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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Charlotte Evans
(Tel: 01443 864210 Email: evansca1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 30th March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

A digital meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 7th April, 2021 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.

This meeting will be recorded and made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals present and/or speaking at Cabinet will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy', enclosed in a large, loopy oval shape.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

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

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

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To approve and sign the following minutes: -

3 Cabinet held on 17th March 2021. 1 - 4

4 Cabinet held on 24th March 2021. 5 - 12

To note the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

5 Cabinet Forward Work Programme. 13 - 14

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

6 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme - Statutory Objection Report for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon. 15 - 98

7 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme - Statutory Objection Report for Trinity Fields School. 99 - 212

8 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme - Phase 2 Proposal for a Centre for Vulnerable Learners. 213 - 218

9 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme - Phase 2 Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School. 219 - 224

10 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme - Phase 2 Proposal for Plasyfelin Primary. 225 - 230

11 Review of Contract Management Arrangements in Waste Services. 231 - 238

12 Flexible Working Update Report. 239 - 252

13 Update on Fleet Review Work and Transition to Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles. 253 - 258

Circulation:

Councillors S. Cook, N. George, C.J. Gordon, P.A. Marsden, S. Morgan, L. Phipps, J. Ridgewell, Mrs E. Stenner and R. Whiting

And Appropriate Officers

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SPECIAL CABINET

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH MARCH 2021 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Marsden (Leader) - Chair

Councillors:

S. Cook (Social Care), N. George (Waste and Public Protection), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), S. Morgan (Economy and Enterprise), L. Phipps (Homes and Places), J. Ridgewell (Environment and Infrastructure), E. Stenner (Performance and Customer Services) and R. Whiting (Learning and Achievement).

Together with:

C. Harry (Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing) and M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities).

Also in Attendance:

L. Donovan (Head of People Services), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer), M. Harris (Committee Services Support Officer/Chauffeur), J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here To View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations for interest.

3. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE

Cabinet were provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports from 17th March 2021 to 21st April 2021. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

Cabinet thanked Officers for the extended Forward Work Programme and noted that it has been difficult to provide a further look at scheduled reports due to the ongoing Pandemic.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Forward Work Programme be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme be noted.

5. INTERIM REPORT FROM TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON NONRESIDENTIAL CARE CHARGES

The report provided Cabinet with an update on the Task and Finish inquiry into charging for non-residential social care within the county borough. This inquiry is being carried out by a sub-group of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee and they held their initial meeting on 25th September 2019.

The report recommended to Cabinet that it extends the current rate increases for the 2021/22 financial year. This would allow the Task and Finish group to continue their inquiry and to draft recommendations for Cabinet consideration on the charge for non-residential care from 2022/23 onwards.

The report gave a brief summary of information received by Members of the Task Group thus far and outlined how disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that final recommendations have not yet been reached and therefore cannot be applied to the rates for the 2021/22 financial year.

The report also provided a synopsis on the background to the current Task and Finish inquiry into charging for non-residential care within the county borough.

Cabinet thanked the Officer and Cabinet Member for the report and discussion ensued.

A Cabinet Member queried whether the recommendation would have an impact on affordability for services for users. Officers assured Members that whilst Caerphilly's fees are one of the lowest in Wales, each service user is means tested to determine their affordability. There are currently up to 40% of service users in receipt of the service free of charge as a result of means testing, which will continue to be applied for services.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's Report the decision to increase non-residential charges by 10% per annum for hourly rates and 20% per annum for daily rates be extended for a further year in to the 2021/22 financial year. The Task and Finish group on Non-Residential Care charges would then make recommendations for Cabinet consideration on the charge from 2022/23 onwards.

6. PUBLICATION OF GENDER PAY GAP DATA 2020 – EQUALITY ACT 2010 (SPECIFIC DUTIES AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES) REGULATIONS 2017

The report sought Cabinet approval for the publication of the Authority's gender pay gap written statement 2020.

It was noted that 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.

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 not required to be included within the scope of the Council's Gender Pay Gap Data. This reflects the unique employment legislation position whereby all schools' employees are employed by the local authority, but decisions about the appointment and management of such employees are mostly discharged by head teachers/governing bodies, as appropriate. Caerphilly Schools will not be required to publish and report their own specific figures as no School employs more than 250 staff.

It was noted that the Council's gender pay gap data is required to be published on our own 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 the average of men's and women's pay) and the median figure, (identifying the difference between the midpoints in the ranges of men's and women's pay). Employers are encouraged to produce a written statement explaining the data.

The Regulations further require the Council to publish the mean and median gender pay gap relating to bonus pay. Cabinet noted that the Council does not offer piecework or bonus incentive schemes.

Cabinet thanked the Officer and Cabinet Member for the report and discussion ensued.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's Report the written statement attached at Appendix 1 of the report detailing gender pay gap data for publication on the Council's website and the Government website online using the gender pay gap reporting service be agreed.

The meeting closed at 10.43am

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 7th April 2021.

CHAIR

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CABINET

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH 2021 AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Marsden (Leader) - Chair

Councillors:

S. Cook (Social Care), N. George (Waste and Public Protection), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), L. Phipps (Homes and Places), J. Ridgewell (Environment and Infrastructure), E. Stenner (Performance and Customer Services) and R. Whiting (Learning and Achievement).

Together with:

C. Harry (Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing) and M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities).

Also in Attendance:

A. Cullinane (Senior Policy Officer - Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation), A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), L. Lane (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer), S. Harris (Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer), K. Watkins (Communications and Tenant Engagement Officer), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), M. Harris (Committee Services Support Officer/Chauffeur) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

Councillor K. Etheridge (Blackwood Ward Member)

Observing – Councillor C. Mann

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed, unless the meeting moved into exempt session, but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here To View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor S. Morgan (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. CABINET – 17TH FEBRAURY 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2021 were approved as a correct record.

4. CABINET – 24TH FEBRUARY 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2021 were approved as a correct record.

5. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE

Cabinet were provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports from 24th March 2021 to 21st April 2021. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

Cabinet discussed the Cabinet Forward Programme and highlighted some amendments, which Officers agreed to update.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Forward Work Programme be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the aforementioned amendments, the Cabinet Forward Work Programme be noted.

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN

6. EXEMPT MATTER

Members considered the public interest test certificate from the Proper Officer and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and it was

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

7. WELSH GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC SITES PROGRAMME – OPPORTUNITIES FOR NESS TAR, CAERPHILLY. (NOT RECORDED)

The report afforded Cabinet the opportunity to consider Welsh Government's loan offer and requirements.

Cabinet were reminded that this item has been deemed an urgent item, with agreement from the Mayor, and therefore is not subject to Call-in.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report, the recommendations at paragraphs 3.1, be approved.

Recording of the meeting resumed.

8. WELSH GOVERNMENT RETAIL, LEISURE & HOSPITALITY RATE RELIEF SCHEME 2021/2022

The report provided Cabinet with details of the Welsh Government (WG) announcement that a new temporary business rate relief scheme, the 'Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme' will be made available for the financial year 2021/22 only.

It was noted that relief granted by the Authority under this new scheme is to be reimbursed by WG by way of a specific cash-limited grant but, before any relief is awarded, the Authority must consider and adopt the new scheme.

The report recommended that the Council endorses the new relief scheme in accordance with the WG guidance set out in Appendix 1.

Cabinet noted that the adoption of the scheme, as set out at Appendix 1 is obligatory because WG has prescribed the details for the scheme. The Authority must formally adopt the new scheme set out in the guidance at Appendix 1 in order to obtain the WG grant funding.

Cabinet were reminded that this item has been deemed an urgent item, with agreement from the Mayor, and therefore is not subject to Call-in.

Cabinet thanked the Officer and Cabinet Member for the report and discussion ensued.

A Member raised concerns for the team, who have worked tirelessly administering business grants and sought clarification on whether there was sufficient capacity to administer the additional monies proposed, so as not to increase pressure on the service. The Officer assured Cabinet that whilst the team have been working exceptionally hard to administer the grants, should the recommendations be endorsed, the monies will be administered as part of the automatic process, which is the reason for the urgency of the report, and will reduce pressure on staff.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

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

- i) The 'Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme 2021-22' (the 2021/22 Scheme), be agreed in accordance with the guidance set out at Appendix 1 of the Officers Report and the provisions of section 47(1) (a) and section 47(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988;
- ii) That the Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer will use delegated powers to award the relief be noted;
- iii) The proposal set out in paragraph 5.6 be supported in order to maximise take-up by ratepayers and minimise administration costs for the Authority, the rate relief will be applied directly to eligible ratepayers' bills based on records already held by the Council's Business Rates Team;
- iv) That Officers of the Authority will make the business community aware of the 2021/22 Scheme through its usual channels, including its website and social media be noted. In addition, it be agreed that where a business is not granted relief through the process set out in paragraph 5.6, they will be asked to submit an email explaining how they satisfy the scheme criteria to enable the Business Rates Team to determine their eligibility or otherwise.

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS THAT ARE SUBJECT TO CALL-IN

9. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN – ANNUAL MONITORING AND IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2019-2020

The report informed Cabinet of the progress made during the financial year 2019-2020 against targets in the Council's current Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020, and for Cabinet to approve for publication on the Council's website.

It was noted that the Council has a statutory duty to produce an annual monitoring report on Equalities issues under current legislation. The requirements are very detailed as to what relevant information must be included in the annual monitoring and improvement report (attached in full as an appendix).

The amount of information presented is therefore in order to ensure that the regulatory body involved (the Equality and Human Rights Commission) are provided with full evidence of the Council's compliance and commitment to those statutory duties.

The Strategic Equality Plan – Annual Monitoring and Improvement Report must be published by the 31st March the following year.

In addition, the Officer wished it noted that 5.4 of the report should read "The report demonstrates the Council's progress during the financial year 2019-2020 against targets in the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020".

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

Members discussed the report at length and raised several queries around the data and information within including the impact of the pandemic on services and service users and clarification on data around discriminatory incidents in schools. Officers explained that work is underway as part of the Covid recovery plans to ensure that services are accessible to all members of the borough and further clarification would be sought from Education around the discriminatory incidents in school's data and circulated to Cabinet.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's Report the annual monitoring and improvement report be approved for publication on the Council's website by the 31st March deadline.

10. REVIEW OF CORPORATE COMPLAINTS POLICY AND UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The report which was considered by the Audit Committee on 19th March 2021 sought Cabinet endorsement on the model Concerns and Complaints Policy at Appendix 1 of the report which is based on the model document issued by the Ombudsman together with the associated Statement of Principles attached at Appendix 2. These principles underpin the complaints handling process.

In light of the introduction of the new Model policy it is felt timely to ask Cabinet to review and endorse the provisions of the existing Policy for dealing with Unacceptable, Persistent or Unreasonable actions by Complainants. Cabinet were also asked to support the mechanisms for reporting, as set out in paragraph 5.11 of the Officers report.

The Officer provided Cabinet with the views and comments from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 19th March 2021, which were noted by Cabinet.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

Members discussed the report at length and raised queries around the response to complaints during the pandemic and the format of the response. It was noted that there have been some delays in which the complainant has not had a response within the stated 10 days, however, they were kept up to date with the process and notified of the reasons for any delay. Members were assured that all correspondence to complaints are provided in the same format in which they were received.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers Report: -

- i) The views of the Audit Committee be considered and the model Concerns and Complaints Policy at Appendix 1 of the Officers Report, the Statement of Principles at Appendix 2 and the Unreasonable Persistent or Unreasonable actions by Complainants Policy at Appendix 3 be agreed;
- ii) The reporting mechanisms be agreed so that Cabinet will receive reports twice yearly.

11. WHITE PAPER ON RE-BALANCING CARE AND SUPPORT – PRESENTATION.

Following discussion and for the reasons outlined at the meeting, it was agreed that the item would be deferred to a later date and rescheduled on the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

12. PEN MARCH WIND FARM – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The report sought Cabinet approval to enter into a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RWE, a renewable energy company, for a proposed wind farm development at land above Rhymney.

It was noted that initial discussions have been held between the Council and RWE as to the possibility of a shared ownership wind farm development on privately owned land north of Rhymney.

RWE are keen to proceed with this development and require the Council to sign up to the MoU to give them the comfort to allocate resources to modelling the shared ownership options for consideration.

It was noted that if a model is developed which is attractive to both parties, the Council would look to take a 'stake' in the development. Simplistically, it is likely that this will consist of a percentage of the build cost. The Council would then receive the same percentage return on the revenue generated by the project. The Council will also use the MoU to explore maximising the community benefits attributed to the project.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers Report: -

- i) The signing of the non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MuO) be approved;
- ii) It be approved that Officers work with RWE and the Welsh Government Energy Service to amend the MoU so it reflects the councils aspirations for the scheme.
- iii) It be approved that Officers work with RWE to explore shared ownership models; and
- iv) It be approved that shared ownership model options be presented to Cabinet at a future date for further discussion.

13. CAR PARKING CHARGES.

The report provided Cabinet with an update on the latest position with the Economic impact on town centres caused by the coronavirus pandemic and to recommend a further period of free car parking to support the local economy.

It was noted that many businesses within the County Borough have faced significant challenges as a result of Covid-19 and the lockdown and/or trading restrictions that have resulted. This included many town centre businesses and particularly the town centre hospitality sector.

Supporting town centres is a key feature of the Council's over-arching regeneration strategy (A Foundation for Success) and the Area Regeneration Masterplans that sit under the over-arching strategy.

The length of Welsh Government lockdown periods and the resultant restrictions on the retail and hospitality sector have placed significant pressure on the high street and businesses within our town centres. This continues to make the economic position extremely challenging for our town centre businesses.

It was noted that on 17th June 2020 the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Members and Acting Section 151 Officer took a delegated powers decision to temporarily suspend car parking charges until 31st December 2020 as part of the Covid economic recovery plan. On 9th December 2020 Cabinet took a further decision to extend the suspension of car parking charges until 31st March 2021.

In light of the continued economic challenges and continued imposition of trading restrictions this report therefore seeks Cabinet approval to further extend the temporary suspension of car parking charges until 30th September 2021.

Cabinet welcomed Councillor K. Etheridge - Blackwood Ward Member, who wished to thank Cabinet and Officers for the proposal to further defer Car Parking Charges in Town Centres to September, but asked whether it would be possible for this to be deferred to April 2022, in order for businesses to take advantage of the Autumn and Christmas period and encourage more visitors to the town centres. In addition, Councillor Etheridge asked Cabinet to consider the removal of charges on a permanent basis, using Welsh Government funding for Town Centres, which is being utilised in other Local Authorities.

Cabinet thanked the Councillor for the comments and the Officer provided a response to the points. It was noted that the car parking charges will be reviewed in September, however Members were asked to consider the financial implications for the permanent removal of charges. In addition, Cabinet were assured that the Welsh government loan funding referred

to by Cllr Etheridge has been awarded to the Local Authority, however the funding is to be generally utilised for one-off expenditure as part of a regeneration and placeshaping agenda and is not intended as a long term replacement for revenue funding streams such as car park charging income.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued and assurances were given that the Car Parking Charges will be reviewed in September.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers Report: -

- i) A further extension of the temporary suspension of car parking charges until 30 September 2021 be approved, subject to further review at that time;
- ii) It be agreed that the estimated income shortfall of circa £324k be funded from the £2.713m Covid-19 Earmarked Reserve approved by Council at its meeting on 10th September 2020.

The meeting closed at 11.09am

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 7th April 2021.

CHAIR

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Cabinet Forward Work Programme - April 2021

07/04/2021 10:30	Flexible Working Update Report	For Cabinet to consider the proposals for the next stages of the Flexible Working Corporate Review workstreams	Lloyd, Marcus; Edmunds, Richard (Ed);	Cllr. Gordon, Colin J;
07/04/2021 10:30	Review of Waste Services - Contract Management Arrangements	To consider proposals to strengthen contract management arrangements within Waste Services.	Harris, Stephen R;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
07/04/2021 10:30	Fleet Review Update	<i>To update Cabinet on the progress to date on the service review of the Councils fleet.</i>	Cooke, Paul; Richards, Sue;	Cllr. Ridgewell, John;
07/04/2021 10:30	21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme – Statutory Objection Report for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon	To consider the outcome of the Statutory Consultation process and recommendations in respect of the proposal to relocate and expand YGG Cwm Gwyddon	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;
07/04/2021 10:30	21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme – Statutory Objection Report for Trinity Fields School	To consider the outcome of the Statutory Consultation process and recommendations in respect of the proposed expansion to Trinity Fields Special School	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;
07/04/2021 10:30	21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme – Phase 2 Proposal for Plasyfelin Primary	To seek members views on the next phase of the 21st Century Schools Band B projects in order to proceed to Business Case submission to Welsh Government.	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;
07/04/2021 10:30	21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme – Phase 2 Llancaeach Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School	To seek members views on the next phase of the 21st Century Schools Band B projects in order to proceed to Business Case submission to Welsh Government.	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;
07/04/2021 10:30	21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme – Phase 2 Proposal For Centre For Vulnerable Learners	To seek members views on the next phase of the 21st Century Schools Band B projects in order to proceed	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;

		to Business Case submission to Welsh Government.		
21/04/2021 10:30	EAS Business Plan 2021-22	The EAS is required to submit an annual overarching regional Business Plan on an annual basis. This report asks for members to consider the full contents of the draft EAS Business Plan as part of the regional consultation process.	Cole, Keri;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;
21/04/2021 10:30	Team Caerphilly Transformation Programme – 6 monthly update	To provide members with an update on progress against the Team Caerphilly Transformation Strategy	Richards, Sue;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
21/04/2021 10:30	Corporate Performance Assessment Quarter 1/Quarter 2	To provide Cabinet with a high level performance update of the Council (from April – September 2020) based on the information from the Directorate Performance Assessments (DPA) for the same period.	Roberts, Ros; Richards, Sue;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
21/04/2021 10:30	Regeneration Board Project Update	To recommend the allocation of up to £107k Regeneration Project Board Development Fund towards a recently endorsed and evaluated project and note the allocation of Licence to Innovate Funding for Coffi Vista, Caerphilly. To consider the allocation of additional funding for the Regeneration Project Board	Kyte, Rhian;	Cllr. Morgan, Sean;
21/04/2021 10:30	Cwmcarn Forest Drive	To consider a proposed collaborative approach with NRW to enable the reopening of the Forest drive	Hudson, Paul; Kyte, Rhian;	Cllr. Morgan, Sean;



CABINET – 7TH APRIL 2021

SUBJECT: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION BAND B
PROGRAMME – STATUTORY OBJECTION REPORT FOR
YSGOL GYMRAEG CWM GWYDDON

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members in relation to the 21st Century Schools Band B proposal in respect of:
 - **Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon**
Relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose-built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated on the vacant site of the former Cwmcarn High School
- 1.2 The attached Objection Reports and supporting documentation outline the statutory process undertaken and provides clarification in relation to the information provided through consultee engagement, summarising the issues raised on the proposal.
- 1.3 The Objection Report, supporting documentation and recommendations were considered and endorsed by the Education Scrutiny Committee on 22nd March 2021.
- 1.4 Cabinet Members are asked to consider the information contained within the Objection Report and supporting documentation and make a final determination.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The 21st Century Schools Band B proposals for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon went to formal Statutory Notice stage between the 11th January 2021 and the 7th February 2021.
- 2.2 To discharge the Council's duty under the School Organisation Code 2018, there is now a requirement for Cabinet members to give due regard to the content of the Objection Report and make a final determination as whether to implement the proposal as outlined in the documentation.
- 2.3 Should Cabinet authorise progression of the project, a Decision letter will be published setting out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018.

2.4 A full Business Case will then be submitted to Welsh Government.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to:

- a) To seek a final determination by Cabinet Members on the recommendations made within the Objection Report to progress to implementation phase.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure that Members are updated on the progress of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme prior to making a final determination in respect of the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal and publish a Decision Letter in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Band B

5.1.1 The key aims of the 21st Century Schools and Education Band B investment programme, outlined by WG, is to:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools.
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location, providing enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education.
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate for use by both Schools and the wider Community.

5.1.2 The first two schemes identified as priority for Phase 1 of the Band B programme are the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and the relocation and expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

5.1.3 Further to Cabinet approval gained 9th December 2020, a Statutory Notice for the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal was published, and the formal objection period ran between 11th January 2021 and 7th February 2021. All documentation was published in Welsh and English, complying with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Information was also available in other languages and formats on request.

5.1.4 A prescribed list of recipients as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 were written to and a Statutory Notice was published electronically on the Council's website.

5.1.5 Hardcopies of the Statutory Notice were made available to the school and displayed in the school foyer, entrance gates and in close proximity to the proposed land for the developments, namely the North and South entrances to the former Cwmcarn High site. In addition, the school's internal communication network with parents and pupils was used to raise awareness of the process and publication of the Statutory Notice.

- 5.1.6 In light of the Covid restrictions imposed at the time of publication, Welsh Government issued a modification to the School Organisation Code 2018 which temporarily modifies section 4.1 of the Code in respect of the manner of publication of the statutory notice, as if the references to “school day” to now include a day on which there would have been a school session, but for any restriction on the attendance of pupils at the school in connection with the prevalence of coronavirus. Welsh Government confirmed that if a school was open to support keyworker or vulnerable pupils, as in the case of all the schools in Caerphilly, this would also be accepted as a ‘school day’ for the purposes of discharging this requirement under the code.
- 5.1.7 The Statutory Notice was published on a school day and consultees were given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.
- 5.1.8 The objection period opened on Monday 11th January 2021 (a school day) and concluded at midnight on Sunday 7th February 2021 to provide adequate time for response and conscientious consideration has been given to any responses received.
- 5.1.9 Under Section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer’s response to those objections (“the Objection Report”. The Objection Report in relation to the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal has been compiled and attached as an annex to this report.
- 5.1.10 The Objection Report and Decision Notice will be published electronically on the 21st Century Schools page on the Council’s website. Hard copies will be available on request.

5.2 **Conclusion**

Pursuant to the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, the formal statutory objection period has now concluded in relation to the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal and this report has been compiled to provide members with the necessary information to make an informed decision as to the final determination in relation to the proposal.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as it merely updates on the progress of individual projects.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 It is the recommendation of this Integrated Impact Assessment and in line with the processes outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 that Members endorse the proposal to relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose-built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated at the former Cwmcarn High School site.

The information gathered and reviewed as part of this IIA and through the consultation phase and formal objection period demonstrate the growing demand for Welsh medium education and the benefits of providing this through a single,

integrated facility in the Islwyn East area. Whilst concerns relating to the proposed location (Cwmcarn High School) and the impact on the local community in relation to English medium secondary provision has been identified, supporting evidence provided as part of the Consultation Report and Objection Report clearly establish that investment as proposed into a Welsh medium primary provision is warranted.

Therefore, Cabinet Members are asked to consider this Integrated Impact Assessment alongside the Objection Report and provide a final determination in support of progressing to full implementation of the project which involves full business case submission to Welsh Government and Property Services undertaking their full statutory planning application process

Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Members have previously agreed to earmark a total of £6.975m for Band B of the 21st Century Schools & Colleges Programme.
- 8.2 Phase 1 of the programme, YGG Cwm Gwyddon and expansion of totals £9,632,127. The Authority's contribution within this sum is £3,266,332.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 These will be dependent on specific proposals and have been considered as part of the consultation process.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

10.2 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Members received contributions from a parent governor at Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon, one of the Ward Members Cllr Whitcombe, a Cwmcarn resident and a presentation from the 21st Century Schools Manager.

One Member asked about future expansion opportunities for English-language provision on the site. The 21st Century Schools Manager advised that there was no evidence to suggest there was a need for expansion of English-medium schools. It was explained that there was adequate provision to accommodate catchment demand and that there were surplus places in both Primary and Secondary provision.

The 21st Century Schools Manager also provided a response in relation to a matter raised in the presentation by the Cwmcarn resident regarding lack of financial investment for English Medium Schools within the locality. It was confirmed that there had been an investment of circa £6.2m into the English Medium schools over the last ten years.

Following consideration and discussion the Education Scrutiny Committee by a majority present, and in noting in that there were fourteen votes for, no abstentions

and one vote against, ENDORSED the recommendation of the 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme – Statutory Objection Report for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government) School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Author: Andrea West, 21st Century Schools Manager

Consultees: Christina Harray, Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director Public Services
Councillor Ross Whiting, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Carol Andrews, Vice Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Jared Lougher, Sport and Leisure Development Manager
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion & ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities, Welsh Language & Consultation)
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Ros Roberts, Business Improvement Officer
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Background Papers:

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Objection Report – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon

Appendix 2 Integrated Impact Assessment

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21st Century Schools Objection Report

YSGOL GYMRAEG CWM GWYDDON



Proposal : **Relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated on the vacant site of the former Cwmcarn High School**

Formal Statutory Objection Period : 11th January 2021 – 7th February 2021

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.



Ysgolion a Cholegau yr 21ain Ganrif
21st Century Schools and Colleges



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary

Caerphilly County Borough Council aspires to continue to raise school standards and improve the quality of the learning environment to create fit-for-purpose 21st century schools and give every child in Caerphilly the best possible start in life.

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon has been identified as one of the first priority projects for the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme in the Borough.

At their remote meeting held on the 9th December 2020, Council Cabinet agreed the proposal to progress to Statutory Notice phase, in-line with the School Organisation Code 2018 in relation to:

- **The relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated on the vacant site of the former Cwmcarn High School**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the above mentioned decision was subject to a challenge process. The decision notice was circulated to all Members and appropriate officers. The executive decision came into force at 5pm on Monday 14th December 2020. Please note that this decision was not 'called in'.

Statutory Obligations

This report is published in line with the requirements of the [School Standards and Organisation \(Wales\) Act 2013](#) and the [School Organisation Code 2018](#).

Purpose of the Objection Report

In accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018, the Council must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the Council's responses to those objections ("the Objection Report"). The purpose of the Objection Report is to provide Cabinet with the necessary information to make an informed decision through reflection, review and assessment as to whether to implement the proposal.

The Report is divided into several sections with the aim to:

- Outline the Statutory processes undertaken
- Provide clarification in relation to the information provided and consultee engagement
- Summarise each of the Statutory Objections raised by consultees
- Respond to the Objections raised by means of clarification, with supporting reasons

Full details of the decision making process and the stages of the proposal as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 have been published as part of the Consultation Documentation and are publicly available via the Council's website with hardcopies made available on request.



PROPOSAL

What are we proposing to do?

As outlined in the [Consultation Document](#) and [Consultation Report](#), both of which have been published and are available via the Council's website or in hardcopy on request, Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has embarked upon an exciting but challenging journey of improvement and change.

Schools in Wales need to be in good condition and suitable for the delivery of education. In some cases, schools can be modernised, repaired, refurbished, extended, or partially rebuilt to meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning. However, some existing schools are no longer in the right place and in such cases, we might propose new schools or changes to existing schools.

The 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales with the priority areas being:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location
- Provide enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate

We are proposing to:

- **Relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated on the vacant site of the former Cwmcarn High School (Cwmcarn, NP11 7NG) with an anticipated occupation date of September 2023**
- It is proposed that the new building will incorporate a primary facility with Childcare, Special Resource Base (SRB), Nursery, Rising Threes and main school classrooms, main assembly hall, food technology space, a library and IT space
- The identified site will have sufficient accommodation to facilitate a new building that will provide accommodation for approximately 420 pupils plus 60 nursery places and 16 SRB places and ensure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development and delivery of inclusive education through delivery of the full curriculum to pupils in a modern, safe and inspiring learning environment
- The new building will provide a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT facilities. The design will be centered on the learning, self-esteem and well-being of all pupils and improve lifelong learning opportunities for members of the community to strengthen and safeguard the promotion of the Welsh language, culture and heritage across Caerphilly East
- The new building will improve the outside learning space offering external play areas, a tarmac MUGA area and access to a grass pitch. The usage of sporting facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable

- The proposed project will take into account the desire to encourage and facilitate community use of the asset. The design process will seek to include measures to enable safe 'zoning' of parts of the new school building, including the hall and a multi-functional classroom compliant space which could be adapted for community use

STATUTORY PROCESS AND DECISION MAKING

The Statutory Process

The School Organisation Code 2018 is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined at Section 98 of the 2013 Act. That is a school in Wales, which is a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community special school or a maintained nursery school. This does not include pupil referral units (PRUs).

The School Organisation Code 2018, provides clear statutory guidance as to the processes that need to be adhered to and the stages to follow:

1) Changes that require a proposal

- Identifying the proposal
- Development of proposal

2) Consultation

- Publishing a Consultation Document
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders (as prescribed by the code)
- Undertaking a consultation exercise
- Consultation with children and young people
- Publishing a Consultation Report
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders

3) Publication of Statutory Proposals

- Publishing a Statutory Notice
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders

4) Determining Proposals

- Publishing an Objection Report
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders
- Approval by Local Authority or Welsh Minister (dependent on nature of proposal)
- Decision Notification
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders

5) Implementing Proposals

- Carrying out agreed actions

The planning and development of effective school organisation proposals is crucial to the Welsh Government's goal of transforming education in Wales and providing better educational outcomes. The aim is to ensure that proposals support the Welsh Government's commitment to increase school effectiveness, and narrow inequalities in achievement between advantaged and disadvantaged areas, groups and individuals.

When formulating a proposal, there is a need to clearly identify the reasons for formulating the proposal. Factors to be taken into account in preparing, publishing, approving or determining school organisation proposals include Quality and Standards in Education, the need for places and impact on accessibility, resourcing of education and other financial implications. These factors are outlined in the [Consultation Document](#) and further addressed in the [Consultation Report](#).

Cabinet Response to Consultation Report

A digital meeting via Microsoft teams took place on Wednesday 9th December 2020 at 5.30pm.

As part of this meeting, the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme and consultation in respect of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon was discussed. All Consultation Documentation was made available to members as part of the agenda reports pack including the [Consultation Report](#) and original responses in the format received from all parties within the consultation period which ran from the 14th September to the 26th October 2020. Officers linked to the proposal were available to take questions.

It was noted that the matter was previously considered by Education Scrutiny Committee on the 26th November 2020 at which the recommendation to proceed to the Statutory Notice stage was agreed.

It was agreed that a vote in respect of the proposal would be taken and be officially recorded. Cabinet Members voted unanimously *'that for the reasons contained in the Officers Report to Cabinet, agree the proposal to progress the project to the Statutory Notice phase, in-line with the School Organisation Code 2018.'*



A recording of the session is available on YouTube: [Cabinet – 9th December 2020](#)

The agenda item linked to the 21st Century Schools proposals start at 28 minutes in to the recording.

The [Notice of Cabinet Decisions](#) document is also available to view on the Council's website.

Decision Making

Progression at each stage is subject to scrutiny, review and approval by Cabinet Members and in addition, Welsh Government are engaged in the process as one of the key delivery partners and co-funders.

When approving proposals, Cabinet must:

- consider whether there are any other related proposals
- ensure that the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with this Code (the requirement to consult does not apply to proposals relating to Pupil Referral Units)
- ensure that the proposal has been published in accordance with the Code and the notice contains all the required information
- consider the [Consultation Document](#) and [Consultation Report](#)
- consider the objections and the objection report and any responses to the notice supporting the proposals

This Objection Report has been produced as the next stage in the process following the Statutory Objection Period as defined by the School Organisation Code 2018. This Objection Report will be subject to initial scrutiny as part of discussions at an Education Scrutiny Committee meeting whereby Members will be asked to note the information contained in the Objection Report and to seek views on the recommendations made within this the Objection Report prior to consideration by Cabinet on 7th April 2021.

Cabinet will then make the final determination relating to the proposal and decide whether or not to proceed to implementation as recommended. Full details are outlined in the [‘Next Steps’](#) section.

STATUTORY NOTICE

Statutory Notice - Consultation Process

The consultation process has followed the Welsh Government requirements as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

As the proposal relates to a ‘regulated alteration’ to a Maintained school under Section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the proposals have been published on the Council’s website.

Following the decision by Cabinet outlined above to proceed to Statutory Notice, anyone wishing to make an objection to this proposal was able to do so. To be considered as a statutory objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and sent to the Council within the 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published. This is referred to as the “objection period” and ran from the 11th January 2021 to the 7th February 2021.

Statutory Notice - Consultation Information

The School Organisation Code 2018 states that when undertaking a consultation process in connection with a school proposal, the Council must publish information to enable transparent, balanced and open decision making.

The Statutory Notice was published on a school day and consultees were given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996. The objection period opened on Monday 11th January 2021 (a school day) and concluded at midnight on Sunday 7th February 2021.

Notices were published on the 11th January 2021 as follows:

- On the [council website](#)
- On or near the main entrance of the school which was subject to the proposal
- The school was provided with hardcopies of the Statutory Notice to distribute to pupils, parents/carers and staff.
- Prescribed consultees as listed in the School Organisation Code 2018 were notified in writing via email/letter
- Social Media Messages were released on Facebook and Twitter to advise of the publication of the Notice and direct interested parties to the Council website

All documentation was published in Welsh and English, complying with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Information was also available in other languages and formats on request.

Stakeholder Engagement

Consultees were advised of the proposal and availability of the Statutory Notice and all prior documentation published relating to the proposal, when it went live on the 11th January 2021 via letter/email and were therefore invited to take part in this stage of the statutory consultation.

The School Organisation Code 2018, prescribes those individuals/groups considered key consultees in the consultation process. As per section 4.1 of the code, the list below presents the consultees engaged with relevant to proposals of this nature for the Caerphilly Borough.

- Parents, prospective parents, guardians and carers of all pupils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Headteacher, staff and governors of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Pupils/Pupil Councils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen
- Catholic Diocesan Board of Education
- Church in Wales Diocesan Board
- Local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
- Governing body of other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposal
- Local CCBC Members
- All Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing the area served by the schools directly affected by the proposal
- Welsh Ministers
- ESTYN
- Teaching Associations
- Support Staff Associations
- South East Wales Consortium (EAS)
- South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA)
- Gwent and South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners
- Local Town and Community Councils
- Menter Iaith

- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Parent Network
- Welsh Education Forum
- Any consultee who has previously expressed concern as part of their consultation response during the period of 14th September 2020 – 26th October 2020.

In the case of proposals affecting Welsh Language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner is also considered a consultee and was contacted in relation to this proposal.

Implications of COVID19

Section 4.1 of the School Organisation Code 2018 states that a Statutory Notice has to be published on a school day and consultees given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days in addition to the day it was published, as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.

In light of Covid restrictions imposed at the time of publication, Welsh Government issued a modification to the School Organisation Code 2018 on the 8th January 2021 which temporarily modified section 4.1 of the Code in respect of the manner of publication of the statutory notice, as if the references to 'school day' now includes a day on which there would have been a school session, but for any restriction on the attendance of pupils at the school in connection with the prevalence of coronavirus.

In addition, the School Effectiveness Division of Welsh Government confirmed that if a school was open to support keyworker or vulnerable pupils, as was in the case of all the schools in Caerphilly at this time, this would also be accepted as a 'school day' for the purposes of discharging this requirement under the code.

Therefore, in light of the information above, the publication date of the 11th January 2021, falls within the definition of a 'School day' and the Statutory Objection period proceeded within the scope and requirements as prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018.



STATUTORY OBJECTION

Responses

Overall a total of 2 Statutory Objections were received during the Statutory Notice stage of the consultation process.

To be considered as a statutory objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and submitted within the Objection Period. All objections submitted, regardless of whether the respondent was classified as a consultee as per the School Organisation Code 2018 have been included in the figures reported. All responses have been individually read, reviewed and summarised in this report and original copies of all correspondents are available to Cabinet Members as part of the decision making process.

It should be noted that this process as prescribed by Welsh Government, provides no opportunity for inclusion of responses in support of the proposal.

Of the prescribed methods for providing a response during the consultation period:

- 0 responses received via letter
- 2 responses received via email

0 responses (0%) were returned in the medium of Welsh with the remaining 2 responses (100%) in English.

The 21st Century Schools Team received 0 requests for the documentation to be provided in another format or language.

Reasons for the Objection and Council Clarification

The following table provides a summary of the Statutory Objections received during the objection period as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018

Area of Objection:	Overview
Prioritisation of Welsh Medium Education	Respondents queried the justification for the proposal prioritisation of Welsh Language provision in the area and the perception of discrimination against non-Welsh speaking children.
Need for New Secondary School in area	Both respondents expressed concerns relating to the capacity of local secondary school provision in the area and the need to create a new secondary school on the proposed site for development.

In accordance with Section 5.1 of the School Organisation Code 2018, the Council, as the proposer, must publish its response to the summarised objections. The table below provides a non-verbatim description from the objections received of the individual areas requiring further clarification and the Council's response to each in turn.

Area of Objection:	Prioritisation of Welsh Medium Education
Areas requiring clarification:	Council's Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasoning for Welsh Medium school investment 	<p>The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019, places a statutory duty on the Council to assess the demand for Welsh medium education in the area and develop a 5 year Welsh language strategy, with the aim of increasing the number of Welsh speakers and the use of the Welsh Language within the county borough.</p> <p>The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) sets out Caerphilly's commitment to the Promotion of Welsh language and the provision of quality, attractive educational facilities, striving to stimulate demand for Welsh medium education. The Council is dedicated to providing educational facilities that meet the needs of our pupils and local communities and has identified a need to invest in Ysgol Gymraeg</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon Proposal Investment in local English medium provision Equality Impact Assessment 	<p>Cwm Gwyddon, meeting the increasing demand for education through the medium of Welsh</p> <p>Proposals have been prioritised based on a number of factors including building condition and overall suitability as well as local and national drivers, however, the delivery of the curriculum and the Educational agenda remains at the core.</p> <p>When comparing primary provision in the area:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="448 499 1441 792"> <thead> <tr> <th>Primary School Name</th> <th>Taught Medium</th> <th>Condition Rating</th> <th>No. of Class rooms</th> <th>Size Compliant Class rooms</th> <th>Demountables</th> <th>Overall Suitability</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Abercarn</td> <td>English</td> <td>B</td> <td>10</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cwmcarn</td> <td>English</td> <td>C+</td> <td>12</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wauanfawr</td> <td>English</td> <td>B</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>0</td> <td>A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cwm Gwyddon</td> <td>Welsh</td> <td>C</td> <td>11</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>C</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon ranks lowest in condition and suitability. In addition, at its current location, the school has reached its capacity in relation to any further developments on the existing grounds, whereas the local English medium provisions have that opportunity moving forward should the demand be required.</p> <p>The Council is dedicated to providing all learners with quality learning opportunities. The 21st Century Schools programme is only one mechanism for infrastructure investment in our Schools. The Council continuously improves the quality of school buildings through the Capital Investment Programme. Schools are invited to submit applications annually to support improvement works. Any works that are identified via the Health and Safety team are also undertaken.</p> <p>An Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been carried out in relation to this proposal and this will be further reviewed as required.</p>	Primary School Name	Taught Medium	Condition Rating	No. of Class rooms	Size Compliant Class rooms	Demountables	Overall Suitability	Abercarn	English	B	10	6	2	B	Cwmcarn	English	C+	12	6	1	A	Wauanfawr	English	B	7	7	0	A	Cwm Gwyddon	Welsh	C	11	4	2	C
Primary School Name	Taught Medium	Condition Rating	No. of Class rooms	Size Compliant Class rooms	Demountables	Overall Suitability																														
Abercarn	English	B	10	6	2	B																														
Cwmcarn	English	C+	12	6	1	A																														
Wauanfawr	English	B	7	7	0	A																														
Cwm Gwyddon	Welsh	C	11	4	2	C																														
<p>Area of Objection:</p>	<p>Need for New Secondary School in area</p>																																			
<p>Areas requiring clarification:</p>	<p>Council's Response</p>																																			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwmcarn High School demolition 	<p>Reference to the former Cwmcarn High School on the proposed site has been made as part of an objection. In line with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the Governing Body of Cwmcarn High School made the proposal to discontinue the school in October 2018 based on a number of deciding factors. This decision was not based on any 21st Century Schools proposals.</p>																																			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand for English Medium Secondary School 	<p>When considering any proposal for investment through the 21st Century Schools Programme, a holistic view of the educational estate is taken and information relating to pupils including current levels, school capacity, catchments and pupil projections from all schools in the Borough are taken into account. No additional English medium secondary provision has been identified in the Cwmcarn area as a result of the data analysis undertaken at present.</p>																		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newbridge / Risca Comprehensive school capacity 	<p>Queries relating to the capacity of the 2 geographically closest secondary schools were raised as part of the Consultation process and have been again as part of the Objection Period. As part of this proposal, both local English medium secondary schools were identified as having adequate provision at their current locations for their catchment pupils.</p>																		
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Capacity</th> <th>Number on Roll Sept 2020</th> <th>% Catchment pupils on roll</th> <th>% Out of Catchment</th> <th>% Out of County</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Newbridge</td> <td>1017</td> <td>991</td> <td>65.59%</td> <td>17.46%</td> <td>16.95%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Risca</td> <td>729</td> <td>661</td> <td>82.45%</td> <td>12.56%</td> <td>4.99%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		School	Capacity	Number on Roll Sept 2020	% Catchment pupils on roll	% Out of Catchment	% Out of County	Newbridge	1017	991	65.59%	17.46%	16.95%	Risca	729	661	82.45%	12.56%	4.99%
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<p>In addition, as part of the 21st Century Schools Band A programme, Newbridge School received an investment of £2 million to provide an additional 9 classrooms and ancillary facilities. Both schools also access investment into the building through the Council's Education Capital Investment Programme.</p>																			

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Learner Voice

Learner voice is about involving the children and young people as active participants in the development, delivery, management and improvement of their educational experience.

Throughout every stage of the process, children and young people at the proposed affected school has been involved in the planning and consultation process as outlined and demonstrated in the [Consultation video](#), [Consultation Document](#) and [Consultation Report](#).

However, as outlined previously, at this stage in the process as prescribed by Welsh Government, there is no opportunity for inclusion of responses in support of the proposal as part of this document. Members are urged to be mindful of this as part of their deliberations moving forward.

Integrated Impact Assessment

Local authorities are already under a duty to carry out equality impact assessments and this is recognised by Welsh Government as part of the School Organisation Code 2018.

An initial Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment for this proposal was undertaken alongside the original Consultation Document forming part of the outline consultation pack which is published on the Council's website.

A new socio-economic duty set out in section 1 of the Equality Act 2010, comes into force on 31st March 2021, therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) template will be utilised to update the existing Equality Impact Assessment and include any additional elements highlighted through the statutory consultation processes. The purpose of this further assessment is to take account of any further information that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.

The utilisation of the new IIA design will further help support Cabinet Members in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

Local and National Strategies

There are a number of local and national strategies that drive Educational reform and underline the rationale for the proposals being considered as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme in Caerphilly.

- [Welsh Language Act 1993 / Welsh Language \(Wales\) measure 2011](#)
- [Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal \(Wales\) Act 2017](#)
- [The Childcare Act 2006 \(Local Authority Assessment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2016](#)
- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)
- [Welsh Government - Education in Wales: Our National Mission](#)
- [Welsh Government - Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy Action Plan 2019- 2021](#)
- [Welsh Government - 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme](#)
- [Caerphilly - 'Shared Ambitions' Education Attainment Strategy 2019 - 2022](#)
- [Caerphilly - #Team Caerphilly: Better Together Transformation Strategy](#)
- [Caerphilly - Welsh Education Strategic Plan](#)
- [Caerphilly - Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022](#)
- [Caerphilly - Corporate Plan \(including Wellbeing Objectives 2018-2023\)](#)
- [Caerphilly – Education Other Than At School \(EOTAS\) Strategy 2020](#)
- [Caerphilly - Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024](#)
- [Caerphilly - Communication and Engagement Strategy 2019-2022](#)

NEXT STEPS

Publication of Objection Report

Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, when objections have been received the Council must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the Council's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").

- The Objection Report will be published and posted on the Council's website with hard copies available on request.
- The Consultees as identified on pages 8/9 of this report will be advised by letter or email of the availability of the Objection Report.

Cabinet 'Objection Report' Decision

Where a local authority's proposals have received objections, objections must be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments in respect of the proposals and in the light of the factors set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

Further to review at Education Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd March 2021, this document will be considered in full at a Cabinet meeting due to be held on 7th April 2021.

At this meeting the following documentation will be made available to Members.

- a copy of the [Consultation Document](#)
- a copy of the [Consultation Report](#)
- a copy of the [Published Statutory Notice](#) and [Notification Letter sent to Consultees](#)
- a copy of the updated Integrated Impact Assessment
- a copy of the Objection Report
- copies of all the statutory objections in their original format

Cabinet Members will be asked to review the proposal and make the final determination as to whether to implement the proposal as outlined below:

To relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated on the vacant site of the former Cwmcarn High School

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of this Objection Report that in line with the processes outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 and the information gathered and reviewed as part of the consultation phase and formal objection period that Members endorse the proposal outlined above and permission is given as part of Cabinet's final determination to progress to implementation phase.

Decision Notification

Decisions (in relation to proposals which require approval or determination) must be made and issued in the form of a decision letter. The decision letter must set out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Decision letter will be published electronically on the Council's website and the consultees as outlined in Section 5.6 of the School Organisation Code will be advised by letter/email of the availability of the document.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Annex 1 :

[Consultation Document](#)
[Consultation Report](#)

Annex 2:

[Notification Letter sent to Consultees](#)



19 Penallta, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Newport CF82 7PG

CAERPHILLY
CAERFFILI

Ysgol Gyhoeddus Cymreolaidd - Ading 4 Dinaswaliaeth Cymreolaidd
Corporate Director - Education and Corporate Services

Ysgolion yr Ffyn Gornel
21st Century Schools

Ref: LT1251W
21st Century Schools
01443 894817

11th January 2021

Dear Consultees

In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2018, we are writing to inform you about the publication of a Statutory Notice.

The proposal is in connection with:

- **The relocation and expansion of Ysgol Gymsg Cwm Gwyddon.**

Anyone wishing to make objections to this school organisation proposal now has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as a statutory objection, objections must be made in writing or by email, and received before the end of 28 day objection period which concludes on the 7th February 2021.

Objections by email should be sent to 21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk

Objections in writing should be sent to Caerphilly County Borough Council, for the attention of the 21st Century Schools Team, Directorate of Education and Corporate Services, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7PG.

It is recommended that you refer to the background information contained in the Consultation Document and Consultation Reports prior to submitting a response.

Full details and all relevant documentation in relation to the proposal can be found at: www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools

Regards
21st Century Schools Team
Caerphilly County Borough Council

Published Statutory Notice



19 Penallta, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Newport CF82 7PG

CAERPHILLY
CAERFFILI

Ysgol Gyhoeddus Cymreolaidd - Ading 4 Dinaswaliaeth Cymreolaidd
Corporate Director - Education and Corporate Services

Statutory Notice
School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 that Caerphilly County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required by relevant legislation, proposes to make the proposed alterations as follows:

Relocate Ysgol Gymsg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated on the vacant site of the former Cwmaman High School (Cwmaman, NP11 7WJ) with an anticipated operative date of September 2023.

