity to green space with many houses looking out of the development rather than in. Off street parking is provided on the basis of one space per bedroom, up to a maximum of 3 spaces per dwelling, with clustered parking typically set behind houses. Additional parking is included for the Cenotaph.
- 5.5 The masterplan features accessible one and two bed dwellings grouped around the Cenotaph in a style reminiscent of Alms Houses. The Cenotaph sits at the western end of a tree lined road leading to a rural style play and recreation area.
- 5.6 The remaining dwellings range from social housing, one bed affordable apartments to four bed detached houses. All will be designed to provide the space standards prescribed by the Development Quality Requirement (DQR). All will provide good space standards when compared to the output of many national housebuilders. All dwellings will include fire protection by water sprinklers. All social housing will be designed to the WHQS standard. The feasibility of including renewable technologies, including battery storage, will be explored together with provision to charge electric vehicles, although the ability to achieve this may be constrained by electricity supply issues.
- 5.7 In relation to the social housing units, it is proposed that these be transferred to Caerphilly Homes and be incorporated into the Council's housing stock, with the cost being covered from the Housing Revenue Account. This would also include the transfer of the land that the social housing has been developed on, with the type of properties also being determined by Caerphilly Homes to ensure they meet current and future demand.
- 5.8 The Local Development Plan requires that for new residential developments in Pontllanfraith 25% of dwellings should be affordable where this is economically viable. However, in line with the decision of Cabinet the outline masterplan comprises 118 dwellings of which approximately one third will be social rented, one third will be affordable, including rent to buy and intermediate rental properties, and one third will be market sale. Thus approximately two thirds of the development will be categorised as 'affordable'.

- 5.9 No formal agreement has been reached with Pobl and the commercial elements of the development will be explored and reported to Cabinet in due course. Options that will be considered include the freehold sale of the site to Pobl, a hybrid approach where a proportion of some plots are sold and others are retained to provide a leasehold income and the sale and transfer of the social rented dwellings to Caerphilly Homes.
- 5.10 The masterplan, which is still work in progress, is included in a presentation attached as an appendix to this report.

## **Conclusion**

- 5.11 This report is intended to give assurance that the project is being developed in accordance with the direction given by Cabinet.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 That, subject to development and refinement, the master planning that is presented in this report is appropriate to obtain planning approval.
- 6.2 A formal agreement and associated commercial terms can be agreed between the Authority and Pobl.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 The report links to the council's policies as follows:
- **'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023':**  
Supporting People (reducing inequality, building capacity and resilience to create healthier, prosperous, cohesive communities);  
Supporting Quality of Life (providing the right physical environment for our communities that encourages them to prosper);
  - **Local Housing Strategy**  
Aim 5: Affordable Housing: Meet housing requirements through the provision of a range of good quality, affordable housing options."  
Aim 6: Housing Management: Provide good quality, well-managed homes in communities where people want to live, and offer people housing choices which meet their needs and aspirations.  
Aim 11: Community Regeneration: Promote sustainable and mixed communities that are located in safe and attractive environments.
  - **Local Development Plan (LDP)**  
**Policy CW11** sets Affordable Housing Targets throughout Caerphilly County Borough, ranging from 40% in the higher viability area around Caerphilly Basin, to 0% in the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area (HOVRA). Economic indicators and housing need have influenced these targets.  
**Policy SP6** requires development proposals to 'contribute to creating sustainable places by having full regard to the context of the local, natural, historic and built environment'.  
A shortfall in affordable housing is a significant issue facing residents in the county borough. In this context **Policy SP15** seeks to deliver at least 964 affordable houses through the planning system up to 2021.
- 7.2 The **2015 Local Housing Market Assessment** identifies a shortfall throughout the County Borough of 526 affordable homes per annum. It also identifies a high number of households who are living in unsuitable housing because their accommodation no longer meets their requirements arising from disabilities, medical conditions or old age.

### 7.3 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

This report content contributes towards or impacts on the Corporate Well-being Objectives as follows:

- *Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all*  
The project will promote Targeted Recruitment and Training that will enhance employment prospects and skills of local people, particularly the young and those at a disadvantage, and promote equality of opportunity
- *Objective 2 - Enabling employment*  
The project will promote Targeted Recruitment and Training that will enhance employment prospects and skills of local people, particularly the young and those at a disadvantage, and promote equality of opportunity
- *Objective 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being:*  
The project will promote the provision of a range of good quality, affordable housing options, as well as an emphasis on sustainable construction
- *Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.*

The project will offer 'housing for life' as the accommodation can be adapted to meet changing needs.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The report contributes to the Well-being Goals as follows:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities

8.2 This proposal contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out above. The scheme is also consistent with the five ways of working set out in the sustainable development principle, as defined in the Act. The scheme is integrated in that it contributes to a number of the Well-being goals and supports the objectives of other stakeholders within the community. Implementation of the scheme exemplifies collaboration across organisational boundaries; working together for the good of our communities in pursuit of shared objectives.

8.3 Registered Social Landlords (RSL), as developers, generally take a longer view, protecting (as far as possible) and improving the local environment and infrastructure for the future. Other benefits that RSLs can bring are an emphasis on sustainable construction including Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3+, and Targeted Recruitment and Training that will enhance employment prospects and skills of local people, particularly the young and those at a disadvantage, and promote equality of opportunity.

## 9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered have previously been considered by Cabinet and no EIA was considered necessary at that time.

9.2 The development is unlikely to impact on any specific groups as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

9.3 The land appropriation is unlikely to impact on the Council's obligations under the Welsh Language Standard Regulations 2015.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 This report provides an update on progress only and at this time there are no financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no personnel implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 The views of the consultees listed below have been incorporated in this report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

- 13.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000. This is a Cabinet Function.

Author: Mark Williams – Interim Head of Property Services – [willim17@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:willim17@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
Consultees: Cllr Lisa Phipps – Cabinet Member for Homes and Places  
Mark S Williams – Interim Corporate Director - Communities  
Shaun Couzens – Chief Housing Officer  
Rob Tranter – Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer  
Tim Broadhurst – Estates Manager

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Chartist Gardens Presentation



# Chartist Gardens





# We are

We are a group working together as a team to provide great **local** housing, care and support services.

## **Commercial Division**

We work in partnership and innovate, building and managing great homes and accommodation across Wales. We provide a range of home ownership options across South Wales and operate an extensive commercial portfolio including student and medical staff accommodation.

## **Care and Support**

We support people to live happy, independent lives. We provide great care and support to over 9,000 people, each an individual.

## **Homes and Communities**

We provide high quality housing that is affordable in communities that are safe, attractive and supported to thrive. We manage over 16,000 homes and we're creating thousands more.



# Recently Completed Projects – Oakdale Hotel, Oakdale





# Recently Completed Projects – Kennard Point, Crumlin



*feels like*

A welcoming and green place with a strong sense of community. Residents of all ages will enjoy walking, playing and interacting in the streets, parks and gardens they take pride in.



# Chartist Gardens

*looks like*

A variety of simple, well-proportioned homes with a timeless character.  
A landscape of street trees, grass verges, flowering front gardens and hedges.



*functions like*

A place of shared resources and responsibilities, where residents and owners take a leading role in shaping and maintaining their neighbourhood.

A place that plays a key role in the wider community.

# Loftus Garden Village, Newport

250 mixed tenure homes, 60% of which meet the Welsh Government definition of affordable housing



# Illustrative Masterplan

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**Chartist  
Gardens**

# Main Avenue CGI



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**View from the green towards the War Memorial**

# Street Scene



Photograph of Loftus Garden Village

# Green Space

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Photograph of Loftus Garden Village

# Informal Play



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Photograph of Loftus Garden Village



# Sustainable Drainage



Photograph of Loftus Garden Village

# Target Programme Milestones

<b>Presentation of outline design to Cabinet</b>	Jan 2019
<b>Design development</b>	Jan to Sept 2019
<b>Presentation of final scheme to Cabinet</b>	Sept 2019
<b>Public Consultation</b>	Oct 2019
<b>Submission of Planning / SuDS</b>	Nov 2019
<b>Planning approval</b>	Feb 2020
<b>Construction procurement</b>	Nov 2019 to Feb 2020
<b>Start construction</b>	March 2020
<b>Complete construction</b>	Dec 2022

# Overview

## Land Value

- Capital receipt or lease model

## Tenure Mix

- 65% affordable housing, against Caerphilly CBC's requirement of 25%
- Social Rent / GFSO / Outright Sale
- Older Persons

## Design Standards

- Good space standards
- Up to 20% above national housebuilder sizes
- Low carbon agenda
- Developable area and site coverage

## Caerphilly CBC's House Building Programme

- Access SHG
- Partnership working

## Added Value

- Apprentices
- Investing in the local community
- Customer focussed KPI's



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## CABINET – 10TH APRIL 2019

**SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FITNESS SUITE AT NEWBRIDGE LEISURE CENTRE**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the allocation of one-off funding for improvement works to the fitness suite at Newbridge Leisure Centre.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Cabinet approved the Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 on 14th November 2018. The Strategy sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough.
- 2.2 The Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy describes over 500 different sport and physical activity spaces across the County Borough, including 10 leisure centres with Newbridge Leisure Centre identified as one of four strategic facilities.
- 2.3 A key income stream is being compromised at Newbridge Leisure Centre due to a lack of investment and outdated equipment.
- 2.4 An opportunity has been identified to significantly develop and improve the current provision through the conversion of underutilised squash courts.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve a one-off investment of £550k to support facility improvement, developments, and equipment purchase in the fitness suite at Newbridge Leisure Centre; funded from the following sources: -
- £253k from the Corporate Asset Management capital budget.
  - £92k from unutilised capital funding previously allocated for urgent works at Caerphilly Leisure Centre.
  - £205k from the one-off rebate received from HMRC in respect of a VAT exemption on the supply of sporting services (as reported to Cabinet at its meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018).

### 4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that Newbridge Leisure Centre meets the aspirations set out in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019–2029 of 'more people, more active, more often' through increasing available opportunities to a broader network of users in a high quality facility.

- 4.2 Newbridge Leisure Centre has been identified as one of four strategic, high quality facilities within the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.
- 4.3 The current facility and equipment provision falls outside of industry guidelines in terms of replacement/upgrade and as such is compromising core income streams.

## 5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Cabinet approved the Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 on 14th November 2018. The Strategy sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions. The Strategy encompasses the wide range of opportunities that exist across the county borough for sport and active recreation. In terms of facilities the Strategy identifies Newbridge Leisure Centre as one of 4 strategic, high quality, multi-service leisure centres that are a priority for the Authority's Sport and Leisure Service.
- 5.2 A need has been identified to improve the fitness suite and studio provision at Newbridge Leisure Centre. The Leisure Centre currently includes the following facilities: -
- A leisure pool, including a 25 metre 6 lane pool
  - Sports Hall
  - 2 Squash Courts
  - Sauna & Steam Room
  - Fitness Suite
  - 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP)
  - Grass Pitches
  - Spin Studio
- 5.3 The existing fitness suite is split across the ground and first floor. There is a central staircase between the floors that restricts circulation space. The fitness equipment itself is at the end of its serviceable life and is in need of replacement. The spin studio is a small converted meeting room. The 2 squash courts have been in place since the leisure centre was built in 1984 and have seen a significant (34%) downturn in usage over the past 3 years. In fact the existing squash courts are currently being utilised for other activities that support the existing fitness based provision. Squash court provision however will remain available at Caerphilly LC (x3 courts), Risca LC (x2 courts) and Heolddu LC (x1 court)
- 5.4 It is proposed to create improved fitness and physical activity facilities at the centre to attract additional customers who would not normally participate in physical activity, for example through classes. New health and fitness activities can be developed to create programmes for the National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) and other target groups. This would support our vision for sport and active recreation to get *more people more active more often*.
- 5.5 Investment in these facilities will also help to deliver the commitment within the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy to invest in better quality, more fit for purpose facilities that are strategically located. It also assists in supporting the Strategy's aim of meeting the needs of future generations. Additional users will assist in meeting the Strategy's target of ensuring that subsidy per user is less than £1 to £1.20.
- 5.6 It is proposed to re-configure space at the leisure centre and create a dedicated studio and 2 dedicated fitness spaces consisting of a spin studio and functional suite. Proposed building alterations are estimated at circa £350k and equipment replacement at circa £200k, the total project cost is therefore estimated at circa £550k. It is proposed that the project be funded by allocating £253k of Corporate Asset Management capital together with £92k of unutilised capital funding previously allocated for Caerphilly Leisure Centre. It is proposed that the remaining £205k of estimated project costs be funded from the one-off rebate received from HMRC in respect of a VAT exemption on the supply of sporting services (as reported to Cabinet at its meeting on the 19th September 2018).

- 5.7 Capital was previously allocated for urgent maintenance works at Caerphilly Leisure Centre and £92k of this remains unspent which can be vired to support the proposed improvements at Newbridge Leisure Centre.
- 5.8 Industry guidelines recommend that fitness equipment is upgraded every 3-5 years depending upon usage. This ensures that fitness suites are maximising opportunities that exist in terms of meeting consumer demand, aiding retention and protecting core income streams. The majority of existing equipment at Newbridge Leisure Centre was purchased in 2011. Along with clearly being outside the scope of industry recommendations for replacement/upgrading, the associated cost of ongoing maintenance is now significant at approximately £8k per annum. As the existing equipment continues to age maintenance costs will likely increase along with replacement parts becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. New fitness equipment purchased will include a 5 year parts and service warranty.
- 5.9 There has been an increase in private sector fitness provision in the area with Snap Fitness, Diva Fitness, Planet Fitness, and Elite Fitness all within a 6 miles of Newbridge Leisure Centre. The lack of facility and equipment investment along with increases in local provision from the private sector has seen a decline in the membership base at Newbridge Leisure Centre of 22% across the past 3 years resulting in projected income for 2018/19 being circa £59k less than the budgeted level. A latent demand analysis however has identified that with the appropriate provision and facility mix there is capacity to increase the membership base to 1,300. The existing membership base is circa 700.
- 5.10 Supporting the latent demand analysis is an understanding of the local demographics and associated market segmentation profiles as identified by Sports Wales (SW). This work has identified that the type of facilities provided should be designed to remove barriers and provide equipment that supports a broad range of users. This approach is clearly closely aligned to the vision, aims and objectives of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.
- 5.11 A recent report released by the National Assembly for Wales has identified that in Wales there have been far higher recorded incidences of obesity amongst children. The role and context of facilities has been identified as a significant factor in this regard, identifying the requirement for high quality, inspiring facilities to encourage participation. This view is supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO) who regards obesity as one of the world's most serious health challenges.
- 5.12 Sport & Leisure Services have recently appointed a Marketing, Communications and Engagement Officer on a two year fixed term contract. This role will be essential in developing not only an appropriate marketing strategy for the upgraded facility but also preparing a considered communication and engagement strategy to maximise the opportunities this project presents, particularly with hard to reach groups (such as those who are inactive due to price, accessibility, or possible health problems) or those with higher incidences of drop out from physical activity.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 A full structural survey will be required to confirm that the identified developments within the squash court area are achievable. The figures stated within the report are current estimates for project costs.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 was approved by Cabinet on 14th November 2018. The Strategy sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles

and vision which will inform future decisions and actions. The Strategy encompasses the wide range of opportunities that exist across the county borough for sport and active recreation. In terms of facilities the Strategy identifies Newbridge Leisure Centre as one of 4 strategic, high quality, multi service leisure centres that are a priority for the Authority's Sport and Leisure Service. The proposals in this report will enable Newbridge Leisure Centre to meet the aspirations set out in the Strategy of 'more people, more active, more often' through high quality provision and increasing opportunity to Caerphilly County Borough.

## 7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

This proposal contributes towards or impacts the following Corporate Well-being Objectives, which are:

Objective 2 - Enabling employment.

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The Well-being 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.

8.2 The Council's adopted Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 is designed to help deliver the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. The Strategy includes the following in relation to implementing the Act:

- We will need to be bold - not holding on to what we have done in the past, but looking forward to ensure that the decisions we make and opportunities we provide are fit for future generations - responding to the emerging needs
- of our young people, the adults of tomorrow, and of course looking after the different needs of a growing older population.
- We must also make sure what we provide is going to be sustainable i.e. we can all afford to maintain service provision into the future.
- Future approaches will demand that people take greater responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity. It is the role of the Council to support them to do this for themselves.



- To deliver a 'change agenda' the Council will also have to make a number of critical decisions. It is vital therefore, that this strategy provides a clear rationale and priorities for action. It must provide a vision for where we are going and how we are going to get there, so that everyone understands what we can achieve, what to expect of us, as well as the roles that others have to play.
- Finally, the strategy is not focused just on buildings but the activity that can take place in a wide variety of different places found throughout our county borough and as a result of many different opportunities provided by a range
- of organisations.

8.3 The proposals outlined in this report make a contribution across the seven well-being goals, but in particular to the following areas:

1. **A healthier Wales:** Undertaking an active lifestyle has significant benefits in terms of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease along with positive impacts upon mental health and body weight control. The National Exercise Referral Scheme targets clients who have, or are at risk of developing, a chronic disease using evidence-based health intervention incorporating physical activity and behavioural change techniques to support clients to make lifestyle changes to improve their health and well-being.
2. **A Wales of cohesive communities:** Caerphilly County Borough Council have communicated a vision to deliver and support sport and active recreation across communities, ensuring it is effectively placed to play a well-connected, socially inclusive role.
3. **A globally responsible Wales:** Leading a healthy, physically active lifestyle has a positive impact upon the economic, social and cultural well-being of Welsh residents.
4. **A more equal Wales:** Engaging in community activity supports people to fulfil their potential from both an educational and socio economic perspective.
5. **A resilient Wales:** Taking part in sport and active recreation can help people to increasingly access and value the great outdoors and support protection and enhancement of the biodiverse natural environment.
6. **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:** encouraging people to participate in sport and recreation helps to promote and protect culture, heritage and the Welsh language.

## 9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

## 10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The total project cost is estimated at circa £550k with building alterations estimated at circa £350k and equipment replacement at circa £200k. It is proposed that the project be funded by allocating £253k of Corporate Asset Management capital together with the virement of £92k of unutilised capital funding currently allocated to Caerphilly Leisure Centre. It is proposed that the remaining £205k of estimated project costs be funded from the one-off rebate received from HMRC in respect of a VAT exemption on the supply of sporting services.

10.2 At present fitness memberships account for 39% of the total income across the leisure centre portfolio. There has been a decline in the membership base at Newbridge Leisure Centre of 22% across the past 3 years resulting in projected income for 2018/19 being circa £59k less than the budgeted level.

- 10.3 Based on the latent demand analysis, an increase of 600 members provides the opportunity to generate an additional circa £17k per month in membership fees based upon the existing pricing structure. The first call on the additional income generated should be to address the current shortfall against budget with further surplus income presenting an opportunity for savings in advance for the 2020/21 financial year.
- 10.4 The current cost of fitness equipment maintenance is estimated at £8k per annum. Purchase of new equipment will include a 5 years parts and service warranty. Based upon industry replacement guidelines this will result in a saving of circa £40k.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 This report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received are reflected in this report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

- 13.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

## **14. URGENCY**

- 14.1 The decision is not urgent and will be subject to the “call-in” procedure.

