

21st Century Schools Consultation Document 2020

YSGOL GYMRAEG CWM GWYDDON

14th September 2020– 26th October 2020



This document is available electronically at

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools

Information can also be made available in other formats, languages and in hard copy on request.

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Introduction

➤ What is this booklet about?

Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has embarked upon an exciting but challenging journey of improvement and change.

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

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

This booklet is for anyone who has an interest in education in Caerphilly and may be of particular interest to parents/guardians of children attending or expecting to attend Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon has been identified as a priority site for development. This booklet sets out the changes we are suggesting to this primary education facility in the Borough and the reasons for these proposed changes.

The consultation process represents an opportunity for people to learn about the proposal, ask questions and make comments that will be recorded and summarised in a consultation report. This report will be published on the Council's website and will be considered when Cabinet decides on the way forward.

➤ What is the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme?

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

The first part of the programme (Band A) ran from 2014 to March 2019.

Caerphilly has benefited greatly from investments in the initial "Band A" 21st Century Schools programme with approximately £56.5 million invested in schools for both educational and community use.

Band A funding in Caerphilly was used to deliver :



- ✓ Islwyn High School
- ✓ Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Rhymni, Y Gwyndy Campus
- ✓ Idris Davies School 3-18
- ✓ Newbridge School extension
- ✓ Blackwood Comprehensive improvements
- ✓ Blackwood Comprehensive 3G pitch
- ✓ Trinity Fields School improvements

The second part of this funding (Band B) started in April 2019, with the priority areas being:

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

Caerphilly County Borough Council submitted a Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) and received Welsh government approval in principle for an identified investment of £78 million, subject to individual project consultation and approval.

The SOP sets the strategic vision for the Band B programme within the context of the priorities and wellbeing goals of the Council. We identified a need to invest in improving our school buildings, meeting the demand for education in both Welsh and English, reducing surplus places and developing shared and co-located facilities and it is this aspiration that is driving this proposal.

➤ What are we proposing to do?

We are proposing to:

- **Relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated on the vacant site of the former Cwmcarn High School (Cwmcarn, NP11 7NG) with an anticipated occupation date of September 2023**
- It is proposed that the new building will incorporate a primary facility with Childcare, Special Resource Base (SRB), Nursery, Rising Threes and main school classrooms, main assembly hall, food technology space, a library and IT space
- The identified site will also have sufficient accommodation to facilitate a new building that will provide accommodation for approximately 420 pupils plus 60 nursery places and 16 SRB places and ensure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development and delivery of inclusive education through delivery of the full curriculum to pupils in a modern, safe and inspiring learning environment

- The new building will provide a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT facilities, centered on the learning, self-esteem and well-being of all pupils and improve lifelong learning opportunities for members of the community to strengthen and safeguard the promotion of the Welsh language, culture and heritage across Caerphilly East
- The new building will have improved the outside learning space offering external play areas, a tarmacadam MUGA area and access to a grass pitch. The usage of sporting facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable
- The proposed project will take into account the desire to encourage and facilitate community use of the asset. The design process will seek to include measures to enable safe 'zoning' of parts of the new school building, including the hall and a multi-functional classroom compliant space which could be adapted for use



Library / IT / Breakout Areas 'The Street'



Typical Classroom



External Softplay Areas



Hall and Dining

Images above are examples of what has been achieved as part of a Band A project at Idris Davies 3-18, Rhydney



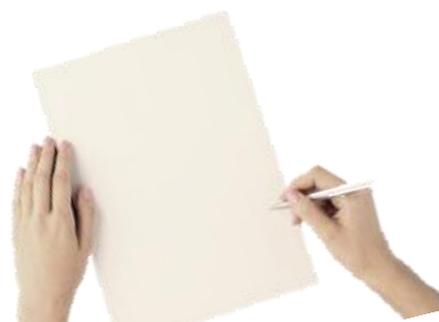
Consultation Process

➤ Who are we consulting with?

Our consultation process must follow the Welsh Government guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018. Proposals must be published when we make a 'regulated alteration' to a maintained school under Section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

We are obligated to advise the following of our proposals by letter or email:

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



➤ **How can you find out more?**

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

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

As part of this proposal, the following documentation has been produced:

- A Consultation Document outlining the proposal (this document)
- A Children and Young People's Summary
- An Equalities and Welsh Language Impact Assessment
- A Community Impact Assessment (contained in this document)

The Welsh Language Standards are a set of legally binding requirements that aim to allow people in Wales the ability to receive services in the Welsh language. The Standards clearly set out our responsibilities in terms of providing bilingual services, ensuring the Welsh language is not treated less favorably than the English language. All documentation is therefore published in Welsh and English and available in other languages or formats on request. Further information is available on the Council's website

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools

Hardcopies can be made available on request and further details in relation to the processes and timelines can be found later in this document in the **'Next Steps'** Section.

Please note: A separate Planning Application Process will be carried out by the Authority's Property Services Department and details of all applications can be found on the Council's Website when the process is live:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Planning-and-building-control/Planning-applications>

➤ **Views of children on the proposal**

The Council has acknowledged that the voice of young people is about involving them as active participants in the development, delivery, management and improvement of their educational and student experience and needs to be at the heart of planning, provision and evaluation.

Young people have a right to act to express their views in all matters affecting them and for their views to be heard and given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity. The Council recognises the potential of young people to enrich the decision-making processes, to share perspectives and to participate as citizens and facilitators of change.

This is also been reflected by the Estyn report 'Pupil Participation: a best practice guide', which highlights how effective participation benefits pupils and helps schools to improve.

The 21st Century Schools Team in Caerphilly will ensure that when bringing forward any proposal, suitable arrangements are made to consult and involve pupils throughout the process and post occupancy.

The Council will consult with pupils in the school and the information gathered will be included in the final consultation report. A virtual meeting using video conferencing technology (Microsoft Teams / Zoom) will be undertaken to discuss the proposal with the school council and talk them through the child friendly version of the Consultation document. This recorded discussion will be included in the documentation forwarded to Cabinet for consideration once the consultation period has ended.



Why are we proposing these changes?

➤ Background Information

New buildings can play a key role not only as places to inspire and educate our children but also as vibrant and dynamic learning environments in which all ages are able to learn and grow that are used not only by pupils but by families and the wider community. Our aim is to secure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development of inclusive education and giving a commitment to providing the best possible quality of education and services within available resources.

The Council is committed to providing all children and young people with high quality education, tailored to meet their needs, which will develop their potential, extend aspiration, promote social inclusion and contribute to the economic regeneration of the area. Progress has been made, however there is still work to be done to improve outcomes and wellbeing for all children and young people.

