



CABINET – 13TH DECEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: THE FUTURE OF PONTLLANFRAITH LEISURE CENTRE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation undertaken with respect to the potential closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and to secure a decision on the future of the centre.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Cabinet considered a report on the 20th September 2017 where it was resolved to commence a consultation on the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and to consider a further report once the consultation was completed.
- 2.2 This report sets out the details of the consultation process that was undertaken, summarises the outcome of that consultation and makes a number of recommendations with respect to the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

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

- A prosperous Wales.
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales.
- A Wales of cohesive communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.
- A globally responsible Wales.

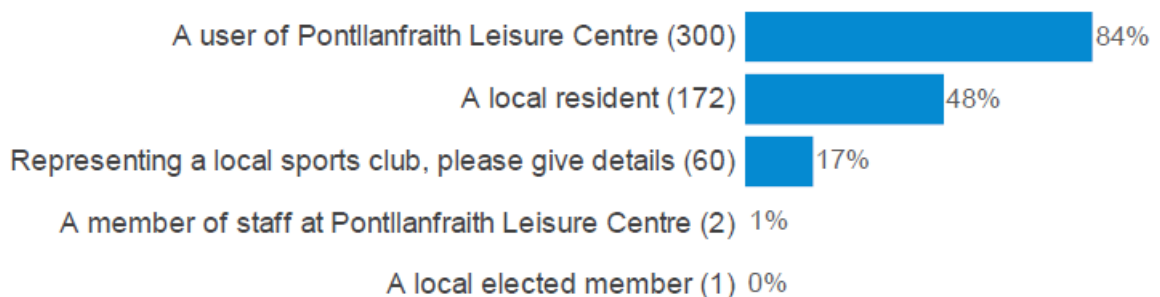
The content of this report links into: A healthier Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities and a globally responsible Wales.

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

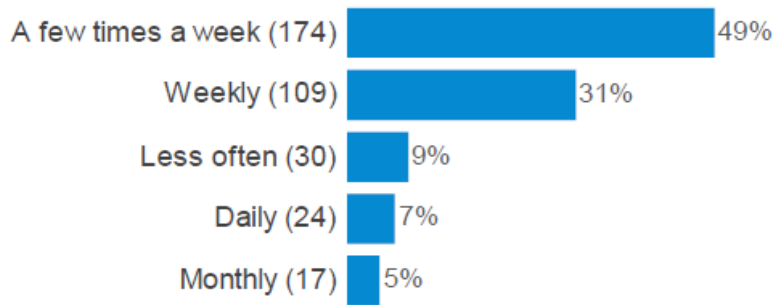
4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Cabinet report of 20th September 2017 outlined the range of issues relating to the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre campus (Leisure Centre building/services, Caerphilly Adventures base and 3G football pitch), wider aspirations for the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site and the potential future relationship with the new Islwyn High School.
- 4.2 After Cabinet resolved to commence consultation on the closure of the centre, Sport & Leisure officers worked in conjunction with colleagues from the Authority's Communications team to develop a consultation plan accepting that the plan may need to be amended as the consultation process developed.
- 4.3 The consultation process commenced on 9th October 2017 with an original target completion date of 10th November 2017. However, the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee expressed the view that this period should be extended at its meeting on 31st October 2017. The consultation period was therefore extended by 2 weeks to the 24th November 2017.
- 4.4 The consultation process comprised of the following elements:-
- Notices in Leisure Centre advising of the process.
 - Paper comments forms and associated deposit box in Leisure Centre.
 - Notification of process on CCBC web-site.
 - On-line form for submission of comments.
 - 2 public meetings (held early evening on 17th & 19th October at the Leisure Centre).
 - One to one consultation appointments with those that expressed interest in a more personal discussion (held on 7th November 2017 & 22nd November 2017).
 - Meetings offered with local members representing wards immediately adjacent to the Leisure Centre (Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, Penmaen & Cefn Fforest).
 - Notification to all Town & Community Councillors seeking their views on the potential closure of the centre.
 - Consultation with the Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 31st October 2017.
 - Further meetings with the Head teacher and Governors at Islwyn High.
 - Discussions with Staff and Trade Unions.
- 4.5 The outcome of the wider public consultation has been analysed by staff in the Authority's Communications Unit. This analysis has resulted in a mix of graphical representations and a collection of specific comments. The summary report and specific comments are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.6 The key graphs from the summary consultation report are as follows:-

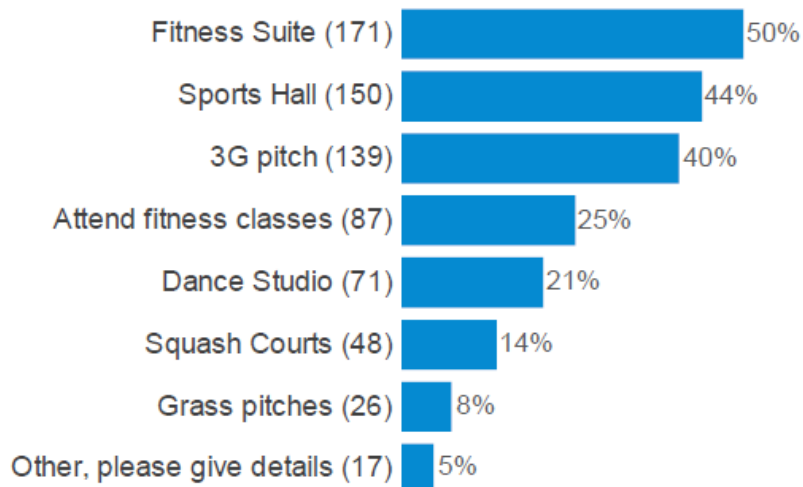
Please indicate your interest in this consultation *(please tick all that apply)*



How often do you use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre?



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



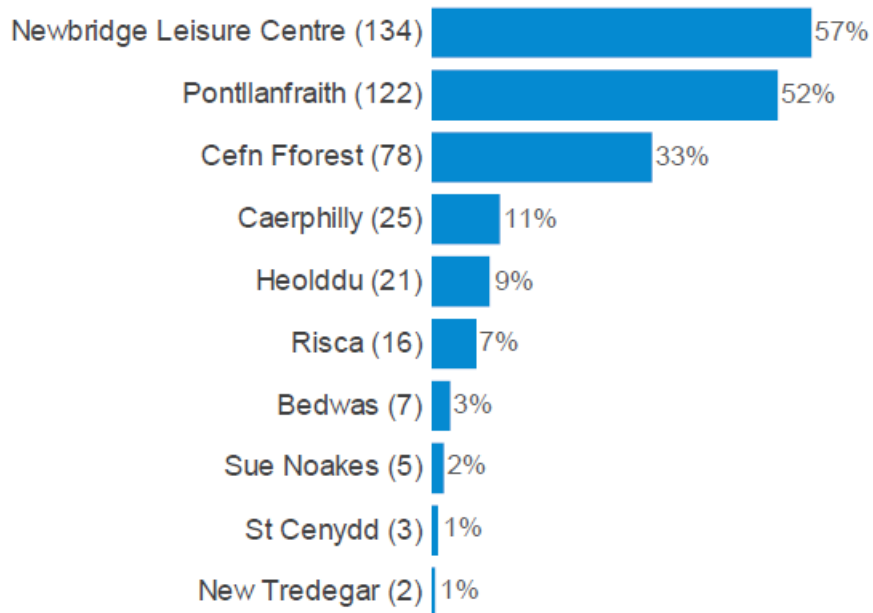
Are alternative arrangements/facilities in place to meet your needs?