The school is currently maintained by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

The Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's response and Cwmaman full response is available on the Council website at: www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools

It is proposed to implement the proposal with an anticipated effective date being circa September 2023.

The current number of pupils at the school at present is 207 plus 31 nursery pupils, the present capacity of the school is 251 pupils.

The admission number for Ysgol Gymsg Cwm Gwyddon in the first school year in which the proposal will be implemented will be 45 for each year group (including nursery). However, this will be increased incrementally by 5 per year until it reaches the full capacity of 60 pupils.

The proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 355 in the first year, which will be increased incrementally by 5 per year group until it reaches the full capacity of 422 pupils, plus 56 nursery and 18 special resource base places.

It is proposed that the catchment area for Ysgol Gymsg Cwm Gwyddon will remain unchanged as outlined in the Consultation Document (page 14).

The Council's policy on school transport, which provides eligible pupils of statutory school age free transport to the nearest school (i.e. nearest to nearest school) if more than a distance of 1.8 miles from home to school (single unidirectional).

Objection Period
Within a period of 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say, between Monday 11th January 2021 and Sunday 7th February 2021, any person may object to the proposals in writing or by email to the proposer.

Objections by email should be sent to 21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk

Objections in writing should be sent to Caerphilly County Borough Council, for the attention of the 21st Century Schools Team, Directorate of Education and Corporate Services, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7PG.

The Council will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, at the time of notification to stakeholders of the determination of the proposal.

Statutory Notice
Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services

Ysgolion yr Ffyn Gornel
21st Century Schools

For Caerphilly County Borough Council
Dated: 11th January 2021

EXPLANATORY NOTE
(This does not form part of the notice but is intended to explain its general meaning)

Caerphilly County Borough Council proposes to relocate and expand Ysgol Gymsg Cwm Gwyddon (Gwyddon R.C. Amanaw, Newport NP11 5QX) with effect from the 21st August 2023 to a new proposed site.

With effect from the 1st September 2023, pupils in the existing school will transfer to the new school site of (Ysgol Ffyn Gornel, Cwmaman, Newport NP11 7WJ).

Annex 3: Statutory Objections Statement

Cabinet Members will be provided with full copies of all the objections received in their original format.

Annex 4: Objection Report Notification Letter sent to Consultees



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Caerphilly County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

This integrated impact assessment (IIA) has been designed to help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of Equality Act 2010
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

PLEASE NOTE: Section 3 *Socio-economic Duty* only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions. See page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.

1. Proposal Details					
Lead Officer	Head of Service	Service Area & Department			Date
Andrea West	Sue Richards	21 st Century Schools, Education and Corporate Services			01/03/2021
Is this proposal a... (please tick relevant box)					
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy / Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Restructure	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What is the proposal to be assessed? <i>Provide brief details of the proposal and provide a link to any relevant report or documents.</i>
<p>21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme - Band B Phase 1 – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon</p> <p>Schools in Wales need to be in good condition and suitable for the delivery of education. In some cases, schools can be modernised, repaired, refurbished, extended, or partially rebuilt to meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning. However, some existing schools are no longer in the right place and in such cases, we might propose new schools or changes to existing schools.</p> <p>CCBC aspires to continue to raise school standards and improve the quality of the learning environment to create fit-for-purpose 21st century schools and give every child in Caerphilly the best possible start in life. The 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme is a</p>

major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon has been identified as one of the priority projects in the 21st Century Schools Band B programme.

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon is designated as a 'Community School' as per the definition in Chapter 4 of Part 1 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and aims to assist primary age pupils within its catchment area "*to reach their full potential in an environment where the Welsh Language thrives*". – School Mission Statement.

The Council wishes to make a 'regulated alteration' to a maintained school in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.

- To relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose-built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated at the former Cwmcarn High School site (*Cwmcarn, NP11 7NG*) with an anticipated occupation date of September 2022.
 - It is proposed that the new building will incorporate a primary facility with Childcare, Special Resource Base (SRB), Nursery, Rising Threes and main school classrooms, main assembly hall, food technology space, a library and Information Technology space.
 - The new building will have improved outside learning space offering external play areas, a tarmac Multi Use Games Area and access to a grass pitch. The use of sporting facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable.
- To stimulate demand for Welsh medium education, which we know is more sustainable for families if education provision is expanded in line with childcare availability in line with the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP).
- To provide additional opportunities for Welsh immersion, facilitate growth in Welsh medium education and use of the Welsh language that will contribute to meeting the Welsh Government's aim of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- To agree that officers can proceed to procurement and construction and agree the establishment of an earmarked reserve facility in the Education area of the Council's accounts.

Further information is available on the [21st Century Schools webpages](#)



Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif

21st Century Schools



2. Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

(The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups). Please note that an individual may have more than one protected characteristic.

Protected Characteristics	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view?
Page 41 Age (people of all ages)	<p>Positive The proposal seeks to cater for pupils aged 3-11 and with plans to support community usage, therefore has the potential to benefit all age ranges.</p> <p>Positive Children and young people will be supported to increasingly speak Welsh as part of their everyday routine, improve potential education and career prospects and realise the value of the language.</p> <p>Positive The proposal seeks to maintain and expand Welsh Language</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the importance of the Learner Travel. The site identified for the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon is the former English Medium Secondary Cwmcarn High School site. The safety of children is of paramount importance and the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 requires local authorities to assess the suitability of travel for learners between home and places of education and training. It is the intention of the Authority to provide a system of transport that will seek to ensure pupils can safely and</p>	<p>Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (legislation.gov.uk)</p> <p>Key legislation giving the Welsh Language official legal status in Wales.</p> <p>Caerphilly - Census 2011 ward profiles</p> <p>According to the 2011 Census, Caerphilly county borough had 19,251 Welsh speakers (11.2% of the population) and according to the Pupil Level Annual School Census figures from January 2016, 16.9% of the primary school population and 12.7% of the</p>

	<p>Educational provision to include childcare and Additional Learning Needs Provision. The development of Welsh medium childcare provision on site adjacent to the Welsh medium Foundation Phase nursery will enable continuity of provision for parents as well as continue to strengthen the Welsh language acquisition of the youngest children.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>The provision of wraparound, after school and holiday provision will enable working families to have the same access to provision as their English medium counterparts as well as enabling children to have social play experiences through the medium of Welsh. There is a positive impact on the Welsh language of all services being on a single site in a cohesive development and making it sustainable for the longer term.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>The proposal would seek to extend regular informal opportunities for parents to develop their Welsh language skills so as to assist their children to acquire and gain confidence in their ability to use the Welsh language.</p>	<p>comfortably access their education. The proposed new location was a former school site and as such a number of 'Safe Travel' routes, as far as reasonably practicable are already established which includes designated bus points, underpass/overpass points, lighting and designated footpaths. The walking route from the existing site is less than 1 mile and as such would not be deemed to cause unreasonable levels of stress or take an unreasonable amount of time in line with the measure.</p> <p>The Authority has recognised the relationship between the existing school and maintaining the Welsh Language in the village and the school's contribution towards it. The current school site hosts a limited number of activities for the community to participate in through the medium of Welsh and English and this would be extended at the new facility.</p> <p>However, the Authority will look to minimise any adverse effects that the relocation of the school through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting existing Welsh-language community activities and share good practice. 	<p>secondary school population were in Welsh medium education.</p> <p><u>Caerphilly - Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022</u></p> <p>The target to increase the Welsh speaking population by 3% over the duration of the strategy</p> <p>This proposal will support the following areas identified in the Strategy.</p> <p><i>Strategic area 1-</i></p> <p>Promoting use of the Welsh language within the Family through an Increase in the number of families where the Welsh language is spoken with the children</p> <p><i>Strategic area 2 -</i></p> <p>Increase the use of the Welsh language amongst children and young people, improve their awareness of the value of Welsh, and ensure better access to Welsh-medium social events and services through increasing the number of children accessing Welsh medium education.</p> <p><i>Strategic area 3-</i></p> <p>Support community groups and help them to increase the use of the Welsh language within their localities.</p> <p><i>Strategic area 5-</i></p>
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	<p>Positive</p> <p>The current Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon school site has reached its capacity in terms of accommodation and any further expansion on site. The main building has a Category C rating and due to a camber on site, there are split levels. A new school will facilitate positive educational outcomes for children in the future on the area who wish to be educated through the medium of Welsh</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Proposal seeks to relocate the school to a location 0.7 miles from the existing school on the site which may result in additional travel for pupils in certain age groups dependent on their current home location from existing school.</p> <p>Negative</p> <p>Proposal seeks to relocate the school to a location 0.7 miles from the existing school on the site which may result in additional travel for certain adult groups who use the existing school for meeting and community use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting community groups to mainstream the use of the Welsh language and offer learners the opportunity to practice it. • Providing specific support to community initiatives in order to enable them , for example supporting the community to access the local library as a meeting place (Abercarn public library is within 2 minutes walking distance of the current school). <p>Those that attend, work and use the building will benefit from a fit for purpose, innovative 21st Century facility. In addition, the proposal intends to extend access at the new premises to include community use and childcare provision. To this end the design process will seek to include measures to enable safe ‘zoning’ of parts of the new school building, including the hall and a multi-functional classroom compliant space which could be adapted for use. The Wi-Fi and Information Technology infrastructure will be established to support public access and community use. The use of sporting facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable.</p>	<p>Increase opportunities for people to use the Welsh language in the workplace by enabling and supporting fluent staff and staff who are learning, to use the Welsh language in the workplace.</p> <p>Menter Iaith Caerffili : Welsh Language Profile 2016</p> <p>This profile examines the position of the Welsh language in the County Borough of Caerphilly, and the way that Welsh speakers in the area use the Welsh language in their communities.</p> <p>Welsh Speaking by Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abercarn 11.7% • Crosskeys 9% • Newbridge 8.9% • Risca West 9% <p>Abercarn area had a 2.6% increase in welsh speakers between the 2001 and 2011 census. The highest in the borough.</p> <p>Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)</p> <p>Statistical Information relating to the numbers of pupils at local</p>
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			<p>authority level and their language medium for education:</p> <p>Caerphilly Region Figures (2019/20 data set)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welsh Medium – 4,676• English medium – 23,126 <p><u>Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020</u></p> <p>One of the identified objectives is specific to the 21st Century Schools Programme ‘Work with 21st Century Schools team in Welsh Government to identify funding in Band B of 21st Century Schools programme, for the development of sufficient Welsh medium places in areas where they are coming under pressure, in particular Bedwas Trethomas Machen area, and the Islwyn East area.’</p> <p>This proposal would also support the following outcomes identified in the plan:</p> <p>Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh</p> <p>Outcome 6: Welsh-medium provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs</p>
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			<p>Outcome 7:Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development</p> <p><u>Technical Advice Note 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language</u></p> <p>The purpose of TAN20 is to provide guidance on how the Welsh language may be given appropriate consideration in the planning system and on compliance with the requirements of planning and other relevant legislation</p> <p><u>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050.</u></p> <p>The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p> <p><u>Welsh Language Impact Assessment</u></p> <p>– Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon (included as part of the original Equality Impact Assessment)</p> <p><u>Consultation Document</u></p> <p><u>Consultation Report</u></p> <p>Objection Report</p>
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<p>Disability (people with disabilities/ long term conditions)</p>	<p>Positive The current school site has limited accessibility for both pupils and the wider public. The sites operates over a camber which means the internal configuration of the main building has several internal steps to access the split level. There are also a number of modular buildings on the site used for educational provision as well as a canteen which again operates over the split levels. Whilst the current site has been modified since first occupied, disabled children currently require support to access all areas. The proposed relocated school will be an accessible facility which is able to cater for anyone with additional needs and empower them to be independent, further contributing to their wellbeing.</p> <p>Positive The proposal seeks to provide a Welsh Language Special Resource Base for some of our most vulnerable children, through the provision of modern 21st Century Educational facilities for children and young people with complex needs.</p> <p>Negative</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges the importance of the Learner Travel. The site identified for the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon is the former English Medium Secondary Cwmcarn High School site. The safety of children is of paramount importance and the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 requires local authorities to assess the suitability of travel for learners between home and places of education and training. It is the intention of the Authority to provide a system of transport that will seek to ensure pupils can safely and comfortably access their education. The proposed new location was a former school site and as such a number of ‘Safe Travel’ routes, as far as reasonably practicable are already established which includes designated bus points, underpass/overpass points, lighting and designated footpaths. The walking route from the existing site is less than 1 mile and as such would not be deemed to cause unreasonable levels of stress or take an unreasonable amount of time in line with the measure.</p>	<p><u>Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (legislation.gov.uk)</u></p> <p>Key legislation giving the Welsh Language official legal status in Wales.</p> <p><u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</u></p> <p>The Act puts in place seven well-being goals which the local authority must work to achieve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Healthier Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • A Globally Responsible Wales <p><u>Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020</u></p>

	<p>Proposal seeks to relocate the school to a location 0.7 miles from the existing school on the site which may result in additional travel for pupils in certain age groups dependent on their current home location from existing school.</p> <p>Negative Proposal seeks to relocate the school to a location 0.7 miles from the existing school on the site which may result in additional travel for certain adult groups who use the existing school for meeting and community use.</p>	<p>The Authority has recognised the relationship between the existing school and maintaining the Welsh Language in the village and the school's contribution towards it. The current school site hosts a limited number of activities for the community to participate in through the medium of Welsh and English. The Authority will look to minimise any adverse effects that the relocation of the school may have on the local Cwmcarn village residents and the community's ability to continue to sustain such activities, for example supporting the community to access the local library as a meeting place (Abercarn public library is within 2 minutes walking distance of the current school).</p>	<p>One of the identified objectives is specific to the 21st Century Schools Programme 'Work with 21st Century Schools team in Welsh Government to identify funding in Band B of 21st Century Schools programme, for the development of sufficient Welsh medium places in areas where they are coming under pressure, in particular Bedwas Trethomas Machen area, and the Islwyn East area.'</p> <p>This proposal would also support the following outcomes identified in the plan:</p> <p>Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh Outcome 6: Welsh-medium provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs Outcome 7: Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development</p> <p>Consideration of future need for Welsh medium Secondary Provision in the area as part of a potential future 21st Century Schools project could also support</p> <p>Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from</p>
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			primary school to secondary school Outcome 3:More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh
Gender Reassignment <i>(anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth)</i>	Neutral No anticipated change	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics	Not applicable
Marriage or Civil Partnership <i>(people who are married or in a civil partnership)</i>	Neutral No impact	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics	Not applicable
Pregnancy and Maternity <i>(women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave)</i>	Neutral No impact	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics	Not applicable
Race <i>(people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds)</i>	Neutral No anticipated change	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics	Not applicable
Religion or Belief <i>(people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs)</i>	Neutral No anticipated change	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics	Not applicable

Sex (women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender)	Neutral No anticipated change	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics	Not applicable
Sexual Orientation (lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual)	Neutral No anticipated change	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics	Not applicable

3. Socio-economic Duty (Strategic Decisions Only)

(The Socio-economic Duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision making. Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services)

Please consider these additional vulnerable groups and the impact your proposal may or may not have on them:

- Page 49
- Single parents and vulnerable families
 - People with low literacy/numeracy
 - Pensioners
 - Looked after children
 - Homeless people
 - Carers
 - Armed Forces Community
 - Students
 - Single adult households
 - People misusing substances
 - People who have experienced the asylum system
 - People of all ages leaving a care setting
 - People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)
 - People involved in the criminal justice system

<u>Socio-economic Disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view?
Low Income / Income Poverty <i>(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)</i>	<p>Positive Providing educational facilities fit for the future will improve the education and life outcomes of the present and future pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon</p> <p>Neutral The facility will be fully accessible to people with learning disabilities</p>	Not applicable	<p><u>Is Wales Fairer? – The state of equality and human rights</u> (EHRC 2018) Equality and Human Rights Commission acknowledge that Socio-economic disadvantage has a knock-on effect on education and health outcomes.</p>

regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage

[Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Key legislation giving the Welsh Language official legal status in Wales.

[Caerphilly - Census 2011 ward profiles](#)

According to the Pupil Level Annual School Census figures from January 2016, 16.9% of the primary school population and 12.7% of the secondary school population were in Welsh medium education. Attainment of qualifications in the medium of Welsh provides wider access to employment and career opportunities in Wales and beyond.

[Caerphilly - Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022](#)

The target to increase the Welsh speaking population by 3% over the duration of the strategy

Strategic area 5-

Increase opportunities for people to use the Welsh language in the workplace by enabling and supporting fluent staff and staff who are learning, to use the Welsh language in the workplace.

<u>Socio-economic Disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view?
<p>Low and/or No Wealth (<i>enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future</i>)</p>	<p>Neutral The facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Material Deprivation (<i>unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.</i>)</p>	<p>Positive It is a pre-requisite of Welsh Government funding that Council's optimise the use of infrastructure and resources to enable flexibility for space and facilities to be made available as community assets. Whilst the internal design of the proposed extension is yet to be finalised, subject to Cabinet approval to progress, discussions have included the zoning of the school to support access during school time and after hours.</p> <p>Negative During the Consultation Period and Objection period, respondents indicated concerns as to perception of local demand and the need to invest in English</p>	<p>As outlined in the Consultation Report and Objection Report there is no requirement identified for an additional English medium secondary provision. Both local English medium secondary schools have been identified as having adequate provision at their current locations for their catchment pupils. In addition, there has recently been significant investment of £2 million through the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band A programme at Newbridge School.</p> <p>The Council continuously improves the quality of school buildings through the Capital Investment Programme. All</p>	<p><u>Consultation Document</u> As part of outlining the current proposal, an options appraisal was undertaken to consider the relative desirability, viability and feasibility of the proposal. In addition, information relating to the community usage and community benefit requirement relating to this proposal is outlined in this document.</p> <p><u>Consultation Report</u> This report was produced as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 to summarise 'views' of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020. As part of findings, community usage, the impact relating to the</p>

	medium provision in the area at primary and secondary level.	schools are invited to submit applications annually to support improvement works. Any works that are identified via the Health and Safety team are also undertaken.	proposed usage of the development site and the implication of English medium provision in the area has been raised by consultees and addressed as part of this report.
<p>Area Deprivation (<i>where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport)</i>)</p>	<p>Positive The design process will seek to include measures to enable safe ‘zoning’ of parts of the new school building, including the hall and a multi-functional classroom compliant space which could be adapted for use. The usage of facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable. It will also strengthen and safeguard the promotion of inclusivity and wellbeing within the Community</p> <p>Positive Procurement will include Community Benefits as a core requirement e.g. around local targeted recruitment and training, supply chains, community and education initiatives in the provision of the proposed new facility.</p> <p>Positive The facility will provide inclusive facilities which will be accessible to vulnerable children and young</p>	Not applicable	<p><u>Consultation Document</u></p> <p>Information relating to the community usage and community benefit requirement relating to this proposal is outlined in this document.</p> <p><u>Consultation Report</u></p> <p>This report was produced as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 to summarise ‘views’ of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020. As part of findings, community usage, the impact relating to the proposed usage of the development site and the implication of English medium provision in the area has been raised by consultees and addressed as part of this report.</p> <p><u>Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)</u></p> <p><u>Electoral Ward Profile</u></p>

	<p>people alongside supporting the holistic needs of their wider family and supporting their future wellbeing. When the site is being used by the community they will be able to access the facilities regardless of requirements.</p>		<p>Abercarn ward profile from the 2011 Census information has been reviewed</p>
<p>Socio-economic Background (social class i.e. parents education, employment and income)</p>	<p>Positive Facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage</p> <p>Positive The proposed facility would include the expansion of community usage to support and upskill parents, carers and the wider community including welsh courses for parents.</p> <p>Positive Provision for Welsh language childcare and vulnerable learners will be fully inclusive and accessible for all at a single location in the area.</p> <p>Positive The facility will provide inclusive facilities for children and young people alongside supporting the holistic needs of their wider family and supporting their future wellbeing.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p><u>Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)</u></p> <p><u>Electoral Ward Profile</u> Abercarn ward profile from the 2011 Census information has been reviewed</p> <p><u>Consultation Report</u> This report was produced as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 to summarise 'views' of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020. As part of findings, community usage, the impact relating to the proposed usage of the development site and the implication of English medium provision in the area has been raised by consultees and addressed as part of this report.</p>

<p>Socio-economic Disadvantage <i>(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)</i></p>	<p>Positive It is a pre-requisite of Welsh Government funding that Council's optimise the use of infrastructure and resources to enable flexibility for space and facilities to be made available as community assets. Whilst the internal design of the proposed extension is yet to be finalised, subject to Cabinet approval to progress, discussions have included the zoning of the school to support access during school time and after hours</p> <p>Positive The proposal aims to stimulate and provide local, accessible, sustainable, community-focused provision to meet the growing demand for Welsh medium education in the area.</p> <p>Positive Opportunities will be available as part of this proposal for to facilitate the use of the Welsh Language for those fluent and learning, within the local community.</p> <p>Negative During the Consultation Period and Objection period, respondents indicated concerns as to perception of local demand</p>	<p>As outlined in the Consultation Report and Objection Report there is no requirement identified for an additional English medium secondary provision. Both local English medium secondary schools have been identified as having adequate provision at their current locations for their catchment pupils. In addition, there has recently been significant investment of £2 million through the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band A programme at Newbridge School.</p> <p>The Authority has recognised the relationship between the existing school and maintaining the Welsh Language in the village and the school's contribution towards it. The current school site hosts a limited number of activities for the community to participate in through the medium of Welsh and English. This will be further enhanced and encouraged at the new site.</p> <p>The Council continuously improves the quality of school buildings through the Capital Investment Programme. All schools are invited to submit applications annually to support</p>	<p><u>Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (legislation.gov.uk)</u></p> <p>Key legislation giving the Welsh Language official legal status in Wales.</p> <p><u>Caerphilly - Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022</u></p> <p>The target to increase the Welsh speaking population by 3% over the duration of the strategy</p> <p><u>Menter Iaith Caerffili : Welsh Language Profile 2016</u></p> <p>This profile examines the position of the Welsh language in the County Borough of Caerphilly, and the way that Welsh speakers in the area use the Welsh language in their communities.</p> <p>Abercarn area had a 2.6% increase in welsh speakers between the 2001 and 2011 census. The highest in the borough.</p> <p><u>Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)</u></p> <p><u>Electoral Ward Profile</u></p>
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	<p>and the need to invest in English medium provision in the area at primary and secondary level.</p> <p>Negative Perceived disadvantage to pupils and families that are non-Welsh speaking.</p>	<p>improvement works. Any works that are identified via the Health and Safety team are also undertaken.</p> <p>The proposal for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon is to relocate the existing provision and provide additional capacity on site to accommodate up to 420 places plus additional nursery and special resource base provision. We recognise that this proposal will initially create surplus places at the school and this has been identified and considered an acceptable low level risk. The process of managing admissions over a number of years, whilst playing a contributing factor to surplus places initially, will ensure the impact on surrounding schools is mitigated as far as reasonably practicable.</p>	<p>Abercarn ward profile from the 2011 Census information has been reviewed</p> <p><u>Consultation Report</u></p> <p>This report was produced as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 to summarise 'views' of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020. As part of findings, community usage, the impact relating to the proposed usage of the development site and the implication of English medium provision in the area has been raised by consultees and addressed as part of this report.</p>
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4. Corporate Plan – Council’s Well-being Objectives

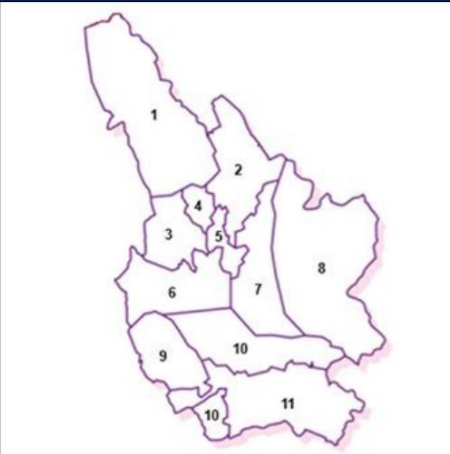
(How does your proposal deliver against any/all of the Council’s Well-being Objectives? Which in turn support the national well-being goals for Wales as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Are there any impacts (positive, negative or neutral? If there are negative impacts how have these been mitigated?) [Well-being Objectives](#)

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

Positive

This proposal seeks to secure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development of inclusive Welsh medium education and giving a commitment to providing the best possible quality of education and services. Caerphilly currently has 11 Welsh-medium primary schools, each providing education for pupils between 3 and 11 years. The establishment of this new fit-for-purpose facility and the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon Welsh-medium primary school will assist in reaching the objectives of Caerphilly's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The catchment areas are as below:

Welsh medium primary school catchment areas	
	1 Ysgol y Lawnt
	2 Ysgol Bro Sannan
	3 Ysgol Penalltau
	4 Ysgol Gymraeg Gilfach Fargoed
	5 Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn
	6 Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta
	7 Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen
	8 Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon
	9 Ysgol Ifor Bach
	10 Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Castell
	11 Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili

This is the only Welsh medium school in a 5 mile radius of the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon site. The next nearest community Welsh medium school is Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen, Therefore the investment is required to future-proof the educational outcomes and meet the growing demand.

Positive

The WESP identifies that with the development of Cylchoedd Meithrin and increasing parental awareness the number entering Foundation Phase will rise. The existing collaboration between Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon and the Cylch Meithrin/Ti a FI in the area which act as feeders to the school is a significant strength which contributes to the success and very high standards achieved by the school. The collaboration aims to ensure that each pupil who attends a Welsh medium school within the Caerphilly county borough receives educational opportunities which will enable them to reach their potential and this would be further developed as part of this proposal.

Positive

The proposal seeks to strengthen and safeguard the promotion of the Welsh language, culture and heritage within the community supporting Welsh Government's charter of achieving 1 million Welsh speakers across Wales by 2050.

Neutral

The relocation of the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose built facility at a new location within a 1 mile radius of the existing site has been identified to minimise any disruption to the existing cohort and on travel arrangements.

Negative

To mitigate any impact on local English Medium school admission numbers, increasing the admission number by a manageable amount will allow stimulation of the demands for Welsh medium while not over

	<p>developing the provision to destabilise other already established educational provisions within the area. It is anticipated that the admission number for the new school will be 45 when the school initially opens and will be increased incrementally by 5 per year until it reaches its full capacity of 60 pupils.</p>
<p>Objective 2 - Enabling employment</p>	<p>Positive As part of the funding requirements for all 21st Century School proposals, Welsh Government stipulates that Community Benefits are a core requirement of any procurement process related to the award of contracts and will therefore be scored as part of the Quality evaluation. These include a number of targets around local recruitment and training, supply chains, community and education initiatives.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Not applicable to this proposal</p>
<p>Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impact on the environment</p>	<p>Neutral There is a Statutory duty placed upon the Authority to provide pupils with free transport to their nearest suitable school if they reside beyond 'walking distance' to that school. All pupils are assessed in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. However, the Authority does offer a more generous policy than what is statutorily required by the Measure. It is anticipated that a status quo will be maintained as the relocation is less than 1 mile from the existing site.</p> <p>Positive The site identified for the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon was a former school site and as such a number of 'Safe Travel' routes, as far as reasonably practicable are already established which includes designated bus points, underpass/overpass points, lighting and designated footpaths.</p>
<p>Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development principle with in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>	<p>Positive In order to contribute to the Welsh Government target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050, there is significant importance in improving and expanding provision in Welsh medium childcare and education, as well as working in partnership with community based groups or organisations to continue the use of conversational Welsh</p>

socially or in the workplace following the end of formal education. This is also reflected in:

Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- A Prosperous Wales
- A More Equal Wales
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

Without the continued use of Welsh there is a risk young people from English speaking households may lose confidence in their Welsh language skills. The development proposed includes Welsh medium childcare from age 2 years upwards enabling early development of Welsh language using immersion methodology.

Positive

The provision of Welsh medium wraparound, after school and holiday provision will also enable continuation of the Welsh language social skill development and is critical for working parents to provide a full Welsh medium service with parity for those in English medium provision.

Menter Iaith Caerffili are integral to this delivery model to deliver the wraparound and after school clubs in Welsh schools in the county borough. Delivery is further enhanced through provision of holiday clubs during the school holidays to enable parents to continue working while their children enjoy educational activities through the medium of Welsh with their friends and children attending other Welsh medium schools in the county borough.

Positive

The current Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon site the occupies has a total area of approximately 0.3 Hectares which accommodates 5 structures and limited outdoor play areas. The site is enclosed on all sides, with no

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

option for expansion, and has no direct access routes other than via a side street adjacent to the local public houses and village institute. Notably the site is also on a slanted gradient, resulting in multiple levels for both indoor and outdoor space which significantly reduces access and functionality for less able-bodied individuals, negatively impacting on the pupils, parents and support staff from an empowerment and wellbeing perspective. This proposal will provide a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT facilities, outdoor play and extended access provision for community use, centred on the learning, self-esteem and wellbeing of all.

Positive

Providing educational facilities fit for the future will improve the education and life outcomes of the present and future pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon. The facility will be fully accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage, enabling children accessing the school to thrive, with the knock-on positive effect for the children, their families and the local area.

Positive

The Council acknowledges that some children who attend nursery provision in the borough then go on to attend the English medium primary school because parents do not want to put their children on a school bus at such a young age to take them to the nearest Welsh medium school, so Welsh medium education loses potential pupils. The development of holistic Welsh medium childcare provision on site adjacent to the Welsh medium Foundation Phase nursery will enable continuity of provision and ease of transition for pupils and for parents as well as continue to strengthen the Welsh language acquisition of the youngest children.

Positive

The provision of wraparound, after school and holiday provision will enable working families to have the same access to provision as their English medium counterparts as well as enabling children to have social play experiences through the medium of Welsh. There is a positive impact

on the Welsh language of all services being on a single site in a cohesive development and making it sustainable for the longer term.

Menter Iaith Caerffili deliver the wraparound and after school clubs in Welsh schools in the county borough. Delivery is further enhanced through provision of holiday clubs during the school holidays to enable parents to continue working while their children enjoy educational activities through the medium of Welsh with their friends and children attending other Welsh medium schools in the county borough.

Positive

'The Cwricwlwm Cymreig is at the heart of the school's work programme and provision for developing the Welsh language is promoted very effectively. The wide range of extra-curricular activities that are provided helps pupils to develop a number of key personal and social skills well' – Estyn 2013

The above comment was provided by Estyn in relation to the existing school and the proposed project will take into account the desire to encourage and facilitate further development to strengthen and safeguard the promotion of the Welsh language, Culture and Heritage within the Community.

4a. Links to any other relevant Council Policy

(How does your proposal deliver against any other relevant Council Policy?)

The proposal contributes the following Strategies:

- **Shared Ambitions Strategy (2019-2022)**

This proposal will deliver upon the Council's ambition to provide every learner with the best life chances through the provision of high quality teaching, learning and leadership across our impressive 21st Century school settings.

- **Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2018 – 2020)**

The Council's commitment to Welsh medium education development is a priority as evidenced in Band B of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme. The Council's vision is to secure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development of inclusive education and giving a commitment to providing the best possible quality of education and services within available resources. Furthermore, in equipping schools and education providers the aim is to increase standards in Welsh and promote the use of the Welsh language within families, communities and workplaces.

- **Caerphilly Welsh Language Strategy**

The baseline for the strategy is the current language profile of the borough. According to the 2011 Census, Caerphilly county borough had 19,251 Welsh speakers (11.2% of the population) with a further 12% less fluently, and according to the Pupil Level Annual School Census figures from January 2016, 16.9% of the primary school population and 12.7% of the secondary school population were in Welsh medium education. This strategy therefore proposes a minimum 3% target increase in the number of Welsh speakers between 2017 and 2022. This target therefore means that by the 2021 Census, Caerphilly county borough will have a minimum 14.2% Welsh speaking population. This proposal will support future parental preference for Welsh medium education moving forward.

- **Caerphilly Strategic Equality Plan**

A statutory document under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, this four-year plan explains in straightforward terms what each of the equalities issues actually means and under what wider legislation we have responsibilities as a council. It highlights links to legislation and regulations covering the Welsh Language Standards and Human Rights issues and how it supports 4 of the 7 aims of Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; A healthier Wales, A more equal Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities and A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

- **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment**





A report that brings together a range of different data and information to develop a picture of the current childcare market and to identify whether there are any gaps in supply including Childcare for those who receive or may require childcare in the Welsh language/bilingual provision.

The utilisation of this new Integrated Impact Assessment design will further help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

5. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working (ICLIP)

(Also known as the sustainable development principles. The Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the five ways of working as a baseline)

<u>Ways of Working</u>	How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?
<p>Long Term</p> 	<p>The relocation and expansion of the highly successful Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon provides a platform, meeting the Welsh medium need through provision for learners over the long term, through the provision of a custom built and fit for purpose relocation from the existing school site. The new school infrastructure set out within the Consultation Document, Consultation Report and Objection Report, will secure opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community in utilising the facility to its fullest, in utilising the Welsh language and in supporting the Authority in meeting the Welsh Government targets as outlined in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Five Year Strategy.</p> <p>Within the borough, as evidenced in the WESP, more learners are continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school and progression rates remain at a consistently high level. In consideration of the potential impact of this proposal, the site layout and configuration will be undertaken strategically to ensure space maximisation and provide the potential to facilitate Secondary provision in the future should the need to increase capacity be identified in that area.</p>
<p>Prevention</p> 	<p>Providing learners in the catchment area of the existing school (within the Islwyn East) with a custom built Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon will enable pupils to access a 21st century facility and to receive tailor made learning opportunities in the language of their preference designed to meet their specific educational needs. Purpose built school which will cater for current and future demand for Welsh medium education in the county borough.</p>
<p>Integration</p> 	<p>The proposal to relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon will impact on Wellbeing Goals ‘A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language’ and ‘A More Equal Wales’. The new facility will provide opportunities to directly engage in the promotion and utilisation of the Welsh language for pupils, families and within the wider community.</p>
<p>Collaboration</p> 	<p>The Council has worked with staff and pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to shape many of the proposals to enhance existing facilities. The Council has also worked with partners in the childcare arena to provide value added opportunities from the expanded school site.</p>

Involvement



The School Organisation Code (2018) prescribes a number of explicit consultation and engagement steps and consultees.

Consultation Period

A consultation period opened on Monday 14th September 2020 and concluded at midnight on Monday 26th October 2020. Consultees were given at least 42 days to respond to the proposal as outlined in the Consultation Document, with at least 20 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.

Consultees were advised of the proposal and availability of the consultation documentation when it went live on the 14th September 2020 via letter/email and were therefore invited to take part in the statutory consultation to gather their 'views' on the proposal as outlined in the consultation document.

- 388 responses 'view's' were received during the consultation period.
- 48 responses were received in the medium of Welsh.
- 95% supported the proposal as outlined in the Consultation document.
- 3% did not support the proposal as outlined.
- 2% provided a neutral or no comment response.
- 3 alternative options were raised by consultees and considered by Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

The Learner Voice was also captured as part of this process.

In the initial consultation document, consideration was given to hosting a virtual consultation session with representatives from the schools affected. However, through discussions with the relevant head teachers and the 21st Century Schools team, the decision was taken for the local teaching staff to engage with all year groups and not just a representative sample. Utilising the child friendly version of the consultation document and the accompanying video, children were engaged in a familiar environment, at the appropriate comprehension level and in the language of their preference. It was felt that due to the current 'bubble' situation in schools, this was the best way to ensure the fullest return possible to capture the learner voice. Many of the children provided comments on what they would like to see in the future and how they felt about the proposal. These comments were included as part of the Consultation Report.

Statutory Notice / Objection Period

Following the decision by Cabinet (9.12.2020) to proceed to Statutory Notice, anyone wishing to make an objection to this proposal was able to do so as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018. To be considered as a statutory objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and sent to the Council within the 28 days of the

	<p>date on which the proposal was published. This is referred to as the “objection period” and ran from the 11th January 2021 to the 7th February 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Statutory Objections received. <p>It should be noted that this process as prescribed by Welsh Government, provided no opportunity for inclusion of responses in support of the proposal. It should also be noted that the Objection figure quoted includes all responses received irrespective of any duplicates.</p> <p>The Objection Report provides a summary of the findings and original copies of all correspondence are made available to Cabinet Members for consideration as part of the decision making process.</p> <p>Planning Consultation There will be a separate planning application process that will address a number of material planning considerations. This process will enable further involvement and engagement opportunities for interested parties.</p>
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6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

<u>Well-being Goals</u>	Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goal and how?
<p>A Prosperous Wales <i>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work</i></p>	<p>The Welsh Language is a valuable skill for the workforce in all sectors in wales and extends employment opportunities.</p> <p>This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:</p> <p>Embodied Carbon / Operational Carbon The 21st Century Schools Band B Programme looks to deliver a combination of new school builds, expansions, amalgamations, relocations and refurbishments, all with the potential to support the Welsh Government and Council’s strategies on decarbonisation and provide a new model of delivery. As such, skilled and knowledgeable workforce sectors will be engaged to delivery this outcome.</p> <p>Childcare:</p>

	<p>The development of Welsh medium childcare provision on site adjacent to the Welsh medium Foundation Phase nursery will enable continuity of provision for parents as well as continue to strengthen the Welsh language acquisition of the youngest children. The provision of wraparound, after school and holiday provision will enable working families to have the same access to provision as their English medium counterparts as well as enabling children to have social play experiences through the medium of Welsh. There is a positive impact on the Welsh language of all services being on a single site in a cohesive development, supporting use of the Welsh language in the workplace and in the wider community and making it sustainable for the longer term.</p> <p>Future Prospects:</p> <p>The Welsh language is a valuable skill for the workforce in all sectors in Wales and extends employment opportunities. This proposal will develop a future generation of Welsh speakers in the area as well as supporting employment opportunities and use of the Welsh language in the wider community.</p>
<p>A Resilient Wales <i>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for climate change)</i></p>	<p>The Welsh Language contributes to the growth of innovative and sustainable business as well as strengthening the public sector and third sector.</p> <p>This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:</p> <p>Future Demand</p> <p>It is clear how important the Welsh language is to life in Wales. Maintaining and increasing the range of Welsh medium provision is a significant challenge for the Council. Changes to Welsh medium primary education will inevitably have an impact upon Welsh medium secondary education</p> <p>The more pupils who enjoy a Welsh medium primary education, the more are likely to attend Welsh medium secondary education and have the fullest opportunities to live their lives in Wales using the Welsh language in all aspects of life day to day.</p> <p>Within the borough, as evidenced in the WESP, more learners are continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school and progression rates remain at a consistently high level. In consideration of the potential impact of this</p>

A Healthier Wales

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood

proposal, the site layout and configuration will be undertaken strategically to ensure space maximisation and provide the potential to facilitate Secondary provision in the future should the need to increase capacity be identified in that area.

The Welsh Language contributes to the growth of innovative and sustainable business as well as strengthening the public sector and third sector.

Bilingual healthcare meets people's needs on more than one level, and being able to speak more than one language is beneficial to individuals' health and to community well-being.

This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:

The School:

The current Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon has reached its full potential in relation to building reconfiguration and any further developments on site. There are currently 207 pupils on roll, receiving their education on a site originally designed to accommodate 80. Future projected numbers are:

Projected numbers for the next six years			
Year	Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen		
	No. on Roll	Excluding Nursery	Capacity
2020	217	190	210
2021	218	192	210
2022	221	195	210
2023	219	193	210
2024	219	192	210
2025	222	196	210

It is proposed that the new school facility would accommodate up to 420 pupils, plus 60 nursery places and 16 special resource base places.

The proposal for a new fit for purpose school building will provide a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT facilities, centered on the learning, self-esteem and well-being of all pupils and improve lifelong

learning opportunities for members of the community to strengthen and safeguard the promotion of the Welsh language, culture and heritage across Caerphilly East. The new building will have improved outside learning space offering external play areas, a multi-use games area (MUGA) and access to a grass pitch. The usage of sporting facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable.

Maximising choice:

A Welsh medium education assessment in accordance with the (Wales) Regulations 2013 has been conducted in accordance with the 3 year cycle requirement. A parental demand survey was also undertaken in 2018. These are the basis for all trend future projections of demand and provide evidence of need for additional places and location in the borough. Previously the parental surveys have influenced the language provision of new build schools, for example, Ysgol Penalltau was opened as a Welsh medium primary school to meet the increasing demand and local area need for Welsh medium provision. There are substantially decreasing surplus places in the Welsh medium Schools and an increasing demand from parents using Cylchoedd Meithrin. The location will better serve those further down the valley as well as enable increased size of provision to meet the increasing evidenced demand including through the Childcare Offer for 3-4year olds.

Distance and Growth:

This is the only Welsh medium school in a 5 mile radius of the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon site. The next nearest alternatives are shown below:

Nearest Alternative	Medium	Postcode	Distance
Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen	Welsh	NP12 0JL	5 miles
Abercarn Primary School	English	NP11 5LH	1.8 miles
Cwmcarn Primary	English	NP11 7LZ	0.7 miles
Waunfawr Primary	English	NP11 7PG	1.5 miles

The Council has secured funding under the Welsh Medium Grant to expand capacity on at Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen to be able to meet growing demand from within catchment.

The 3 following Community English Medium Primary Schools are within close proximity to the existing site and the proposed new site for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

Projected numbers for the next six years									
Year	Abercarn Primary School			Cwmcarn Primary			Waunfawr Primary		
	No. on roll	Excl. Nursery	Capacity	No. on roll	Excl. Nursery	Capacity	No. on roll	Excl. Nursery	Capacity
2020	256	224	244	249	220	261	187	162	178
2021	252	221	244	242	212	261	187	163	178
2022	249	219	244	241	208	261	189	164	178
2023	249	218	244	244	210	261	195	170	178
2024	247	216	244	256	223	261	194	169	178
2025	243	212	244	260	227	261	198	173	178

Specific requirements for Special Resource Base Users:

The Authority recognises the impact of the Additional Learning Needs Act (2018) and the need to future proof Welsh language provision. Through this proposal consideration of the correct types, quantity and quality of provision to meet the future needs of the population has been considered and this project will further support Welsh language resource for those children who require specialist provision outside of mainstream school. This proposal meets the requirements as set in Additional Learning Needs (ET) Act, Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, Welsh Education Strategic Plan regulations, the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 and the Council's Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022.

Bilingual healthcare meets people's needs on more than one level, and being able to speak more than one language is beneficial to individuals' health and to community well-being.

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)

This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:

Community Use:

Those that attend, work and use the building will benefit from a fit for purpose, innovative 21st Century facility. In addition, the proposal intends to extend access at the new premises to include community use and childcare provision.

As part of the 21st Century School remit, consideration must be given for the school to benefit from enabling the facilities to be shared with the wider community. The proposed project will take into account the desire to encourage and facilitate community use of the asset. To this end the design process will seek to include measures to enable safe ‘zoning’ of parts of the new school building, including the hall and a multi-functional classroom compliant space which could be adapted for use. The Wi-Fi and Information Technology infrastructure will be established to support public access and community use. The use of sporting facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable.

Impact on other schools:

Increasing the admission number by a manageable amount will allow stimulation of the demands for Welsh medium education in the area, while not over developing the provision to destabilise other already established educational provisions within the area. It is anticipated that the admission number for the new school will be 45 when the school initially opens and will be increased incrementally by 5 per year until it reaches its full capacity of 60 pupils. Everyone living in Wales should be able to live their lives and achieve their potential through the medium of Welsh.

Well-being Goals

Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goal and how?

A Wales of Cohesive Communities
Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

The Welsh Language is a vital element of vibrant communities, contributing to a strong economy, a sense of heritage and national identity.

This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:**The School:**

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon caters for pupils at primary school age who wish to be educated in Welsh. It is a highly inclusive community where all pupils feel safe and valued. Pupils play an active and influential role in shaping the life and work of the school. The school's exemplary levels of care, support and guidance mean that nearly all pupils develop as enthusiastic learners who acquire a strong understanding of their rights and responsibilities. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that we continue to build on the mature leadership and excellent Estyn rating of the school through relocation to a new fit for purpose facility located within less than 1 mile from the existing school and still within the locale and existing catchment area.

There is a clear link between new and improved school buildings and improved performance as highlighted by ESTYN. Increased school performance will lead to additional pupils accessing Welsh Medium Education locally, increasing the critical mass and providing more professional teaching opportunities for teachers. The Council believes that this proposal represents the best opportunity to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future and provides a platform for improvement through significant investment in permanent facilities. This will provide a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT facilities, outdoor play and extended access provision for community use, centred on the learning, self-esteem and wellbeing of all.

Active Travel:

It is the intention of the Authority to provide a system of transport that will seek to ensure pupils can safely and comfortably access their education. The proposed new location was a former school site and as such a number of 'Safe Travel' routes, as far as reasonably practicable are already established which includes designated bus points, underpass/overpass points, lighting and designated footpaths. The walking route from the existing site is less than 1 mile and as such would not be deemed to cause unreasonable levels of stress or take an unreasonable amount of time in line with the measure.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation

The catchment area for the school will remain unchanged, however it is inevitable that some children will now be eligible, and others will no longer be, dependent on where they reside. At present, the authority is projecting an increase in capacity, but this will be controlled through the admissions intake but at this stage it will be difficult to interpret eligibility. Whilst the on-going cost implications have been considered and a contingency has been factored into the Authority's Medium-Term Financial Plan, it is not possible at present to determine the exact figure due to individual pupil needs determining the method of transport required.

The Welsh language is a vital element in vibrant communities, contributing to a strong economy, a sense of heritage and national identity.

The country's culture acknowledges and celebrates being bilingual in all aspects of everyday life.

This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:

Cultural Heritage and Welsh Language in the Community:

The Local Authority is fully aware of its obligations under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. The Welsh language has official status in Wales and the measure places duties on bodies to use the Welsh language, and the rights which arise from the enforceability of those duties, which enable Welsh speakers to use the language in dealings with those bodies (such as the provision of services by those bodies); This proposal ensures that through educational provision, the treatment of the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language and supports parental preference in enabling freedom for pupils wishing to use the Welsh language to do so.

Welsh Language Commissioner (Standards and 5 Year Strategy)

Through promoting the use of the Welsh language and facilitating the use of the Welsh language through relocation and expansion of Welsh medium primary education in the East Islwyn area, the Council is demonstrating its commitment to meet increasing demand, working towards ensuring that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.

A Globally Responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

The country’s culture acknowledges and celebrates being bilingual in all aspects of everyday life and in providing Welsh medium opportunities in education, it supports the active usage of Welsh language for pupils, families and in the wider community.

Further details are found in section 7 of this document.

