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## Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

### Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.  
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich  
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please  
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



#### **Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /  
643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad/Date:** Tuesday, 30 June 2020

Dear Councillor,

#### **COMBINED MEETING OF SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES 1 & 2**

A Combined Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1 & 2 will be held remotely via Skype for Business on **Monday, 6 July 2020 at 13:30**.

#### **AGENDA**

1. Election of Chairperson
2. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
3. Declarations of Interest  
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
4. Review of Post-16 Education Provision Across Bridgend Phase 4 Post-Consultation Report 5 - 74  
Invitees:

Lindsay Harvey - Corporate Director – Education and Family Support  
Cllr Charles Smith - Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration  
Nicola Echanis - Head of Education and Family Support  
Robin Davies - Group Manager Business Strategy and Performance  
John Fabes - Specialist Officer Post 16 Education & Training  
Michelle Hatcher - Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement  
Sue Roberts - Group Manager School Improvement  
Mark Lewis - Group Manager Integrated Working and Family Support  
Andy Rothwell - Central South Consortium Senior Challenge Adviser  
Andrew Slade - Headteacher, Porthcawl Comprehensive School and Chair of Bridgend Association of Secondary Headteachers (BASH);  
Hannah Castle - Headteacher, Cynffig Comprehensive School, Vice-Chair of BASH and Chair of Schools Budget Forum)  
Kath John - Headteacher, Brackla Primary School and Chair of Primary Federation  
Jeremy Phillips - Headteacher, Litchard Primary School and Vice-Chair of Primary Federation

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Meurig Jones - Headteacher, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, Welsh Medium School Representative  
Sharon Jayne - Headteacher, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, Welsh-Medium School Representative  
Angela Keller - Headteacher, Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School, Faith School Representative  
Lyndon Watkins - Headteacher, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Faith School Representative  
Secondary School Pupil Representatives

5. Learner Travel Consultation

75 - 162

Invitees:

Lindsay Harvey - Corporate Director – Education and Family Support  
Cllr Charles Smith - Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration  
Nicola Echanis - Head of Education and Family Support  
Robin Davies - Group Manager Business Strategy and Performance  
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Kath John - Headteacher, Brackla Primary School and Chair of Primary Federation  
Jeremy Phillips - Headteacher, Litchard Primary School and Vice-Chair of Primary Federation  
Meurig Jones - Headteacher, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, Welsh Medium School Representative  
Sharon Jayne - Headteacher, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, Welsh-Medium School Representative  
Angela Keller - Headteacher, Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School, Faith School Representative  
Lyndon Watkins - Headteacher, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Faith School Representative  
Secondary School Pupil Representatives

6. Urgent Items

To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully

**K Watson**

Chief Officer - Legal, HR & Regulatory Services

Councillors:

T Giffard  
JPD Blundell  
NA Burnett  
RJ Collins  
M Jones

Councillors

KJ Watts  
PA Davies  
RME Stirman  
JH Tildesley MBE  
TH Beedle

Councillors

CA Green  
A Hussain  
MJ Kearns  
JE Lewis  
AA Pucella

B Sedgebeer  
J Gebbie  
SK Dendy  
AJ Williams

A Williams  
KL Rowlands  
S Aspey  
MC Clarke

SG Smith  
G Thomas  
T Thomas  
DBF White

Registered Representatives

Tim Cahalane - Roman Catholic Church  
Ciaron Jackson - Primary School Sector  
Rev. Canon Edward Evans - Church in Wales  
Lynsey Morris – Secondary School Sector

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES 1 AND 2

6 JULY 2020

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

#### REVIEW OF POST-16 EDUCATION PROVISION ACROSS BRIDGEND PHASE 4 POST-CONSULTATION REPORT

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the committees of the progress made on the proposals for the Review of Post-16 Education provision (Phase 4), to review the feedback from the Phase 4 public consultation and for the committees to consider the proposed recommendations to Cabinet which will be considered in July 2020.

#### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** - taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county borough.
  - **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 This paper to Scrutiny precedes the sixth report to Cabinet in relation to the review of post-16 education provision across the County Borough. The earlier Cabinet papers were submitted on 31 October 2017, 24 April 2018, 20 November 2018, 16 April 2019 and 19 November 2019.
- 3.2 Following the Cabinet decision on 19 November 2019, a public consultation was held to ascertain the views of the public on three options for post-16 provision that have been considered by Cabinet. These are:

##### Option 1

A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new local authority maintained sixth-form centre(s).

##### Option 2

A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new further education (FE) college-governed sixth-form centre(s).

### **Option 3**

The retention of sixth forms in all schools - the current position (ie a distributed post-16 model based on collaboration, but with further development in order to improve the delivery of this option)

3.3 The full report on the public consultation can be found at Appendix 1 and the main outcomes are discussed in sections 3.4 to 3.10.

3.4 The consultation activities consisted of:

- an online survey;
- workshop sessions which engaged with 1,235 learners in secondary schools and Bridgend College across key stage 3, key stage 4 and post-16
- public meeting community engagement sessions with parents of secondary and primary age pupils – 193 attended
- engagement sessions with staff and governors in all secondary schools with the exception of Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School due to an Estyn inspection – 322 attended
- community engagement meetings with staff and governors of Bridgend College – 19 attended

3.5 The participation/response rates are described as ‘robust’ and detailed in sections 3 and 4 of Appendix 1 - ‘The potential re-organisation of post-16 provision across Bridgend County Borough: consultation report’.

3.6 In total there were 12,140 interactions. It was discovered that a large number of these (6,971) were generated through the online survey by an automated routine. This means that an individual set up a computer programme that would automatically and very rapidly complete a series of online surveys all with identical answers to the main questions. It was possible to identify these particular responses which were, in effect, thousands of duplicate surveys from a single source. They were then excluded from the main data set so that this interference with the online survey did not skew the overall results of the survey. After taking account of the duplicate surveys the overall number of genuine interactions was 5,159. The full set of survey data including the automated returns is presented in section 14, appendix 1 of the consultation report.

### **3.7 Results of the online survey:**

The detailed breakdown of the returns is provided in sections 6 and 7 of Appendix 1 – the consultation report. The main highlights from these returns are:

- Option 3 – ‘retaining sixth forms in all settings’ is the most popular option of the three presented in the survey/consultation paper

- 75% of respondents strongly agreed with this proposal and 85% gave a positive response
- 85% of respondents ranked this option as their first choice from the three options presented
- When asked to consider the two ways in which sixth-form mergers might take place, if that should happen, 71% of respondents preferred the voluntary merger approach with schools retaining 11-18 status; a range of concerns were raised in relation to 11-16 schools and having a mix of 11-16 and 11-18 schools across the county borough.

3.7.1 In Option 1 six outcomes, A to F, were presented. The table below shows the order in which respondents ranked the six outcomes and the relative degree of either agreement or disagreement with each proposal.

Outcome	Summary	Rank	% agreement	% Neutral	% disagreement
A2	Brynteg/ Bryntirion voluntary merger	1	14%	20%	66%
A1	Sixth form at Brynteg; Bryntirion 11-16	2			
B	Sixth form at Porthcawl retained	3	47%	28%	25%
C	Cynffig/Porthcawl merger at Porthcawl	4	23%	28%	49%
D	Sixth-form centre at Cynffig	5	12%	20%	68%
E	CCYD/Maesteg merger at Maesteg	6	12%	26%	62%
F	Sixth-form centres at Maesteg and Pencoed	7	11%	23%	66%

- Across Outcomes A, D, E and F there has been a consistently strong representation against proposals involving sixth-form mergers
- Opinion is less strong when considering the merger of the smallest sixth form at Cynffig Comprehensive School with Porthcawl Comprehensive School
- The only proposal that specifically retains a sixth form in its existing state, outcome B, also had significant support

- In response to the Outcome A proposal for the merger of the sixth forms at Brynteg School and Bryntirion Comprehensive School into a new sixth-form centre:
  - Of the 1411 respondents, 684 or 48% chose 'strongly disagree'
  - 525 or 77% of the 'strongly disagree' responses came from respondents linked to Bryntirion Comprehensive School (319) and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (206)
  - The 319 'strongly disagree' responses from Bryntirion-linked respondents represent 74% of all the Bryntirion Comprehensive School responses on Outcome A
  - 159, or 27%, of respondents linked to schools, other than Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, chose the 'strongly disagree' option
  - Other providers which had a high proportion of 'strongly disagree' among their returns were Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (48% of 206 returns), Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School (47% of 21 returns), Bridgend College (34% of 29 returns) and Cynffig Comprehensive School (31% of 218 returns)
  - The top three issues raised by respondents were (excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
    - *Pupils will lose familiar teachers/environment/support*
    - *Additional travel, especially if it is not provided by the council, is unfair*
    - *Sixth forms act as role models/positive impact on community*
- In Outcome B where the retention of a sixth form in Porthcawl Comprehensive School is proposed:
  - Of the 1402 respondents, 289 or 20% chose 'strongly agree'
  - 88% of respondents linked to Porthcawl Comprehensive School were in strong agreement
  - Further positive support came from respondents linked to Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School (33% of 21 returns), YGG Llangynwyd (25% of 20 returns) and Pencoed Comprehensive School (24% of 82 returns)
  - The top three issues raised by respondents were(excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
    - *Why does Porthcawl keep its sixth form, this is unfair on other schools/students*



- *Agree with proposal - good standards, unique location, familiar environment for pupils*
  - *Does not affect me/ should not comment on other schools*
- For outcome C involving the merger of Cynffig Comprehensive School sixth form with that of Porthcawl Comprehensive School:
  - Of the 1402 respondents, 475 or 34% chose 'strongly disagree'
  - Of these 475 'strongly disagree' responses, 415 came from three schools – Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (165), Bryntirion Comprehensive School (128) and Cynffig Comprehensive School(122)
  - As a proportion of the returns from these schools these numbers represent 56% of 218 returns associated with Cynffig Comprehensive School, 38% of 428 from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen and 30% of 427 from Bryntirion Comprehensive School
  - The top three issues raised by respondents were (excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
    - *Increased travel would be too costly and too long*
    - *Discouraging people to attend sixth form /decrease in sixth-form numbers*
    - *BCBC should invest in deprived areas*
- Outcome D proposed the development of a sixth-form centre at Cynffig Comprehensive School:
  - Of the 1409 respondents to Outcome D, 687 or 49% chose 'strongly disagree'
  - 512 or 74% of the 687 'strongly disagree' were associated with either Bryntirion Comprehensive School or Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen
  - The 351 'strongly disagree' respondents linked to Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen represent 82% of all Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen respondents
  - 175, or 31%, of respondents linked to schools, other than Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, chose the 'strongly disagree' option
  - Other providers which had a high proportion of 'strongly disagree' among their returns were Pencoed Comprehensive School with 68% of 82 returns and Bridgend College with 48% of 29 returns
  - The top two issues raised by respondents were (excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
    - *Increased travel would be too costly and too long*