Author: Rob Hartshorn – Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services  
Consultees: Mark S. Williams – Interim Corporate Director, Communities  
Cllr Nigel George – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services  
Jeff Reynolds – Sport & Leisure Services Facilities Manager  
Jared Lougher, Sport & Leisure Development Manager  
Sian Jones, Area Team Leader, Sport & Leisure Services  
Sean Spooner, Area Team Leader, Sport & Leisure Services  
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property  
Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer  
Rob Tranter - Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
Anwen Cullinane - Senior Policy Officer (Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation)  
Mike Eedy - Finance Manager  
Shaun Watkins - Human Resources Manager

### Background Papers:

Cabinet (19/09/18) - VAT Exemption on the Supply of Sporting Services  
Cabinet (14/11/18) - Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29

### Appendices

Appendix 1: Equalities Impact Assessment.

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

## 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.

<b>NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL *</b>	Caerphilly County Borough Sport & Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029
<b>DIRECTORATE</b>	Communities
<b>SERVICE AREA</b>	Communities & Leisure
<b>CONTACT OFFICER</b>	Rob Hartshorn

**\*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.

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 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**.

## PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

<b>1</b>	<p><b>What is the proposal intended to achieve?</b> <i>(Please give a brief description of the purpose of the new or updated proposal by way of introduction.)</i></p> <p>The Council has identified the need and opportunity to develop a strategic approach to shape the future of its sport and active recreation services.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to establish a joined up vision for future provision, setting clear outcomes recognising the contribution that sport and active recreation makes to economic, social, environmental &amp; cultural well-being.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Who are the service users affected by the proposal?</b> <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> <p>The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy affects the public generally and in particular current, potential and future users of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outdoor and Indoor Sport and Leisure Facilities;</li><li>• Sports Development programmes;</li><li>• Staff</li></ul>

## IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

<b>3</b>	<p><b>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?</b> <i>(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?)</i></p> <p>Sport and active recreation provision is not a statutory requirement of Local Government in Wales. The Council heavily subsidises Sport and Leisure Services provision in Caerphilly. This subsidy is not necessarily strategically directed nor applied consistently which results in operational anomalies. Reducing revenue and capital resources need to be balanced against crucial health and well-being priorities and focus on making the most impact possible on health and well-being inequalities, which will facilitate continued provision of a range of opportunities to benefit our residents.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes a rationalisation of facilities to achieve a sustainable future service alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites.</p> <p>Whilst some existing facilities might close which may result in some users having longer travel time to facilities, all of the proposed strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and are accessible by public transport. All future provision will so far as reasonably practicable ensure geographic coverage across the county borough. Implementation ensures a fair and just allocation of resources that will provide for continued sport and active recreation provision into the future for the benefit of all.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers. An ongoing investment strategy will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive to all users and improving access equally.</p> <p>A collaborative approach aims to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles through inspirational physical activity experiences whilst they are in education, whilst also ensuring the learning environments are maximised for community use out of school hours.</p> <p>There is a coordinated approach between schools &amp; Caerphilly Adventures in the engagement of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards helping young people to gain skills for life delivering better educational, employment, and social outcomes for the benefit of all of our communities.</p> <p>The Council's sport and active recreation outreach and intervention provides targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older people/less independent people lead healthy lives through low intensity, social, and easy to access physical activities.</p>
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	<p>The Strategy aims to achieve sustainable sport and active recreation provision that can be maintained at a level of service which is comparable with other Local Authorities. Facilities will be improved and the Council will take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and will work to address access for older people, younger people, and disabled people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</p>
	<p><b>Actions required:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts due to longer travel distances and work to address access for people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</li></ol>

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4. What are the impacts of the proposals?					
Protected Group		Positive Impact?	Negative Impact?	No Specific Impact	What will the impact be? If the impact is negative how can it be mitigated? (action)
Gender	Male			X	
	Female			X	We provide female only activities as part of our routine service delivery. <b>Action: Sustain female only activities at existing service levels.</b>
	Transgender			X	The Council is sensitive to issues around changing, but has not had any representations' or engagement on this issue to date.
Religion			X		
Race				X	There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to race.
Disability		X	X		<p>Where leisure facilities are closed people with disabilities may be more greatly affected if this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities. However, all of the proposed strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and are accessible by public transport.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to sustain sport and active recreation provision in the county borough alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers. An ongoing investment strategy will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive to all users and improving access equally.</p> <p>In promoting a sustainable vision for sport and leisure provision it is recognised that participation in physical activity can have a positive effect on both mental and physical health. In particular</p>

					<p>levels of cardio vascular disease and type 2 diabetes are particularly high in the county. Participation in a physical activity can significantly reduce the risks for both existing sufferers and those most vulnerable.</p> <p>The consultation process has been used to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing disabled people.</p> <p><b>Action: Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and work to address access for disabled people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></p>
Sexual Orientation				X	
Age	Older People	X	X		<p>The Strategy aims to sustain sport and active recreation provision in the county borough alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation. However there may be some negative impact where there are increased travel distances following any rationalisation of facilities.</p> <p>The Council's sport and active recreation outreach and intervention provides targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older people/less independent people lead healthy lives through low intensity, social and easy to access physical activities.</p> <p>We will also support individuals by providing specialist interventions to reach targeted audiences in our communities where there is evidence of need and no other alternative provider.</p>



				<p>The consultation process has been used to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing older people.</p> <p><b>Action: Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and work to address access for older people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></p>
	Children and Younger People (Under 25)	X	X	<p>The Strategy aims to sustain sport and active recreation provision in the county borough for future generations alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation. However there may be some negative impact where there are increased travel distances following any rationalisation of facilities.</p> <p>Young people attending schools where there was joint use would benefit from access to enhanced sport and leisure facilities during the school day. A joint sport and active recreation and schools strategy will be pursued to achieve a single, shared outcome of more young people becoming active adults through more inspirational learning experiences.</p> <p>A collaborative approach with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles through inspirational physical activity experiences whilst they are in education.</p> <p>The consultation process has been used to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing younger people.</p> <p><b>Action: Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and work to address access for younger people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></p>

Marriage & Civil Partnership				X	
Pregnancy & Maternity				X	We have identified no adverse impact as long as pre and post natal classes are sustained at existing service levels.
Socio-economic Background		X			<p>All future provision will be accessible by public transport and will ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, geographic coverage across the county borough. Implementation ensures a fair and just allocation of resources that will provide for continued sport and leisure provision into the future for the benefit of all.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes a financially sustainable vision to secure sport and active recreation provision in the county borough into the future. In doing so any financial pressure to increase prices for customers is reduced thereby promoting accessibility across socio-economic groups.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes the redevelopment of Caerphilly Leisure Centre which is in the vicinity of the most deprived locality (St James 3) in the whole of Wales as defined within the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation.</p> <p>The Council's unique role will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Working with others to make the best use of all available opportunities, facilities, funding and people;</li> <li>II. Making better and more innovative use of the widest possible range of indoor and outdoor physical activity spaces across all communities;</li> <li>III. Specialist interventions in approaches and places that will have the greatest long term health impact on priority target audiences in our communities and where no others are in a position to provide such assistance.</li> </ol>

<b>5</b>	<p><b>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.</b></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> <p>The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will not have any effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p>
	<p><b>Actions required:</b> None</p>

## INFORMATION COLLECTION

<b>6</b>	<p><b>Is full information and analysis of users of the service available?</b>  <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> <p>In 2016 26.9% of people in the county borough aged 16-64 were disabled as defined by the Equalities Act.  In the 2011 Census 97.6% of the population are identified as English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British.  50.7 are identified as being of Christian religion with 48.32% identified as having no religion or religion not stated.  50.95% of the population of the county borough were female and 49.05% male.</p> <p>There are limitations in the data that we hold, but information analysis of 152,000 Sport and Leisure service users who hold Smartcards is as follows:  43% male, 52% female, 5% unspecified;  1.3% disabled;  3 different ages groups comprising of 50.9% aged 25-64, 35.9% under 25 and 13.2% over 64.  95.1% of Smartcard holders identified as English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British</p> <p>We do not hold data regarding other services users or other protected characteristics.</p>
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	<p>We have highlighted above limitations in the information that we hold, but have used the consultation process to strengthen this position and engaged directly with:</p> <p>Youth forum  50+ forum  Age Cymru  Deafblind.org  RNIB Cymru  Action Hearing Loss Cymru  BDA  Disability Can Do  Caerphilly County Borough Access Group  Caerphilly People First  Disability Sports Wales  Caerphilly Borough Mind  Gwent Education Multi-Ethnic Service (GEMS)  Race Equality Council  SEWREC  Umbrella Cymru  LGBTQ+ youth group  Stonewall Cymru  Menter Iaith  Welsh Language Forum including Meithrin etc.</p>
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## CONSULTATION

<b>7</b>	<p><b>What consultation has taken place?</b>  <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> <p>Full public consultation was undertaken. Organisations representing those with protected characteristics were consulted directly.</p>
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## MONITORING AND REVIEW

<b>8</b>	<p><b>How will the proposal be monitored?</b>  <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> <p>There are limitations in the data that we hold, but the consultation process has been used to strengthen our understanding.</p>
	<p><b>Actions required:</b>  1. Continue to review customer feedback via established Sport &amp; Leisure Service systems.</p>

<b>9</b>	<p><b>How will the monitoring be evaluated?</b>  <i>(What methods will be used to ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are being met?)</i></p> <p>Sport and Leisure Services operate a robust, systematic Customer Comments process that is regularly reviewed for trend data.</p> <p>Regular engagement with groups, clubs and organisations</p> <p>Customer Satisfaction survey and Net Promotor Score process</p>
<b>Actions required: None</b>	

<b>10</b>	<p><b>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified?</b>  <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> <p>No</p>
<b>Actions required: None</b>	

<b>11</b>	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>The proposal will ensure future sport and active recreation provision in the county borough alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation.</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>All of the proposed strategic facilities are fully accessible and accessible by public transport.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers.</p> <p>In promoting a sustainable vision for sport and active recreation provision it is recognised that participation in physical activity can have a positive effect on both mental and physical health. In particular levels of cardio vascular disease and type 2 diabetes are particularly high in the county. Participation in a physical activity can significantly reduce the risks for both existing sufferers and those most vulnerable.</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>We provide female only activities as part of our routine service delivery.</p> <p>Age</p> <p>As identified in Section 3 above young people will positive benefit from the enhanced collaboration between the Sport and Leisure service and schools as well as from the strengthening of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.</p>
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	<p>New and refurbished facilities with modern equipment will be particularly attractive to young people and therefore enhance accessibility.</p> <p><b>Summary of Proposed Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts due to longer travel distances and work to address access for people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></li> <li><b>2. Sustain female only activities at existing service levels.</b></li> <li><b>3. Continue to review customer feedback via established Sport &amp; Leisure Service systems.</b></li> </ol>
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<b>12</b>	<p><b>What outcome does this Equality Impact Assessment suggest you take?</b> You might find that more than one applies. Please explain why you have come to this decision.</p>	
	Outcome 1	<b>No major change needed</b> – the EIA hasn't identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken
	Outcome 2	<b>Adjust the policy</b> to remove barriers identified by the EIA or better advance equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments will remove the barriers you identified?
	Outcome 3	X
	Outcome 4	<b>Continue the policy</b> despite potential for negative impact.
		<b>Stop and rethink the policy</b> when the EIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination.
	<p><b>Our Assessment is Outcome 3 – Continue the Policy</b></p> <p>We have reached this conclusion because although the potential for some negative impacts have been identified actions are proposed to mitigate these and the impacts are outweighed by the overall benefits of ensuring sustainable sport and active recreation provision across the county borough.</p>	

<b>Completed by:</b>	Rob Hartshorn
<b>Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2019
<b>Position:</b>	Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services



## CABINET – 10TH APRIL 2019

**SUBJECT: WELSH GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY HUB GRANT 2019/20**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide details of the Authority's bid to Welsh Government for Community Hub Grants to develop a Community Athletics Hub at Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School and in collaboration with Coleg Gwent to provide a Community Sporting Excellence Education Hub (Installation of a 3G multi use all weather pitch with flood lights) on the Risca Community Comprehensive School site.
- 1.2 To seek approval from Cabinet to progress to procurement and construction with immediate effect if the Business Cases are approved and funding agreed.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At the end of November 2018 Welsh Government (WG) announced a £15 million Community Hub Grant. This grant was accessible to all Local Authorities and Further Education establishments via a bidding process.
- 2.2 The primary purpose of the Welsh Government Community Hub Grant is to use capital investment to facilitate the community use of educational assets. This grant can be used to adapt assets for wider community use; provide specialist facilities to widen the potential use of the asset in question; or create a fit for purpose space for the community. This is in line with the Welsh Government's *Prosperity for All* commitment to introduce Community Learning Centres which provide extended services with childcare, parenting support, family learning and community access to facilities built around the school day; and creation of community hubs.
- 2.3 Two Business Cases were submitted to Welsh Government to access this grant which, if supported, would provide 100% funding for the projects outlined in 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 below.
  - 2.3.1 The construction of an Athletics Facility on the school fields located at Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School – 300m x 6 lane plus 6 lane sprint straight. This will consist of a flood lit synthetic running track area which will include a fan for off field events e.g. high jump, long jump, shot put, javelin and discus. The amount of this bid is £755k.
  - 2.3.2 To develop a Community Sporting Excellence Education Hub (Installation of a 3G all weather multi use pitch with flood lights) on the Risca Community Comprehensive School site. This bid has been submitted by Coleg Gwent in partnership with Caerphilly County Borough Council. The project will be on our school site and procured and constructed by the Authority. The 3G facility will meet both rugby and football governing body requirements. The amount of this bid is £900k.

2.4 These facilities will address both the gap in sporting provision in these areas and will present an opportunity to develop both recreation and competitive sport linking with our local clubs and will align with the Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 -2029, Caerphilly's Wellbeing Objectives 2018 to 2023 and Caerphilly's Education Attainment Strategy.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Cabinet Members are asked to endorse the proposal to:-

- establish a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Athletic facility on the Rhiw-syr-Dafydd Primary School site, subject to Welsh Government approval and allocation of £755k funding (100% funded by Welsh Government)
- develop a Community/Sporting Education Excellence Hub (3G multi use all weather pitch plus floodlights) on the Risca Community Comprehensive School site, in partnership with Coleg Gwent, subject to Welsh Government approval and allocation of £900k funding (100% funded by Welsh Government).

3.2 Subject to Welsh Government approval Cabinet Members are asked to agree for officers to proceed to procurement and construction and agree the establishment of an earmarked reserve facility in the Education area of the Council's accounts for major maintenance repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 In order to maximise the use of current Education assets and address identified need for provision within the area Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendations in 3.1 and 3.2 above.

4.2 In order to meet Welsh Government delivery expectations it is essential for procurement and construction to progress as soon as possible following Welsh Government approval of the bid.

4.3 In order to ensure the facilities are sustainable, maintained to an approved standard and funding is available to ultimately renew the fixed life elements of the facilities.

### **5. THE REPORT**

5.1 On 30/11/18 Welsh Government, in support of their commitment to community use of learning facilities in Prosperity for All, made available £15 million (across Wales) for capital investment to facilitate the increased community use of Education Assets.

5.2 This funding was open to local authorities and further education institutions in partnership with the third sector, community groups and other partners as appropriate.

5.3 The first stage was the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) by 04/01/19 followed by progression to full Business Case for those projects that WG determined provided the most effective community links, while aligning with policy priorities, achieving value for money and evidencing sustainability.

5.4 The Council submitted an Expression of Interest for the development of an Athletics Facility at Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School.



- 5.4.1 The National School Sport Surveys of 2015 and 2018 highlighted that there is significant demand in Caerphilly for Athletics and that our young people in Caerphilly want to participate more in athletics, but the lack of facilities is a major barrier to participation. The Authority has been working with the National Governing Body of Sport, Welsh Athletics and Sport Wales for a number of years on this, but due to finance have not been able to deliver a track in Caerphilly.
- 5.4.2 Caerphilly is one of only 6 local Authorities in Wales not to have an Athletics track, but with the resurrection of the Rhymney Valley Athletics Club (RVAC) in 2014 the authority have supported the club to grow to now see the club positioning itself competing with the top clubs in Wales.
- 5.4.3 This grant, if approved, will provide a real opportunity for Caerphilly to create an aspirational facility that will serve our schools, the Authority's only athletics club, Rhymney Valley Athletics Club and the wider Community including over 10 social running clubs, a number of which compete at formal events. All will benefit from a fit for purpose, innovative 21<sup>st</sup> Century facility.
- 5.4.4 The Primary school site already has fit for purpose changing rooms with external access which is currently not used after school hours. The proposal would also allow access for the Athletics community to other facilities within the school for training and development purposes.
- 5.4.5 Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School and Islwyn High School are fully supportive of the proposal to develop this facility on the school site.
- 5.4.6 Letters of support for the proposal have also been submitted to Welsh Government from Rhymney Valley Athletics Club and Welsh Athletics.
- 5.4.7 This proposal will create a fit for purpose, sustainable facility that will effectively support schools in the delivery of the new Curriculum for Wales and National Agenda for Sport and physical activity through the Vision for Sport in Wales. It will also create an innovative approach to widening the Community use of the school site.
- 5.4.8 This facility will also deliver on the key agendas within Disability Sports Wales, Positive Futures, Age UK and will also establish links with employability and social running clubs.
- 5.4.9 On 28/02/19 WG confirmed that they had received a high number of Expressions of Interest from across Wales and therefore it had been necessary to categorise the projects into 3 Priorities. Projects were ranked on the basis of Additionality, Innovation and Degree of Community Inclusion. Priority one was for projects considered most suitable for funding against the scheme criteria.
- 5.4.10 WG advised that the Athletics track EOI had been classified as Priority one – those projects most suitable for funding.
- 5.5 An Expression of Interest for the development of a Community/Sporting Education Excellence Hub (3G multi use all weather pitch plus floodlights) on the Risca Comprehensive School site was also submitted by Coleg Gwent, in partnership with the Council.
- 5.5.1 Although this bid has been submitted by Coleg Gwent, the pitch will be constructed on Risca Community Comprehensive School's site and will be accessible by the College, the School and the wider community.
- 5.5.2 The project will be managed and procured by the Council in collaboration with the College.
- 5.5.3 If the bid is successful it will create a Community Sporting Excellence Hub for learners and members of the local and wider communities. Sport Caerphilly highlighted a gap in provision in this area (School Sports Survey); this new facility presents an opportunity to develop both recreation and competitive sport linking with our local clubs.