The Welsh Language is an intrinsic part of the well-being of the whole of Wales and its identity and unique language enriches the global community of diverse cultures.

This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:

Community Impact:

Where possible, the current school encourages use by the community, but this is restricted by the access and facilities on offer to a handful of Welsh classes, Mother and Toddler sessions and an ICT class. However, the site accommodates 5 structures with limited space and outdoor play areas. The site is enclosed on all sides, with no option for expansion, no parking facilities and has no direct access routes other than via a side street adjacent to the local public houses and village institute. Notably the site is also on a slanted gradient, resulting in multiple levels for both indoor and outdoor space which significantly reduces access and functionality for less able-bodied individuals.

The proposed project will take into account the desire to encourage and facilitate community use of the asset. To this end the design process will seek to include measures to enable safe ‘zoning’ of parts of the new school building, including the hall and a multi-functional classroom compliant space which could be adapted for use. The usage of sporting facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable. New site will be accessible and will create opportunities to integrate the facility into the community with community usage opportunities helping to upskill people including opportunities for parents to learn Welsh. It will strengthen and safeguard the promotion of the Welsh language, Culture and Heritage within the Community.

As outlined in the Community Impact Assessment, it is envisaged that a number of the current activities that the school supports the community in undertaking will continue at the new venue. It is proposed that the existing school premises (subject to approval to

relocate the school) would be declared surplus to requirements by the Local Education Authority and in turn could produce a Capital Receipt that would help support future strategic plans. For groups unable to travel the additional distance, the Council will mitigate lost usage of school by providing facilities at the local library based in the community or look at supporting alternative venues where appropriate.

Community Benefits:

As part of the funding requirements for all 21st Century School proposals, Welsh Government stipulates that Community Benefits are a core requirement of any contract procurement and will therefore be scored as part of the Quality evaluation. These include a number of targets around local recruitment and training, supply chains, community and education initiatives.

Early Years Transition

Our strategic development of childcare provision on school sites enable a smooth transition from the school / nursery provision to the childcare unit. The proposal includes the unit designed in the school from the beginning enabling the best location to be designed including movements of children between provision as well as pick up / drop off access for parents. This maximises the benefits of co-location and enables the best transition for children who could be on site from 2 years old.

This is part of a key priority in the 21st century Band B schools programme and as such makes economies of scale being included in the design and implementation from the start and shows the commitment from the local authority in developing Welsh medium provision.

Design for the Future

Within the borough, as evidenced in the WESP, more learners are continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school and progression rates remain at a consistently high level. In consideration of the potential impact of this proposal, the site layout and configuration will be undertaken strategically to ensure space maximisation and provide the potential to facilitate Secondary provision in the future should the need to increase capacity be identified in that area.

The Welsh language is an intrinsic part of the well-being of the whole of Wales and its identity and unique language enriches the global community of diverse cultures.

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7. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards

(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have ‘due regard’ for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language) [insert link to WL Commissioners Policy Making Standards Guidance](#)



Requirement	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view? <i>e.g the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census</i>
<p>Links with Welsh Government’s Cymraeg 2050 Strategy and CCBC’s Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022 and the Language Profile</p>	<p>Positive A request for education through the medium of Welsh can already be accommodated at present. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive Through the relocation and expansion of the school to include childcare, this proposal reflects demand in the area as identified through an increase in Welsh speakers in the Abercarn area by 2.6% (2011 census)</p> <p>Positive</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 One of the identified objectives is specific to the 21st Century Schools Programme ‘Work with 21st Century Schools team in Welsh Government to identify funding in Band B of 21st Century Schools programme, for the development of sufficient Welsh medium places in areas where they are coming under pressure, in particular Bedwas Trethomas Machen area, and the Islwyn East area.’</p> <p>Technical Advice Note 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language The purpose of TAN20 is to provide guidance on how the Welsh language may be given appropriate consideration in the</p>

Through an integrated multi-agency approach operating on site, Welsh language preference can be supported holistically to include childcare and special resource base provision.

Positive

Engagement with Caerphilly's Welsh Language Forum will be undertaken as part of the implementation of this proposal to ensure that all the relevant organisations are involved so that opportunities can be delivered through the medium of Welsh.

planning system and on compliance with the requirements of planning and other relevant legislation

[Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050.](#)

The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.

[Menter Iaith Caerffili : Welsh Language Profile 2016](#)

This profile examines the position of the Welsh language in the County Borough of Caerphilly, and the way that Welsh speakers in the area use the Welsh language in their communities.

Welsh Speaking by Community:

- Abercarn 11.7%
- Crosskeys 9%
- Newbridge 8.9%
- Risca West 9%

Abercarn area had a 2.6% increase in welsh speakers between the 2001 and 2011 census. The highest in the borough.

			<p><u>Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)</u></p> <p>Statistical Information relating to the numbers of pupils at local authority level and their language medium for education:</p> <p>Caerphilly Region Figures (2019/20 data set)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Medium – 4,676 • English medium – 23,126 <p><u>Welsh Language Impact Assessment</u> – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon (included as part of the original Equality Impact Assessment)</p>
<p>Compliance with the <u>Welsh Language Standards</u>. <i>Specifically Standards 88 - 93</i></p>	<p>Positive A request for education through the medium of Welsh can already be accommodated at present. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive Any meetings with the school to discuss provision of education through the child / family's preferred language</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>All documentation published on the 21st Century Schools website relating to the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal has been translated through the CCBC Welsh Language Unit</p>	<p><u>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050</u>.</p> <p>The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p> <p><u>Welsh Language Impact Assessment</u> – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon (included as part of the original Equality Impact Assessment)</p>

	<p>and the right that they have to this under the Welsh Language Measure can be accommodated at present. This creates opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treats the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p>Positive Through an integrated multi-agency approach operating provision from the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon site, Welsh language preference can be accommodated</p> <p>Positive All documentation including the website relating to the proposal is produced in Welsh and English, further supporting use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p>Positive All consultation and objection responses were able to be sent and received in Welsh and English ensuring that the Welsh language is treated no</p>	<p>The process during both the Consultation period and Objection period ensured that key consultees were targeted as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 because of their vested interest.</p> <p>In addition, as highlighted in the Consultation Document and Consultation Report, the views of children and young people affected by the proposal were consulted with through targeted information and feedback sessions and the production of child friendly versions of the documentation.</p>	<p>Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon Consultation Webpage – Link to Welsh page Page includes all documentation produced as part of the proposal including the key documentation (Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Response Forms, Consultation Report, Notification Letters)</p>
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	less favourably than the English language.		
<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language <i>e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community</i></p>	<p>Positive A request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated at present. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive Any meetings with the school to discuss provision of education through the child / family's preferred language and the right that they have to this under the WL Measure can be accommodated at present</p> <p>Positive All signage in the proposed new extension will be bi-lingual</p> <p>Positive The Community Usage element which will be an opportunity to promote activities through the medium</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>Reception services answer the phone with a bilingual greeting</p> <p>All documentation published on the 21st Century Schools website relating to the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal has been translated through the CCBC Welsh Language Unit</p> <p>Signage will be bilingual</p>	<p><u>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050.</u> The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p> <p><u>Technical Advice Note 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language</u> The purpose of TAN20 is to provide guidance on how the Welsh language may be given appropriate consideration in the planning system and on compliance with the requirements of planning and other relevant legislation</p> <p><u>Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020</u> A Welsh medium education assessment in accordance with the (Wales) Regulations 2013 has been conducted in accordance with the 3-year cycle requirement.</p>

	<p>of Welsh for the whole family and wider community.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>Consultation was undertaken bilingually with and targeted to specific people and groups because of their vested interest in the field</p>		<p>A parental demand survey was also undertaken in 2018.</p>
<p>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language e.g. staff, residents and visitors</p>	<p>Positive</p> <p>A request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated at present. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>When considering the expansion of provision, recruitment and selection processes will reflect the local need but will also support job creation.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>The proposal will create further opportunities for people to use the Welsh language through day to day activities, including pupils, families, teachers, catering staff,</p>	<p>Not applicable Welsh provision is currently offered</p> <p>Recruitment and Selection processes includes the essential skill to employ Welsh speakers on site</p>	<p><u>Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020</u></p> <p>A Welsh medium education assessment in accordance with the (Wales) Regulations 2013 has been conducted in accordance with the 3-year cycle requirement.</p> <p>A parental demand survey was also undertaken in 2018 and is updated regularly.</p> <p><u>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050.</u></p> <p>The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p> <p><u>Welsh Language Impact Assessment</u> – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon (included as part of the original Equality Impact Assessment)</p>

	<p>cleaning staff and the caretaker.</p> <p>Positive The Council is pro-active in supporting staff with free Welsh courses with some tailored to specific work areas. This proposal would support staff in accessing any provision as required.</p>		
<p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language</p>	<p>Positive A request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated at present. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive Any meetings with the school to discuss provision of education through the child / family's preferred language and the right that they have to this under the WL Measure can be accommodated at present.</p> <p>Positive</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>Welsh provision is currently offered</p>	<p><u>Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020</u></p> <p>A Welsh medium education assessment in accordance with the (Wales) Regulations 2013 has been conducted in accordance with the 3-year cycle requirement.</p> <p>A parental demand survey was also undertaken in 2018 and is updated regularly.</p> <p><u>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050.</u></p> <p>The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p>

	<p>All documentation including the website relating to the proposal is produced in Welsh and English</p> <p>Positive All consultation and objection responses were able to be sent and received in Welsh and English</p> <p>Positive As in previous section add that the consultation was targeted to include people / groups / organisations with a vested interest.</p>		<p><u>Welsh Language Impact Assessment</u> – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon (included as part of the original Equality Impact Assessment)</p> <p>Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon Consultation Webpage – <u>Link to Welsh page</u></p> <p>Page includes all documentation produced as part of the proposal including the key documentation (Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Response Forms, Consultation Report, Notification Letters)</p>
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7a. Having considered the impacts above, how has the proposal been developed so that there are positive effects, or increased positive effects on (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and b) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Need and demand

The Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal seeks to further support the local and national agenda in the development of Welsh standards in education to equip a bilingual Wales with a skilled bilingual workforce, supporting the Welsh Government’s vision for Welsh in Education. The more pupils who enjoy a Welsh medium primary education, the more are likely to attend Welsh medium secondary education and have the fullest opportunities to live their lives in Wales using the Welsh language.

Demand for Welsh medium provision in the East Islwyn Area has been identified through the WESP and the current site has reached its capacity. Further investment in the existing school site would not accommodate increased demand as the site can no longer be developed. An options appraisal was carried out as outlined in the Consultation Document and Consultation Report which provides clarity as to why relocation was the preferred option moving forward and a suitable existing alternative was not available in the locale.

The development of Welsh medium childcare provision on site adjacent to the Welsh medium Foundation Phase nursery will further enable continuity of provision for parents as well as continue to strengthen the Welsh language acquisition of the youngest children. The provision of wraparound, after school and holiday provision will enable working families to have the same access to provision as their English medium counterparts as well as enabling children to have social play experiences through the medium of Welsh. There is a positive impact on the Welsh language of all services being on a single site in a cohesive development and making it sustainable for the longer term.

Method and process

The School Organisation Code 2018 is the prescribed process for progressing this proposal. The proposal seeks to relocate and expand the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon. It is proposed that the new school facility would accommodate up to 420 pupils, plus 60 nursery places and 16 special resource base places providing increased educational opportunities through the medium of Welsh.

Location

The relocation site has been identified within the existing locale and was formally an educational establishment. The former Cwmcarn High School site has been proposed as it provides minimal disruption to existing pupil travel arrangements and remains located central to the existing catchment area being within 1 mile of the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon site. In addition, the site will provide opportunities to future proof Welsh language provision should the establishment of a secondary Welsh language provision be identified (currently on 1 Welsh Language Secondary School with a split site)

The proposed developments is sensitive to the needs of such communities and there is also a clear understanding from the details provided in this Integrated Impact Assessment and supporting consultation exercises and documentation to the proposal that the current and projected linguistic profile of communities and area support the need for Welsh medium education.

Timing

Subject to Cabinet approval on the 7th April 2021 and a separate full planning application process, it is envisaged that an anticipated occupation date would be circa September 2023.

The existing Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon site would then be declared surplus to requirements by the Local Education Authority and in turn could produce a Capital Receipt that would help support future strategic plans.

Whilst no proposal has yet to be developed, it is clear how important the Welsh language is to life in Wales. Maintaining and increasing the range of Welsh medium provision is a significant challenge for the Council. Changes to Welsh medium primary education will inevitably have an impact upon Welsh medium secondary education. The more pupils who enjoy a Welsh medium primary education, the more are likely to attend Welsh medium secondary education and have the fullest opportunities to live their lives in Wales using the Welsh language.

Within the borough, as evidenced in the WESP, more learners are continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school and progression rates remain at a consistently high level. In consideration of the potential impact of this proposal, the site

layout and configuration will be undertaken strategically to ensure space maximisation and provide the potential to facilitate Secondary provision in the future should the need to increase capacity be identified in that area.

8. Data and Information

(What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultations, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and or other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and consultants' reports etc.)

Data/evidence <i>(Please provide link to report if appropriate)</i>	Key relevant findings	How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?
<p>Initial Evidence (National and Regional Data)</p> <p>There are presently 11 Welsh medium primary schools across the County Borough with a combined capacity of approaching 3000 places.</p> <p>The Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 clearly states that the Authority will work with the 21st Century Schools Team in Welsh Government to identify funding for the development of sufficient Welsh medium places in areas where they are coming under pressure, in particular Bedwas Trethomas Machen area, and the Islwyn East area. This proposal is linked to the Islwyn East area.</p> <p>As part of the research for this proposal, the findings of the Welsh medium education assessment 2018 and the parental demand survey 2018, undertaken as part of the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan was referred to. These are the basis for all future trend projections of demand and provide evidence of need for additional places and location in the county borough.</p>	<p>Consultation Document Consultation Report Objection Report</p> <p>There is growing demand for Welsh Language provision within Caerphilly county borough as supported by the data contained in the Menter Iaith Caerffili : Welsh Language Profile 2016</p> <p>Welsh Speaking by Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abercarn 11.7% • Crosskeys 9% • Newbridge 8.9% • Risca West 9% <p>Abercarn area had a 2.6% increase in welsh speakers between the 2001 and 2011 census. The highest in the borough.</p> <p>The 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and local</p>	<p>The proposal will benefit pupils from within the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon catchment area in providing a modern fit-for purpose 21st Century provision to further enhance and support the delivery and increase of education in the medium of Welsh in the East Islwyn area.</p> <p>The views obtained as part of the Consultation Period and Objection Period have been addressed as part of the Councils response in each document. This Integrate Impact Assessment and the Objection Report will be presented to Education Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd March 2021 and Cabinet on 7th April 2021 alongside</p> <p>As outlined in the Consultation Document, Consultation Report and the Objection Report a separate planning application process including further consultation will be undertaken to address building and transport related issues.</p>

<p>In addition, a number of consultees have made the suggestion that the proposed build site in relation to the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon is utilised for English medium secondary provision. Whilst a number of variations on this theme have been raised, from providing a new secondary provision to replace the former Cwmcarn High School, relocation Newbridge School, or amalgamation of Newbridge School and Risca Comprehensive onto a single site, the merits of each option have been considered prior to this proposal taking into account the likely impact on quality and standards, community, surplus places and travelling arrangements. As outlined in the Consultation Report and Objection Report there is no requirement identified for an additional English medium secondary provision. Both local English medium secondary schools have been identified as having adequate provision at their current locations for their catchment pupils. In addition, there has recently been significant investment of £2 million through the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band A programme at Newbridge School.</p> <p>School based ‘existing evidence’</p> <p>The existing Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon has occupied their current site for over 20 years. Located in the heart of a small village in Abercarn, the school is the 3rd occupier of the site which has seen multiple incarnations over the years to utilise the asset to its fullest extent. There are approximately 260 pupils</p>	<p>authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales with the priority areas being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of poor condition schools • Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education • Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate <p>Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon is a Welsh medium primary education facility, accommodating circa 260 pupils in a site originally designed for 80. The use of the site has been maximised to accommodate growing demand but there is no further room for expansion.</p> <p>The School Organisation Code 2018 is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined at Section 98 of the 2013 Act. That is a school in Wales, which is a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community special school or a maintained nursery school. This does not include pupil referral units (PRUs). The School Organisation Code 2018, provides clear statutory guidance as to the processes that need to be adhered to when bringing forward a proposal.</p>	
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<p>on role, an additional 180 to the original concept to house 80 when the school was originally handed occupancy of the site. The latest information available from the latest condition survey undertaken on the premises utilising the industry recognised 'Faithful and Gould' building surveying methodology has classified the school as Category C for condition. This means the overall condition of the school is 'poor, showing major problems or not operating adequately'.</p> <p>The site is enclosed on all sides, with no option for expansion, and has no direct access routes other than via a side street adjacent to the local public houses and village institute. Notably the site is also on a slanted gradient, resulting in multiple levels for both indoor and outdoor space which significantly reduces access and functionality for less able-bodied individuals.</p> <p>Consultation Period The consultation period opened on Monday 14th September 2020 (a school day) and concluded at midnight on Monday 26th October 2020. Consultees were given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.</p> <p>Consultees were advised of the proposal and availability of the consultation</p>	<p>The consultation process has followed the Welsh Government requirements as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.</p> <p>Consultation Period 388 responses 'view's' were received during the consultation period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 responses were received in the medium of Welsh. • 95% supported the proposal as outlined in the Consultation document • 3% did not support the proposal as outlined • 2% provided a neutral or no comment response. • 3 alternative options were raised by consultees and considered by Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. <p>Full details are provided as part of the Consultation Report</p> <p>Objection Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Statutory Objections were received. • Objections were summarised into 2 areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prioritisation of Welsh medium education ➤ Need for a new secondary school in the area <p>Full details are provided as part of the Objection Report.</p> <p>Progression at each stage is subject to scrutiny, review and approval by Cabinet</p>	
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<p>documentation when it went live on the 14th September 2020 via letter/email and were therefore invited to take part in the statutory consultation to gather their 'views' on the proposal as outlined in the consultation document.</p> <p>The Council was aware that the proposal relates to Welsh Language provision so the Welsh Language Commissioner was also advised in this instance.</p> <p>Objection Period Following the decision by Cabinet (9.12.2020) to proceed to Statutory Notice, anyone wishing to make an objection to this proposal was able to do so as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018. To be considered as a statutory objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and sent to the Council within the 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published. This is referred to as the "objection period" and ran from the 11th January 2021 to the 7th February 2021.</p> <p>Of the 2 Statutory Objections received, these were summarised into 2 areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation of Welsh medium education • Need for a new secondary school in the area <p>The Objection Report provides full details and in addition original copies of all correspondence are made available to</p>	<p>Members and in addition, Welsh Government are engaged in the process as one of the key delivery partners and co-funders.</p>	
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Cabinet Members for consideration as part of the decision making process.

Were there any gaps identified in the evidence and data used to develop this proposal and how will these gaps be filled?

Details of further consultation can be included in Section 9.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019, provides a series of standards and places a statutory duty on the Council to assess the demand for Welsh medium education in the area. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan sets out Caerphilly's commitment to the Promotion of Welsh language and the provision of quality, attractive educational facilities. Within the WESP we are striving to stimulate demand for Welsh medium education, which we know is more sustainable for families if education provision is expanded in line with childcare available. Respondents as part of the Consultation and Objection periods have indicated concerns relating to the prioritisation of Welsh language education facilities for investment in the area and also alternative usage for the proposed relocation site to accommodate perceived demand for English medium secondary education. These concerns have been addressed in the Consultation Report and the Objection Report.

There are clear processes which need to be followed as per the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. Respondents as part of the Objection period and subsequent to this have indicated concerns relating to lack of consultation with local residents and the wider community. The Council has undertaken stakeholder engagement and produced documentation at the appropriate stage of the process in line with statutory requirements. The consultation was also targeted to specific people/ groups /organisations with a vested interest in this area of work and also shared available via the Council's website, social media channels and parents and other consultees were made aware via letter. These concerns have been addressed in the Consultation Report and the Objection Report.

9. Consultation

(In some instances, there is a legal requirement to consult. In others, even where there is no legal obligation, there may be a legitimate expectation from people that a consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, [The Gunning Principles](#) must be adhered to. Consider the [Consultation and Engagement Framework](#). Please note that this may need to be updated as the proposal develops and to strengthen the assessment.

Briefly describe any recent or planned consultations paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles.

The consultation process will proceed in line with the requirements of Welsh Government Statutory Code document no 011/2018 - School Organisation Code 2nd Edition 2018.

The process also supports the Involvement Principle under the 5 ways of working in relation to the Socio-economic Duty, with specific reference to the need to “be guided by the voices of socio-economically disadvantaged people”.

The School Organisation Code 2018 is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined at Section 98 of the 2013 Act. That is a school in Wales, which is a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community special school or a maintained nursery school. The School Organisation Code 2018, provides clear statutory guidance as to the processes that need to be adhered to and the stages to follow.

A prescribed list of recipients (as outlined below) has been written to at either the commencement of the Consultation Period, and/or Objection Period.

All documentation was made available in both Welsh and English throughout the process and other formats were available on request.

Parents, prospective parents, guardians and carers of all pupils of schools directly affected by the proposal

Headteacher, staff and governors of schools directly affected by the proposal

Pupils/Pupil Councils of schools directly affected by the proposal

Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taf,

Torfaen Catholic Diocesan Board of Education o Church in Wales Diocesan Board

Local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Governing body of other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposal

Local CCBC Members

All Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing the area served by the schools directly affected by the proposal

Welsh Ministers

ESTYN

Teaching Associations

Support Staff Associations

South East Wales Consortium (EAS)

South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA)

Gwent and South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners

Local Town and Community Councils

Menter Iaith Caerffili

Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership

Parent Network

Welsh Education Forum

Welsh Language Commissioner

As outlined in the original Equality Impact Assessment Document, the principles of engagement outlined in the Local Authority's Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020 will also be acknowledged and the project team will engage with any additional 'interested parties' as required.

The principles of engagement outlined in the Local Authority's Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020 will also be acknowledged and the project team will engage with any additional 'interested parties' as required.

The School Organisation Code 2018 states that when undertaking a consultation process in connection with a school proposal, the Council must publish information to enable transparent, balanced and open decision making. At time of writing, the process being followed is synergistic with the vision of our Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020-25 and ensures the appropriate level of consultee engagement and transparency.

The proposal is still in the formative stage until a final determination is made by Cabinet who act as the decision making body in this instance.

The Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal has progressed through several stages of the process to date:

1) Consultation Period

A consultation period ran from the 14th September 2020 to the 26th October 2020 seeking the views of consultees as defined by the code.

As part of this proposal, the following documentation was published:

- [Consultation Notification Letter](#)
- [Consultation Document](#)
- [Child Friendly Consultation Summary](#)
- [Consultation Video](#)
- Artist's Impression of proposed new school [Image 1](#) / [Image 2](#) / [Image 3](#)
- [Consultation Response Form \(Online\)](#)
- [Consultation Response Form \(Printable PDF\)](#)
- [Equalities and Welsh Language Impact Assessment](#)
- [Consultation Frequently Asked Questions](#)

As part of the initial Equality Impact Assessment undertaken, it was envisaged that a series of targeted sessions will be held over a given day between the hours of 10am and 8pm to provide information and the opportunity to pose questions to designated officers concerning the proposal. Individuals will be required to book 10 minute appointment slots and a translator will be available if required. As part of this process, the target audiences who will be engaged with include – Pupils (School Council), School Staff, School Governors, Parents/Guardians and the wider Community. However, Due to the implications of COVID-19 at the time this consultation was due to take place and after taking advice from Welsh Government, this consultation process refrained from undertaking any face-to-face consultation

sessions to support social distancing and maintain safe working practices for all. It should be noted that there is no obligation to consult face-to-face and therefore a written paper consultation exercise was undertaken to discharge the Council of its duty under the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Council acknowledged that the voice of young people is about involving them as active participants in the development, delivery, management and improvement of their educational and student experience and needs to be at the heart of planning, provision and evaluation. Learner Voice. A summary version of the main consultation document was also prepared, published and targeted specifically at children and young people.

[Child Friendly Consultation Summary](#)

This summary version was released online as part of the consultation pack and hardcopies were made available on request.

As identified in the Consultation Document, consideration was given to hosting a virtual consultation session with representatives from the schools affected. However, through discussions with the relevant head teachers and the 21st Century Schools team, the decision was taken for the local teaching staff to engage with all year groups and not just a representative sample. Utilising the child friendly version of the consultation document and the accompanying video, children were engaged in a familiar environment, at the appropriate comprehension level and in the language of their preference. It was felt that due to the current 'bubble' situation in schools, this was the best way to ensure the fullest return possible to capture the learner voice. Many of the children provided comments on what they would like to see in the future and how they felt about the proposal. These comments were included as part of the Consultation Report.

Notes from each session were recorded and have been included as part of the consultation responses which will be made available to Cabinet. Where answers were provided in other formats, these have been transcribed ad-verbatim and summarised in the Consultation Report.

2) Statutory Notice / Formal Objection Period

A 'Statutory Notice' was published and the formal 'Objection Period' opened on the 11th January 2021 and closed on 7th February 2021.

Notices were published on the 11th January 2021 as follows:

- A [Statutory Notice was published](#) on the [council website](#)
- A [Statutory Notice](#) was displayed in several locations, on or near the main entrance of the school which was subject to the proposal
- The school was provided with hardcopies of the Statutory Notice to distribute to pupils, parents/carers and staff.
- Prescribed consultees as listed in the School Organisation Code 2018 were notified in writing and sent a copy of the [Statutory Notice Notification Letter](#)

- Social Media Messages were released on Facebook and Twitter to advise of the publication of the Notice and direct interested parties to the Council website

The School Organisation Code 2018 states that *“It is essential that proposers seek and achieve high standards both in the information that underpins school consultations and in the consultation documents that are published. These will be examined closely by communities, school staff and parents, and errors in details can easily undermine confidence in a proposal.”*

There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings although there will be circumstances where proposers will consider that meeting with certain groups of consultees will assist greatly in the dissemination of information and provide a suitable platform for the consultees to make their views known.

Proposers may use other ways to engage consultees as they think appropriate.

The proposal is still progressing through the Statutory process as prescribed by the School Organisation Code and at time of writing, no final determination has been made.

The key findings of the initial consultation exercise were summarised in a Consultation Report that was presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet for consideration.

This Consultation Report is the prescribed method as outlined by the School Organisation Code 2018 for reflection, review and assessment to provide Cabinet with the information to make an informed decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal to the next stage, amend the proposal taking into account further information that has come forward through the consultation process or to close this proposal with no further actions taken. The Report is divided into several sections with the aim to:

- Outline the consultation processes undertaken
- Provide clarification in relation to the information provided and consultee engagement
- Summarise each of the issues raised by consultees
- Set out Estyn’s response to the consultation in full
- Respond to issues raised by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons

- [Consultation Report Notification Letter](#)
- [Consultation Report](#)
- [Child Friendly Consultation Report](#)
- [Estyn’s Response](#)
- [Notice of Cabinet Decision from the meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2020](#)

The outcome of the Objection Period has been summarised in an Objection Report that will be presented to Education Scrutiny Committee for review on the 22nd March 2021 and then formally presented to the decision making body ‘Cabinet’ at its meeting on the 7th April 2021 for final determination.

As part of the development of the proposal, a number of benefits and disbenefits were identified as outlined in the Consultation Document. The consultation process was an opportunity to consult with relevant stakeholders to understand what they see as positive outcomes and what negative consequences may be delivered. An Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment and a Community Impact Assessment were carried out to initiate discussion and invite comments as to whether the principles for the proposal are supported. All comments have been recorded and will be made available for Cabinet as a separate annex to this Consultation Report.

10. Monitoring and Review

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How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal be monitored, including implementation of any amendments?

The programme is managed by a Project Board comprising of the Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services, Head of Education Planning and Strategy, Chief Education Officer, Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement, Interim Head of Property Services and 21st Century Schools Manager. The Project Board provides the overall direction, management and control for the Programme, being accountable for the success of the Programme and is the ultimate decision making body for the Programme.

A Project Management Team comprising of the Head of Education Planning and Strategy, and resources and staff from Property Services will oversee the day to day development and implementation of each constituent project, reporting to the Board and other relevant senior officers, as appropriate.

Key personnel have received Equality Impact Assessment Awareness, Integrated Impact Assessment sessions and Equalities Awareness Training and attended training and information sessions delivered by Welsh Government. Training needs will be constantly reviewed throughout the process and addressed when the need is evident.

In addition, the 21st Century Schools Manager and Principal Officer have met with representatives from the Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation Team to take guidance where required.

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What are the practical arrangements for monitoring?

The Council recognises that the whole organisation must be skilled in making the very best use of available resources. Good project management is recognised as being an essential ingredient to success in tackling our strategic work programme.

Project management principles will be followed (Prince2 and MS Project) throughout the programme. Programme management principles will be employed for the overarching Band B programme and the project will utilise the experience of the project team involved in the Band A project. This will commence with a Programme execution plan that will define the programme objectives, responsibilities, dependant actions and risks. The latter will include risk elimination or mitigation actions and risk owner. An overall programme monitoring tool will integrate and coordinate procurement, design and construction programmes and will highlight key dependencies and the critical path.

In addition to the numerous reports that need to be produced in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 and internal Caerphilly County Borough Council decision making processes, A business case model is followed to secure Welsh Government funding.

An initial Outline Business Case / Strategic Outline Business Case was developed at the concept stage based on the five key areas that underpin the Better Business Case Process (Five Cases Business Model).

The Business Case focused on:

- the strategic justification and investment objectives for the project (Strategic Case)
- the reasoning behind reduction of the long list to a short list of options and analysis of the options appraisal and benefits (Economic Case)
- the outline cost of the project and details of match funding and profile of spend (Financial Case)
- the proposed management structure (Management Case)
- the commercial strategy (Commercial Case)

Approval to secure the funding in principle is agreed by Welsh Government at this point prior to the proposal progressing through the consultation processes.

As the proposal progresses through the consultation processes, regular meetings with 21st Century Schools Officers in Welsh Government are held to update them on progress.

	<p>Once a final determination is made on the proposal by Cabinet, a Full Business Case will be submitted to Welsh Government which will solely focus on the tendered costs unless anything has changed since agreement to the original business case was submitted. At this point, with the approval of Welsh Government, the funding is released to implement the proposal.</p> <p>Should the proposal then be implemented (based on approval as outlined above), on completion of the works a Welsh Government Closing Report is produced, supported with full project costings and analysis as to whether the community benefits have been achieved.</p> <p>The 21st Century Schools team are required to monitor projects for their first five years through completion of post occupancy evaluation workshops with pupils and staff. This is also reported to Welsh Government and supports the Council in considering best practice and any areas for improvement on future projects.</p>
<p>How will the results of the monitoring be used to develop future proposals?</p>	<p>The Council produces a protocol document for each school opening/closure/amalgamation project. This outlines individual and team responsibilities for the full list of actions required over the 3 stages of design and pre-construction, construction and school occupation and decommissioning.</p> <p>Regular monitoring meetings take place and typically involve 21st Century Schools Team, Headteachers, Education advisers, Property Services, Catering Services, ICT, Traffic Management, Procurement and Audit representation. Relevant stakeholders will also be involved in post project evaluation to review outcomes to ensure improvements are made for future projects.</p> <p>Benefits Realisation will be monitored by the project team and Caerphilly County Borough Council and reported to Welsh Government through the project closure report and other relevant documentation. Community benefits will be reported quarterly and yearly and when the project ends.</p> <p>The project will be subject to gateway review as required by the funding agreement. The review is one by which independent practitioners from outside the programme/project use their experience and expertise to examine the progress and likelihood of successful delivery of the programme or project. Any recommendations of the review team will be taken on board and implemented as appropriate.</p>

	A post contract review will also be undertaken.
When is the proposal due to be reviewed?	<p>Further to review at Education Scrutiny Committee on the 22d March 2021, this document will be considered in full at a Cabinet meeting due to be held on 7th April 2021.</p> <p>Decisions (in relation to proposals which require approval or determination) must be made and issued in the form of a decision letter. The decision letter must set out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018. The Decision letter will be published electronically on the Council's website and the consultees as outlined in Section 5.6 of the School Organisation Code will be advised by letter/email of the availability of the document.</p>
Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?	<p>Cabinet Members will be asked to review the proposal and make the final determination as to whether to implement the proposal as outlined below: To relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose-built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated at the former Cwmcarn High School site.</p> <p>If approved, it will be the responsibility of the Author of this report (or nominated officer within their section) to ensure the Integrate Impact Assessment and proposal is reviewed and any mitigating actions followed up on and actioned.</p>

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11. Recommendation and Reasoning

- Implement proposal with no amendments
- Implement proposal taking account of the mitigating actions outlined
- Reject the proposal due to disproportionate impact on equality, poverty and socio-economic disadvantage

Have you contacted relevant officers for advice and guidance?

Yes

No

12. Reason(s) for Recommendation

(Provide below a summary of the Integrated Impact Assessment. This summary should be included in the "Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment" section of the Corporate Report Template. The Integrated Impact Assessment should be published alongside the Report proposal).

It is the recommendation of this Integrated Impact Assessment and in line with the processes outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 that Members endorse the proposal to relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose-built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated at the former Cwmcarn High School site.

The information gathered and reviewed as part of this IIA and through the consultation phase and formal objection period demonstrate the growing demand for Welsh medium education and the benefits of providing this through a single, integrated facility in the Islwyn East area. Whilst concerns relating to the proposed location (Cwmcarn High School) and the impact on the local community in relation to English medium secondary provision has been identified, supporting evidence provided as part of the Consultation Report and Objection Report clearly establish that investment as proposed into a Welsh medium primary provision is warranted.

Therefore, Cabinet Members are asked to consider this Integrated Impact Assessment alongside the Objection Report and provide a final determination in support of progressing to full implementation of the project which involves full business case submission to Welsh Government and Property Services undertaking their full statutory planning application process.

13. Version Control

(The IIA should be used in the early stages of the proposal development process. The IIA can be strengthened as time progresses to help shape the proposal. The Version Control section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time)

Version No.	Author	Brief description of the amendments/update	Revision Date
1.	Andrea West	An Equality Impact Assessment was completed on the Council's 2019 proforma to support the proposal and was published as part of the original Consultation Pack. Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment 01.09.2020 In addition, a Community Impact Assessment was undertaken in line with the recommendations outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 and summarised within the Consultation Document (pages 22-23) Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon Consultation Document	01.09.2020 14.09.2020
2.	Andrea West	As part of the Statutory processes being followed in relation to the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposal as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, at this stage in the process, a formal 'Objection	01.03.2021

		<p>Report' will be presented to Education Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd March 2021, with the final decision making body (Cabinet) meeting after the 31st March 2021.</p> <p>To ensure compliance with the new socio-economic duty set out in section 1 of the Equality Act 2010, which comes into force on 31st March 2021, this newly established Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) template has been utilised to act as the update and revision to the existing Equality Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment to include the relevant information highlighted through the statutory consultation processes.</p>	

Integrated Impact Assessment Author

Name:	Andrea West
Job Title:	21ST Century Schools Manager
Date:	<i>A.West</i>

Head of Service Approval

Name:	Sue Richards		
Job Title:	Head of Education Planning and Strategy		
Signature:	<i>S.Richards</i>	Date:	8.3.2021



CABINET – 7TH APRIL 2021

SUBJECT: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION BAND B
PROGRAMME – STATUTORY OBJECTION REPORT FOR
TRINITY FIELDS SCHOOL

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members in relation to the 21st Century Schools Band B proposal in respect of:
 - **Trinity Fields School**
Expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space
- 1.2 The attached Objection Reports and supporting documentation outline the statutory process undertaken and provides clarification in relation to the information provided through consultee engagement, summarising the issues raised on the proposal.
- 1.3 The Objection Report, supporting documentation and recommendations were considered and endorsed by the Education Scrutiny Committee on 22nd March 2021.
- 1.4 Cabinet Members are asked to consider the information contained within the Objection Report and supporting documentation and make a final determination.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The 21st Century Schools Band B proposal for Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre went to formal Statutory Notice stage between the 11th January 2021 and the 7th February 2021.
- 2.2 To discharge the Council's duty under the School Organisation Code 2018, there is now a requirement for Cabinet members to give due regard to the content of the Objection Report and make a final determination as whether to implement the proposal as outlined in the documentation.
- 2.3 Should Cabinet authorise progression of the project, a Decision letter will be published setting out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018.
- 2.4 A full Business Case will then be submitted to Welsh Government.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to:

- a) To seek a final determination by Cabinet Members on the recommendations made within the Objection Report to progress to implementation phase.
- b) To approve the proposed mitigations and the proposal to fund the estimated cost of £300k from the 2020/21 Miscellaneous Finance Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure that Members are updated on the progress of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme prior to making a final determination in respect of the Trinity Fields School proposal and publish a Decision Letter in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Band B

5.1.1 The key aims of the 21st Century Schools and Education Band B investment programme, outlined by WG, is to:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools.
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location, providing enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education.
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate for use by both Schools and the wider Community.

5.1.2 The first two schemes identified as priority for Phase 1 of the Band B programme are the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and the relocation and expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

5.1.3 Further to Cabinet approval gained 9th December 2020, a Statutory Notice for the Trinity Fields School proposal was published, and the formal objection period ran between 11th January 2021 and 7th February 2021. All documentation was published in Welsh and English, complying with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Information was also available in other languages and formats on request.

5.1.4 A prescribed list of recipients as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 were written to and a Statutory Notice was published electronically on the Council's website.

5.1.5 Hardcopies of the Statutory Notice were made available to the school and displayed in the school foyer, entrance gate and in close proximity to the proposed land for the developments, namely the perimeter fencing of the Trinity 1 pitch. In addition, the school's internal communication network with parents and pupils was used to raise awareness of the process and publication of the Statutory Notice.

5.1.6 In light of the Covid restrictions imposed at the time of publication, Welsh Government issued a modification to the School Organisation Code 2018 which

temporarily modifies section 4.1 of the Code in respect of the manner of publication of the statutory notice, as if the references to “school day” to now include a day on which there would have been a school session, but for any restriction on the attendance of pupils at the school in connection with the prevalence of coronavirus. Welsh Government confirmed that if a school was open to support keyworker or vulnerable pupils, as in the case of all the schools in Caerphilly, this would also be accepted as a ‘school day’ for the purposes of discharging this requirement under the code.

- 5.1.7 The Statutory Notice was published on a school day and consultees were given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.
- 5.1.8 The objection period opened on Monday 11th January 2021 (a school day) and concluded at midnight on Sunday 7th February 2021 to provide adequate time for response and conscientious consideration has been given to any responses received.
- 5.1.9 Under Section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer’s response to those objections (“the Objection Report”. The Objection Report in relation to the Trinity Fields School proposal has been compiled and attached as an annex to this report.
- 5.1.10 The Objection Report and Decision Notice will be published electronically on the 21st Century Schools page on the Council’s website. Hard copies will be available on request.

5.2 **Conclusion**

Pursuant to the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, the formal statutory objection period has now concluded in relation to the Trinity Fields School proposal and this report has been compiled to provide members with the necessary information to make an informed decision as to the final determination in relation to the proposal.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as it merely updates on the progress of individual projects.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 It is the recommendation of this Integrated Impact Assessment and in line with the processes outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 that Members endorse the proposal to expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space.

The information gathered and reviewed as part of this IIA and through the consultation phase and formal objection period demonstrate the growing demand for Special needs education and the benefits of providing this through a single, integrated facility. Whilst concerns relating to the proposed location (T1) of the expansion and the impact on the local community in relation to recreational and

sporting activities has been identified, mitigation measures have been clearly established that will provide equivalent and enhanced provision in the area fulfilling any obligation upon the authority linked to planning considerations. This has led to the recommendation in Section 11 to implement proposal taking account of the mitigating actions outlined.

Therefore, Cabinet Members are asked to consider this Integrated Impact Assessment alongside the Objection Report and provide a final determination in support of progressing to full implementation of the project which involves full business case submission to Welsh Government and Property Services undertaking their full statutory planning application process.

Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Members have previously agreed to earmark a total of £6.975m for Band B of the 21st Century Schools & Colleges Programme.
- 8.2 Phase 1 of the programme, Trinity Fields expansion totals £12,588,573. The Authority's contribution within this sum is £3,147,143.
- 8.3 The proposed mitigations estimated at £300k will be funded from the 2020/21 Miscellaneous Finance Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO) budget.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 These will be dependent on specific proposals and have been considered as part of the consultation process.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

10.2 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Members received contributions from Penallta RFC, Save Ystrad Green Spaces Group, the governors at Trinity Fields School and a presentation from the 21st Century Schools Manager.

One Member sought clarification on the 238 objections received and requested a breakdown under the five categories in the report. The Member was especially interested in the number of objections received concerning open space and loss of sporting facilities. The 21st Century Schools Manager advised the Member that this information would be provided to the Committee. The Member also wanted to know if the Trinity 1 (T1) and Trinity 2 (T2) sports pitches were of comparable size and if the drainage problem on T2 was rectified would it be an equivalent provision. The Sport & Leisure Development Manager advised that the T2 pitch is smaller but the mitigation measure for the loss of T1 is the additional pitch at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre. The Member observed that the crux of the matter was ensuring that the mitigation measures were sufficient, and she questioned if proposals were fulfilling

the needs of the community given the significant number of objections received. The Head of Regeneration and Planning advised that all sports pitches are subject to the requirements of the County-wide Policy 8 in the Local Development Plan and that the question of sufficiency in relation to the mitigation would be considered as part of the planning application process. The Member also had concerns about T3 which would be an attenuation area for storm water and would be unusable at times of flooding.

One Member questioned the lack of detail on a new Children's Centre at the site and claimed that the consultation process should have been more widespread. The 21st Century Schools Manager advised that the consultation list is stipulated by the Welsh Government. The pupil voice from the school effected is required to be heard as part of the consultation process. The officer reminded Members that a video of views from Trinity Fields schoolchildren had been presented at a previous meeting of the Committee. Members were advised that the list of consultees required was provided in the School Organisation Code 2018. Social Media was also used to further raise awareness of the proposal. The Member claimed that the report itself highlights the poor physical environment of Ystrad Mynach in comparison with other parts of the County Borough, and that this should be used as a reason not to repurpose T1. The Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services advised that the Member was referring to a quotation from a consultee in a Cabinet Report and it was not a Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) finding. The Member then raised the issue of parking facilities at the Sue Noake Centre. The Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services advised that parking would be a matter for the Planning Committee. He also provided clarity on the mitigation measures by outlining that an additional equivalent pitch in the locality (Sue Noake 2) was the mitigation for the plans to repurpose T1 in addition to a number of additional improvement measures at both T2, T3 and Sue Noake as outlined in the Objection Report and supporting Mitigation Paper. Further to this it was outlined that the Council had worked with Penallta RFC in order to identify additional enhancements to the existing Sue Noake 1 such as new changing facilities, fencing and improved access.

One Member highlighted the value to the community from Trinity Fields School and raised concerns about the mitigation measures and access to the Centre of Sporting Excellence by Penallta RFC. The Sport & Leisure Development Manager highlighted usage figures at the Centre from the club and the booking procedure as approved by Cabinet in 2014 were contained within the Objection report and previously published documentation.

One Member raised the initial options in the report and asked if the new school on another site option was a replacement for Trinity Fields or in addition to the current position. The 21st Century Schools Manager advised that both options had been considered as part of an options appraisal at Welsh Government business case stage, but the preferred scored option moving forward was the expansion of the existing site. The Member questioned the quality of ALN satellite facilities across the County Borough and suggested that a new school was a better option. The Lead for Inclusion and ALN emphasised the needs of the pupils and discussions with parents are key factors in placing pupils as part of a rigorous process that had been followed throughout the development of the hub and spoke model and how plans to enhance provision at both Trinity Fields and the satellite provision meets the requirements set out in the ALN Act.

One Member observed that he had concerns about losing green space in Ystrad Mynach and questioned what the future plans would be when the additional 80 places allowed by the extension were filled. The Lead for Inclusion and ALN advised

that predictions were made based on current and previous data. Planning was made based on the information available.

Cllr James put forward a Motion asking for a delay to the decision to allow for the costings for a new school to be presented in a review. This was seconded by Cllr Farina-Childs. It was clarified by Members that this was intended as an addendum to the recommendations if successful. The Scrutiny Officer clarified the wording of the Motion with Cllr James to ensure there was clarity amongst Members prior to the vote.

When called by the Chair the Head of Education Planning and Strategy offered to clarify the process for Members. The Officer advised that the proposal had been brought to the Education Scrutiny Committee on two previous occasions and that the Business Case process to Welsh Government had been approved for this expansion. It was outlined how a further Options Appraisal and another Business Case would have to be developed if the Motion put forward was passed and that this would significantly delay the process. The Officer advised that the Options Appraisal that had been discussed on two previous occasions had included an option for a new-build school. The Options Appraisal had discounted this option. One Member supported the Officer's remarks and said that the issue before Members now was to ensure that the objections were conscientiously considered. The Member said that she would not be supporting the amendment.

Chair called the 21st Century Schools Manager who reminded Members that the decision to proceed with the expansion of Trinity Fields School was the result of a recommendation from a cross-party working group which looked at all options. Members heard how this decision predated the request to proceed to a Business Case. The Chair then called the Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services. The Director advised Members that the Education Scrutiny Committee had voted previously on this matter as part of the process and it was recommended to proceed to statutory consultation phase with the preferred option being Option 4. The Director highlighted that no Members voted against the recommendation at that time.

One Member observed that the Committee had never had all the information needed to make a proper judgement. He said that it was a big decision and the findings of the cross-party group had never been brought forward.

The Chair brought in the Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services and the 21st Century Schools Manager. The Director highlighted that the Education Scrutiny Committee had considered this proposal previously and nobody voted against it the last time despite one Member claiming tonight that he didn't have all the information. The Member remarked that he did vote against it. The Director outlined that the record showed that there were 13 votes in favour and 2 abstentions when the decision was brought before the Education Scrutiny Committee at their November 2020 meeting. The 21st Century Schools Manager advised Members that despite the observation made that the Committee wasn't party to all the facts if Members went back to the presentation she delivered earlier in the evening it was shown that many of the issues that had been brought up as part of the objection process had been clarified within the consultation report. The Officer reiterated that this was the third report brought before Scrutiny Members.

The Scrutiny Officer conducted a vote via rollcall on the Motion put forward by Cllr James. In noting that there were 6 votes for, 8 votes against and no abstentions the Motion put forward by Cllr James failed to get support from the Committee.

Two Members sought assurances on the mitigation measures before a vote was taken on the report's recommendation. The Head of Regeneration and Planning assured Members that this would be a fundamental part of the Planning Application.