- *CCYD should host a sixth form*
- Outcome E proposed the merger of Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen and Maesteg School sixth forms at Maesteg:
  - Of the 1398 returns, 647 or 46% chose 'strongly disagree'
  - 503, or 77%, of the 647 'strongly disagree' returns were associated with Bryntirion Comprehensive School (151) and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (352)
  - The 352 'strongly disagree' respondents linked to Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen represent 82% of all Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen respondents
  - 144, or 26%, of respondents linked to schools, other than Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, chose the 'strongly disagree' option
  - Other providers which had a high proportion of 'strongly disagree' among their returns were Bridgend College, 34% of 29 returns, and Cynffig Comprehensive School, 30% of 218 returns
  - The top three issues raised by respondents were(excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
    - *Too far/too long/ too expensive to travel*
    - *How will standards of teaching be maintained?*
    - *Pupils will lose familiar teachers/environment/support*
- Outcome F proposed the development of sixth-form centres at Maesteg School and Pencoed Comprehensive School drawing students from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen and Cynffig Comprehensive School:
  - Of the 1389 returns, 684 or 49% chose 'strongly disagree'
  - 602, or 88%, of the 'strongly disagree' returns came from respondents linked to three schools – Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (336), Bryntirion Comprehensive School (155), Cynffig Comprehensive School (111)
  - The 336 'strongly disagree' respondents linked to Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen represent 78% of all Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen respondents
  - 193, or 35%, of respondents linked to schools, other than Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, chose the 'strongly disagree' option
  - Other providers which had a high proportion of 'strongly disagree' for this outcome among their returns were Cynffig Comprehensive School, 51% of 218 returns, Bryntirion Comprehensive School, 36% of 428 returns and Bridgend College, 31% of 29 returns

- The top three issues raised by respondents were (excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
  - *Too far/too long/ too expensive to travel*
  - *Will become overpopulated/more competition for places*
  - *CCYD should keep its sixth form/ host six form centre*

3.7.2 In Option 2, the development of sixth-form centres in FE settings, two possible outcomes were proposed

- Outcome A is linked to the potential for Bridgend College to create a new campus in the town centre of Bridgend which could include a sixth-form centre; this ambition is also linked to regeneration plans for the town
  - Of the 1394 returns, 736 or 53% chose 'strongly disagree'
  - 533, or 72%, of the 736 'strongly disagree' returns came from respondents linked to Bryntirion Comprehensive School (295) and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (238)
  - The 533 'strongly disagree' respondents linked to Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen represent 62% of all respondents from those two schools
  - 203, or 36%, of respondents linked to schools, other than Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, chose the 'strongly disagree' option
  - Other providers which had a high proportion of 'strongly disagree' for this outcome among their returns were Cynffig Comprehensive School, 42% of 218 returns, Brynteg School, 37% of 100 returns and Maesteg School, 37% of 27 returns
  - The top three issues raised by respondents were (excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
    - *Either all schools attend a centre or no schools attend, unfair that only some schools lose sixth form*
    - *Additional travel is unfair/affects students if they have to pay for transport*
    - *Pupils will lose familiar teachers/environment/pastoral and wellbeing support*
- Outcome B is linked to the new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) centre being built by Bridgend College on its Pencoed campus and the potential for it to host a sixth-form centre
  - Of the 1376 returns, 641 or 47% chose 'strongly disagree'

- 462, or 72%, of the 641 'strongly disagree' returns came from respondents linked to Bryntirion Comprehensive School (188) and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (274)
- The 462 'strongly disagree' respondents linked to Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen represent 54% of all respondents from those two schools
- 179, or 33%, of respondents linked to schools, other than Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, chose the 'strongly disagree' option
- Other providers which had a high proportion of 'strongly disagree' for this outcome among their returns were Cynffig Comprehensive School, 44% of 216 returns and Maesteg School, 33% of 27 returns
- Of the 79 returns linked to Pencoed Comprehensive School, 57, or 72%, were in agreement with Outcome B
- The top three issues raised by respondents were (excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
  - *Additional travel is unfair/affects students if they have to pay for transport*
  - *Expensive to build, invest in sixth forms instead*
  - *Transport costs will be expensive; negative impact on pupils from disadvantaged areas*

3.7.3 Option 3 proposes the retention of sixth forms in all secondary schools but would require improvements to partnership and collaborative practices.

- Of the 1407 returns, 1047 or 75% chose 'strongly agree'
- 722, or 69%, of the 1047 'strongly agree' returns came from respondents linked to Bryntirion Comprehensive School (371) and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (351)
- The 722 'strongly agree' respondents linked to Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen represent 84% of all respondents from those two schools
- Other providers which had a high proportion of 'strongly agree' for this outcome among their returns were Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School, 67% of 21 returns, Cynffig Comprehensive School, 65% of 217 returns and Porthcawl Comprehensive School, 61% of 57 returns
- The top issues raised by respondents were (excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
  - *Pupils will lose familiar staff/environment/wellbeing and support*

- *Invest in sixth forms/need better collaboration/ Centre of excellence for subjects*
- *There will be no additional travel for learners*
- *Sixth formers are role models, raise aspirations of younger pupils and create a sixth form community*

3.7.4 Respondents were invited to add any further comments at the end of the survey.

- The top issues raised by respondents were (excluding agree/disagree/keep sixth forms):
  - *Additional travel for some pupils is unfair and could be too expensive for some pupils/families*
  - *CCYD should retain its sixth form/ consider building or developing a sixth form centre at CCYD*
  - *Invest in sixth forms/more subject choice/collaboration*
  - *Familiar teachers/environment/wellbeing of pupils is important*

### **3.8 Pupil surveys by school – at a glance**

The table below summarises the data from the pupil workshops held in seven of the nine secondary schools. The detailed report on each school can be found in appendices 2 to 11 attached to the main consultation feedback report, Appendix 1 to this Cabinet report. Two schools were unable to participate in the workshops, Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School and Porthcawl Comprehensive. These two schools were provided with dedicated survey links to be circulated to their students so they could contribute should they wish to.

The responses for all three options and the range of outcomes chosen by students in each of the schools is set out in the table. A = agree; N= neutral; D = disagree. The most popular comments recorded by students are shown underneath each schools' data.

School/college	6 <sup>th</sup> form merger	Option 1 – Some sixth forms and some mergers in school settings												Option 2 – some sixth forms and some mergers in FE settings						Option 3- keep all sixth forms	Rank Options 1,2,3 %						
		Outcomes																									
	Prefer	A – Brynteg/Bryntirion			B – Porthcawl			C - Cynffig/Porthcawl			D – Cynffig centre			E – Maesteg / CCYD			F – Maesteg / Pencoed			A Town centre			B Pencoed campus			Strongly agree	
	Vol. merger	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D		
Archbishop McGrath 27 responses	Vol. merger		15		22					10		12	12			14		15				12			12	70%	Option 3 1 <sup>st</sup> 88%
				9		3		9							9				11		8			10			
		3					2		8		3			4			1			6			4				
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of relationship with teachers</li> </ul>												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Familiarity with staff and environment</li> </ul>													
Brynteg 187 responses	Vol. merger	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	57%	Option 3 1 <sup>st</sup> 88%
		114			137			128					70	89					67			98	77				
				42		26			38		63				52		64			55					55		
			31				24			22		53				46		53			33			51			
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merger would need adequate space, resources, avoid overcrowding</li> <li>Travel issues</li> </ul>												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New centre costs/money to build</li> <li>Better choice of subjects in merged centres</li> <li>Teacher relationships, familiar environ. and community/identity all important</li> </ul>													
Bryntirion 177 responses	Vol. merger	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	89%	Option 3 1 <sup>st</sup> 97%
				162	98				85				104			86			115			123			119		
			8			57			62	65				78			49			12				41			
		7					22	30			6			12			13			11			14				
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel issues</li> <li>Invest in 6<sup>th</sup> forms</li> </ul>												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Already good standards in sixth forms</li> <li>Improve collaboration</li> </ul>													
Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen 189 responses	Vol. merger	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	65%	Option 3 1 <sup>st</sup> 78%
			102		106				82				145			142			126			82			97		
				49		55		73				21		25				40		65				52			
		37					27			32	20				21		23				40		34				
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major concern = travel – distance, time, possible expense</li> <li>Students wouldn't attend if they have to move sixth form</li> <li>Town centre not safe/overpopulated campus</li> </ul>												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uncomfortable transition/loss of relationships</li> <li>Give Cynffig students better opportunity</li> <li>CCYD to host sixth form</li> </ul>													

School/college	6 <sup>th</sup> form merger	Option 1 – Some sixth forms and some mergers in school settings												Option 2 – some sixth forms and some mergers in FE settings						Option 3- keep all sixth forms	Rank Options 1,2,3 %									
		Outcomes																												
	Prefer	A – Brynteg/Bryntirion			B – Porthcawl			C - Cynffig/Porthcawl			D – Cynffig centre			E – Maesteg / CCYD			F – Maesteg / Pencoed			A Town centre			B Pencoed campus			Strongly agree				
Cynffig 193 responses	Vol. merger	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D			A	N	D
				85	137					128	79					88			150			105			92					
			69			27		43					71		63				29			55			56					
		37					26		22				43	36			5			29			31							
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of relationship with teachers and familiar environment</li> <li>Mergers to be local and could provide better choice/resources/quality</li> </ul>												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many references to travel, time, distance and expense</li> <li>Concern for overcrowding; waste of money (new centre); improve all sixth forms</li> </ul>																
Maesteg 116 responses	Vol. merger	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	47%	Option 3 1 <sup>st</sup> 58%
			50		68				54			47		65				48		45				54						
		38				39		46			40				34		41				42		47							
				28			9			15			30			23			32			31			15					
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equal access to range of subjects</li> <li>Travel issues</li> <li>Hard for CCYD to transfer / how split pupils in F?</li> </ul>												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sixth form part of school community</li> <li>Improve collaboration</li> <li>Possible overcrowding if merged but could create new opportunities</li> </ul>																
Pencoed 134 responses	Vol. merger	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	37%	Option 3 1 <sup>st</sup> 51% (2=42%)
		72			111			87					101			52	60			54			61							
			42			16			32			22		29	51				38			40		39				23		
				19			7			15	11						31				34									
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many references to travel, time, distance and expense</li> <li>Pencoed/Cynffig overcrowding</li> </ul>												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More choice for students in new centres/mergers; more opportunities</li> <li>A and B make sense – proximity, numbers, location</li> </ul>																
Porthcawl 19 responses	Vol. merger	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	58%	Option 3 1 <sup>st</sup> 72%
				14	18					9		9				9			11			9								
			5			1			6				7					7			7		5	5						
		0					0	4			3			0			3			1										
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>References to travel, time, distance and expense</li> </ul>												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class sizes may become too big</li> </ul>																
YGG Llangynwyd 159 responses	Neutral	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	46%	Option 3 1 <sup>st</sup> 44%
		73			113			61				59				59			74		68			78						
			60			37			54				52		49			70		54			48							
				25			9			42	47			31			13					37			30					

Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>References to travel, time, distance and expenses</li> <li>New centres – Welsh-medium learners not offered same courses/facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YGG Llangynwyd students have to travel to Llanhari – consistent expectations?</li> </ul>
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School/college	6 <sup>th</sup> form merger	Option 1 – Some sixth forms and some mergers in school settings						Option 2 – some sixth forms and some mergers in FE settings			Option 3- keep all sixth forms	Rank Options 1,2,3 %
		Outcomes										

	Prefer	A – Brynteg/Bryntirion			B – Porthcawl			C - Cynffig/ Porthcawl			D – Cynffig centre			E – Maesteg / CCYD			F – Maesteg / Pencoed			A Town centre			B Pencoed campus			Strongly agree							
		A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D	A	N	D								
Bridgend College 18 responses	Vol. merger			8	12			8	8				12			9			9	9			12						35%	Option 3 1 <sup>st</sup> 56%			
			7			3						4			5		5					5			4								
		3					3			2	2			4				4			3				1								

Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>References to travel, time, distance and expenses</li> </ul>	
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- 3.9.1 Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School:
- All respondents were in Y12 (only 27 respondents)
  - 70% strongly agreed with Option 3 and 88% made Option 3 first choice
  - Supportive of maintaining sixth forms and generally against mergers and college centres
- 3.9.2 Brynteg School:
- 19% of respondents from KS3, 31% from KS4 and 50% from KS5
  - 57% strongly agreed with Option 3 and 88% made Option 3 first choice
  - Strongly in favour of mergers involving Brynteg/Bryntirion, Cynffig/Porthcawl and CCYD/Maesteg
  - Against a town centre FE centre but support for one at Pencoed
- 3.9.3 Bryntirion Comprehensive School:
- 41% of respondents from KS3, 29% from KS4 and 30% from KS5
  - 89% strongly agree with Option 3 and 97% made Option 3 first choice
  - Strongly against Brynteg/Bryntirion merger and also Cynffig Comprehensive School as a centre, and Maesteg/Pencoed centres; also against Maesteg/CCYD merger; mainly neutral with regard to Porthcawl/Cynffig merger; support for sixth form in Porthcawl Comprehensive School
  - Strongly against FE centres in Bridgend town or on the Pencoed campus
- 3.9.4 Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen:
- 29% of respondents from Year 9, 27% from KS4 and 44% from KS5
  - 65% strongly agreed with Option 3 and 78% made Option 3 first choice
  - Strongly against mergers involving Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen
  - Also against college centres but less so
  - Strongly neutral on Brynteg/Bryntirion and Cynffig/Porthcawl mergers
- 3.9.5 Cynffig Comprehensive School:
- 32% of respondents from KS3, 35% from KS4 and 33% from KS5
  - 61% strongly agreed with Option 3 and 50% made Option 3 first choice
  - Strongly against mergers and college centres except the outcome where Cynffig Comprehensive School hosts a sixth-form centre
- 3.9.6 Maesteg School:
- 50% of respondents from KS3, 35% from Year 10 and 15% from KS5
  - 47% strongly agreed with Option 3 and 58% made Option 3 first choice
  - Maesteg School pupils were generally more neutral when considering all mergers /centres except where Maesteg School hosted Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen (in agreement) or the college centre in Bridgend town (in agreement)
- 3.9.7 Pencoed Comprehensive School:
- 34% of respondents from KS3, 24% from KS4 and 42% from KS5
  - 37% strongly agreed with Option 3 and 51% made Option 3 first choice and 42% made Option 2 first choice, especially if centre at Pencoed campus
  - Support for mergers and college centres except where Cynffig Comprehensive School hosts a centre and for the Maesteg/CCYD merger

3.9.8 Porthcawl Comprehensive School:

- 58% of respondents from KS3 and 72% from KS5 (only 19 respondents)
- 58% strongly agreed with Option 3 and 72% made Option 3 first choice
- Generally neutral or against mergers and college centres

3.9.9 YGG Llangynwyd:

- 36% of respondents from Year 8, 37% from Year 10 and 27% from Year 13
- 46% strongly agreed with Option 3 and 44% made Option 3 first choice
- Positive for mergers between Brynteg/Bryntirion and Cynffig/Porthcawl; neutral for college centres and Cynffig Comprehensive School as a host and in disagreement with Maesteg/CCYD mergers

3.9.10 Bridgend College

- 82% of respondents from KS5 and 18% from KS4
- 35% strongly agreed with Option 3 and 56% made Option 3 first choice
- Generally against mergers except Porthcawl/Cynffig
- Support for college centres

**3.9 Feedback from the open events and over 1,900 written submissions to the consultation**

3.9.1 The consultation resulted in a considerable amount of feedback through the live events, online surveys and the very large number of written submissions. In order to provide Cabinet with a manageable overview of the key issues that emerged, a thematic and tabulated presentation has been adopted.

3.9.2 The most widely commented theme was that of transport and travel. The themes referenced in the feedback in are:

- Transport and travel
- Pastoral care and relationships
- School culture and the role of sixth-form students in the life of the school
- Standards
- Impact on schools which might lose a sixth form
- Community impact and social disadvantage
- Other options/possible developments
- Other areas mentioned in less detail: curriculum, data, environment, health/wellbeing and change
- Wider connected issues raised: local development plan, school catchments, Welsh-medium strategy, capital investment , staffing

**4. Current situation/proposal**

4.1 The most prominent area of concern in the feedback from the consultation was that of travel and transport. It is therefore important to understand the current position with regard to post-16 transport and travel.

Current position in relation to transport
1. Time and distance

- a. Many pupils that currently attend Welsh-medium provision at YGG Llangynwyd and provision of a religious nature at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School have significant travel times. Although this is a consideration for parents, this is not seen to be a strong influencing factor for parents in not choosing a Welsh-medium or faith-based education for their child(ren). This is primarily due to the local authority's current Home-to-School Transport Policy supporting the provision of free transport to both schools where pupils reside over three miles to school. Furthermore, some pupils with historic eligibility still enjoy free transport to these schools where they reside over two miles from school.
- b. Both these schools enjoy high standards of achievement
- c. The most popular type of post-16 collaboration is currently the twilight offer in Bridgend College; some 200 students travel from all the secondary schools to Bridgend College's Cowbridge Road campus two evenings a week to attend lessons from 16.00 to 18.00; this makes for two long days per week; the college provides free transport and arranges the routes with a local coach company; the standards achieved by students have been good and in some subjects outstanding which demonstrates that time and distance to provision and the length of the school day do not necessarily impact on standards of achievement.

## 2. Cost

- a. To support the costs of travel for students attending Bridgend College, the local authority has a budget of £314,500 budget for home-to-college transport for the 2020-2021 financial year, which is primarily spent on the provision of transport passes for First Cymru's public bus services. The table below shows for the last three years, Welsh Government data on the size of the Year 11 cohort, the % that remain in the sixth form, the number that represents and the numbers that go elsewhere – predominantly to Bridgend College

	Year 11 cohort	% retained to Y12	Numbers in Y12	Numbers elsewhere
2015/16	1468			
2016/17	1564	60.8	893	575
2017/18	1366	57.3	896	668
2018/19	1393	56.4	770	596

- b. A large proportion of the students 16-18 in Bridgend College will not have met the entry requirements for sixth form and proportionately more of these will have come from the county's more disadvantaged communities and have the greater distances to travel; the removal of free transport will have a significant impact on these students and their families and would be greater than the likely impact on students in the sixth-form sector
- c. It should also be noted that the Bridgend College cohort of students contains a greater proportion of vulnerable learners
- d. Notwithstanding travel and vulnerability, Welsh Government statistics show that Bridgend College has among the best

retention and completion rates for students in FE settings across Wales
<p>3. Public transport/ scheduled coach services</p> <p>a. Where these are provided systematically and free students appear to cope well and attendance does not drop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day to day provision at Bridgend College (both campuses)</li> <li>• Twilight A level provision at Bridgend College – 200 students</li> <li>• Between 70 and 100 students travel in the daytime in order to take up subjects in the common timetable collaboration between schools; the associated transport arrangements are paid for by schools</li> <li>• Junior Apprenticeship provision – free transport from school to both of Bridgend College’s campuses for 14-16 year olds attending full-time at college; there are currently 70 pupils travelling from all secondary schools and the programme has good retention and attendance rates</li> </ul>
<p>4. Impact</p> <p>a. Many respondents have expressed concerns over the potential impact of extra travel on sixth-form students however when the performance and retention of students and pupils who currently travel daily or frequently are examined these concerns are not observed</p>

4.2 When considering feedback from all sources in the consultation it is clear that the majority of respondents favour the retention of sixth forms. The reasons they provide to support this choice are laid out in Appendices 14 to 16.

4.3 Whilst there is clear evidence of support from respondents for the retention of sixth forms in schools and a majority view for Option 3 the overall position of post-16 education is more complex. There are a number of related policy areas and decisions to be reached by BCBC that impact on decision-making in relation to post-16. These will be considered in sections 4.4 and 4.5.

4.4 Post-16 transport - as indicated in section 4.1 the issue of transport and travel was the most prominent matter raised in the consultation feedback.

4.4.1 Currently the costs of this are met by BCBC. At the present time a paper has been prepared for Cabinet that provides feedback on a public consultation on whether or not to make savings by removing this discretionary service. Should Cabinet cut this element of support then it will have a significant impact on the post-16 options being considered in this paper. The critical points are:

- Within Outcomes C to F in Option 1 there are implications for increased travel for a number of groups of learners; they or their families would have to bear the cost of this extra travel
- This also applies to the outcomes in Option 2
- Feedback during the post-16 consultation indicates that this cost might range from £5 to £30 per week per learner

- Some learners would have the benefit of an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) but there will be many just above the threshold for this allowance that will find it difficult to meet additional travel costs
- It has been suggested that increased travel time/distance and cost would impact negatively on the numbers of learners progressing on to sixth form or college education
- Learners who travel to Bridgend College would be disproportionately affected
- Under the Learner Travel consultation learners who travel for post-16 Welsh-medium education or education of a religious nature will still have their travel costs met by BCBC
- The larger sixth forms that may remain under Options 1 and 2 such as Porthcawl and Brynteg serve relatively local and affluent communities; as such the feedback in the consultation indicated that poorer, disadvantaged and valley communities would be disproportionately affected and also be the least likely to be able to afford the costs of transport/travel

4.4.2 It is recommended that the Cabinet takes account of the feedback on transport and travel from the post-16 consultation when considering its decision on post-16 transport. The outcomes of that decision can then be fed back into the post-16 review.

#### 4.5 The Local Development Plan (LDP) 2021 +

4.5.1 At the time of writing the next iteration of the LDP from 2021 onwards is being developed and is not yet in the public domain. Potentially there are a number of areas where new housing developments may arise, some of a significant scale. Should they gain approval from the Council they may have a significant impact on the catchment areas of a number of secondary schools. In some cases this may lead to a large reduction in surplus places and the longer term possibility of having a viable sixth form. In other cases it may lead to a significant increase in pressure for places that could be compounding pressures that already exist or have been predicted through developments in the current LDP.