- 5.5.4 The Community Sporting Excellence Hub will provide support to schools, community and Coleg Gwent learners who currently operate in a number of facilities not fit for purpose within the Authority.
- 5.5.5 Coleg Gwent, Crosskeys, has currently no provision for male and female football and partial provision for male and female rugby. This project will support the College in addressing this shortfall in addition to meeting the latent community demand for such provision within the area.
- 5.5.6 Risca Comprehensive School is fully supportive of the proposal.
- 5.5.7 WG advised that this Expression of Interest had been classified as Priority two – Projects appear suitable for funding but required further detail on how the project would provide a growth in community use of the assets. (see 5.4.9 for further clarification).
- 5.6 Following both projects passing the Expression of Interest Stage (Athletics Hub – Priority 1 and Community Sporting Excellence Education Hub (3G development) – Priority 2) a detailed Business Case was then submitted for each project by the 08/03/19.
- 5.7 It is anticipated that the projects, if funding is approved, would start in the summer of 2019 and be completed by the end of 2019.
- 5.8 WG, in their communication of 28/01/19 confirmed that the outcome of the submissions would be notified to Local Authorities by 31/03/19.
- 5.9 If successful the grant would be awarded for spend by 31/03/20.
- 5.10 In order to meet the timescales for completion it is essential that the projects commence with immediate effect following Welsh Government approval of the funding.
- 5.11 The Authority has developed a Community Use Agreement that will need to be adopted by all relevant parties and implemented for these projects to ensure maximum usage and engagement. This will generate income to sustain the facility and provide revenue to maintain and replace the provisions in the longer term. The Authority's Sport and Leisure Services will provide support in managing these facilities in a structured manner to ensure maximum use.
- 5.12 An earmarked reserve facility will need to be established in the Education area of the Council's accounts for major maintenance repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements.
- 5.13 The Community Use Agreement establishes a management group to oversee the agreed management and operating arrangements. The group will consist of the Headteacher, two Governors, two Council representatives and relevant Cabinet Member.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 The total cost of the facilities are estimated at £1,655,000. If agreed this sum will be 100% funded by Welsh Government as part of the Community Hub Grants to Caerphilly County Borough Council and Coleg Gwent.
- 6.2 The associated revenue costs and the renewal of the fixed life elements of these facilities will be met from the income generated.

## 7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 which sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough Council. It establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions.
- 7.2 Caerphilly's Attainment Strategy: To raise standards and ensure our learners are healthy, confident, proud and ambitious and can access high quality educational opportunities, settings and experience.
- 7.3 Caerphilly's Wellbeing Objectives 2018 to 2023. This proposal will assist the Authority in meeting these objectives in particular the following

Well-being Objective 1 – Improve Education opportunities for all

Well-being Objective 2 – Enabling Employment

Well-being Objective 3 – Provide assistance or support to help improve people's health and well being

Well-being Objective 5 – Supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 The Well-Being 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 Act 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 below:

- **Long Term** - Provide 21<sup>st</sup> Century provision on school sites for both Education and the wider community that will be managed effectively to ensure maximum usage and engagement. This will generate income to sustain the facility in the long term. The Education Attainment Strategy and the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions.
- **Prevention** - Expansion of the provision available on our Education Estates will support all learners in their long term Education and Skills outcome in that they are more likely to succeed if their Educational experience is positive. In addition the proposals will support a healthier lifestyle and improve well-being for both learners and the wider community, reducing the demand for Public Services. The Council will continue to support its communities to enable them to take responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity.

- **Integration** - The proposals are designed to maximise the use of the school asset in increasing the community use of learning facilities. This aligns with the Welsh Government “Prosperity For All” and is recognised in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy that activity can take place across the Authority in a wide variety of sites.
- **Collaboration** - To work collaboratively with all stakeholders to continue to improve the sport and leisure facilities on our education estate ensuring these are opened up to the wider Community.
- **Involvement** - Through collaborative working the Council will ensure that the needs of its learners and the wider community are met.

## 9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed in accordance with the Council’s Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance. A copy of the EIA is attached at Appendix 1. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified.

## 10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 In order to proceed with this development Welsh Government will need to approve the business cases for each individual project. This will generate 100% funding for the schemes.
- 10.2 The procurement, project management and construction of both schemes will be undertaken by the Council.
- 10.3 The ongoing revenue and capital replacement responsibilities will be agreed between all parties prior to the commencement of the project and will be contained within an agreed Community Use document signed by all parties.
- 10.4 If funding for the projects is not agreed the sporting facilities will not be deliverable.

## 11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 No personnel implications.

## 12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

## 13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 The School Standard and Framework Act 1998  
The Local Government Act 2000  
The Learning and Skills Act 2000.

Author: Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy

Email: [richase@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:richase@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Christina Harray, Interim Chief Executive  
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services  
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer  
Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director – Communities

Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services  
Jared Lougher, Sport and Leisure Services Development Manager  
Jeff Reynolds, Sports and Leisure Services Facilities Manager  
Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance  
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Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services  
Jane Southcombe, Finance Manager (Education, Lifelong Learning & Schools)  
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services  
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager

Background Papers:

Expression of Interest Submission to Welsh Government  
Business Case Submission to Welsh Government

Appendices:

Appendix 1 : Equality Impact Assessment

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

October 2018

## 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.

The Council is required to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people
- encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The protected characteristics are:

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Age                            | • Race                           |
| • Disability                     | • Religion, Belief or Non-Belief |
| • Gender Re-assignment           | • Sex                            |
| • Marriage and Civil Partnership | • Sexual Orientation             |
| • Pregnancy and Maternity        | • Welsh Language*                |

\* The Welsh language is not identified as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, however in Wales we also have to treat Welsh and English on an equal basis as well as promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language.

Further advice on completing impact assessments can be found on the equalities pages of Corporate Policy Unit Portal.

## THE EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL*</b>	WELSH GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY HUB GRANT 2019/20
<b>DIRECTORATE</b>	Education and Corporate Services
<b>SERVICE AREA</b>	Education Planning and Strategy
<b>CONTACT OFFICER</b>	Andrea West
<b>DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW OR REVISION</b>	As or when required

**\*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.**

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 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**.

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 **Corporate Policy and Business Support Portal** and the Council’s Equalities and Welsh Language team can provide advice 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](mailto:equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk) for assistance.

## PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

<b>1</b>	<p><b>What is the proposal intended to achieve?</b> <i>(Please give a brief description and outline the purpose of the new or updated proposal by way of introduction.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Athletic facility on the Rhiw-syr-Dafydd Primary School site, subject to Welsh Government approval and allocation of £755k funding (100% funded by Welsh Government)</li> <li>• develop a Community/Sporting Education Excellence Hub (3G multi use all weather pitch plus floodlights) on the Risca Comprehensive School site, in partnership with Coleg Gwent, subject to Welsh Government approval and allocation of £900k funding (100% funded by Welsh Government)</li> <li>• to agree for officers to proceed to procurement and construction and agree the establishment of an earmarked reserve facility in the Education area of the Council's accounts for major maintenance repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements</li> </ul>
----------	--

<b>2</b>	<p><b>Who are the service users affected by the proposal?</b> <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. Are there any data gaps?)</i></p> <p>Schools, Local Sporting Clubs and the wider Community. No data gaps The Community Use Agreement will outline the usage.</p>
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## IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

<b>3</b>	<p><b>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?</b> <i>(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?)</i></p> <p>The facilities will be able to cater for all groups.</p> <p>This grant, if approved, will provide a real opportunity for Caerphilly to create an aspirational facility that will serve our schools, the Authority's only athletics club, Rhymney Valley Athletics Club and the wider Community including over 10 social running clubs, a number of which compete at formal events. All will benefit from a fit for purpose, innovative 21<sup>st</sup> Century facility.</p>
----------	---



	<p>Caerphilly is one of only 6 local Authorities in Wales not to have an Athletics track, but with the resurrection of the Rhymney Valley Athletics Club (RVAC) in 2014 the authority have supported the club to grow to now see the club positioning itself competing with the top clubs in Wales.</p> <p>Community Sporting Excellence Hub will cater for learners and members of the local and wider communities. Sport Caerphilly highlighted a gap in provision in this area (School Sports Survey); this new facility presents an opportunity to develop both recreation and competitive sport linking with our local clubs.</p>
--	--

<b>4</b>	<p><b>Is your proposal going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?</b>  <i>(Has the service delivery been examined to assess if there is any indirect effect on any groups? Could the consequences of the policy or savings proposal differ dependent upon people's protected characteristics?)</i></p>	
	<p><b>Protected Characteristic</b></p>	<p><b>Positive, Negative, Neutral</b></p>
		<p><b>What will the impact be? If the impact is negative how can it be mitigated?</b></p>
	<b>Age</b>	Positive
	<b>Disability</b>	Positive These facilities will also deliver on the key agendas within Disability Sports Wales, Positive Futures, Age UK and will also establish links with employability and social running clubs.
	<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	Neutral
	<b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b>	Neutral
	<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	Neutral
	<b>Race</b>	Neutral
	<b>Religion &amp; Belief</b>	Neutral
	<b>Sex</b>	Neutral
	<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Neutral

<b>5</b>	<p><b>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.</b></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 Corporate Policy Unit Portal. Although it is important that what is outlined in the proposal is available in Welsh and English, please consider wider impacts on Welsh speakers.)</i></p> <p>No effect.</p>
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## INFORMATION COLLECTION

<b>6</b>	<p><b>Please outline any evidence and / or research you have collected which supports the proposal? This can include an analysis of service users.</b></p> <p><i>(Is this service effectively engaging with all its potential users or is there higher or lower participation of uptake by one or more protected characteristic groups? If so, what has been done to address any difference in take up of the service? Does any savings proposal include an analysis of those affected?)</i></p> <p>This grant, if approved, will provide a real opportunity for Caerphilly to create an aspirational facility that will serve our schools, the Authority's only athletics club, Rhymney Valley Athletics Club and the wider Community including over 10 social running clubs, a number of which compete at formal events. All will benefit from a fit for purpose, innovative 21<sup>st</sup> Century facility.</p> <p>Caerphilly is one of only 6 local Authorities in Wales not to have an Athletics track, but with the resurrection of the Rhymney Valley Athletics Club (RVAC) in 2014 the authority have supported the club to grow to now see the club positioning itself competing with the top clubs in Wales.</p> <p>Community Sporting Excellence Hub will cater for learners and members of the local and wider communities. Sport Caerphilly highlighted a gap in provision in this area (School Sports Survey); this new facility presents an opportunity to develop both recreation and competitive sport linking with our local clubs. The National School Sport Surveys of 2015 and 2018 highlighted that there is significant demand in Caerphilly for Athletics and that our young people in Caerphilly want to participate more in athletics, but the lack of facilities is a major barrier to participation. The Authority has been working with the National Governing Body of Sport, Welsh Athletics and Sport Wales for a number of years on this.</p> <p>It will also deliver on the key agendas within Disability Sports Wales, Positive Futures, Age UK and will also establish links with employability and social running clubs.</p>
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## CONSULTATION

<b>7</b>	<p><b>Please outline the consultation / engagement process and outline any key findings.</b>  <i>(Include method of consultation, objectives and target audience. What steps have been taken to ensure that people from various groups have been consulted during the development of this proposal? Have you referred to the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance?)</i></p> <p>Officers have consulted with Schools, Coleg Gwent , RVAC and Welsh Athletics.</p>
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## MONITORING AND REVIEW

<b>8</b>	<p><b>How will the proposal be monitored?</b>  <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> <p>The proposals will be monitored by the School Strategy Board, Officers from Sport and Leisure, Coleg Gwent and various other parties.</p> <p>The Authority has developed a Community Use Agreement that will need to be adopted by all relevant parties and implemented for these projects to ensure maximum usage and engagement. This will generate income to sustain the facility and provide revenue to maintain and replace the provisions in the longer term. The Authority's Sport and Leisure Services will provide support in managing these facilities in a structured manner to ensure maximum use</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>How will the monitoring be evaluated?</b>  <i>(What methods will be used to ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are being met?)</i></p> <p>Community Use Agreement  Feedback via Customer Usage be it negative or positive</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified?</b>  <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> <p>N/A, however this will be reviewed if required.</p>

<b>11</b>	<p><b>If any adverse impact has been identified, please outline any mitigation action.</b></p> <p>The impact identified will be positive as the proposal is to provide inspirational 21<sup>st</sup> Century facilities.</p>
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<b>12</b>	<p><b>What wider use will you make of this Equality Impact Assessment?</b> (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?)</p> <p>The Equality Impact Assessment appended to the report.</p>
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<b>13</b>	<p><b>An equality impact assessment may have four possible outcomes, through more than one may apply to a single proposal. Please indicate the relevant outcome(s) of the impact assessment below.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Please tick as appropriate:</b></p> <p><b>No major change</b> – the impact assessment demonstrated that the proposal was robust; there was no potential for discrimination or adverse impact. All opportunities to promote equality have been taken. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Adjust the proposal</b> – the impact assessment identified potential problems or missed opportunities. The proposal was adjusted to remove barriers or better promote equality. <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Continue the proposal</b> – the impact assessment identified the potential problems or missed opportunities to promote equality. The justification(s) for continuing with it have been clearly set out. (The justification must be included in the impact assessment and must be in line with the duty to have due regard. Compelling reasons will be needed for the most important relevant proposals.) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Stop and remove the proposal</b> – the impact assessment identified actual or potential unlawful discrimination. The proposal was stopped and removed, or changed. <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<b>Completed by:</b>	Andrea West
<b>Date:</b>	14 March 2019
<b>Position:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools, Admissions and Exclusions Manager
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b>	Sue Richards



## CABINET – 10TH APRIL 2019

**SUBJECT: WELSH GOVERNMENT 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME – 3G MULTI USE ALL WEATHER PITCH AT BLACKWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School and seek agreement to establish an earmarked reserve facility in the Education area of the Council's accounts for major maintenance repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements.
- 1.2 To provide Members with an update on the School 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Education Band A Programme in relation to Trinity Fields Special School.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Through effective financial and project management of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School and Education Programme Band A the Council identified an underspend that Members agreed to earmark for a 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School and remodelling works at Trinity Fields Special School.
- 2.2 The Business Case for the Blackwood Comprehensive School facility was agreed by Welsh Government (WG) in October 2018. The scheme is due for completion at the start of the Summer term 2019.
- 2.3 A Community Use Agreement has been signed by both Blackwood Comprehensive School and the Council to ensure maximum usage and engagement on the site. This will generate income to provide sustainability and provide revenue to maintain the 3G multi use all weather pitch in the longer term.
- 2.4 The Business Case for the remodelling of Trinity Fields Special School was agreed by WG in November 2018. A working group has been established to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the project. The project is being undertaken in manageable stages as the majority of the work will be carried out with the pupils in situ or during school holidays. The first priority of the plan is in relation to the additional classroom in order to be able to address the growing demand on the school.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree the establishment of an earmarked reserve facility in the Education area of the Council's accounts for major maintenance repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements of the 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School.

3.2 Members note the progress in relation to the investment at Trinity Fields Special School.

#### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 In order to ensure the 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School is sustainable, maintained to an approved standard and a fund is available to ultimately renew the fixed life elements.

#### **5. THE REPORT**

5.1 The total allocation to Caerphilly for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Education Band A Programme amounted to £56.5m. This being funded 50% by Welsh Government (WG) and 50% by the Council.

5.2 Through effective management of each individual scheme officers identified an underspend within this programme that Members agreed to earmark for a 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School and remodelling works at Trinity Fields Special School.

5.3 The planned works at Trinity Fields include:

- The installation of new “through room” hoist systems within classrooms that go directly into bathroom areas from classes.
- The adaption of toilet facilities to become more accessible to need.
- Upgrading of withdrawal rooms to create safe and welcoming environment to include the provision of natural lighting.
- Improvement and relocation of pupil kitchen area.
- The creation of a home living environment to increase the Independent Living Skills of pupils.
- Creation of a new ball pit area.
- Hydrotherapy pool improvements and adaptations which will increase the lifespan and accessibility of the provision for all pupils and the wider Community.
- Increasing storage facilities to allow for the more complex needs of pupils i.e. increase in wheelchairs, medical equipment.
- Improvement to the outdoor learning area.
- Upgrade IT facilities.
- Improve ventilation within the school.
- The creation of independent living areas and an additional classroom.

5.4 A working group has been established to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the Trinity Fields project as outlined in 5.3 above. The works will be undertaken in manageable stages as the majority of the work will be carried out with the pupils in situ or during school holidays. The first priority of the plan is in relation to the additional classroom in order to be able to address the growing demand on the school which is anticipated to be available for use early in the Autumn term.

5.5 The Business Case for the Blackwood Comprehensive School facility was agreed by WG in January 2018. The scheme is due for completion during the Summer term 2019.

5.6 A 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School will provide the school with a much needed state of the art facility that will enhance the current curriculum delivery offered and will match the schools sporting tradition, achievements and aspirations for sporting excellence.

5.7 The project also supports Welsh Government’s commitment to Community Use of learning facilities in Prosperity for All, by ensuring the increased Community Use of Education Assets.

- 5.8 A Community Use Agreement has been agreed by the Headteacher and Governing Body of Blackwood Comprehensive School and signed by the Chair of Governors on 09/07/18 to ensure maximum usage and community engagement. This will generate income to sustain the facility and provide revenue to maintain and replace the provision in the longer term. The Council's Sport and Leisure Services will support the school in managing this facility in a structured manner to ensure maximum use.

The agreement confirms that the facility shall be made available for Community Use as follows:

Hours of Access\*

Term Time

Community Use	Mon – Fri:	5pm – 9pm
	Sat:	9am – 6pm
	Sun:	9am – 6pm

School Holidays

Community Use	Mon – Fri:	9am – 9pm
	Sat:	9am – 6pm
	Sun:	9am – 6pm

\*Excluding Bank Holidays and Christmas Closures

- 5.9 The Community Use Agreement establishes a management group to oversee the agreed management and operating arrangements. The group will consist of the Headteacher, two Governors, two Council representatives and relevant Cabinet Member.
- 5.10 The agreement states that the school will endeavour to ensure that the cost of operating community use at this facility will be covered by the income for such use and any surplus will be utilised in the following order of priority:
- Contribute to a contingency or sinking fund for major maintenance, repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements of the facility.
  - Improve, replace and increase the stock of sports equipment for use in connection with the facility as required.
- 5.11 In order to implement the agreement in 5.10 above an earmarked reserve facility will need to be established within the Council's accounts.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 The associated revenue costs and the renewal of the fixed life elements will be met from the income generated.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough Council. It establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions.
- 7.2 Caerphilly's Attainment Strategy: To raise standards and ensure our learners are healthy, confident, proud and ambitious and can access high quality educational opportunities, settings and experience.

7.3 Caerphilly's Wellbeing Objectives 2018 to 2023. This proposal will assist the Council in meeting these objectives in particular the following:

Well-being Objective 1 – Improve Education opportunities for all

Well-being Objective 2 – Enabling Employment

Well-being Objective 3 – Provide assistance or support to help improve people's health and well being

Well-being Objective 5 – Supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The Well-Being 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 Act 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 below:

- **Long Term** - Provide 21<sup>st</sup> Century provision on school sites for both Education and the wider community that will be managed effectively to ensure maximum usage and engagement. This will generate income to sustain the facility in the long term. The Education Attainment Strategy and the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions.
- **Prevention** - Expansion of the provision available on our Education Estates will support all learners in their long term Education and Skills outcome in that they are more likely to succeed if their Educational experience is positive. In addition the proposals will support a healthier lifestyle and improve well-being for both learners and the wider community, reducing the demand for Public Services. The Council will continue to support its communities to enable them to take responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity.
- **Integration** - The proposals are designed to maximise the use of the school assets in increasing the community use of learning facilities. This aligns with the Welsh Government "Prosperity For All" and is recognised in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy that activity can take place across the Authority in a wide variety of sites.
- **Collaboration** - To work collaboratively with all stakeholders to continue to improve the sport and leisure facilities on our education estate ensuring these are opened up to the wider Community.
- **Involvement** - Through collaborative working the Council will ensure that the needs of its learners and the wider community are met.



## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 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.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this report.
- 10.2 The project is nearing completion and early indications shows that the project will be delivered on time and within the allocated budget of £875K.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 No personnel implications.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

- 13.1 The School Standard and Framework Act 1998  
The Local Government Act 2000  
The Learning and Skills Act 2000.