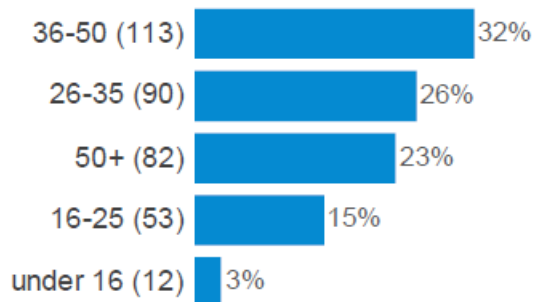
Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



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



What is your age group



Are you



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

COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES	
Consultation Question: <i>What impact will the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre have on you?</i>	
THEME	OFFICER COMMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to travel. • Will not be able to walk to a facility. • Pontllanfraith is more convenient for me. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphs 4.20 & 4.21 include a commentary on travel distances. Of particular reference is the fact that over 50% of the Pontllanfraith users travel from outside the NP12 postcode area and therefore travel by car or bus. Other facilities may therefore be closer to many of the centre's users.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facility includes a 3G pitch which is available in all weathers. • Local 3G pitches are already oversubscribed. • If a 3G is not installed at Blackwood this would have a huge impact. • 3G demand in the area cannot be satisfied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is accepted that the demand for 3G facilities is significant given our changing weather conditions/climate. • While the Authority has no certainty over the development of a new 3G at Blackwood at present, the bid has been included in its 21st Century Schools submission to Welsh Government. • A range of alternatives are being explored in terms of relocating 3G users to other facilities. • The potential for the 3G pitch at Pontllanfraith to remain until the 31st March 2017 would allow users to benefit from it for the entire duration of the winter period. There is less pressure after the clocks go forward at the end of March.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant loss of facilities and services in the Pontllanfraith area (Youth Centre, Ty Pontllanfraith, School and now Leisure Centre). • Housing Growth in area will place significant burden on local services/infrastructure. • More residents using other Leisure Centres will place additional burden on those other Centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is difficult to comment on changes that take place in society – some of these are for the better and some are not. Unfortunately, in modern society change is inevitable and is driven by economics (in the case of Ty Pontllanfraith), or the need to improve (eg: the education offer in the Pontllanfraith/Blackwood/Oakdale area). • Housing growth is needed as there is a shortage of housing within the County Borough. • The Authority has more Leisure Centres than any other Local Authority in Wales and this number, when combined with the age profile is unsustainable in the long-term. Leisure Centre rationalisation to a fewer number of strategic centres is therefore required in the medium to long-term. The provision of secondary leisure provision should also be noted with facilities for community use provided at Lewis School, Pengam, Y-Gwindy, Caerphilly, St Martins School, Caerphilly, Markham Community House, Blackwood Comprehensive School and Ysgol Cwm Rhymni, Fleur de Lys.

COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES	
Consultation Question: <i>Are alternative arrangement/ facilities in place to meet your needs?</i>	
THREAD	OFFICER COMMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3G at Islwyn High is not enough – the Pontllanfraith 3G needs to be replaced at Blackwood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See comments above regarding 3G at Blackwood Comprehensive and 21st Century Schools submission to Welsh Government. See comments above regarding option to keep 3G at Pontllanfraith open until 31st March 2017.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no alternative facilities that would meet may needs. A lack of affordable facilities exists in the vicinity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See comments above regarding travel distances etc. The Authority has a significant number of Leisure Centres, many of which offer all of the services on offer at Pontllanfraith and more (eg: Newbridge). The Authority's Leisure Centre pricing structure is consistent across the County Borough and membership allows the use of all Centres.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of Leisure Centres are ageing and need significant investment to bring them to a modern standard. The use of Leisure Centres is cost prohibitive and should be subsidised for residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is accepted that the Authority's Leisure Centre stock is ageing and in need of investment. However, there is insufficient funding in the current climate to invest in the vast number of facilities across the County Borough. Consequently rationalisation is required followed by an investment programme in a smaller number of strategic facilities. The use of the Authority's Leisure Centres is already subsidised (the subsidy varies from centre to centre dependant on facility mix and user profiles). However, this is unsustainable in the current financial climate.

COMMON CONSULTATION THEMES	
Consultation Question: <i>Please detail how the impact of closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre could be further reduced?</i>	
THREAD	OFFICER COMMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping the 3G pitch or creating another one. Move or redevelop the 3G pitch quickly at another location. Keep the 3G pitch but close the Leisure Centre. If the current classes could be transferred to another local centre and my Caerphilly Leisure membership can still be used to attend classes then it would be acceptable, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See comments above regarding option to keep the 3G pitch until 31st March 2017 and 21st Century Schools submission to Welsh Government. This is covered in paragraph 4.12 of the report. However, it does not represent a financially viable proposal. Other centres offer a wide range of classes and a Caerphilly Leisure Membership can be used at any of our Centres.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make Newbridge Leisure Centre bigger and better. • Upgrade other Leisure Centres. • The question makes it sound like it is a pre-ordained event ie no notice will be taken of views expressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See comments above on future investment in a smaller number of strategic facilities. • The consultation process has been detailed, thorough and held over a 8-week period and has involved a range of media (one to one interviews, on-line, written forms, public meetings, etc.) • No decision will be taken until the Scrutiny Committee has considered the consultation responses and made a recommendation to Cabinet.
--	---

4.8 In terms of the other consultation mechanism the outcomes are as follows:-

(i) Meetings with Local Members

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

(ii) Town & Community Councils

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

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

(iii) Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matter at its meeting on 31st October 2017. Prior to the meeting a member of the public asked to address the Committee and this was accommodated.

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

(iv) Meeting with Islwyn High School

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

While the Governing Body were generally in favour of the transition of the mature programme from Pontllanfraith, it was keen not to be seen to prejudice the consultation process and would not therefore make a final decision until the consultation period is over. This decision will therefore be made at the next meeting of the governing body.

4.9 As outlined in 4.1 above, all of the issues relating to the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure were outlined in the Cabinet report of 20th September 2017.

4.10 While the Sports hall programme can be transitioned to Islwyn High School, the 3G has been a significant issue that has been raised throughout the consultation period (Appendix 3 to this report includes details of existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch users and their transfer options).

4.11 Of particular reference is the fact that the current evening and weekend usage at Islwyn High does not allow the level of usage from the Pontllanfraith 3G pitch to be transferred, although most of the Pontllanfraith 3G usage can be transferred to other CCBC facilities such as the artificial pitches (albeit not 3G) at Blackwood Comprehensive & Sue Noake Leisure Centre, Ystrad Mynach, or the floodlit tennis courts at Islwyn High.

4.12 Officers have also looked at an option involving demolition of the Leisure Centre, retention of the 3G pitch and car parking and construction of new changing rooms for users of the 3G pitch.

However, this option is likely to have one off cost implications of circa £700,000 in addition to a significant negative impact on the capital receipt for the site (of circa £1.4m).

4.13 In the Cabinet report of 20th September an aspiration to develop a new 3G playing surface at Blackwood Comprehensive was articulated (subject to funding being secured) and this has now been included in a proposal to Welsh Government under the Band A 21st Century Schools Programme.

- 4.14 The inability to use the Islwyn High 3G pitch for competitive senior football matches has also been raised in the consultation process. While some retrofitting of barriers is possible at Islwyn High, the “run-off” gap between edge of pitch and barrier could not achieve the desired 5 metres, although 3.5 metres would be possible and the feedback from Sport Governing bodies is that 3.5m is sufficient to obtain their approval (even though 5m would be desirable). Barriers could be retro-fitted at a cost circa £15,000 - £25,000 which would enable the pitch to be used for competitive senior matches (it would also allow for the dug outs to be moved from the Pontllanfraith site and reused at Islwyn High). This retro-fitting of barriers could be funded from the Communities Directorate Reserve.
- 4.15 There are currently 2 teams (Ynysddu Welfare and Wattsville) that are using the Pontllanfraith facility to play at this level and favourable discussions have been held with both of these teams in relation to a move to grass based compliant pitches at the Bryn, Pontllanfraith (for Ynysddu Welfare) and Wattsville.
- 4.16 A further option for Cabinet to consider is whether to delay the demolition of Pontllanfraith Comprehensive school until late March/early April 2018 which would allow continued 3G usage at Pontllanfraith over the remaining winter hours period. The Sports Hall transition to Islwyn High School could however commence in January 2018 to enable full use of the sports hall at Islwyn High to commence (supported by Sports & Leisure staff as outlined in paragraph 4.8 (iv), above), In this regard, the Interim Head of Property has been consulted and has commented that the demolition contract could be awarded, timed and managed to allow the 3G pitch (and associated service infrastructure) to remain in use until 31st March 2017.
- 4.17 The need to move the Caerphilly, Adventures Service to Cwmcarn Forest Drive was also outlined in the Cabinet report of 20th September 2017. This move required some civil engineering works on site which would need to be funded in advance of the sale of the Pontllanfraith site. In this regard, it is suggested that the Communities Directorate Reserve is used to fund these works up front.
- 4.18 The role that the Caerphilly Adventures Service plays in supporting the education service is significant (particularly Education other than at school (EOTAS) and Specialist Resource Bases) and this role has the potential to increase subject to its inclusion in the future review of EOTAS provision in Caerphilly County Borough.
- 4.19 When considering Leisure Centre provision there are a number of industry related statistics which Cabinet should consider.
- 4.20 In the Leisure industry, it is accepted that customers are generally prepared to travel a distance of 5 miles or 20 minutes to facilities. In this regard when the user analysis for Pontllanfraith is examined it reveals that over 50% of users are outside the NP12 postcode area (NP12 stretches from the Argoed Ward in the North to the Pontllanfraith Ward in the South and the Pengam Ward in the West to the Penmaen Ward in the East).
- 4.21 If the distance of other CCBC facilities from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is examined the following can be seen:-