4.5.2 The consultation paper issued for the post-16 consultation included projected demographics and secondary school intakes based on the existing LDP. Within the next 12 months these will need to be refreshed in the light of the LDP from 2021. A number of respondents, especially in the open events, questioned whether it was appropriate to attempt to take long-term decisions on post-16 education before the housing development proposals for the new LDP have been finalised and revised demographics considered.

4.5.3 The local authority has a statutory responsibility to grow Welsh-medium education. When the new LDP is published it will be important to understand when and where future growth of Welsh-medium provision is being planned and how this will impact on any new primary school facilities either for English or Welsh-medium education. In turn this will have an effect on the catchments of English-medium secondary schools, the demand for and availability of places in these schools and thereafter the capacity for delivering a successful and efficient sixth-form provision.

4.5.4 It is therefore recommended that once the LDP is approved Cabinet considers the scale of provision and mix of English and Welsh-medium schools needed to meet the ambitions of the LDP and that the development of strategy in this area informs a re-calculation of the demographic projections for secondary schools including their post-16 provisions and catchment areas

4.6 School specific considerations:

4.6.1 Option 1 - Outcome A:

- There was significant resistance to a merged sixth form between Brynteg School and Bryntirion Comprehensive School, especially among those respondents associated with Bryntirion Comprehensive School. We expect Bryntirion Comprehensive School to achieve a sixth form of around 250 and be able to sustain this. Brynteg School is projected to continue with a sixth form in excess of 250. The issue to resolve is the capacity of Bryntirion Comprehensive School to meet the demand for places in its catchment. The school is close to capacity but when the new LDP is released there may well be long-term implications for secondary school places within the Bryntirion Comprehensive School catchment unless this is re-defined.
- The future of Heronsbridge Special School and the possibility of the school moving to new premises is currently under discussion. Should the school vacate its existing premises there would be an opportunity to consider a refurbishment programme to turn this building into a sixth-form centre of excellence that would serve Brynteg School and Bryntirion Comprehensive School. This could be an exciting investment for post-16 provision within Bridgend Town and one that could benefit from close collaboration with Bridgend College, given its close proximity to the site. The continued use of the building as a centre of education excellence might be considered a positive benefit to the community. The release of 250 places on the Bryntirion Comprehensive School site may well contribute to resolving long term planning of secondary school places. It is recommended that, if the opportunity arises to consider the Heronsbridge site, this particular proposal is explored in more detail alongside the emerging issues from the new LDP and post-16 student transport support.
- An alternative proposition would be to consider developing a new build sixth-form centre within the existing Brynteg site. This would require more capital funding and be considered less of a neutral site for the merger of the two sixth forms.
- Outcome A would best be served through a merger of the two sixth forms with both schools remaining 11-18 and the centre overseen by a joint management committee.
- It is noted that Welsh Government does not, in general, approve plans for new secondary schools with projected capacities of less than 900 so this proposed approach might overcome certain constraints within the 21st Century Schools programme.

4.6.2 Outcome B – the retention of a sixth form at Porthcawl Comprehensive School received positive support from respondents. It is recommended that the school does retain its sixth form which is projected to remain above 300 in future years.

4.6.3 Outcome C – regarding the merger of Cynffig Comprehensive School sixth form with that of Porthcawl Comprehensive School there was a spread of opinion among

respondents to this proposal. While there is a strong case for merger given the small size of the sixth form at Cynffig Comprehensive School there could also be merit in a more comprehensive partnership arrangement between these two schools.

4.6.4 Outcomes D, E and F – the pattern of returns from respondents was fairly consistent with only limited support. In the original planning documents for Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen there was reference to possible further areas of expansion to the school. This was not included in the options for phase 4 of the review. Given the strength of feeling among respondents linked to Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen and the possibility of such additional accommodation over-coming projected increases in pupil numbers and capacity issues, it is recommended that this be explored in more detail. Should this lead to the development of a dedicated sixth-form centre within Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen then this could have implications for sixth-form partnership working in the north of the County Borough (see also Option 3).

4.6.5 Option 2, outcomes A and B – there was significant variation in the pattern of responses to these two options. Overall respondents were in disagreement with these proposals but it should be noted that a large number of these were associated with Bryntirion Comprehensive School and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen. The strength of disagreement was less elsewhere and in the case of respondents linked to Pencoed Comprehensive School the response was strongly positive. Of the two college-based outcomes the college has indicated a preference for a sixth-form centre to be included on the Pencoed campus. The Governing Bodies of Bridgend College and Pencoed Comprehensive School have both indicated their strong support for taking forward their joint venture of the Penybont Sixth Form College. It is therefore recommended that further work is undertaken to develop the work of the partnership and consider the inclusion of a sixth-form centre attached to the STEAM centre on Bridgend College's Pencoed campus.

4.6.6 Option 3 – improving partnerships and collaboration. It is recommended that Option 3 is taken forward as the preferred model of sixth-form provision in the short to mid-term. It is difficult to put forward long term decisions around secondary school provision and in particular sixth-form provision, in the absence of decisions and clear policy on the future of post-16 transport, the new LDP and the demand for Welsh-medium education in the future. Therefore it is recommended that a number of improvements are made to the existing arrangements between schools and sixth-form provision is looked at again once policy reviews in related areas have been finalised. The improvements that are proposed include:

- Requiring all secondary schools to review partnership arrangements with a view to creating more closely integrated arrangements for sixth-form provision such as common timetabling and options that open up the entire partnership offer to all students within the partnership
- Establishing a strategic management board/group for each partnership which includes governors as well as headteachers
- Setting out a formal Memorandum of Understanding that confirms the agreements and collaboration between the schools

- Producing a single online prospectus for each partnership which details not only the subjects on offer but also the calendar, policies, processes and support available in each partnership
- Developing a more transparent methodology around the affordability of courses; in essence this would be ensuring that schools only offer the number of courses that can be supported by the schools' allocations from the Welsh Government post-16 grant
- A significant on-going and potentially increasing place for blended learning; whereas this might have appeared as a marginal consideration in earlier papers it has now moved centre stage through:
  - the experience of learning during the Covid-19 lockdown that has changed the whole perspective on how blended learning can be delivered by schools and colleges across Wales
  - the considerable effort that has been made to develop resources and make sure all types of learners can access them
  - a focus on changes to pedagogy
  - Welsh Government funds to support access through the upgrading of LA/school/pupil IT systems
  - The activity of many partners across the system to build capacity such as Welsh Government, Hwb, Central South Consortium, universities, BBC and many more
  - Becoming a stronger proposition for delivering subjects that are chosen by small numbers of students across a range of institutions and that in the past might have been considered unviable

#### 4.7 Proposed recommendations to Cabinet:

- Note the contents of the report on the public consultation set out in Appendix 1: The potential re-organisation of post-16 provision across Bridgend County Borough and the accompanying detailed extracts in Appendices 2 to 16.
- Take forward Option 3 as a solution for the short to mid-term and to require schools to work together to deliver on a range of improvements to the current situation.
- Instigate the development of a County strategy for blended learning drawing upon the recent experiences of the County's schools under the Covid-19 lockdown and taking account of regional and national advice, experience and practice.
- Incorporate the results of decisions on School Transport, the Local Development Plan 2021+ and Welsh-medium education into a long term strategy for secondary school capacities and catchments, including sixth-form provision.
- Work with partners to further develop the option of a sixth-form centre based at Bridgend College's Pencoed campus in association with the new STEAM centre.



- Investigate the potential for expansion at Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen within the context of the original planning application in order to provide capacity to meet the projected future demand for places and post-16 provision and collaboration in the northern part of the County Borough
- Should the current Heronsbridge Special School site become available then consideration be given to utilising it as a future sixth-form centre of excellence for Brynteg School and Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

## 5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

## 6. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

6.1 An equality impact screening assessment has been undertaken.

6.2 A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken when the workstream moves to detailed consideration of options resulting from the work of Phase 4.

## 7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed and is detailed at the end of this report. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

<b>Long term</b>	In the short term, Bridgend County Borough Council and its secondary schools were faced with financial pressures. With reduced funding it was becoming difficult to maintain financially viable sixth forms in all our schools. The review of post-16 provision and the public consultations address this issue but also set out to protect the long-term interest of learners 16 to 18 by ensuring, among other features, curriculum breadth, high standards, good value for money and enhanced facilities.
<b>Prevention</b>	Bridgend County Borough Council's preferred option prior to the initial public consultation on post-16 provision was to retain a few sixth forms and merge others into larger centres. This would allow for economies of scale, ensure no more subjects are lost and re-instate others, provide good value for money and a boost to standards. This in turn will support two of the Council's key corporate objectives – 'supporting a successful economy' and 'smarter use of resources'.
<b>Integration</b>	Post-16 provision engages, educates and upskills young people to create a well-qualified workforce for the future benefiting both the nation and the individual. The initial preferred concepts and later options will strengthen the social ties within the larger sixth-form settings and through the larger units will have environmental benefits. The opportunities for a wider range of cultural activities and exchanges will also be exploited.
<b>Collaboration</b>	As part of this change programme, Bridgend County Borough Council has already engaged with over 2000 learners and staff in schools and college to inform the ambitions of the project. We have worked with 2030 young people in the earlier consultation phases and a further 1607 in

	Phase 4. A wide range of educational stakeholders and parents have been consulted in order to shape the future provision of post-16 education in ways that will be of maximum benefit to young people and thereby their wellbeing. There have been 5,159 interactions with stakeholders during the Phase 4 consultation.
<b>Involvement</b>	As indicated above the project has already engaged every secondary school council in workshops to determine the principles for 16-18 education. In turn, they ran workshops with students in their own schools. Over 1500 learners aged 16 to 18 and 500 staff in schools and Bridgend College responded to a survey on the current state of 16-18 provision which informed the process of considering concepts for the future. Moving forward to the public consultation on post-16 provision, Bridgend County Borough Council engaged with 2030 learners and a wider audience through the online survey and direct contact. Open engagement sessions were held with parents, staff and governors. All the input from these activities has been used to inform subsequent papers to Cabinet and the second public consultation on how post-16 provision will be delivered in the years ahead. As indicated in section 4 a further 5,159 interactions arising from the second public consultation have been taken into account.

## 8. Financial implications

- 8.1 Funding for sixth-form provision in Bridgend County Borough Council is provided by Welsh Government as a single post-16 grant allocation each year. There is a core allocation based mainly on learner numbers, with additional allocations to take into account learner deprivation and Welsh-medium education. The funding for 2019-2020 was £5,750,256 of which 98% was distributed to secondary schools. The funding for 2020-2021 is £6,306,739 which is an increase of £556,483 or 9.68%. In the previous four financial years, the core grant had been reduced by £751,601 as a result of the combined effects of lower learner numbers and reductions by Welsh Government to the central post-16 grant for schools. The Welsh Government indicative allocation for 2021-2022 is £6,589,468 which would be a further increase of 4.48%.
- 8.2 The consultation report references the financial pressures being faced by the Council, its secondary schools and Bridgend College. During the consultation the need to use limited resources efficiently was discussed along with providing good value for money. No detail on potential capital costs was provided although the challenge of obtaining capital investment in times of austerity was covered.
- 8.3 One area presented in the consultation paper was post-16 transport costs. The pressure on this discretionary service within the Council's budget will vary between the different concepts. In some concepts, the efficiencies gained by having fewer small teaching groups can be used to offset transport costs for collaboration/mergers whereas in others this may not be possible thus there is a varying degree of risk in relation to this particular budget pressure. The continuation or potential loss of this support for learners was a significant concern raised throughout the consultation. The provision of post-16 transport is discretionary and the potential savings from this budget have been subject to a separate consultation exercise and Cabinet report. As indicated earlier in this report the decisions taken by Cabinet in respect of post-16 transport need to be cross-referenced with proposals in the review of post-16 provision covered in this Cabinet paper in order to facilitate the formulation of future policy in this area.