Following consideration and discussion the Education Scrutiny Committee by a majority present, and in noting in that there were 8 votes for, no abstentions and 6 votes against, ENDORSED the recommendations of the 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme – Statutory Objection Report for Trinity Fields School.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government) School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Author: Andrea West, 21st Century Schools Manager

Consultees: Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Councillor Ross Whiting, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Carol Andrews, Vice Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and Section 151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Jared Lougher, Sport and Leisure Development Manager
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion & ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities, Welsh Language & Consultation)
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Ros Roberts, Business Improvement Officer
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Background Papers:

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Objection Report – Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre
Appendix 2 Integrated Impact Assessment
Appendix 3 Proposed Mitigation Paper
Appendix 4 Sewerage Briefing Paper

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21st Century Schools Objection Report

TRINITY FIELDS SCHOOL AND RESOURCE CENTRE



Proposal : **Expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space with an anticipated completion date of September 2023**

Formal Statutory Objection Period : 11th January 2021 – 7th February 2021

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.



Ysgolion a Cholegau yr 21ain Ganrif
21st Century Schools and Colleges



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary

Caerphilly County Borough Council aspires to continue to raise school standards and improve the quality of the learning environment to create fit-for-purpose 21st century schools and give every child in Caerphilly the best possible start in life.

Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre has been identified as one of the first priority projects for the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme in the Borough.

At their remote meeting held on the 9th December 2020, Council Cabinet agreed the proposal to progress to Statutory Notice phase, in-line with the School Organisation Code 2018 in relation to:

- **Expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space with an anticipated completion date of September 2023**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the aforementioned decision was subject to a challenge process. The decision notice was circulated to all Members and appropriate officers. The executive decision came into force at 5pm on Monday 14th December 2020. Please note that this decision was not 'challenged'.

Statutory Obligations

This report is published in line with the requirements of the [School Standards and Organisation \(Wales\) Act 2013](#) and the [School Organisation Code 2018](#).

Purpose of the Objection Report

In accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018, the Council must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the Council's responses to those objections ("the Objection Report"). The purpose of the Objection Report is to provide Cabinet with the necessary information to make an informed decision through reflection, review and assessment as to whether to implement the proposal.

The Report is divided into several sections with the aim to:

- Outline the Statutory processes undertaken
- Provide clarification in relation to the information provided and consultee engagement
- Summarise each of the Statutory Objections raised by consultees
- Respond to the Objections raised by means of clarification, with supporting reasons

Full details of the decision making process and the stages of the proposal as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 have been published as part of the Consultation Documentation and are publicly available via the Council's website with hardcopies made available on request.



PROPOSAL

What are we proposing to do?

As outlined in the [Consultation Document](#) and [Consultation Report](#), both of which have been published and are available via the Council's website or in hardcopy on request, Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has embarked upon an exciting but challenging journey of improvement and change.

Schools in Wales need to be in good condition and suitable for the delivery of education. In some cases, schools can be modernised, repaired, refurbished, extended, or partially rebuilt to meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning. However, some existing schools are no longer in the right place and in such cases, we might propose new schools or changes to existing schools.

The 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales with the priority areas being:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location
- Provide enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate

We are proposing to:

- **Expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space with an anticipated completion date of September 2023.**
 - The proposed new building will provide additional facilities to accommodate growing demand for places and provide additional classrooms, specialist intervention areas and outdoor play space.
 - It is proposed the additional facility will also house a new flexible hall, hydrotherapy pool and soft play facilities to increase provision on site which will also be considered for community use at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable.
- To ensure that it can cater for the changing and more complex needs of pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) across the Council, both now and in the future and ensure compliance with the new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act.



STATUTORY PROCESS AND DECISION MAKING

The Statutory Process

The School Organisation Code 2018 is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined at Section 98 of the 2013 Act. That is a school in Wales, which is a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community special school or a maintained nursery school. This does not include pupil referral units (PRUs).

The School Organisation Code 2018, provides clear statutory guidance as to the processes that need to be adhered to and the stages to follow:

1) Changes that require a proposal

- Identifying the proposal
- Development of proposal

2) Consultation

- Publishing a Consultation Document
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders (as prescribed by the code)
- Undertaking a consultation exercise
- Consultation with children and young people
- Publishing a Consultation Report
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders

3) Publication of Statutory Proposals

- Publishing a Statutory Notice
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders

4) Determining Proposals

- Publishing an Objection Report
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders
- Approval by Local Authority or Welsh Minister (dependent on nature of proposal)
- Decision Notification
- Notification letter sent to stakeholders

5) Implementing Proposals

- Carrying out agreed actions

The planning and development of effective school organisation proposals is crucial to the Welsh Government's goal of transforming education in Wales and providing better educational outcomes. The aim is to ensure that proposals support the Welsh Government's commitment to increase school effectiveness, and narrow inequalities in achievement between advantaged and disadvantaged areas, groups and individuals.

When formulating a proposal, there is a need to clearly identify the reasons for formulating the proposal. Factors to be taken into account in preparing, publishing, approving or determining school organisation proposals include Quality and Standards in Education, the need for places

and impact on accessibility, resourcing of education and other financial implications. These factors are outlined in the [Consultation Document](#) and further addressed in the [Consultation Report](#).

Cabinet Response to Consultation Report

A digital meeting via Microsoft teams took place on Wednesday 9th December 2020 at 5.30pm.

As part of this meeting, the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme and consultation in respect of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre was discussed. All Consultation Documentation was made available to members as part of the agenda reports pack including the [Consultation Report](#) and original responses in the format received from all parties within the consultation period which ran from the 14th September to the 26th October 2020. Officers linked to the proposal were available to take questions.

It was noted that the matter was previously considered by Education Scrutiny Committee on the 26th November 2020 at which the recommendation to proceed to the Statutory Notice stage was agreed.

It was agreed that a vote in respect of the proposal would be taken and be officially recorded. Cabinet Members voted unanimously *‘that for the reasons contained in the Officers Report to Cabinet, agree the proposal to progress the project to the Statutory Notice phase, in-line with the School Organisation Code 2018.’*



A recording of the session is available on YouTube: [Cabinet – 9th December 2020](#)

The agenda item linked to the 21st Century Schools proposals start at 28 minutes in to the recording.

The [Notice of Cabinet Decisions](#) document is also available to view on the Council’s website.

Decision Making

Progression at each stage is subject to scrutiny, review and approval by Cabinet Members and in addition, Welsh Government are engaged in the process as one of the key delivery partners and co-funders.

When approving proposals, Cabinet must:

- consider whether there are any other related proposals
- ensure that the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with this Code (the requirement to consult does not apply to proposals relating to Pupil Referral Units)
- ensure that the proposal has been published in accordance with the Code and the notice contains all the required information
- consider the [Consultation Document](#) and [Consultation Report](#)
- consider the objections and the objection report and any responses to the notice supporting the proposals

This Objection Report has been produced as the next stage in the process following the Statutory Objection Period as defined by the School Organisation Code 2018. This Objection Report will be subject to initial scrutiny as part of discussions at an Education Scrutiny Committee meeting whereby Members will be asked to note the information contained in the Objection Report and to seek views on the recommendations made within this the Objection Report prior to consideration by Cabinet on 7th April 2021.

Cabinet will then make the final determination relating to the proposal and decide whether or not to proceed to implementation as recommended. Full details are outlined in the [‘Next Steps’](#) section.

STATUTORY NOTICE

Statutory Notice - Consultation Process

The consultation process has followed the Welsh Government requirements as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

As the proposal relates to a ‘regulated alteration’ to a Special school under Section 44 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the proposals have been published on the Council’s website.

Following the decision by Cabinet outlined above to proceed to Statutory Notice, anyone wishing to make an objection to this proposal was able to do so. To be considered as a statutory objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and sent to the Council within the 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published. This is referred to as the “objection period” and ran from the 11th January 2021 to the 7th February 2021.

Statutory Notice - Consultation Information

The School Organisation Code 2018 states that when undertaking a consultation process in connection with a school proposal, the Council must publish information to enable transparent, balanced and open decision making.

The Statutory Notice was published on a school day and consultees were given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996. The objection period opened on Monday 11th January 2021 (a school day) and concluded at midnight on Sunday 7th February 2021.

Notices were published on the 11th January 2021 as follows:

- On the [council website](#)
- On or near the main entrance of the school which was subject to the proposal
- The school was provided with hardcopies of the Statutory Notice to distribute to pupils, parents/carers and staff.
- Prescribed consultees as listed in the School Organisation Code 2018 were notified in writing via email/letter
- Social Media Messages were released on Facebook and Twitter to advise of the publication of the Notice and direct interested parties to the Council website

All documentation was published in Welsh and English, complying with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Information was also available in other languages and formats on request.

Stakeholder Engagement

Consultees were advised of the proposal and availability of the Statutory Notice and all prior documentation published relating to the proposal, when it went live on the 11th January 2021 via letter/email and were therefore invited to take part in this stage of the statutory consultation.

The School Organisation Code 2018, prescribes those individuals/groups considered key consultees in the consultation process. As per section 4.1 of the code, the list below presents the consultees engaged with relevant to proposals of this nature for the Caerphilly Borough.

- Parents, prospective parents, guardians and carers of all pupils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Headteacher, staff and governors of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Pupils/Pupil Councils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen
- Catholic Diocesan Board of Education
- Church in Wales Diocesan Board
- Local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
- Governing body of other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposal
- Local CCBC Members
- All Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing the area served by the schools directly affected by the proposal
- Welsh Ministers
- ESTYN
- Teaching Associations
- Support Staff Associations
- South East Wales Consortium (EAS)
- South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA)
- Gwent and South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners
- Local Town and Community Councils
- Menter Iaith
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Parent Network
- Welsh Education Forum
- Any consultee who has previously expressed concern as part of their consultation response during the period of 14th September 2020 – 26th October 2020.

Sports Wales, Penallta RFC and the Save Ystrad Mynach Green Spaces Group were also advised of the publication of the Statutory Notice.

This proposal does not affect Welsh Language provision, therefore there was no obligation on the Council to consult with the Welsh Language Commissioner in this instance.

Implications of COVID19

Section 4.1 of the School Organisation Code 2018 states that a Statutory Notice has to be published on a school day and consultees given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days in addition to the day it was published, as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.

In light of Covid restrictions imposed at the time of publication, Welsh Government issued a modification to the School Organisation Code 2018 on the 8th January 2021 which temporarily modified section 4.1 of the Code in respect of the manner of publication of the statutory notice, as if the references to 'school day' now includes a day on which there would have been a school session, but for any restriction on the attendance of pupils at the school in connection with the prevalence of coronavirus.

In addition, the School Effectiveness Division of Welsh Government confirmed that if a school was open to support keyworker or vulnerable pupils, as was in the case of all the schools in Caerphilly at this time, this would also be accepted as a 'school day' for the purposes of discharging this requirement under the code.

Therefore, in light of the information above, the publication date of the 11th January 2021, falls within the definition of a 'School day' and the Statutory Objection period proceeded within the scope and requirements as prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018.

STATUTORY OBJECTION

Responses

Overall a total of 238 Statutory Objections were received during the Statutory Notice stage of the consultation process.

To be considered as a statutory objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and submitted within the Objection Period. All objections submitted, regardless of whether the respondent was classified as a consultee as per the School Organisation Code 2018 have been included in the figures reported. All responses have been individually read, reviewed and summarised in this report and original copies of all correspondence are made available to Cabinet Members for consideration as part of the decision making process.

It should be noted that this process as prescribed by Welsh Government, provides no opportunity for inclusion of responses in support of the proposal.

It should also be noted that the figures quoted in this document, include all responses received irrespective of any duplicates.

Of the prescribed methods for providing a response during the consultation period:

- 2 responses received via letter
- 236 responses received via email

0 responses (0%) were returned in the medium of Welsh with the remaining responses (100%) in English.

The 21st Century Schools Team received 0 requests for the documentation to be provided in another format or language.

Reasons for the Objection and Council Clarification

The following table provides a summary of the Statutory Objections received during the objection period as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018.

Area of Objection:	Overview
Statutory Processes	Respondents queried the processes and procedures being followed with particular focus on failure to consult widely enough. Concerns were also raised in respect of the nature and validity of the information that has been published in the Consultation Document and Consultation Report for the proposal.
Options Appraisal Process	Respondents queried the legitimacy of 'Option 4' in the Options appraisal, namely the proposal to expand Trinity Fields School being the preferred option to building a new school 'Option 5' and whether the decision has been based on finance alone. Respondents have queried as to whether expansion can be justified to meet future demand for places.
Loss of Green Space for the Ystrad Mynach Community	Respondents submitted objections based on the loss of green space in the community and how it is perceived to impact on general recreational activities, health and wellbeing and Ystrad Mynach Park. In addition, a clear sense of overdevelopment in the wider area as a result of the investment in the Hospital, Police Station and the Centre of Sporting Excellence has come to the fore. Respondents also stated that they perceive the proposal as being contradictory to the principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy and the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy.
Impact on Sporting Provision and Mitigation options	Respondents have raised objections based on the perceived impact on sporting provision for both adults and children from the area and beyond should the Trinity 1 pitch be repurposed as part of the proposal to expand Trinity Fields. This includes the impact on the local Rugby Club. Respondents have also remarked on the mitigation being proposed as inadequate based on the information released into the public domain.
Other Planning Considerations	As outlined in this Report and in the Consultation Report published previously, there will be a separate planning application process that will address a number of material planning considerations. However, a number of Respondents have raised objections linked to the construction of the proposed extension, its potential negative impact on traffic flow and localised flooding. Whilst this document and process is completely separate to the planning process,

	<p>clarification has been provided which may aid in decision making at this stage in the process.</p> <p>In addition, the formal representations made by planning consultants Turley and Consult QRD on behalf of Penallta RFC and Save Ystrad Mynach Green Spaces at the Consultation stage and the failure to respond to these in the Consultation Report will be addressed as part of the Council's response.</p>
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In accordance with Section 5.1 of the School Organisation Code 2018, the Council, as the proposer, must publish its response to the summarised objections. The tables below provide a non-verbatim description from the objections received of the individual areas requiring further clarification and the Council's response to each in turn.

Area of Objection:	Statutory Processes
Areas requiring clarification:	Council's Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling that the final decision on the proposal has been made Conflict of interest for Officers Misrepresentation of information in documentation by CCBC Failure to address all responses in Consultation Report 	<p>This proposal, relating to the expansion of Trinity Fields School is still progressing through the decision making processes as prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018. No final determination has been made regarding the proposal.</p> <p>There have been instances where Officers have declared a conflict of interest in relation to this proposal. Where this has been identified, relevant Officers have removed themselves from the process entirely or relevant parts of any meetings. This is standard code of practice and is always asked at the beginning of any formal meeting to discuss a proposal. It should also be noted for clarity that Officers are not decision makers in this process as this is the responsibility of Cabinet Members.</p> <p>The Council strives to achieve high standards both in the information that underpins school consultations and in the Consultation Documents that are published. The Council acknowledges that these will be examined closely by communities, school staff and parents, and welcomes holistic feedback to ensure a fair and transparent decision making process based on all the information available at the time.</p> <p>The School Organisation Code 2018 states that both the Consultation Report and this Objection Report only requires the Council to summarise the issues raised by consultees and respond to these by means of clarification. It is not a requirement to list and respond to each individual response directly, nor is there a requirement to publish any response or name any organisation other than Estyn. This does not mean however, that the responses are not considered and as stated previously, original copies of all</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation that there were more 'negative views' in consultation period than positive , why are proposals still progressing? • Failure to consult with local residents • Social Media Engagement (the Council) • Social Media Engagement (3rd Party) • Difference between 	<p>correspondence are made available to Cabinet Members for consideration as part of the decision making process.</p> <p>Due to the different decisions being made at each stage, varying levels of information are required to support the proposal. As outlined previously in this report, the council must follow the process set out by Welsh Government in their School Organisation Code 2018, when wishing to put forward a proposal for changes to a maintained or special school. There are a number of stages which must be followed in sequence in addition to a separate planning application process. Whilst the various stages can be perceived as repetitive, each stage has its own distinct function and ensures that the proposal is open to scrutiny and review throughout prior to any final determination being made.</p> <p>The respondents highlighted a number of concerns relating to the consultation process and a lack of engagement with local residents. The School Organisation Code 2018 clearly lists the consultees that the Council must consult with, including what documentation needs to be produced and at which stage. This list was clearly outlined in both the Consultation Document and the Consultation Report. Whilst a further stipulation of the Code instructs Councils to make suitable arrangement with the pupils of any affected schools, as a minimum the school council, there is no requirement to hold consultation meetings with local residents as part of this process, however, social media was utilised to assist in the dissemination of information to a wider audience.</p> <p>The Council has utilised its own Facebook, Twitter and YouTube channels to increase reach and engagement in line with its own Communications and Engagement Strategy 2019 – 2022 and it has also used these information sharing channels in addition to those specified in the School Organisation Code 2018, to “Inform and engage with residents, businesses, visitors, partners and other stakeholders about the council’s aims and key priorities, the services it provides and how they can get involved in shaping decisions,” in line with the principles of the Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020-2025.</p> <p>The Council is also aware that the proposal relating to the expansion of the existing Trinity Fields school has generated interest through various independent social media outlets. Whilst the Council is committed to ensuring the information contained on our pages is as accurate as possible at time of writing, since a number of the pages generated are not controlled by the Council, no liability, or responsibility is accepted arising from reliance upon the information contained in these pages.</p> <p>From the responses received during the objection period, there appears to be uncertainty as to the distinction between the 'consultation period' held in September/October 2020 and the</p>
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Area of Objection:	Option Appraisal Process
Areas requiring clarification	Council's Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why an expansion and not a new purpose built school at another location? • Has due diligence been followed? • Have all options been fully explored? 	<p>The Council recognises that there are many routes to realising transformational change and investment in key projects are important in order to meet the strategic vision of the Band B programme. In undertaking an options appraisal process exercise prior to submission of an outline business case to Welsh Government, a cross-departmental working group considered the investment objectives and scored each option in a weighted decision matrix. It was agreed that, based on the outcome of the scoring and further consideration of the shortlisted options, the new extension to the existing building scheme provided the best balance of costs, benefits and risks, with the remodel and limited rebuild options offering poor value for money and risks.</p> <p>21st Century schools is a platform for the continuing transformation of the Educational estate within the Caerphilly County Borough, identifying opportunities for a more prosperous, resilient and equal county borough. All proposals are subject to initial outline Business Case scrutiny and approval by Welsh Government and are based on the five key areas that underpin the Better Business Case Process (Five Case Business Model), in addition, these are underpinned by a Strategic Outline Programme (SOP), which provides an overarching view of individual local authority strategies.</p> <p>The processes prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018 are being followed and at the relevant stages, all decisions are subject to scrutiny and review by the relevant decision making body. The findings of the initial Consultation undertaken were presented in a Consultation Report and presented to Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for review, endorsement and permission to progress to the next stage.</p> <p>As part of outlining the current proposal, an options appraisal was undertaken to consider the relative desirability, viability and feasibility of the proposal.</p> <p>The following options were considered and scored: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 – Do nothing • Option 2 - Further reconfiguration of the existing school • Option 3 - Build a new primary school provision on another site • Option 4 - Build a new extension onto the existing school to accommodate an additional 80 places • Option 5 - Build a new school on another site to accommodate all identified provision and full cohort of 260 pupils (existing plus additional)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a cost benefit analysis been undertaken? • Has cost been the over-riding factor? • Will expansion truly future proof the school? 	<p>Each option was initially discussed between a selection of Council Officers from across multiple-departments and then a score allocated. The outcome of the options analysis resulted in the highest 2 scoring options being taken forward to a shortlist, where the benefits of the options were considered. These were Option 4 and 5. The published Consultation Document demonstrates how each option was scored and the rationale, including the benefits and disbenefits which resulted in Option 4 being progressed.</p> <p>Amidst a changing landscape of unprecedented investment opportunities on the one hand and austerity measures on the other, there is a pressing need to 'do things differently' with limited resources. The 21st Century schools programme provides the opportunity for the Council to coordinate activities involving a multi-agency approach and commitment from partners to achieve cost effectiveness, reduce duplication and maximise the benefits. When considering a proposal a number of Critical Success Factors are taken into consideration including the Strategic Fit, Educational Fit, Accessibility, Financial Fit and Environmental Impact. These key Investment Objectives are considered holistically and weighted accordingly.</p> <p>Cost has not been the over-riding factor in the proposal as the weightings for Education, Accessibility and Environment were ranked higher when the options appraisal was undertaken to determine a preferred option to take forward for consideration.</p> <p>Respondents have expressed concerns relating to the published 'number on roll' for Trinity Fields School and as to whether the proposal for expansion of a further 80 places will be sufficient to future proof the school and prevent the need for any further developments on site.</p> <p>Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre was purpose built in 1998. As the school became established and pupil numbers grew, the Council invested in the School from an improvement perspective and as part of the 21st Century Schools Band A programme. Through converting areas within the school building and reconfiguring the existing footprint to provide additional classroom space, such as the conversion of one of the sensory gardens, 20 classrooms in addition to other specialist provision is currently available on site.</p> <p>The 'Measuring Capacity of Schools Guidance in Wales' 2011, describes the method for assessing the capacity of all maintained mainstream schools in Wales. Special Schools such as in the case of Trinity Fields is not subject to this legislation and as such this means that there is no published capacity calculation.</p> <p>As there is no guidance to stipulate the number of children that would be accommodated per classroom, this is done at the discretion of the Head Teacher based upon the individual needs</p>
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and abilities of the pupils attending the school. Currently, there is an average of 8 – 9 pupils being accommodated on site per class across the 20 classrooms. Therefore, the overall accommodation on site for pupils is estimated between 160 and 180 places at present.

However, anticipated demand linked to the more complex and changing needs of the pupils together with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act has led to the urgency to expand the provision further at this School.

In light of this, the Council has utilised data, including current, historical and consideration of children already in the system to review provision and respond to the need accordingly resulting in the recommendation for expansion of the existing school by a further 80 places.

Historical and Current Data

Pupil Numbers				
Academic Year	Number on Roll at Trinity Fields	Number of pupils in main Trinity site	Number of pupils in satellite provision *	Number of pupils attending from out of Catchment
2015/2016	128	118	10	4
2016/2017	146	126	20	5
2017/2018	148	128	20	5
2018/2019	154	134	20	4
2019/2020	161	131	30	3
2020/2021	183	143	40	4

* Please note, some pupils are dual-registered at Trinity Fields School. This means they are included in the 'number on roll' figures but receive their main educational provision within a satellite setting, therefore not situated permanently on site at Trinity Fields. Dependent on the age and need of the pupils, the numbers attending each satellite site vary so an average class size of 10 pupils has been used for reporting purposes (as above).

It is impossible to provide a precise number of pupils that will require places from the 2022 cohort onwards, as this will depend on a number of factors, however, current information available indicates that in September 2021, there will be 19 leavers, 203 on roll, with circa 50 of those 203 pupils attending satellite provision.

The proposed 80 place expansion will future proof the school site for a number of years to come with the option to further expand satellite provision if required ensuring that the Council is fully discharged of any duties placed upon it to ensure educational need is met.

- Has the capacity of satellite provision been considered?

- ✓ Trinity Fields would be able to accommodate circa 260 pupils on site with 30 classrooms and additional specialist facilities accessible.
- ✓ Taking all provision into account (current and proposed), a total of circa 310 places would be available across all settings (Trinity Fields School and Satellite provision) for our most vulnerable pupils.

Expansion will also provide for a unified and integrated multi-agency input from Health and Social care which will further compliment the Educational provision. Visiting practitioners will not be permanently based at the Trinity site, but will however have access to facilities to undertake development and intervention activities with children, under a single roof, providing additional support and a better quality of life to the most vulnerable children in the Borough.

All Councils in Wales must make sure they provide enough school spaces for pupils of all ages in order to provide the best quality of education which includes places that meet the needs of the pupils with any additional learning needs.

Since the development of the Hub and Spoke model, Trinity Fields Special School has a pivotal role in the current and future development of the ALN strategy within the Authority. It has become a Centre of Excellence and developments have been recognised by Estyn as highly effective practice. However, the Council works closely with schools, families and other partners to promote inclusion and support the principle that the majority of children can have their needs met in mainstream settings and a fortnightly placement panel convenes to calculate the number of places that are required at each site.

Trinity Fields Satellite Provision	
Name of Satellite Site	Academic Year of Opening
Cwm Ifor Primary School	2013
St Cenydd Community School	2016
Deri Primary School	2019
Ty Isaf Infants School	2020
St Cenydd Community School (2 nd class)	2021

The capacity of the satellite provision has been considered as part of this proposal and pupil numbers have been factored into the calculations for how many the main Trinity Fields School site can accommodate, further informing the proposal for expansion of a further 80 places.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why an expansion to accommodate out of county children? 	<p>There may be small number of instances where children from out of County are admitted as admissions are decided via an independent Tribunal process. Currently only 2% of the school cohort falls under this criterion. The proposal is envisaged to primarily benefit pupils and their families from across the whole of the Caerphilly Borough (which is the catchment area for the school) as the additional facilities and adaptations will support children who have specialist needs in an appropriate and secure environment that will create a holistic approach towards learning and development.</p>
<p>Area of Objection:</p>	<p>Loss of Green Space for the Ystrad Mynach Community</p>
<p>Areas requiring clarification</p>	<p>Council's Response</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implications of Covid and increased emphasis on outdoor activities Ystrad an area of deprivation 	<p>Coronavirus has had a terrible impact on our country. The benefits of green space on our mental and physical health have become more apparent during the enforced period of change to our daily lives brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. The public has turned to green spaces to walk, run and to meet and appreciation of nature soared which the Council acknowledges. However, when balancing the most effective use of resources and considering the limited impact on the useable space for general recreation in the locale of the park area in conjunction with the proposed mitigation to support enhance sporting opportunities, the Trinity Fields expansion proposal would not prevent continuity of any such activity within the local area.</p> <p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) has been quoted on several occasions including in the Cabinet meeting held on the 9th December 2020 as indicating that Ystrad Mynach is ranked one of the most deprived areas in the Authority for greenspace.</p> <p>Ystrad Mynach is broken down into 3 distinct output areas (as defined by the WIMD). Whilst the data for 'Ystrad Mynach 2' which is the main built up town/shopping area does score a low in relation to the Physical Environment it should not be considered in isolation. The remaining 2 areas identified as 'Ystrad Mynach 1' and 'Ystrad Mynach 3' which includes the area effected by the proposal in addition to Ystrad Mynach Park and Penallta Park, score considerably higher when comparing with other areas within the Borough (110 areas in total).</p> <p>The individual rankings for all 8 deprivation indicators for the output areas relevant to Ystrad Mynach are shown below.</p> <p>The higher the score, the better the ranking (1= low /110 = high).</p>

Index Definition	Rank	Ystrad Mynach 1
<i>LA Rankings:</i>		
Income	84	
Employment	84	
Health	81	
Education	78	
Access to Services	56	
Community Safety	90	
Physical Environment	76	
Housing	74	
<i>Overall Ranking:</i>		
LA	87	

Index Definition	Rank	Ystrad Mynach 2
<i>LA Rankings:</i>		
Income	59	
Employment	54	
Health	62	
Education	75	
Access to Services	97	
Community Safety	13	
Physical Environment	1	
Housing	10	
<i>Overall Ranking:</i>		
LA	48	

Index Definition	Rank	Ystrad Mynach 3
<i>LA Rankings:</i>		
Income	108	
Employment	106	
Health	103	
Education	108	
Access to Services	37	
Community Safety	24	
Physical Environment	17	
Housing	102	
<i>Overall Ranking:</i>		
LA	99	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overdevelopment in Ystrad Mynach and the Feeling of the 'village' being lost • Brownfield sites not being utilised first • Contradiction with other policies and CCBC strategies 	<p>The Council has sought to strengthen and revitalise its Principle Towns over successive years and acknowledges there has been unprecedented investment in Ystrad Mynach including the creation of a Centre of Sporting Excellence, Police Station and new Hospital.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that there are many benefits to the reutilisation and reclamation of brownfield land and exploits these opportunities where appropriate. However, the proposal for Trinity Fields School is an expansion of an existing facility to ensure growth is managed, building upon the current infrastructure. The redevelopment of a brownfield sites for this use would not be viable or realistic and environmental and community safeguards will be put in place to mitigate any impact based on the current proposal.</p> <p>A number of respondents have expressed concerns that the proposal relating to Trinity Fields School contradicts National and Local policy. The Council is mindful of its duty to manage the natural heritage and its resources appropriately for future generations, whilst accommodating much needed sustainable development.</p> <p>Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales and places a duty on Council's to consider the long term impacts of their decisions. In accordance with the sustainable development principle within the act, Council's must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There are 7 wellbeing goals and the Council must work to achieve all of them, however, a balanced approach for individual projects need to be taken, which is why when reporting to Cabinet, all covering reports include a section relating to the Act to enable transparent decision making.</p> <p>Caerphilly CBC Green Infrastructure Strategy The Green Infrastructure Strategy was recently considered by Cabinet and several respondents felt that this document should prevent the current proposal progressing. It was confirmed at the Cabinet Meeting on the 9th December 2020 that this new strategy is designed to help develop a comprehensive policy framework for the protection, accessibility and use of green infrastructure as part of the preparation of the 2nd Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (LDP). It was stressed that the Green Infrastructure Strategy would form a part of the evidence base for the 2nd Replacement LDP together with the active Sports and Recreation Strategy and any other strategies with land use requirements. The Green Infrastructure Strategy supplements the Adopted Countryside Strategy, which was produced and adopted by CCBC in 1998, however the primary document for determining planning applications is the Adopted LDP until such time as it is superseded by the 2nd Replacement LDP. Therefore, any current</p>
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planning proposal will be determined having regard for the adopted LDP, which provides the framework for local decision-making and brings together both development and conservation interests to ensure that any changes in the use of land are coherent and provides maximum benefits. A pre-planning application consultation exercise will need to be carried out as part of the planning application process and all relevant National and Local Planning Policies and all material planning considerations will be taken into account by the Local Planning Authority in the determination of the application.

Caerphilly CBC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019

This strategy is designed to establish the key principles and vision in relation to the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly and inform future decisions and actions. It considers emerging needs and sustainability of services to support people in taking a greater responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity. The Strategy acknowledges that activity can take place in a wide variety of different places found throughout the Borough and significant Educational investment has been made into the Ystrad Mynach locality with the Centre of Sporting Excellence and local all-weather 3G pitches available for use by sports clubs and the wider community.

Location of 3G facility	Distance from Trinity Fields (T1)
Centre of Sporting Excellence	0.2 miles
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (Gelli Haf)	2.2 miles
Lewis School Pengam	2.8 miles
Blackwood Comprehensive	3.3 miles
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (Y Gwyndy)	4.2 miles
St Cenydd Community School	4.7 miles
Islwyn High School	5.2 miles

The mitigation relating to the creation of Sue Noake 2 and Trinity 3, the enhancement of Sue Noake 1 and Trinity 2 pitches and the introduction of a sporting hub at Sue Noake support this agenda.

In addition, Penallta RFC and a number of other Ystrad Mynach based clubs are currently exploring the possibility of creating a Community Sporting Hub at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre. The Hub would have the potential to support Rugby, Football, Hockey and Netball as well as a new clubhouse and improved changing facilities. The creation of a sporting hub is not part of the current mitigations for the loss of the pitch at Trinity 1, but the Council is keen to support the clubs to make the hub concept a reality.

- Boundary of park and usable green space

Consultees have also indicated the wider usage of the proposed site and park for recreational activities such as dog walking, socialising, play and picnics and have expressed concerns that these activities would be negatively impacted upon should this proposal go ahead. Trinity 1, is a marked pay-as-you-use sporting

- Concerns over Future developments of the park

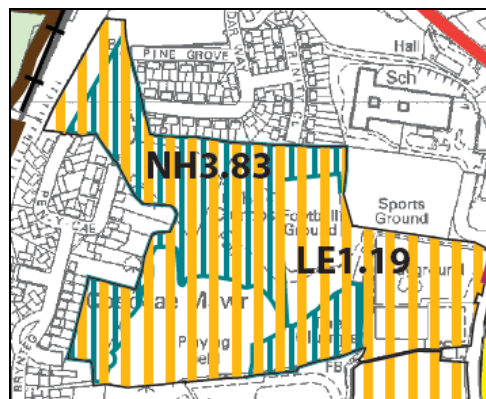
pitch. The removal of this facility would not prevent any of the activities currently being undertaken continuing within the park boundary or surrounding locality.

The Council confirmed its commitment to actively seeking Fields in Trust Status in perpetuity for Trinity 2 and 3. However, further investigations have been undertaken relating to Ystrad Mynach Park which included its deed status, something that would normally have been released as part of the separate planning application documentation. The Council can now confirm that areas of Ystrad Mynach Park are already protected from development being subject to a covenant on the land. Trinity 1 is not subject to these covenants.

Deed packages RA3271 and RA1653 have active covenants on the land contained therein which prevents the land being used for any purpose other than for a recreation ground, children's play area or park. Therefore, no future development is permitted within the areas identified in red below:



It should also be noted, as outlined in the [Consultation Report](#), the areas above echo those identified in the Local Development Plan as having development restrictions, falling within the remit of LE1.19 and NH 3.83. These are the Formal Leisure facility (Ystrad Mynach Park) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (Coedcae Mawr) respectively.



- Green flag status of park

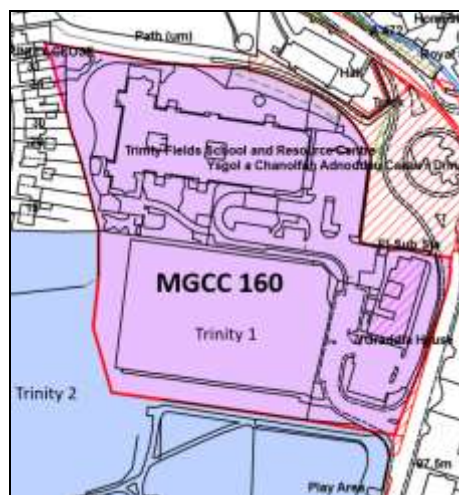
The Council recognises that a good quality environment can have a big impact on our communities, health and well-being, and economy. Ystrad Mynach Park and Penallta Park, both of which are located within the Ystrad Mynach locality are 2 of 7 locations within the Borough to have been awarded a Green Flag.



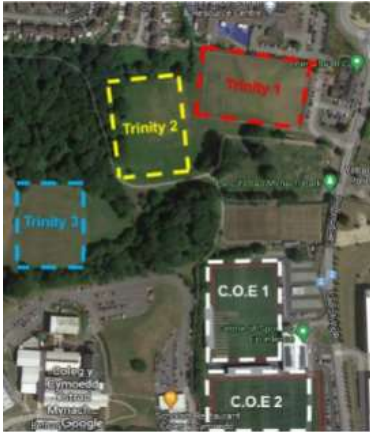
With reference to the Trinity Fields proposal, discussions have been undertaken with Keep Wales Tidy as a result of consultee concerns, who judge and award the prestigious Green Flag Award based on 27 different criteria. They have indicated that the loss of one rugby pitch in the area would not have any detrimental effect on the park's green flag status going forward.

Further investigations as a result of consultee feedback have been undertaken in relation to the detail of the Ystrad Mynach Park Management Plan, which was the Green Flag application document submitted to Keep Wales Tidy in 2017. The land identified for development as part of this proposal (Trinity 1) was not included as part of this application. The document clearly states that the application only relates to the land and facilities within the RA1653 and RA3271 deed package areas.

Trinity 1 falls outside of these areas and is contained in a separate deed package MGCC160 along with Trinity Field School and the adjacent Council building.

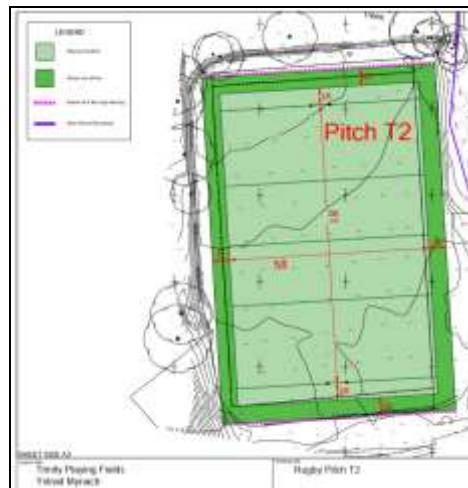


This further supports the assertion that should the proposal to expand Trinity Fields school be approved, this will not impact on Green Flag Status.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative provisions for children 'keeping them off the streets' Centre of sporting excellence not for community use Needs of 'local' families competing with children from outside the area 	<p>The Council appreciates that the proposal to develop Trinity Fields School has implications in relation to the identified pitch, but the local provision and activities for young people including Penallta RFC are not ceasing as a result of the proposal. There are still the same breadth of recreational facilities and activities available within the Ystrad Mynach Park boundary as well as enhanced mitigation provision being proposed to assist in the delivery and accessibility to a wider range of sporting provision within the locality.</p> <p>The Centre of sporting excellence opened in 2014. The Business model in operation provides for daytime use by key partners such as the Dragon Rugby Union Team and Coleg y Cymoedd who provide revenue to ensure financial viability and support competitive costing models for community use in the evenings and on weekends. The facilities are available for booking by the local community and sporting clubs at these times based on the booking criteria agreed by Cabinet in 2014 which ensures consistency at all venues across the Authority. For example, Penallta RFC have been identified as a local club accessing the facility as evidenced in the Consultation Report.</p> <p>The Council is committed to the principles of inclusion and the delivery of services to all. Trinity Fields School is the only specialist school to all the vulnerable children residing within the authority. The extension will support local pupils and families from across the Borough to ensure need is met on a sustainable basis. The School currently has only 2% of pupils on role from outside of the Borough and therefore not deemed to be local.</p>
<p>Area of Objection:</p>	<p>Impact on Sporting Provision and Mitigation options</p>
<p>Areas requiring clarification</p>	<p>Council's Response</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative impact on Penallta RFC including perceived loss of income, reduced usage, displacement of players and job losses at the club 	<p>The Council is proposing to expand the Trinity Fields School on to the pitch adjacent to the school. The pitch is known as Trinity 1 (T1).</p> 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre of Sporting Excellence is not an accessible facility to the local clubs (access and cost) • Sports Wales Objection • Inadequate Mitigation (Trinity 2,3 & Sue Noakes) 	<p>As is the case whenever a community sports pitch is at risk of being redeveloped, the Council has an obligation to provide an alternative provision of equivalent community benefit, made available locally, avoiding any temporary loss of provision.</p> <p>The Trinity 1 pitch is owned by the Council but the majority user of the pitch to date has been Penallta RFC, who also occupy a Club House alongside the pitch. To mitigate the potential redevelopment of the pitch at Trinity 1, the Council is proposing a range of mitigation measures and has been working closely with Club Officials to minimise any impact and ensure continuity.</p> <p>Through discussions, the Club has also confirmed that its preference is to continue to play their first team games at the Centre of Sporting Excellence which is a 3.5 minute walk from the club house. The first team games would be the primary income generators for the Rugby Club and access arrangements to the Centre of Sporting Excellence facilities would not differ from those that have been in place since 2014.</p> <p>As outlined previously, the Centre of Sporting Excellence operates a business model to ensure financial viability and support competitive costing models for community use in the evenings and on weekends. The facilities are available for booking and have been utilised by local clubs, including Penallta RFC in line with the booking criteria agreed by Cabinet in 2014 ensuring consistency at all venues across the Authority.</p> <p>Sports Wales were notified of the proposal both as part of the initial Consultation period and as part of the Objection period. No formal objection has been lodged in relation to this proposal. Sport Wales have been made aware of the mitigation options being proposed and have confirmed that they would not object to the proposal to extend Trinity Fields Special School as long as the alternative provision is of equivalent community benefit, made available locally and avoids any temporary loss of provision.</p> <p>The current Trinity 1 pitch is 106m x 66m with a 3m grass run off to all sides and has hard standing and fencing to two sides of the pitch with barriers to three sides. The pitch is underpinned by drainage and is considered a good and durable playing surface. The pitch does not benefit from any lighting at present. The mitigation proposals for the loss of the pitch at Trinity 1 are described below.</p> <p>The mitigations centre on:</p> <p>Trinity 2 & 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a new Mini and Junior pitch at Trinity 3 with an 84m x 44m marked out pitch with rugby posts available for use in time for the 2021/22 season. • New training lights will be installed alongside the pitch at Trinity
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2 to provide winter training opportunities where those don't currently exist.



Proposed pitch orientations and dimensions for T2 and T3

Sue Noake

- The provision of an additional 102m x 60m senior pitch at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre available for use in time for the 2021/22 season, with 5m grass run off, partial hard standing barrier, fencing, drainage and enhanced playing surface
- Enhancements to the existing 108m x 63m pitch at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre with new hard standing, fencing, drainage and enhanced playing surface.

❖ Please note, all pitch sizes are approximate at present



3D visual for proposed Sue Noake site

- Reusing existing open green space, not creating new

In addition, a number of enhancements to the supporting facilities including:

- Additional Changing facilities at Sue Noake Leisure Centre
- Temporary training lights in situ at SN1 to be replaced with enhanced permanent LED lighting
- Emergency Vehicle access to be created to the pitches at Sue Noake Leisure Centre
- Access Path Enhancements at Sue Noake Leisure Centre
- Remedial Drainage Works on the ATP at Sue Noake Leisure Centre to repair a crushed drainage pipe which has contributed to surface water flooding

The Council has consulted with Penallta RFC and Ystrad Mynach Ward Members specifically on the mitigation proposals and enhancements which are fully set out in a report being presented to Cabinet on the 7th April 2021.

Subject to Cabinet approval, the Council will apply for Fields in Trust status for the pitches at SN1 and 2 and Trinity 2 and 3, providing additional safeguards against the loss of these four fields moving forward.

- Drainage, Flooding and Quality of pitches

The adopted Local Development Plan provides a clear distinction between the factors that need to be considered when protecting open space (CW7) or protecting Community and Leisure Facilities (CW8). Outdoor sports facilities including playing pitches are protected under Policy CW8 and therefore Policy CW7 would not apply in respect of this proposal. As such, CW8 states that where a proposal would result in the loss of a community and/or leisure facility:

“A comparable replacement facility can be provided by the developer either on or off site, and within easy and convenient access on foot or by bicycle.”

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health concerns at Sue Noake linked to sewage 	<p>In order to compensate for the potential loss of the Trinity 1 pitch, Council Officers have been working closely with officials from Penallta RFC to design a range of mitigations and enhanced provisions. The intention has been to develop an alternative provision of equivalent community benefit locally, avoiding any temporary loss of provision and thereby complying with the requirements of the Local Development Plan CW8 criteria.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that there have been a number of concerns relating to the drainage on the existing pitches at Ystrad Mynach Park and also Sue Noake.</p> <p>As part of the mitigations for this proposal, the playing surface for Trinity 3 will be enhanced and will receive verti draining treatments and regular maintenance to enhance its playability.</p> <p>The playing surface for SN1 and the proposed SN2 will also be enhanced and will be made more durable for extended use by an external pitch specialist. A drainage system will also be installed under the playing surface at SN2 to further improve usage.</p> <p>Separate to the mitigation work set out within this report, the Council is also undertaking works at Ystrad Mynach Park to alleviate the impact of flooding on the park itself and further downstream.</p> <p>The work will seek to introduce attenuation of the stream flows during a storm event by providing storage within the park, specifically within the area proposed to be designated T3. This attenuation will have the effect of reducing the downstream flows to a level that the existing stream course and culvert system are able to accommodate, without surcharging.</p> <p>In practical terms this would mean the T3 field would be enclosed with an earthwork bund which would provide a natural viewing gallery for the pitch as well as holding and then releasing water during and after a storm event in a controlled manner. The duration of the period in which water is retained in this area would depend on the duration of the storm but once passed it would be a matter of hours, possibly a day before the whole area is drained and then a number of further days before the proposed pitch at T3 would be reusable.</p> <p>In addition to this the Council is also proposing to daylight a section of culvert within the park, often the primary source of flooding in the park. The availability of increased upstream storage and the proposed removal of the culvert, the current flooding experienced in the park should be completely alleviated for most extreme storm events, which would also be true of the flooding which currently affects the T2 rugby pitch ensuring greater access and usage through the season.</p>
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The stated works remains subject to funding being identified but it is anticipated that the works will be completed during the next financial year.

During the recent Storm Christoph (18th to 20th January 2021) a manhole above a mainline sewer that runs close to the edge of the proposed location of the pitch at SN2, surcharged and sewage was released to the surrounding area.

Welsh Water has responsibility for the sewerage infrastructure and have confirmed there have only been two recorded incidents of manholes in proximity of the Sue Noake site surcharging over the previous ten years. The first of these was in 2014 and the second, the most recent incident in January 2021.

These two isolated incidents have been subsequently verified in separate conversations undertaken with the Head Teacher at Lewis Girls School and staff at Sue Noake Leisure Centre. School and Leisure Centre staff have also confirmed that they have received no other reports from members of the public or Centre users of sewerage escaping from these specific manholes during the last ten years.

When a breach of this nature occurs, particularly on a trunk sewer, Welsh Water will undertake a detailed investigation, undertake any remedial work to the sewer and reinstate the ground.

Statement from Welsh Water

11 March 2021

Re: Sue Noake Centre

We have been called to attend reports of the sewer overflowing near the Sue Noakes Centre during heavy rain and are already carrying out investigations to understand the cause.

These have included undertaking a CCTV survey of the sewer with further surveys set to take place this week. Once these are completed, we should be in a better position to determine the cause and then undertake any work that may be required.

During the course of our investigations so far, we have found that damage has been caused by a third party to one of our pipes nearby which was allowing water from a stream to enter the network. This in turn was placing additional pressure on the sewer, particularly during heavy rain. We have undertaken a full repair of the damaged pipe.

Following the sewer overflowing at the site, we have sent a team on each occasion to carry out a full clean up of the area. We are also keeping Caerphilly County Borough Council informed of our investigations.

We do realise the inconvenience a sewer overflowing in this way can cause and apologise to the local community for this.

Ends

The likelihood of a reoccurrence of the recent surcharge of the manholes at **X** is considered unlikely and the frequency of reports over the last decade would appear to support this position.



The work being carried out by Welsh Water to investigate and remediate the issue would further support this position.

That aside, the Council acknowledges the benefits of developing some additional safeguards to provide further assurance to the users of the site.

The Council will make an application to Welsh Water to relocate the manholes further away from the pitch. The application will need to be considered by Welsh Water.

In the interim the Council is also exploring as part of its plans for SN2 the possibility of developing a protective 'bund' around the manholes. A 'bund', essentially, a raised grass bank will be installed between the pitch and the manholes to provide additional protections to the new pitch from any debris that may emerge should the manholes surcharge again at a future point.