In addition, Welsh Government approved Caerphilly's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) in 2018. Caerphilly currently has 11 Welsh-medium primary schools, each providing education for pupils between 3 and 11 years. The establishment of this new fit-for-purpose facility and the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon Welsh-medium primary school will assist in reaching these objectives and will support Welsh Government's charter of achieving 1 million Welsh speakers across Wales by 2050.

In November 2020, the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon will have occupied their current site for 20 years. Located in the heart of a small village, the school is the 3rd occupier of the site which has seen multiple incarnations over the years to utilise the asset to its fullest extent.

There are approximately 260 pupils on roll, an additional 180 to the original concept to house 80 when the school was originally handed occupancy of the site.

The site the school occupies has a total area of approximately 0.3 Hectares which accommodates 5 structures and limited outdoor play areas. The site is enclosed on all sides, with no option for expansion, and has no direct access routes other than via a side street adjacent to the local public houses and village institute. Notably the site is also on a slanted gradient,

resulting in multiple levels for both indoor and outdoor space which significantly reduces access and functionality for less able-bodied individuals.



Whilst it was acknowledged in the 2013 Estyn Report that the school makes *'The best possible use of the resources available both inside and outside the building to enrich the curriculum'*, there are limitations which have been inherited due to the nature of the site. The report also stated that *'Purposeful use is made of the school's accommodation and grounds for play and Learning' with 'sufficient resources for the purposes of the Curriculum'*. However, with developments in the curriculum over the last 6 year period and increased pressure from the new Curriculum for Wales will result in additional strain is being placed on ensuring fit for purpose resources and facilities and will do so for the foreseeable future if the situation is left unchanged.

When the school estate was surveyed in May 2018, Cwm Gwyddon was deemed to have passed the 60 year life expectancy. Despite investment in the site, it can no longer be developed from an educational perspective as there is insufficient space within the current site to expand the school any further.

The Authority believes that this proposal represents the best opportunity to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future and provides a platform for improvement through significant investment in permanent facilities. This will provide a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT facilities, outdoor play and extended access provision for community use, centred on the learning, self-esteem and wellbeing of all.

There is a clear link between new and improved school buildings and improved performance as highlighted by ESTYN. Increased school performance will lead to additional pupils accessing Welsh Medium Education locally, increasing the critical mass and providing more professional teaching opportunities for teachers.

➤ **Planning of school places**

All Councils in Wales must make sure they provide enough school spaces for pupils of all ages in order to provide the best quality of education and ensure the funding provided by the Welsh government is used effectively. All Councils in Wales must also provide places that meet the needs of the pupils in Welsh, English or faith medium and must be suitable for any additional learning needs.

There has been a significant increase in Welsh medium provision within CCBC since its inception in 1996. Pupil numbers in Primary schools have increased by over 60% to a current level in excess of 2900. During this 20-year period, 3 additional schools were established, with 7 of the 8 original schools either being replaced or receiving adaptations / extensions to increase capacity. The Council's commitment to Welsh medium education development continues to be a priority as evidenced in Band A and as part of this Band B proposal of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme

➤ **Condition and Suitability of school buildings**

As well as having the right number of school places the council must ensure that school facilities are fit for purpose. Schools must support the delivery of high quality learning.

All existing Caerphilly schools have recently been subject to a Building Condition survey. Condition surveys are evidence-based auditable records and undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced personnel. The current Cwm Gwyddon site has been judged to be in condition C on a scale of A (excellent) to D (poor).



The existing main building (pictured above), was built around 1890 and operates over 2 floors. The ground floor houses 3 classrooms, pupil cloakrooms, 2 offices and a reception area. There is also a hall which does not offer the required capacity to completely fulfil the curricular need (i.e. Physical Education classes need to be split to half class as no more than 15 pupils per session) and there is no direct access to outdoor play space. Accommodation of whole school

assemblies or concerts is also unfeasible, and the school negotiates use of off-site facilities such as the Memorial Hall in Newbridge which is 2 miles away from the school. This incurs both rental and travel costs but, more importantly results in significant timetable issues and lost education time for pupils. Due to the camber on the site, the building has several internal steps to access the split level.

The 1st floor is only accessible via numerous staircases and is not fully accessible. It accommodates 4 further classrooms, an ICT suite and a multi-use Library and music room with minimal storage capacity. Asbestos has also been identified in the fabric of the building, although this is tightly controlled and contained at present, however this makes any additional modifications to the site restricted.

The 2nd substantive building located on site, houses the main kitchen, eating area, Cylch Meithrin and Menter Iaith provision. The eating area only accommodates 80 in one sitting which places additional logistical requirements on the school timetable to accommodate all the pupils on a rolling programme of lunches over a 2-hour timeslot. The facility has 2 access points, both of which are only accessible via steps hence the hall is utilised for overspill with ramped access resulting in the hall not being available for extra-curricular activities during this time slot.

There are 3 additional single story prefabricated modular buildings and a single storage container to accommodate the additional pupils and storage needs of the site. These additions have been relocated and refurbished from other schools and as a result have significantly reduced the outdoor play area.

➤ **Illustrative Master Plan**

'A Foundation for Success' provide a framework for the future regeneration of the County Borough up to 2023. The document sets out strategic priorities for regeneration under four key themes:

- Supporting People (reducing inequality, building capacity and resilience to create healthier, prosperous, cohesive communities);
- Supporting Business (creating employment opportunities, increasing entrepreneurial activities, encouraging innovation and improving access to employment);
- Supporting Quality of Life (providing the right physical environment for our communities that encourages them to prosper);
- Connecting People and Places (improving connectivity locally, regionally and globally).

The Regeneration Strategy is supported by a suite of targeted action plans and strategies aimed at capturing regeneration opportunities and developing key sites and premises throughout the County Borough.

The Masterplan identifies a number of projects in the area that could deliver substantial economic and community benefit, and it will provide a framework for the delivery of those projects.



How would other schools be affected?

Changes in one part of the Education sector in the County has a wider 'ripple' effect on other schools and their pupils. When considering any proposals, the sustainability and enhancement of the education network and wider area is considered. Due regard will be given to the impact of this proposal and consultation will be undertaken with any affected schools.

➤ Early Years Provision and Projected Demand

In the current school provision, there is space for a Cylch Meithrin and Clwb Meithrin & Clwb Carco in an aging demountable. They will be relocated into a new childcare setting as part of the new school development. We anticipate this new development and potential for further development on the site in future projects along with the Childcare Offer may significantly increase demand for childcare. The movement of the Welsh medium school further down the Islwyn corridor is likely to also increase demand. Across the borough there is an increasing demand for Welsh medium places and with the new Welsh Education Strategic Plan regulations there is also a stretching target for development of Welsh medium places. The increase in school provision will require a similar percentage increase in childcare places to meet the needs of working families across the age range 0-12years. There is also increasing parental demand for childcare in the Risca area (referenced in the CSA refresh 2020).