8.4 Should Cabinet decide to move forward with the specific option appraisals on post-16 provision then detailed financial models will be incorporated into those option appraisals at the appropriate time.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 Scrutiny is recommended to:

- note the contents of this report and its appendix on the feedback on the outcomes of the consultation;
- note the proposed recommendations that will be made to Cabinet; and
- consider and agree any recommendations the Committees may wish to make to Cabinet that are consistent with their challenge and support role in light of the proposals and the consultation responses.

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**Background documents:**

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1            Phase 4 Consultation report 2020

### **Background papers**

Cabinet paper on the review of post-16 education provision (31 October 2017)  
Cabinet paper on the review of post-16 education provision (24 April 2018)  
Scrutiny paper on the concepts for post-16 education provision to be included in the public consultation (16 October 2018)  
Cabinet paper on the review of post-16 education provision (20 November 2018)  
Cabinet paper on the review of post-16 education provision (16 April 2019)  
Cabinet paper on the review of post-16 education provision (19 November 2019)  
Wellbeing and Future Generations Assessment  
Initial Equalities Impact Assessment

## WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Description (key aims):</b>	
<b>Section 1</b>	<b>Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.</b>
<b>Long-term</b> (The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)	<b>1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?</b>
	During this review BCBC and its secondary schools have been faced with significant financial pressures. With reduced funding it was becoming difficult to maintain financially viable sixth forms in all our schools. The review of post-16 provision and the public consultations address this issue but also set out to protect the long term interest of learners 16-18, by ensuring curriculum breadth, high standards, good value for money and enhanced facilities.
<b>Prevention</b> (How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)	<b>2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?</b>
	The Council's initial preferred option on post-16 provision is to retain a few sixth forms and merge others into larger centres. This will allow for economies of scale, ensure no more subjects are lost and re-instate others, provide value for money and a boost to standards. This in turn will support two of the Council's key corporate objectives – "Supporting a successful economy" and "Smarter use of resources". This position has been maintained for the second public consultation on a reduced number of options.
<b>Integration</b> (Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)	<b>3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental &amp; cultural outcomes together?</b>
	It engages, educates and upskills young people to create a well-qualified workforce for the future benefiting both the nation and the individual. The preferred concepts in the initial consultation and the revised options in the second will strengthen the social ties within the larger sixth-form settings and through the larger units will have environmental benefits. The opportunities for a wider range of cultural activities and exchanges will also be explored.

<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>(Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives)</p>	<p><b>4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</b></p> <p>As part of this change programme BCBC has already engaged with over 2000 learners and staff in schools and college to inform the ambitions of the project. We have worked with a further 2030 young people in the initial consultation phase as well as a range of educational stakeholders and parents in order to shape the future provision of post-16 education in ways that will be of maximum benefit to young people and thereby their wellbeing. During the second round of public consultation there have been 5,159 interactions with stakeholders including 1,235 learners in workshops in schools and Bridgend College</p>
<p><b>Involvement</b></p> <p>(The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves)</p>	<p><b>5. How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?</b></p> <p>As indicated above the project has already engaged every secondary school council in workshops to determine the principles for 16-18 education. In turn the school councils ran workshops with learners in their own schools. Over 1500 learners 16-18 and 500 staff in school and college responded to a survey on the current state of 16-18 provision which informed the process of considering concepts for the future. Moving forward to the public consultation on post-16 provision the Council engaged with 2030 learners in workshops and a wider audience through the online survey and direct contact. Engagement sessions with parents, staff and governors were held across the County. All the input from these activities has been used to inform subsequent papers to Cabinet and the second public consultation on how post-16 provision will be delivered in the years ahead. As indicated in section 4 of this Cabinet report a further 5,159 interactions arising from the second public consultation have been taken into account.</p>

**Section 2 Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use Appendix 1 to help you).**

Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p><b>A prosperous Wales</b> An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>The project is at the heart of developing a skilled and well-educated workforce by providing outstanding 16-18 education. These young people will provide the skilled adults employers are seeking and will underpin the growth of employment opportunities, the economy and wealth in the local economy. The proposed changes are predicated on the efficient use of resources by creating economies of scale in the educational provision.</p>	<p>The Council's options set out to maximise the benefits to the young people in our communities by increasing choice of subjects to study and raising standards of achievement. Facilities will be enhanced and extra-curricular opportunities will be expanded.</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales</b> A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>The project will rationalise the transport infrastructure that supports post-16 education in the County thereby making efficient use of resources and reducing the carbon footprint and thereby contributing to a healthier natural environment.</p>	<p>The options in Phase 4 of the project would seek to maximise access to a wide range of high quality education with rationalised transport and good value for money.</p>
<p><b>A healthier Wales</b> A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>The latest options put forward would create larger 16-18 settings with viable teaching groups. Research has shown that the dynamic and interactions that occur in the larger units have a positive effect on the learning experience resulting in higher standards and better wellbeing. There is the potential for increasing the amount of</p>	<p>Creating larger settings for post-16 will enable those learning communities to provide more physical and cultural activities in the working week to balance the academic demands and therefore improve student wellbeing.</p>

	participation in physical activities which in turn will have positive effects on wellbeing.	
<p><b>A more equal Wales</b> A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>	This is a critical factor in the review – producing a result where all young people 16-18, regardless of background, circumstance or geography can enjoy access to the same wide range of high quality educational opportunities.	The project is seeking to maximise the opportunity for young people from some of our more disadvantaged backgrounds to access the full range of progression routes post-16 thus providing every learner with a possible and realisable route into their future.
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	The current post-16 community is fragmented and the project aims to bring together learners from a range of settings into well-designed learning provision alongside peers from across the County thus expanding their social interactions and increasing the connectedness of young people from different communities across the County.	The project aims to maximise opportunities for high quality learning in settings which are financially viable, safe, with excellent facilities and strong relationships between staff and students.
<p><b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b> A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	The extra-curricular dimension and expanded engagement of learners 16-18 in the arts and sport will be built into any developmental plans. The lack of sport in the current post-16 curriculum was identified as a weakness by learners and will be addressed through the options under consideration.	The project will proactively support a thriving Welsh-medium post-16 provision in partnership with schools in RCT with long term plans to expand the numbers in this sector.
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales</b> A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	The Skills Challenge Certificate element of the revised Welsh Baccalaureate is followed by all learners 16-18 across Bridgend and this will continue with the development of the latest options. As a consequence all students will take part in the Global Challenge, one of four challenges built into the qualification.	Maximise impact by universal adoption of the Welsh Baccalaureate.

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## The potential re-organisation of post-16 provision across Bridgend County Borough.

### Consultation report

**Date of issue:** 11 March 2020

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## 1. Overview

A public consultation reviewing the organisation of post-16 provision across Bridgend county borough was undertaken over a 12 week period from 2 December 2019 to 21 February 2020. The consultation received 5159 interactions from a combination of:

- Survey completions;
- Workshops held with comprehensive school pupils;
- Staff and governor engagement sessions;
- Parent and carer engagement sessions;
- Social media engagements;
- Emails;
- Letters.

This paper details the analysis associated with the consultation.

## 2. Introduction

The public survey was available to complete online through a link on the consultation page of the council's website. Paper copies of the consultation were made available via request to the consultation and engagement team. Surveys were available in several formats, including large print, standard and youth versions. All were available in English and Welsh. The content of the page remains available online.

In total, there were 18 questions (within all survey formats) that required a reply from respondents. These were made up of questions about three overall options in relation to the provision of post 16 education throughout the county borough. Within options one and two there were seven outcomes and two outcomes respectively. The council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey in line with recommended good practice for all public-facing surveys carried out by the council. One additional question was asked if students selected that they attended Bridgend College.

A programme of engagement events were held in comprehensive schools across the county borough and Bridgend College, engaging with learners, staff and governors, and parents and carers.

Comments regarding the consultation were also invited via social media, letter, email and phone call.

## 3. Promotional tools and engagement methods

Details of the consultation were shared with:

- The public
- Learners and their parents/carers
- Schools and colleges
- School governors

### 3.1 Promotional tools

This section details the methods used to raise the profile of the consultation and encourage participation.

### 3.1.1 Social media

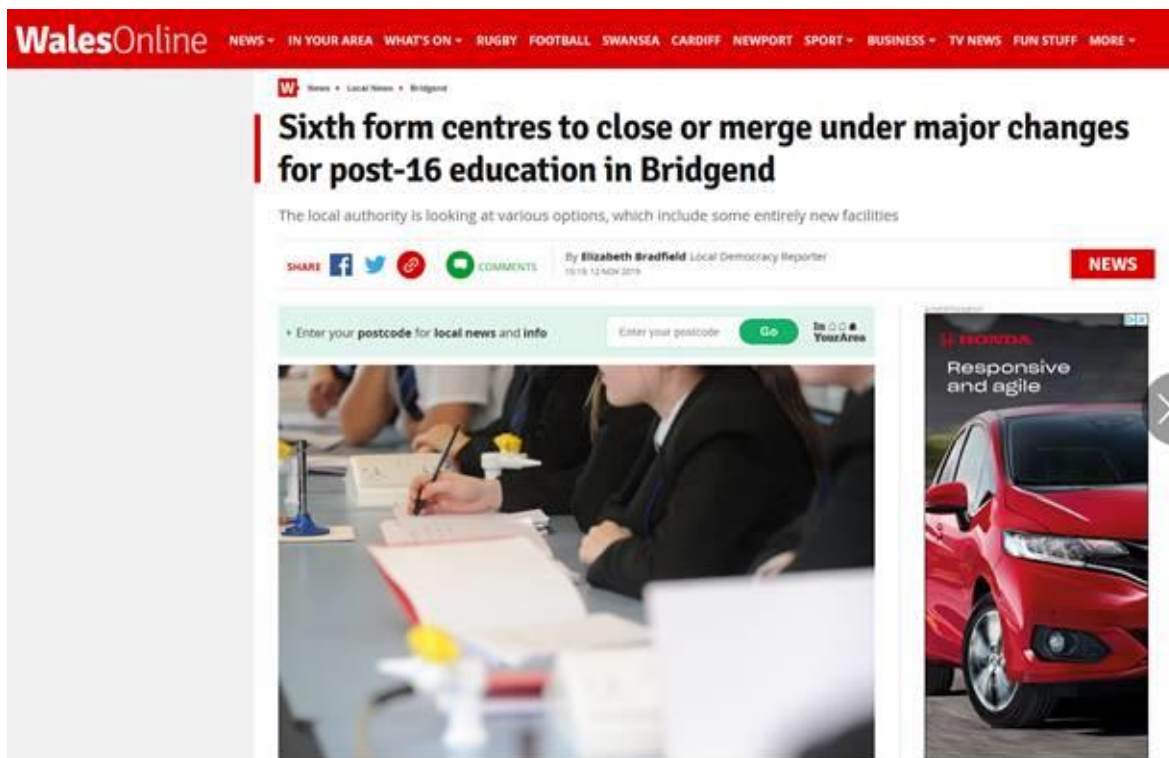
Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram have been widely used to promote the consultation and the overall post-16 consultation social media campaign reached 51,737 people which generated 328 interactions (Link clicks, shares, reactions and comments).