- Cost of mitigation should be put into developing school elsewhere

The proposal for the Trinity Fields School expansion is standalone. Monies made available for mitigation is intended to be used for this purpose only.

- Pedestrian Route between Trinity 1 and Sue Noake

Active travel is important in promoting healthier lifestyles and in reducing the negative impacts of traffic upon our neighbourhoods and communities. The facilities proposed as part of the mitigation at Sue Noake are within a 0.5 mile radius from the Trinity 1 site

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency vehicle access • Car parking 	<p>and is currently accessed by a number of clubs including players at Penallta RFC. Whilst it is understood that the route requires crossing of a main road, there is a footpath along the entire route and a pedestrian light controlled crossing (pelican crossing) adjacent to Ystrad Mynach Primary School.</p> <p>Emergency vehicle access has been included as part of the mitigation package.</p> <p>Any development proposals must meet a number of highways requirements including car parking and access which will be a factor of the design process.</p>
<p>Area of Objection:</p>	<p>Other Planning Considerations</p>
<p>Areas requiring clarification</p>	<p>Council's Response</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build upwards not outwards • Will additional hydrotherapy pool effect drainage and increase running costs? • Community Use facilities 	<p>Respondents have queried why the expansion of the Trinity Fields site cannot be done vertically, by building upwards. The technical response was originally addressed in the Consultation Report and confirmed that this is not a viable option. Firstly, the school was not designed to support a first floor so a new support structure would be required. Furthermore, the school would need to close for more than a year to allow the construction to take place and the existing school building would be significantly disrupted and damaged by the process. Extending the school upwards would also not provide the access to additional external play areas that is essential for the enhanced wellbeing of pupils.</p> <p>There is no indication that an additional hydrotherapy pool would impact on any drainage issues and would be subject to any sustainable drainage approval as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>The proposed additional hydrotherapy pool will offer a range of tangible benefits to the health and wellbeing of pupils who have a range of disabilities and health conditions including improving muscle tone, movement of joints, more efficient lung capacity and a fun yet calming and relaxing multi-sensory environment. This facility will also be available on a booking basis for the wider community.</p> <p>Any increased running costs would be offset as far as reasonably practicable through including carbon neutral approaches in the build and operation of the building in line with the principles of the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy.</p> <p>Respondents have queried the community facilities that will be accessible should the expansion go ahead. It is a pre-requisite of Welsh Government funding that Council's optimise the use of infrastructure and resources to enable flexibility for space and</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Congestion and Air pollution levels • Transportation of school children • Concerns with properties flooding in surrounding area 	<p>facilities to be made available as community assets. Whilst the internal design of the proposed extension is yet to be finalised, subject to Cabinet approval to progress, discussions have included the zoning of the school to support access during school time and after hours to the hydrotherapy pool, hall, gym, soft play, family room with kitchenette, rebound therapy room and café and kitchen. The accessible toilets and ‘changing places’ hygiene rooms supporting these spaces would also be available on a booking basis.</p> <p>As part of any development, the Council is committed to providing safe, efficient and effective traffic management. As a highway authority, we have a duty to manage the road network to ensure, as far as possible, the safe and convenient movement of traffic and minimise pollution levels, which includes pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. The planning and design of the facility will establish safer routes with a newly designated pick up and drop off point which should alleviate congestion.</p> <p>As outlined in the Consultation Document, the catchment area for Trinity Fields School is the County Borough and this will remain unchanged as part of this proposal. Due to the specialist learning needs, all pupils are transported to site at present, 98% of which reside within the catchment area of the school.</p> <p>The site identified for the expansion of Trinity Fields School is directly adjacent to the existing premises, so existing learner travel arrangements will still be in place should the proposal be taken forward.</p> <p>The Council recognises that protecting life and property from the risk of flooding is an emotive subject for many. The major flooding events we have seen across the UK over the last few years serve to remind us of the devastating affects flooding can have. Respondents have expressed concerns of the current flood issues in Edwards Street and the perception that additional building in the area would further exacerbate this.</p> <p>The planning department have confirmed that all developments in excess of 100m² are subject to technical approval by the Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB), which is separate to the internal Planning process. Under the SAB approval process, the Council would need to demonstrate that on and off-site flood risk would not be adversely affected by the development prior to approval.</p> <p>Separate to the mitigation work set out within this report, the Council is also undertaking works at Ystrad Mynach Park to alleviate the impact of flooding on the park itself and further downstream as earlier in this document.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Consultants 'Turley' Document not referenced in Consultation Report 	<p>The Council wishes to set the record straight in relation to the handling of the submission received during the consultation period from Turley and Consult QRD made on behalf of their clients, Penallta Rugby Football Club (PRFC) and Save Ystrad Green Spaces Group (SYGS).</p> <p>The 12 page document, received on the 26th October 2020, was included in the Consultation pack provided to Cabinet Members prior to their meeting on the 9th December 2020. In addition, a member of the consultant firm, made representations at the Education Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 26th November 2020.</p> <p>In line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, there was no obligation on the Council to publish the document publicly nor make any direct reference to specific organisations other than Estyn.</p> <p>It should be noted that the submission stated that its purpose was to “inform CCBC decision making on this matter”. The document contained several queries relating to planning processes and this was highlighted to the consultant.</p>
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OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Learner Voice

Learner voice is about involving the children and young people as active participants in the development, delivery, management and improvement of their educational experience.

Throughout every stage of the process, children and young people at the proposed affected school has been involved in the planning and consultation process as outlined and demonstrated in the [Consultation video](#), [Consultation Document](#) and [Consultation Report](#).

However, as outlined previously, at this stage in the process as prescribed by Welsh Government, there is no opportunity for inclusion of responses in support of the proposal as part of this document. Members are urged to be mindful of this as part of their deliberations moving forward.

Integrated Impact Assessment

Local authorities are already under a duty to carry out equality impact assessments and this is recognised by Welsh Government as part of the School Organisation Code 2018.

An initial Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment for this proposal was undertaken alongside the original Consultation Document forming part of the outline consultation pack which is published on the Council's website.

A new socio-economic duty set out in section 1 of the Equality Act 2010, comes into force on 31st March 2021, therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) template will be utilised to update the existing Equality Impact Assessment and include any additional elements highlighted

through the statutory consultation processes. The purpose of this further assessment is to take account of any further information that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.

The utilisation of the new IIA design will further help support Cabinet Members in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

Local and National Strategies

There are a number of local and national strategies that drive Educational reform and underline the rationale for the proposals being considered as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme in Caerphilly.

- [Welsh Language Act 1993 / Welsh Language \(Wales\) measure 2011](#)
- [Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal \(Wales\) Act 2017](#)
- [The Childcare Act 2006 \(Local Authority Assessment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2016](#)
- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)
- [Welsh Government - Education in Wales: Our National Mission](#)
- [Welsh Government - Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy Action Plan 2019- 2021](#)
- [Welsh Government - 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme](#)
- [Caerphilly - 'Shared Ambitions' Education Attainment Strategy 2019 - 2022](#)
- [Caerphilly - #Team Caerphilly: Better Together Transformation Strategy](#)
- [Caerphilly - Welsh Education Strategic Plan](#)
- [Caerphilly - Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022](#)
- [Caerphilly - Corporate Plan \(including Wellbeing Objectives 2018-2023\)](#)
- [Caerphilly – Education Other Than At School \(EOTAS\) Strategy 2020](#)
- [Caerphilly - Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024](#)
- [Caerphilly - Communication and Engagement Strategy 2019-2022](#)



NEXT STEPS

Publication of Objection Report

Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, when objections have been received the Council must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the Council's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").

- The Objection Report will be published and posted on the Council's website with hard copies available on request.
- The Consultees as identified on pages 8/9 of this report will be advised by letter or email of the availability of the Objection Report.

Cabinet ‘Objection Report’ Decision

Where a local authority’s proposals have received objections, objections must be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments in respect of the proposals and in the light of the factors set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

Further to review at Education Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd March 2021, this document will be considered in full at a Cabinet meeting due to be held on 7th April 2021.

At this meeting the following documentation will be made available to Members.

- a copy of the [Consultation Document](#)
- a copy of the [Consultation Report](#)
- a copy of the [Published Statutory Notice](#) and [Notification Letter sent to Consultees](#)
- a copy of the updated Integrated Impact Assessment
- a copy of the Objection Report
- a copy of the Mitigation Proposals and Sewerage Briefing Paper
- copies of all the statutory objections in their original format

Cabinet Members will be asked to review the proposal and make the final determination as to whether to implement the proposal as outlined below:

To expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of this Objection Report that in line with the processes outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 and the information gathered and reviewed as part of the consultation phase and formal objection period that Members endorse the proposal outlined above and permission is given as part of Cabinet’s final determination to progress to implementation phase.

Decision Notification

Decisions (in relation to proposals which require approval or determination) must be made and issued in the form of a decision letter. The decision letter must set out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Decision letter will be published electronically on the Council’s website and the consultees as outlined in Section 5.6 of the School Organisation Code will be advised by letter/email of the availability of the document.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Annex 1 :

[Consultation Document](#)
[Consultation Report](#)

Annex 2:

Statutory Notice - [Notification Letter sent to Consultees](#)



This is a statutory notice letter from Caerphilly County Borough Council. It is addressed to consultees regarding the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre. The letter includes contact information for the 21st Century Schools Team and the Caerphilly County Borough Council. It also includes a small image of a group of people and the Caerphilly County Borough Council logo.

19 Penallta, Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7PG
Caerphilly County Borough Council - Helping a Community Flourish
Corporate Director: Education and Corporate Services www.caerphilly.gov.uk | www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Regulation of 21st Century Schools
21st Century Schools
Ref: LTJ5/W
01443 894817
11th January 2021

Dear Consultee

In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2018, we are writing to inform you about the publication of a Statutory Notice.

The proposal is in connection with:

- **The expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre**

Anyone wishing to make objections to this school organisation proposal now has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as a statutory objection, objections must be made in writing or by email, and received before the end of 28-day objection period which concludes on the 7th February 2021.

Objections by email should be sent to 21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk

Objections in writing should be sent to Caerphilly County Borough Council, for the attention of the 21st Century Schools Team, Directorate of Education and Corporate Services, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7PG.

It is recommended that you refer to the background information contained in the Consultation Document and Consultation Reports prior to submitting a response.

Full details and all relevant documentation in relation to the proposal can be found at: www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learnina/21st-Century-Schools

Regards
21st Century Schools Team
Caerphilly County Borough Council

Published Statutory Notice



This is a published statutory notice from Caerphilly County Borough Council regarding the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre. The notice includes details about the school, the proposed expansion, and the objection period. It also includes contact information for the Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services. The notice is dated 11th January 2021.

19 Penallta, Penallta House, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7PG
Caerphilly County Borough Council - Helping a Community Flourish
Corporate Director: Education and Corporate Services www.caerphilly.gov.uk | www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Statutory Notice
School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with section 44 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 that Caerphilly County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required by relevant legislation, propose to make the prescribed alterations as follows:

Expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space with an anticipated completion date of September 2023.

The school is currently maintained by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

The Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and Cefn's full response is available on the Council website at: <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learnina/21st-Century-Schools>

It is proposed to implement the proposal with an anticipated effective date being once September 2023.

The current number of pupils at the school at present is 123.

The proposed number of pupils the school will be able to accommodate once the proposal is implemented will be 203, to accommodate the existing cohort and provide an additional 80 places.

Admissions to the school are managed by the local authority via a Specialist Placement Panel, where a statutory process is followed to discuss pupils' individual needs.

The 'Measuring Capacity of Schools Guidance in Wales 2011' describes the method for assessing the capacity of all maintained mainstream schools in Wales. Special Schools such as in the case of Trinity Fields is not subject to this legislation and as such the means that there is no published capacity calculation.

It is proposed that the catchment area for Trinity Fields Special School, which covers the whole area of the borough, will remain unchanged as outlined in the Consultation Document (page 14).

The Council's policy on school transport, provides free transport to all pupils who attend Trinity Fields Special School, irrespective of distance and family circumstances and Pupils are provided with the appropriate transport arrangements, as determined by the individual needs of the child. This will remain unaffected.

Objection Period
Within a period of 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say, between Monday 11th January 2021 and Sunday 1st February 2021, any person may object to the proposals in writing or by email to the proposer.

Objections by email should be sent to 21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk

Objections in writing should be sent to Caerphilly County Borough Council, for the attention of the 21st Century Schools Team, Directorate of Education and Corporate Services, Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7PG.

The Council will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, at the time of publication to stakeholders of the date/revision of the proposal.

Richard Edwards
Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services

EXPLANATORY NOTE
(This does not form part of the notice but is intended to explain its general meaning)
Caerphilly County Borough Council proposes to expand Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre, (Caerphilly Rd, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed CF82 7PG) with effect from the 31st August 2023.
With effect from the 1st September 2023, pupils in the existing school will have access to the additional facilities available in the new extension of the school.

Annex 3:

Statutory Objections Statement

Cabinet Members will be provided with full copies of all the objections received in their original format.

Annex 4:

Objection Report Notification Letter sent to Consultees



The image shows a notification letter from Caerphilly County Borough Council. At the top, there are logos for 'Ty Fawrfa' and 'Penallta Heolau', both with 'New Teachers' and 'New Pupils' labels. The Caerphilly County Borough Council logo is also present. Below the logos, the text reads: 'Cyfrwybodedd Cymunedol - Adding a New Teacher to the School' and 'Corporate Director - Education and Corporate Services'. A central graphic features a group of children and the text 'Ynglwlwr yr 21st Ganolf 21st Century Schools'. To the right of the graphic, the contact information is: 'Ref: LT14W', '21st Century Schools', '01443 864817', and '15.03.2021'. The letter is addressed to 'Dear Consultee' and discusses the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2018. It informs the consultee about the publication of an Objection Report regarding the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre. The report covers objections received from 1st January 2021 to 7th February 2021. A meeting on 7th April 2021 will consider the report. Full details and documentation are available at www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-Learning/21st-Century-Schools. A hard copy is also available on request.

Regards
21st Century Schools Team
Caerphilly County Borough Council

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Caerphilly County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

This integrated impact assessment (IIA) has been designed to help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of Equality Act 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

PLEASE NOTE: Section 3 *Socio-economic Duty* only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions. See page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.

1. Proposal Details			
Lead Officer	Head of Service	Service Area & Department	Date
Andrea West	Sue Richards	21 st Century Schools, Education and Corporate Services	01/03/2021

Is this proposal a... (please tick relevant box)											
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy / Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

What is the proposal to be assessed? *Provide brief details of the proposal and provide a link to any relevant report or documents.*

21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme - Band B Phase 1 - **Trinity Fields School Resource Centre**

Schools in Wales need to be in good condition and suitable for the delivery of education. In some cases, schools can be modernised, repaired, refurbished, extended, or partially rebuilt to meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning. However, some existing schools are no longer in the right place, or fit for the future and in such cases, we might propose new schools or changes to existing schools.

Caerphilly County Borough Council aspires to continue to raise school standards and improve the quality of the learning environment to create fit-for-purpose 21st century schools and give every child in Caerphilly the best possible start in life. The 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.

Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre has been identified as one of the priority projects in the 21st Century Schools Band B programme.

Trinity Fields Special School is designated as a 'Community Special School' as per the definition in Chapter 4 of Part 1 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and is the only special school providing education and specialist facilities for pupils from across the Borough.

The Council wishes to make a 'regulated alteration' to a special school in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.

- To expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space with an anticipated completion date of September 2022.
 - The proposed new building will provide additional facilities to accommodate growing demand for places and provide additional classrooms, specialist intervention areas and outdoor play space.
 - It is proposed the additional facility will also house a new flexible hall, hydrotherapy pool and soft play facilities to increase provision on site which will also be considered for community use at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable.
- To future proof the current site by ensuring that it can cater for the changing and more complex needs of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) pupils across the Authority, both now and in the future and ensure compliance with the new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act.
- 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.

Further information is available on the [21st Century Schools webpages](#)



2. Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

(The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups). Please note that an individual may have more than one protected characteristic.

<p>Age 147</p> <p><u>Protected Characteristics</u></p>	<p>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?</p>	<p>If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?</p>	<p>What evidence has been used to support this view?</p>
<p>Age (people of all ages)</p>	<p>Positive The proposal seeks to cater for pupils aged 3-19 and with plans to support community usage, therefore has the potential to benefit all age ranges.</p> <p>Negative The removal of a council owned pay as you use sports pitch will potentially impact on the delivery of sporting and recreational activities to the local community for people of all ages.</p>	<p>The proposal to develop Trinity Fields School has implications in relation to the identified pitch, but the local provision and activities for young people including Penallta RFC are not ceasing as a result of the proposal.</p> <p>There are still the same breadth of recreational facilities and activities available within the Ystrad Mynach Park boundary as well as enhanced mitigation provision being proposed to assist in the delivery and accessibility to a wider range of sporting provision within the locality.</p>	<p><u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</u></p> <p>The Act puts in place seven well-being goals which the local authority must work to achieve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Healthier Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities

	<p>Negative The removal of a council owned pay as you use sports pitch will potentially impact on Penallta RFC and its membership which ranges across a number of age groups.</p>	<p>Protection of Community and Leisure Facilities is subject to planning criteria as defined in Local Development Plan policy CW8. The land identified for development (Trinity 1 pitch) falls within this classification. Proposals that would result in the loss of a community and/or leisure facility will not be permitted except where a comparable replacement facility can be provided by the developer either on or off site, and within easy and convenient access on foot or by bicycle.</p> <p>In order to compensate for the potential loss of the Trinity 1 pitch, Council Officers have been working closely with officials from Penallta RFC to design a range of mitigations and enhanced provisions. The mitigations proposed will develop an alternative provision of equivalent community benefit locally (0.5miles), avoiding any temporary loss of provision and thereby complying with the requirements of the Local Development Plan CW8 criteria.</p> <p>Sport and Leisure Investment has been made into the Ystrad Mynach locality and local all-weather 3G pitches, in addition to the Centre of Sporting Excellence, all available for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • A Globally Responsible Wales <p><u>Consultation Report</u> This report was produced as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 to summarise ‘views’ of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020. As part of findings, community usage and the impact on Penallta RFC has been included in the section entitled ‘areas for consideration’</p> <p>Objection Report Through the formal statutory objections received in written format, the impact on the community for recreational and sporting provision has been addressed as part of the report in greater detail.</p> <p>Mitigation The proposed mitigation will be submitted alongside the formal Objection Report and fully outlines the mitigation actions to fulfil the Planning Policy Wales requirements for Tan16 and the</p>
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		<p>use by sports clubs and the wider community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre of Sporting Excellence 0.2 miles from Trinity 1 • Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (Gelli Haf) 2.2 miles • Lewis School Pengam 2.8 miles • Blackwood Comprehensive 3.3 miles • Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (Y Gwyndy) 4.2 miles • St Cenydd Community School 4.7 miles • Islwyn High School 5.2 miles 	<p>adopted Local Development Plan policy CW8.</p>
<p>Disability (<i>people with disabilities/ long term conditions</i>)</p>	<p>Positive The proposal seeks to increase provision to provide facilities for some of our most vulnerable children and young people, through the provision of modern 21st Century Educational facilities for children and young people with some of the most complex needs.</p> <p>Positive Expansion will also provide for a unified and integrated multiagency input from Health and Social Care which will further compliment the Educational provision. Visiting practitioners will not be permanently based at the Trinity site but will however have access to facilities to</p>	<p>No negative impacts on disability are identified however the following additional information is provided to contextualise the positive impacts.</p> <p>The mitigation relating to the creation of Sue Noake 2 and Trinity 3, the enhancement of Sue Noake 1 and Trinity 2 pitches and the introduction of a sporting hub at Sue Noake will support inclusive recreational and sporting activity. The options proposed for mitigation will be fully accessible. Emergency vehicle access and car parking has been included as part of the mitigation package.</p>	<p><u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</u></p> <p>The Act puts in place seven well-being goals which the local authority must work to achieve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Prosperous Wales • A Resilient Wales • A More Equal Wales • A Healthier Wales • A Wales of Cohesive Communities

	<p>undertake development and intervention activities with children, under a single roof, providing additional support and a better quality of life to the most vulnerable children in the Borough.</p> <p>Neutral The catchment area for Trinity Fields School is the County Borough and this will remain unchanged as part of this proposal. Due to the specialist learning needs, all pupils are transported to site at present, 98% of which reside within the catchment area of the school. The site identified for the expansion is directly adjacent to the existing premises, so existing learner travel arrangements will still be in place should the proposal be taken with a recognised minimal increase.</p>	<p>The facilities proposed as part of the mitigation at Sue Noake are within a 0.5 mile radius from the Trinity 1 site and is currently accessed by a number of clubs including players at Penallta RFC. Whilst it is understood that the route requires crossing of a main road, there is a footpath along the entire route and a pedestrian light-controlled crossing (pelican crossing) adjacent to Ystrad Mynach Primary School.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language • A Globally Responsible Wales <p><u>Consultation Report</u> This report was produced as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 to summarise ‘views’ of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020.</p> <p>Objection Report Through the formal statutory objections received in written format, the impact recreational and sporting provision has been addressed as part of the report in greater detail. In addition, objections relating to the mitigation options, emergency vehicle access and parking have also been addressed.</p> <p>Mitigation The proposed mitigation will be submitted alongside the formal Objection Report and fully outlines the mitigation actions to fulfil the Planning Policy Wales</p>
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			requirements for Tan16 and the adopted Local Development Plan policy CW8.
Gender Reassignment <i>(anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth)</i>	Neutral No anticipated change	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of other specific protected characteristics The mitigation options linked to the proposal are fully inclusive.	Not applicable
Marriage or Civil Partnership <i>(people who are married or in a civil partnership)</i>	Neutral No impact	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of other specific protected characteristics The mitigation options linked to the proposal are fully inclusive.	Not applicable
Pregnancy and Maternity <i>(women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave)</i>	Neutral No impact	Not applicable because the facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of other specific protected characteristics The mitigation options linked to the proposal are fully inclusive.	Not applicable

<p>Race (<i>people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds</i>)</p>	<p>Neutral No anticipated change</p>	<p>Not applicable because the facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of other specific protected characteristics</p> <p>The mitigation options linked to the proposal are fully inclusive.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p><u>Protected Characteristics</u></p>	<p>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?</p>	<p>If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?</p>	<p>What evidence has been used to support this view?</p>
<p>Religion or Belief (<i>people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs</i>)</p>	<p>Neutral No anticipated change</p>	<p>Not applicable because the facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of other specific protected characteristics</p> <p>The mitigation options linked to the proposal are fully inclusive.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Sex (<i>women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender</i>)</p>	<p>Neutral No anticipated change</p>	<p>Not applicable because the facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of other specific protected characteristics</p> <p>The mitigation options linked to the proposal are fully inclusive.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Sexual Orientation (<i>lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual</i>)</p>	<p>Neutral No anticipated change</p>	<p>Not applicable because the facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of specific protected characteristics</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

The mitigation options linked to the proposal are fully inclusive.

3. Socio-economic Duty (Strategic Decisions Only)

(The Socio-economic Duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision making. Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services)

Please consider these additional vulnerable groups and the impact your proposal may or may not have on them:

- Single parents and vulnerable families
- People with low literacy/numeracy
- Pensioners
- Looked after children
- Homeless people
- Carers
- Armed Forces Community
- Students
- Single adult households
- People misusing substances
- People who have experienced the asylum system
- People of all ages leaving a care setting
- People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)
- People involved in the criminal justice system

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Socio-economic Disadvantage	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view?
<p>Low Income / Income Poverty <i>(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)</i></p>	<p>Positive Providing educational facilities fit for the future will improve the education and life outcomes of the pupils at Trinity Fields</p> <p>Neutral The facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Is Wales Fairer? – The state of equality and human rights (EHRC 2018) Equality and Human Rights Commission acknowledge that Socio-economic disadvantage has a knock-on effect on education and health outcomes.</p> <p>The Disability Pay Gap (EHRC 2017).</p> <p>Equality and Human Rights Commission data shows that people with physical impairments generally experience pay gaps in the range of 15% to 28% depending on disability. Men</p>

			with learning disabilities have a pay gap of around 60%. Disabled people are less likely to be in employment and more likely to be on lower pay than non-disabled people.
<u>Socio-economic Disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view?
Low and/or No Wealth (<i>enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future</i>)	Neutral The facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage	Not applicable	Not applicable
Material Deprivation (<i>unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.</i>)	Positive It is a pre-requisite of Welsh Government funding that Council's optimise the use of infrastructure and resources to enable flexibility for space and facilities to be made available as community assets. Whilst the internal design of the proposed extension is yet to be finalised, subject to Cabinet approval to progress, discussions have included the zoning of the school to support access during school time and after hours to the hydrotherapy pool, hall, gym, soft	The Council has an obligation to provide an alternative provision of equivalent community benefit, made available locally, avoiding any temporary loss of provision. The proposed mitigation at the Sue Noake location is situated closer to the town centre than the existing site which will enable improved access to public transport and other local facilities.	<u>Consultation Document</u> As part of outlining the current proposal, an options appraisal was undertaken to consider the relative desirability, viability and feasibility of the proposal. In addition, information relating to the community usage and community benefit requirement relating to this proposal is outlined in this document. <u>Consultation Report</u> This report was produced as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 to

	<p>play, family room with kitchenette, rebound therapy room and café and kitchen. The accessible toilets and ‘changing places’ hygiene rooms supporting these spaces would also be available on a booking basis.</p> <p>Neutral The removal of a council owned pay as you use sports pitch will potentially impact on the cost of accessing sport and leisure.</p>		<p>summarise ‘views’ of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020. As part of findings, community usage and the impact on Penallta RFC has been included in the section entitled ‘areas for consideration’</p> <p>Objection Report Through the formal statutory objections received in written format, the impact on the Community for recreational and sporting provision has been addressed as part of the report in greater detail.</p> <p>Mitigation The proposed mitigation will be submitted alongside the formal Objection Report and fully outlines the mitigation actions to fulfil the Planning Policy Wales requirements for Tan16 and the adopted Local Development Plan policy CW8.</p>
<p>Area Deprivation (<i>where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport)</i>)</p>	<p>Positive The design process will seek to include measures to enable safe ‘zoning’ of parts of the new school building, including the hall and a multi-functional classroom compliant space which could be</p>	<p>The Council has an obligation to provide an alternative provision of equivalent community benefit, made available locally, avoiding any temporary loss of provision.</p>	<p><u>Consultation Document</u> Information relating to the community usage and community benefit requirement relating to this proposal is outlined in this document.</p>

	<p>adapted for use. The usage of facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable. It will also strengthen and safeguard the promotion of inclusivity and wellbeing within the Community</p> <p>Positive Procurement will include Community Benefits as a core requirement e.g. around local targeted recruitment & training, supply chains, community & education initiatives in the provision of the proposed new facility.</p> <p>Neutral The removal of a council owned pay as you use sports pitch will reduce the pitch availability in the immediate vicinity. See mitigation comments in relation to alternative provision.</p>	<p>The propose mitigation at the Sue Noake location is situated closer to the town centre than the existing site which will enable improved access to public transport and other local facilities</p> <p>The mitigations will result in an increase in sporting provision though:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a new Mini and Junior pitch at Trinity 3 with an 84m x 44m marked out pitch with rugby posts available for use in time for the 2021/22 season. • New training lights will be installed alongside the pitch at Trinity 2 to provide winter training opportunities where those don't currently exist. • The provision of an additional 102m x 60m senior pitch at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre available for use in time for the 2021/22 season, with 5m grass run off, partial hard standing barrier, fencing, drainage and enhanced playing surface • Enhancements to the existing 108m x 63m pitch at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre with new hard standing, fencing, drainage and enhanced playing surface. 	<p><u>Consultation Report</u> This report was produced as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 to summarise 'views' of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020. As part of findings, community usage and the impact on Penallta RFC has been included in the section entitled 'areas for consideration'</p> <p><u>Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)</u> Ystrad Mynach is broken down into 3 distinct output areas (as defined by the WIMD). Whilst the data for 'Ystrad Mynach 2' which is the main built up town/shopping area does score a low in relation to the Physical Environment it should not be considered in isolation. The remaining 2 areas identified as 'Ystrad Mynach 1' and 'Ystrad Mynach 3' which includes the area effected by the proposal in addition to Ystrad Mynach Park and Penallta Park, score considerably higher when comparing with other areas within the Borough (110 areas in total).</p> <p><u>Electoral Ward Profile</u></p>
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		<p>In addition, a number of enhancements to the supporting facilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional changing facilities at Sue Noake Leisure Centre • Temporary training lights in situ at SN1 to be replaced with enhanced permanent LED lighting • Emergency Vehicle access to be created to the pitches at Sue Noake Leisure Centre • Access Path Enhancements at Sue Noake Leisure Centre • Remedial Drainage Works on the Artificial Training Pitch at Sue Noake Leisure Centre to repair a crushed drainage pipe which has contributed to surface water flooding • Subject to Cabinet approval, the Council will apply for Fields in Trust status for the pitches at SN1 and 2 and Trinity 2 and 3, providing additional safeguards against the loss of these four fields moving forward. 	<p>Ystrad Mynach ward profile from the 2011 Census information has been reviewed</p>
<p>Socio-economic Background <i>(social class i.e. parents education, employment and income)</i></p>	<p>Positive Facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage</p>	<p>The mitigation proposals for the loss of the pitch at Trinity 1 include the creation of a new Mini and Junior pitch at Trinity 3 and new training lights will be installed alongside the pitch at Trinity 2. The lighting will provide</p>	<p><u>Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)</u> Ystrad Mynach is broken down into 3 distinct output areas (as defined by the WIMD). Whilst the data for 'Ystrad Mynach 2' which is the main built up</p>

	<p>Positive The proposed facility would include the expansion and further opportunities at Café Oren in Trinity Fields School to for the development of life skills provision to vulnerable pupils and to support and upskill parents and carers</p> <p>Positive Provision for the Borough's most vulnerable learners will be kept within the borough and fully inclusive and accessible for all at a single, central location.</p> <p>Positive The facility will provide inclusive facilities which will be accessible to vulnerable children and young people alongside supporting the holistic needs of their wider family and supporting their future wellbeing.</p> <p>Negative The removal of a council owned pay as you use sports pitch will potentially impact on the delivery of sporting and recreational activities. A section of the local community have indicated as part of the Consultation responses that they see the removal of the pitch as negative and that the</p>	<p>a viable and safer area within the existing Ystrad Mynach Park where this currently does not exist.</p> <p>The provision of an additional senior pitch and enhancements to the existing pitch at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre, which is within a 0.5mile/10 minute walk of the existing Trinity 1 site and situated closer to the town centre and public transport linnks, along with changing facilities and permanent LED lighting will deliver safe, secure and convenient access to facilities to enable the local and wider community to feel safe and aspire to succeed and live active and healthy lives. The availability of improved transport links could also attract more people to take part in sport and recreation activities.</p>	<p>town/shopping area does score a low in relation to the Physical Environment it should not be considered in isolation. The remaining 2 areas identified as 'Ystrad Mynach 1' and 'Ystrad Mynach 3' which includes the area effected by the proposal in addition to Ystrad Mynach Park and Penallta Park, score considerably higher when comparing with other areas within the Borough (110 areas in total).</p> <p>Electoral Ward Profile Ystrad Mynach ward profile from the 2011 Census information has been reviewed</p> <p>Consultation Report This report was produced as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 to summarise 'views' of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020. As part of findings, community usage and the impact on Penallta RFC has been included in the section entitled 'areas for consideration'</p> <p>Mitigation The proposed mitigation will be submitted alongside the formal</p>
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	mitigation option in insufficient, inconvenient and disruptive.		Objection Report and fully outlines the mitigation actions to fulfil the Planning Policy Wales requirements for Tan16 and the adopted Local Development Plan policy CW8.
<p>Page 15</p> <p>Socio-economic Disadvantage <i>(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)</i></p>	<p>Positive Expansion will provide for a unified and integrated multiagency input from Health and Social Care which will further compliment the Educational provision. Visiting practitioners will not be permanently based at the Trinity site, but will however have access to facilities to undertake development and intervention activities with children, under a single roof, providing additional support and a better quality of life to the most vulnerable children in the Borough.</p> <p>Positive It is a pre-requisite of Welsh Government funding that Council's optimise the use of infrastructure and resources to enable flexibility for space and facilities to be made available as community assets. Whilst the internal design of the proposed extension is yet to be finalised, subject to Cabinet approval to progress, discussions have included the zoning of the school</p>	<p>The mitigation relating to the creation of Sue Noake 2 and Trinity 3, the enhancement of Sue Noake 1 and Trinity 2 pitches and the introduction of a sporting hub at Sue Noake support inclusive recreational and sporting activities.</p> <p>The facilities proposed as part of the mitigation at Sue Noake are within a 0.5 mile radius from the Trinity 1 site</p>	<p><u>Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)</u> Ystrad Mynach is broken down into 3 distinct output areas (as defined by the WIMD). Whilst the data for 'Ystrad Mynach 2' which is the main built up town/shopping area does score a low in relation to the Physical Environment it should not be considered in isolation. The remaining 2 areas identified as 'Ystrad Mynach 1' and 'Ystrad Mynach 3' which includes the area effected by the proposal in addition to Ystrad Mynach Park and Penallta Park, score considerably higher when comparing with other areas within the Borough (110 areas in total).</p> <p><u>Electoral Ward Profile</u> Ystrad Mynach ward profile from the 2011 Census information has been reviewed</p> <p><u>Consultation Report</u> This report was produced as per the requirements of the School</p>

	<p>to support access during school time and after hours to the hydrotherapy pool, hall, gym, soft play, family room with kitchenette, rebound therapy room and café and kitchen. The accessible toilets and 'changing places' hygiene rooms supporting these spaces would also be available on a booking basis.</p> <p>Neutral The removal of a council owned pay as you use sports pitch will potentially impact on the delivery of sporting and recreational activities.</p>		<p>Organisation Code 2018 to summarise 'views' of consultees received as part of the consultation period which took place between 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020. As part of findings, community usage and the impact on Penallta RFC has been included in the section entitled 'areas for consideration'</p> <p>Objection Report Through the formal statutory objections received in written format, the impact on the Community for recreational and sporting provision has been addressed as part of the report in greater detail.</p> <p>Mitigation The proposed mitigation will be submitted alongside the formal Objection Report and fully outlines the mitigation actions to fulfil the Planning Policy Wales requirements for Tan16 and the adopted Local Development Plan policy CW8.</p>
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4. Corporate Plan – Council's Well-being Objectives

(How does your proposal deliver against any/all of the Council's Well-being Objectives? Which in turn support the national well-being goals for Wales as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Are there any impacts (positive, negative or neutral? If there are negative impacts how have these been mitigated?) [Well-being Objectives](#)

<p>Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all</p>	<p>Positive The needs of children who attend Trinity Fields School are significant and complex and through rigorous assessment it is identified that the most suitable provision can be delivered through a special school. The Council has a responsibility to develop provision to meet need and must review this regularly in line with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act and is committed to providing all children and young people with high quality education, tailored to meet their needs, which will develop their potential, extend aspiration, promote social inclusion and contribute to the economic regeneration of the area</p> <p>Neutral The relocation of the playing field will change the delivery of sporting and recreational activities. The mitigation options will be in effect prior to any works being undertaken on the proposed new facility.</p>
<p>Objective 2 - Enabling employment</p>	<p>Positive As part of the funding requirements for all 21st Century School proposals, Welsh Government stipulates that Community Benefits are a core requirement of any procurement process related to the award of contracts and will therefore be scored as part of the Quality evaluation. These include a number of targets around local recruitment and training, supply chains, community and education initiatives.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Not applicable to this proposal</p>
<p>Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impact on the environment</p>	<p>Neutral There is a Statutory duty placed upon the Authority to provide pupils with free transport to their nearest suitable school if they reside beyond 'walking distance' to that school. All pupils are assessed in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. However, the Authority does offer a more generous policy than what is statutorily required by the Measure. 98% of the vulnerable learners arrive by car/taxi/minibus primarily due to the nature of their disabilities.</p> <p>Positive</p>

	<p>Ystrad Mynach's location in the heart of the county borough along with its economic and transport opportunities as identified in the Ystrad Mynach Masterplan May 2019. The proposed mitigation for sports and recreation will create new facilities closer to the centre of Ystrad Mynach Town Centre and public transport, which will further support local business and transport infrastructures .</p>
<p>Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development principle with in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>	<p>Neutral As part of the consultation responses and formal objection process, respondents have raised concerns with regards to the impact of the proposal on Penallta RFC in terms of facilities available to players and income generation for the club. The Council acknowledges that this proposal will impact on the removal of one Council owned pay-as-you use sports pitch, primarily used for the playing of rugby by Penallta RFC, locally referred to as Trinity 1. However the proposed mitigation measures determine a neutral effect.</p> <p>Neutral As part of the consultation responses and formal objection process, respondents have raised concerns with regards to the removal of open green spaces in the Ystrad Mynach area and the potential impact on health and wellbeing from both a recreational perspective, further supported through the creation of the Ystrad Mynach Green Space Group who have engaged in the consultation process. The Trinity 1 pitch falls within the CW8 Community and Leisure Facilities definitions. Trinity 1 is not subject to the CW7 Open Space classification.</p> <p>Positive Extensive mitigation measures will be implemented relating to the enhancement of Trinity 2,3 and additional provision at Sue Noake, subject to Cabinet approval and prior to any works commencing on the Trinity 1 site. Council officers have been working closely with officials from Penallta RFC to design a range of mitigations and enhanced provisions. The intention is to develop an alternative provision of equivalent community benefit locally, avoiding any temporary loss of provision</p>
<p>Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve</p>	<p>Positive</p>

their well-being

Expansion will also provide for a unified and integrated multiagency input from Health and Social Care which will further compliment the Educational provision. Visiting practitioners will not be permanently based at the Trinity site but will however have access to facilities to undertake development and intervention activities with children and young people, under a single roof, providing additional support and a better quality of life to the most vulnerable children and young people in the county borough.

Positive

The proposed facility would include the expansion and further opportunities at Café Oren in Trinity Fields School for the development of life skills provision to vulnerable pupils and to support and upskill parents and carers.

Positive

The school operates 6 days a week throughout the year and provides respite services and the School Holiday enrichment Programme to families throughout the borough during holiday periods. The enhanced facilities such as the additional hydrotherapy pool, soft play, hall and rebound rooms will mean this offer can be extended to more families across the community.

Positive

The extensive mitigation and enhancement measures within Ystrad Mynach Park and at Sue Noake, subject to Cabinet approval will provide additional facilities to support physical and mental wellbeing through sport and recreation.

In addition, Penallta RFC and a number of other Ystrad Mynach based clubs are currently exploring the possibility of creating a Community Sporting Hub at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre. The Hub would have the potential to support Rugby, Football, Hockey and Netball as well as a new clubhouse and improved changing facilities. The creation of a sporting hub is not part of the current mitigations for the removal of the pitch at Trinity 1, but the Council is keen to support the clubs to make the hub concept a reality.

4a. Links to any other relevant Council Policy

(How does your proposal deliver against any other relevant Council Policy?)

The proposal contributes the following Strategies:

- **Shared Ambitions Strategy (2019-2022)**

This proposal will deliver upon the Council's ambition to provide every learner with the best life chances through the provision of high quality teaching, learning and leadership across our impressive 21st Century school settings.

- **Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy (2018-2028)**

The mitigation measures linked to this proposal relating to the creation of Sue Noake 2 and Trinity 3, the enhancement of Sue Noake 1 and Trinity 2 pitches and the introduction of a sporting hub at Sue Noake support this agenda.

In addition, Penallta RFC and a number of other Ystrad Mynach based clubs are currently exploring the possibility of creating a Community Sporting Hub at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre. The Hub would have the potential to support Rugby, Football, Hockey and Netball as well as a new clubhouse and improved changing facilities. The creation of a sporting hub is not part of the current mitigations for the loss of the pitch at Trinity 1, but the Council is keen to support the clubs to make the hub concept a reality.

- **Caerphilly Strategic Equality Plan**

A statutory document under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, this four-year plan explains in straightforward terms what each of the equalities issues actually means and under what wider legislation we have responsibilities as a council.

- **Adopted Local Development Plan and Green Infrastructure Strategy**

The building and related transport infrastructure would be subject to a planning application.

A preplanning application consultation exercise will be carried out as part of the planning application process and all relevant National and Local Planning Policies and all material planning considerations will be taken into account by the Local Planning Authority in the determination of the application.

The planning proposal for the Trinity Fields scheme, will be determined having regard for the adopted LDP, which provides the framework for local decision-making and brings together both development and conservation interests to ensure that any changes in the use of land are coherent and provides maximum benefits. The Green Infrastructure Strategy will form a part of the evidence base for the 2nd Replacement LDP together any other strategies with land use requirements. Therefore, the primary document for determining planning applications is the Adopted LDP until such time as it is superseded by the 2nd Replacement LDP.




The utilisation of this Integrated Impact Assessment will further help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:



- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

5. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working (ICLIP)

(Also known as the sustainable development principles. The Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the five ways of working as a baseline)

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<u>Ways of Working</u>	How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?
<p>Long Term</p> 	<p>The expansion of the highly successful Trinity Fields School provides a platform for the needs of our most vulnerable learners to be met over the long term, through the provision of a custom built and fit for purpose extension to the existing school site. The associated enhancements to the community sporting infrastructure of Ystrad Mynach set out within this report, together with the Council's intention to secure fields in trust status for the stated pitches, will secure sporting opportunity within the locality over the long term.</p>
<p>Prevention</p> 	<p>Providing the most vulnerable of Caerphilly's learners with a custom built expansion of the existing school at Trinity Fields will enable pupils to access a 21st century facility and to receive tailor made learning opportunities designed to meet their specific needs. The enhancements to the sporting infrastructure of Ystrad Mynach will also help increase participation in sport and active recreation with all of the benefits that doing so brings, particularly in relation to health and well-being, mental and physical.</p>
<p>Integration</p> 	<p>The proposal to expand Trinity Fields Special School will impact on Wellbeing Goals 'A Healthier Wales' and 'A More Equal Wales'. The school extension will provide opportunities to directly enhance the way in which Health, Social Care and Education Services can be delivered by providing opportunities to integrate provision on a single site across health and education partners.</p>

<p>Collaboration</p> 	<p>The Council has worked with Penallta RFC to shape many of the proposals to enhance existing facilities. Informal engagement with Sport Wales (Fields in Trust) has also been critical in designing an appropriate mitigation for the potential redevelopment of the community sports pitch, Trinity 1. The Council has also worked with Partners such as ABUHB to provide value added opportunities from the expanded school site.</p>
<p>Involvement</p> 	<p>The School Organisation Code (2018) prescribes a number of explicit consultation and engagement steps and consultees. Above and beyond the prescribed list of consultees stated within the code, the council has already chosen to engage Penallta RFC and Sport Wales (Fields in Trust) in addition to help shape the proposal.</p> <p>Consultation Period</p> <p>A consultation period opened on Monday 14th September 2020 and concluded at midnight on Monday 26th October 2020. Consultees were given at least 42 days to respond to the proposal as outlined in the Consultation Document, with at least 20 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.</p> <p>Consultees were advised of the proposal and availability of the consultation documentation when it went live on the 14th September 2020 via letter/email and were therefore invited to take part in the statutory consultation to gather their ‘views’ on the proposal as outlined in the consultation document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1048 responses views were received during the consultation period. • 0 responses were received in the medium of Welsh. • 43% supported the proposal as outlined in the Consultation document • 56% did not support the proposal as outlined • 1% provided a neutral or no comment response. • 3 alternative options were raised by consultees and considered by Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. <p>The Learner Voice was also captured as part of this process. It was acknowledged at an early stage that in order to provide the opportunities for the young people to express their views in relation to this proposal, engaging with staff at Trinity Fields school would be vital. The school’s exemplary levels of care, support and guidance and through utilising the child friendly version of the consultation document and the accompanying video, children were engaged in a familiar environment, at the appropriate comprehension level and in the format of their preference. Many of the children provided comments on what they would like to see in the future and how they felt about the proposal. Many pupils utilised verbal communication, however, evidence of what the pupils felt they wanted were also captured via heatmaps using eye recognition cursor movement, symbols and braille. These comments were included as part of the Consultation Report.</p> <p>Statutory Notice / Objection Period</p>

Following the decision by Cabinet (9.12.2020) to proceed to Statutory Notice, anyone wishing to make an objection to this proposal was able to do so as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018. To be considered as a statutory objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and sent to the Council within the 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published. This is referred to as the “objection period” and ran from the 11th January 2021 to the 7th February 2021.

- 238 Statutory Objections received.

It should be noted that this process as prescribed by Welsh Government, provided no opportunity for inclusion of responses in support of the proposal. It should also be noted that the Objection figure quoted includes all responses received irrespective of any duplicates.

The Objection Report provides a summary of the findings and original copies of all correspondence are made available to Cabinet Members for consideration as part of the decision making process.

Planning Consultation

There will be a separate planning application process that will address a number of material planning considerations. This process will enable further involvement and engagement opportunities for interested parties.

6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Well-being Goals

A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work

Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goal and how?

Embodied Carbon / Operational Carbon

The 21st Century Schools Band B Programme looks to deliver a combination of new school builds, expansions, amalgamations, relocations and refurbishments, all with the potential to support the Welsh Government and Council’s strategies on decarbonisation and provide a new model of delivery.

Childcare:

The Foundation Phase provision at Trinity Fields offers full time Education so does not need wraparound childcare provision and in line with the recommendations of many

	<p>eminent researchers, early intervention is essential for pupils with Additional Learning Needs in order to improve their life chances. There are several day nurseries in the local area to Trinity, many of whom are contracted on the Assisted and Supported Places scheme; however this provision would not be accessible for pupils with highly complex medical and learning needs (pupils who require oxygen, nasogastric feeding tubes, gastrostomies etc.). There are strong links between the School, the Local Authority's Early Years Manager and with the Integrated Service for Children with Additional Needs (ISCAN) to ensure pupils have early access the appropriate provision to meet their highly complex needs. In addition, Trinity School is registered as a childcare provider to run holiday childcare provision and had a successful Care Inspectorate Wales inspection last year with an excellent rating. As a result there is limited need to develop childcare provision on site and it is more preferable to upskill providers across the borough to meet needs of children prior to starting in the nursery</p>
<p>A Resilient Wales <i>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for climate change)</i></p>	<p>Mitigation Outdoor sports facilities including playing pitches are protected under Policy CW8 of the adopted Local Development Plan. CW8 states that where a proposal would result in the loss of a community and/or leisure facility as in the case of this proposal requiring the repurposing of the Trinity 1 pitch for development: "A comparable replacement facility can be provided by the developer either on or off site, and within easy and convenient access on foot or by bicycle."</p> <p>In order to compensate for the potential loss of the Trinity 1 pitch, the intention is to develop an alternative provision of equivalent community benefit locally at Sue Noake, avoiding any temporary loss of provision and thereby complying with the requirements of the Local Development Plan CW8 criteria.</p> <p>Fields in Trust The Council confirmed its commitment to actively seeking Fields in Trust Status in perpetuity for Trinity 2 and 3. However, further investigations have been undertaken relating to Ystrad Mynach Park which included its deed status, something that would normally have been released as part of the separate planning application documentation, the Council can now confirm that areas of Ystrad Mynach Park are already protected from development being subject to a covenant on the land. Deed packages RA3271 and RA1653 have active covenants on the land contained therein which prevents the land being used for any purpose other than for a recreation ground,</p>

children's play area or park. The proposed site for the expansion of the school, Trinity 1 is not included in these deeds and therefore is not subject to these covenants.