The childcare provision required will be two rooms initially for 20 places am and pm in each room for Welsh medium provision. They will also require office space, kitchen, staff toilet and 4 children's toilets in the development, as well as the ability to separate the area by alarm from the rest of the school to run outside of school opening hours. In the childcare regulations and guidance for providing quality provision there is a requirement to sufficient outdoor space to allow physical activity as well as enable all the areas of learning to be met outside.

We anticipate the current third sector providers operating the provision. Current provision includes:

- Cylch Meithrin Cwm Gwyddon (playgroup for 2-3year olds) – run by management committee who are a registered charity – 16 places (am only)
- Clwb Meithrin Cwm Gwyddon (wraparound for rising ¾ attending FP in school) – run by Menter Iaith Caerffili – offering 48 places – operating am and pm from Sept 2018
- Clwb Carco Cwm Gwyddon (after school provision for 4-11 year olds) – run by Menter Iaith Caerffili – 24 places

We would also aim to support them to develop and register Clwb Gwyliau (holiday provision) which may increase demand through the Childcare Offer. The development of this provision using childcare specific funding ensures that it cannot be brought into use by the school and displace the childcare and therefore builds long term certainty for the settings to develop their business. The shared use of new facilities enables greater economic efficiencies and more sustainability financially.

We anticipate 48 childcare places at any one time therefore this could look like:

- 24 playgroup morning
- 72 wraparound (24 am and 48 pm) [potential 50-72 childcare offer places]

- 48 after school [potential 10 childcare offer places]
- 48 holiday places [potential 20-30 childcare offer places]

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

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

Demand – the Head Teacher has requested the Clwb Meithrin operate morning and afternoon from Sept 2018 and had moved the setting from a 16 place space to a 24 place classroom. The new school will be located lower down the Islwyn Valley and will likely capture children from the Cross keys and Risca areas where the transition rates from the current Cylchoedd Meithrin has been traditionally very low because of the travelling distance to the Welsh Primary’s current location.

Additional places created on top of current provision:

- Playgroup (Cylch Meithrin) – additional 8 places
- Wrap (Clwb Meithrin) – additional 24 places
- After School (Clwb Carco) – additional 24 places
- Holiday (Clwb Gwyliau – additional 48 places

➤ Primary Years Provision, Growing school model and Admissions

Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon opened to pupils in November 1992, and the school is growing year-on-year. Although the school is established as a ‘growing school’, there is only physical capacity on the existing permanent site for up to 168 pupils.

Number on roll (2019-20 actual):

| Year | 2019-20 |
|-------------|---------|
| Cwm Gwyddon | 207 |

Projected Numbers for the current School Site

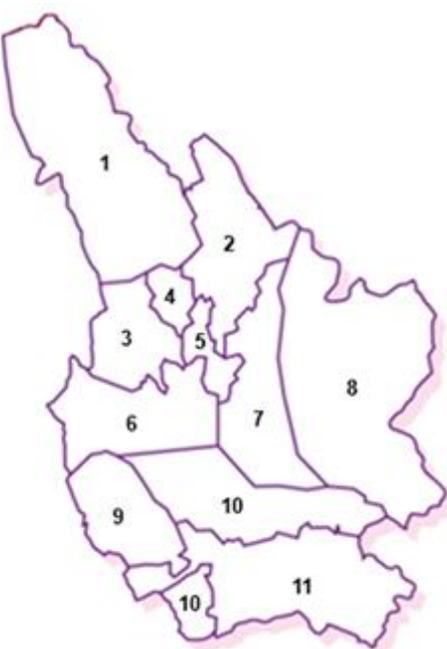
| Year | No. on Roll | Excluding Nursery |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 2020 | 234 | 205 |
| 2021 | 231 | 202 |
| 2022 | 231 | 200 |
| 2023 | 232 | 202 |
| 2024 | 233 | 203 |
| 2025 | 242 | 212 |

The model of growth for the school is set out below:

| Admission Year | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Capacity | 315 | 350 | 385 | 420 |

Increasing the admission number by a manageable amount will allow stimulation of the demands for Welsh medium while not over developing the provision to destabilise other already established educational provisions within the area. It is anticipated that the admission number for the new school will be 45 when the school initially opens and will be increased incrementally by 5 per year until it reaches its full capacity of 60 pupils. This will also support the management of surplus places in the area. By allowing the school to grow on an annual basis it will protect the other schools in the area from potentially losing pupils.

➤ **Catchment Area Arrangements**

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

The next nearest Community Welsh Medium School to the existing site and proposed site of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon is Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen:

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

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

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

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

➤ **Disruption to pupils**

The proposal seeks to build a new school facility on an alternative location to that of the current school. As such, there will be no disruption to pupils on the Cwm Gwyddon site during the build phase. In addition, there will also be no transportation or access related issues as construction is off site.

➤ **Secondary Provision**

It is clear how important the Welsh language is to life in Wales. Maintaining and increasing the range of Welsh medium provision is a significant challenge for the Council. Changes to Welsh medium primary education will inevitably have an impact upon Welsh medium secondary education

The more pupils who enjoy a Welsh medium primary education, the more are likely to attend Welsh medium secondary education and have the fullest opportunities to live their lives in Wales using the Welsh language.

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



What will be the impact of the proposal?

➤ Education Standards, Quality and Leadership

During the implementation of the project, the school will continue to receive ongoing advice and support from the local authority, school improvement service and any relevant stakeholders to help ensure that the school maintains effective leadership and provides high quality teaching and learning experiences.

Quality and standards in schools in Caerphilly are monitored by Estyn and the Local Authority (LA). Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales. It is a Crown body, established under the Education Act 1992. Estyn is independent of the National Assembly for Wales but receives its funding from the Welsh Government under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998. Estyn inspects quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales.

The most recent inspection result of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon is outlined below:

| Summary of ESTYN Judgements: Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon – inspected March 2020 | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| IA1 – Standards | IA2 – Wellbeing and attitudes to learning | IA3 – Teaching and learning experiences | IA4 – Care, support and guidance | IA5 – Leadership and management |
| Excellent | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent |

The school received an Estyn inspection in 2020, therefore, the published reports reflect the revised inspection framework introduced in September 2017. As detailed below, the five inspection areas indicate that Cwm Gwyddon is a highly effective setting, with strong leadership, providing excellent learning experiences and provision to all pupils.