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Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance  
Councillor Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member, Education & Achievement  
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Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services  
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services  
Jared Lougher, Sport and Leisure Services Development Manager  
Jeff Reynolds, Sport and Leisure Services Facilities Manager  
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager

Background Papers:  
Community Use Agreement

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## CABINET – 10TH APRIL 2019

**SUBJECT: PONTLLANFRAITH LEISURE CENTRE**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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- 1.1 The attached report, which was presented to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 26th March 2019, sought Members' views on the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, prior to its presentation to Cabinet for a decision.
- 1.2 Members were reminded that on 28th March 2018 Cabinet agreed to 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 Active Recreation Strategy for the Authority had been adopted. On 14th November 2018 Cabinet approved the Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 to 2029 after the adoption of the Strategy had been recommended by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3 Officers highlighted the principle aims and rationale of the Strategy, which establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. It was emphasised that the Strategy cannot be achieved without rationalisation and modernisation and that Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the identified 4 strategic sites within the Strategy, having a recorded usage of 70,841 visits during the period 1st April 2018 to 1st March 2019 and a subsidy per visit of £2.11. Public consultation in relation to the closure took place during October and November 2017 prior to the decision of Cabinet on 13th December 2017, with the two clear concerns in the event of closure being lack of alternative provision and increased travel time and/or cost of travel to any alternative provision.
- 1.4 Officers highlighted the significant availability and provision of alternative venues in the vicinity of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, including multi-purpose facilities at Islwyn High School, a new dual-use 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School, other leisure centres and private sector facilities in the area, and community halls/spaces available for hire. Members were referred to the significant financial benefits resulting from the closure of the leisure centre as set out in the report, with it noted that in addition to the annual running costs, there are substantial repair and replacement liabilities to be addressed, and the opportunity for a capital receipt. An Equalities Impact Assessment has also been completed to determine the impact on users. Members were advised that to keep the leisure centre open would undermine the vision for provision of sport and active recreation set out in the Strategy.
- 1.5 Ms Joanne Taylor (a local resident) and Councillor Kevin Etheridge (Blackwood Local Ward Member) addressed the Scrutiny Committee and spoke in opposition to the proposed closure. Ms Taylor highlighted a number of sections across the report and urged the Scrutiny Committee to take these into consideration, including the popularity of the petition opposing any closure, and the suitability of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as a sporting venue given its opening times, the users it serves, and its ability to host large-scale competitions. Particular reference was also made to the impact of any closure on the health, wellbeing and identity of the local community, and for the need to have regard towards the needs of future generations. During his representations, Councillor Etheridge sought written evidence of the validity of the

agreement by Blackwood Comprehensive School guaranteeing community use of the 3G pitch. He urged the Scrutiny Committee to consider recommending to Cabinet that the decision be deferred until Autumn 2019 to allow for detailed negotiations to be undertaken on other options such as community asset transfer. He also sought clarification as to whether the legal robustness of the Strategy consultation would also apply to proposed closures of individual centres and whether this advice should have been appended to the report.

- 1.6 In response to the queries posed, the Monitoring Officer explained that legal advice had confirmed the existing consultation to be more than sufficient for individual closures and that no additional consultation exercise was required, particularly given the recentness of the extensive consultation carried out during the original proposals to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and in relation to the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. It was explained that it is not normal practice to append legal advice to committee reports, due to this being legally privileged information. It was also confirmed that Blackwood Comprehensive School had signed a legally binding agreement at the commencement of the 3G build, and that should they wish to renege on this agreement, the Authority would need to consider its powers and laws as a local education authority.
- 1.7 The Scrutiny Committee considered and deliberated the report in detail. Clarification was sought on the rationale for Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre not meeting the criteria for a strategic site. It was explained that although the site has a sports hall and 3G pitch, it is not a multi-functional sports centre, and falls significantly short of the 250,000 visitors per annum and facility mix criteria as set out in the Strategy. A Member queried the financial implications on the overall Council budget if Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre were to be kept open. Officers emphasised the ongoing costs associated with the facility as detailed in the report, and in referring to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, explained that the delivery of sport and leisure services is largely a discretionary function. The Council cannot continue to deliver sports and leisure services in the existing manner and has therefore developed the Strategy in order to continue the provision of the service in an alternative way.
- 1.8 During the course of the debate, discussions took place surrounding third-party interest, if the site had been offered out to community/trust management, and the market value of the site. Officers explained that details of the market value were set out in the report, and they confirmed that they had received an expression of interest for Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre during consultation on the draft Strategy. However, nothing has been received for Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, and the site has not been marketed for external interest. It was reiterated to Members that the financial implications set out in the report would apply to anyone taking on ownership of the site, including all operational and maintenance liabilities, as well as additional costs such as the transferral of utilities. A Member suggested that consideration of the report be deferred until expressions of interest have been sought regarding community asset transfer. Officers explained that the Council has not committed to seeking alternative uses and spoke of the challenges associated in transferring an asset of this size and of the significant commitment that would be required by interested parties.
- 1.9 It was suggested that fees for use of the leisure centre could be increased in order to reduce the subsidy and meet ongoing annual costs of running and maintaining the leisure centre. Members also suggested areas where alternative savings could be made in order to retain the leisure centre. Concerns were expressed regarding the affordability of alternative facilities in the area. Officers gave examples of membership fees across several fitness locations in order to demonstrate the balance of affordability. Concerns were raised that there would be insufficient parking at Newbridge Leisure Centre to accommodate block bookings. Officers explained that they are engaging with the adjacent school to improve parking provision.
- 1.10 Reference was made to the consultation undertaken for local ward members in adjacent wards to Pontllanfraith, and Members queried why Cefn Fforest ward members had not been consulted whilst ward members for Abercarn had been included. Officers explained that Cefn Fforest does not border Pontllanfraith and referred members to a map of the electoral ward boundaries for the county borough.

- 1.11 Concerns were expressed over the speed of the proposal to close the leisure centre given that the Strategy is intended to cover a ten-year period. Members were reminded that Cabinet had agreed to defer the closure in March 2018 pending the adoption of the Strategy.
- 1.12 There was debate over the use of the 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School and one of the scrutiny committee members stated that he was a governor at Blackwood Comprehensive School and that Blackwood Comprehensive School Governing Body had resolved not to accept any bookings for the new 3G pitch from the 3G facility at Pontllanfraith and that he had that confirmation in writing. The Director referred to the legally binding agreement between the school and the local authority which bound the school to community use of the 3G pitch in accordance with the Council policies operating at the time and which had been signed within the last 12 months by the Chair of Governors of Blackwood Comprehensive. The Director also stated that the Council (as Local Education Authority) would have to consider its options in the event that the Blackwood Governing Body decided to renege on this signed legal agreement. Concerns were voiced regarding the suitability of the facilities at Islwyn High and whether it has sufficient capacity to accommodate users of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Officers reiterated that Islwyn High is one of many alternative sports and leisure venues that are available in the local area.
- 1.13 A Member queried the rationale for Heolddu Leisure to become one of the 4 strategic sites, in view of relatively low visitor numbers and the level of refurbishment needed to bring it up to the standard of a strategic facility. Officers reiterated the need to deliver the service in a different way and invest in facilities best suited to deliver the Strategy. Members were also reminded of the extensive building liabilities associated with Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
- 1.14 Discussion took place regarding the variance between housing land values for the site and estimated capital receipt amounts. Officers explained that the Council will strive to achieve the best figure for its land wherever possible and will market accordingly, but that it is possible to sell below the market value in certain circumstances. A Member expressed concerns regarding the impact to the Blackwood area if Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre were to close, given the growing number of housing developments in the area and the pressure this will place on sport and leisure capacity at alternative facilities. Clarification was also sought on the implications for housing development on the site if the leisure centre were to remain open. Officers explained that this would have a sizeable negative effect due to retaining the car park and the floodlighting associated with the 3G pitch, which would effectively sterilise the top plateau of the site. Officers also reaffirmed the need for additional housing in this area.
- 1.15 Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the report recommendation be supported. A Member moved an amendment that Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre be kept open, however the Chair declined the amendment on the basis that it would negate the motion, and was therefore not a valid amendment. Voting then took place on the motion, and by a show of hands and the majority present (and in noting that there were 7 against) the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee determined that they were unable to support the report recommendation to Cabinet for the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre by 30th June 2019 and the authorisation of officers to transfer bookings to alternative facilities in advance of that date.
- 1.16 Cabinet are asked to consider the attached report and the views of the Scrutiny Committee.

Author: R. Barrett, Committee Services Officer, Ext. 4245

Appendices:-

Appendix 1 Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 26th March 2019 – Agenda Item 9



## REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 26TH MARCH 2019

**SUBJECT: PONTLLANFRAITH LEISURE CENTRE**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre prior to presentation to Cabinet for a decision.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 On 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 Cabinet agreed to defer the decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre taken on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and consider the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre later in 2018 once the 10 year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for the Authority had been adopted.
- 2.2 On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Cabinet approved the Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 to 2029 after the adoption of the Strategy had been recommended by the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre prior to presentation to Cabinet for a decision.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Scrutiny Committee consider the content of the report and the recommendation to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and, for the period up until closure, to authorise officers to prioritise the transfer of existing block bookings at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to alternative facilities, for example Blackwood Comprehensive School and Islwyn High School.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 So that Cabinet can take into account the views of Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee when considering the recommendations to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and to authorise officers to transfer bookings to alternative facilities in advance of that.

## 5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 On 28th March 2018 Cabinet agreed to defer the decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre taken on 13th December 2017 and consider the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre once the 10 year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for the Authority had been adopted. On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Cabinet approved the adoption of Authority's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019 to 2029 after the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee recommended adoption of the Strategy to Cabinet. The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years.
- 5.2 The Strategy recognises the multiple challenges of poor levels of health, particularly in certain areas of the County; reducing budgets; the large number of facilities across the County and the deteriorating quality of our older buildings; and increasing population and consumer demand. Over the 10 year life of the Strategy the Council intends to invest in 4 high class strategic multi-functional facilities, meaning that some other sites may close or be managed by others. The Strategy adopts the Welsh Government and Sport Wales 'Facilities for Future Generations' blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation together with a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service.
- 5.3 The criteria for strategic facilities as set out in the Council's Strategy includes a range of facilities and services for sport and active recreation including "wet-side" (e.g. swimming pool, sauna, spa, etc.) and "dry-side" (e.g. sports hall, fitness suite, dance, studio, etc.) activities, they are shared with a day time user (standalone only in major population centres and/or are attractions of regional or national significance). Strategic facilities also have over 250,000 visitors per annum, appropriate access, and the aim of reducing the subsidy per user to less than £1 to £1.20. The adopted Strategy states that this cannot be achieved without rationalisation and modernisation. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the Council's 4 strategic sites and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 1st March 2019 had a recorded usage of 70,841 with a subsidy per visit of £2.11.
- 5.4 While the capital receipt for the sale of the school, leisure centre and 3G (3<sup>rd</sup> generation) pitch area is dependent on a number of variables, initial estimates suggest that it could realise a capital receipt of circa £2.2 to 2.9m. If the Leisure Centre and 3G pitch remains this is likely to reduce to circa £1.8 to £2.3m. Additionally, retention of the leisure centre imposes a constraint on the development of the northern part of the school site. This will impact upon the valuation of the northern part of the school site which, without the leisure centre constraint, accounts for approximately 50% of the total estimated receipt of £2.2 to £2.9 million.
- 5.5 There is an annual revenue saving of £119,740 if the leisure centre were to close. At present it is estimated that there is circa £150,000 of maintenance liabilities, made up primarily by items identified as either priority 2 or priority 3 categorisation, although the last property condition survey was completed in 2012 and is now some 6 years old.
- 5.6 Public consultation in relation to the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre took place between 9<sup>th</sup> October and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 prior to the decision of Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The summary report of the consultation and specific comments are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 5.7 The Cabinet decision of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre was the subject of a call-in which was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018. 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. Additional consultation was undertaken and the responses from each Commissioner and the Youth Forum were reported to Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and are included at Appendix 2.

- 5.8 Blackwood Town Council responded to the public consultation in November 2017. The Town Council's response is included in full at Appendix 3 and was included and addressed in the reports to Cabinet of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Since that time installation of a new dual use 3G pitch is nearing completion at Blackwood Comprehensive School and is the subject of a joint use agreement providing for community access. Additionally, the Council has adopted the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 which sets out a vision for future provision which is consistent with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 5.9 Blackwood Town Council have restated their opposition to any potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and have stated that every effort should be made to keep the facility at the heart of the community and proper consideration given to potential transfer of assets to community ownership after meaningful discussions with the local community, leisure centre users and groups, partners and other stakeholders. No expressions of interest have been received in relation to this.
- 5.10 A ten week public consultation ending on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018 was also undertaken in connection with the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29. Views were sought via a questionnaire and 711 responses were received to the consultation questionnaire. The full report of the consultation responses is available at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk). In summary, there was broad support for the Strategy's Vision and proposed Actions to support the Vision. 75 of the 711 respondents indicated that the Leisure Centre they use most often is Pontllanfraith and their responses in relation to leisure facilities are included at Appendix 4.
- 5.11 The outcome of the consultation was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and then Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 where the strategy was formally approved and adopted. After the public consultation on the Strategy a petition was presented at Council on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 by Councillor Kevin Etheridge with 5343 signatories against the possible closure of Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centres. On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018 a protest march also took place in Blackwood town centre in opposition to leisure centre closures.
- 5.12 Across all of the consultation responses there are two clear concerns in the event of closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre: lack of alternative provision and increased travel time and/or cost of travel to any alternative provision. The new Islwyn High School opened in June 2017 to replace the existing Pontllanfraith and Oakdale Comprehensive Schools and includes a four court sports hall, dual use 3G football and rugby pitch and multi-purpose activity space. The Caerphilly Sports and Active Recreation Strategy states that careful consideration will be given to opportunities for alternative provision before any facilities are withdrawn. Islwyn High School have provided written confirmation of their commitment to making the school's facilities available for use by the wider community. Islwyn High School's facilities are available for hire outside of school hours by clubs and organisations currently using Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Additionally, a new dual use 3G pitch is being installed at Blackwood Comprehensive School which is supported by a signed Community Use Agreement between the Council and Blackwood Comprehensive School guaranteeing community use. The installation of these 2 new 3G pitches represents an enhancement of provision over and above the single, football only, 3G pitch provision at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre on two counts – the new pitches are capable of being used for both football and rugby (with resultant FAW and IRB approval) and there are now two 3G pitches in the Blackwood / Pontllanfraith area rather than one.
- 5.13 In the Sport and Leisure industry, it is accepted that customers are generally prepared to travel a distance of 5 miles or 20 minutes to facilities. In this regard when the user analysis for Pontllanfraith is examined it reveals that over 50% of users are outside the NP12 postcode area (NP12 stretches from the Argoed Ward in the North to the Pontllanfraith Ward in the South and the Pengam Ward in the West to the Penmaen Ward in the East).



- 5.14 The Council's 4 strategic leisure facilities are all accessible via public transport; although only 4% of respondents to the consultation on the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy indicated that they used public transport to travel to the place where they take part in sport and active recreation. The Council will work with public transport providers as necessary, but the majority of respondents to the Strategy indicated that they travel by private car. If the distance of other facilities from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is examined the following can be seen:-

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Distance from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre</b>	<b>Travel Time by Car from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre</b>
Newbridge Leisure Centre	3.3 miles	9 minutes
Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre	2.0 miles	8 minutes
Sue Noake Leisure Centre, Ystrad Mynach	3.1 miles	9 minutes
Heolddu Leisure Centre	5 miles	14 minutes
Islwyn High School	3.1 miles	7 minutes
Blackwood Comprehensive School	2.3 miles	8 minutes
Caerphilly Leisure Centre	7.5 miles	16 minutes
Markham Community Leisure Centre	4.2 miles	10 minutes
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini, Fleur de Lys	2.2 miles	5 minutes
Lewis School, Pengam	3.1 miles	9 minutes

- 5.15 The Sport & Active Recreation Strategy also identified that there is a mixed economy of provision and opportunities for residents to engage in a wide range of physical activity provided by the ever increasing commercial and not for profit sector. A number of these are facilities based and located within close proximity to Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as identified below:

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Distance from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre</b>	<b>Travel Time by Car from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre</b>
Bryn Meadows Golf & Country Club, Maesycwmmmer	2.6 miles	8 minutes
Snap Fitness, Blackwood	1.0 mile	4 minutes
Blackwood Miners Institute, Blackwood	1.0 mile	4 minutes
Fleur de Lys Institute, Fleur de Lys	2.1 miles	6 minutes
Fleur de Lys Community Centre, Fleur de Lys	2.1 miles	6 minutes
Diva Fitness, Pengam	2.1 miles	6 minutes
Planet Fitness, Aberbargoed	3.4 miles	9 minutes
Elite Fitness, Pontllanfraith	1.2 miles	3 minutes

- 5.16 Additionally there are a number of other halls and spaces across the local community available for hire including Penllwyn Millennium Centre, the Oasis Centre, Pontllanfraith Rugby Club, and Cefn Fforest Community Centre, for example.
- 5.17 Clearly, there is significant provision of facilities within a short journey of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Alternative facilities have car parking, including disabled car parking, available. In the consultation some comments were received regarding the difficulty of parking at Newbridge Leisure Centre and officers are continuing to work to improve this provision. A number of

consultation respondents indicated that they are not able or willing to travel to alternative facilities and stated that leisure centres should be within walking distance. Most residents within the county borough do not live within walking distance of a council managed leisure centre, although all are able to walk to access other opportunities in our parks and countryside.

- 5.18 Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the strategic sites identified in the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for future investment. The financial impacts of closing the leisure centre are outlined in paragraph 5.4 and 5.5 include an annual revenue saving of £119,740, a capital receipt of circa £416,000 to £541,000, the avoidance of the estimated £112,000 cost of transferring shared utilities from the closed school, the avoidance of at least £150,000 in maintenance liabilities and the avoidance of 3G pitch replacement costs of between £200,000 and £300,000 in the next 2-4 years.. The impacts of closure on users have been considered and the extensive alternative provision that is now available is outlined in paragraphs 5.12 to 5.15 above. All of the existing block bookings at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre can be accommodated at alternative facilities and for the period up until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 officers would prioritise those users to take up available capacity in other facilities. Consequently it is recommended that Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre closes by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and that officers are authorised to transfer bookings to alternative facilities in the event that Cabinet agrees the closure.
- 5.19 If a decision is taken to close the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, and thereafter demolish the premises, the Council will be in a position to market the site for an alternative use. There is an opportunity to develop the site in collaboration with a Registered Social Landlord to support the Council's commitment to the delivery of high quality affordable homes. The delivery model could include equal proportions of social rented, shared ownership and market sale dwellings and there is potential for the social housing element to be delivered as council housing. The benefits of this approach include giving the Authority more influence on the development, delivering a development which is more in tune with the needs of the local community and ensuring the homes would be designed to the Welsh Government Design Quality standard.
- 5.20 The release of the site for housing use would help the Authority to increase the housing land supply in the county borough in the short to medium term. The Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out a housing requirement to deliver 8,625 units in the 15 year plan period 2006 to 2021. As of the 1st April 2018 4,713 units had been built and it is clear that the housing requirement figure of 8,625 units will not be achieved by 2021.
- 5.21 The delivery of new affordable homes within the county borough similarly is behind target. Policy SP15 of the LDP identifies an affordable housing target of 964 units over the lifetime of the LDP, 2006 -2021. As of 2018 only 251 affordable units have been built, or less than a third of the target. The release of the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre site could therefore make a valuable contribution to the supply of homes and affordable homes in the medium term. The exact detail of the future development of the site would be subject to a further Cabinet report and planning permission.