CCBC Facility	Distance from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
Newbridge Leisure Centre	3.3 miles
Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre	2.0 miles
Sue Noake Leisure Centre, Ystrad Mynach	3.1 miles
Heolddu Leisure Centre	5 miles

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 The issues outlined in this report make a contribution across the seven well-being goals, but in particular to the following three:

1. **A healthier Wales:** There is significant evidence to support the view that undertaking a physically active lifestyle has significant benefits in terms of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease along with positive impacts upon mental health and body weight control. The role of schools is significant in terms of supporting the integration of physical activity into everyday lifestyles.
2. **A Wales of cohesive communities:** Islwyn High School have communicated a vision to place the school and its facilities at the heart of the community, ensuring its effectively placed to deliver a well-connected, socially inclusive hub.
3. **A globally responsible Wales:** There is significant evidence to support the positive impact that leading a healthy, physically active lifestyle has upon the economic, social and cultural well-being of Welsh residents.

5.2 The proposals detailed in this report are consistent with the five ways of working as set out in the sustainable development principle contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A long term view has been taken of the requirement for the provision of leisure services within the county borough. We have involved people in consideration of this issue as outlined in sections 4.3 to 4.8 of this report

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 4 to this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The 2017/18 budget for running Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre is £81,502. However, this includes a joint user virement from Education (as a result of the Centre being classed as a joint use centre located on a school site) of circa £26,000. Consequently if the Leisure Centre remains open then the 2018/19 budget would need to be adjusted to circa £108,000 to allow for the loss of the joint user virement.
- 7.2 While the capital receipt for the sale of the school, leisure centre and 3G pitch area is dependent on a number of variables, initial estimates suggest that it could realise a capital receipt of circa £4.3 m. If the Leisure Centre and 3G pitch remains this is likely to reduce to £2.4m.
- 7.3 The financial implications associated with closing/demolishing the Leisure Centre are outlined below with appropriate narrative, and are summarised in the table at paragraph 7.9.
- 7.4 Should the Leisure Centre remain open, there is an initial cost requirement of circa £112,000 to transfer shared services such as utilities, telephone and I.T. lines. There will be a further requirement for ongoing maintenance liabilities to be supported and the maintenance backlog for the Leisure Centre is estimated at £150,000.
- 7.5 The indicative cost of relocating the Caerphilly Adventures Service to Cwmcarn Fforest Drive is circa £75,000 - £85,000.
- 7.6 The indicative cost of relocating the current 3G football pitch to Blackwood Comprehensive School is still to be accurately determined; (this cannot be ascertained unless detailed design and tendering is completed). However, no funding has been identified at this time to fund this proposal. If the 3G facility remains at Pontllanfraith then it is possible that the "Carpet" would need replacing in the period 2020 – 2022.

- 7.7 There is a one-off cost of demolition of the Leisure Centre complex which is estimated at £325,000. (In terms of demolition, the contract for demolishing the school is due to commence in the coming months and the Leisure Centre demolition could be added as a contract variation).
- 7.8 There are also some voluntary severance costs associated with the closure. These are covered in the Personnel Implications section below and total circa £11,250.
- 7.9 A summary of the costs of closure/demolition and resultant savings/avoided costs is included in the table below:-

One-Off Cost of Closure/Demolition (£)		Savings/Avoided Costs (£)	
325,000	Demolition	81,000	Annual Cost Saving associated with running Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
75,000 – 85,000	Relocation of Caerphilly Adventures Service to Cwmcarn.	112,000	Services Diversion Costs Avoidance
		150,000	Maintenance Backlog Cost Avoidance
11,250	Potential HR Costs (Voluntary Severance, etc.).	200,000	Replacement of existing 3G “Carpet” in 2020 – 2022
Total: £411,250 - £421,250		Total: £543,000	

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Since the Cabinet report of 20th September 2017 clarity has been sought in relation to the 2 staff that will retire voluntarily supported by Voluntary Severance payments.
- 8.2 There are no pension implications associated with these 2 staff and the voluntary severance/Rhymney Valley loyalty bonus estimates are in line with those provided in the September Cabinet report (circa £11,250).
- 8.3 The remainder of the staff currently working at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre can be accommodated within the Sport & Leisure Service as a result of non-filling of posts elsewhere.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The consultation undertaken is outlined in sections 4.3 to 4.8 of this report.
- 9.2 The consultees listed below have been consulted on the report and their views have been incorporated accordingly.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (i) Agrees the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
 - (ii) Agrees that the 3G pitch will remain in use until 31st March 2017 and that the site demolition programme will be managed to accommodate this.
 - (iii) Agrees that barriers are retro-fitted to the Islwyn High 3G pitch to allow senior competitive matches to be played and that the Communities Directorate Reserve is used to fund this.

- (iv) Endorses the transition of Sports Hall bookings to Islwyn High School with effect from January 2018, subject to final agreement of the Governing Body of the school.
- (v) Agrees the development of Cwmcarn Forest Drive to allow the relocation of the Caerphilly Adventures Service.
- (vi) Agrees that the works to the Cwmcarn Site (£75k - £85k) are funded from the Communities Directorate Reserve.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To allow the authority to realise the full capital receipt potential in respect of the land sale of Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School/Leisure Centre campus.
- 11.2 To allow for the smooth transition of current Sports Hall users of Pontllanfraith leisure Centre to Islwyn High School and to allow transition of 3G users to Islwyn High or other facilities where capacity exists..
- 11.3 To support the opportunity to develop the Caerphilly Adventures Outdoor Education Service in a fit for purpose site/facility.

12. STATUTORY POWER

- 12.1 Local Government Act 1972.

Author Christina Harray, Corporate Director, Communities
HARRHC@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Stephen Harris, Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Section 151 Officer
 Richard Harris, Acting Monitoring Officer
 Councillor Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services
 Jeff Reynolds, Sport & Leisure Services Facilities Manager
 Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services
 Jared Lougher, Sport & Leisure Services, Development Manager
 Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
 Sue Richards, Interim Head of Service – Education, Planning and Strategy
 Lynne Donovan, Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development
 Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager
 Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection

Background Papers:

- Report to Cabinet 20th September 2017 – “Proposals to commence a consultation exercise to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre”
- Report to Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny Committee 31st October 2017 – “ Consultation with respect to the closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre”

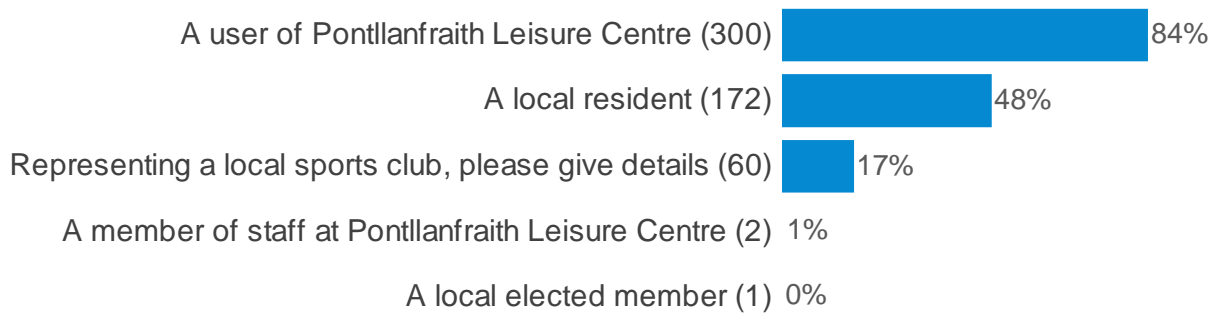
Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Consultation Analysis Report
- Appendix 2 Formal response from Blackwood Town Council
- Appendix 3 Details of existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch users and their transfer options.
- Appendix 4 Equalities Impact Assessment