Notable features in the report, linked to the key inspection areas, are itemised below:

1. Standards:

- Nearly all pupils make very strong progress, and many make higher than the expected progress in developing their literacy, numeracy, and information and communication technology (ICT) skills.
- Nearly all pupils develop as conscientious and confident learners with mature independent working skills.
- Nearly all pupils' speaking and listening skills are of very high quality.
- Nearly all pupils communicate very maturely in both languages and express their ideas, opinions and feelings effectively and clearly when working in pairs, groups and as a whole class.
- Nearly all pupils write interesting extended pieces of a high standard in both languages

2. Wellbeing and attitudes to learning:

- Nearly all pupils' behaviour is excellent across the school.
- Nearly all pupils are highly conscientious, express their opinions effectively and take their leadership duties seriously as members of various councils.
- Nearly all pupils have an excellent attitude towards their learning.
- Nearly all are enthusiastic in lessons and work diligently for extended periods when completing their activities.
- Nearly all pupils show obvious pride in their Welshness and very positive attitudes towards the Welsh language.

3. Teaching and Learning:

- Teachers provide a stimulating and imaginative curriculum that develops pupils' skills very successfully across the areas of learning.
- Nearly all pupils, including those who are eligible for free school meals, make good progress or better in their learning.
- The school promotes Welshness highly effectively through a wide range of rich activities for pupils to learn about Welsh history and culture and use the Welsh language at every opportunity.

4. Care, guidance and support

- The quality of care, support and guidance that are provided by the school is excellent, and has a very positive effect on pupils' standards and wellbeing.
- The school has very strong links with its community and takes full advantage of its support
- Opportunities that pupils are given to develop their creative and expressive arts skills are an excellent feature.

5. Leadership:

- The headteacher provides innovative, strong and caring leadership.
- Leaders share a clear vision for the school, which focuses strongly on supporting pupils' wellbeing, and developing ambitious and confident learners within a Welsh environment. This vision is shared very successfully with all stakeholders.
- The school has excellent pedagogical partnerships with Welsh-medium schools in south east Wales.

For comparative purposes, an overview of Estyn outcomes for the nearest Welsh-Medium and 3 English Medium primaries has been included:

| Name of school | Date of inspection | Inspection pre/post revised framework | Judgements |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen | June 2015 | Pre-revised framework | <p>School's current performance: good Prospects for improvement: good</p> <p>Standards: good Wellbeing: adequate Learning experiences: good Teaching: good Care, guidance and support: good Learning environment: good</p> <p>Leadership: good Improving quality: good Partnership working: good Resource management: good</p> |
| Abercarn Primary | November 2017 | Post revised framework | <p>Standards: good Wellbeing and attitudes to learning: good Teaching: good Care, guidance and support: good Leadership: good</p> |
| Cwmcarn Primary | May 2017 | Pre-revised framework | <p>School's current performance: adequate Prospects for improvement: good</p> <p>Standards: adequate Wellbeing: adequate Learning experiences: good Teaching: good Care, guidance and support: good Learning environment: good</p> <p>Leadership: good Improving quality: good Partnership working: good Resource management: adequate</p> |
| Waunfawr Primary | March 2017 | Pre-revised framework | <p>School's current performance: good Prospects for improvement: good</p> <p>Standards: good Wellbeing: good Learning experiences: good Teaching: good Care, guidance and support: good Learning environment: good</p> <p>Leadership: good Improving quality: good Partnership working: good Resource management: good</p> |

Consideration of the potential impact of the proposal on quality and standards is aligned with the Estyn Inspection framework. Considering the findings in the published report, it is not expected that any of the inspection areas will be adversely affected. Indeed, the information outlined in the proposal will indicate how the school can continue to develop and build on their current excellent practice. Throughout the transition period, the school will continue to receive appropriate support and challenge from the local authority and school improvement service to ensure that standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning, teaching and learning, care, guidance and support and leadership retain their current effectiveness.

➤ **Governance Arrangements and School Categorisation**

There are no anticipated changes to school governance arrangements at Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon as a result of this proposal. The governing body will continue in its current form.

The National School Categorisation system provides a useful picture in identifying the schools that need the most help, support and guidance to improve. The system has been developed collectively between regional education consortia and Welsh Government. Historically, the school has been identified as a 'green' school, therefore, requiring limited levels of support to self-improve.

It should be noted that due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, national categorisation has been suspended from September 2020. However, support is available to schools that require additional intervention and guidance.

➤ **Staff Matters**

School staff play an important role in ensuring pupils are learning in a safe and supportive learning environment. They can foster positive, trusting relationships with pupils and improve the school climate by encouraging parent and family involvement in education.

By forging strong relationships, staff can affect virtually every aspect of their pupils' lives, teaching them the important life lessons that will help them succeed beyond just academia. It is not always easy to change a pupil's life, which is why it takes a great teacher to do so.

The Council recognises that retaining the experience and support of the existing staff cohort at the school will support pupils through a period of transition. This proposal will not look to make any reductions in the current arrangements, quite the opposite. This proposal supports the potential to expand provision, breadth of knowledge accessible to the pupils and encourage workforce development through the sharing of best practice.

➤ **Financial Matters**

Funding has already been set aside for the Council's share of the capital costs of the project. The recurrent (revenue) costs will be considered as part of budget planning moving forward. Any additional costs or savings will be factored into the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Caerphilly CBC Members have already agreed to set aside an earmarked reserve for the Council's contribution to capital costs associated with the Authority's 21st Century Band B

proposals. The value of this reserve is currently £6.975m. Cabinet has agreed to allocate £5.766m from this reserve to support two Band B Projects, the Cwm Gwyddon proposal being one of these (Cabinet 10th July 2019 / Cabinet 22nd July 2020)

At this point in time no capital receipts or recurrent cost savings have been identified to support the progression of these Projects. Funds have already been identified and earmarked for the Council's share of the capital costs of the Projects.

Whilst there is an initial increased cost identified as part of the initial expansion of provision, it is envisaged that better strategic Management of the school estate and reduced backlog maintenance will support the sustainable schools agenda. In addition, the existing school premises will be declared surplus to requirements by the Local Education Authority and in turn could produce a Capital Receipt that would help support future strategic plans.

➤ **Impact on Welsh Language Provision**

The First Minister's programme for Government 2016-2021 Taking Wales Forward, is working towards one million people speaking the Welsh language by 2050.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019, provides a series of standards and places a statutory duty on the Council to assess the demand for Welsh medium education in the area. One of the key standards is a requirement to develop a 5 year Welsh language strategy, with the aim of increasing the number of Welsh speakers and which will enable us to facilitate the use of the Welsh Language within the county borough.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan sets out Caerphilly's commitment to the Promotion of Welsh language and the provision of quality, attractive educational facilities. Within the WESP we are striving to stimulate demand for Welsh medium education, which we know is more sustainable for families if education provision is expanded in line with childcare available.

One of the objectives of the WESP is.

“To identify funding in Band B of 21st Century Schools programme, for the development of sufficient Welsh medium places in areas where they are coming under pressure, in particular Bedwas Trethomas Machen area, and the Islwyn East area.”