Information was posted to the council's corporate Twitter accounts throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,110 followers on its corporate Twitter accounts. During the period, the authority 'tweeted' 68 times and the information was seen by 32,949 people.

Information was also posted to the council's corporate Facebook page during the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,426 followers. During the period, the authority posted eight times on Facebook and the posts were seen by 17,142 people, these posts generated 99 link clicks, 59 shares, 5 reactions and 9 comments. The comments received have been themed and can be seen in section eight.

### 3.1.2 Press and media

Details of the consultation were sent as part of media releases emailed to local and national press before and during the consultation (23 October 2019, 9 December 2019, 21 January 2020 and 14 February 2020), and supported with social media messages throughout the live period.





FEATURED / SCHOOLS

## More details of proposed sixth form shake-up revealed ahead of consultation

October 29, 2019 - by Owen Donovan - Leave a Comment



(Title Image: Brynffrion Comprehensive School)

Tomorrow, a Bridgend Council scrutiny committee will discuss a number of papers which go into more detail on proposed reforms to post-16 education (namely sixth forms) in Bridgend county ([pdf](#)).

A fresh public consultation on the remaining three options is set to open in November - subject to Cabinet approval.

## Post-16 Education Under Review

Wednesday 26th Feb 2020

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

A major consultation over the future of post-16 education in Bridgend County Borough will begin next month.

Bridgend County Borough Council is reviewing whether the current provision should be altered to ensure that young learners have the best possible opportunities to excel, and is inviting the public to have their say.

There are currently sixth forms in every secondary school in Bridgend County Borough, varying in size from 76 to 347 pupils.

Around 40 pupils also attend the sixth form provision at each of the county borough's two special schools, while Bridgend College provides a range of vocational pathways for approximately 2,000 learners aged 16 to 18.

Media releases have resulted in local and national press coverage including Wales Online, Ogy Bloggy Ogwr and News.Wales.

### 3.2 Engagement methods

This section details the mechanisms available for stakeholders to engage with the council and share their views.

#### 3.2.1 The potential reorganisation of post 16 provision across Bridgend county borough survey

A standard survey, large print version of the survey and youth survey were all made available in Welsh and English. All were available in paper format and online. The consultation feedback is contained in section seven.

#### 3.2.2 Parents and carer meetings

Parents and carers sessions took place in all comprehensive schools across the county borough and Bridgend College. Parents and carers were given an overview of the consultation and the proposals and were invited to give views and comments which were recorded by the consultation and engagement team and are themed in section nine. We engaged with 193 parents and carers during the engagement sessions.

#### 3.2.3 Staff and Governor meetings

Staff and governor sessions took place in all comprehensive schools across the county borough and Bridgend College. Staff and governors were given an overview of the consultation and the proposals and were invited to give views and comments which were recorded by the consultation and engagement team and are themed in section ten. We engaged with 322 staff and governors during the engagement sessions.

- Bryntirion Comprehensive;
- Porthcawl Comprehensive;
- Maesteg School;
- Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen;
- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd;
- Brynteg Comprehensive;
- Cynffig Comprehensive;
- Bridgend College;
- Pencoed Comprehensive/ Pen Y Bont Sixth Form College.

### 3.2.4 School engagement sessions

In order to gather the views of young people the consultation team attended comprehensive schools across the county borough. Pupils were given an overview of the consultation and then were guided through the paper version of the survey.

The consultation team engaged with **1235 young people** in a variety of pupil workshops.

Engagement sessions took place in:

- Bryntirion Comprehensive school;
- Maesteg School;
- Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen Comprehensive school;
- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd;
- Brynteg Comprehensive school;
- Cynffig Comprehensive school ;
- Bridgend College;
- Pencoed Comprehensive school/ Pen Y Bont Sixth Form College.

The consultation and engagement team sent the youth survey link to Porthcawl Comprehensive and Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School as they were unable to participate in the school engagement sessions. This enabled the school to share the link with pupils so that they had the opportunity to share their views.

The feedback from young people is detailed in appendices 2-11:

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	Appendix 2
Bridgend College	Appendix 3
Brynteg Comprehensive School	Appendix 4
Bryntirion Comprehensive School	Appendix 5
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen Comprehensive School	Appendix 6
Cynffig Comprehensive School	Appendix 7
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwydd	Appendix 8
Maesteg School	Appendix 9
Pencoed Comprehensive School/ Pen Y Bont Sixth Form College	Appendix 10
Porthcawl Comprehensive School	Appendix 11

### 3.2.5 Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen ‘Save our sixth form’ evidence



Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen submitted 1822 pieces of evidence as part of a campaign to 'Save our sixth form'. The evidence includes:

- Head teacher introduction;
- MP/AM letter;
- Alternative proposal to provide post-16 education;
- Challenge to facts presented within the consultation;
- CCYD 6<sup>th</sup> form video;
- Change.org petition (signed by 733 people);
- Paper survey completions;
- Letters of support from learners, parents/carers past present and future and the wider community of Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.

The evidence from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen can be seen in appendix 13.

#### 4. Response rate

In total, there were **5159** interactions during the consultation. The response rate has been segregated into several areas: consultation survey responses, engagement event attendees, social media interactions, emails and letters.

Interactions	Number
Survey completions	1435
School parent and carer meetings	193
School staff and governor meetings	322
Bridgend College staff/governor/parent meeting	19
Pupil workshops	1235
CCYD evidence submission	1823
Emails	13
Letters	110
Social media comments	9
Total interactions	<b>5159</b>

During the consultation a series of automated responses were received, this resulted in 6971 computer generated completions, this data was removed from the analysis. The data including the computer generated responses can be viewed in appendix one.

#### 5. How effective was the consultation?

The potential reorganisation of post 16 provision consultation was conducted over 12 week period. The data collection methods, which include the online survey and paper survey were developed using plain English to maximise understanding.

#### 6. Headline figures

Headline figures taken from the main survey are detailed here:

- 6.1 48% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal for Brynteg School to become a sixth form centre and host sixth form students from Bryntirion Comprehensive. A further 18% of respondents disagreed with this proposal;

- 6.2 27% of respondents agreed with the proposal that Porthcawl Comprehensive should keep its sixth form and a further 20% agreed with this proposal;
- 6.3 34% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal for Cynffig Comprehensive to close or merge its sixth form with Porthcawl Comprehensive and a further 15% disagreed with this proposal;
- 6.4 49% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal that Cynffig Comprehensive could host a sixth form centre and host students from Pencoed and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen. A further 19% disagreed with this proposal;
- 6.5 46% of respondents disagreed with the proposal that Maesteg School hosts a sixth form centre and hosts students from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen;
- 6.6 49% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal that Maesteg School and Pencoed Comprehensive both become sixth form centres and host pupils from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen and Cynffig. A further 17% of respondents disagreed with this proposal;
- 6.7 When asked to rank the outcomes within option one respondents selected:
- **Outcome A2** Brynteg school and Bryntirion Comprehensive develop a joint sixth for provision, followed by;
  - **Outcome A1** Brynteg School becomes a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Bryntirion Comprehensive, followed by;
  - **Outcome B** Porthcawl Comprehensive keeps its sixth form;
  - **Outcome C** Cynffig Comprehensive closes or merges its sixth form with Porthcawl Comprehensive, followed by;
  - **Outcome D** Cynffig Comprehensive hosts sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Pencoed Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, followed by;
  - **Outcome E** Maesteg School hosts a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen and finally;
  - **Outcome F** Maesteg School and Pencoed Comprehensive both become sixth form centres and host sixth form students from Cynffig Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.
- 6.8 53% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal to develop a sixth form centre in Bridgend Town centre run by the college, drawing sixth form students from Cynffig Comprehensive, Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, Pencoed Comprehensive and Bryntirion Comprehensive. A further 17% of respondents disagreed with this proposal;
- 6.9 47% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal of a sixth form centre at Bridgend College's Campus run by the college and hosting sixth form students from Pencoed Comprehensive, Cynffig Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, a further 17% disagreed with this proposal;
- 6.10 When asked to rank the outcomes within option two respondents selected Outcome A Bridgend town centre sixth form centre run by the college, followed by



outcome B, sixth form centre at Bridgend College's Pencoed campus run by the college;

- 6.11 75% of respondents strongly agreed with the proposal to retain sixth forms in all schools but with further development in order to improve the delivery of this option. A further 10% agreed with this proposal;
- 6.12 When asked to rank the options respondents selected option 3, keep all sixth forms, followed by option 1, keep some sixth forms and merge some sixth form centres run by the council and then option 2, keep some sixth forms and merge some sixth forms to make centres run by the college.

## **7. Question and analysis - consultation survey**

The consultation contained 18 questions related to the re-organisation of post 16 education across the county borough. All questions were optional, so participants could choose to answer all or some of the questions. One additional question was asked if students selected that they attended Bridgend College.

Respondents were provided with information about each of the potential options and outcomes and asked if they agreed with the proposals. After each option respondents were asked to rank their preferred outcome within that option. Finally respondents were asked to rank the three options into their preferred options and make any other comments about the proposals.

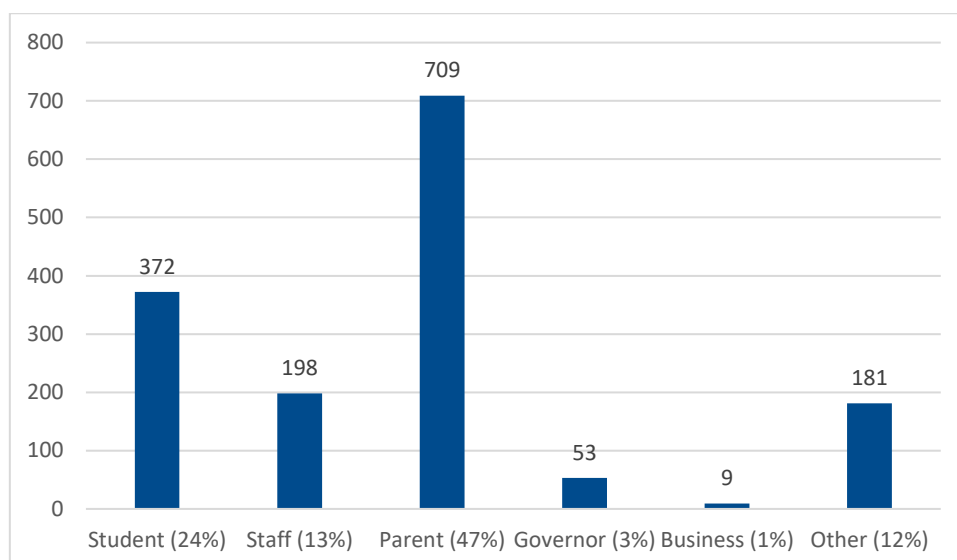
This section details the responses received to the main survey.