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

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

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



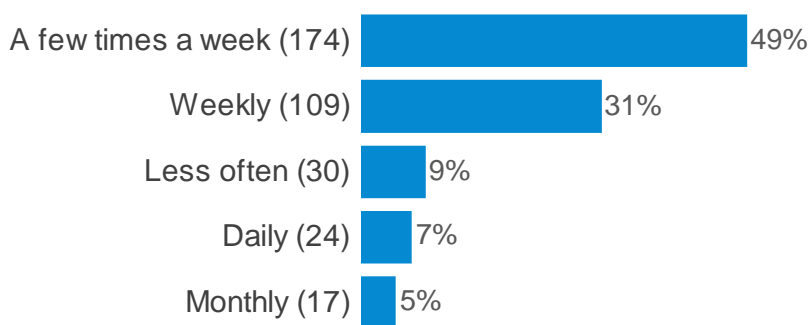
Please give details

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

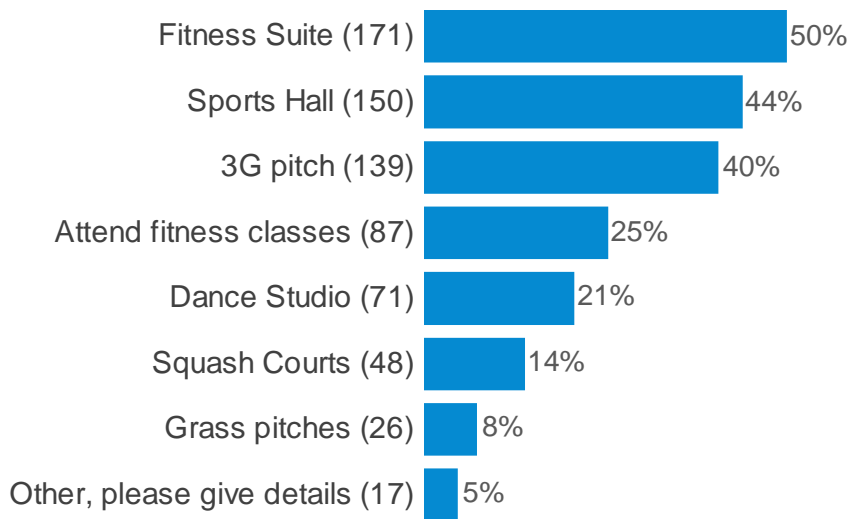
Please give details

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

How often do you use Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre?



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



Please give details

- None we have never been able to book the 3G
- Outside pitch.
- Outside rugby for son
- None
- karate twice a week
- Islwyn running club
- 3 g fsctilities
- Watch my nephew play football here
- I believe my council tax contribution should be for caerphilly residants not welsh extremist ideals
- Member of Islwyn Running club and we meet at the leisure centre
- 3G football field
- Not yet used the centre
- 4g pitch with my son's under 10 rugby club football clubs during school holidays , football partys,
- Also 3G pitch user
- About to start badminton & join running club
- Yoga
- Yoga classes
- Badminton
- Yoga class
- Son uses 3G pitch
- Yogalates - Monday 7-8
- Badminton
- Badminton
- Classes & circuits in the sports hall
- Netball (Hall on Tuesdays)
- Squash court

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

It will limit accessibility to fitness classes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further to travel, more buses

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I will not be able to attend the gym

Less choice in location & facilities and distance from home

Will involve more travel to attend sports centres further away

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

Travel further to continue classes if a suitable venue is available

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

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

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

Reduced physical fitness. Wellbeing, Social Needs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Play badminton regular struggle to book in other facilities.

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

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

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

Devastating and will feel lost without it

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

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

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

No netball training

We would be unable to train.

Nowhere to train netball

Unable to train. No use of gym

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

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

No training facilities near so less exercising

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

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

It means we have to stop training every Wednesday.

No other leisure centre around that's local

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

No netball training

Limited opportunity for physical exercise

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

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

Have to travel further for facilities

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

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

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

Been trying to improve my health and wellbeing

Finding classes at different centres. Travel further.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I wouldn't use the gym as often

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

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

Struggle to attend exercise classes

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

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

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

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

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

Won't have a place to do Zumba

I live in Risca so further to travel

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

I will have to use the newbridge centre instead.

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

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

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

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

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



Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

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

None

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newbridge Leisure Centre

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

Time slots are too busy

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

Unsure.

Go to privately owned gym now

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

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

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

Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

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

Through private local gyms

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

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

Ystrad Mynach is way too expensive!

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

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

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

there is nowhere local that would suffice

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

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

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

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

As discussed above

N/a

Other venue does not open on a Sunday !

There are no alternative arrangements available.

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

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

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

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

Nil

As above I answered them all in the first question

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

None

Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

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

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

None

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

There will not be enough courts in the area.

Don't know

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

Newbridge, Yoga class to resite

Gym, squash courts etc.

I use Cefn Fforest

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

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

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

Nearest similar alternatives are at Newbridge LC.

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

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

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

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

Gym exercise will have to end

Newbridge - but I would have to take car.

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

Apparently the new school at Oakdale has alternative facilities

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

Islwyn school

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

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

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

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

Please give details of alternative arrangements below.

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

None provided

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

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

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

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

Newbridge - although hard to book courts

Newbridge

Newbridge - but very hard to book badminton court

None

Haven't been told anything, maybe Islwyn High.

No info given

N/A

?

No information given

No yoga classes available locally.

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

Newbridge - but not keen

There are not enough to fulfil the demand

Attend other leisure centres which is a poor alternative.

There are no alternative arrangements that I am aware of.

N/A

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

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

Don't know

There are no other arrangements to my knowledge

I'll use newbridge

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

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

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

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

Build another leisure centre

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

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

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

Transport provided and same facilities

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

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

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

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

Keep it open Viable

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

Major

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

Leave the building open.

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

Keep the leisure centre open

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

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

Don't close it altogether.

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

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

Keep it open

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By keeping the main building open

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

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

Develop for current users (as per discussions with CCBC)

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

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

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

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

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

DON'T CLOSE IT.

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

Don't close it!!

Don't close it

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

Keep the building open

Don't close it - it is well used

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

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

Do not close

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

By not closing it!

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

Use sports hall for bigger fitness classes

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

Keeping it open. Rebuilding the leisure centre local to Pontllanfraith

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More classes at other centres which are sadly lacking

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

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

Don't close it

By giving us another place to train.

Tell us where the new training facility will be!

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

Provide another leisure centre for us to train

Provide another sports location

Open sports hall in Islwyn High School

Opening a council facility leisure centre near the same area

Provide another leisure centre

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

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

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

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

?

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

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

Open a local facility or improve Cefn Forest

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

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

Need to keep present instructor for Zumba classes

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

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

Don't close it

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

This will be further reduced by the centre remaining open.