Green Flag Status

Discussions have been undertaken with Keep Wales Tidy as a result of consultee concerns, who judge and award the prestigious Green Flag Award based on 27 different criteria. They have indicated that the loss of one rugby pitch in the area would not have any detrimental effect on the park's green flag status going forward.

Further investigations as a result of consultee feedback have been undertaken in relation to the detail of the Ystrad Mynach Park Master Plan, which was the Green Flag application document submitted to Keep Wales Tidy in 2017. The land identified for development as part of this proposal (T1) was not included as part of this application. The document clearly states that the application only relates to the land and facilities within the RA1653 and RA3271 deed package areas. T1 falls outside of these areas and is contained in a separate deed along with Trinity Field School and the adjacent Council building. This further supports the assertion that should the proposal to expand Trinity Fields school be approved, this will not impact on Green Flag Status.

Drainage and Flooding

As part of the mitigations for this proposal, the playing surface for Trinity 3 will be enhanced and will receive verti draining treatments and regular maintenance to enhance its playability. The playing surface for SN1 and the proposed SN2 will also be enhanced and will be made more durable for extended use by an external pitch specialist. A drainage system will also be installed under the playing surface at SN2 to further improve usage.

The Council has also commissioned an external consultant to test the pitch quality at Trinity 1 and SN, Soil samples were carried out which will indicate the soil make up and probe compaction tests carried out with penetrometer that gage compaction to a dept of 12 inches.

Separate to the mitigation work set out within this report, the Council is also undertaking works at Ystrad Mynach Park to alleviate the impact of flooding on the park itself and

	<p>further downstream. The work will seek to introduce attenuation of the stream flows during a storm event by providing storage within the park, specifically within the area proposed to be designated T3. This attenuation will have the effect of reducing the downstream flows to a level that the existing stream course and culvert system are able to accommodate, without surcharging. In practical terms this would mean the T3 field would be enclosed with an earthwork bund which would provide a natural viewing gallery for the pitch as well as holding and then releasing water during and after a storm event in a controlled manner. The duration of the period in which water is retained in this area would depend on the duration of the storm but once passed it would be a matter of hours, possibly a day before the whole area is drained and then a number of further days before the proposed pitch at T3 would be reusable.</p> <p>In addition to this the Council is also proposing to daylight a section of culvert within the park, often the primary source of flooding in the park. The availability of increased upstream storage and the proposed removal of the culvert, the current flooding experienced in the park should be completely alleviated for most extreme storm events, which would also be true of the flooding which currently affects the T2 rugby pitch ensuring greater access and usage through the season.</p>
<p>A Healthier Wales <i>A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood</i></p>	<p>The School: There is growing demand for specialist school provision within Caerphilly county borough. The Local Authority works closely with multiagency professionals in the field as well as the school, Early Years, Flying Start and Health Visitors. A fortnightly placement panel convenes to calculate the number of places that are required on site and utilising data from ISCAN and reviewing the trend data since 2012, growth has been identified as an area requiring action. There is a similar picture across Wales in terms of increasing numbers of pupils accessing special schools. Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre is the only special school in the Authority which provides education and specialist facilities. It caters for a wide range of ages, with pupils from the foundation phase (3-7), school curriculum (7- 14) and learning pathway (14-19). At present the school has 180 pupils on roll with more admissions anticipated and no capacity or space to expand within the current building configuration. The school caters for pupils with a wide range of Special Educational Needs and requirements, ranging from physical and medical difficulties, profound multiple learning difficulties and severe learning difficulties. Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre was purpose built in September 1998, and was considered to be "Innovative", however over the years pupils needs have become more complex and challenging, more opportunities to meet their physical and other needs are</p>

available, and the school's infrastructure is now becoming an obstacle that is preventing the school from developing further in supporting pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) across the county borough. It is the Authority's aim, wherever possible, to educate all pupils within the county borough. This prevents the need for out of county provision, which is not only costly but can also have a significant impact on individual and family well-being. The proposal will benefit pupils across the whole of the Authority as the additional facilities and adaptations will support children and young people who have specialist needs in an appropriate and secure environment that will create a holistic approach towards learning and development.

Mitigation:

In order to compensate for the potential loss of the Trinity 1 pitch, Council Officers have been working closely with officials from Penallta RFC to design a range of mitigations and enhanced provisions.

The current Trinity 1 pitch is 106m x 66m and has hard standing and fencing to two sides of the pitch with barriers to three sides. The pitch is underpinned by drainage and is considered a good and durable playing surface. The pitch does not benefit from any lighting at present. The mitigation proposals for the loss of the pitch at Trinity 1 are described below.

The mitigations centre on:

Trinity 2 & 3

- The creation of a new Mini and Junior pitch at Trinity 3 with an 84m x 44m marked out pitch with rugby posts available for use in time for the 2021/22 season.
- New training lights will be installed alongside the pitch at Trinity 2 to provide winter training opportunities where those don't currently exist.

Sue Noake

- The provision of an additional 102m x 60m senior pitch at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre available for use in time for the 2021/22 season, with 5m grass run off, partial hard standing barrier, fencing, drainage and enhanced playing surface
- Enhancements to the existing 108m x 63m pitch at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre with new hard standing, fencing, drainage and enhanced playing surface.

In addition, a number of enhancements to the supporting facilities including:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Changing facilities at Sue Noake Leisure Centre • Temporary training lights in situ at SN1 to be replaced with enhanced permanent LED lighting • Emergency Vehicle access to be created to the pitches at Sue Noake Leisure Centre • Access Path Enhancements at Sue Noake Leisure Centre • Remedial Drainage Works on the ATP at Sue Noake Leisure Centre to repair a crushed drainage pipe which has contributed to surface water flooding • Subject to Cabinet approval, the Council will apply for Fields in Trust status for the pitches at SN1 and 2 and Trinity 2 and 3, providing additional safeguards against the loss of these four fields moving forward. <p>Sports Wales: Sports Wales were notified of the proposal both as part of the initial Consultation period and as part of the Objection period. Sport Wales have been made aware of the mitigation options being proposed and have confirmed that they would not object to the proposal to extend Trinity Fields Special School as long as the alternative provision is of equivalent community benefit, made available locally and avoids any temporary loss of provision.</p>
<p>A More Equal Wales <i>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)</i></p>	<p>The School: The facility is accessible to people with learning disabilities and the wider community regardless of specific protected characteristics</p> <p>Community Use: Those that attend, work and use the building will benefit from a fit for purpose, innovative 21st Century facility. In addition, the proposal intends to extend access at the new premises to include community use. As part of the 21st Century School remit, consideration must be given for the school to benefit from enabling the facilities to be shared with the wider community. The proposed project will consider the desire to encourage and facilitate community use of the asset. To this end the design process will seek to include measures to enable safe 'zoning' of parts of the new school building, including hydrotherapy pool and soft play facilities which could be adapted for use. The Wi-Fi and Information Technology infrastructure will be established to support public access and community use. The use of outdoor facilities and changing places will also be considered for community access at suitable times, in keeping with the curriculum timetable.</p>

	<p>The proposal to develop Trinity Fields School has implications in relation to the identified pitch, but the local provision and activities for young people including Penallta RFC are not ceasing as a result of the proposal. There are still the same breadth of recreational facilities and activities available within the Ystrad Mynach Park boundary as well as enhanced mitigation provision being proposed to assist in the delivery and accessibility to a wider range of sporting provision within the locality.</p> <p>Protection of Community and Leisure Facilities is subject to planning criteria as defined in Local Development Plan policy CW8. The land identified for development (Trinity 1 pitch) falls within this classification. Proposals that would result in the loss of a community and/or leisure facility will not be permitted except where a comparable replacement facility can be provided by the developer either on or off site, and within easy and convenient access on foot or by bicycle. In order to compensate for the potential loss of the Trinity 1 pitch, Council Officers have been working closely with officials from Penallta RFC to design a range of mitigations and enhanced provisions. The mitigations proposed will develop an alternative provision of equivalent community benefit locally (0.5miles), avoiding any temporary loss of provision and thereby complying with the requirements of the Local Development Plan CW8 criteria.</p>
<p>Well-being Goals</p>	<p>Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goal and how?</p>
<p>A Wales of Cohesive Communities <i>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities</i></p>	<p>The School: Trinity Fields School caters for pupils with a wide range of Special Education Needs and requirements. Ranging from Physical and Medical Difficulties, Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties and Severe Learning Difficulties and is a highly inclusive community where all pupils feel safe and valued. Pupils play an active and influential role in shaping the life and work of the school. The school’s exemplary levels of care, support and guidance mean that nearly all pupils develop as enthusiastic learners who acquire a strong understanding of their rights and responsibilities. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that we continue to build on the mature leadership and expertise at the existing site and develop this even further in ensuring collaboration with health and social care colleagues.</p> <p>The support, knowledge and level of expertise at Trinity Fields School is now being disseminated across the Authority. The specialist facilities at the school, including the independent living areas, are currently being used by the wider school community in a structured and managed way.</p>

Café Oren in Trinity Fields School is currently accessible to the local community, providing basic catering services and supporting the development of life skills provision to vulnerable pupils and upskilling parents and carers.

Mitigations:

Pedestrian Routes

Active travel is important in promoting healthier lifestyles and in reducing the negative impacts of traffic upon our neighbourhoods and communities. The facilities proposed as part of the mitigation at Sue Noake are within a 0.5 mile radius from the Trinity 1 site and is currently accessed by a number of clubs including players of Penallta RFC. Whilst it is understood that the route requires crossing of a main road, there is a footpath along the entire route and a pedestrian light controlled crossing (pelican crossing) adjacent to Ystrad Mynach Primary School.

Lighting

The mitigation proposals for the loss of the pitch at Trinity 1 include the creation of a new Mini and Junior pitch at Trinity 3 and new training lights will be installed alongside the pitch at Trinity 2. The lighting will provide a viable and safer area within the existing Ystrad Mynach Park where this currently does not exist.

Drainage and Flooding of pitches

As part of the mitigations for this proposal, the playing surface for Trinity 3 will be enhanced and will receive verti draining treatments and regular maintenance to enhance its playability. The playing surface for SN1 and the proposed SN2 will also be enhanced and will be made more durable for extended use by an external pitch specialist. A drainage system will also be installed under the playing surface at SN2 to further improve usage.

The Council has also commissioned an external consultant to test the pitch quality at Trinity 1 and SN, Soil samples were carried out which will indicate the soil make up and probe compaction tests carried out with penetrometer that gage compaction to a dept of 12 inches.

Separate to the mitigation work set out within this report, the Council is also undertaking works at Ystrad Mynach Park to alleviate the impact of flooding on the park itself and

further downstream. The work will seek to introduce attenuation of the stream flows during a storm event by providing storage within the park, specifically within the area proposed to be designated T3. This attenuation will have the effect of reducing the downstream flows to a level that the existing stream course and culvert system are able to accommodate, without surcharging. In practical terms this would mean the T3 field would be enclosed with an earthwork bund which would provide a natural viewing gallery for the pitch as well as holding and then releasing water during and after a storm event in a controlled manner. The duration of the period in which water is retained in this area would depend on the duration of the storm but once passed it would be a matter of hours, possibly a day before the whole area is drained and then a number of further days before the proposed pitch at T3 would be reusable.

In addition to this the Council is also proposing to daylight a section of culvert within the park, often the primary source of flooding in the park. The availability of increased upstream storage and the proposed removal of the culvert, the current flooding experienced in the park should be completely alleviated for most extreme storm events, which would also be true of the flooding which currently affects the T2 rugby pitch ensuring greater access and usage through the season.

Public Health concerns at Sue Noake linked to sewage

During the recent Storm Christoph (18th to 20th January 2021) a manhole above a mainline sewer that runs close to the edge of the proposed location of the pitch at SN2, surcharged and sewage was released to the surrounding area.

Welsh Water has responsibility for the sewerage infrastructure and have confirmed there have only been two recorded incidents of manholes in proximity of the Sue Noake site surcharging over the previous ten years. The first of these was in 2014 and the second, the most recent incident in January 2021.

These two isolated incidents have been subsequently verified in separate conversations undertaken with the Head Teacher at Lewis Girls School and staff at Sue Noake Leisure Centre. School and Leisure Centre staff have also confirmed that they have received no other reports from members of the public or centre users of sewerage escaping from these specific manholes during the last ten years. When a breach of this nature occurs, particularly on a trunk sewer, Welsh Water will undertake a detailed investigation, undertake any remedial work to the sewer and reinstate the ground.

Statement from Welsh Water**11 March 2021****Re Sue Noake centre**

We have been called to attend reports of the sewer overflowing near the Sue Noakes Centre during heavy rain and are already carrying out investigations to understand the cause.

These have included undertaking a CCTV survey of the sewer with further surveys set to take place this week. Once these are completed, we should be in a better position to determine the cause and then undertake any work that may be required.

During the course of our investigations so far, we have found that damage has been caused by a third party to one of our pipes nearby which was allowing water from a stream to enter the network. This in turn was placing additional pressure on the sewer, particularly during heavy rain. We have undertaken a full repair of the damaged pipe.

Following the sewer overflowing at the site, we have sent a team on each occasion to carry out a full clean up of the area. We are also keeping Caerphilly County Borough Council informed of our investigations.

We do realise the inconvenience a sewer overflowing in this way can cause and apologise to the local community for this.

Ends**A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language**

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation

Cultural Heritage and Welsh Language in the Community:

The Local Authority is fully aware of its obligations under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Council's Compliance Notice (Welsh Language Standards) and to support the provision of Welsh Language Education as set out in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan where Caerphilly's commitment to the promotion of Welsh language and the provision of quality, attractive educational facilities is evident.

Further details are found in section 7 of this document.

Sport and Recreation Participation

A Globally Responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

The extensive mitigation and enhancement measures within Ystrad Mynach Park and at Sue Noake, subject to Cabinet approval will provide additional facilities to support physical and mental wellbeing.

In addition, Penallta RFC and a number of other Ystrad Mynach based clubs are currently exploring the possibility of creating a Community Sporting Hub at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre. The Hub would have the potential to support Rugby, Football, Hockey and Netball as well as a new clubhouse and improved changing facilities. The creation of a sporting hub is not part of the current mitigations for the loss of the pitch at Trinity 1, but the Council is keen to support the clubs to make the hub concept a reality.

Community Benefits:

As part of the funding requirements for all 21st Century School proposals, Welsh Government stipulates that Community Benefits are a core requirement of any contract procurement and will therefore be scored as part of the Quality evaluation. These include a number of targets around local recruitment and training, supply chains, community and education initiatives.

Health and Social Services:

Expansion will provide for a unified and integrated multiagency input from Health and Social care which will further compliment the Educational provision. Visiting practitioners will not be permanently based at the Trinity site but will however have access to facilities to undertake development and intervention activities with children, under a single roof, providing additional support and a better quality of life to the most vulnerable children in the Borough.

Mitigation:

Ystrad Mynach’s location in the heart of the county borough along with its economic and transport opportunities as identified in the Ystrad Mynach Masterplan May 2019. The proposed mitigation will create new facilities closer to the centre of Ystrad Mynach town centre, which will further support local business and transport infrastructures .



(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language) [insert link to WL Commissioners Policy Making Standards Guidance](#)

Requirement	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?	If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?	What evidence has been used to support this view? <i>e.g the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census</i>
<p>Links with Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy and CCBC's Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022 and the Language Profile</p>	<p>Positive A request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated at present as the school employs a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language and as such Additional Learning Needs provision through the medium of Welsh could be provided if required. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education and care through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive Through an integrated multi-agency approach operating provision from the Trinity Fields site, Welsh language preference could also be provided by engagement with Social Services, Health and Welsh medium organisations.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 One of the identified objectives is specific to the 21st Century Schools Programme 'Work with 21st Century Schools team in Welsh Government to identify funding in Band B of 21st Century Schools programme, for the development of sufficient Welsh medium places in areas where they are coming under pressure, in particular Bedwas Trethomas Machen area, and the Islwyn East area.'</p> <p>Technical Advice Note 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language The purpose of TAN20 is to provide guidance on how the Welsh language may be given appropriate consideration in the planning system and on compliance with the requirements of planning and other relevant legislation</p>

			<p>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050. The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p> <p>Menter Iaith Caerffili : Welsh Language Profile 2016 This profile examines the position of the Welsh language in the County Borough of Caerphilly, and the way that Welsh speakers in the area use the Welsh language in their communities.</p> <p>Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) Statistical Information relating to the numbers of pupils at local authority level and their language medium for education:</p> <p>Welsh Language Impact Assessment – Trinity Fields (included as part of the original Equality Impact Assessment)</p>
<p>Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. <i>Specifically Standards 88 - 93</i></p>	<p>Positive A request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated at present as the school employs</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050.</p>

	<p>a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language and as such Additional Learning Needs provision through the medium of Welsh could be provided if required. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education and care through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>Any meetings with the school to discuss provision of education or care through the child / family's preferred language and the right that they have to this under the WL Measure can be accommodated at present as the school employs a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>Through an integrated multi-agency approach operating provision from the Trinity Fields site, Welsh language</p>	<p>There are currently teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language</p> <p>All documentation published on the 21st Century Schools website relating to the Trinity Fields proposal has been translated through the CCBC Welsh Language Unit</p> <p>The process during both the Consultation period and Objection period ensured that key consultees were targeted as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 because of their vested interest.</p> <p>In addition, as highlighted in the Consultation Document and Consultation Report, the views of children and young people affected by the proposal were consulted with through targeted information and feedback sessions and the production of child friendly versions of the documentation.</p>	<p>The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p> <p>Welsh Language Impact Assessment – Trinity Fields (included as part of the original Equality Impact Assessment)</p> <p>Trinity Fields Consultation Webpage – Link to Welsh page Page includes all documentation produced as part of the proposal including the key documentation (Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Response Forms, Consultation Report, Notification Letters)</p>
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	<p>preference could also be provided by engagement with Social Services, Health and Welsh medium organisations.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>All documentation including the website relating to the proposal is produced in Welsh and English, further supporting use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>All consultation and objection responses were able to be sent and received in Welsh and English ensuring that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.</p>		
<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language <i>e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community</i></p>	<p>Positive</p> <p>A request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated at present as the school employs a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language and as such ALN provision through the medium of Welsh could be provided if required. In so</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>There are currently teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language</p> <p>Reception services answer the phone with a bilingual greeting</p>	<p>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050.</p> <p>The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p>

	<p>doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education and care through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>Any meetings with the school to discuss provision of education or care through the child / family's preferred language and the right that they have to this under the WL Measure can be accommodated at present as the school employs a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>All signage in the proposed new extension will be bi-lingual</p>	<p>All documentation published on the 21st Century Schools website relating to the Trinity Fields proposal has been translated through Council's Translation Team</p> <p>Signage will be bilingual</p>	<p>Technical Advice Note 20 – Planning and the Welsh Language</p> <p>The purpose of TAN20 is to provide guidance on how the Welsh language may be given appropriate consideration in the planning system and on compliance with the requirements of planning and other relevant legislation</p>
<p>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language <i>e.g. staff, residents and visitors</i></p>	<p>Neutral</p> <p>In relation to this facility, as acknowledged in the recent Estyn inspection report, "All of the pupils are from English-speaking backgrounds". A request for education through the medium of Welsh can be</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>The school employs a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language and as such ALN provision through the medium of</p>	<p>Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020</p> <p>A Welsh medium education assessment in accordance with the (Wales) Regulations 2013 has been conducted in</p>

	<p>accommodated at present as the school employs a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language and as such ALN provision through the medium of Welsh could be provided if required. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education and care through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive When considering the expansion of provision by an additional 80 places, in future proofing the school if a request is received for education and care through the medium of Welsh, recruitment and selection processes will reflect the local need.</p>	<p>Welsh could be provided if required.</p> <p>Recruitment and Selection processes include the desirability to have Welsh speakers</p>	<p>accordance with the 3-year cycle requirement.</p> <p>A parental demand survey was also undertaken in 2018 and is updated regularly.</p> <p>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050.</p> <p>The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p> <p>Welsh Language Impact Assessment – Trinity Fields (included as part of the original Equality Impact Assessment)</p>
<p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language</p>	<p>Neutral The school has responsibility to understand and record the home language of all the pupils and actively offer Welsh provision if the home language is Welsh.</p> <p>Neutral</p>	<p>Not applicable</p> <p>Welsh provision is currently offered in the Specialist Resource Base in Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Derwen and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni.</p>	<p>Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020</p> <p>A Welsh medium education assessment in accordance with the (Wales) Regulations 2013 has been conducted in accordance with the 3-year cycle requirement.</p>

	<p>A request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated at present as the school employs a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language and as such ALN provision through the medium of Welsh could be provided if required. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education and care through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>Any meetings with the school to discuss provision of education or care through the child / family's preferred language and the right that they have to this under the WL Measure can be accommodated at present as the school employs a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language.</p> <p>Positive</p>	<p>The school employs a number of teachers and teaching assistants who are Welsh 1st language and as such ALN provision through the medium of Welsh could be provided if required.</p>	<p>A parental demand survey was also undertaken in 2018 and is updated regularly.</p> <p>Welsh Language Strategy – Cymraeg 2050.</p> <p>The strategy recognises the need to provide Welsh speakers with easily accessible opportunities to use their skills in social and work settings.</p> <p>Welsh Language Impact Assessment – Trinity Fields (included as part of the original Equality Impact Assessment)</p> <p>Trinity Fields Consultation Webpage – Link to Welsh page</p> <p>Page includes all documentation produced as part of the proposal including the key documentation (Consultation Document, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Response Forms, Consultation Report, Notification Letters)</p>
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	<p>Through an integrated multi-agency approach operating provision from the Trinity Fields site, Welsh language preference could also be provided by engagement with Social Services, Health and Welsh medium organisations.</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>All documentation including the website relating to the proposal is produced in Welsh and English</p> <p>Positive</p> <p>All consultation and objection responses were able to be sent and received in Welsh and English</p>		
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7a. Having considered the impacts above, how has the proposal been developed so that there are positive effects, or increased positive effects on (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and b) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Need and demand

Anticipated demand linked to the more complex and changing needs of the pupils together with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act has led to the urgency to expand the provision further at this School.

The Trinity Fields School proposal seeks to support the local and national agenda in the development of additional learning needs and specialist provision for education at the boroughs only special school.

In addition, expansion will also provide for a unified and integrated multi-agency input from Health and Social care which will further compliment the Educational provision. Visiting practitioners will not be permanently based at the Trinity site, but will however have access to facilities to undertake development and intervention activities with children, under a single roof, providing additional support and a better quality of life to the most vulnerable children in the Borough.

Method and process

The School Organisation Code 2018 is the prescribed process for progressing this proposal. The proposal seeks expand the existing Trinity Fields School. It is proposed that the new school facility would accommodate an additional 80 places providing increased educational opportunities for specialist provision.

Location

The expansion is proposed on the Trinity 1 sports pitch which is directly adjacent to the school site. The proposed development is sensitive to the needs of such communities and there is also a clear understanding from the details provided in this Integrated Impact Assessment and supporting consultation exercises and documentation. Mitigation proposals have been established to ensure alternative provision of equivalent community benefit will be made locally available to the community.

Timing

Subject to Cabinet approval on the 7th April 2021 and a separate full planning application process, it is envisaged that an anticipated occupation date would be circa September 2023.

Mitigations against the removal of the Trinity 1 pitch as outlined in the Objection Report and supporting mitigation proposal would be implemented prior to opening to avoid any temporary loss of provision.

8. Data and Information

(What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultations, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and or other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and consultants' reports etc.)

Data/evidence <i>(Please provide link to report if appropriate)</i>	Key relevant findings	How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?
Initial Evidence (National and Regional Data) The Local Authority works closely with multiagency professionals in the field as well as the school, Early Years, Flying Start and Health Visitors. A fortnightly placement panel convenes to calculate the number of	Consultation Document Consultation Report Objection Report Proposed Mitigation	It is the Authority's aim, wherever possible, to educate all pupils within the county borough. This prevents the need for out of county provision, which is not only costly but can also have a significant impact on individual families. Accessing provision out

<p>places that are required on site and utilising data from ISCAN and reviewing the trend data since 2012, growth has been identified as an area requiring action.</p> <p>School based ‘existing evidence’</p> <p>Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre was purpose built in September 1998, and was considered to be “Innovative”, however over the years pupils needs have become more complex and challenging and the school’s infrastructure is now becoming an obstacle that is preventing the school from developing further in supporting pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) across the county borough.</p> <p>The school caters for pupils with a wide range of Special Educational Needs and Requirements, ranging from physical and medical difficulties, profound multiple learning difficulties and severe learning difficulties.</p> <p>Consultation Period</p> <p>The consultation period opened on Monday 14th September 2020 (a school day) and concluded at midnight on Monday 26th October 2020. Consultees were given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.</p> <p>Consultees were advised of the proposal and availability of the consultation</p>	<p>There is growing demand for specialist school provision within Caerphilly county borough.</p> <p>There is a similar picture across Wales in terms of increasing numbers of pupils accessing special schools</p> <p>The 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales with the priority areas being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of poor condition schools • Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education • Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate <p>Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre is the only special school in the Authority which provides education and specialist facilities. It caters for a wide range of ages, with pupils from the foundation phase (3-7), school curriculum (7-14) and learning pathway (14-19). At present the school has 180 pupils on roll with more admissions anticipated and no capacity or space to expand within the current building configuration.</p>	<p>of the county will also be harmful to the environment.</p> <p>The proposal will benefit pupils across the whole of the Authority as the additional facilities and adaptations will support children and young people who have specialist needs in an appropriate and secure environment that will create a holistic approach towards learning and development.</p> <p>The views obtained as part of the Consultation Period and Objection Period support the need for clear mitigating actions to address public concern which will be presented to Education Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd March 2021 and Cabinet on 7th April 2021 alongside this IIA and the Objection Report.</p> <p>As outlined in the Consultation Document, Consultation Report and the Objection Report a separate planning application process including further consultation will be undertaken to address building and transport related issues.</p>
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documentation when it went live on the 14th September 2020 via letter/email and were therefore invited to take part in the statutory consultation to gather their 'views' on the proposal as outlined in the consultation document.

The Council was aware that the proposal and preferred delivery option as outlined in the Consultation Documentation would result in the repurposing of a pay-to-use sports pitch and would work closely with interested parties to ensure mitigation could take place should the proposal receive Cabinet approval. Therefore, in addition to advising those we were obliged to under the stakeholder criteria, Sports Wales and Penallta RFC were also advised.

Objection Period

Following the decision by Cabinet (9.12.2020) to proceed to Statutory Notice, anyone wishing to make an objection to this proposal was able to do so as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018. To be considered as a statutory objection, objections had to be made in writing or by email and sent to the Council within the 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published. This is referred to as the "objection period" and ran from the 11th January 2021 to the 7th February 2021.

Of the 238 Statutory Objections received, these were summarised into 5 areas:

- Statutory Processes

The School Organisation Code 2018 is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined at Section 98 of the 2013 Act. That is a school in Wales, which is a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community special school or a maintained nursery school. This does not include pupil referral units (PRUs). The School Organisation Code 2018, provides clear statutory guidance as to the processes that need to be adhered to when bringing forward a proposal.

The consultation process has followed the Welsh Government requirements as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.

Consultation Period

- 1048 responses 'view's' were received during the consultation period.
- 0 responses were received in the medium of Welsh.
- 43% supported the proposal as outlined in the Consultation document
- 56% did not support the proposal as outlined
- 1% provided a neutral of no comment response.
- 3 alternative options were raised by consultees and considered by Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

Full details are provided as part of the Consultation Report

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Appraisal Process • Loss of Green Space for the Ystrad Mynach Community • Impact on Sporting provision and mitigation options • Other planning considerations <p>The Objection Report and proposed Mitigation provides full details and in addition original copies of all correspondence are made available to Cabinet Members for consideration as part of the decision making process.</p>	<p>Objection Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 238 Statutory Objections were received. • Objections were summarised into 5 areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Statutory Processes ➤ Optional Appraisal Process ➤ Loss of Green Space for the Ystrad Mynach Community ➤ Impact on Sporting provision and mitigation options ➤ Other planning considerations <p>Full details are provided as part of the Objection Report and proposed Mitigation</p> <p>Progression at each stage is subject to scrutiny, review and approval by Cabinet Members and in addition, Welsh Government are engaged in the process as one of the key delivery partners and co-funders.</p>	
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Were there any gaps identified in the evidence and data used to develop this proposal and how will these gaps be filled?

Details of further consultation can be included in Section 9.

In accordance with the ALN and Tribunal Act 2018 schools and local authorities have a statutory duty to identify ALN and appropriate provision to meet that need. As identified in the ALN Act and draft ALN Code the Council and schools have a responsibility to review provision available to meet need within the borough on a regular basis. Respondents as part of the Consultation and Objection periods have indicated concerns relating to lack of specific figures in the proposal documentation related future projected demand. These concerns have been addressed in the Consultation Report and the Objection Report.

There are clear processes which need to be followed as per the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. Respondents as part of the Consultation and Objection periods have indicated concerns relating to lack of consultation with local residents and the wider community. The Council has undertaken stakeholder engagement and produced documentation at the appropriate stage of the process in line with statutory requirements. These concerns have been addressed in the Consultation Report and the Objection Report.

9. Consultation

(In some instances, there is a legal requirement to consult. In others, even where there is no legal obligation, there may be a legitimate expectation from people that a consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, [The Gunning Principles](#) must be adhered to. Consider the [Consultation and Engagement Framework](#). Please note that this may need to be updated as the proposal develops and to strengthen the assessment.

Briefly describe any recent or planned consultations paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles.

The consultation process will proceed in line with the requirements of Welsh Government Statutory Code document no 011/2018 - School Organisation Code 2nd Edition 2018.

The School Organisation Code 2018 is made under Sections 38 and 39 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined at Section 98 of the 2013 Act. That is a school in Wales, which is a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community special school or a maintained nursery school. The School Organisation Code 2018, provides clear statutory guidance as to the processes that need to be adhered to and the stages to follow.

A prescribed list of recipients (as outlined below) have been written to at either the commencement of the Consultation Period, and/or Objection Period.

All documentation was made available in both Welsh and English throughout the process and other formats were available on request.

- Parents, prospective parents, guardians and carers of all pupils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Headteacher, staff and governors of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Pupils/Pupil Councils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen Catholic Diocesan Board of Education o Church in Wales Diocesan Board
- Local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
- Governing body of other schools which the proposer considers are likely to be affected by the proposal
- Local CCBC Members
- All Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing the area served by the schools directly affected by the proposal
- Welsh Ministers
- ESTYN
- Teaching Associations
- Support Staff Associations
- South East Wales Consortium (EAS)
- South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA)
- Gwent and South Wales Police and Crime Commissioners
- Local Town and Community Councils
- Menter Iaith
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Parent Network

Welsh Education Forum

As outlined in the original Equality Impact Assessment Document, the principles of engagement outlined in the Local Authority's Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020 will also be acknowledged and the project team will engage with any additional 'interested parties' as required.

As such, the Council was aware that the proposal and preferred delivery option as outlined in the Consultation Documentation would result in the repurposing of a pay-to-use rugby pitch and has to ensuring mitigation could take place should the proposal receive Cabinet approval. Therefore, in addition to advising those we were obliged to under the stakeholder criteria, Sports Wales and Penallta RFC.

At the commencement of the Objection Period, this list of consultees was extended to also included any respondent who had previously expressed concern as part of their consultation response during the period of 14th September 2020 – 26th October 2020 and included the newly formed Save Ystrad Mynach Green Spaces who were advised of the proposals in writing.

The principles of engagement outlined in the Local Authority's Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020 will also be acknowledged and the project team will engage with any additional 'interested parties' as required.

The School Organisation Code 2018 states that when undertaking a consultation process in connection with a school proposal, the Council must publish information to enable transparent, balanced and open decision making. At time of writing, the process being followed is synergistic with the vision of our Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020-25 and ensures the appropriate level of consultee engagement and transparency.

The proposal is still in the formative stage until a final determination is made by Cabinet who act as the decision making body in this instance.

The Trinity Fields School proposal has progressed through several stages of the process to date:

1) Consultation Period

A consultation period ran from the 14th September 2020 to the 26th October 2020 seeking the views of consultees as defined by the code.

As part of this proposal, the following documentation was published:

- [Consultation Notification Letter](#)
- [Consultation Document](#)
- [Child Friendly Consultation Summary](#)
- [Consultation Video](#)
- Artist's Impression of proposed new school [Image 1](#) / [Image 2](#) / [Image 3](#)
- [Consultation Response Form \(Online\)](#)
- [Consultation Response Form \(Printable PDF\)](#)

- [Equalities and Welsh Language Impact Assessment](#)
- [Consultation Frequently Asked Questions](#)

As part of the initial Equality Impact Assessment undertaken, it was envisaged that a series of targeted sessions would be held over a given day between the hours of 10am and 8pm to provide information and the opportunity to pose questions to designated officers concerning the proposal. Individuals would be required to book 10 minute appointment slots and a translator will be available if required. As part of this process, the target audiences who would be engaged included – Pupils (School Council), School Staff, School Governors, Parents/Guardians and the wider Community. However, due to the implications of COVID-19 at the time this consultation was due to take place and after taking advice from Welsh Government, this consultation process refrained from undertaking any face-to-face consultation sessions to support social distancing and maintain safe working practices for all. It should be noted that there is no obligation to consult face-to-face and therefore a written paper consultation exercise was undertaken to discharge the Council of its duty under the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Council acknowledged that the voice of young people is about involving them as active participants in the development, delivery, management and improvement of their educational and student experience and needs to be at the heart of planning, provision and evaluation; Learner Voice. A summary version of the main consultation document was also prepared, published and targeted specifically at children and young people.

[Child Friendly Consultation Summary](#)

This summary version was released online as part of the consultation pack and hardcopies were made available on request.

As identified in the Consultation Document, nearly all the pupils attending Trinity Fields School have a statement of special educational needs for severe learning difficulties, physical and medical difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties or autistic spectrum disorders. Trinity Fields School has a very active school council and is a highly inclusive community where all pupils feel safe and valued. Pupils play an active and influential role in shaping the life and work of the school. It was acknowledged at an early stage that in order to provide the opportunities for the young people to express their views in relation to this proposal, engaging with staff at the school would be vital. The school's exemplary levels of care, support and guidance and through utilising the child friendly version of the consultation document and the accompanying video, children were engaged in a familiar environment, at the appropriate comprehension level and in the format of their preference. Many of the children provided comments on what they would like to see in the future and how they felt about the proposal. Many pupils utilised verbal communication, however, evidence of what the pupils felt they wanted were also captured via heatmaps using eye recognition cursor movement, symbols and braille.

Notes from each session were recorded and have been included as part of the consultation responses which will be made available to Cabinet. Where answers were provided in other formats, these have been transcribed ad-verbatim and summarised in the Consultation Report.

2) Statutory Notice / Formal Objection Period

A 'Statutory Notice' was published and the formal 'Objection Period' opened on the 11th January 2021 and closed on 7th February 2021.

Notices were published on the 11th January 2021 as follows:

- A [Statutory Notice was published](#) on the [council website](#)
- A [Statutory Notice](#) was displayed in several locations, on or near the main entrance of the school which was subject to the proposal
- The school was provided with hardcopies of the Statutory Notice to distribute to pupils, parents/carers and staff.
- Prescribed consultees as listed in the School Organisation Code 2018 were notified in writing and sent a copy of the [Statutory Notice Notification Letter](#)
 - Social Media Messages were released on Facebook and Twitter to advise of the publication of the Notice and direct interested parties to the Council website

The School Organisation Code 2018 states that *"It is essential that proposers seek and achieve high standards both in the information that underpins school consultations and in the consultation documents that are published. These will be examined closely by communities, school staff and parents, and errors in details can easily undermine confidence in a proposal."*

There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings although there will be circumstances where proposers will consider that meeting with certain groups of consultees will assist greatly in the dissemination of information and provide a suitable platform for the consultees to make their views known.

Proposers may use other ways to engage consultees as they think appropriate.

The proposal is still progressing through the Statutory process as prescribed by the School Organisation Code and at time of writing, no final determination has been made.

The key finding of the initial consultation exercise were summarised in a Consultation Report that was presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet for consideration.

This Consultation Report is the prescribed method as outlined by the School Organisation Code 2018 for reflection, review and assessment to provide Cabinet with the information to make an informed decision as to whether to proceed with the proposal to the next stage, amend the proposal taking into account further information that has come forward through the consultation process or to close this proposal with no further actions taken. The Report is divided into several sections with the aim to:

- Outline the consultation processes undertaken
- Provide clarification in relation to the information provided and consultee engagement

- Summarise each of the issues raised by consultees
- Set out Estyn’s response to the consultation in full
- Respond to issues raised by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons

- [Consultation Report Notification Letter](#)
- [Consultation Report](#)
- [Child Friendly Consultation Report](#)
- [Estyn’s Response](#)
- [Notice of Cabinet Decision from the meeting held on Wednesday 9th December 2020](#)

The outcome of the Objection Period has been summarised in an Objection Report that will be presented to Education Scrutiny Committee for review on the 22nd March 2021 and then formally presented to the decision making body ‘Cabinet’ at its meeting on the 7th April 2021 for final determination.

As part of the development of the proposal, a number of benefits and disbenefits were identified as outlined in the Consultation Document. The consultation process was an opportunity to consult with relevant stakeholders to understand what they see as positive outcomes and what negative consequences may be delivered. An Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment and a Community Impact Assessment were carried out to initiate discussion and invite comments as to whether the principles for the proposal are supported.

All comments have been recorded and will be made available for Cabinet as a separate annex to this Consultation Report and the Gunning Principles have been applied throughout the process ensuring:

1. that consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
2. that the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response;
3. that adequate time is given for consideration and response; and
4. that the product of consultation is conscientiously taken into account when finalising the decision.

10. Monitoring and Review

How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal be monitored, including implementation of any amendments?

The programme is managed by a Project Board comprising of the Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services, Head of Education Planning and Strategy, Chief Education Officer, Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement, Interim Head of Property Services and 21st Century Schools Manager. The Project Board provides the overall direction,

	<p>management and control for the Programme, being accountable for the success of the Programme and is the ultimate decision making body for the Programme.</p> <p>A Project Management Team comprising of the Head of Education Planning and Strategy, and resources and staff from Property Services will oversee the day to day development and implementation of each constituent project, reporting to the Board and other relevant senior officers, as appropriate.</p> <p>Key personnel have received Equality Impact Awareness and Equalities Awareness Training and attended training and information sessions undertaken by Welsh Government. Training needs will be constantly reviewed throughout the process and addressed when the need is evident.</p> <p>In addition, the 21st Century Schools Manager and Principal Officer have met with representatives from the Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation Team to take guidance where required.</p>
<p>What are the practical arrangements for monitoring?</p>	<p>The Council recognises that the whole organisation must be skilled in making the very best use of available resources. Good project management is recognised as being an essential ingredient to success in tackling our strategic work programme.</p> <p>Project management principles will be followed (Prince2 and MS Project) throughout the programme. Programme management principles will be employed for the overarching Band B programme and the project will utilise the experience of the project team involved in the Band A project. This will commence with a Programme execution plan that will define the programme objectives, responsibilities, dependant actions and risks. The latter will include risk elimination or mitigation actions and risk owner. An overall programme monitoring tool will integrate and coordinate procurement, design and construction programmes and will highlight key dependencies and the critical path.</p> <p>In addition to the numerous reports that need to be produced in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 and internal Caerphilly County Borough Council decision making processes, A business case model is followed to secure Welsh Government funding.</p>

	<p>An initial Outline Business Case / Strategic Outline Business Case was developed at the concept stage based on the five key areas that underpin the Better Business Case Process (Five Cases Business Model).</p> <p>The Business Case focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the strategic justification and investment objectives for the project (Strategic Case) • the reasoning behind reduction of the long list to a short list of options and analysis of the options appraisal and benefits (Economic Case) • the outline cost of the project and details of match funding and profile of spend (Financial Case) • the proposed management structure (Management Case) • the commercial strategy (Commercial Case) <p>Approval to secure the funding in principle is agreed by Welsh Government at this point prior to the proposal progressing through the consultation processes.</p> <p>As the proposal progresses through the consultation processes, regular meetings with 21st Century Schools Officers in Welsh Government are held to update them on progress.</p> <p>Once a final determination is made on the proposal by Cabinet, a Full Business Case will be submitted to Welsh Government which will solely focus on the tendered costs unless anything has changed since agreement to the original business case was submitted. At this point, with the approval of Welsh Government, the funding is released to implement the proposal.</p> <p>Should the proposal then be implemented (based on approval as outlined above), on completion of the works a Welsh Government Closing Report is produced, supported with full project costings and analysis as to whether the community benefits have been achieved.</p> <p>The 21st Century Schools team are required to monitor projects for their first five years through completion of post occupancy evaluation workshops with pupils and staff. This is also reported to Welsh Government and supports the Council in considering best practice and any areas for improvement on future projects.</p>
<p>How will the results of the monitoring be used to develop future proposals?</p>	<p>The Council produces a protocol document for each school opening/closure/amalgamation project. This outlines individual and team responsibilities for the full list of actions required over the 3 stages of design and pre-construction, construction and school occupation and decommissioning.</p>

	<p>Regular monitoring meetings take place and typically involve 21st Century Schools Team, Headteachers, Education advisers, Property Services, Catering Services, ICT, Traffic Management, Procurement and Audit representation. Relevant stakeholders will also be involved in post project evaluation to review outcomes to ensure improvements are made for future projects.</p> <p>Benefits Realisation will be monitored by the project team and Caerphilly County Borough Council and reported to Welsh Government through the project closure report and other relevant documentation. Community benefits will be reported quarterly and yearly and when the project ends.</p> <p>The project will be subject to gateway review as required by the funding agreement. The review is one by which independent practitioners from outside the programme/project use their experience and expertise to examine the progress and likelihood of successful delivery of the programme or project. Any recommendations of the review team will be taken on board and implemented as appropriate.</p> <p>A post contract review will also be undertaken.</p>
<p>When is the proposal due to be reviewed?</p>	<p>Further to review at Education Scrutiny Committee on the 22d March 2021, this document will be considered in full at a Cabinet meeting due to be held on 7th April 2021.</p> <p>Decisions (in relation to proposals which require approval or determination) must be made and issued in the form of a decision letter. The decision letter must set out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018. The Decision letter will be published electronically on the Council's website and the consultees as outlined in Section 5.6 of the School Organisation Code will be advised by letter/email of the availability of the document.</p>

Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?	<p>Cabinet Members will be asked to review the proposal and make the final determination as to whether to implement the proposal as outlined below: To relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose-built Welsh medium provision school to be situated at the former Cwmcarn High School site.</p> <p>If approved, it will be the responsibility of the Author of this report (or nominated officer within their section) to ensure the Integrate Impact Assessment and proposal is reviewed and any mitigating actions followed up on and actioned.</p>
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11. Recommendation and Reasoning

- Implement proposal with no amendments
- Implement proposal taking account of the mitigating actions outlined
- Reject the proposal due to disproportionate impact on equality, poverty and socio-economic disadvantage

Have you contacted relevant officers for advice and guidance? Yes No

12. Reason(s) for Recommendation

(Provide below a summary of the Integrated Impact Assessment. This summary should be included in the "Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment" section of the Corporate Report Template. The Integrated Impact Assessment should be published alongside the Report proposal).

It is the recommendation of this Integrated Impact Assessment and in line with the processes outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 that Members endorse the proposal to expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space.

The information gathered and reviewed as part of this IIA and through the consultation phase and formal objection period demonstrate the growing demand for Special needs education and the benefits of providing this through a single, integrated facility. Whilst concerns relating to the proposed location (T1) of the expansion and the impact on the local community in relation to recreational and sporting activities has been identified, mitigation measures have been clearly established that will provide equivalent and enhanced provision in the area fulfilling any obligation upon the authority linked to planning considerations. This has led to the recommendation in Section 11 to implement proposal taking account of the mitigating actions outlined.

Therefore, Cabinet Members are asked to consider this Integrated Impact Assessment alongside the Objection Report and provide a final determination in support of progressing to full implementation of the project which involves full business case submission to Welsh Government and Property Services undertaking their full statutory planning application process.

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13. Version Control

(The IIA should be used in the early stages of the proposal development process. The IIA can be strengthened as time progresses to help shape the proposal. The Version Control section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time)

Version No.	Author	Brief description of the amendments/update	Revision Date
1.	Andrea West	An Equality Impact Assessment was completed on the Council's 2019 proforma to support the proposal and was published as part of the original Consultation Pack. Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment 01.09.2020 In addition, a Community Impact Assessment was undertaken in line with the recommendations outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 and summarised within the Consultation Document (pages 19-20) Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre Consultation Document	01.09.2020 14.09.2020

2.	Andrea West	<p>As part of the Statutory processes being followed in relation to the Trinity Fields School proposal as per the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, at this stage in the process, a formal 'Objection Report' will be presented to Education Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd March 2021, with the final decision making body (Cabinet) meeting after the 31st March 2021.</p> <p>To ensure compliance with the new socio-economic duty set out in section 1 of the Equality Act 2010, which comes into force on 31st March 2021, this newly established Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) template has been utilised to act as the update and revision to the existing Equality Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment to include the relevant information highlighted through the statutory consultation processes.</p>	01.03.2021
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Integrated Impact Assessment Author

Name:	Andrea West		
Job Title:	21 ST Century Schools Manager		
Date:	<i>A.West</i>		

Head of Service Approval

Name:	Sue Richards		
Job Title:	Head of Education Planning and Strategy		
Signature:	<i>S.Richards</i>	Date:	8.3.2021

APPENDIX 3 - MITIGATION PROPOSALS FOR PITCH AT TRINITY 1

As is the case when a community sports pitch is at risk of being redeveloped, the Council has an obligation to provide an alternative provision of equivalent community benefit, made available locally, avoiding any temporary loss of provision.