The responses received from learners during school engagement sessions have been analysed by individual school/college and can be seen in appendices 2 to 11:

### **7.1 About you**

#### **7.1.1 Please tick the option that best described you as a respondent**

1522 people responded to this question.



Respondents were able to choose multiple options to represent themselves. The most common respondents were parent (47%), followed by student (24%) and then staff (13%).

### 7.1.2 Please specify (if you chose other)

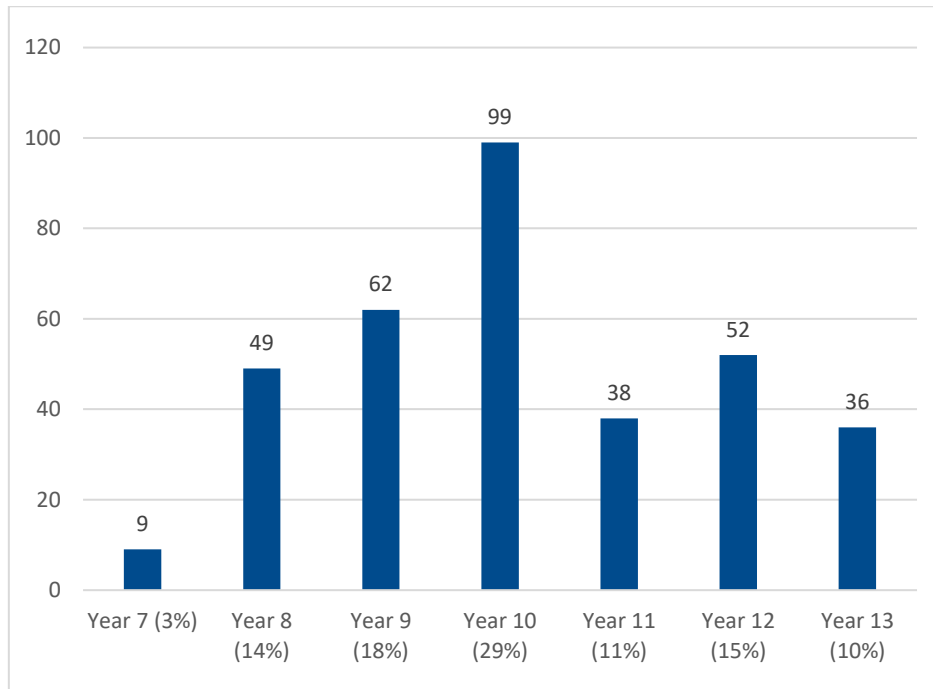
Where respondents selected other they were asked to specify. 167 respondents provided a response to this question and their responses are detailed in the table below:

Alumni/ Former sixth form student	71
Student family member	24
Year 5/6 student	17
Local resident	16
University student/representative	9
Current teacher/ Head teacher	7
Retired teacher/Head teacher	6
Employee in Bridgend Education/Agency working in a school	3
Future Parent	3
Councillor	2
College student	2
Sixth Form teacher in a different local authority/ England	2
Brynteg Pupil Governor Year 11	1
All of the above	1
Youth Worker	1
Previous parent	1
GP Practice Manager	1

### 7.1.3 Year group

Respondents that said they were a student were then asked to select their year group.

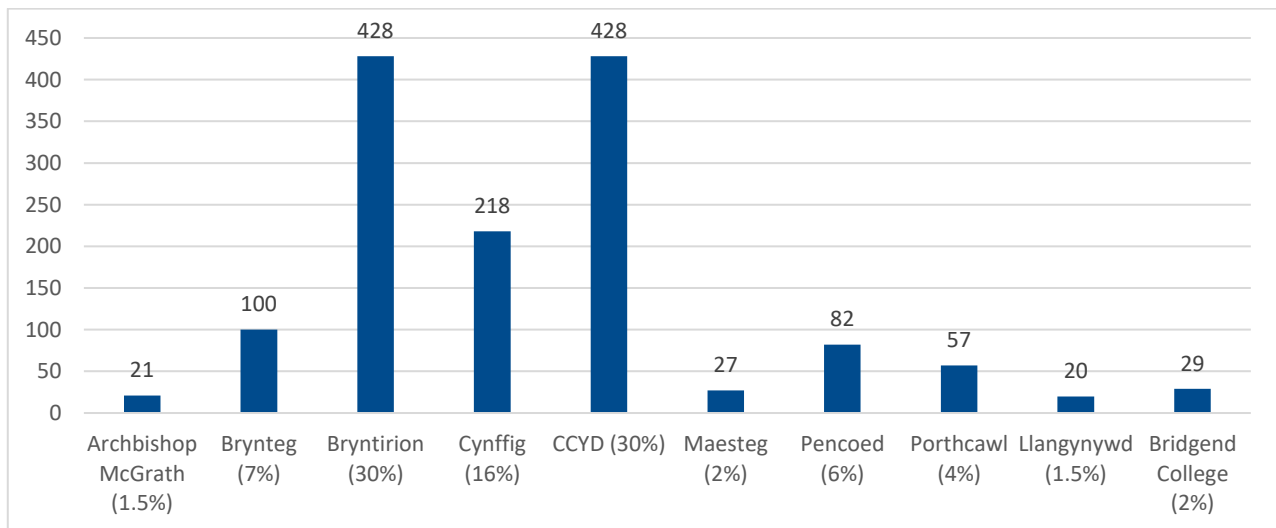
345 people responded to this question.



29% of respondents stated that they were in year 10 (29%), followed by year 9 (18%) and then year 12 (11%).

#### 7.1.4 Which secondary school are you connected to?

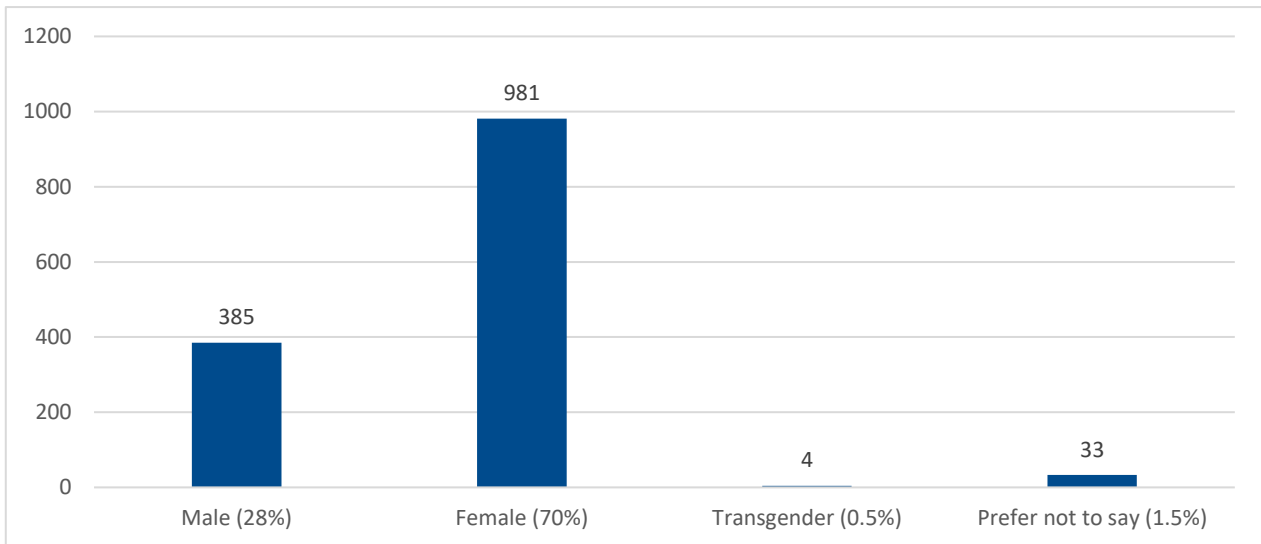
1410 people responded to this question.



30% of respondents were connected to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen and 30% were connected to Bryntirion, this was followed by Brynteg (7%) and then Pencoed (6%).

#### 7.1.5 Gender

1403 people responded to this question.



70% of respondents stated that they were female and 28% stated male. 1.5% of respondents stated that they would prefer not to say and 0.5% stated they were transgender.

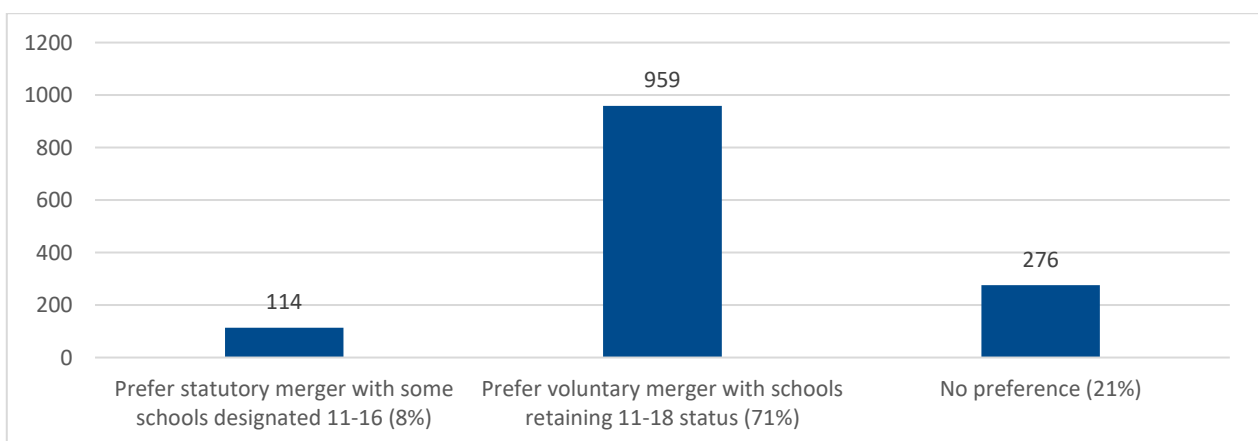
## 7.2 Survey questions

### 7.2.1 Sixth form mergers

Respondents were given information about the types of mergers under consideration, described as statutory and voluntary mergers.

Please indicate if you have a preference or not for either type of sixth form merger.

1349 people responded to this question.