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

To remain open

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

More daytime classes in Blackwood/Pontllanfraith/Newbridge area

By remaining open, not just for myself but for others

N/a

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

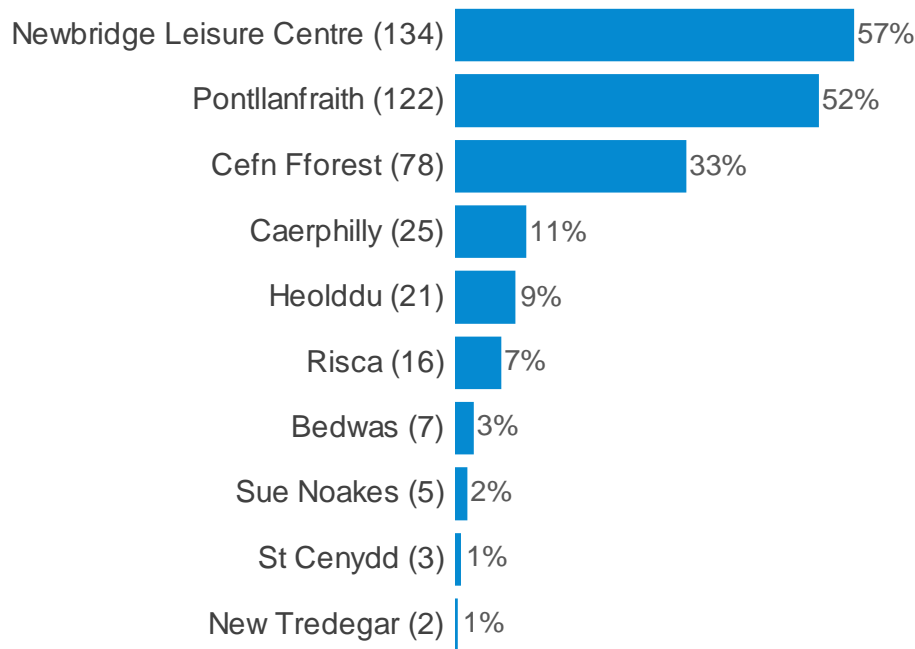
Don't close it refurbish it

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

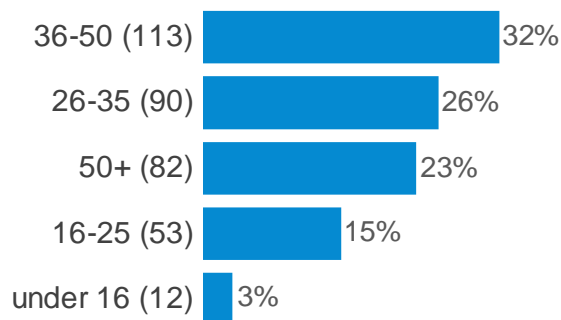
Are you a Caerphilly Lifestyle member?



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



What is your age group



Are you



Please provide your postcode.

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

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

I have two teenage children who use this facility

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

I suffer from bipolar, emotional personality disorder and anxiety.

None

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

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

think it should stay open

Na

None

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

Disability, mental health and physical health

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

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

Appendix - 2 Blackwood Town Council

Response to Consultation on the Proposed Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

November 2017

1. Introduction & Recommendation

1.1 Blackwood Town Council has been asked to provide its views on Caerphilly County Borough Council's proposals to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre, demolish the facilities and profit by selling the land to private sector housing developers for the purposes of realising a one-off capital receipt payment.

We do so with a deep sense of concern.

1.2. Members are of the opinion that the Leisure Centre is a very popular community facility and as evidenced in the Cabinet report, is extremely well-used. More importantly members noted that the Centre is also one of the *lowest subsidised of all* leisure centres in the Borough, with the exciting potential to increase income streams and new business through new public and partner daytime usage following the closure of Pontllanfraith Comprehensive.

1.3. At a recent Special Meeting of Blackwood Town Council members were **unanimous in their opposition to the proposed closure** of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and that Caerphilly County Borough Council should **continue to operate and maintain** the Leisure Centre.

1.4. **Blackwood Town Council is of the view** that should the Cabinet, regrettably be *minded* to agree with their officers recommendations, then there is a third way the Cabinet *should agree to instead of closure*.

This is discussed in further detail in sections 7.9 and 8.2 below.

2. Links to National Strategy:

2.1. Members have grave concerns that the proposed closure and the way in which the proposal has been expedited, would in fact be contrary to the following Welsh Government Acts:

- **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014**
- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

2.2. *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014*

This Act states that local councils have a duty to support vulnerable young adults in Group 3 by:

- Helping with a young adult's **well-being**

2.3. Providing access to community-based services (non-statutory or otherwise) that help to maintain or improve health and well-being and is within reasonable walking distance for those most vulnerable within society who *A. do not own a car or B. subsist on extremely low disposable income levels*, is an undeniably important role for a local authority and as such, access to affordable local leisure provision can help a young person immensely in managing their health and well-being and *for those reasons alone is vitally important*.

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

This Act emphasises the importance of our communities being:

- Prosperous
- Resilient
- Healthier
- More equal
- Cohesive

2.5. Perhaps more importantly in the context of the proposed closure of Pontllanfriath Leisure Centre, the Act talks about how public bodies like Caerphilly County Borough Council now have a duty to think about and publically state how they:

- Work together with others
- Involve people in making decisions

3. Analysis:

3.1. *Blackwood Town Council is of the view that the proposed closure conflicts with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in the following ways:*

3.2. A Prosperous Community

The *Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation* evidences very low levels of income locally.

Pontllanfraith 2 is in the top 10% **of the most deprived communities in Wales** in terms of both the Household Income *and* Employment indicators (out of 1,909 communities) and as such provides a *very strong argument for maintaining this local community facility.*

3.3. A Resilient Community

Pontllanfraith has recently seen the closure of the *County's Civic Centre, the Caerphilly Music Services HQ, Pontllanfraith Comprehensive and now potentially it's Leisure Centre and surrounding public open spaces,* all to housing development. **The long-term cumulative effects of such a large-scale local authority service exodus is biting deep and its long-term consequences should not be underestimated.**

Nor should the short-term goal of realising *capital receipts* be the determining factor in this decision as the Department's report principally campaigns for. **A tipping-point** where local resilience cannot realistically be maintained, will be reached should the Leisure Centre close.

3.4 A Healthier Community

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation also evidences high levels of poor health locally. Pontllanfraith 2 is in the top 25% of the most deprived communities in Wales in terms of poor health.

The closure of Pontllanfriath Leisure Centre *will only serve to make this situation worse,* removing an established, well-used and popular centre of health and well-being *in easy walking distance to communities suffering from poverty and deprivation* flies in the face of the values and expectations expressed in both of the Welsh Government Acts referenced above and the Caerphilly Public Service Board's emerging Plan.

3.5 A More Equal Community

With a combined population of 17,048, the communities of Pontllanfraith and Blackwood represent a strategically important and significantly large population cluster around this Leisure Centre and this is demonstrated by the centre's usage data. Relocating (and reducing) provision outside of this large population cluster *will be detrimental to our most vulnerable residents.*

3.6. We reject the Department's assertion that Leisure Centre users will be easily able to travel to reduced provision elsewhere (the so-called 5x20 Rule). *Cabinet should note that the gulf in car ownership between the poorest and the most prosperous residents in Pontllanfraith who do not own a car is striking - 31% and 9% respectively.*

3.7. Therefore we believe that the proposed closure will *have its greatest impact on those who are the most vulnerable within our society* and who have no personal transport to mitigate the effects of costly, uncertain and time-limited public transport and the impossible to navigate on foot (at the distances expected) steep topography of our valley communities, whose road transport links are generally North/South as opposed to East/West and whose street designs and lighting is generally unsuitable for long-distance walking.

3.8. As mentioned above, there exists in both communities an extremely large variance in poverty and prosperity. Income levels in Pontllanfraith range from the top 10% **most deprived** in Wales to the top 4% **most prosperous**, the closure of the Leisure Centre will only serve *to further widen this gap.*

3.9. That is worth repeating, the loss of local provision *will not merely reduce* accessible and affordable community services to all, ***but it will increase the poverty-gap*** between our poorest and most prosperous residents.

3.10. This report also notes that ***hundreds of skilled professional jobs have been relocated out of Pontllanfraith or lost through natural wastage*** by the local authority through the closure of local authority buildings and services in Pontllanfraith over the last 18 months. (See 3.3 above and 3.11 below)

3.11. A Cohesive Community

Communities lose their cohesion when local services *are no longer local*. The Civic Centre was a vitally important service access point for residents from both Blackwood and Pontllanfraith. The closure of the local comprehensive school was a hammer blow to parents, grandparents, the community and most importantly the pupils themselves who fought so gallantly to turn the school around and keep it open and who now have to travel out of Pontllanfraith for their education on diesel and petrol emitting vehicles daily.

3.12. However, **Blackwood Town Council is of the view** that should the Cabinet be unfortunately minded to agree with their officers recommendations, then we clearly state ***there is a third way***. This is discussed in further detail in sections 7.9 and 8.2 below.

4. A Healthier Wales – further analysis

4.1 Blackwood Town Council is of the view that should the closure proceed, there appears to be serious doubt whether the Islwyn High School facility could in fact have the capacity to take all existing users. Members also understand that the school has already entered into ‘gentlemen’s agreements with clubs and teams currently not using Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and therefore existing users of the 3G facility in Pontllanfraith will have *nowhere to go*.

This in fact highlights the huge unmet demand for 3G provision currently within the Borough, provision which will be severely damaged should the 3G facility at Pontllanfraith be closed without replacement.

4.2. With communities in close proximity to the centre having a relatively low car ownership, as mentioned in 3.6. above (compared with more affluent areas), there are concerns that *current users* would be deterred from continuing a physically active lifestyle, due to the difficulties and costs of public transport in accessing the somewhat isolated new school site and other venue’s in the Borough.