5.22 **Conclusion**

Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the strategic sites identified in the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy for future investment. There are significant financial benefits resulting from the closure of the leisure centre which has become considerably more expensive to operate following closure of the adjacent secondary school. In addition to the annual running costs there are substantial repair and replacement liabilities to be addressed, and the opportunity for a capital receipt. Adequate alternative provision is available and therefore it is recommended that Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is closed. To keep the leisure centre open would undermine the vision for provision of sport and active recreation set out in the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 Assumptions have been addressed throughout this report, and financial assumptions are outlined in section 10 below. The estimate of the potential capital receipt from sale of the site is based on the current understanding of land values, but there are a number of variables and clearly these can change. Notably, the nature of the conclusion of the Brexit process is likely to impact upon the UK economy including land values. The maintenance backlog for the Leisure Centre is an estimate of £150,000 and is based on a condition survey undertaken in 2012. Demolition costs of £225,000 are stated, but these can be difficult to predict and assumes that there are no significant, currently unknown costs.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough. It establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions. The Strategy adopts the Welsh Government and Sport Wales 'Facilities for Future Generations' blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation together with a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service. Over the 10 year life of the Strategy the Council intends to invest in 4 high class strategic multi-functional facilities, meaning that some other sites may close or be managed by others. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is not one of the Council's 4 strategic sites and the proposed closure is entirely consistent with the adopted Strategy.

### **7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 is directly linked to the Council's Wellbeing Objectives, its strategic priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan (2018-2023). The main Wellbeing Objectives in the Corporate Plan that sport and active recreation contributes to are:

- Objective 1: Improving education opportunities for all and improving the learning environment;
- Objective 5: Creating a County Borough that supports a healthy lifestyle and reduces inequalities in health across the County Borough in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- Objective 6: Supporting citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing - helping keep older people involved and active in their local communities.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 8.1 The Council's adopted Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 is designed to help deliver the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough - it establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. The Strategy includes the following in relation to implementing the Act:

- We will need to be bold - not holding on to what we have done in the past, but looking forward to ensure that the decisions we make and opportunities we provide are fit for future generations - responding to the emerging needs of our young people, the adults of tomorrow, and of course looking after the different needs of a growing older population.
- We must also make sure what we provide is going to be sustainable i.e. we can all afford to maintain service provision into the future.

- Future approaches will demand that people take greater responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity. It is the role of the Council to support them to do this for themselves.
- To deliver a 'change agenda' the Council will also have to make a number of critical decisions. It is vital therefore, that this strategy provides a clear rationale and priorities for action. It must provide a vision for where we are going and how we are going to get there, so that everyone understands what we can achieve, what to expect of us, as well as the roles that others have to play.
- Finally, the strategy is not focused just on buildings but the activity that can take place in a wide variety of different places found throughout our County Borough and as a result of many different opportunities provided by a range of organisations.

8.2 The Act 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 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. The Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions over the next 10 years. 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 it is not possible to 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 Football Association of Wales and International Rugby Board approved 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation 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. The Council will continue to support people to take responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity.

**COLLABORATION** - We have collaborated with the Blackwood Comprehensive School and Islwyn High School and their governing bodies to ensure access to the facilities that they can provide. Written confirmation in relation to this collaborative approach is in place. We continue to work with a full range of partners.

**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. As highlighted in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy it is also recognised that activity that can take place in a wide variety of different places found throughout our County Borough and as a result of many different opportunities provided by a range of organisations.

## 9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 5 to this report.

## 10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The 2018/19 budget for running Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch is £119,740. This is an increase on the 2017/18 budget as a result of an ending of a joint user virement of circa £26,000 from Education (as a result of the Leisure Centre previously being classed as a joint use centre located on a school site) following closure of the school. Also, the Leisure Centre was previously classed as a "joint use centre" situated on a school site and as such attracted significant non-domestic rate relief. The new rating valuation following the school closure results in an increase in non-domestic rates of £17,000, from £20,000 to £37,000 per annum. Additionally, there are costs associated with standing charges for utilities and for security of the vacated schools premises. These are currently estimated to be £12,000 per annum.
- 10.2 Should the Leisure Centre remain open, there is an initial cost requirement of circa £112,000 to transfer shared services such as utilities, telephone and I.T. lines:

<b>Pontllanfraith L.C.:</b> <b>Estimated cost of proposed new supplies</b>	<b>£</b>
Gas	53,642
Electric	22,758
Water	17,213
BT [Data only]	18,000
BT Voice assume N / a	0
<b>Total: £ [excl. VAT]</b>	<b>111,613</b>

There will be a further requirement for ongoing maintenance liabilities to be supported and the maintenance backlog for the Leisure Centre is estimated at least £150,000.

- 10.3 While the capital receipt for the sale of the school, leisure centre and 3G pitch area is dependent on a number of variables, initial estimates suggest that it could realise capital receipt of circa £2.2 to 2.9m. If the Leisure Centre and 3G pitch remains this is likely to reduce to circa £1.8 to £2.3m. However, as stated in paragraph 5.4 above retention of the leisure centre site places a constraint on the development of the northern part of the school site, which may reduce its value. This estimated capital receipts of the three areas of the site without this constraint are shown below:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Estimated Capital Receipt</b>
Leisure Centre & 3G pitch	£416,000 to £541,000
School playing fields – northern area	£1,040,000 to £1,352,000
School – southern area	£741,000 to 963,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,197,000 to £2,856,000</b>

- 10.4 The financial implications associated with closing/demolishing the Leisure Centre are outlined below with appropriate narrative, and are summarised in the table at paragraph 7.9. Caerphilly Adventure Services relocated to Cwmcarn Fforest Drive in November 2018 at a cost of £110,000.
- 10.5 The Council has jointly funded with Welsh Government works to construct a new 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School which are nearing completion. If the 3G facility remains at Pontllanfraith then it is possible that the "carpet" would need replacing within the next 2-4 years, in the period 2020 – 2022, at a cost of between £200,000 and £300,000

- 10.6 There is a one-off cost for demolition of the Leisure Centre complex which is estimated at £225,000.
- 10.7 There are also some voluntary severance costs associated with the closure. These are covered in the Personnel Implications section below and total circa £11,250.
- 10.8 A summary of the costs of closure/demolition and resultant savings/avoided costs is included in the table below:

One-Off Cost of Closure/Demolition (£)		One-Off Receipt/Avoided Costs (£)		Annual Revenue Saving (£)	
Demolition	225,000	Services Diversion Costs Avoidance	112,000	Annual Running Cost Saving	119,740
Potential HR Costs (Voluntary Severance, etc.).	11,250	Maintenance Backlog Cost Avoidance	150,000		
		Replacement of existing 3G "Carpet" in 2020 – 2022	200,000		
		Capital Receipt	416,000 to 540,800		
<b>Total £236,250</b>		<b>Total £878,000 to £1,002,800</b>		<b>Total £119,740</b>	

## 11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Should the leisure centre close 2 staff have expressed an interest in retiring voluntarily supported by Voluntary Severance payments. There are no pension implications associated with these 2 staff and the voluntary severance/Rhymney Valley District Council loyalty bonus estimates are approximately £11,250. The remainder of the staff currently working at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre can be accommodated within the Sport & Leisure Service as a result of non-filling of posts elsewhere.

## 12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The consultation undertaken is outlined in the main body of the report above. The Council engaged in a detailed consultation in respect of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 with the local community and interested groups over a ten week period between 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018. The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy document itself, and consultation process as a whole, was designed to ensure that residents and interested groups not only understood the reasons for the Strategy, but that they also understood the potential implications of the Strategy; particularly regarding the potential closure of facilities. This detailed and wide ranging consultation ensured that residents and interested groups were able to respond and make representations in respect of these implications and for these to be considered by Cabinet before making a decision on whether or not to adopt the Strategy. The Council has obtained legal advice confirming the consultation in respect of the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy is detailed and robust, and that further consultation on the closure of individual facilities in accordance with the Strategy is not required.

12.2 The Ward Members for Pontllanfraith ward and for those wards neighbouring Pontllanfraith (Blackwood, Newbridge, Abercarn, Penmaen, Ynysddu, Maesycwmmmer, and Pengam wards) have been consulted on this report and their responses, together with comments from officers, are presented in the table below:

Response	Comment
Cllr Gary Johnston: I wish to record my comment as I oppose the closing of Pontllanfraith leisure centre as residents at the top off my ward would be affected by this.	The rationale for the recommendation to close the facility is detailed within the report.
Cllr. Gez Kirby: Please report to Regen scrutiny committee and Cabinet my strong opposition to closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre by 30th June 2019. My opposition reflects the widely-supported local residents' campaign to save Pont Leisure Centre as a valued amenity for our local community.	The rationale for the recommendation to close the facility is detailed within the report.
Cllr Andrew Farina-Childs: I oppose the proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as I believe that this will have a detrimental impact on the residents of Blackwood who use this facility.	The rationale for the recommendation to close the facility is detailed within the report.
<p>Councillor Etheridge is totally opposed to the closing of the Pontllanfraith Leisure in view of the Health and Well Being Legislation. Also the report contains a number of assumptions and no detailed cost benefit analysis. How can you work on assumptions.</p> <p>Can you please add my notice of motion which had 100% support at a previous Regeneration Community to refer the Leisure Strategy which included Pontllanfraith Leisure for a full open and transparent discussion by the 73 Members at Full council but was vetoed by Cabinet so will they even consider the views and comments of the Scrutiny Committee this time. I have concerns</p> <p>Please define any consultation with the staff and trade unions in the report please</p> <p>Reference is made to the transfer of bookings please define where and what agreements have been discussed and agreed with governors of Blackwood Comprehensive and Islwyn High School, and will there be a contract please.</p>	<p>The rationale for the recommendation to close the facility is detailed within the report.</p> <p>That Notice of Motion was not supported by Cabinet and related to the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy it has not been added to this report.</p> <p>The service has kept staff updated regarding the decision making process.</p> <p>This is addressed in paragraph 5.12 of the report.</p>

<p>Please define the Community Use Agreement in regard usage of the 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive by users outside Blackwood please, and has Blackwood provided written confirmation like Islwyn High please – can this information be added to the report please.</p> <p>Cllr Etheridge also asked that Blackwood Town Council should be consulted on the report can this be added to the report please, and is opposed to the recommendation in the report</p>	<p>Consultation with Blackwood Town Council is addressed in paragraphs 5.8 and 5.9 of the report and also Appendix 3.</p>
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12.3 The consultees listed below have been consulted on this report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

### 13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

Consultees: Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services

Councillor Mike Adams, Pontllanfraith Ward Member

Councillor Colin Gordon, Pontllanfraith Ward Member

Councillor Gez Kirby, Pontllanfraith Ward Member

Councillor Nigel Dix, Blackwood Ward Member

Councillor Kevin Etheridge, Blackwood Ward Member

Councillor Andrew Farina-Childs, Blackwood Ward Member

Councillor Kevin Dawson, Pengam Ward Member

Councillor David Poole, Pengam Ward Member

Councillor Vincent James, Maesycwmmmer Ward Member

Councillor Philippa Marsden, Ynysddu Ward Member

Councillor John Ridgewell, Ynysddu Ward Member

Councillor Denver Preece, Abercarn Ward Member

Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Abercarn Ward Member

Councillor Adrian Hussey, Newbridge Ward Member

Councillor Leeroy Jeremiah, Newbridge Ward Member

Councillor Gary Johnston, Newbridge Ward Member

Councillor Roy Saralis, Penmaen Ward Member

Councillor Ben Zaplatynski, Penmaen Ward Member

Corporate Management Team

Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director for Communities

Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer

Jeff Reynolds, Sport & Leisure Services Facilities Manager

Jared Lougher, Sport & Leisure Services Development Manager

Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning

Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer

Sue Richards, Head of Education, Planning, Strategy and Resources

Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property

James Williams, Solicitor

Mike Eedy, Finance Manager

Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer

Shaun Watkins, HR Manager

Liz Sharma, Consultation and Public Engagement Officer



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
- Report to Cabinet 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – “Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre – Consideration of the call-in in the context of the leisure review” and relevant minute of meeting.
- Report to Cabinet 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – “Draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29” 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 Breakdown of Youth Forum response to consultation
- Appendix 3 Consultation response from Blackwood Town Council November 2017
- Appendix 4 Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre extract from the consultation on the draft Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29
- Appendix 5 Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 1

Summary Report - public consultation in relation to the proposal to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre undertaken between 9th October and 24th November 2017.

<b>COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES</b>	
<b>Consultation Question:</b> <i>What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?</i>	
<b>THEME</b>	<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further to travel.</li> <li>• Will not be able to walk to a facility.</li> <li>• Pontllanfraith is more convenient for me.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The facility includes a 3G pitch which is available in all weathers.</li> <li>• Local 3G pitches are already oversubscribed.</li> <li>• If a 3G is not installed at Blackwood this would have a huge impact.</li> <li>• 3G demand in the area cannot be satisfied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is accepted that the demand for 3G facilities is significant given our changing weather conditions/climate.</li> <li>• A new 3G pitch has been developed at Blackwood Comprehensive School.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant loss of facilities and services in the Pontllanfraith area (Youth Centre, Ty Pontllanfraith, School and now Leisure Centre).</li> <li>• Housing Growth in area will place significant burden on local services/infrastructure.</li> <li>• More residents using other Leisure Centres will place additional burden on those other Centres.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Housing growth is needed as there is a shortage of housing within the County Borough.</li> <li>• 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 as identified in the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29. 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 Rhymini, Fleur de Lys</li> </ul>

<b>COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES</b>	
<b>Consultation Question:</b> <i>Are alternative arrangement/ facilities in place to meet your needs?</i>	
<b>THREAD</b>	<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3G at Islwyn High is not enough – the Pontllanfraith 3G needs to be replaced at Blackwood.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new 3G pitch has been developed at Blackwood Comprehensive School.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no alternative facilities that would meet may needs.</li> <li>• A lack of affordable facilities exists in the vicinity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See comments above regarding travel distances etc.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• The Authority's Leisure Centre pricing structure is consistent across the County Borough and membership allows the use of all Centres.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 as identified in the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

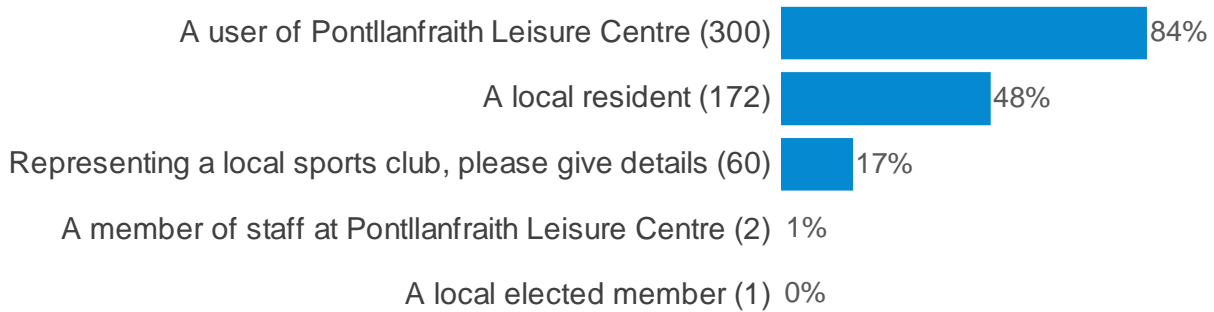
<b>COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES</b>	
<b>Consultation Question:</b> <i>Please detail how the impact of closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?</i>	
<b>THREAD</b>	<b>OFFICER COMMENT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping the 3G pitch or creating another one.</li> <li>• Move or redevelop the 3G pitch quickly at another location.</li> <li>• Keep the 3G pitch but close the Leisure Centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new 3G pitch has been developed at Blackwood Comprehensive School.</li> <li>• Officers have also looked at an option involving demolition of the Leisure Centre, retention of the 3G pitch and car parking and construction of new changing rooms for users of the 3G pitch. However, this option is likely to have one off cost implications of circa £700,000</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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,</li> </ul>	<p>in addition to a significant negative impact on the capital receipt for the site (of circa £1.4m)..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other centres offer a wide range of classes and a Caerphilly Leisure Membership can be used at any of our Centres.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Newbridge Leisure Centre bigger and better.</li> <li>• Upgrade other Leisure Centres.</li> <li>• The question makes it sound like it is a pre-ordained event ie no notice will be taken of views expressed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See comments above on future investment in a smaller number of strategic facilities.</li> <li>• The consultation process was detailed, thorough and held over a 8-week period and has involved a range of media (one to one interviews, on-line, written forms, public meetings, etc.)</li> <li>• No decision will be taken until the Scrutiny Committee has considered the consultation responses and made a recommendation to Cabinet.</li> </ul>

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)**



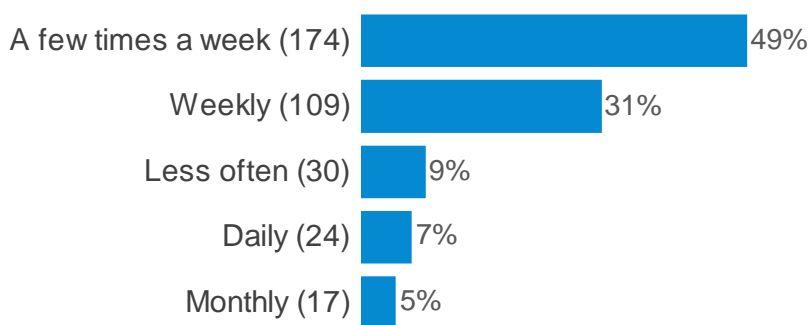
**Please give details**

- 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 residants 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

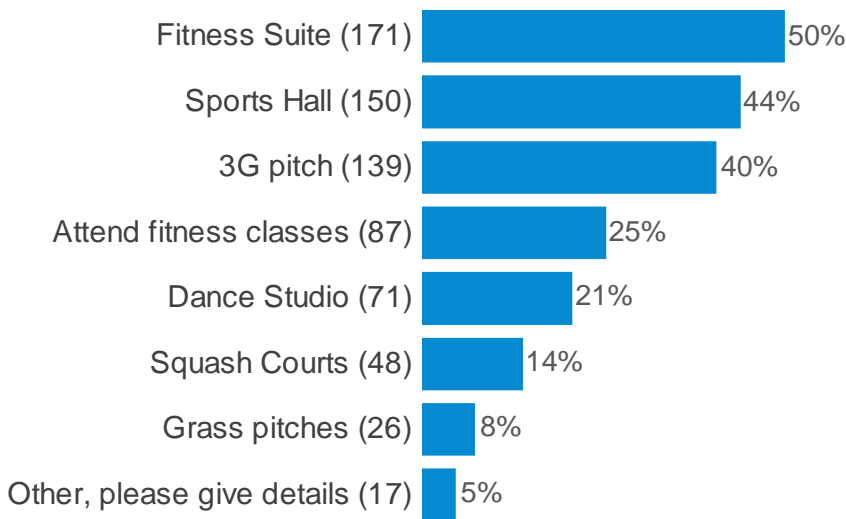
### Please give details

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 football 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 fsctilities
- Watch my nephew play football here
- I believe my council tax contribution should be for caerphilly residants 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 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 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 or mynach or new bridge 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 other 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 Iswlyn doesn't have one at a high enough spec. Iswlyn 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 to 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 the the next nearest facilities.