The Cwm Gwyddon proposal falls within the Islwyn East area which has been highlighted as an area for development. In order to contribute to the Welsh Government target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050, there is significant importance in improving provision in Welsh medium childcare and education, as well as working in partnership with community based groups or organisations to continue the use of conversational Welsh socially or in the workplace following the end of formal education. Without the continued use of Welsh there is a risk young people from English speaking households may lose confidence in their Welsh language skills.

We will aim to stimulate and provide local, accessible, sustainable, community-focused provision to meet the growing demand for Welsh medium education.

Under Section 105(7) of the Education Act 2002 – “A Welsh speaking school is a school where more than half of the following subjects are taught wholly or partly in Welsh – a) Religious

Education, and b) The subjects other than English and Welsh which are foundation subjects in relation to pupils at the school.

➤ Learner Travel Arrangements

All Councils have a statutory duty under Section 10 of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh. There are 11 Welsh Medium Primary Schools spread geographically throughout the Borough and 10 English Medium Schools within the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

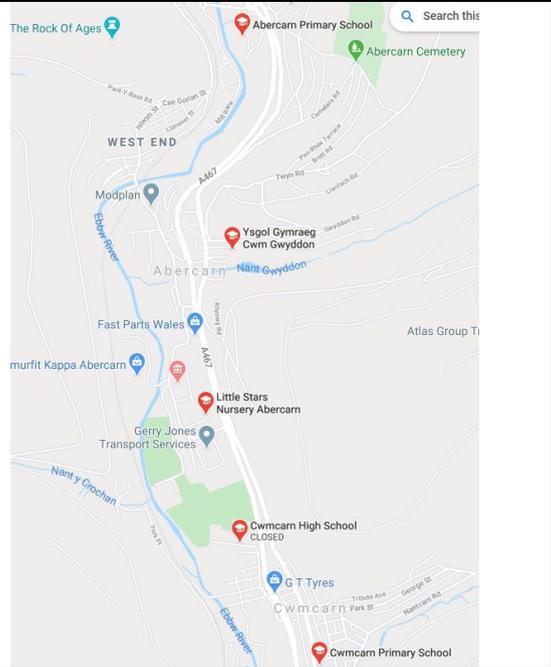
The proposal will seek to create a new and enhanced facility through the relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to the former Cwmcarn High site which is less than 1 mile from the existing school site.

It is anticipated that the likely effect of different travelling arrangements as a result of the proposal will be minimal, although it is acknowledged that some pupils may find themselves living closer to the new school site and conversely others finding themselves further away although the difference between the two sites is minimal.

Caerphilly complies with the requirements of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 through providing transport to Welsh medium schools for pupils of statutory school age in accordance with our individual transport policy. Caerphilly's transport policy is more generous than the legislative requirement by providing transport to the 'relevant' school (i.e. catchment or nearest school) of more than a distance of 1.5 miles primary and 2 miles secondary.

The table below details the nearest available alternatives:

| Nearest Alternative | Medium | Condition | Distance / Travel |
|---|---------|-----------|-------------------|
| Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen, NP12 0JL | Welsh | C+ | More than 5 miles |
| Abercarn Primary School, NP11 5LH | English | B+ | 1.8 miles |
| Cwmcarn Primary, NP11 7LZ | English | C+ | 0.7 miles |
| Waunfawr Primary, NP11 7PG | English | B | 1.5 miles |



The map shows the geographical layout of the area. Key locations include Abercarn Primary School, Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon, Cwmcarn High School (marked as closed), Cwmcarn Primary School, and Cwmcarn Park. Other landmarks like 'The Rock Of Ages', 'Abercarn Cemetery', and 'Little Stars Nursery Abercarn' are also visible. The map includes a search bar and various street names like 'A467' and 'Nant-y-cochlan'.

➤ Equalities

The 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.

Impact assessments help us to show that the council has due regard in the exercise of its equality duty under the Equality Act 2010. They are a tool we use to ensure the policies, practices, projects and activities which shape our work are ensuring equal access to all our services.

Impact assessments look at whether changes to how we do things (like working practices or ways we deliver services) are likely to have a positive or negative impact on the people we serve and on those who deliver our services. They help us to plan to reduce or remove negative impact – for example by making reasonable changes to how a group receives a service (perhaps providing information in a different format or providing ramped access into a building etc.).

A full Equalities and Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been undertaken. This document is available to view a part of the consultation pack on the website.

In addition, in line with the recommendations of the School Organisational Code 2018, a Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken (as per below) :

| School Organisation Code 2018 <i>Please provide information regarding ...</i> | Community Impact Assessment |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of pupils from the catchment area that attend the school | 94.94% as of January 2020 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of pupils from outside the catchment area that attend the school | 5.06% as of January 2020 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other facilities the school accommodates e.g. youth club/play group | The school currently accommodates Cylch Meithrin and Clwb Meithrin & Clwb Carco |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other facilities or services the school provides e.g. after school clubs, community library | The school currently supports a handful of community groups including Welsh classes, Mother and Toddler sessions and an ICT class |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, where they would be provided in the event of closure; | The new site would look to continue to support the current activities on sites at Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon with an enhanced facility being constructed within 1 mile of current site. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whether other facilities available in the immediate local or wider community will or could be enhanced in the event of a school closure | The proposal is to relocate the school. Whilst the proposal is not linked to a closure of the school, it is acknowledged that current groups using the site may not wish to travel. In such instances, the local community have access to Abercarn Library and the local Village Hall as alternative venues. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities and services provided at any alternative school | The proposal withstanding, the next Welsh medium Primary school within proximity of the area is Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen. The 3 closest English Medium schools are Cwmcarn Primary, Abercarn Primary, and Waunfawr Primary. These schools are able |

| | |
|---|---|
| | to accommodate groups/afterschool clubs although they are not specifically built for community usage and will require negotiation with Head Teacher on site. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school of the same language category | The next nearest Welsh medium primary school within the Authority is Ysgol Cwm Derwen. Based on information gained from Googlemaps, Ysgol Cwm Derwen is 5 miles away from Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon which approximates a car journey of 10 minutes or a bus journey of 40 minutes based on available public transport routes. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported (e.g. how pupils (and particularly any less advantaged pupils) will be helped to participate in after school activities) | With reference to any out of hours activity, the onus is on the parents as these are classed as non-statutory hours and the Council is under no legal obligation to support these. However, the Authority does have a pro-active Youth Team who would be able to provide additional advice for families who require additional support. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact on health and wellbeing | The Council supports the Active Travel initiative in providing safe routes to the new school site to encourage pupils to walk/cycle to school. For those less able, the new facility will also provide improved access and internal space to encourage independence for pupils to remain active and engaged. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions | A minimal impact is anticipated as the new location is within 1 mile of the current site and the existing public transport routes would be utilised for example the 151 bus. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider community safety issues | These issues will be looked at as part of the Planning Application process. Further information on where to access this information is referenced earlier in this document |

➤ Specialist Facilities / Additional Learning Needs

A key responsibility of the Council is to ensure that there are sufficient pupil places in the most appropriate locations and maintain an awareness of demographic changes (i.e increases and decreases in the pupil population). The Council is also required to identify an authority-wide strategy for community provision in schools, as well as specialist provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) or disabilities. The new school will be built in accordance with Building Bulletin 99 framework. The key design criteria will aim to ensure the facilities are appropriate and usable for present and future circumstances.