4.3. Blackwood Town Council reiterates its opposition to the Cabinet report and the Department’s assertion at consultation meetings that local people *can easily travel* to Cefn Fforest, Islwyn High, Heolddu and Newbridge, as this fails to take both our most deprived residents and the unforgiving valleys topography into account. Current Leisure Centre users without cars will simply be unable to access provision further afield.

4.4. This coupled with the loss of one of only two competition level 3G pitches in the Borough (funded and accredited by FAW) is a major *regional* concern. The current problems with facilities at the Centre of Sporting Excellence at Ystrad Mynach and *no guarantee or timetable regarding funding* any proposed replacement at Blackwood Comprehensive seems a recipe for disaster, with numerous teams and hundreds of individuals likely to suffer, potentially lose income, membership and even league status in the interim. For them *the winding up of their clubs and activities is a very real operational risk*.

4.5. **A Wales of Cohesive Communities** – Blackwood Town Council recognises that the current facility is at the heart of the community, and already delivers a well-connected, socially diverse and engaged community hub. The Leisure Centre’s closure, demolition and asset sale would decimate this.

4.6 **A Globally Responsive Wales** – the current high usage rates of the Centre is testament to the fact that the local community are already successfully attempting to lead a healthy, physically active lifestyle, and closure certainly would not guarantee the continuation of this but would, with the access problems already identified, **likely lead to a significant reduction in community engagement in healthy living activities**.

5. The Conflict with the Caerphilly Public Service Board's Draft Well-being Plan

5.1. Blackwood Town Council notes that Caerphilly County Borough Council is one of four statutory partners of the Caerphilly PSB and therefore notes *with particular concern* that this rushed proposal to close the Leisure Centre *is in direct conflict with* the following Caerphilly Public Service Board's emerging priorities:

The Caerphilly We Want Draft Well-being Plan:-

- **Positive People** - Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential
- **Positive Places** - Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable
- **Positive Change** - A shared commitment to cross-sectoral change

5.2. These shared commitments *must be more than words* on a strategic partner document and **Blackwood Town Council as your critical friend and local authority partner**, calls for these principles (detailed further under section 9. below) to be adhered to and enacted when considering the future of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.

5.3. However, one priority above all is worth detailing here:

- To support our most disadvantaged communities to be resilient, cohesive and enable them to help themselves

6. The Financial Argument

6.1. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that *the financial implications in the Cabinet report are somewhat confusing and incomplete*. Members rightly point out that the Borough took the decision only last month to spend **over £3million** for demolition of the former much loved Islwyn Civic Centre and the schools at Pontllanfraith (which included the CCBC Music Service headquarters) and Oakdale.

Now to propose an additional **£325,000** to demolish the Leisure Centre *rather than spend £262,000* on Operational Costs & Maintenance Backlog Costs to keep the Leisure Centre as a thriving hub of the community is we believe a curious and strategically ill-considered move in such a short timescale.

6.2. Blackwood Town Council also queries the financial competency of proposing to spend **£500,000** on a new 3G Pitch (**if** monies can be found) rather than reinvest an additional £200,000 in 2020-2022 to retain the currently FAW endorsed pitch at Pontllanfraith.

6.3. Blackwood Town Council is gravely concerned that the County's planned maintenance and asset replacement policy at the Leisure Centre has been somewhat absent from the usual expectations of managerial financial planning for some years now if these maintenance liabilities are only now coming to light and indeed appear to be costs highlighted for *the future* as opposed to a statement of on-going prudent financial year-on-year budgeting.

7. Under "Reasons for the Recommendations" of the original Cabinet report

7.1. Cabinet Report Recommendation '11.1'

7.2. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that the closure proposal appears to be entirely based on the need to realise the full capital receipt potential *rather* than the health and well-being needs of the local community and members are eager to know what the **Caerphilly Public Services Board's view** on these proposals are as they are in direct conflict with the majority of the PSB's emerging draft priorities.

As such we will be writing to the **Caerphilly Public Service Board** separately to ask them to examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and how it may conflict against their emerging priorities.

Additionally, we will be writing to the **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales** to seek her comments on the Departments report and our concerns as expressed in this consultation response and of course to ask her to undertake a review to examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre in the context of the *Well-being of Future Generations Act*.

7.3. Cabinet Report Recommendation ‘11.2’

7.4. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that to allow for the smooth transition of current users to Islwyn High School **without** a loss of service is wishful thinking at best and naïve ill-considered guesswork at worst –some very serious questions remain unanswered, how can this be so when the 3G Pitch at the school cannot accommodate any more users than have already been agreed to date and that there is *no guarantee of a replacement 3G pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive any time soon.*

7.5. Cabinet Report Recommendation ‘11.3’

7.6. The Caerphilly Adventures Outdoor Education Service has survived *and thrived* at the existing site, members ask, why wasn’t Cwmcarn considered when they moved from Ynys Hywel initially and why should what seems a *profitable* service not continue on site and assist the Centre’s overall prosperity?

7.7. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that *the timing of this report is as a direct result* of the need for a speedy decision linked to the demolition of the Civic Centre & School Sites, *to the detriment* it seems of all else, especially the local community.

7.8. The report states the emerging Sport & Leisure Services strategy, whilst not fully adopted, does not recognise Pontllanfraith as a potential Leisure Centre.

7.9. That being said, Blackwood Town Council is of the view that any decision on closure *should be seen* in the context of the overall County Borough Strategy *once* agreed by Council and the ability (and responsibility) *to actively engage and empower the local community towards possible asset transfer and community ownership options* and not as a convenient opportunity to asset-strip through demolition and land-sale a successful Leisure Centre with the apparent primary objective of maximising capital receipts.

8. It is therefore recommended by Blackwood Town Council that:

8.1. Caerphilly County Borough Council **Continue to Maintain and Operate** the Leisure Centre in Pontllanfraith.

8.2. However, under the already agreed principals of “*Building Resilient Communities*” and “*Positive Places – Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable*”, if Cabinet members vote to close the Leisure Centre, **Blackwood Town Council as a statutory partner of the County Borough formerly requests** that the decision Cabinet makes would be to *defer closure to enable a six to twelve month grace period to enable discussions to take place* with:

- The local Community
- Leisure Centre users and groups
- Partners and other stakeholders

8.3. To explore the potential Asset Transfer of the Leisure Centre to community ownership and to enable all interested parties as described above to develop the most appropriate legal charitable operational model and to explore additional funding routes to ensure such a transfer of assets takes place.

8.4. Blackwood Town Council to formally write to the **Caerphilly Public Service Board** to request that the Board examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre that does not also allow for the investigation of asset transfer and community ownership of the Leisure Centre and how such a decision to close may conflict with the Public Service Board’s emerging priorities.

8.5. Blackwood Town Council to formally write to the **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales** to seek her comments on the Departments report and our concerns as expressed in this consultation response and to request that The Commissioner undertake a review (see powers at Appendix A) to examine any decision to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre that does not also allow for the timely and thorough investigation of asset transfer and community ownership of the Leisure Centre and how such a decision to close may conflict with the principals and expectations as laid down in the *& Well-being of Future Generations Act*.

9. Reasons for Blackwood Town Council's Recommendations:

9.1. To enable Caerphilly County Borough Council to work in partnership with the local community and others to discharge its commitments and ambitions in accordance with the following National, regional and local strategic objectives:-

- The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- The Caerphilly Public Service Boards:-

The Caerphilly We Want - Draft Well-being Plan:-

Positive Change – A shared commitment to cross-sectoral change

- Provide leadership to facilitate organisational culture change, and shift to new ways of working, aligning corporate priorities in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle
- Use our assets and resources more intelligently and sustainably
- Support our residents and partners to contribute fully to the Caerphilly we all want

Positive People – Empowering and enabling all our residents to achieve their own potential

- Facilitate a shift towards collaborative working with an emphasis on prevention to address current and future health and well-being challenges.
- Develop a co-ordinated programme of volunteering, maximising it as a route to personal well-being and employment
- Equip our residents to manage their physical and mental health and well-being needs in partnership with services

Positive Places - Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable

- Support our most disadvantaged communities to be resilient, cohesive and enable them to help themselves
- Work with regional partners to create safe, confident communities and promote community cohesion.
- Increase the contribution that the environment makes to the health and well-being of our residents.