Are there lesuire facilities still in the area, yes Newbridge lesuire 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 Islywn 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

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

**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 altwrnative 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 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

**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 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 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 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!

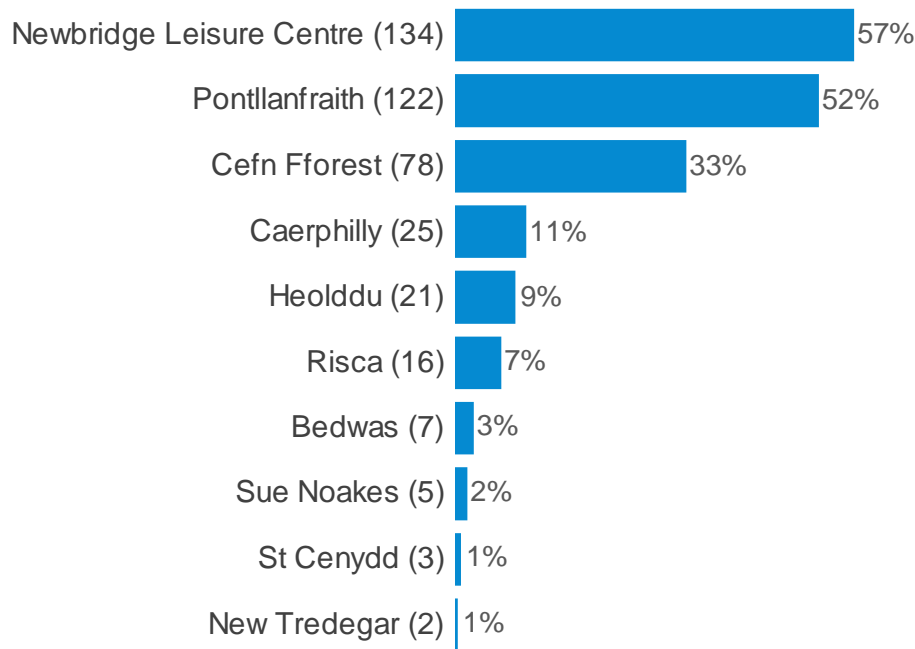
Don't close it refurbish it

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.

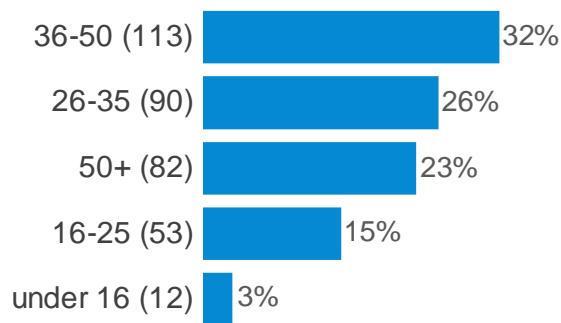
### Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



### 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.**

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I have two teenage children who use this facility

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

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I suffer from bipolar, emotional personality disorder and anxiety.

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None

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

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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?

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think it should stay open

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Na

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None

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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.

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Disability, mental health and physical health

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

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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 daughter 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 does 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 be 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 a 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 many of 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 astro turf 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 residnats 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 pitchs 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 Forest I would have to catch TWO buses (one from

Pontllanfaith 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 Forest. The likelihood 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 likelihood 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 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 distance. 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 club 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, Islywn 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 amd people witjpit 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 Iswlyn 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 accomodate 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 iswlyn 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.

Pontllanfrsith leisure centre allows people with very little transport 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 a 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 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

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 ceffn 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 Islwyn 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 Islwyn doesnt have one at a high enough spec. Islwyn doesnt have squash courts eith

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 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 possibly 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 parents / carers 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 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



**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 Rhymini, 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 Gellidale 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

Pontllanfraith 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 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 .....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.

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 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

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

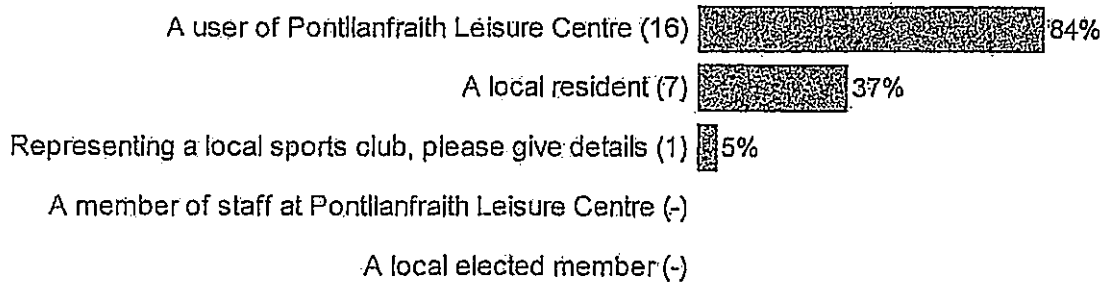
not closing it would be a good start. everyone I know enjoys using the leisure centre and to close it would be a really bad idea. not to mention the fact that islwyn high school's new gym only includes 4 spins bikes and one set of weights. the dance studio is half the size of the pont studio, and there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



This report was generated on 13/03/19. 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.

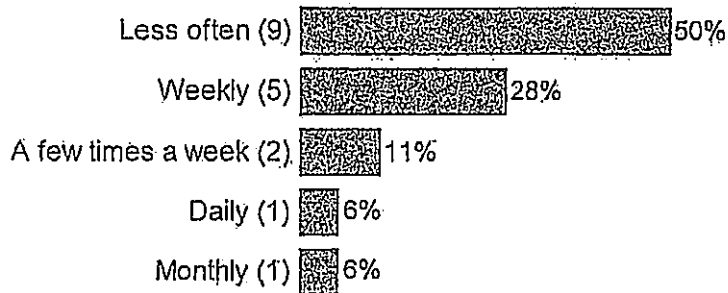
Please indicate your interest in this consultation (*please tick all that apply*)



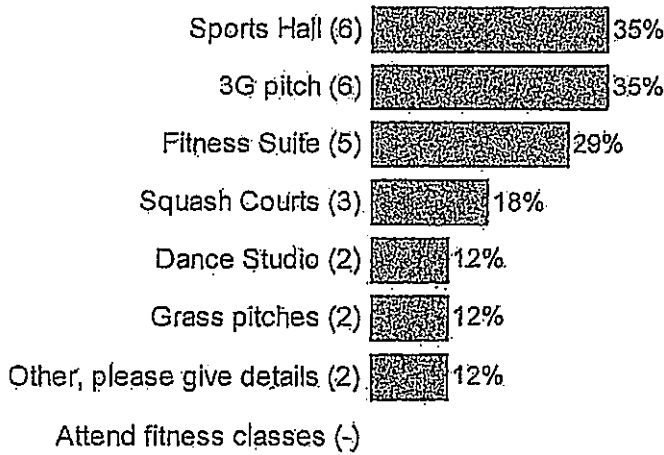
Please give details

- 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?



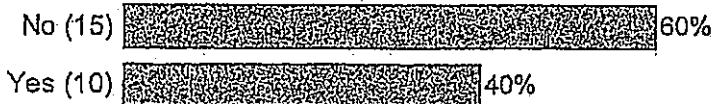
Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

- 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

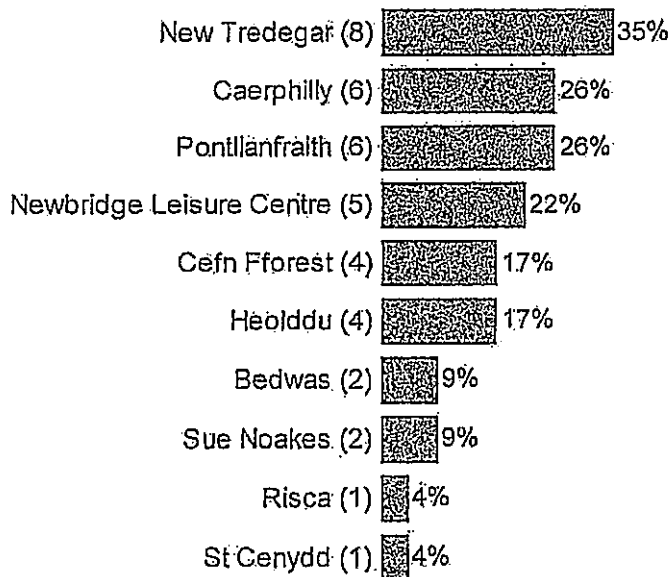
Please detail how the impact of the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?

- 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

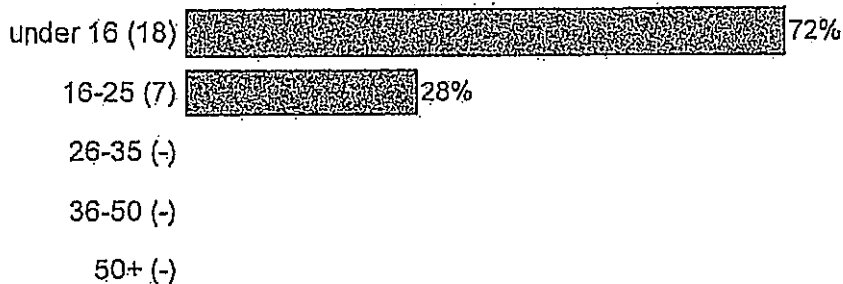
Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



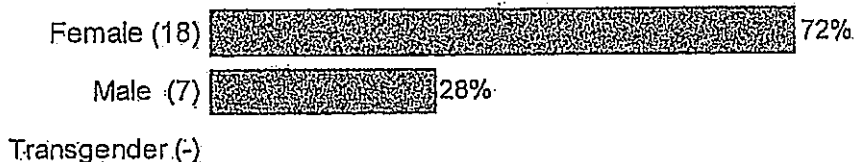
**Do you use any other leisure facilities in the Caerphilly county borough area?**



**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 I
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

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 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.

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

Comislynydd Plant Cymru | Children's Commissioner for Wales

T: [redacted]

M: [redacted]

E: [redacted]@childcomwales.org.uk | [redacted]@complantcymru.org.uk

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/childcomwales](http://www.twitter.com/childcomwales) | [www.twitter.com/complantcymru](http://www.twitter.com/complantcymru)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth a galwadau yr 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: Shárma, Elizabeth [REDACTED]@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK

Senti: 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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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[www.youtube.com/caerphillycbc](https://www.youtube.com/caerphillycbc)

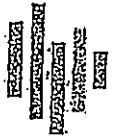
[www.flickr.com/photos/caerphillycbc](https://www.flickr.com/photos/caerphillycbc)

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 rhwng 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 ffrws ynghlwm nac mewn unrhyw ddogfen atodol i'r e-bost. Nid yw'r Cyngor yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am unrhyw ddiwedd achoswyd gan unrhyw ffrws sy'n cael ei drosglwyddo gan yr e-bost hwn.

Rydym yn croesawu goheblaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog (yn unol â'ch dewis), ac mewn lathoedd 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.



Comisiynydd, Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol  
Cymru  
Future Generations Commissioner  
for Wales.

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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Future Generations Commissioner for Wales  
Mallot Chamber, 5-7 St. Mary Street  
Cardiff, CF10 1AT  
contact@futuregenerations.wales  
futuregenerations.wales





Cornisiynydd  
Cenedlaethau'r  
Dyfodol  
Cymru  
Future  
Generations  
Commissioner  
for Wales

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.

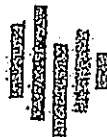
The tool is designed to be used flexibly, and adapted according to the particular circumstances being explored. This is an offer to use such tools, rather than an expectation - it is for you to decide if it will be of assistance to you, how you use it, and who to involve. My team would be happy to discuss 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](mailto: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:

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canedlaethaurydodol.cymru

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Market Chambers, 5-7 St Mary Street  
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[contact@futuregenerations.wales](mailto:contact@futuregenerations.wales)  
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**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 on the work and service delivery of other organisations in the areas considering organisation on the Public Service Board and beyond?*

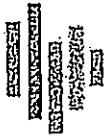
**Collaboration** - Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

*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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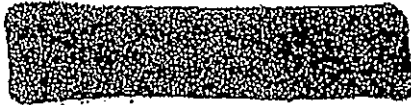
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and healthy lifestyle (p.10-12). Under the Act, public bodies must take all reasonable steps to meet their objectives.

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 *minded* 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 Pontllanfraith 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 Pontllanfraith 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 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 venues 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 Mynachi 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 optical 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 Cwmcaru 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 Department's 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  
Pontllanfawr 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

## Appendix 4

The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 was the subject of a ten week consultation exercise from 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 until 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018. Of the 711 responses to the consultation survey:

- 86 indicated that the Leisure Centre closest to their home is Pontllanfraith
- 75 indicated that the Leisure Centre they use most often is Pontllanfraith
- Of these, 48 indicated that Pontllanfraith was both closest to their home and the leisure centre they use most often.

The responses of the 75 respondents who indicated in the consultation on the Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-29 that the Leisure Centre they use most often is Pontllanfraith are presented below.

### Interest in consultation (75 respondents but option to tick more than one response)

As a resident of Caerphilly county borough	72
As a local elected member	1
Representing a local sport club / organisation, please give details	8
As someone who works in Caerphilly county borough	14
As a local business person	3

### Are you a Leisure Lifestyle member? (71 respondents)

Yes	45	63%
No	26	37%

### In the last year, what kind of sport and active recreation activities have you taken part in? (75 respondents but option to tick more than one response)

Aqua fit	7	Swimming	51
Basketball	2	Team sports e.g. football, rugby	33
Climbing	1	Walking	29
Cycling	16	Water Sports e.g. canoeing	0
Fitness classes	31	Yoga	14
Gym	41	None	0
Racquet sport	27	Other, please specify	2
Running	14		

For questions below n=75

- 67% agree with Vision to encourage healthy lifestyles and support our residents to be more active, more often.
- 97% agree with outcome of Better Health
- 86% agree with outcome of Healthier and Prosperous Communities
- 46% agree with outcome of Securing a more efficient and financially sustainable future provision
- 44% agree with adopting the Welsh Government and Sport Wales Facilities Blueprint for Sport and Active Recreation
- 29% agree with adopting a decision making matrix for determining the provision of strategic Leisure facilities that are directly managed by the Sport and Leisure Service
- 46% agree with seeking clarity on the future swimming entitlement along with supporting the rationale for a sustainable programme of aquatic delivery also informing the need for future aquatic facilities
- 73% agree with developing a plan to enhance and maximise the impact of outdoor spaces, playing fields, parks and informal recreational spaces
- 69% agree with maximising the use of 3G facilities for school, community and weekend competitive use alongside the grass pitch network

**If you have disagreed with any of the statements relating to Facilities, please suggest an alternative way forward in the box below.**

A matrix approach doesn't consider the multiple benefits. Look at a WEll being goals and sustainable management principles approach instead
Again just fancy words. Please get the picture! Pontllanfraith needs to stay open.
again none of above can happen is leisure centers are closed
Although I appreciate the need to cut costs within Caerphilly, I feel that there has been a disregard to the community in and around the leisure centres in order to do this. After attending all of the consultation meetings, where many suggestions were put forward, none of them were listened to or considered. Perhaps call another meeting to listen to views.
Closing one of two swimming pools in the area will mean that Newbridge, which is already difficult to book a slot there will be even busier. Why not increase the prices slightly or increase Council Tax to cover any shortfall, with the amount raised through the increases to be ring-fenced so it can only be used to support the Leisure facilities in the borough
Cutting the management structure down will save far more money than closing leisure centers.
Further information needed to be able to comment on the above questions. The Welsh Assembly government is another non effective organisation. It is basically a "talking shop" with very poor quality AMs. Therefore it is unlikely to have a coherent, well thought out strategy while wasting money e.g. (M4 relief road and the impact on the coastal wetlands).

I can't play badminton in a community centre, health centre, library or church! Many people, like me, enjoy hobbies that require particular sporting facilities and equipment. Current leisure centres can't cope with the demand for racket sports and field sports... what shall we all do, take up yoga and hiking??

Keep ALL of the sport and recreation facilities that we have right now as it is working look elsewhere for your budget cuts. As for trying to shut any leisure facilities i think that it is outrageous. Family live next to pontllanfraith and its always busy daily should update the parking there as it manic there are people parking in the streets and walking over. And for Cefn forrest i have friends and their kids have swimming lessons there and is also a well used leisure centre so these two are a no brainer to keep them OPEN!!!

Keep Pontllanfraith LC open

Massive new housing development should mean leisure services should be protected not just in the Caerphilly area. But also Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest areas, especially the scale of new development!

Matrix adoption is corporate speak for getting things to fit in with the planned desired required outcome. Knowing the community you serve is paramount, all wards and districts. for example Pontllanfraith. Keeping the Leisure Centre open. Developing a plan is not sufficient, this ought to be in place already after listening to the whole community needs. Either the existing plan is not robust or the department heads efficiency and vision need to re-evaluated with those who have a vision of provision of services to all in the community.

More needed. Not enough at present

PLEASE PROVIDE THE REPORT IF YOU ARE GOING TO QUOTE IT!

Pontllanfraith 3G is well used and the removal of this would be detrimental to local clubs and residents health and well being

Pontllanfraith is always and already fully booked!!

Ref Swimming facilities we have an aged pool at Risca and Newbridge closing one at Cefn Fforest?

Significant housing growth is not just confined to the south west of the borough. The measurement factors as set out in the report are purely arbitrary and ignore the tens of thousands that use the other centres notably Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith.

Stop selling off any "surplus" land for development in certain areas and invest in education, communities and leisure instead. What's the point and basis of building thousands of more homes when the County Borough no longer has the infrastructure, schools, hospitals, GP surgeries and provisions to deal with the increase in population???!?

This questionnaire has been deliberately worded to ?? the Council's own already decided outcome!

We already have swimming and 3G facilities available locally - keep them!

Why hasn't the plan been developed?

Your form is getting to complicated by the second .. a disgrace in fact .. I do not want the centres closed so whichever answers that might make this happen I chose

**What do you feel would be the impact on you of rationalising facilities so that the Council's Sport and Leisure service directly manages 4 strategic leisure centres located in Risca, Caerphilly, and Newbridge and one in the Bargoed/Aberbargoed areas with other leisure centres either transferring to school management (if they are joint use facilities located on a school site, subject to governing body approval) or closing completely.**

- 99% negative impact

**Please outline what you feel the impact would be on you of rationalising facilities so that the Council's Sport and Leisure service directly manages 4 strategic leisure centres located in Risca, Caerphilly, and Newbridge and one in the Bargoed/Aberbargoed areas with other leisure centres either transferring to school management (if they are joint use facilities located on a school site, subject to governing body approval) or closing completely.**

- Facilities need to be high quality and available year-round. - As a family we are involved in 3 sports clubs that would be directly affected and would likely have to close due to reduced and unavailable facilities, impacting on mental and physical wellbeing. - Travelling time to new strategic centre will directly impact the amount of time that I can spend there, making it not a viable option. Also will increase traffic and pollution in the county - not a good, healthy outcome for anyone!

As a non driver I would find it hard to visit any of the proposed centres.

Be horrendous. More obesity . More anti social behaviour with youths not having clubs, facilities in their area to go and enjoy outdoor , indoor activities and realise the benefits of sport , exercise. People already playing sport will give up due to travel problems , unable to get there thus teams folding due to numbers . There are not enough facilities now to go round . If more close will have a massive detrimental effect on whole communities.