The Council has a responsibility to review SEN provision on a regular basis in line with the ALN and Tribunal Act. Information shows that the numbers of children with needs requiring specialist provision are increasing. The Council is committed to ensuring that all learners have equality of opportunity and recognise the right of all children and young people to receive high quality education. The Council is also committed to the principle of keeping children close to home wherever possible. Future proofing provision within the county is therefore essential.

These developments will make a significant contribution to the Council approach to the ALN reform. The Council focus is on ensuring that children with ALN across all schools in the borough have their needs met with appropriate provision in place in mainstream or more specialist settings. The approach includes the development of a workforce that has the appropriate skills and training opportunities to meet needs and promoting collaborative working with other agencies.

➤ **Community Impact and Community Benefit**

Community Impact

'The Cwricwlwm Cymreig is at the heart of the school's work programme and provision for developing the Welsh language is promoted very effectively. The wide range of extra-curricular activities that are provided helps pupils to develop a number of key personal and social skills well' – Estyn 2013. However, the report fails to mention that many of the extra-curricular activities take place off site which has implications on the school budget with the cost of rental and transport. For example, the size of the hall is limiting to the point that school concerts are often accommodated at a local Memorial Hall and as there are no specialist facilities for sports activities, the school buses the pupils to a nearby location for sports day.

Where possible, the current school encourages use by the community, but this is restricted by the access and facilities on offer to a handful of Welsh classes, Mother and Toddler sessions and an ICT class.

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

As outlined in the Community Impact Assessment, it is envisaged that a number of the current activities that the school supports the community in undertaking will continue at the new venue. For groups unable to travel the additional distance, the Council will mitigate lost usage of school by providing facilities at the local library based in the community or look at supporting alternative venues where appropriate.

Community Benefit

Projects include Community Benefits as a Core Requirement and will therefore be scored as part of the Quality evaluation. It sets out a number of targets around local targeted recruitment & training, supply chains, community & education initiatives and environmental matters such as

minimising waste and reducing energy consumption. Protecting habitats, biodiversity and reducing pollution is a matter of course throughout the contract period and relevant surveys have already been undertaken and included within the procurement documentation.



What are the Benefits of the proposal?

➤ Benefits

The principal benefits of the scheme are as follows:

- Provides an 'all-new' school for 420 pupils plus nursery, SRB and Childcare provision
- Relocation of school from an existing 60+ year old premises with substantive restraints
- Provision of energy efficient facility
- Modern state of the art classrooms
- New catering facility and flexible hall
- New outdoor activity facility
- Modern flagship facility for Welsh-medium education in Caerphilly
- Space maximisation through reconfiguration of site
- A stimulating environment to deliver high quality learner outcomes
- Community Use

The proposed new Welsh-medium school will provide a new fit for purpose replacement primary facility with Childcare, SRB, Nursery, Rising Threes and main school classrooms, main assembly hall, food technology space, a library and IT space. It will also offer external play areas and access to a grass pitch. The new building will provide accommodation and ensure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development and delivery of inclusive education through delivery of the full curriculum to pupils in a modern, safe and inspiring learning environment.

➤ Disbenefits

The principal disbenefits of the scheme are as follows:

- Travel times may change for a minority of pupils dependent on their proximity to the new school location
- Community usage and accessibility of alternative provision for groups using the existing site needs to be supported and new site will offer enhanced facilities
- Removing an embedded school from a community into a different area albeit within less than 1 mile of the existing school site
- There will be a period of transition for the pupils and appropriate support for 'Settling in' will require consideration
- The current piece of land will need to be decommissioned and disposed of in line with appropriate guidelines

- It is anticipated there will be minimal impact on other schools through a managed and phased capacity increase

➤ Risks

Risks will be managed pro-actively in accordance with our risk management procedures. The programme makes an allowance for a risk contingency to cover unforeseen events, having regard to the results of the optimism bias assessments.

The Council recognises the risks associated with construction procurement. The principal risks of the delivery of the scheme are identified as follows:

| Risk | Mitigating Factor |
|---|--|
| Planning process (this is separate to this consultation document) | The planning process will be managed by Property Services in line with legislative requirements |
| Impact of any planning conditions on cost | Full Tender process will be undertaken |
| Sufficiency of funding to deliver scope including abnormals | Contingency planning will form part of the tender process |
| Availability of resources/ contractors | The South East & Mid Wales Collaborative Construction Framework (SEWSCAP) framework will be accessed |
| Rising costs due to regional supply/demand dynamic | Will be managed through contingency planning |
| Design development | In house architect service will be accessed |
| Adverse weather conditions | Factored into project management timelines |
| Sufficiency of Utilities services | Factored into project management timelines |
| Project Governance and decision making | Full Project Board will be established |
| Benefits realisation (meeting end user requirements) | Factored into consultation and procurement process |

➤ Alternative options that have been discounted

The following options were considered and scored: -

| Option | Description |
|----------|--|
| Option 1 | Do Nothing |
| Option 2 | Refurbish existing school which has already met the 60-year life expectancy |
| Option 3 | Build new school same size school on the existing site |
| Option 4 | Build a new school, same size school on a new site with childcare |
| Option 5 | Build a new, larger school on a new site with nursery, childcare and Special Resource Base |

Each option was initially discussed between a selection of Council Officers from across multiple-departments and then a score allocated to each option against the following Critical Success Factors:

- Building Bulletin compliant school
- Low carbon, low energy eco-friendly environment
- Building suited to local environment and acceptable to planning Authority
- Education facility that is acceptable to stakeholders
- Delivered within budget and within required timescales
- Agreement of the proposal by Welsh Government

As well as considering the Critical Success Factors, the Officers also considered the Strategic Fit, Educational Fit, Accessibility, Financial Fit and Environmental Impact as key Investment Objectives.

The Investment Objectives were weighted based on the current priority areas for the Council. Priority Investment areas were given a 5 (High) to 1 (Low).