The Trinity 1 pitch, which would be redeveloped should the proposal to expand Trinity Fields Special School be agreed, is 106m x 66m with a 3m grass run off to all sides. The pitch has hard standing and fencing to two sides and barriers to three sides. The pitch is underpinned by drainage and is considered a good and durable playing surface. The pitch does not benefit from any lighting at present.

To mitigate the potential redevelopment of the pitch at Trinity 1, the Council is proposing the following:

Mitigation 1 - Creation of a new senior pitch at Sue Noake Leisure Centre (SN2)

A new senior pitch will be created at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre. The pitch will be available for use prior to the pitch at Trinity 1 becoming unusable.

The new pitch will be 102m x 60m with a 5m grass run off to all sides. There will be a partial hard standing and barrier to the one try line and a hard standing to the full length of one side of the pitch. Fencing will be erected behind the far try line (See Illustration 1 below).

Illustration 1 – Proposed Visuals for the new Pitches at Sue Noake



The existing surface will be enhanced and will be made more durable for extended use by an external pitch specialist. The specific works are set out below:

- **Selective weed kill** the pitch, ensuring the correct time frames are appropriate for maximum absorption take up.
- **Hollow core** to 3-4 inches,

- **Tine rake/scarify** - ensuring the removal of the weeds, unwanted meadow grass and minimising thatch build up, allowing LJPS to thin the pitch and encourage stronger rooting to establish.
- **Top dress**, 110 tonne sand to playing surface
- **Spreading** and incorporation of sand
- **Verti- drain**
- **Drag brush surface** to incorporate sand into pitch profile
- **Disc seed** new grass seed into soil profile 250 kg winter sport Rye grass
- **Fertiliser 300 kg** to assist in establishing new seedlings and pitch recovery
- **Increase aeration throughout the season** i.e. verti-drain, shockwave, A2G2 - decreasing compaction, increasing porosity and respiration within the soil, creating a fracking effect allowing water to pass through (Aeration, verti -draining and shock wave operations will be carried out when optimum conditions will allow).
- **Fertiliser** -Slow release fertiliser to be applied with 5/6 month longevity acting as a base feed with additional top up feeds as required (300 kg to main pitch)

A drainage system will also be installed under the playing surface to further improve usage and the management of surface water. The specific works are set out below:

Main Drain

- Using contractor provided plant and equipment allow to excavate 600-700mm deep trench, install 150mm dia perforated drainage pipe.
- Backfill to within 150mm of the surface with clean stone 6-10mm and top to the surface with 150mm of medium fine sand.

Laterals

- Installation generally as above for 80mm dia perforated drainage pipe, 450mm depth, and backfilled as above. Installed at 5 m centres

Junctions

- Install preformed plastic junctions to connect laterals to pitch main

Following the implementation of the drainage and renovation programme detailed above for SN2, the external pitch specialist is confident that the pitch surface will be robust and playable throughout the winter season.

Mitigation 2- Upgrade existing senior rugby pitch at Sue Noake (SN1)

The pitch at SN1 is 108m x 63m with a 5m grass run off to all sides. The pitch will be available for use prior to the pitch at Trinity 1 becoming unusable

The existing pitch will be moved closer to the boundary to maximise the available playing surfaces across SN1 and SN2. New hard standing and barriers will be installed to three sides

of the pitch. New fencing will be erected to one side of the pitch and behind the far try line (See Illustration 2 below).

Illustration 2 – Proposed Visuals for the new Pitches at Sue Noake



The existing playing surface will be enhanced and will be made more durable for extended use by an external pitch specialist. The specific works are set out below:

- **Selective weed kill** the pitch, ensuring the correct time frames are appropriate for maximum absorption take up.
- **Hollow core** to 3-4 inches,
- **Tine rake/scarify** - ensuring the removal of the weeds, unwanted meadow grass and minimising thatch build up, allowing LJPS to thin the pitch and encourage stronger rooting to establish.
- **Top dress**, 110 tonne sand to playing surface
- **Spreading** and incorporation of sand
- **Verti- drain**
- **Drag brush surface** to incorporate sand into pitch profile
- **Disc seed** new grass seed into soil profile 250 kg winter sport Rye grass
- **Fertiliser 300 kg** to assist in establishing new seedlings and pitch recovery
- **Increase aeration throughout the season** i.e. verti-drain, shockwave, A2G2 - decreasing compaction, increasing porosity and respiration within the soil, creating a fracking effect allowing water to pass through (Aeration, verti -draining and shock wave operations will be carried out when optimum conditions will allow).

- **Fertiliser** -Slow release fertiliser to be applied with 5/6 month longevity acting as a base feed with additional top up feeds as required (300 kg to main pitch)

Mitigation 3 – Creation of a New Mini & Junior pitch at Ystrad Mynach Park

The Pitch, which will be known as Trinity 3, will be 84m x 44m with a five metre grass run off to all sides. The pitch will be available for use prior to the pitch at Trinity 1 becoming unusable.

The new pitch will be marked out and rugby posts will be erected (See Illustration 3 below).

Illustration 3 – Proposed Mini and Junior Pitch Layout at Trinity 3



The playing surface will be enhanced and will receive verti draining treatments and regular maintenance to enhance its playability.

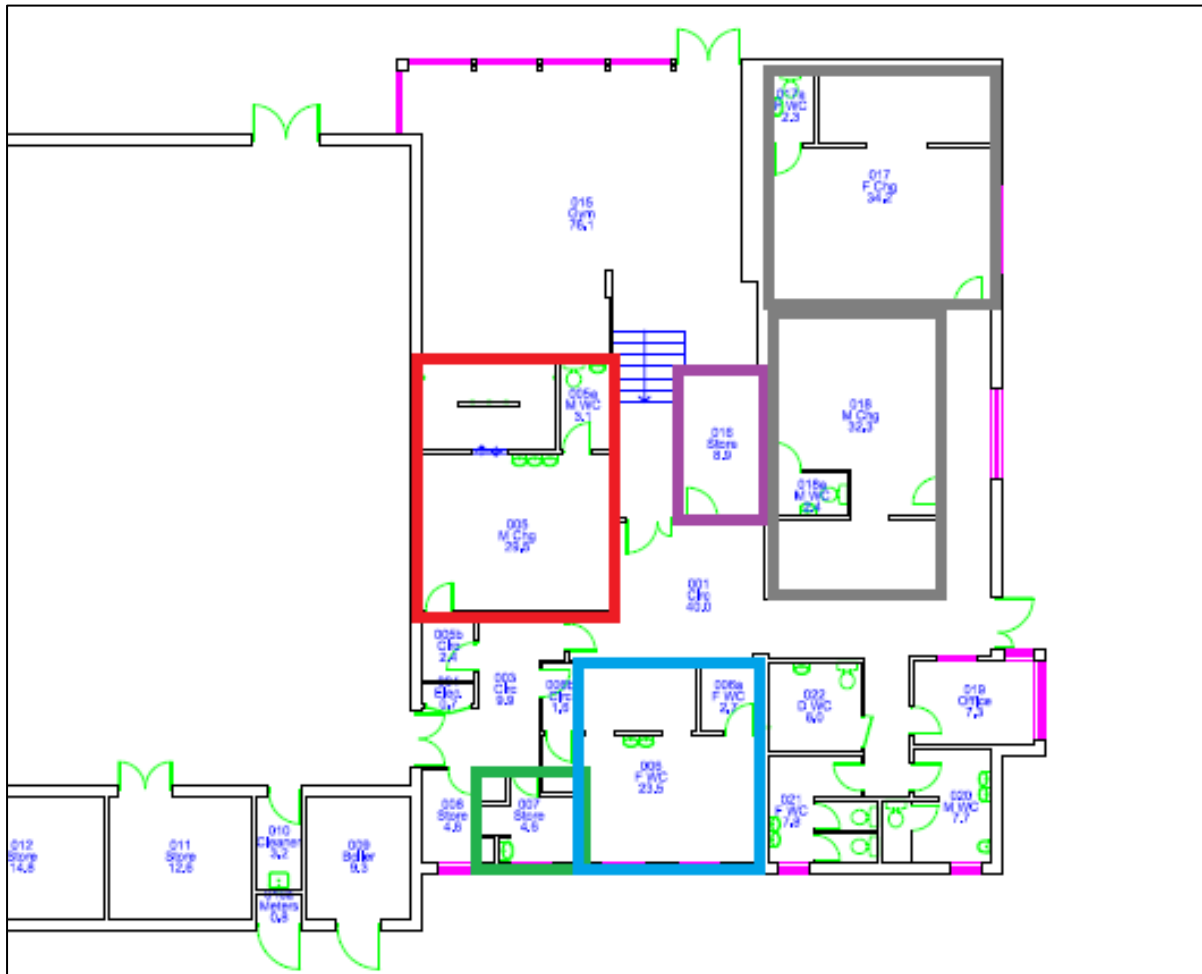
Mitigation 4 – Provision of additional Changing Facilities at Sue Noake LC

Illustration 4 (over the page) shows the configuration of the additional changing facilities at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre.

The Council is bringing back into use two currently disused changing rooms and adjacent shower rooms to provide two additional changing facilities at the Centre.

The Council is also introducing Officials changing and showering facilities and will provide a First Aid and Medical Room as shown below.

Illustration 4 – Additional Changing Facilities at Sue Noake LC



Key

- - 2 x Existing Changing Facilities at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre
- - 1 x Proposed Additional Team Changing and Shower Facility
- - 1 x Proposed Additional Team Changing and Shower Facility
- - 1 x Proposed Match Officials Changing and Shower Facility
- - 1 x First Aid and Medical Room

Mitigation 5 - Lighting Enhancements at Sue Noake Leisure Centre

The temporary training lights in situ at Sue Noake 1 (currently installed on the stanchions to the rear of the Astro Turf) will be replaced with enhanced permanent LED lighting ahead of the new season.

The enhanced permanent LED lighting will facilitate training across a wider section of the pitch at SN1 than is currently possible with the existing temporary training lighting. A lighting diagram will be developed and shared with the club to demonstrate coverage.

Mitigation 6 - Emergency Vehicle Access at Sue Noake Leisure Centre

Emergency Vehicle access will be created to the pitches at Sue Noake Leisure Centre. The most likely route will be between the lower car park at Lewis Girls School and the rear of the ATP. This will be confirmed following site investigations and detailed design works.

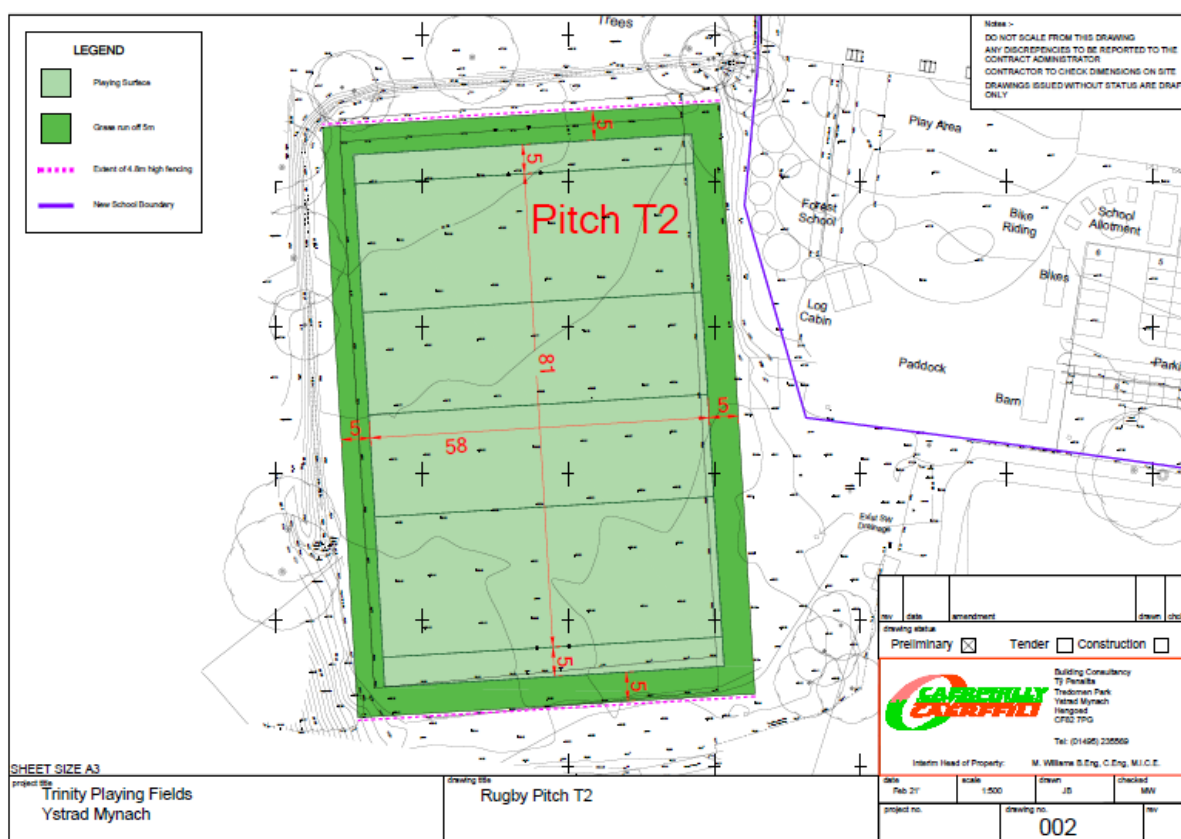
Mitigation 7 - Access Path Enhancements at Sue Noake Leisure Centre

The paths from the entrance of the Sue Noake Leisure Centre to pitch level will be assessed and, if necessary, upgraded to meet DDA requirements.

Mitigation 8 - Lighting Installation at Trinity 2

Through discussion, the Council and Club Officials have agreed not to introduce hard standing or barriers around the pitch at Trinity 2 as doing so would reduce the existing playing surface. The club have asked for consideration to be given to the installation of fencing to the one side of the pitch but only if its installation doesn't reduce the playing surface. The Council would support this mitigation and will undertake the design work (See Illustration 5).

Illustration 5 – Pitch at Trinity 2



New training lights will be installed alongside the pitch at Trinity 2 to provide winter training opportunities where those don't currently exist.

Mitigation 9 - Fields in Trust Status

The Council will apply for Fields in Trust status for the pitches at SN1 and 2 and Trinity 2 and 3 where the pitches don't already have this status. This will provide additional safeguards against the redevelopment of these fields moving forward.

Mitigation 10 – Remedial Drainage Works at Sue Noake Leisure Centre

Previous surface water flooding has occurred at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre, primarily on the ATP surface, which in turn has caused problems with usage. The problem has been traced

to a crushed drainage pipe between the lower car park at Lewis Girls School and the ATP.

The Council has commissioned remedial works to repair the pipe and allow water to once again drain freely. This work is scheduled to start mid March 2021.

Please note that all pitch dimensions quoted in this document are approximate at present.
ENDS

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APPENDIX 4 Sewerage Briefing Paper (Sent to Members on 26TH February 2021)

Members,

Many of you will be aware of the surface water and sewage issues that have been circulating around the Sue Noake Leisure Centre in Ystrad Mynach.

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misleading and inaccurate information circulating on social media over recent weeks about this matter. As the facilities at this site are widely used by residents across the county borough, I thought it would be helpful if I shared with you a briefing note by way of an explanation, now that the facts are becoming clearer.

While there have been a number of disparate surface water drainage and sewage issues at the site over its history, in recent weeks many of these issues have become mistakenly combined as 'sewage' issues linked to a single Welsh Water trunk sewer manhole.

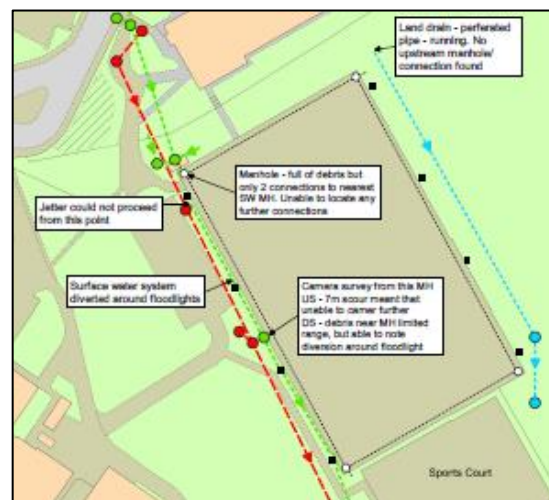
I felt it is important that I set out to Members the facts in relation to the issues at the site, update you on Welsh Waters investigations and explain the approach that will be taken from here on in.

Historic Flooding and Sewerage Issues at the Sue Noake ATP

Over recent years, the existing Astro Turf Pitch (ATP) at Sue Noake has been subject to a number of incidents involving flooding and foul contamination of the playing surface.

An investigation undertaken by the Council with the support of an external drainage expert, identified two underlying issues.

The first was a collapsed storm drain that runs the length of the ATP (see green dots in Diagram ---).



The second was traced back to a previous misconnection of foul waste from a neighbouring commercial premises to the storm water system that runs through the Sue Noake site alongside the ATP (see red dots in Diagram ---).

On occasions when the site was subject to high levels of rainfall, the increased volume of water needing to be managed caused a breach at the collapsed storm drain, with the result being the distribution of both surface water (flooding) and foul water (sewage) across the ATP surface. These issues are well documented and have been the subject of regular reports to the Council and across social media.

This matter was addressed in July 2020 when an external drainage expert, under the instruction of the neighbouring premises, remedied the misconnection, ensuring foul waste was correctly connected to the foul waste system (red dots in Diagram ---). This correction means that foul waster is now appropriately carried away and will not affect the future usage of the Astro Turf Pitch.

The Council has separately commissioned the repair of the collapsed storm line running the length of the ATP to ensure that the historic surface water flooding issues are remedied. This work will begin mid March 2021, will take approximately three to four weeks to complete and will address issues of prior surface water flooding at the ATP.

It should be noted that the flooding and sewerage issues on the ATP have at no point impacted on, or encroached, the grass pitches at the Sue Noake site.

Manhole surcharge at the site of the proposed new pitch SN2

Two manholes (located alongside X in the diagram below) sit above a mainline or trunk sewer and are the responsibility of Welsh Water.

Welsh Water have confirmed that their own records indicate that there have only been two recorded incidents of the manholes shown at X surcharging over the previous ten years. The first of these was in 2014 and the second, the most recent incident, in January 2021. Discussions with Welsh Water this week confirm this to still be the case.



The two isolated incidents at these manholes have been subsequently verified in separate conversations with the Head Teacher at Lewis Girls School and staff at Sue Noake Leisure Centre.

Leisure Centre staff have also confirmed that they have received no other reports from members of the public, dog walkers or Centre users of sewage escaping from these specific manholes during the last ten years.

When a breach of this nature occurs, particularly on a trunk sewer, Welsh Water have a number of specific responsibilities. These can be summarised as site containment, decontamination, reinstating the manholes, investigation and remediation.

With regard to the breach at Sue Noake, the area of the surcharge has been cordoned off by Welsh Water (site containment) to enable the elements to begin naturally breaking down any waste material (decontamination). The manholes have also been reinstated.

Welsh Water have commissioned contractors to visit the site this week to remove the surface debris. The Council has received an apology from Welsh Water for the delay in clearing the debris.

Welsh Water have begun a detailed investigation of the breach and will return to site this week to continue to explore both upstream and downstream using specialist camera equipment. This will enable Welsh Water to identify the cause and prescribe the necessary remedial action to clear the system and protect against future breaches.

The Council has discussed the possibility of a site visit with Welsh Water but the company have asked that they be afforded the opportunity to conclude their investigations into the surcharge before such a meeting is arranged.

I am sure that Members will fully appreciate the need to support Welsh Water in the conclusions of their detailed investigations at the site before drawing any conclusions themselves.

I will brief members once again when this work has concluded and remedial action is being developed.

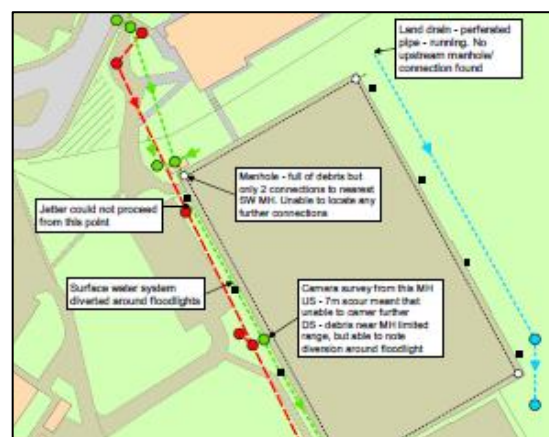
Surface Water Issues at the Sue Noake Leisure Centre

There have been a number of images circulating on social media over recent weeks showing surface water flooding at the lower end of the Sue Noake site.

It must be acknowledged that these images have followed significant and sustained periods of inclement weather and have occurred at times when multiple other locations across the County Borough and the country have been subject to surface water flooding.

As part of the mitigations being developed in relation to the proposed expansion of Trinity Fields Special School, the Council intends to install herring bone drainage beneath the proposed Sue Noake 2 pitch.

This type of drainage, consistent with that in place at the Trinity 1 pitch, can be connected to the existing land drainage pipe running across the back of the ATP pitch and away from the site (see blue dots in Diagram ---).



Drainage of this nature ensures that any surface water that may occur as a result of significant and sustained rainfall is carried away quickly and efficiently and the pitch above can become usable again very quickly thereafter.

Further Mitigation Proposal for Manholes at X

The likelihood of a reoccurrence of the recent surcharge of the manholes at **X** is considered unlikely and the frequency of reports over the last decade would appear to support this position.

The work being carried out by Welsh Water to investigate and remediate the issue would further support this position. That aside, the Council acknowledges the benefits of developing some additional safeguards to provide further assurance to the users of the site.

The Council will make an application to Welsh Water to relocate the manholes further away from the pitch.

The application will need to be considered by Welsh Water.



In the interim the Council is also exploring as part of its plans for SN2 the possibility of developing a protective 'bund' around the manholes. A 'bund', essentially, a raised grass bank will be installed between the pitch and the manholes to provide additional protections to the new pitch from any debris that may emerge should the manholes surcharge again at a future point.

Conclusion

Hopefully members will be reassured by the facts and the explanation outlined within this update. It is important to note that the appropriate responsible agencies are fully aware of the issues and are engaged with the council to resolve matters as quickly as possible.

The health and wellbeing of the community is paramount and all appropriate steps will be taken to address these issues before any proposed development takes place at this site.

Further updates will be provided as details are firmed up over the coming weeks, but please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions in the meantime.

Regards

Ed Edmunds



CABINET – 7TH APRIL 2021

**SUBJECT: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION BAND B
PROGRAMME – PHASE 2 PROPOSAL FOR A CENTRE FOR
VULNERABLE LEARNERS**

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Members views on the next stage (Phase 2) of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme.
- 1.2 There are 3 projects identified as part of Phase 2, one of which is the Centre for Vulnerable Learners proposal outlined in this report.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides an update to Members on the current position of the Band B (£78 million) 21st Century School and Colleges Capital Programme.
- 2.2 The Centre for Vulnerable Learners has been identified as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Phase 2 programme.
- 2.3 The proposal is to adapt and refurbish the old grammar school building, formerly the Pontllanfraith High School site, to accommodate creating a new Centre for Vulnerable Learners.
- 2.4 The project outlined in 2.3 above is in early developmental stage and officers will ensure that Members are updated on a regular basis in relation to all aspects of the proposal and processes.
- 2.5 For the purposes of reporting to Welsh Government, the Centre for Vulnerable Learners will be referred to in the business case and supporting documentation as a Pupil Referral Unit.
- 2.6 Pupil Referral Units are exempt from the consultation processes outlined in line School Organisation Code 2018 and the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

2.7 The proposal outlined within this report was supported unanimously and endorsed by the Education Scrutiny Committee on 25th March 2021.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to:

a) Note the contents in this report.

b) Approve the recommendation to proceed to Welsh Government Business Case stage on the Centre for Vulnerable Learners proposal.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure Members are updated on the progress of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Capital programme and seek Members approval on the recommendation to progress the Centre for Vulnerable Learners proposal to Welsh Government business case submission.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Band B

5.1.1 The key aims of the 21st Century Schools and Education Band B investment programme, outlined by WG, is to:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools.
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location, providing enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education.
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate for use by both Schools and the wider Community.

5.1.2 The first two schemes identified as priority for Phase 1 of the Band B programme are the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and the relocation and expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

5.1.3 The schemes identified as part of Phase 2 of the Band B programme include the adaption and refurbishment of the old grammar school building on the former Pontllanfraith High School site to accommodate a Centre for Vulnerable Learners, the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior and Llanfabon Infants school via the expansion of the existing Llanfabon Infants site to accommodate 275 pupils plus nursery, and a new build replacement Plas-y-felin Primary school in the grounds of the existing school site to accommodate 420 pupils plus nursery.

5.1.4 The 21st Century Schools Band B Programme looks to deliver a combination of new school builds, expansions, amalgamations, relocations and refurbishments, all with the potential to support the Welsh Government and Council's strategies on decarbonisation and provide a new model of delivery.

5.2 **This report focusses on the Centre for Vulnerable Learners**

- 5.2.1 Educational transformation remains a vital outcome of our investment in Band B of the Programme. We also recognise that that it is hugely important that we address the condition of our school buildings. Several projects were identified and agreed by a cross-party working group as part of the formation of the Strategic Outline Plan submitted to Welsh Government outlining the Band B programme for Caerphilly.
- 5.2.2 The Authority has undertaken an extensive and far reaching review of ALN provision across the County Borough. The outcome of this work is the development of a model for service delivery that meets the needs of all learners across the Borough, quality assures the provision and continually evaluates the future requirements for our most vulnerable learners, placing the child at the heart.
- 5.2.3 The proposal related to the adaption and refurbishment of the former Pontllanfraith High School site to accommodate a Centre for Vulnerable Learners. The requirements of the ALN reform bill has led to the need to expand this type of provision.
- 5.2.4 Funding for the project has been identified from the Band B funding envelope:

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding
Centre for Vulnerable Learners	£1,375,000 (25%)	£4,125,000	£5,500,000

- 5.2.5 The School Organisation Code 2018 applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined by Section 98 or the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. This does not include Pupil Referral units.
- 5.2.6 A Pupil Referral Unit is a type of school or establishment maintained by the Local Authority to provide suitable education for children and young people who, by reason of illness, exclusion or otherwise, may not receive such education in mainstream settings as per Section 19 of the Education Act 1996.
- 5.2.7 For the purposes of reporting to Welsh Government, the Centre for Vulnerable Learners will be referred to in the business case and supporting documentation as a Pupil Referral Unit to enable access to the appropriate funding and match ratios.
- 5.2.8 The Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Business Case process will be followed in conjunction with the Council's internal decision making processes and with reference to the CCBC Consultation and Engagement Framework.
- 5.2.9 The process to be followed is outlined below:
- Report presented to Cabinet for approval to progress proposal through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Business Case process
 - Outline Business Case submitted to Welsh Government for review and approval at their Business Case Scrutiny Group and their Programme Investment Panel
 - Due to the nature of the scheme there is no need to undertake a formal period of consultation as the statutory guidance provided in the School Organisation Code 2018 does not apply in this instance. However, engagement with relevant agencies as well as the wider community will be undertaken throughout the process in line with the Authority's Consultation and Engagement framework.

- Property Services to undertake full planning application process including formal consultation as per planning guidance
- Full Business Case submission to Welsh Government for final review and approval at Welsh Government's Business Case Scrutiny Group and Programme Investment Panel

5.2.10 Progression at each stage is subject to scrutiny, review and approval by Cabinet Members and/or Welsh Government.

5.2.11 Any project that requires construction or alteration of existing facilities is subject to a full and separate planning process conducted by the Council's Property Services Division.

5.3 Conclusion

Members are asked to approve the recommendation to proceed to business case submission to Welsh Government in relation to the phase 2 project – Centre for Vulnerable Learners proposal.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as it merely updates on the progress of individual projects.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 This report provides an update on one of the proposed Phase 2 projects for the 21st Century Schools Band B programme therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has not been undertaken. An IIA has been initiated and will be provided when the proposal is brought forward for a decision.

Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment

When the IIA becomes live it will be made available through the Council's 21st Century School webpage.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Members have previously agreed to earmark a total of £6.975m for Band B of the 21st Century Schools & Colleges Programme.

The Authority's contribution to the Trinity Fields Project and the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon Projects is currently estimated at £6.413m. This figure includes a contribution of £647k from a Social Services Capital earmarked reserve to support additional spend on the Trinity Fields Project. Consequently the balance remaining as uncommitted from the £6.975m is currently £1.209m.

8.2 Phase 2 of the programme, totals £18,500,000. The Authority's contribution within this sum is £5,925,000.

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding

Centre for Vulnerable Learners	£1,375,000 (25%)	£4,125,000	£5,500,000
Llancaeath/Llanfabon	£1,400,000 (35%)	£2,600,000	£4,000,000
Plasfelin Primary	£3,150,000 (35%)	£5,850,000	£9,000,000

The Authority's contribution towards phase 2 of the programme is estimated at £5,925,000, as detailed above. This cost will be met from the remaining funding of £1.209m already earmarked for 21st Century Schools, plus a figure of £4.716m from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve.

The total funding commitment from the Authority towards these 5 projects is £12.338m.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 These will be dependent on specific proposals and have been considered as part of the consultation process.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

10.2 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

This report was introduced by the Cabinet Member and was followed by a presentation from the 21st Century Schools Manager.

One Member asked if this facility would be for out of county placements in addition to pupils from within the County Borough. The 21st Century Schools Manager advised Members that the centre would accommodate children from within the borough.

Following consideration and discussion the Education Scrutiny Committee unanimously ENDORSED the recommendation of the 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme – Phase 2 Proposal for a Centre for Vulnerable Learners.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Author: Andrea West, 21st Century Schools Manager

Consultees: Christina Harray, Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director Communities

Councillor Ross Whiting, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Carol Andrews, Vice Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion & ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities, Welsh Language & Consultation)
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Ros Roberts, Business Improvement Officer
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Background Papers:
None provided



CABINET – 7TH APRIL 2021

SUBJECT: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION BAND B
PROGRAMME – PHASE 2 LLANCAEACH JUNIOR SCHOOL
AND LLANFABON INFANTS SCHOOL

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Members views on the next stage (Phase 2) of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme.
- 1.2 There are 3 projects identified as part of Phase 2, one of which is the Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School proposal outlined in this report.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides an update to Members on the current position of the Band B (£78 million) 21st Century School and Colleges Capital Programme.
- 2.2 Llancaeath Junor School and Llanfabon Infrants Schools have been identified as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Phase 2 programme.
- 2.3 The proposal is to amalgamate Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School via the expansion and refurbishment of the existing Llanfabon Infants site to accomodate the new Primary School with places for 275 pupils plus nursery.
- 2.4 The project outlined in 2.3 above is in early developmental stage and officers will ensure that Members are updated on a regular basis in relation to all aspects of the proposal and processes in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 and the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
- 2.5 The proposal outlined within this report was supported unanimously and endorsed by the Education Scrutiny Committee on 25th March 2021.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to:

a) Note the contents in this report.

b) Approve the recommendation to proceed to Welsh Government Business Case stage on the Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School proposal.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure Members are updated on the progress of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Capital programme and seek Members approval on the recommendation to progress the Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School proposal to Welsh Government business case submission.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Band B

5.1.1 The key aims of the 21st Century Schools and Education Band B investment programme, outlined by WG, is to:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools.
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location, providing enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education.
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate for use by both Schools and the wider Community.

5.1.2 The first two schemes identified as priority for Phase 1 of the Band B programme are the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and the relocation and expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

5.1.3 The schemes identified as part of Phase 2 of the Band B programme include the adaption and refurbishment of the old grammar school building on the former Pontllanfraith High School site to accommodate a Centre for Vulnerable Learners, the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior and Llanfabon Infants school via the expansion of the existing Llanfabon Infants site to accommodate 275 pupils plus nursery, and a new build replacement Plas-y-felin Primary school in the grounds of the existing school site to accommodate 420 pupils plus nursery.

5.1.4 The 21st Century Schools Band B Programme looks to deliver a combination of new school builds, expansions, amalgamations, relocations and refurbishments, all with the potential to support the Welsh Government and Council's strategies on decarbonisation and provide a new model of delivery.

5.2 This report focusses on Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School

5.2.1 Educational transformation remains a vital outcome of our investment in Band B of the Programme. We also recognise that that it is hugely important that we address the condition of our school buildings. Several projects were identified and agreed by a cross-party working group as part of the formation of the Strategic Outline Plan submitted to Welsh Government outlining the Band B programme for Caerphilly.

- 5.2.2 As per 5.2.1, the Authority identified Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School as requiring investment to create a 3-11 through Primary provision from a single location to provide a fit for purpose 21st Century facility, reducing surplus places, increasing opportunities for community use and removing 2 category C schools in relation to condition.
- 5.2.3 The proposal related to the amalgamation Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School via the expansion and refurbishment of the existing Llanfabon Infants site to accommodate the new 3-11 Primary School provision with places for 275 pupils plus nursery.
- 5.2.4 Our aspiration and a pre-requisite for Welsh Government investment, is to commit to making assets available to support educational need, community use, promote community resilience and contribute to meeting several Local Authority Strategies. To optimise the use of the new infrastructure and resources, as part of the proposal, flexibility will be built into the school suited to local demand.
- 5.2.5 Funding for the project has been identified from the Band B funding envelope. The Welsh Government intervention rate is 65% for this type of Capital scheme , with the Local Authority meeting the remaining 35% of the costs as broken down below, subject to any abnormalities:

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding
Llancaeath/Llanfabon	£1,400,000 (35%)	£2,600,000	£4,000,000

- 5.2.6 The School Organisation Code 2018 applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined by Section 98 or the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
- 5.2.7 The School Organisation Code 2018, provides clear statutory guidance as to the processes that need to be adhered to by the Education Directorate when progressing a proposal.
- 5.2.8 The process to be followed is outlined below (based on the assumption that approval is reached at each stage):
- Report presented to Cabinet for approval to progress proposal through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Business Case process
 - Outline Business Case submitted to Welsh Government for review and approval at their Business Case Scrutiny Group and their Programme Investment Panel
 - Due to the nature of the scheme a consultation process as per the statutory guidance provided in the School Organisation Code 2018 will be undertaken.
 - A 'Consultation Document' will be published and consultees as prescribed in the School Organisation Code 2018 will have the opportunities to express their views on the proposal during the consultation period.
 - Children and Young People's views will also be captured to ensure the 'pupil voice' is included as part of the process.
 - A 'Consultation Report' will be produced summarising the views received and presented to Education Scrutiny Committee to endorse the recommendations and then to Cabinet for approval to progress to Statutory Notice.
 - A 'Statutory Notice' will be published for a 28 day period where formal written objections may be submitted by prescribed consultees as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018

- An 'Objection Report' will be presented to Scrutiny summarising the concerns and Members will be asked to endorse the recommendations to Cabinet to proceed to Full Business Case
- Property Services to undertake full planning application process including formal consultation as per planning guidance
- Full Business Case submission to Welsh Government for final review and approval at Welsh Government's Business Case Scrutiny Group and Programme Investment Panel

5.2.9 Progression at each stage is subject to scrutiny, review and approval by Cabinet Members and/or Welsh Government.

5.2.10 Any project that requires construction or alteration of existing facilities is subject to a full and separate planning process conducted by the Council's Property Services Division.

5.3 **Conclusion**

Members are asked to approve the recommendation to proceed to business case submission to Welsh Government in relation to the phase 2 project – Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as it merely updates on the progress of individual projects.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 This report provides an update on one of the proposed Phase 2 projects for the 21st Century Schools Band B programme therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has not been undertaken. An IIA has been initiated and will be provided when the proposal is brought forward for a decision.

Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment

When the IIA becomes live it will be made available through the Council's 21st Century School webpage.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Members have previously agreed to earmark a total of £6.975m for Band B of the 21st Century Schools & Colleges Programme.

The Authority's contribution to the Trinity Fields Project and the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon Projects is currently estimated at £6.413m. This figure includes a contribution of £647k from a Social Services Capital earmarked reserve to support additional spend on the Trinity Fields Project. Consequently the balance remaining as uncommitted from the £6.975m is currently £1.209m.

8.2 Phase 2 of the programme, totals £18,500,000. The Authority's contribution within this sum is £5,925,000.

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding
Llancaeath/Llanfabon	£1,400,000 (35%)	£2,600,000	£4,000,000
Centre for Vulnerable Learners	£1,375,000 (25%)	£4,125,000	£5,500,000
Plasfelin	£3,150,000 (35%)	£5,850,000	£9,000,000

The Authority's contribution towards phase 2 of the programme is estimated at £5,925,000, as detailed above. This cost will be met from the remaining funding of £1.209m already earmarked for 21st Century Schools, plus a figure of £4.716m from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve.

The total funding commitment from the Authority towards these 5 projects is £12.338m.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 These will be dependent on specific proposals and have been considered as part of the consultation process.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

10.2 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

This report was introduced by the Cabinet Member and was followed by a presentation from the 21st Century Schools Manager.

One Member observed that she welcomed the decision to amalgamate the two schools because it made dropping children off easier for parents. The Member also said that she would like quality of build included in the Business Case to avoid large maintenance costs in the future. The Member also stressed that the current outdoor space for children on site should be protected. The 21st Century Schools Manager assured the Member all schools delivered as part of the 21st Century Schools programme would have to meet a high standard and gave the example of Idris Davies 3 -18 school. The Officer also said that an area of land in Council ownership had been earmarked to be utilised for school car parking facilities as part of this proposal.

One Member asked is any land would be gained after knocking the Llancaeath Junior School building down. The 21st Century Schools Manager said that the building would be surplus to requirements and that discussions would take place about its future usage.

Following consideration and discussion the Education Scrutiny Committee unanimously ENDORSED the recommendation of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme – Phase 2 Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School Report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Author: Andrea West, 21st Century Schools Manager

Consultees: Christina Harray, Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director Communities
Councillor Ross Whiting, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Carol Andrews, Vice Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion & ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities, Welsh Language & Consultation)
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Ros Roberts, Business Improvement Officer
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Background Papers:
None provided



CABINET – 7TH APRIL 2021

SUBJECT: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION BAND B
PROGRAMME – PHASE 2 PROPOSAL FOR PLASYFELIN
PRIMARY

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Members views on the next stage (Phase 2) of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme.
- 1.2 There are 3 projects identified as part of Phase 2, one of which is the Plasyfelin Primary school proposal outlined in this report.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides an update to Members on the current position of the Band B (£78 million) 21st Century School and Colleges Capital Programme.
- 2.2 Plasyfelin Primary School has been identified as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Phase 2 programme.
- 2.3 The proposal is to build a new and enlarged replacement school in the grounds of the existing school site, to accommodate future projected demand within the area. The new school will provide 420 pupil places plus nursery.
- 2.4 The project outlined in 2.3 above is in early developmental stage and officers will ensure that Members are updated on a regular basis in relation to all aspects of the proposal and processes in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 and the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
- 2.5 The proposal outlined within this report was supported unanimously and endorsed by the Education Scrutiny Committee on 25th March 2021.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to:
 - a) Note the contents in this report.

b) Approve the recommendation to proceed to Welsh Government Business Case stage on the Plasyfelin Primary School proposal.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure Members are updated on the progress of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Capital programme and seek Members approval on the recommendation to progress the Plasyfelin Primary School proposal to Welsh Government business case submission.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Band B

5.1.1 The key aims of the 21st Century Schools and Education Band B investment programme, outlined by WG, is to:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools.
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location, providing enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education.
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate for use by both Schools and the wider Community.

5.1.2 The first two schemes identified as priority for Phase 1 of the Band B programme are the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and the relocation and expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

5.1.3 The schemes identified as part of Phase 2 of the Band B programme include the adaption and refurbishment of the old grammar school building on the former Pontllanfraith High School site to accommodate a Centre for Vulnerable Learners, the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior and Llanfabon Infants school via the expansion of the existing Llanfabon Infants site to accommodate 275 pupils plus nursery, and a new build replacement Plas-y-felin Primary school in the grounds of the existing school site to accommodate 420 pupils plus nursery.

5.1.4 The 21st Century Schools Band B Programme looks to deliver a combination of new school builds, expansions, amalgamations, relocations and refurbishments, all with the potential to support the Welsh Government and Council's strategies on decarbonisation and provide a new model of delivery.

5.2 This report focusses on Plasyfelin Primary School

5.2.1 Educational transformation remains a vital outcome of our investment in Band B of the Programme. We also recognise that that it is hugely important that we address the condition of our school buildings. Several projects were identified and agreed by a cross-party working group as part of the formation of the Strategic Outline Plan submitted to Welsh Government outlining the Band B programme for Caerphilly.

5.2.2 As per 5.2.1, the Authority identified Plasyfelin primary school as requiring investment. Originally designed as a separate Infant and Junior School, the current Plasyfelin Primary School site consists of 2 separate CLASP (Consortium of Local Authorities Special Programme) prefabricated *school* buildings, linked together by an

exposed walkway. Only 30% of classrooms meet the size compliant requirements (56m²) set by Welsh Government in line with the Building Bulletin 99 Regulations.

- 5.2.3 The proposal relates to a new and enlarged build replacement school for Plasyfelin Primary School to be situated within the current grounds of the existing school site to include increased accommodation for up to 420 pupils plus nursery provision and also additional multi-use sporting and community facilities. This proposal will ensure future projected demand can be met within the area and to update a facility to provide a fit for purpose 21st Century facility.
- 5.2.4 Our aspiration and a pre-requisite for Welsh Government investment, is to commit to making assets available to support educational need, community use, promote community resilience and contribute to meeting several Local Authority Strategies. To optimise the use of the new infrastructure and resources, as part of the proposal, flexibility will be built into the school suited to local demand.
- 5.2.5 Funding for the project has been identified from the Band B funding envelope. The Welsh Government intervention rate is 65% for this type of Capital scheme , with the Local Authority meeting the remaining 35% of the costs as broken down below, subject to any abnormalities:

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding
Plasyfelin Primary	£3,150,000 (35%)	£5,850,000	£9,000,000

- 5.2.6 The School Organisation Code 2018 applies to proposals in respect of maintained schools as defined by Section 98 or the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
- 5.2.7 The School Organisation Code 2018, provides clear statutory guidance as to the processes that need to be adhered to by the Education Directorate when progressing a proposal.
- 5.2.8 The process to be followed is outlined below (based on the assumption that approval is reached at each stage):
- Report presented to Cabinet for approval to progress proposal through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Business Case process
 - Outline Business Case submitted to Welsh Government for review and approval at their Business Case Scrutiny Group and their Programme Investment Panel
 - Due to the nature of the scheme there is no need to undertake a formal period of consultation as per the statutory guidance provided in the School Organisation Code 2018. However, engagement with the school as well as the wider community will be undertaken throughout the process in line with the Authority's Consultation and Engagement framework.
 - Property Services to undertake full planning application process including formal consultation as per planning guidance
 - Full Business Case submission to Welsh Government for final review and approval at Welsh Government's Business Case Scrutiny Group and Programme Investment Panel
- 5.2.9 Progression at each stage is subject to scrutiny, review and approval by Cabinet Members and/or Welsh Government.

5.2.10 Any project that requires construction or alteration of existing facilities is subject to a full and separate planning process conducted by the Council's Property Services Division.

5.3 Conclusion

Members are asked to approve the recommendation to proceed to business case submission to Welsh Government in relation to the phase 2 project – Plasyfelin Primary School

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as it merely updates on the progress of individual projects.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 This report provides an update on one of the proposed Phase 2 projects for the 21st Century Schools Band B programme therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has not been undertaken. An IIA has been initiated and will be provided when the proposal is brought forward for a decision.

Link to full Integrated Impact Assessment

When the IIA becomes live it will be made available through the Council's 21st Century School webpage.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Members have previously agreed to earmark a total of £6.975m for Band B of the 21st Century Schools & Colleges Programme.

The Authority's contribution to the Trinity Fields Project and the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon Projects is currently estimated at £6.413m. This figure includes a contribution of £647k from a Social Services Capital earmarked reserve to support additional spend on the Trinity Fields Project. Consequently the balance remaining as uncommitted from the £6.975m is currently £1.209m.

8.2 Phase 2 of the programme, totals £18,500,000. The Authority's contribution within this sum is £5,925,000.

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding
Plasyfelin Primary	£3,150,000 (35%)	£5,850,000	£9,000,000
Centre for Vulnerable Learners	£1,375,000 (25%)	£4,125,000	£5,500,000
Llancaeath/Llanfabon	£1,400,000 (35%)	£2,600,000	£4,000,000

The Authority's contribution towards phase 2 of the programme is estimated at £5,925,000, as detailed above. This cost will be met from the remaining funding of £1.209m already earmarked for 21st Century Schools, plus a figure of £4.716m from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve.

The total funding commitment from the Authority towards these 5 projects is £12.338m.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 These will be dependent on specific proposals and have been considered as part of the consultation process.

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

10.2 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

This report was introduced by the Cabinet Member and was followed by a presentation from the 21st Century Schools Manager.

One Member wished to know if there was any specific detail of the plans at this stage of the process. The 21st Century Schools Manager advised that the Business Plan was subject to amendment at the current stage but would be an element of community facilities. Facilities such as Sports Halls would be designed to lend themselves for community use and the school generally would be able to cater for more specialist education provision if required. The Member wished to know if the Headteacher had been consulted in order to draft the plan. The officer confirmed that they had and that consultation with the Ward Member had taken place to establish any specific community needs.

One Member raised the issue of sustainability and asked if green credentials would be considered in the new build. The 21st Century Schools Manager advised that she would be working with colleagues in Property Services on this aspect and with the Welsh Government on this proposal to explore the possibility of creating a school that was zero net carbon.

Following consideration and discussion the Education Scrutiny Committee unanimously ENDORSED the recommendation of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B Programme – Phase 2 Proposal for Plasyfelin Primary.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Author: Andrea West, 21st Century Schools Manager

Consultees: Christina Harray, Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director Communities

Councillor Ross Whiting, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Carol Andrews, Vice Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion & ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities, Welsh Language &
Consultation)
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Ros Roberts, Business Improvement Officer
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Background Papers:

None provided



CABINET – 7TH APRIL 2021

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CONTRACT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN WASTE SERVICES

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval of a proposal to strengthen contract management arrangements within Waste Services.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report sets out details of the range of high value contracts that are managed within Waste Services and provides details of a proposal to strengthen current contract management arrangements.

2.2 The proposed approach will ensure that all contracts are maximised in terms of service delivery, regulatory requirements, and that the wider social value benefits are realised. At the end of the proposed two-year contract management review period, an analysis of the effectiveness of the service model will be undertaken to determine if this approach to contract management can be applied more generally to other service areas across the council.