Caerphilly and Newbridge are already busy and over subscribed therefore I avoid using these facilities. They're not user friendly and can be intimidating. Not everybody has the access to public transport - for example to get to Newbridge I would either have to catch 2 trains on way, one to Cardiff Queen Street then change to go to Newbridge. If I caught a bus it would mean 3 bus journeys one way!! Risca - it would take half a day and half a months wages the cost of public transport (which is also extremely unreliable (bus service)).

Closing Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest would have a massive negative impact. Closing Pontllanfraith in particular will see the loss of a leisure centre 3G pitch and outdoor playing pitches. Local schools do not have the capacity or facilities and if this strategy is adopted I will be denied access to sport.

Closing Pontllanfraith leisure centre will have a negative impact on my life, the community and the village as it is used on a regular basis. Losing this leisure centre will have a negative impact on the identity of the village/community on the whole.

Closing pontllanfraith leisure centre would be a poor move with the 3G facilities being used by lots and lots of young children on a daily basis. Removing this facility will increase demand on other 3G facilities and will reduce availability. Doing this will force some children away from sports due to lack of opportunities. Having sports centres based in these locations will mean that local families will have to travel to use leisure centre facilities and this will clearly result in families choosing not to take part in active lifestyles due to a lack of facilities in their immediate area!

Closure of pint would impact me massively. I wouldn't be able to work out and play sports daily as I do now. I'm. It in a position to travel and can not afford extortionate public transport. Myself and my family would have no where to train and will likely suffer health conveniences. My elderly parents would have no where to go to keep them physically and mentally healthy. If a school we're to take over then this would hugely impact the availability of the facilities which is not fair. Adults and children do not want to use school facilities and often it is not fair for them to be asked to do so (mental health issues etc.). Facilities would not be available all day as they are now, space is more restricted that pint in terms of racket sport courts and throughout examination periods the facilities would be unavailable. It is not an appropriate solution.

Closure of Pont would likely result in casual football stopping due to reduction in facilities

closure of pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest are my local leisure centres, cannot get to those further away, deprevng poor areas of the borough

currently the demand for leisure use is very high, by eliminating some of the leisure centers you create a higher demand so people will lose interest and less people will be bothered to travel extra miles to use leisure facility's. Please remember that not everybody drives therefore to some this will now include bus journeys at that persons extra cost.

Cutting down to only four leisure centres is a complete joke. This would completely reduce my use of leisure centres to 0. It would be impossible to book any of the facilities. It also means it takes me beyond walking distance to any leisure centre and in my opinion completely neglects any resident of Blackwood or its surrinding villages especially if you believe there is not sufficient funding to upgrade the exisitng facilities. I cannot express enough how much of a poor idea this is, Caerphilly Council Borough Council needs to stop viewing the leisure centres as money making schemes and start realising they are a community service.

Further to travel to nearest leisure centre. School sites - use by general public is subservient to school demands and ideas often at short notice or arbitrarily. The public are not equal partners.

Having only 1 in each area wouldn't work in all cases. Pontllanfraith is regularly used by my daughters girls football team and if closed would leave us no where else to go. Islwyn High is shut during school holidays because it's not council run. Shutting during holidays us ridiculous because that's precisely when children need a place to exercise and play.

I am currently part of a badminton club in Pontllanfraith, this would unfortunately have to end with the closure as facilities elsewhere are impractical or unavailable (Newbridge and local schools - I have looked into both and can expand in upcoming meetings - hopefully). Having visited Newbridge leisure centre on occasions it is evident that issues such as car parking, lack of facilities (squash courts), inappropriate facilities (badminton courts) and already full classes such as spin would result in my not exercising and deterioration in health.

<p>I don't think some leisure centres should be closed the ones I don't think should be closed are Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as even though it is not connected to a school anymore it still provides a good service to the community and a service the community relies on heavily as if you closed this Leisure Centre it could result in a massive problem for people who want to use the 3g pitches for example. I don't think you should close Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre as a lot of people rely on this centre and a lot of children from that particular area learn how to swim at the Leisure centre if you close Cefn Fforest it could result in children having to go to other far away Leisure centres to learn how to swim.</p>
<p>I play badminton at our local Leisure Centre with my sisters, mum and dad at least three times per week. This activity not only helps us to keep fit, both physically and mentally, but offers us valuable time together for socialising as a family. For me, the impact of not being able to use this facility include: - loss of fitness as I would be forced to give up my hobby - poorer wellbeing as a result of the lack of socialising and physical activity - Depression and anxiety as this hobby has had a positive impact on my mental health - Isolation and loneliness - financial loss as a result of having to travel further I have calculated that it would cost my family and I over £1200 per annum to take public transport to our nearest alternative (Newbridge) in order to continue playing badminton 3 times per week. Alternative Centres are not feasible for me and will also significantly add to my fuel costs – not to mention increasing emissions. With air pollution in our local area proven to be some of the worst in the UK, this would lead to further negative impacts on the health of local people. On occasion, my family and I have booked courts at Newbridge Leisure Centre, however, we have not found the courts at Newbridge to be fit-for-purpose due to the low ceiling height and also the fact that my colour-blind dad is unable to distinguish the badminton court layout from others that are painted in almost identical colours. In terms of inclusivity, this is a concern.</p>
<p>I play squash as part of my fitness regime recommended after a Well Being health check, if Pontllanfrith Leisure Centre closes this would end my three or four days of exercise weekly as the other squash courts are not accessible when I am able to play.</p>
<p>I think it would be a negative move we need our leisure centres to stay open such as Pontllanfraith</p>
<p>I use Pontllanfraith as I use it as a GP referral is near where I live and works around my shift pattern and I also like to go swimming up Cefn Fforest as if you go to Newbridge I can't work it around my shift with the school using it always too crowded.</p>
<p>I will be denied access to sport and fitness if you plan to close Pontllanfraith / Cefn Fforest goes ahead. Serious detrimental impact. Not offset by your strategy.</p>
<p>I would not be willing to travel to Bargoed or Caerphilly for leisure activities and would wish for something more local.</p>
<p>I would stop using the council facilities as they are too far away and not very welcoming.</p>
<p>I'd be devastated if Pontllanfraith and Cefn Forest closed.</p>
<p>If centres local to me were to close, then people on low income who may not have a car or the funds required for public transport may not be willing to travel further to engage with healthy active lifestyles. As it stands, leisure centres are often in walking distance of large towns and communities who would be affected, this would include myself.</p>

It will restrict the use of facilities by local children's sports teams. There will be inadequate provision for the number of teams and discourage future generations from team sports. I feel the decision to reduce the number of facilities is financially motivated
It would have a negative impact. The council should be providing more leisure facilities, not less! I regularly use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre as a member of Islwyn Running Club because it is where we meet.
Its understandable that leisure's centre will have to close going forward. However, other than Caerphilly leisure centre the other 3 mentioned to remain Newbridge/Risca/Bargoed are all in my opinion outdated and are very poor with availability of activities being offered there. Can Newbridge accommodate all the footfall from both Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest leisure centres closing? The diabolical car parking facilities will put most people off straight away. Again, I don't feel this centre offers enough facilities to cater for everyone's needs. I have a 3 year old daughter and have always taken her out of the authority to access swimming activities, as our pools are boring and from past experiences the water temp is always cold. We have 1 hydro slide in the whole authority which is closed more than open for guests. I am more than happy to travel for leisure activities if the service and resources are suitable, hence why I am often visiting other centres Merthyr Tydfil, Ebbw Vale, Cardiff Olympic Pool, Swansea LC2 as our centres are outdated and offer very little. Other authorities are earning income from residents out of their authority, what are we doing to keep residents using our centres as well as attracting interest from outside?
Lack of resources would mean limited availability. The availability is already limited so any further limitations would probably stop me using the facilities as the times required wouldn't be available
Less access and all it's implications
Less availability, further travel,
Newbridge is my nearest LC but there are so many block bookings that you are only able to book badminton courts as follows - Monday 1 at 5pm, Tuesday none at all, Wed 2 at 7pm, Thursday none at all, Friday 8-9pm.
Newbridge leisure cannot be improved and is unable to expand, it is hemmed in. Pontllanfraith has room for development not houses. Spend money on Pont and make it a sports complex, adding swimming pools, bowling green, tennis courts, and is more strategically situated than Newbridge.
Newbridge would be my nearest alternative. There is no separate dance studio for classes and very limited parking. I only use Pontllanfraith - at least 3 times a week on average, sometimes twice due to work commitments. I would probably end up cancelling my membership, so the council will lose finance - I doubt if I would be the only one.
No access to local sports facility in the Pontllanfraith area of the authority.
Not enough space/facilities to cope
Pontllanfraith is within walking distance, my group have a block booking at Pontllanfraith for indoor football, I also use the 3G facility. I suspect we will just not bother playing anymore and become couch potatoes instead



Pontllanfraith leisure center was proposed for closure. ~ The impact would have made me stop going to the gym, and more recently also classes held at the leisure center. It would have out priced me as transport to newbridge would have cost me an additional £60-£90 per month to access the gym based on going 3 times a week. I would have had to cancel my membership and pay for individual sessions as and when I could afford to.

Swimming lessons in Heolddu and Newbridge are at capacity and with the closure of Cefn FForest this would significantly impact on young children being able to get a life skill of being able to swim. The gym facilities in Newbridge and Heolddu will not meet the capacity for the people within the community. Iswlyn High school do not have adequate gym facilities and pupils are still utilising Pontllanfraith leisure centre.

The above 4 strategic leisure centres only is not necessary, councillors have stressed the close proximity to Aberbargoed and CCBC willingness to raise finance. Therefore rebuild Cefn Fforest if necessary! Having had to wade through the nonsense of your survey booklet I offer the following: Dear Sirs, I attended the presentation of CCBC case for the closure of Cefn Fforest and Pontllanfraith Leisure Centres, on 4/09/18. I listened carefully to the arguments to close these establishments and to replace them with a leisure centre near Aberbargoed. It became quickly apparent that there was no logic to CCBC arguments. The main point of this proposal as far as Cefn Fforest leisure centre is concerned is that the building is 50 years old and not fit for purpose. May I take this opportunity to remind CCBC of the huge amounts of money spent on its refurbishment recently. This argument is farcical! Other bits and pieces were thrown into the mix. Cefn Fforest people using this facility at present could easily travel to the proposed new site in Aberbargoed, because of its close proximity. By the same token Aberbargoed people can easily travel to Cefn Fforest because of its close proximity - and do at present. Point 2 - with a new building CCBC would raise millions to fund a new building and pay off the loan over a long period. Therefore they can upgrade the present sites at substantially lower costs, as they already own the sites. The only statement that is correct, at least in the case of the Pontllanfraith facility is that CCBC has wilfully neglected its duty to maintain these facilities. CCBC has the unenviable reputation of getting things wrong, the debacle with the Chief Exec, various botched road work schemes the list is endless. CCBC needs to be seen to do it better to restore what little reputation it has left. It seems obvious that this is a thinly veiled attempt by certain elements of CCBC to steal, and I use the word advisably, facilities from the old Islwyn area and relocate them under another ward (I'm aware boundaries have changed). These gentlemen having made an unholy mess of Bargoed, allegedly under the influence of Morrisons, are now turning their attention to our area. I would also remind CCBC that planning permission was only granted for the Cefn fforest facility because it replaced Pontllanfraith open air baths, on what was the last remnant of the original Cefn fforest. Finally, I would like to bring your attention to the following: This is a letter sent to Marquis Flavinious, a Centurion in the second Cohort of the Augusta legion, to his cousin Tertullus in Rome. "We had been told on leaving our native soil that we were going to defend our sacred rights confirmed on us by so many citizens settled overseas. So many years of our presence, so many benefits brought to us by populations in need of our assistance and civilisation. We were able to verify that all of this was true and because it was true we did not hesitate to shed our quota of blood, to sacrifice our youth and our hopes. We regretted nothing, but where as we over here are inspired by this frame of mind, I am told IN ROME FACTIONS AND CONSPIRACIES ARE RIFE, THAT TREACHERY FLOURISHES AND THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THEIR UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION lend a ready ear to the dire temptations of RELINQUISHMENT AND VILIFY OUR ACTIONS. I cannot believe that all this is true, and yet recent wars have shown how pernicious such a state of mind could be, and where it could lead. Make haste to reassure me, I beg you, and tell me that our fellow citizens understand us, support us and protect us as we ourselves are protecting the glory of the empire. If it should be otherwise, if we should have to leave our bleached bones on these desert sands in vain, then beware the anger of the legions." To which I have nothing to add.

The health of a lot of my family would decline dramatically as they won't have access to a local leisure centre such as Pontllanfraith. They rely on the facilities at Pontllanfraith to stay healthy. The closing of the leisure centres would cause them to become more unhealthy.

The lack of Good Public Transport in the borough would be a major factor in less people visiting the '4 strategic leisure centres'. Also local Sport teams find it almost impossible to book the facilities as they are now making it hard for junior sides to train. Reducing the facilities will only add to the problem.

The loss of Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest leisure centres would have a detrimental effect on myself and my family. The other local centres such as Nebridge is over subscribed. The school facilities are inadequate - Iswlyn High pupils have been using the gym at Pontllanfraith LC and have been transported by mini bus for lessons. Other schools pitches are over booked. If these centres close I will be using Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre, which means transport costs and traveling by car instead of walking, does not prove eco friendly .

The population is growing. If you close facilities to build housing you are having a negative effect on the wellbeing of the growing population. Get real! Stop closing facilities! AGAIN just fancy wording. It is the populous that pay you to provide the facilities to encourage health and wellbeing. All this strategy is to try and justify your action. Get the message. The population is growing. So, don't close, maintain and improve what we have and keep these facilities OPEN.

The possible closures of leisure centres would impact upon myself as one of the proposed centre's for closure is pontllanfraith and is the closest one to me which I use 3-4 times a week. I often walk to pontllanfraith leisure centre and it would not be possible for me to do this with any of the other centres proposed to stay open. I use pontllanfraith leisure due to the mix of individuals that use the centre, it is a very comfortable environment which makes people feel at ease which you do not necessarily get from other gyms within the area. I feel that if pontllanfraith were to close the council would be forcing people to find other alternatives that are not suitable which possibly puts people at risk of stopping their physical activities and risk neglecting their physical health. I feel that these closures are just about saving money and not necessarily caring about the individuals that use the facilities. Government keep on mentioning the need for individuals to be more active and live healthier lifestyles so they do not become a burden on the NHS from ailments caused by being unhealthy and obesity, although how on earth are people supposed to be healthy and more active if leisure facilities keep closing. I feel this will just have a knock on effect on individuals where they will be forced to not take part in physical activities because there simply isn't anywhere suitable for them. I feel the closure of pontllanfraith leisure centre would impact upon my health greatly as I can feel self-conscious about using gyms and I feel comfortable using pontllanfraith because of the warm, friendly, non-judgemental environment. I feel this is lacking in other private gyms within the area and worry my own physical activity would decrease because of this.

There are not enough spaces for children's teams / swimming now so how would there be more ?

There are very few classes available outside of work hours at the moment. These will only reduce. I have been referred by nhs Physio to attend yoga/Pilates classes. Without these I will be back visiting the already stretched and underfunded Physio outpatients in YYF. The council and nhs need a collaborative, joined up approach

There will simply be not enough leisure centres to meet demand for local sports clubs, schools and communities. Suspect there would be a monopoly on 4 leisure sites by bigger organisations/sports clubs. North of the borough will also be forgotten. New leisure facilities in schools will also not be able to cope with demand. Local sports clubs struggle now to get bookings for training sessions on 3g/astro turf and inside sports hall use. Only get worse if only 4 leisure centres supported by schools.

These facilities are not large enough to cope with demand if all others are shut. Plus with new housing in the area the future benefit to having more facilities and investing in them is there.

<p>This would be negative if it resulted in other facilities not being available locally to people. It would require strict requirements to ensure that the facilities remaining open regularly and were maintained to an adequate standard.</p>
<p>This would greatly effect my children's ability to participate in sports and recreational activities within their local community. The effect will also be very adverse for many teams that operate within the area.</p>
<p>This would make my nearest leisure centre outside easy walking distance, so I'd be far less likely to attend</p>
<p>Too far. People won't travel. All facilities offer different things. Limiting the centres would make booking and access very difficult.</p>
<p>Totally against this view. Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre provision is vital and important to myself and my family. We can walk to the centre without taking the car saving the environment, we support activities in the local community. This is short sighted and will mean again mean services are congregated in Caerphilly!</p>
<p>Travelling to get to these "hub" leisure centres instead of my nearest one incurs more cost to me. It would also increase the numbers of persons using those centres stated which in turn limits the facilities you are able to use.</p>
<p>We need smaller centres for our communities. Just 4 centres would not be able to sustain the level of users e.g. the 3G pitch in Pontllanfraith. Also you have to have a car to get to these Centres. Bargoed and Risca are quite out of the way. I just feel the Blacwood, Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest would be denied sports access</p>
<p>We need to keep leisure centres open, for health and sport activity. Pontllanfraith has the best outlook with room to expand, put in a swimming pool and make it a sports complex. It is the best for outdoor sports and indoor sports, beautiful setting, lovely staff and plenty of car parking. We don't need any houses there, it will spoil a leisure area that can be improved greatly.</p>
<p>Why should leisure centres in the borough be closed to keep Caerphilly leisure centre open £15m (now £30m) to be spent knocking this centre down and rebuilding in this one part of Caerphilly only. Keep Pontllanfraith open will not cost £15m.</p>
<p>You can't give me the whole picture so I don't know!</p>
<p>You cannot book school facilities now as they are already fully booked so closing centers will have a negative impact on me directly.</p>
<p>You would be isolating areas like Cefn Fforest. There are very little facilities of any kind in Cefn Fforest, elderly people and children who use the pool would be penalised. The pool is a lifeline for many in Cefn Fforest. The other centres can only be reached by car. Also you are trying to put too many people into not enough Leisure Centre, Pontllanfraith atp is used widely by junior club. If the Centre closed there would not be anywhere for these kids to go. no they could not use the other Leisure Centres or schools Atp because these are all day full.</p>
<p>You've not mentioned Pontllanfraith which is an essential leisure centre for sports teams in the borough!! What about Cwmcarn? The council should run the leisure centres not schools</p>

**If you feel the impact of rationalising leisure facilities will be negative, what could be done to mitigate the impact on you and your family?**

<p>- Improved facilities (poor lighting and unclear lines in Newbridge make it unpleasant to play badminton). - Improved availability - opening times in Islwyn High are not appropriate. - Better parking facilities. - Transport provided for locals unable to travel to other leisure centred. - Reduce smartcard prices to account for petrol prices.</p>
<p>1) Reasonable increase in charges 2) Consider other organisations to run them 3) Invest some of the millions you plan to spend on a new leisure centre and maintain existing ones</p>
<p>A very small increase across The CCBC area to each household would negate the financial reasons for closure of any site.</p>
<p>Are you lot real? The more I read these questions the more frustrated it all becomes.</p>
<p>As mentioned above, I can easily transport my family to various centres if needed. However, this is predominately out of authority which I am pretty sure I am not the only resident in Caerphilly to be doing right now. Reduce number of options on sporting activities as limited spaces providing activities.</p>
<p>CCBC only care about capital receipts and lining pockets of its councillors, snr management and directors.</p>
<p>Close one of your other 4, if one has to go maybe Cefn Fforest, but keep Pontllanfraith leisure centre open.</p>
<p>Consider other ways to run/finance these facilities. Look at other areas to make savings.</p>
<p>continue to keep pontllanfraith leisure centre open or find an alternative site for this in the local area</p>
<p>Do not close centres in the borough, look to either switch management, or adopt and alternate policy of funding to spread funds equally across all centres</p>
<p>Do not close Pontllanfraith, all the additional housing needs leisure facilities</p>
<p>Do not let schools shut their facilities during school holidays. If like Islwyn, school facilities are used, they need to be available 52 weeks a year.</p>
<p>Don't close leisure centres</p>
<p>Don't close Pontllanfraith simple with the absence of Pont there will be more pressure on other leisure centres - especially with the increasing population as evidenced by the housing developments. More people leads to more pressure. Obvious.</p>
<p>Don't?</p>
<p>For example - compel schools to make their facilities available, employing extra staff if need be; establish community colleges.</p>
<p>I can only speak for myself but I would be willing to pay a little extra to keep the leisure centre I use open.</p>

increase council tax and/or the cost of usage with the amount raised ring-fenced so it has to be used to support the facilities under threat
increase the council tax.
Invest in facilities in the Pontllanfraith area of the authority.
invest more in all facilities to modernise and provide better services to attract me people, incentivise them to visit
It is really important that facilities are local to where people live to encourage individuals to build an active lifestyle into day to day life. Having to travel to access leisure facilities could be a barrier to this.
Keep all leisure centres open and improve and invest
keep all leisure facilities open and dont segregate different sports out as when i was younger girls football there was 3 teams now you got like 25 teams and 3 leagues certain sports get better and others lose people. another example the tour de france cycling is now popular as chris froome won so every year some sport thrive and other lose as i said and segregate different sports and recreation is not the answer at all.
Keep leisure centers open, i am sure even if the membership costs go up more people would be happy than the alternative of losing their nearby facility's.
Keep pont open. Sell the land from the chill and surrounding but keep the centre. Surely with all the new homes proposed, new residents will expect local amenities...
Keep Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest Leisure open
Keep Pontllanfraith and Cefn Fforest Leisure Centres open. If they clos, I will either fund Blaenau Gwent by travelling there to use their facilities or stop exercising all together, which will be detrimental to my health and well being.
Keep pontllanfraith centre open!
Keep Pontllanfraith LC open - it's a vital resource for us.
Keep Pontllanfraith leisure centre open.
Keep Pontllanfraith open
Keep Pontllanfraith open or do as above.
Keep Pontllanfraith open!!
Keep Pontllanfraith open. It is profitable - well used and with some thought could be made even better, for example: - convert squash court to spin room - promote classes (much better range than other centres) - re-introduce GP referrals - encourage use of facilities by other organisations e.g. slimming clubs / mother and toddler groups - promote activities for older people.