Each option was then scored against the criteria outlined above

5 exceeds the criteria

4 meets the criteria

3 neither meets/does not meet the criteria

2 partially meets the criteria, and,

1 does not meet the criteria

The score was then multiplied by the weighting for each section and an overall total for each option.

| Option | Score |
|--|-------|
| Option 1 – Do Nothing | 30 |
| Option 2 – Refurbish existing school which has already met the 60-year life expectancy | 43 |
| Option 3 - Build new school same size school on the existing site | 81 |
| Option 4 - Build a new school, same size school on a new site with childcare | 94 |
| Option 5 - Build a new, larger school on a new site with nursery, childcare and Special Resource Base | 105 |

The outcome of the options analysis resulted in the highest 2 scoring options being taken forward to a shortlist, where the benefits if the options were considered. The tables below illustrate this based on comparative analysis:

Option 4 - Build a new school, same size school on a new site with childcare

- A new school offering high quality, modern educational facilities fit for the 21st Century.
- Meeting the recommendations of BB 99
- Potential to achieve better educational outcomes for pupils currently at the school through enhancing their learning environment.
- Improved access to outdoor learning facilities
- Improved school building and facilities. The project will deliver a school building that will be more energy efficient, reduce the backlog maintenance and ensure compliance with Equality Act 2010.

| Option 4 Build a new school, same size school on a new site with childcare | |
|---|---|
| BENEFITS | DISBENEFITS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses long term issues of pupils being taught in temporary accommodation that are graded C/D for suitability and providing a long term solution • Reduction in maintenance and on-going running costs • Provides adequate and equitable teaching and childcare environment to | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New build to be located on site 0.8 miles from existing school site, however given the catchment area there will also be children who would now reside closer to the new build. • New build would be unable to accommodate childcare provision, SRB and Community Use • Unable to achieve the targets |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>meet Building Bulletin requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved accessibility • Improves the outside learning space • Improve the learning outcomes for pupils • Provides a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT facilities, centred on the learning, self-esteem and well-being of all pupils and improve lifelong learning opportunities for members of the community to strengthen and safeguard the promotion of the Welsh language, culture and heritage across Caerphilly East. | <p>identified in the WESP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to accommodate expansion of pupil numbers |
|--|--|

Option 5 - Build a new, larger school on a new site with nursery, childcare and Special Resource Base

- A new school offering high quality, modern educational facilities fit for the 21st Century.
- Meeting the recommendations of BB 99
- Potential to achieve better educational outcomes for pupils currently at the school through enhancing their learning environment.
- Improved access to outdoor learning facilities
- Improved school building and facilities. The project will deliver a school building that will be more energy efficient, reduce the backlog maintenance and ensure compliance with Equality Act 2010.
- Increase childcare provision to enable the delivery of wrap around, after school and holiday provision with a view to improving transition rates within Welsh medium between childcare provision and the foundation phase
- Increase in Welsh Medium learners by the expansion of Education and Childcare provision to support CCBC in meeting WG target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- Facility with an ability to meet community need.

| Option 5 | |
|--|---|
| Build a new, larger school on a new site with nursery, childcare and Special Resource Base | |
| BENEFITS | DISBENEFITS |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses long term issues of pupils being taught in temporary accommodation that are graded D for suitability and providing a long term solution • Permanent school building could attract more pupils • No disruption to daily operations of existing school during building phase | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New build to be located on site 0.8 miles from existing school site, however given the catchment area there will also be children who would now reside closer to the new build. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduction in maintenance and on-going running costs ● Increase in capacity within a strategic allowance ● Complies with all National and Local policies ● Support WG objective of having 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050 ● Caters for the Educational needs and preferences of the Local Community and provide and provide sufficient, permanent, fit for purpose and sustainable accommodation. ● Provides adequate and equitable teaching and childcare environment to meet Building Bulletin requirements. ● Improved accessibility ● Improves the outside learning space ● Improve the learning outcomes for pupils ● Facilitates the establishment of additional childcare provision by providing appropriate facilities to serve the community. ● Provides a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT facilities, centred on the learning, self-esteem and well-being of all pupils and improve lifelong learning opportunities for members of the community to strengthen and safeguard the promotion of the Welsh language, culture and heritage across Caerphilly East ● SRB established and ALN needs met | |
|--|--|

Taking the appraisals together delivers the conclusion that the new build replacement schemes provide the best balance of costs, benefits and risks, with the remodel and limited rebuild options offering poor value for money and high risk. Consequently, **Option 5** is confirmed as the preferred option for the Authority.



Next Steps

➤ Consultation Period and key dates

The formal consultation process begins on Monday 14th September 2020

This consultation document is available electronically on the Council website. For further information, please visit:

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools

A Children and Young People's Everyday Summary Version of this consultation has also been produced. Both this and the full version are available via the Caerphilly County Borough Council website and printed copies are also available on request.

If you would like this information in any other format, for example large print, or help with interpretation in a different language, please contact us on 01443 864817 so that the necessary arrangements can be made to provide this service.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is midnight on Monday 26th October 2020

Unfortunately, we will not be able to consider any responses received after this date.

➤ Statutory Notices, Reporting and Decision Making

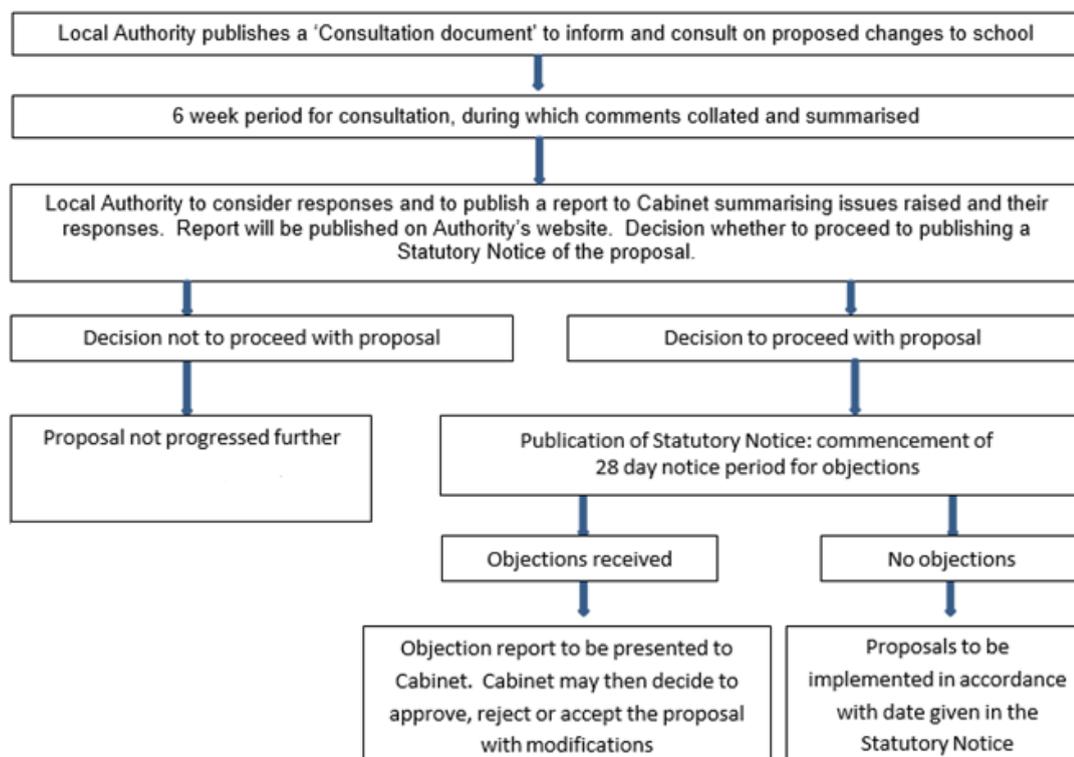
Following consultation, Caerphilly's Cabinet will receive a Consultation Report which will outline the proposal and all the comments received from the public during the consultation period. At this stage, the members can decide whether to proceed with the proposal, make changes to the proposal or not to proceed with the proposal.

Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, a Statutory Notice will be published providing a 28 day notice period for objections. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing and sent to the Council within the 28-day period.

Cabinet will then consider the outcome of the Statutory Notice at a future meeting and determine whether to implement the proposal having given due consideration to all the information provided.

In the event of objections, the Council will publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and Cabinet's response to those objections within 7 days or the day of the determination of the proposal. This report will be available for all persons to view on the Council website and paper copies will be available on request.

Should Cabinet approve the proposal, a full Business Case will be submitted to the Welsh Minister for final approval and the works will commence.



➤ Have your say

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the changes we have proposed in this document. We would like you to consider the information contained within the document and to hear your views as to whether or not you support the proposal. All views are welcomed in support of or opposed to the proposal. This is your chance to ask questions and make comments that will be considered when the Council decides how to proceed.

For further information, please visit:

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools

For this proposal, we will be undertaking a paper consultation exercise. Due to the current implications of COVID-19 we will refrain from undertaking any face-to-face consultation sessions to support social distancing and maintain safe working practices for all.

If you would like to comment on the proposal, you can do this by:

- Completing the online response form on the Council's website
- Complete a response pro forma attached to this document and return it to the 21st Century School Team at Caerphilly
- Email your comments to the 21st Century Schools Team at Caerphilly

Rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif **Cyngor Caerffili** **Caerphilly Council's** 21st Century Schools Programme



Consultation Response 'Cwm Gwyddon'
c/o 21st Century Schools Team
Directorate of Education and Corporate Services
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Penallta House
Tredomen Park
Ystrad Mynach
CF82 7PG

21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools



Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif
21st Century Schools



Please note that we are only able to receive comments in writing, either via the online form, pro forma or via email. You must include your full name and postal address as part of the information provided.



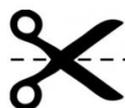
Supporting Information

➤ Frequently Asked Questions

The Council and the 21st Century Schools Team have a history of delivering innovative and transformational projects as part of the Band A 21st Century Schools Programme and beyond.

From the 21st September until the 28th September, the 21st Century Schools Team will be collating a list of your queries in the form of an 'Frequently Asked Questions' document that will be updated at the end of that week and posted on the website.

➤ Feedback Form



21st Century Schools Consultation Document 2020

YSGOL GYMRAEG CWM GWYDDON CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Here in Caerphilly we have bold ambitions to provide every learner with the best life chances and we are committed to doing this through the provision of high-quality teaching and learning environments as part of our 21st Century Schools programme.

In some cases, schools can be modernised, repaired, refurbished, extended, or partially rebuilt to meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning. However, some existing schools are no longer in the right place or meet pupil demand. In such cases we might propose new schools or changes to existing schools.



Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif 21st Century Schools



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Council wishes to make a 'regulated alteration' to a Maintained school.

This response relates to:

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

The closing date for responses is 26th October 2020.

It is recommended that you read the background information before completing this questionnaire.

You can also visit our website and complete the survey online by going to:

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools

We are collecting this information as part of our obligation under the Welsh Government's [School Organisation Code \(November 2018\)](#).

How we use your personal information:

The information you provide will be used by the service area relevant to the consultation / survey within Caerphilly County Borough Council. Views expressed will be collated together and used to produce a summary report. Depending on scope / nature of the survey / consultation, the summary report will be used to evaluate and remodel services / priorities etc. We will not keep your views in a way that will identify you for longer than is necessary.

You have a number of rights in relation to the information we hold about you, including the right of access to your information and the right of complaint if you are unhappy with the way your information is processed. For further information on how we process the information and your rights please follow this link:

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/FOI/PrivacyNotices/Privacy-Notice-Consultations-Surveys.aspx

About You:

I am responding to this survey as:

A Pupil A Parent A Staff Member A School Governor

of the school affected by this proposal / or

An Elected Member Other (please give details)

Print Name:

Address:

Postcode:

E-mail:

All Consultation Documentation will be made available on the Council's website.

If you wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report using the email provided, please tick here:

Please note that all comments made as part of this consultation will be considered by Cabinet as part of the first phase of the process. Formal Responses can only be registered following the publication of a statutory notice. Full details of the Consultation Process can be found in the full Consultation Document.

Your views matter.

Please complete this questionnaire and return via post or email to:

Rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif **Cyngor Caerffili** **Caerphilly Council's** 21st Century Schools Programme



Consultation Response 'Cwm Gwyddon'
c/o 21st Century Schools Team
Directorate of Education and Corporate Services
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Penallta House
Tredomen Park
Ystrad Mynach
CF82 7PG

21stCenturySchools@caerphilly.gov.uk

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools



Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif
21st Century Schools

Please indicate which of the following most accurately reflects your views about the proposal:

I do not feel strongly one way or the other

I support the proposal

I do not support the proposal

Please provide your comments on the proposal:

Equalities Monitoring:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Are you ... | Male <input type="checkbox"/> | Unwilling to declare <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Female <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Other (please write in) | |

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Age | Under 16 <input type="checkbox"/> | 40-65 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 16-25 <input type="checkbox"/> | Over 65 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 26-39 <input type="checkbox"/> | Unwilling to declare <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Disability | I am not Disabled <input type="checkbox"/> | Learning Difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Physical / Mobility Impaired <input type="checkbox"/> | Visually Impaired <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Hearing Impaired <input type="checkbox"/> | Speech Impaired <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other (please write in) | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Welsh Language Skills | | A Little | Moderately | Quite Well | Fluently |
| | Speak | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Understand | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Read | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Write | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | No Welsh Language Skills <input type="checkbox"/> | | Unwilling to Declare <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

If you feel that your response to this survey has been influenced (positively or negatively) because of any of the following: your 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 or responsibility for any dependents, please give details below.



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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government