2.3 The report also includes a proposal to fund the estimated cost of circa £410k to undertake the contract management review.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Cabinet is asked: -

3.1.1 To approve the proposed contract management review.

3.1.2 To agree that the total cost of £410k for the proposed four fixed-term posts for a period of 2 years should be funded as follows: -

- £400k from the balance remaining on an earmarked reserve previously established to meet cost pressures within Waste Services.
- £10k from the projected 2020/21 revenue budget underspend for the Corporate Procurement Team.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure that contract management arrangements are strengthened and that sufficient funding is set aside to undertake the proposed review.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 There are a significant number of high value contracts within Waste Services as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 5.2 Each contract has its own terms and conditions which determine the contract management processes. These processes are currently developed, implemented, and managed by Officers in Waste Services and the Corporate Procurement Team. This work includes regular contract management meetings and monitoring of relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) as set out within the terms and conditions of contract. A selection of key performance management information is regularly reported to Welsh Government to ensure statutory performance targets can be monitored. This is currently collated manually.
- 5.3 Given the high value of the contracts within Waste Services it is considered prudent to undertake a review of contract management arrangements and the collation of data. This will ensure that contract terms are delivered, which will result in performance targets being met and contracts delivering against value for money objectives.
- 5.4 Key targets for recycling have been achieved in previous years but during 2019/20 there was a drop off in performance due to supply chain issues and problems experienced with an end destination recycling processor who was sub-contracted to one of the Authority's main recycling contractors. Key targets for recycling for future years are currently set at 64%, then rising to 70% in 2024/25. Furthermore, there is a drive towards achieving zero waste by 2050.
- 5.5 Performance in 2019/20 dropped to 62.51% from 65.08% in 2018/19 due to the supply chain issues mentioned above and some decline in participation levels by residents. In order to achieve the 70% target for 2024/25 there will need to be changes in approach to the service provision, and robust contract management and data collection to assist in achieving this challenging target.
- 5.6 It is proposed that a critical friend should be identified from another public body to review our processes alongside what works well elsewhere. This may need to be outside of Wales and the critical friend will be chosen based on evidenced good practice in the delivery of Waste Services.
- 5.7 It is also proposed that additional fixed-term staffing capacity should be agreed to strengthen contract management arrangements and data collection within Waste Services. This additional capacity will allow for training on contract management, awareness raising of existing terms and conditions, identification of key data requirements, the automation of processes where possible and the identification of any issues with suppliers and appropriate resolution.
- 5.8 To undertake the proposed review the following additional staff will be required: -

Post	Annual Cost (£)
1 x Procurement Policy & Training Officer (Hay Band D)	71,825
1 x Principal Procurement Officer (Grade 10)	50,945
2 x Data Analytics Officers (Grade 8)	82,126
TOTAL: -	204,896

- 5.9 It is proposed that these posts should be recruited to on a fixed-term basis for a period of 2 years at a total cost of circa £410k. It is recommended that this should be funded as follows: -
- £400k from the balance remaining on an earmarked reserve previously established to meet cost pressures within Waste Services.

- £10k from the projected 2020/21 revenue budget underspend for the Corporate Procurement Team.

- 5.10 The appointment of a Procurement Policy & Training Officer will allow for training and development of critical policy on procurement into key contract areas such as Waste Services. The postholder will also be responsible for ensuring that the Principal Procurement Officer works on specific contracts with relevant Contract Mangers to provide training, knowledge, and support to operate contracts effectively and in line with the agreed terms and conditions.
- 5.11 Due to the proposed changes in Wales public procurement legislation there will be a requirement to completely retrain the Authority on procurement policy and the Procurement Policy & Training Officer will also play a key role in the delivery of this training across other service areas.
- 5.12 The Data Analytics Officers will interrogate the large volume of data within Waste Services to allow contract management to be more robust and to provide a strong evidence base to monitor supplier performance against contractual terms. This will allow both the Authority and external monitoring bodies to have confidence in the outcomes from public waste contracts in operation within the council. Once established, these roles can also provide support for other critical contracts within the council.
- 5.13 It is proposed that the contract management function will remain within Waste Services but with strengthened support and management from the Corporate Procurement Team. This will allow for local knowledge of waste and its function to remain with the “expert” group but with training and contractual support from the Procurement Team. This dedicated procurement resource will be on hand to develop terms and become a category specialist developing markets with the expert group (Waste Services).

Conclusion

- 5.14 The report sets out details of the range of high value contracts that are managed within Waste Services and provides details of a proposal to strengthen current contract management arrangements.
- 5.15 It is proposed that four fixed-term posts be established for a period of 2 years at a total cost of £410k to undertake the review of contract management within Waste Services and to apply the learning to other critical contracts across the council.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions made within this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 As work on the proposals contained in this report commenced prior to the introduction of the Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment screening was completed at the outset. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact was identified, therefore, a full EIA was not carried out.
- 7.2 Integrated Impact Assessments will be completed moving forward for any significant changes arising from the proposed contract management review.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The total cost of the proposed four fixed-term posts for a period of 2 years is circa £410k. It is recommended that this should be funded as follows: -
- £400k from the balance remaining on an earmarked reserve previously established to meet cost pressures within Waste Services.
 - £10k from the projected 2020/21 revenue budget underspend for the Corporate Procurement Team.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This report proposes that four new fixed-term posts should be established for a period of 2 years to undertake the review of contract management within Waste Services. This will strengthen existing arrangements and the learning can then be extended to other critical contracts across the council to develop a sustainable method of data collection and reporting.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The proposals in this report were considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 23rd March 2021. Members commented on the process to engage a critical friend to review contract management alongside good practice and were advised that within local government there have been long established peer review arrangements with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) sometimes facilitating this through the maintenance of a database to identify suitable individuals to undertake such reviews.
- 10.2 The Scrutiny Committee highlighted that there are high value waste recycling contracts worth millions of pounds let for 15 years and sought further assurance and clarity on how we ensure value for money and competitiveness and where is the incentive to perform. Reference was also made to the 2019/20 drop off in recycling performance and it was asked if this would be addressed by the proposals in the report.
- 10.3 The Scrutiny Committee was assured that contracts are subject to an open and transparent procurement process. The reason for the length of some of these contracts is that there are requirements for providers to invest significant amounts to develop facilities for example Prosiect Gwyrdd, or Anaerobic facilities, so that is why there are longer-term contracts. There are key performance indicators built into the contracts that have to be achieved. Officers explained that the 2019/20 drop off in recycling performance related to one specific waste stream picked up by NRW. The Council dealt with its waste with the main contractor who subsequently dealt with a sub-contractor where problems were being experienced. The purpose of the proposed data analytical officers is to look at all the data and ensure that all the key performance indicators are monitored and ensure compliance. It was confirmed that there are penalties attached to the targets for non-compliance and Welsh Government can impose fines upon the Council, which we may be able to pass on to contractors depending on contract terms and conditions.
- 10.4 Members asked if uplifts in costs on long-term contracts are comparable to a shorter-term contract and were advised that longer-term contracts would include indices set out in the terms and conditions of contracts. There are more risks for businesses with short-term contracts and they are less attractive, so they don't generally offer better value for money for the Council.
- 10.5 Clarity was sought on the amount to be paid to the additional staff and if they were for top of scale and it was queried whether the Procurement Policy & Training Officer post could be combined with the Principal Procurement Officer post. Members were advised that the costs are not actual salaries and include the respective on-costs. It was also clarified that the

proposals have been developed with input from the Head of Procurement and the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer.

- 10.6 Clarification was sought regarding whether local government procurement processes require that we to go back to market for the purpose of ensuring value for money after 5 years. The Scrutiny Committee was advised that there are no such limits as contracts are let for different periods based on the needs of the service. Assurance was also provided that the proposals set out in the report are not due to the failure to meet WG recycling targets but are intended to strengthen wider contract management arrangements and to respond to changes in procurement following the UK exit from the European Union.
- 10.7 The Scrutiny Committee expressed its thanks to all the frontline staff for their hard work during the past year which has been particularly challenging.
- 10.8 Having considered the report and the funding proposal, the Scrutiny Committee unanimously recommended to Cabinet that the proposal to strengthen contract management arrangements be approved.
- 10.9 There are no other consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 1972.

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Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
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Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Waste & Public Protection
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Cllr Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance & Customer Service
(Email: stenne@caerphilly.gov.uk)
Cllr D.T. Davies, Chair, Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee
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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Contracts in Waste Services

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Contracts in Waste Services

Contract No.	Title	Start Date	Expiry Date	Approximate Contract Values Based Upon OLAS Spend Data/ Reports
ESPO Framework 860	Refuse and recycling products (including wheeled bins) - includes Refurbishment of Commercial Containers and Domestic Wheeled Bins and Accessories & Refuse & Recycling Products - Caddies	01/02/18	31/01/2021 - Extended for 12 months until 31/01/22	£1,350,000 total contract cost
PS889	Recycling of Road Sweeping Materials	05/02/19	04/02/2021 - Extended for 12 month until 04/02/22	£1,500,000 total contract cost
DPS1001033 (CCBC/PS1506/17/CD)	Provision of a recycling and haulage service for dry mixed recyclable (DMR) waste materials.	14/07/16	31/03/2021 - Possible extension for 6 -12 months. Officers currently in negotiations	£1,500,000 per annum
EQ1395	Cleaning and Maintenance of Interceptors, Gullies and Sceptic Tanks	01/06/16	31/05/2021 - To be retendered	£50,000 total contract value
PS633	Receipt, Composting/ Re-Use/ Recycling of 'All Types of Wood Waste' (Inc Options for Skip Hire and Transportation)	18/06/11	18/06/2021 - To be retendered.	£2,500,000 per annum
NPS-PSU-0049-15	Provision of Waste Disposal Bags Framework	22/08/16	21/08/2021 - Out to tender NPS	£1,000,000 total contract cost
PS1812	Hire of Skips inclusive of supply, haulage, recycling and disposal of residual waste	07/10/19	06/10/2021 - Two year extension. Decision required by the end March 2021	Approximately £2,896,000.00 to £3,232,000.00 (total contract cost)
PS1464	Tender for the provision of Chemical Safe Disposal	01/05/17	30/04/22	£60,000 per annum
PS1618	DPS for Inert Waste including Tipping of Aggregates and Purchase of Recycled Aggregates	08/06/18	07/06/24	£1,560,000 per annum
PS1595	Organics Waste Treatment Services	01/04/18	31/03/33	£12,000,000 to £15,000,000 total contract cost
PS629	Prosiect Gwyrdd - Waste Treatment Service for Residual Municipal Waste	01/09/15	31/03/41	£3,500,000.00 per annum

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CABINET – 7TH APRIL 2021

SUBJECT: FLEXIBLE WORKING UPDATE REPORT

REPORT BY: FLEXIBLE WORKING CORPORATE REVIEW GROUP

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Cabinet on progress with the Flexible Working Corporate Review following the report being presented to Policy and Resource Scrutiny Committee on 21/1/2021.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Because of the speed and nature of the COVID-19 lockdown, the Council was required to equip and train a significant proportion of its workforce to work and to provide services remote from their usual places of work and, in many cases, from home. Whilst Agile Working Principles were in place prior to the pandemic, they were mainly being used on an ad hoc basis.

2.2 While the transformation to this new model of service delivery happened at a significant pace, the technology platforms that have formed the foundations of remote working have proven to be intuitive and stable.

2.3 Some sections of the workforce have been operating remotely and very effectively since the beginning of lockdown and, over time, further services have been enabled and brought back online with much less of a reliance on buildings, premises and travel.

2.4 This has enabled many services to the public to be delivered safely and continuously and for the Council's employees to manage multiple aspects of their professional and personal lives in a way that has brought about a much greater work-life balance than was possible previously.

2.5 The Flexible Working Corporate Review Group has been formed and are considering the changes and effects of moving to a more flexible working model approach and an update on the progress of the review was recently reported to Policy and Resource Scrutiny Committee on 21st January 2021.

2.6 Whilst the focus of this report relates to staff who have primarily worked from buildings, it should be noted that opportunities for flexible working are available in front line services, which support employees' career choices and also personal circumstances, via part time working, shift patterns, for example.

- 2.7 The report embraces the TeamCaerphilly transformation strategy, echoing the mantra - *A new "whole-authority" operating model to ensure a resilient Caerphilly County Borough for the future.*

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In terms of recommendations, Cabinet are asked to consider supporting and approving the work done to date and endorse the recommendations below that were presented to Policy and Resource Scrutiny on 21st January 2021. This includes an additional recommendation in 3.1.6 that Scrutiny Members unanimously voted for inclusion for Cabinet consideration:
- 3.1.1 Formally adopt the proposed flexible working employee categorisation identified within section 5.15 of the report.
- 3.1.2 Support the proposal to consider different approaches to the supply of equipment to individuals based on their specific circumstances particularly in relation to the provision of furniture to allow more flexible/home working where appropriate.
- 3.1.3 Support the continued work to consider the impacts of any property portfolio rationalisation as a result of changes in office accommodation requirements.
- 3.1.4 Support the review of how the local communities may be affected and how effective and constructive future engagement can be undertaken.
- 3.1.5 Note the formally identified workstreams in the Flexible Working Corporate Review Dashboard (Appendix 1).
- 3.1.6 A further updated staff survey be undertaken to gain additional staff views on flexible working given the extended duration of predominantly home/flexible working over almost 12 months.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The authority has gone through an unprecedented period of flexible working in relation to the current Coronavirus pandemic. It is wholly evident that there are options to enhance the standard approach to office accommodation that will benefit staff, the Council, the residents of Caerphilly County Borough and the wider environment.
- 4.2 The progress achieved over recent months in delivering services through flexible arrangements must now be captured and built upon to ensure services continue to embrace technology and modernise in order to remain sustainable over the long term, whatever challenges may emerge. The TeamCaerphilly Transformation Strategy highlights - *"This ambitious programme of change articulates the combined vision of the Cabinet and the Corporate Leadership Team and has been developed over the last 12 months. In making this Strategy a reality, courageous political and officer leadership will be essential to ensure that we successfully deliver the outcomes that we are aiming to achieve."*
- 4.3 Embracing transformation to flexible working will ensure the Council is both resilient and flexible in terms of business continuity during adverse conditions and aligns with

priorities to improve the way the council operates in order to protect the environment for future generations in many aspects but particularly from an impact on the climate.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The current pandemic has provided a stimulus to show the benefits of working in a more flexible manner. The progress made and the lessons learned can directly shape the blueprint for future service delivery and redesign. Embedding flexible practices will enable the organisation to be ready to manage any future crisis as well as reflect the Council's need to remain an attractive and progressive employer. This approach has been clearly identified within the Council's TeamCaerphilly Transformation Strategy.
- 5.2 It is acknowledged that it is not going to be possible to design a one size fits all approach and that flexible working models will need to be developed and tailored to each service area and, in some cases, these models will differ depending upon role. The core focus, however, will remain a reduction in the reliance of the workforce and services upon physical buildings.
- 5.3 The success of any flexible implementation will be linked to a clear set of objectives, a consistently applied corporate approach, a strong communication and engagement plan as well as a suite of policies that support the new ways of working.
- 5.4 Team management and appropriate support will also be vital to the success of flexible working and Managers will need to be provided the necessary training and tools to be able to manage and support a distributed workforce while maintaining and optimising the benefits of team working.
- 5.5 It should also be noted that flexible working is not simply home working. Home working will form part of a range of flexible arrangements. Some employees will use their home as their office base, some will operate across multiple office buildings and some may even take advantage of working at times from other buildings. The flexible working approach should support staff to work where and when it best suits them while still ensuring the needs of the business are supported.
- 5.6 Due to the nature of the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent speed of the lockdown, it was necessary for the Council to deploy a large proportion of the workforce to work remotely, and in many cases, from home.
- 5.7 Whilst this move to remote working happened at significant pace, much of the workforce has adapted to this way of working; enabling service continuity in a safe manner.
- 5.8 Many staff have indicated that agile working has brought about a greater work-life balance than was previously possible. However, it is noted that this is not the case for all employees and there is a need for flexibility in meeting the needs of all employees; particularly in relation to wellbeing, whilst ensuring service provision is maintained.
- 5.9 The current arrangements for agile working have been implemented in a reactive manner due to the nature of the lockdown without the opportunity for planning and determining a structured approach. As previously stated, whilst Agile Working

Principles were in place prior to the pandemic, they were mainly being used on an ad hoc basis. It is now accepted that it is necessary to clearly define and agree how the Council will operate via flexible working going forward.

- 5.10 Flexible working will need to be extended to all appropriate areas of the Council workforce and all staff with similar roles will need to be provided with the same opportunities for flexibility.
- 5.11 Members will be aware that an initial staff survey has been undertaken as previously reported to Scrutiny on the 29th September 2020. This survey reported positively about home/flexible working. It is important that we further engage with staff again to establish the views and experiences of staff as the time period for home working has extended longer than initially expected.
- 5.12 The Head of People Services is writing a Well Being Strategy which will now consider agile/flexible working and the results of the staff engagement/survey referred to in 5.11 which will help inform the content of the strategy. The Strategy will be presented to Policy and Resource Scrutiny Committee as part of the consultation process prior to consideration by Cabinet.
- 5.13 The Flexible Working Service Group has been formally established following the previous Scrutiny and Cabinet meetings of 29/9/20 and 14/10/20 respectively. Five key workstreams have been identified along with lead officers. Initial meetings between the officers have taken place and a Project Dashboard has been developed to manage and monitor progress. This information is detailed in appendix 1.
- 5.14 At the P&R Scrutiny meeting in September 2020, members and the trade union's raised concerns around the necessity for sufficient training to be provided to managers. It should be noted that this has not been listed as a workstream in the flexible working review. This has been identified as a Workstream in the Workforce Development Review and is instead listed as a dependency (Appendix 1). A project lead has been identified to lead on the Management Training workstream and work has commenced in sourcing training options and reviewing best practice.
- 5.15 A number of proposed categories have been identified to designate employee roles in regard to the first workstream "Define the agile working approach". The proposed categories are listed below and take account of the location and time dependencies within the Agile Working Principles:

Flexible Working Proposed Categories

	Suggested Category Name	Determining Factors
Job A	Fixed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location dependent and time dependent • No choice of where to work • Set working hours

Job B	Flexible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location dependent, time independent • No choice over where to work but infrastructure supports significant time independence
Job C	Mobile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location independent – may be time independent or time dependent • Full choice over where to work
Job D	Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location independent – may be time independent or time dependent • May also work at other locations as required

5.16 The categories highlighted in 5.15 cover the vast majority of possible working scenarios that the authority provides. Each job role should be able to be categorised into these roles. It should be noted that some roles may need to cross between different categories for different work tasks. Further, there may need to be future changes dependent on the role and task required at a particular time.

5.17 There will be a need to determine the specific equipment that will be required for each of the categories. The “Resource/Infrastructure Assessment” workstream will undertake an exercise to determine the initial requirements and cost estimates. Some of the costs will be offset with current IT peripherals and some furniture may be allocated to specific staff. Once a full audit has been carried out of the potential numbers of staff falling into each category, then a more detailed analysis can be carried out. The suggested equipment required and factors to be considered for each category are detailed below:

Suggested Equipment

Category	Equipment	Factors to be considered
Fixed	Current stock to be utilised	
Flexible	Current stock to be utilised	
Mobile	Laptop with SIM (for mobile access where WiFi unavailable) Laptop Case Mobile Phone	Consideration will need to be given as to whether further equipment will be required – some of the time may be spent working from home i.e. will these staff require the further equipment as identified for ‘Home’ workers?
Home	Laptop Additional Screen Screen Adapter Cable External Keyboard	Consideration will need to be given to the requirement for printing, shredding and mail facilities. These could be maintained at Council Offices, however there may be a

	External Mouse Soft Phone Headset Desk Chair	specific requirement at service level.
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N.B. In addition to the above equipment, there may be a need for docking stations to be installed on those desks identified as 'hot' desks to enable Mobile staff to work at various locations. The use of "hot" desks will be in line with any health and safety guidelines.

- 5.18 It is intended that anonymised staff lists (broken down by job type) will be distributed to Heads of Service in the first instance in order that all staff can be categorised into each area. This will be the first stage of the audit process providing details of the number of roles that fall into each category. This will require Heads of Service to determine how best their services are delivered in the future. Further stages will require Heads of Service and Managers to discuss the specifics of working styles and preferences directly with staff to allow opportunity for staff to have valued input to any proposals.
- 5.19 Once this exercise has been completed, it is anticipated that a detailed cross-referencing exercise can be undertaken with IT services to ascertain IT equipment requirements. Due to the current working situation, many staff have already been provided with some IT equipment; thus the overall costs will reduce. However, it should be noted that there will need to be a refresh programme built in for the future.
- 5.20 The workstream "Policy and Procedure Review", the lead officer (Head of People Services) has identified that the core objectives are to identify and undertake a comprehensive review of all policies and procedures that will be impacted by the new agile/flexible working approach.
- 5.21 An initial review of the authority HR policies has identified eleven policies that are directly affected by agile/flexible working and a further five policies which are intrinsically linked and will be subject to a review due to legislative changes. The Trade Unions have been informed of the policies that need to be reviewed and timescales for completion of these reviews will be agreed with them. Completion of the reviews will be dependent on the authority establishing a clearly defined approach to agile/flexible working. It is envisaged that the review of these policies will take at least 9 to 12 months to complete.
- 5.22 The "Property Portfolio and Economic Impact Assessment" has started to consider the Asset Management Strategy that is already in place which provides a clear strategy for the rationalisation and consolidation of office accommodation at the Tredomen Park complex. In scope buildings for this project have been identified on this basis and planning policy appraisals are currently ongoing to identify the redevelopment potential of each in scope building and any associated redevelopment opportunities within the area which could be unlocked by the release of sites. It should be noted that the recommendations associated with any alterations to the property portfolio will be towards the end of the review which is likely to be around the end of 2021 and will be subject to separate reports to members.

- 5.23 An assessment of the economic impact and the potential opportunities of asset disposal will be carried out on completion of the planning policy appraisals which as highlighted in 5.22 will be towards the end of 2021 and further detailed reports will be provided at that time.
- 5.24 The flexible working approach aligns with the Welsh Government Transport Strategy which has recently undergone consultation. A key focus is the reduction of car usage by encouraging more flexible and local/home working along with modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport where journeys are necessary. This is further supported by the Council who are looking to harness the potential of remote working by establishing serviced co-working centres throughout the county borough. To this end the Council is currently developing 2 pilot co-working centres with the support of the Valles Taskforce. In addition, the authority has already started to install free public Wi-Fi in Blackwood and Caerphilly town centres with further plans for Newbridge, Ystrad Mynach, Bargoed, Risca and Rhymney to support residents who need to access Wifi for personal and business use.
- 5.25 Members raised concerns at the September 2020 Policy and Resource Scrutiny Committee meeting about the potential impact on communities if the workforce operated in a more agile way. To consider this a “Community Impact and Future Engagement” workstream has been established. An impact assessment is underway to consider this matter. The assessment looks at research currently being undertaken as part of the Walk-in Services and Remote Access Service Reviews, as well as ongoing analysis of the economic impact on communities and potential use of multi-agency hubs. The assessment will also seek to use existing datasets on availability of transport and digital skills, in addition to the outcomes of the ongoing Caerphilly Conversation and Budget Consultation. With the Walk-in Services Review due to report in the summer 2021, the Flexible Working Review will be looking to complete the impact assessment in parallel and will share the draft assessment with Scrutiny when it is available to allow appropriate feedback to be received.

Conclusion

- 5.26 When considering the way the world has adapted and changed, particularly in the light of the current pandemic, it is wholly evident that a new way of working can and should be supported to ensure that the organisation remains as flexible as possible and is able to react to any future national or global emergencies that would severely impact on service provision. The organisation may well need to turn on and off services more frequently as we continue to respond to the current pandemic.
- 5.27 Flexible working has been proven to work in Caerphilly. Services provided by the Council have not “fallen over” or ceased, in fact, it has been possible to continue to deliver many of these services without any disruption to delivery. In-fact additional services such as the delivery of free school meals, buddy scheme, and Test Trace Protect have all been delivered in addition to normal service provision.
- 5.28 The gains made over the last few months, albeit out of necessity, cannot now be lost. Now is the time to embrace transformational change and shape an organisation that is able to meet the challenges of the 21st century head on.
- 5.29 The initial work undertaken so far provides a good foundation to enable a fuller understanding of the impacts of flexible working on employees, employer and the wider community to be assessed as each workstream progresses.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There have been no assumptions made within this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 As work on the proposals contained in this report commenced prior to the introduction of the Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment screening was completed at the outset. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact was identified, therefore, a full EIA was not carried out.
- 7.2 It was the intention that as work progressed EIA's would be undertaken in relation to each element of the policy or change in approach as necessary together with the completion of a workforce EIA and a community focussed EIA. These will now be replaced by an Integrated Impact Assessment as work continues on proposals and data gathering. The IIA will be completed and submitted as part of a future report when the conclusions of the current work are finalised and decisions on proposals for flexible/agile working are sufficiently detailed for Scrutiny Committee comment and Cabinet Member decision.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Moving forward there will be far reaching financial implications from this and subsequent reports. The detailed financial implications will be firmed up in the medium to longer-term as specific requirements become clearer following further discussions with Heads of Service. Further reports will be prepared for Scrutiny and Cabinet which will include detailed costings and funding proposals, along with details of where revenue budget savings will arise from the new working models.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There will be wide-ranging personnel implications from this and subsequent reports. There will need to be consultations undertaken with Trade Unions and staff in relation to policies, procedures and changes to working practices.
- 9.2 An initial staff survey has already been undertaken in relation to flexible working which identified overwhelming support for the initiative, capturing the views of the workforce in the earlier stages of the pandemic and enforced remote working. A second workforce survey has been identified as a possible further objective in the Flexible Working Review to gauge further workforce opinion, with a view to ensuring a wider scope of employee survey engagement

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 A full list of consultees is included at the end of the report and their respective comments have been incorporated within the report.
- 10.2 The Trade Union have been engaged in the consultation exercise and detailed comments have been received which are in the whole supportive of this approach. They recognise further work is required and welcome the opportunity to continue to

work in partnership to develop flexible working across the authority, to achieve the benefits for employees, the organisation and the community.

- 10.3 Policy and Resource Scrutiny Committee Members were consulted on 21st January 2021, comments from the consultation are included below:

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The UNISON Branch Secretary advised Members that the trade union supported the recommendations in the report and endorsed the proposal for a further staff survey to be carried out. On the issue of categorisation of posts the trade union believed that categories should not be fixed and immovable for positions, but flexible and responsive to a change in personal circumstances. The Chair asked how the initial staff survey was carried out. The Head of Infrastructure outlined how an online survey via email had been circulated to staff and advised Members that despite a few concerns about health and well-being there was overwhelming support for flexible working. One Member expressed concern about closing offices in town centres which he believed would have a detrimental impact on local businesses. The Member also had concerns about the extra cost to staff associated with working from home, additional costs associated with heating and electricity were identified by the Member. The Head of Infrastructure advised that at this stage no assurances could be given about office closures, but he stressed that decisions would not be made without full consultation and engagement with the scrutiny process. On the issue of additional costs to staff the Head of Infrastructure outlined how those already working from home because of the Covid-19 pandemic had been encouraged to apply for tax relief for which home workers are eligible. Also, extra payments to staff working from home would be considered as part of the review. The Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services wished to provide assurances to Members that economic impact assessments would be carried out and considered before any decision was made on the future of Council-owned buildings. The Head of People Services also advised Members that the Welsh Government was undertaking work on the potential of additional payments because of agile working across all Public Services, she said that when a decision was reached she would ensure that it was fed into the review.

One Member wished to know what arrangements would be put in place for staff who do not benefit from agile working as it would negatively impact on their well-being. He also wished to know what considerations had been given to workplace adjustments for staff with disabilities if they were working from home. The Head of People Services advised that risk assessments for each individual employee would be carried out with their manager, she also advised that a Wellbeing Strategy would be produced and brought to Scrutiny at a future date. One Member asked if staff working from home would be invited to attend regular meetings with colleagues in an office environment so as to ensure that social interaction was maintained which addressed wellbeing concerns. The Head of People Services recognised the importance of bringing agile workers together and said that there would be opportunities for this in the future such as for staff training sessions. The Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services reassured Members that the Flexible Working proposals were not about forcing staff into a way of working which did not suit their circumstances. The Director outlined how the right balance had to be found that worked for both the employee and the employer. He said that it was a triangulation of the individual role lending itself to agile working, the employee being willing to operate in a new way and their Line Manager being comfortable with these arrangements. These arrangements would be kept under consideration should there be a change in circumstances. The Head of Infrastructure stressed that the report was centred on flexible working in a variety of different ways and was not just focussed on working from home.

One Member reminded the Committee that some staff would not benefit from tax relief as they did not meet the income threshold for paying tax. Another Member asked a question about the equipment that would be made available to staff who opted to work from home in the future. The Head of Infrastructure advised Members that agile workers would be provided with the equipment pertinent to their role. One Member raised the issue of domestic violence and asked if Caerphilly County Borough Council had a policy on this in light of the fact that in the future more members of staff would be choosing to work from home. The Head of People Services advised that the Council has a Pan-Gwent Policy on Domestic Violence and that training on detecting and reporting this issue was provided to staff and managers. The Chair asked if this policy could be circulated to Committee Members and the Head of People Services said that she would circulate it to Members via the Scrutiny Officer.

A Motion was moved and seconded calling for a further staff survey on flexible working to be made an additional recommendation on the report. This was unanimously supported by Committee Members.

Following consideration and discussion, and with the inclusion of the additional recommendation, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee by a majority present, and in noting in that there were no abstentions and one vote against, ENDORSED the recommendations of the Flexible Working Update Report prior to a presentation to Cabinet.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 1972 and 2000.

Author: Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure

Consultees: Cllr James Pritchard, Chair of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Gez Kirby, Vice Chair of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Colin Gordon, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director Education and Corporate Services
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Liz Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Emma Strathdee, Manager Admissions, Policy and Customer Services
Gwyn Williams, Digital Services Manager
Ryan Thomas, Planning Services Manager
Joanne Jones, Information Governance Manager
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer – Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy
Neil Cooksley, Principal Human Resource Officer
Trade Unions – UNISON, GMB and Unite
Policy and Resource Scrutiny Committee Members

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Flexible Working Dashboard
Appendix 2 – List of Policies requiring review

AGILE WORKING

Date of Commencement: 09/10/2020

Good News

- Report has been to P&R Scrutiny and has Cabinet approval. Priority actions have been identified which need addressing prior to an update to P&R in January.
- Briefing paper gone to CMT, defining categories of agile working upon which to complete subsequent workforce and equipment analyses.

Work stream	Status	Lead	Progress Update
Define our approach to <i>agile working</i>	2	Emma Strathdee	Job Categorisation and resources report completed – went to CMT 26th Nov – categories agreed in principle. Job Categorisation data sets being compiled ready for circulation to HOS for completion.
Resource / Infrastructure assessment	2	Gwyn Williams	GW has forwarded report – sense check required before further analysis – team to be assembled
Policy and procedure review	2	Lynne Donovan	LD has commenced policy review – policies needing change identified – team being assembled
Property portfolio and economic impact assessment	2	Ryan Thomas	An assessment of the economic impact and the potential opportunities of asset disposal will be carried out on completion of the planning policy appraisals – which are underway.
Community impact and future engagement	2	Joanne Jones	An impact assessment is underway – looking at research currently being undertaken as part of the Walk-in Services and Remote Access Service Reviews, as well as ongoing analysis of the economic impact on communities and potential use of multi-agency hubs.

UPCOMING GOVERNANCE: P&R Scrutiny: 21/01/2021 (Update Report)

STAGE 1: INITIATION	STAGE 2: DATA COLLECTION	STAGE 3: CONSULTATION	STAGE 4: PROJECT PLANNING	STAGE 5: CLOSURE HANDOVER
COMPLETED	31/05/2021	31/07/2021	30/09/2021	30/11/2021

Dependencies

- CR (Workforce Development): Workstream - Management Training which includes Managing Remote/Hybrid Teams.

Risks

- Collating sufficient/accurate data upon which to base decisions
- Resource capability – personnel, budget and time
- Union engagement – collaborative working is essential
- Establishing a revised flexible working system model of delivery
- Determining appropriate models of agile working to meet service needs
- Support and agreement from all stakeholders

	Work stream	Outcomes	Review Stage	R (Responsible)	A (Accountable)	C (Consulted)	I (Informed)
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Define our approach to <i>agile working</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish eligible/suitable roles and number of employees. Undertake case study exercise to test application in the workplace and impact for service delivery and staff. Undertake a wider employee survey (post Covid-19) to test views on long term agile working. Undertake a workforce EIA. Produce final report to P&R. 	Stage 2: Data Collection	Lead: Emma Strathdee Team: Neil Cooksley	Marcus Lloyd	CMT/LT/MN HR Unions IT Communications Equality Team Staff	CMT/LT P&R Scrutiny Staff Wider Scrutiny Committees
	Resource / Infrastructure assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse the costs for implementation to include IT equipment, furniture, software application licences, telephony and installation/IT costs. 	Stage2: Data Collection	Lead: Gwyn Williams	Marcus Lloyd	IT/Procurement HR H&S	CMT/LT P&R Scrutiny Unions Wider Scrutiny Committees
	Policy and procedure review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all policies impacted by agile working. Review each policy to assess whether it is fit for purpose to support sustainable agile working and identify any necessary changes prior to implementation. Review and evaluate the application of the flexible working system and how this will operate to support agile working across the organisation. 	Stage 2: Data Collection	Lead: Lynne Donovan Team: Neil Cooksley	Marcus Lloyd	Unions CMT/LT/MN Focus Groups	CMT/LT P&R Scrutiny Unions Staff? Wider Scrutiny Committees
	Property portfolio and economic impact assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the scope for asset rationalisation if sustainable agile working is adopted. Examine the potential economic impact on the local community. 	Stage2: Data Collection	Lead: Ryan Thomas	Marcus Lloyd	Community Local Businesses Property	CMT/LT P&R Scrutiny Unions Wider Scrutiny Committees
	Community impact and future engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the impact of agile working on service delivery and analyse the impact for the community. Examine whether agile working will change how we engage with our community and if so, what could this could mean for residents. Undertake a community EIA. Review the data security elements with this alternate method of working and community engagement. 	Stage2: Data Collection	Lead: Joanne Jones Team: Kath Peters	Marcus Lloyd	Community Customer Services LT/MN Equality Team IT Community Regeneration	CMT/LT P&R Scrutiny Unions Wider Scrutiny Committees

Flexible Working Update Report
Policies to be Reviewed

1. Career break
2. Carers policy
3. Flexi time scheme
4. Flexible working policy & procedure
5. Homeworking – guidance, toolkit, scheme
6. Inclement weather
7. Leave of absence
8. Making reasonable adjustments
9. Mileage (including excess)
10. Subsistence & expenses
11. Taxable benefits
12. Annual leave
13. Parental leave
14. Paternity leave
15. Shared parental leave
16. Time off for reservists

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CABINET 7TH APRIL 2021

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON FLEET REVIEW WORK AND TRANSITION TO ULTRA-LOW EMISSION VEHICLES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on the work to review the council's fleet, with a particular focus on the transition to ultra-low emission vehicles.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval to implement the actions identified as the next steps to reduce carbon emissions from our fleet.
- 1.2 To inform Cabinet that the contract of the Fleet Review Officer has been extended for an additional 2 years.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 11th November 2020 Cabinet approved funding of £297,371 to install EV charging points at Tir y Berth, Tredomen House and Ty Penallta. This infrastructure should allow up to 100 electric vehicles to be introduced into the Authority's fleet, depending on service area demand.
- 2.2 Significant progress has been made since this approval. It is anticipated that the charging points will be installed by the end of May 2021.
- 2.3 In May 2020 a Fleet Review Officer was appointed on a 12 months contract, based in the Policy and Partnerships Team to drive forward this agenda. This post has played a vital role in the progress to date. This post has now been extended using officer delegated powers for an additional 2 years until March 2023 at a total cost of £92,000. The extension will be funded from a reserve established from an underspend on the 2020/21 Carbon Energy Tax budget.
- 2.4 Work has been undertaken to better understand the make-up of our fleet, and the implications this has on our transition to ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV). This work has identified the complexity of transitioning to ULEVs and this report sets out these challenges and the initial proposed actions to develop a programme of works to make the most efficient use of our fleet, whilst ensuring that the Authority becomes net carbon neutral by 2030.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the progress made to date as part of the fleet review and transition to ultra-low emission vehicles work
- 3.2 That Cabinet note the extension of the Fleet Review Officer post for an additional 2 years
- 3.3 That Cabinet approve the proposed actions set out in this report to continue the transition to ultra-low emission vehicles.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To contribute to the Council's commitment to become net carbon neutral by 2030.
- 4.2 To implement the actions set out in the approved Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan and contribute to the overall Decarbonisation Strategy
- 4.3 To ensure that we make the most efficient use of our fleet and to ensure the transition to ULEVs

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 On 11th November 2020 Cabinet approved funding of £297,371 to install EV charging points at Tir y Berth, Tredomen House and Ty Penallta. This infrastructure should allow up to 100 electric vehicles to be introduced into the Authority's fleet, depending on service area demand.
- 5.2 Significant progress has been made since this approval. Specific locations at Tir y Berth Depot, Tredomen House and Penallta House have been agreed. Purchase orders have been raised with Western Power Distribution for installation of additional electrical feeds to sites, where needed. Specifications and tender documents are being finalised. It is anticipated that the charging points will be installed by the end of May 2021.
- 5.3 In May 2020 a Fleet Review Officer was appointed on a 12 months contract, based in the Policy & Partnerships Team to drive forward this agenda. Work has been undertaken to better understand the make-up of our fleet, and the implications this has on our transition to ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV).

Analysis of our current fleet

- 5.4 As of 31st December a total of 599 vehicles made up our fleet. This comprised of 113 vehicles that we own, 174 vehicles on hire (of which 2 were on short-term hire), and 310 vehicles on long term lease (generally 5 years) with the contracted provider, Specialist Fleet Services (SFS).
- 5.5 COVID-19 has had an effect on the number of vehicles in our fleet. The requirement for social distancing and the delivery of free school meals has resulted in 70 additional hire vehicles between March and August 2020.
- 5.6 In September 2017, CCBC entered into a managed service contract with SFS and began to take delivery of leased vehicles. We now lease a total of 310 vehicles from SFS. From September 2017 until January 2018 some 187 vehicles were provided to

CCBC on 5 year leases meaning that those arrangements will be up for renewal from September 2022 to January 2023. This provides both a significant opportunity and challenge. Many of these vehicles will be transit vans which are currently taken home by their drivers. Dedicated parking and charging places and changes to current working practices will need to be changed and implemented.

- 5.7 The charging infrastructure set out in the November 2020 Cabinet report will accommodate the first tranche of up to 100 vehicles. These will be predominantly small vans and it is anticipated that this capacity will be taken up before September 2022. Space and electrical capacity will also become more important as we move on to larger vans and the larger vehicles in our fleet.
- 5.8 Further analysis has been undertaken of the types of vehicles making up our fleet. At the 31st December 2020 our fleet was made up of 174 small vans, 123 medium vans, 54 minibuses, 126 tippers 38 refuse collection vehicles plus 4 x 4s, gritters, cars and other types of vehicle.
- 5.9 Analysis of vehicles by service area was also undertaken. As of 31st December 2020, Building Maintenance (Contract and Response) have the most vehicles (157 combined), followed by Cleansing Services (105), NCS (64) and Parks (58). No other single Service area has over 20 vehicles. A detailed work programme has begun with the key service areas, beginning with those with the highest number of vehicles.
- 5.10 Where vehicles are parked up overnight will be an important factor to consider as we move to EV's with the majority of them being charged outside working hours. Currently many vehicles are taken home by employees. For example, of the first 187 vehicles moved onto SFS long term leases 118 are currently taken home by employees.
- 5.11 Grey fleet (employees using their own vehicles on Council business) was identified as a key issue in the Fleet Review undertaken by the Energy Saving Trust. It identified that in 2018 CCBC employees drove over 3 million miles at a cost of just over £1.3 million to the Authority. In 2019-2020 Caerphilly CBC employees claimed for 3,363,827 business miles using their own vehicles, costing the council £1,513,722. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced the Authority's grey fleet miles. Comparing the calendar years 2019 and 2020 there was a reduction of 985,387 miles representing a reduction of over 29.5%. Projecting this forward to the financial year 2020-21, and assuming the reduction remains relatively constant, the expectation is that total grey fleet mileage will be around 2,368,134 miles, with an anticipated saving of around £448,000.

Ongoing work

- 5.12 Implementation of the works set out and agreed as part of the November 2020 Cabinet report is the current top priority as without this infrastructure we will not have the infrastructure to charge any new electric vehicles
- 5.13 Our first electric vehicles, 3 vans with electric ovens for delivering Meals on Wheels have been delivered. A further 6 vans for Building Cleaning will be arriving before the end of April 2021.
- 5.14 Ensuring that when vehicles are replaced, the most sustainable option is chosen will be a key element in the replacement programme. A new Vehicle Approval Process is being introduced. The new process is more robust ensuring that due consideration is given to all aspects of acquiring a vehicle before an order is placed and includes a

stringent authorisation procedure. This includes assessing whether the vehicle is needed, that the specification is correct and that the lowest emission vehicle is chosen.

- 5.15 Investigation work is being undertaken into the patterns of use of vehicles. Some may only be used for a couple of hours each day, or a couple of days per week. Initial work has started looking at potential shared vehicle schemes with the view of introducing a system to manage both CCBC pool vehicles and fleet vehicles that are not being fully utilised by a Service area.
- 5.16 Each winter we lease a number of 4x4s for 5 months at the cost of between £3,000 and £4,000 per vehicle. We have signed a Contract for Service with 4x4 Rescue Wales (4x4 RW) to provide winter cover for vehicles for key service areas including Meals on Wheels and Social Services. 4x4 RW are a registered charity who specialise in providing emergency 4x4 cover to help meet the needs of communities in crisis situations. 4x4 RW provide a 4x4 vehicle and fully trained driver with back office support. It is anticipated that changing to this new arrangement could potentially save up to £60,000 per year.

Next steps

- 5.17 Work is being undertaken and planned to reduce the total number of vehicles in our fleet from its current level of 600. However, within 10 years all of our vehicles will need to be ULEV, from our RCVs and highways vehicles to transits and small vans. Plans will need to be in place for how, when and where each of these vehicles are charged. The larger vehicles will need dedicated spaces where they are parked up overnight to charge and in the case of those vehicles subject to operator licencing ('O' licence) requirements, the charging point would have to be at the location specified as the vehicle's operating centre on the 'O' licence. Calculations will need to be undertaken to identify how often each vehicle will need to be charged based on the mileage it does. Charging vehicles at home may not be possible in most cases, however we will explore options for charging CCBC vehicles at employee's homes with the assistance of our managed service provider. In addition parking areas, probably as hubs around the county borough will need to be considered where these vehicles can park overnight whilst they charge, and where the user's vehicle can be parked when they come to collect the EV for work.
- 5.18 Between September 2022 and January 2023 there will be 187 vehicles leases due for renewal. Plans and an increase in the appropriate infrastructure will need to be in place to allow the replacement vehicles to be ULEVs. Further reports to Cabinet will be provided as the programme progresses.
- 5.19 Initially our EVs will be serviced by main dealers as our in-house garage and workshop do not have the equipment and our technicians do not have the qualifications and experience to deal with them. This is currently the most cost-effective solution. As set out earlier in this report there will however come a tipping point when providing this function ourselves will become a better option and will require investment in both training and equipment. This work will be supported by the Authority's managed service provider, SFS. In the interim, our technicians should at least have the knowledge and ability to make an electric vehicle safe.

Conclusion

- 5.20 2020 was far from a typical year, and this has had specific implications on the fleet review work. It has had some positive impacts, particularly on our grey fleet miles with savings of around £450,000 predicted. It has also resulted in a reduction in short-term hires (spot hires) with most of these being returned. It has however, in

some areas resulted in increases particularly in FSM deliveries and in additional vehicles to allow for social distancing, resulting in around 70 additional vehicles being hired between March and August 2020. Dealing with Covid has also meant that reviewing their vehicle usage has been pushed down the agenda for some services, and this has impacted the overall programme.

- 5.21 The detailed analysis of our fleet has revealed the scale and complexity of the issues to be resolved. Within 10 years all of our vehicles will be ULEV. The key challenges related to this will be:
- Agreeing the appropriate ULEV alternatives with services
 - Providing the space, locations and infrastructure, including the electrical capacity for charging these vehicles
 - Implementing changes to our servicing and maintenance provision to deal with EVs.
- 5.22 A second phase of infrastructure provision will need to be in place by September 2022 when many of the 5-year leases come to an end. This will require the ongoing input of those involved in the current infrastructure development, plus more specific input from Property, Fleet and individual services to identify and develop any potential hub locations and requirements. Details of proposed infrastructure requirements and cost estimates will be brought forward as the requirements become clearer
- 5.23 The Fleet Review Officer's original secondment ends in May 2021. Without this role the progress to date would not have been achieved, nor would the detailed understanding of our existing fleet or the work needed to transition to ULEVs. As a result, the post of Fleet Review Officer has been extended by 2 years to May 2023.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 The distance that vehicles can travel on a single charge is increasing as is the speed of charging, however the cost of the most rapid chargers is still high and we will therefore need to consider hubs with charging bays, at least in the short to medium term. New technology such as induction charging is also being developed and we will need to monitor and consider this as well.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This report provides an update on achievements to date and therefore an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has not been undertaken. An IIA has been initiated for the proposed next steps of the fleet review work and will be provided when those proposals are brought forward for a decision.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report sets out the achievements to date within the already approved budgets.
- 8.2 Detailed proposals for future phases of infrastructure provision and other initiatives will be developed and reports brought forward at the appropriate time.
- 8.3 The extension of the Fleet Review Officer post has been agreed using officer delegated powers for an additional 2 years until May 2023 at a total cost of £92,000.

The extension will be funded from a reserve established from an underspend on the 2020/21 Carbon Energy Tax budget.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The programme of work to date has involved officers from across the Authority, most notably those from Fleet Management, Property, Procurement, Facilities Management and Policy & Partnerships. This cross departmental working, plus engagement from Service users will need to continue to deliver this programme.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The views of the listed consultees have been reflected within this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Ultra-low emission vehicles contribute to several of the Well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

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Consultees: Cllr J Ridgewell, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure
Cllr S. Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services and Housing
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director, Education & Corporate Services
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director, Economy and Environment
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services/ Monitoring Officer
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & S.151 Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Liz Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property
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