<p>Keep the leisure centers as they are, The 4 core leisure centers being of standard price with a 5-10% charge for outer core leisure centers. I would rather pay an extra £5-10 per month to use my local leisure center than to pay triple the monthly cost to access one further away. alternatively, subsidize bus fares for gym users.. however this seems counter intuitive to lowering overall costs.</p>
<p>Keeping Cefn Fforest open due to the swimming facility and increasing the gym facilities at the other gyms and making them bigger.</p>
<p>Keeping leisure centers open</p>
<p>Keeping Pont open</p>
<p>Keeping the centres open and investing in all. If money from the private sector is available this should be utilised</p>
<p>Leave things as they are</p>
<p>Listen to residents. Nothing. make decisions on the health &amp; well-being of the community, not for financial reasons.</p>
<p>Look for additional savings in other areas of the council to keep more facilities open. Look at management and councillor salaries.</p>
<p>Maintain and invest in Pontllanfraith leisure centre and Cefn Fforest. Invest the £20million plus in these facilities rather than a new one, or even a fraction of the £20million to keep them open. Change ?? more is also an option to keep them open as a last resort, look at asset transfer. Either way, keep both leisure centres open.</p>
<p>More classes</p>
<p>Not close Pontllanfraith or Cwmcarn and Cefn Fforest to mitigate the impact would mean us having to travel further afield for the team sports we play for training and matches</p>
<p>Not closing Pontllanfraith Leisure centre, maintaining, investing and improving the facilities will ensure the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre remains a prime hub for our family and community. Costs will increase, use of car, use of buses (if running in evening). In Pontllanfraith the swimming baths has closed, the Comprehensive School has closed, the Islwyn Council offices have been demolished. The only things that are promoted in Pontllanfraith is yet more house development and Wind Turbines being built everywhere in the locality. Compare that position with Caerphilly focus and you see the difference.</p>
<p>Nothing</p>
<p>Nothing. There is no way reducing to 4 leisure centres can be positive unless you allow those that are in existence to pass to private ownership for the use of said facilities.</p>
<p>Please keep our leisure centres open.</p>
<p>Put money into Pont and Cefn Fforest instead of closing them to sell the land for housing. Disgusting</p>

Rebuild existing facilities on existing sites, CCBC already own the ground. The real reason is, CCBC wants to sell the land for housing!! CCBC should remember that the swimming pool in Cefn Fforest was only allowed to be built to replace the open air pool in Pontllanfraith and planning permission was only given for this site for that reason, on was the last remnant of Cefn Fforest.
Reflect on your decision which clearly disadvantages the pontllanfraith and blackwood areas of the borough leaving them with no provision at all and bottom of the list for use of other facilities further away. The plans for new housing within both these areas creates further such demand for the service provision in the areas you propose to close and completely undermines any such strategy you have asked for opinions on within this survey.
Restructure the councillors and management so that it is a more efficient. Too much money is wasted on top paying jobs that could be put back into the communities facilities
Spend money refurbishing well used local leisure centres rather than invest money into something new that noone wants.
Very negative indeed. If children and adults in the borough hope to keep fit, active and interested in sports, then keep all local centres open and investment in the future. Do not rip the heart out of the villages by these proposed closures.
We could try (i.e. the electorate) getting a new non-Labour council!
Yes. Totally negative and contradictory to the main aim which is to encourage a health, active life style.
You could possibly start offering direct bus trips to Leisure Centres like Risca and Newbridge from other areas or open up new Leisure Centres in places like Islwyn High School
You need to communicate with sporting club within the borough (some of high sporting standard) to work with yourselves in helping you offer the services.

**If you feel that the proposed changes will affect you as an individual (positively or negatively) because of any of the following, your ethnic origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality or responsibility for any dependents, please give details below.**

Age - the lack of buses through Hollybush will not allow me to use facilities
I believe that CCBC is discriminating against the socially and economically deprived. The facilities in pont and cafe forest are used extensively and this consultation document is a joke for lots on residents. With poor reading and writing skills, this survey is painful to complete and I know of hundreds of people who are unable to contribute despite being desperate to do so.
I have young teenage children who will not be able to access facilities due to difficulties in travelling there. A medical condition means that access to local facilities is vital for me.



Its quite simple: (1) CCBC is strapped for cash. (2) CCBC does not care for communities. (3) The strategy is so biased that the outcome is obvious. (4) This isn't a survey, its a declaration of war, making it difficult for residents of participate in recreational and sporting activities!

Local facilities are good for local residents and communities to use, closing these will have a negative effect on the locals ability to use the relevant facilities for health, fitness and wellbeing.

These Proposed changes will definitely effect me in a negative way but not as stated above. As i have a long term injury my back that is still being assessed and i use both Cefn forrest and Pontllanfraith regular as i cannot do sport as full as i used i used to do it 7 times a week i can now only do it for 30 mins 2-3 times a week and work it around my shifts and these centres work around my shift and are not too far away as i get a dead leg when travelling too far so keeping the leisure centres to me is vital. As it keeps my anxiety and depression at a certain state as well as keeping the regular exercise and keeping me going. I use it regular through our health care as a GP Referral. keep all sport and recreation facilities that all i ask thanks for reading :)

Welsh ought to be the first language on every sign, instruction booklets, provision of services in our community. We are Welsh, it is our language and ought to actively promoted in the provision of Leisure facilities across the provision.

Yes it impacts me in not being able to offer a local service for my dependants.

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

## 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.

<b>NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL *</b>	Caerphilly County Borough Sport & Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029
<b>DIRECTORATE</b>	Communities
<b>SERVICE AREA</b>	Communities & Leisure
<b>CONTACT OFFICER</b>	Rob Hartshorn

**\*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.

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 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**.

## PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

<b>1</b>	<p><b>What is the proposal intended to achieve?</b> <i>(Please give a brief description of the purpose of the new or updated proposal by way of introduction.)</i></p> <p>The Council has identified the need and opportunity to develop a strategic approach to shape the future of its sport and active recreation services.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to establish a joined up vision for future provision, setting clear outcomes recognising the contribution that sport and active recreation makes to economic, social, environmental &amp; cultural well-being.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Who are the service users affected by the proposal?</b> <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> <p>The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy affects the public generally and in particular current, potential and future users of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outdoor and Indoor Sport and Leisure Facilities;</li><li>• Sports Development programmes;</li><li>• Staff</li></ul>

## IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

<b>3</b>	<p><b>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?</b></p> <p><i>(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?)</i></p> <p>Sport and active recreation provision is not a statutory requirement of Local Government in Wales. The Council heavily subsidises Sport and Leisure Services provision in Caerphilly. This subsidy is not necessarily strategically directed nor applied consistently which results in operational anomalies. Reducing revenue and capital resources need to be balanced against crucial health and well-being priorities and focus on making the most impact possible on health and well-being inequalities, which will facilitate continued provision of a range of opportunities to benefit our residents.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes a rationalisation of facilities to achieve a sustainable future service alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites.</p> <p>Whilst some existing facilities might close which may result in some users having longer travel time to facilities, all of the proposed strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and are accessible by public transport. All future provision will so far as reasonably practicable ensure geographic coverage across the county borough. Implementation ensures a fair and just allocation of resources that will provide for continued sport and active recreation provision into the future for the benefit of all.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers. An ongoing investment strategy will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive to all users and improving access equally.</p> <p>A collaborative approach aims to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles through inspirational physical activity experiences whilst they are in education, whilst also ensuring the learning environments are maximised for community use out of school hours.</p> <p>There is a coordinated approach between schools &amp; Caerphilly Adventures in the engagement of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards helping young people to gain skills for life delivering better educational, employment, and social outcomes for the benefit of all of our communities.</p> <p>The Council's sport and active recreation outreach and intervention provides targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older people/less independent people lead healthy lives through low intensity, social, and easy to access physical activities.</p>
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	<p>The Strategy aims to achieve sustainable sport and active recreation provision that can be maintained at a level of service which is comparable with other Local Authorities. Facilities will be improved and the Council will take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and will work to address access for older people, younger people, and disabled people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</p>
	<p><b>Actions required:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts due to longer travel distances and work to address access for people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</li></ol>

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4. What are the impacts of the proposals?					
Protected Group		Positive Impact?	Negative Impact?	No Specific Impact	What will the impact be? If the impact is negative how can it be mitigated? (action)
Gender	Male			X	
	Female			X	We provide female only activities as part of our routine service delivery. <b>Action: Sustain female only activities at existing service levels.</b>
	Transgender			X	The Council is sensitive to issues around changing, but has not had any representations' or engagement on this issue to date.
Religion				X	
Race				X	There is no evidence available to the Council to suggest a negative impact due to race.
Disability		X	X		<p>Where leisure facilities are closed people with disabilities may be more greatly affected if this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities. However, all of the proposed strategic facilities are fully accessible, have ample disabled parking, and are accessible by public transport.</p> <p>The Strategy aims to sustain sport and active recreation provision in the county borough alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers. An ongoing investment strategy will ensure that our leisure facilities are maintained and that equipment is replaced, making them more attractive to all users and improving access equally.</p> <p>In promoting a sustainable vision for sport and leisure provision it is recognised that participation in physical activity can have a</p>

					<p>positive effect on both mental and physical health. In particular levels of cardio vascular disease and type 2 diabetes are particularly high in the county. Participation in a physical activity can significantly reduce the risks for both existing sufferers and those most vulnerable.</p> <p>The consultation process has been used to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing disabled people.</p> <p><b>Action: Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and work to address access for disabled people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></p>
Sexual Orientation				X	
Age	Older People	X	X		<p>The Strategy aims to sustain sport and active recreation provision in the county borough alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation. However there may be some negative impact where there are increased travel distances following any rationalisation of facilities.</p> <p>The Council's sport and active recreation outreach and intervention provides targeted support to help keep older people involved and active in local communities helping local organisations to provide ways of supporting older people/less independent people lead healthy lives through low intensity, social and easy to access physical activities.</p> <p>We will also support individuals by providing specialist interventions to reach targeted audiences in our communities where there is evidence of need and no other alternative provider.</p>

				<p>The consultation process has been used to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing older people.</p> <p><b>Action: Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and work to address access for older people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></p>
	Children and Younger People (Under 25)	X	X	<p>The Strategy aims to sustain sport and active recreation provision in the county borough for future generations alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation. However there may be some negative impact where there are increased travel distances following any rationalisation of facilities.</p> <p>Young people attending schools where there was joint use would benefit from access to enhanced sport and leisure facilities during the school day. A joint sport and active recreation and schools strategy will be pursued to achieve a single, shared outcome of more young people becoming active adults through more inspirational learning experiences.</p> <p>A collaborative approach with schools to motivate children and young people to adopt and continue healthy active lifestyles through inspirational physical activity experiences whilst they are in education.</p> <p>The consultation process has been used to seek views and information from individuals and from groups representing younger people.</p> <p><b>Action: Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts and work to address access for younger people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></p>



Marriage & Civil Partnership				X	
Pregnancy & Maternity				X	We have identified no adverse impact as long as pre and post natal classes are sustained at existing service levels.
Socio-economic Background		X			<p>All future provision will be accessible by public transport and will ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, geographic coverage across the county borough. Implementation ensures a fair and just allocation of resources that will provide for continued sport and leisure provision into the future for the benefit of all.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes a financially sustainable vision to secure sport and active recreation provision in the county borough into the future. In doing so any financial pressure to increase prices for customers is reduced thereby promoting accessibility across socio-economic groups.</p> <p>The Strategy proposes the redevelopment of Caerphilly Leisure Centre which is in the vicinity of the most deprived locality (St James 3) in the whole of Wales as defined within the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation.</p> <p>The Council's unique role will focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Working with others to make the best use of all available opportunities, facilities, funding and people;</li> <li>II. Making better and more innovative use of the widest possible range of indoor and outdoor physical activity spaces across all communities;</li> <li>III. Specialist interventions in approaches and places that will have the greatest long term health impact on priority target audiences in our communities and where no others are in a position to provide such assistance.</li> </ol>

5	<p><b>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.</b></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> <p>The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy will not have any effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p>
	<p><b>Actions required:</b> None</p>

## INFORMATION COLLECTION

6	<p><b>Is full information and analysis of users of the service available?</b>  <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> <p>In 2016 26.9% of people in the county borough aged 16-64 were disabled as defined by the Equalities Act.  In the 2011 Census 97.6% of the population are identified as English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British.  50.7 are identified as being of Christian religion with 48.32% identified as having no religion or religion not stated.  50.95% of the population of the county borough were female and 49.05% male.</p> <p>There are limitations in the data that we hold, but information analysis of 152,000 Sport and Leisure service users who hold Smartcards is as follows:  43% male, 52% female, 5% unspecified;  1.3% disabled;  3 different ages groups comprising of 50.9% aged 25-64, 35.9% under 25 and 13.2% over 64.  95.1% of Smartcard holders identified as English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British</p> <p>We do not hold data regarding other services users or other protected characteristics.</p>
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	<p>We have highlighted above limitations in the information that we hold, but have used the consultation process to strengthen this position and engaged directly with:</p> <p>Youth forum  50+ forum  Age Cymru  Deafblind.org  RNIB Cymru  Action Hearing Loss Cymru  BDA  Disability Can Do  Caerphilly County Borough Access Group  Caerphilly People First  Disability Sports Wales  Caerphilly Borough Mind  Gwent Education Multi-Ethnic Service (GEMS)  Race Equality Council  SEWREC  Umbrella Cymru  LGBTQ+ youth group  Stonewall Cymru  Menter Iaith  Welsh Language Forum including Meithrin etc.</p>
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## CONSULTATION

<b>7</b>	<p><b>What consultation has taken place?</b>  <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> <p>Full public consultation was undertaken. Organisations representing those with protected characteristics were consulted directly.</p>
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## MONITORING AND REVIEW

<b>8</b>	<p><b>How will the proposal be monitored?</b>  <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> <p>There are limitations in the data that we hold, but the consultation process has been used to strengthen our understanding.</p>
	<p><b>Actions required:</b></p> <p>1. Continue to review customer feedback via established Sport &amp; Leisure Service systems.</p>

<b>9</b>	<p><b>How will the monitoring be evaluated?</b>  <i>(What methods will be used to ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are being met?)</i></p> <p>Sport and Leisure Services operate a robust, systematic Customer Comments process that is regularly reviewed for trend data.</p> <p>Regular engagement with groups, clubs and organisations</p> <p>Customer Satisfaction survey and Net Promotor Score process</p>
	<b>Actions required: None</b>

<b>10</b>	<p><b>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified?</b>  <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> <p>No</p>
	<b>Actions required: None</b>

<b>11</b>	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>The proposal will ensure future sport and active recreation provision in the county borough alongside investment of some savings to enhance the quality and customer offer at strategic sites. It provides the opportunity to promote and increase participation in sport and active recreation.</p> <p>Disability</p> <p>All of the proposed strategic facilities are fully accessible and accessible by public transport.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities will be more attractive and accessible to families and people with carers.</p> <p>In promoting a sustainable vision for sport and active recreation provision it is recognised that participation in physical activity can have a positive effect on both mental and physical health. In particular levels of cardio vascular disease and type 2 diabetes are particularly high in the county. Participation in a physical activity can significantly reduce the risks for both existing sufferers and those most vulnerable.</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>We provide female only activities as part of our routine service delivery.</p>
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	<p>Age</p> <p>As identified in Section 3 above young people will positive benefit from the enhanced collaboration between the Sport and Leisure service and schools as well as from the strengthening of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.</p> <p>New and refurbished facilities with modern equipment will be particularly attractive to young people and therefore enhance accessibility.</p> <p><b>Summary of Proposed Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Take steps to mitigate any negative impacts due to longer travel distances and work to address access for people who rely on forms of transport other than private cars.</b></li> <li><b>2. Sustain female only activities at existing service levels.</b></li> <li><b>3. Continue to review customer feedback via established Sport &amp; Leisure Service systems.</b></li> </ol>
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<b>12</b>	<p><b>What outcome does this Equality Impact Assessment suggest you take?</b> You might find that more than one applies. Please explain why you have come to this decision.</p>	
	Outcome 1	<p><b>No major change needed</b> – the EIA hasn't identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken</p>
	Outcome 2	<p><b>Adjust the policy</b> to remove barriers identified by the EIA or better advance equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments will remove the barriers you identified?</p>
	Outcome 3	X
	Outcome 4	<p><b>Stop and rethink the policy</b> when the EIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination.</p>
	<p><b>Our Assessment is Outcome 3 – Continue the Policy</b></p> <p>We have reached this conclusion because although the potential for some negative impacts have been identified actions are proposed to mitigate these and the impacts are outweighed by the overall benefits of ensuring sustainable sport and active recreation provision across the county borough.</p>	

<b>Completed by:</b>	Rob Hartshorn
<b>Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2019
<b>Position:</b>	Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

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