9.2. Blackwood Town Council is of the view that the Cabinet allow for reflection on both Acts and on the emerging priorities of the Caerphilly Public Service Board, whose joint partnership approach of all public sector organisations ***supports the rights of local communities to develop local solutions to local challenges, which includes local service delivery and ownership of community assets.***

End of report.

Circulation List:

Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cabinet Members, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Pontllanfraith Ward Members
Blackwood Ward Members
Blackwood Town Councillors
Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Members

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Caerphilly Public Service Board Members

Appendix 1.

Extract from the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Part 3 – The Commissioners Functions

20 Reviews by the Commissioner

(1) The Commissioner may conduct a review into the extent to which a public body is safeguarding the ability of future generations to meet their needs by taking account of the long term impact of things the body does under section.

(2) In conducting a review, the Commissioner may review—

(a) the steps the body has taken or proposes to take to meet its well-being objectives;

(b) the extent to which the body is meeting its well-being objectives;

(c) whether a body has set well-being objectives and taken steps to meet them in accordance with the sustainable development principle.

(3) In conducting a review, the Commissioner must have regard to any examination of the body carried out by the Auditor General for Wales under section 15.

(4) In conducting a review, the Commissioner may make recommendations to the public body about—

(a) the steps the body has taken or proposes to take to meet its well-being objectives;

(b) how to set well-being objectives and take steps to meet them in accordance with the sustainable development principle.

(5) The Commissioner may conduct a single review of two or more public bodies.

(6) The Commissioner must publish a report of a review (including any recommendations made) and send a copy of it to the Welsh Ministers.

(7) In conducting a review, the Commissioner may require a public body to provide such information as the Commissioner considers relevant to the review.

APPENDIX 3 - DETAILS OF EXISTING PONTLLANFRAITH LEISURE CENTRE & 3G PITCH USERS AND THEIR TRANSFER OPTIONS

Potentially Islwyn High Sports Hall Programme

	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4
Mon	17:00	A Goodenough Police Football	A Goodenough Police Football	A Goodenough Police Football
	18:00	C Newman Badminton Booking	C Newman Badminton Booking	Dean Perry Badminton
	19:00	Oakdale Junior Badminton	Oakdale Junior Badminton	Susan Pritchard Badminton Club
	20:00	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Church Badminton Club
	21:00	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Oakdale Senior Badminton
Tues	17:00	Wattsville Under 8 Football	Wattsville Under 8 Football	Wattsville Under 8 Football
	18:00	Blackwood Netball Club	Blackwood Netball Club	Blackwood Netball Club
	19:00	Blackwood Netball Club	Blackwood Netball Club	Blackwood Netball Club
	20:00	Y Fawr Badminton Club	Craig Andrews Badminton	Keith Forward Table Tennis
	21:00	Stuart Verrier FC	Stuart Verrier FC	Stuart Verrier FC
Weds	17:00	Crusaders Junior Football	Crusaders Junior Football	Crusaders Junior Football
	18:00	Treowen Stars Junior FC	Treowen Stars Junior FC	Treowen Stars Junior FC
	19:00	Jack Mullen Walking Football	Jack Mullen Walking Football	Jack Mullen Walking Football
	20:00	Treowen Stars Youth FC	Treowen Stars Youth FC	Treowen Stars Youth FC
	21:00	Cefn Fforest AFC	Cefn Fforest AFC	Cefn Fforest AFC
Thurs	17:00	Luke Brown Football	Luke Brown Football	Luke Brown Football
	18:00	Blackwood RFC Juniors	Blackwood RFC Juniors	Blackwood RFC Juniors
	19:00	Pengam Boys Club	Pengam Boys Club	Pengam Boys Club
	20:00	Coed Duon Dragons Ladies	Coed Duon Dragons Ladies	Coed Duon Dragons Ladies
	21:00	Adam Royal Football	Adam Royal Football	Adam Royal Football
Fri	17:00	Disability Sports Development	Disability Sports Development	Disability Sports Development
	18:00	Newbridge Mini RFC	Newbridge Mini RFC	Newbridge Mini RFC
	19:00	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Oakdale Senior Badminton
	20:00	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Oakdale Senior Badminton
	21:00	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Oakdale Senior Badminton	Oakdale Senior Badminton

KEY	
Red	Pont Hall Block Booking
Yellow	Pont Regular Users
Green	Pont ATP Block Booking
White	Free Slot

Potentially Blackwood Comp Astro Turf Pitch Programme

	Half 1	Half 2
Monday 17:00	Treowen Stars FC	
18:00	Booked Out	
19:00	Booked Out	
20:00	Booked Out	

Key

- Booked Out
- Pont Club Slotted in
- Free Slot

	Court 1	Court 2
Tuesday 17:00	Treowen Stars Junior Girls FC - AB	Treowen Stars Under 11's - JG
18:00	Booked Out	
19:00	Booked Out	
20:00		

	Court 1	Court 2
Wednesday 17:00		
18:00	Booked Out	
19:00	Blackwood Juniors RFC	Booked Out
20:00	Pontllanfraith AFC	Pontllanfraith AFC




	Court 1	Court 2
Thursday 17:00	Booked Out	
18:00	Booked Out	
19:00	Booked Out	
20:00		Booked Out

	Court 1	Court 2
Friday 17:00		
18:00		Treowen Stars Junior Girls
19:00	Booked Out	

Potentially SNSC Astro Turf Pitch Programme

	Half 1	Half 2
Mon 17:00	Pengam Junior AFC	Pengam Junior AFC
18:00	Booked Out	Cascade Juniors FC
19:00		
20:00		Ynysddu Youth FC
21:00	Sam Brown Football	Ynysddu Senior FC

KEY

	Booked Out
	Pont Block Booking Slotted In
	Pont Regular Booking Slotted In

	Half 1	Half 2
Tues 17:00	Treowen - LB Stars Junior FC	Treowen Stars Junior Girls FC
18:00	Booked Out	Newbridge Mini Rugby
19:00		Blackwood Juniors RFC
20:00		
21:00	Wattsville AFC	Cwmfelinfach Crusaders Youth

	Half 1	Half 2
Weds 17:00		
18:00	Booked Out	
19:00		
20:00		Ian Rose
21:00	Treowen Stars Seniors FC	Blackwood Seniors RFC

	Half 1	Half 2
Thurs 17:00	Risca United FC	Pengam Mini FC
18:00		
19:00	Booked Out	
20:00		
21:00		Stephen Jenkins

	Half 1	Half 2
Fri 17:00	Wayne Jones Soccer Skills	
18:00	Booked Out	
19:00		
20:00		John Gadd Football
21:00		

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

April 2016

THE COUNCIL'S EQUALITIES STATEMENT

This Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce.

We will also work to create equal access for everyone to our services, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality, responsibility for any dependents or any other reason which cannot be shown to be justified.

NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL*	Closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre
DIRECTORATE	Communities
SERVICE AREA	Sport & Leisure Services
CONTACT OFFICER	Jeff Reynolds Sport & Leisure Services facilities Manager reynoj@caerphilly.gov.uk
DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW OR REVISION	N/A

***Throughout this Equalities Impact Assessment Form, 'proposal' is used to refer to what is being assessed, and therefore includes policies, strategies, functions, procedures, practices, initiatives, projects and savings proposals.**

INTRODUCTION

The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that Equalities and Welsh Language issues have been proactively considered throughout the decision making processes governing work undertaken by every service area in the Council as well as work done at a corporate level.

The form should be used if you have identified a need for a full EIA following the screening process covered in the [Equalities Implications in Committee Reports](#) guidance document (available on the [Equalities and Welsh Language Portal](#) on the Council's intranet).

The EIA should highlight any areas of risk and maximise the benefits of proposals in terms of Equalities. It therefore helps to ensure that the Council has considered everyone who might be affected by the proposal.

It also helps the Council to meet its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and supports the wider aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. There is also a requirement under Human Rights legislation for Local Authorities to consider Human Rights in developing proposals.

Specifically, Section 147 of the Equality Act 2010 is the provision that requires decision-makers to have 'due regard' to the equality implications of their decisions and Welsh Language Standards 88-97 require specific consideration of Welsh speakers under the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015.

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales has also published 'Good Practice Guidance for Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments and Scrutinising Changes to Community Services in Wales' to ensure that Local Authorities, and other service providers, carry out thorough and robust impact assessments and scrutiny when changes to community services are proposed, and that every consideration is given to mitigate the impact on older people and propose alternative approaches to service delivery.

The Council's work across Equalities, Welsh Language and Human Rights is covered in more detail through the [Equalities and Welsh Language Objectives and Action Plan 2016-2020](#).

This approach strengthens work to promote Equalities by helping to identify and address any potential discriminatory effects before introducing something new or changing working practices, and reduces the risk of potential legal challenges.

When carrying out an EIA you should consider both the positive and negative consequences of your proposals. If a project is designed for a specific group e.g. disabled people, you also need to think about what potential effects it could have on other areas e.g. young people with a disability, BME people with a disability.

There are a number of supporting guidance documents available on the [Equalities and Welsh Language Portal](#) and the Council's Equalities and Welsh Language team can offer support as the EIA is being developed. Please note that the team does not write EIAs on behalf of service areas, the support offered is in the form of advice, suggestions and in effect, quality control.

Contact equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk for assistance.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

1	<p>What is the proposal intended to achieve? <i>(Please give a brief description of the purpose of the new or updated proposal by way of introduction.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following the closure of Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School and the opening of Islwyn High School, it is proposed to close Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and transfer existing community usage to Islwyn High School that has similar facilities to accommodate the vast majority of the current programme.• The proposed closure of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will allow CCBC to realise MTFP savings of circa £81, 000 and explore options to generate a significant capital receipt• There is currently a provision of 11 Leisure Centres within Caerphilly County Borough managed by Sport & Leisure Services, along with secondary provision at Ysgol cwm Rhymni, Lewis Boys, Islwyn High and Y-Gwindy School that provide community based sport and leisure facilities• Within a 5 mile / 20 minute drive time of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre there is Cefn Fforest, Heolddu. Sue Noake and Newbridge Leisure Centre all with facilities that mirror the availability at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
2	<p>Who are the service users affected by the proposal? <i>(Who will be affected by the delivery of this proposal? e.g. staff members, the public generally, or specific sections of the public i.e. youth groups, carers, road users, people using country parks, people on benefits etc.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre currently supports a broad programme of activities across a diverse age range. This includes a number of junior, youth and adult clubs and organisations across a range of activities from football, rugby, badminton and martial arts. There is a programme of leisure Centre delivery in areas such as fitness based classes. The facility also 'hosts' Islwyn Running club.• There is a cohort of six staff employed by CCBC who are currently based at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre

IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

3	<p>Does the proposal ensure that everyone has an equal access to all the services available or proposed, or benefits equally from the proposed changes, or does not lose out in greater or more severe ways due to the proposals? <i>(What has been done to examine whether or not these groups have equal access to the service, or whether they need to receive the service in a different way from other people?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>PUBLIC</u> The vast majority of the existing programme can be accommodated either at Islwyn High School or with other Leisure Centres within the CCBC portfolio. Booking for Islwyn High School will be taken directly through the school, however there will be programme support from Sport & Leisure Services to ensure there remains a balanced programme of activity and availability of access <p>The current clubs, groups and associations using the 3G football pitch at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre are most at risk due to the same facility at Islwyn High School currently operating a community based programme. CCBC has articulated an aspiration to develop a new 3G facility housed within Blackwood Comprehensive School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>STAFF</u> Vacancies have been identified within the service area to support the staff based at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre. Two staff members have requested voluntary severance and these requests will be supported. <p>Trade Unions have been consulted on the proposal and have not raised any issues on the basis that substantive posts for all affected are protected within the service area</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Further discussions with Islwyn High School to support the current Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre programme</p> <p>Ongoing investigation to support the aspiration to develop a new 3G facility at Blackwood Comprehensive School as part of 21st Century Schools Band B provision. Timescale to be confirmed</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>What are the consequences of the above for specific groups? <i>(Has the service delivery been examined to assess if there is any indirect affect on any groups? Could the consequences of the policy or savings proposal differ dependent upon people’s disability, race, gender, sexuality, age, language, religion/belief?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vast majority of user groups will be accommodated at Islwyn High School • Those groups who currently access facilities at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre that are not available at Islwyn High School will be able to access them at other CCBC facilities within the Sport and Leisure Services portfolio • Potential loss of service provision for existing 3G users • Those users without access to a car may need to consider public transport options
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Review of current bookings at alternative 3G / Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) facilities to support clubs currently housed at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>In line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. (No.1) Regulations 2015, please note below what effects, if any (whether positive or adverse), the proposal would have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. <i>(The specific Policy Making Standards requirements are Standard numbers 88, 89, 90, 91, 92 and 93. The full detail of each Standard is available on the Equalities and Welsh Language Portal)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This proposal does not have any positive or adverse effects on the provisions set out in the Welsh Language Standards (No1)
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>N/A</p>

INFORMATION COLLECTION

6	<p>Is full information and analysis of users of the service available? <i>(Is this service effectively engaging with all its potential users or is there higher or lower participation of uptake by one or more groups? If so, what has been done to address any difference in take up of the service? Does any savings proposals include an analysis of those affected?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications have taken place with all existing users through a thorough consultation process• Meetings have been held with local ward members and ward members of neighbouring wards• Access to certain facilities at Islwyn High School has been placed on hold to accommodate clubs and organisations from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre.
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Ongoing review of 3G / ATP bookings to reduce the impact upon those clubs, groups, organisations who may be most at risk</p>

CONSULTATION

7	<p>What consultation has taken place? <i>(What steps have been taken to ensure that people from various groups have been consulted during the development of this proposal? Have the Council's Equalities staff been consulted? Have you referred to the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A full and comprehensive public consultation process has been undertaken and supported by CCBC Communications Team, to include all users, local members, town and community councils and other stakeholders• Two open forums have been held at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre providing current users with the opportunity to engage in discussion and register comments, observations and concerns• Two 'surgery' type forums have also been held with users to establish individual concerns and explore opportunities to mitigate
----------	---

	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Upon completion of the consultation exercise, a further report will be presented to cabinet for consideration</p>
--	--

MONITORING AND REVIEW

8	<p>How will the proposal be monitored? <i>(What monitoring process has been set up to assess the extent that the service is being used by all sections of the community, or that the savings proposals are achieving the intended outcomes with no adverse impact? Are comments or complaints systems set up to record issues by Equalities category to be able analyse responses from particular groups?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport and Leisure Services operate a robust, systematic Customer Comments and engagement process that is regularly reviewed for trend data.
	<p>Actions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to review customer feedback via established Sport & Leisure Systems. • Regular engagement with groups, clubs and organisations • Regular engagement with groups, clubs and organisations

<p>9</p>	<p>How will the monitoring be evaluated? <i>(What methods will be used to ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are being met?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport and Leisure Services operate a robust, systematic Customer Comments process that is regularly reviewed for trend data. • Consideration given to all observations and responses submitted as part of consultation process
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>As above</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified? <i>(Has the EIA or consultation process shown a need for awareness raising amongst staff, or identified the need for Equalities or Welsh Language training of some sort?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, Customer bookings at Islwyn High School will be taken through contacting the school directly as per any other CCBC Leisure Centre
	<p>Actions required:</p>

11	<p>Where you have identified mitigating factors in previous answers that lessen the impact on any particular group in the community, or have identified any elsewhere, please summarise them here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vast majority of user groups will be accommodated at Islwyn High School. • Current daytime classes at Pontllanfraith, ie: Yoga, can be accommodated at Newbridge Leisure Centre • There are a number of CCBC Sport and Leisure facilities within a five mile drive time including Cefn Fforest, Newbridge, Sue Noake and Heolddu Leisure Centre's that can also accommodate aspects of the programme • Ongoing review of 3G / ATP bookings to reduce the impact upon those clubs, groups, organisations who may be most at risk
-----------	--

12	<p>What wider use will you make of this Equality Impact Assessment? <i>(What use will you make of this document i.e. as a consultation response, appendix to approval reports, publicity etc. in addition to the mandatory action shown below?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To evaluate impact of any decision on particular groups, users, organisations, staff, members of the public and broader stakeholders. • Used as part of the Council's decision making process in support of the adoption and delivery of Sport & Leisure Service strategy. • The EIA will be an appendix to the report taken forward to cabinet for a decision.
	<p>Actions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIA, when completed, to be returned to equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk for publishing on the Council's website.

Completed by:	Jeff Reynolds
Date:	
Position:	Sport & Leisure Services Facilities Manager
Name of Head of Service:	Mark S Williams