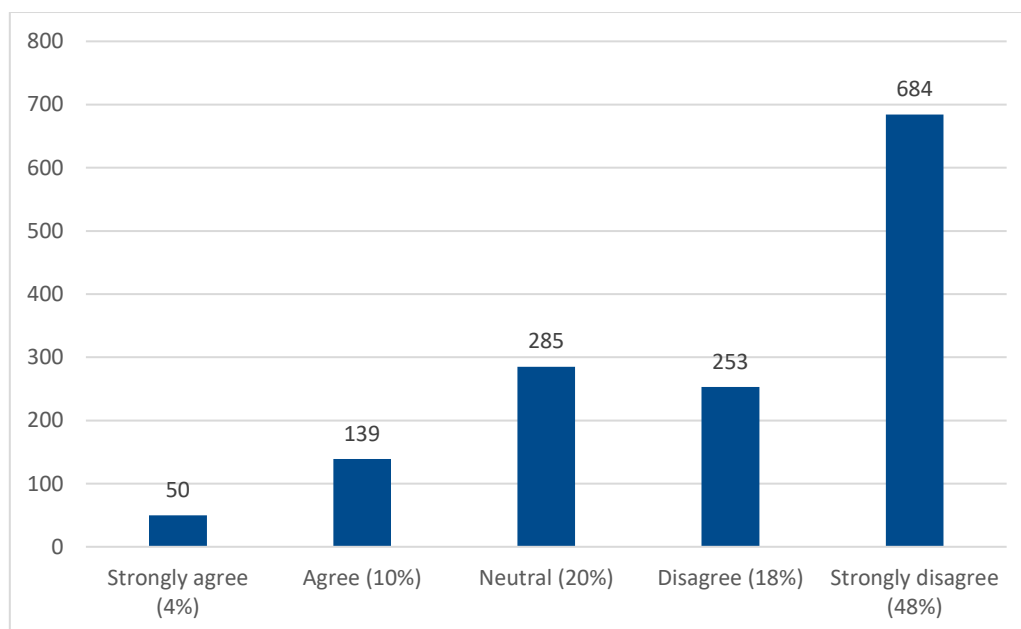


71% of respondents preferred voluntary merger with both schools training 11-18 status, 21% of respondents stated that they had no preference and 8% of respondents preferred a statutory merger with some schools being designated 11-16.

## 7.2.2 Option one – a mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new local authority maintained sixth form centre(s)

### 7.2.2.1 Outcome A – Brynteg School becomes a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Bryntirion comprehensive

1411 people responded to this question.



48% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal for Brynteg School to become a sixth form centre and host sixth form students from Bryntirion comprehensive, a further 18% disagreed. 20% of respondents gave a neutral responses. 10% of respondents agreed with this proposal and a further 4% strongly agreed.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome

299 comments were received in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

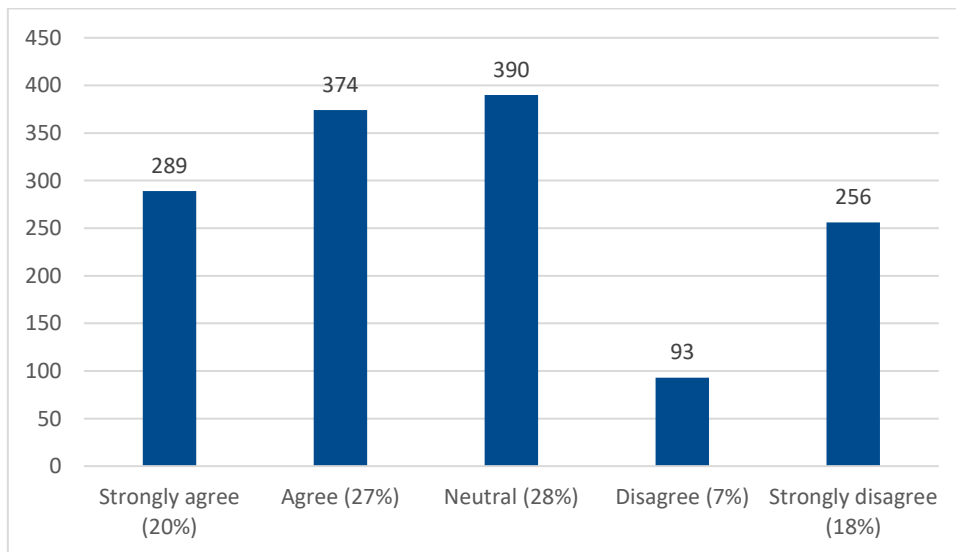
Theme	No.
Pupils will lose familiar teachers/environment/support	52
Keep all sixth forms	48
Bryntirion should keep its sixth form	43
Additional travel, especially if it is not provided by the council, is unfair	26
Disagree with proposal	23
Sixth forms act as role models/positive impact on community	15
Pupils will not want to stay in sixth form if they change	14
School/classes will be overpopulated	13
Will be a difficult transition for pupils at an important time	12
Will offer more subject choice and opportunities	11
Agree with proposal	9

Does not affect me	9
CCYD should keep six form	5
There should be one centre: all schools should merge or no schools should merge	5
Save money elsewhere/ waste of money	4
Parents would not want to send their children to a 11-16 school	3
Creates a two tier education system	2
Invest in sixth forms and improve collaboration	2
Archbishop should keep its sixth form	1
Ask the welsh assembly for more money	1
Welsh education should be protected	1

The most common responses were pupils will lose familiar teachers/environment/support (52), followed by keep all sixth forms (48) and then Bryntirion should keep its sixth form (43).

### 7.2.2.2 Outcome B – Porthcawl Comprehensive keeps its sixth form

1402 people responded to this question.



28% of respondents provided a neutral response to this proposal. 27% agreed with the proposal that Porthcawl should keep its sixth form and a further 20% strongly agreed with the proposal. 18% of respondents strongly disagreed with this proposal and 7% disagreed.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

141 comments were received in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

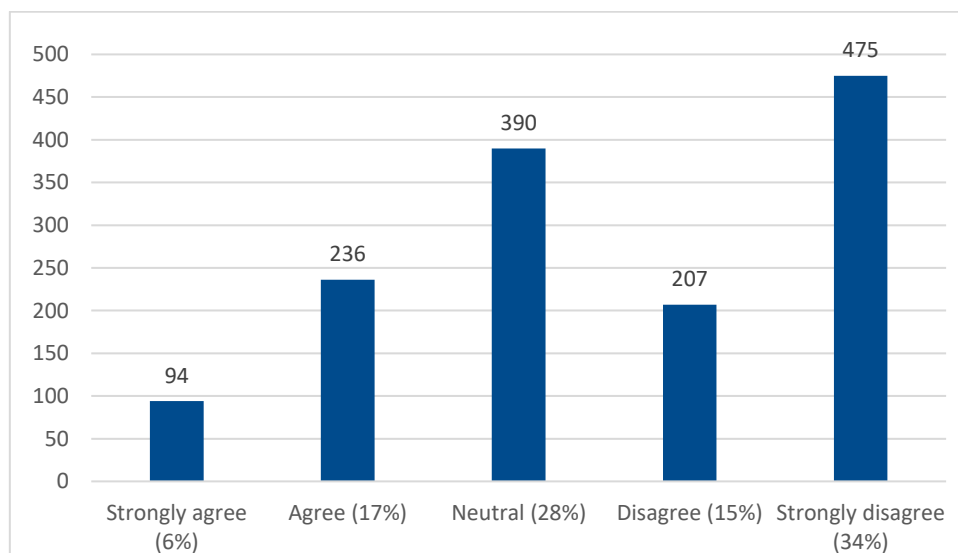
Theme	No.
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Keep all sixth forms	41
Why does Porthcawl keep its sixth form, this is unfair on other schools/students	32
Agree with proposal - good standards, unique location, familiar environment for pupils	28
Does not affect me/ should not comment on other schools	13
Cynffig should keep its sixth form	7
CCYD should keep its sixth form	5
Transport should be provided and paid for	4
Cynffig could merge with Porthcawl	3
Make savings elsewhere/waste of money	2
Porthcawl needs investment	2
Why is Archbishop not included in proposals	1
There should be one centre for all sixth form students	1
Provide the services you are funded to provide	1
Welsh education should be protected	1

The most common responses were keep all sixth forms (41) followed by why does Porthcawl keep its sixth form, this is unfair on other schools/students (32) and then agree with proposal - good standards, unique location, familiar environment for pupils (28).

### 7.2.2.3 Outcome C – Cynffig Comprehensive closes or merges its sixth form with Porthcawl Comprehensive

1402 people responded to this question.



34% of respondents strongly disagreed with this proposal and a further 15% disagreed with the proposal. 28% provided a neutral response. 17% of respondents agreed, and 6% strongly agreed with the proposal for Cynffig comprehensive to close or merge its sixth form with Porthcawl comprehensive.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome

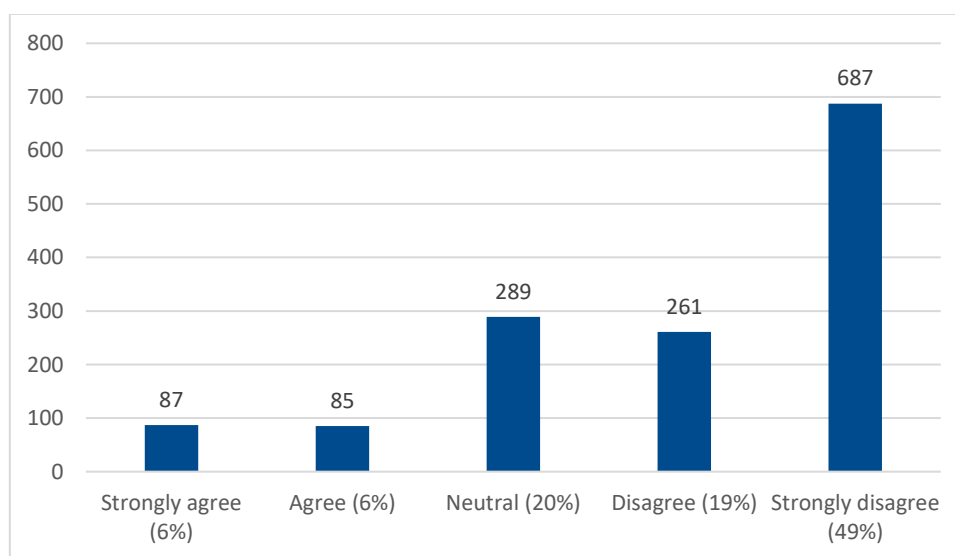
170 comments were received in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Disagree with proposal	77
Increased travel would be too costly and too long	28
Agree with proposal	18
Discouraging people to attend sixth form /decrease numbers	12
All sixth forms should remain the same	14
BCBC should invest in deprived area	13
Prefer voluntary merger	8

The most common responses were disagreed with proposal (77), followed by increased travel would be too costly and too long (28) and then agree with proposal (18).

#### 7.2.2.4 Outcome D - Cynffig Comprehensive hosts sixth form centre and hosts sixth from students from Pencoed Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen

1409 people responded to this question.



49% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal that Cynffig could host a sixth form centre, attended by pupils from Pencoed and CCYD. A further 19% disagreed with the proposal. 20% provided a neutral response. 6% of respondents agreed with this proposal and 6% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome

306 comments were received in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
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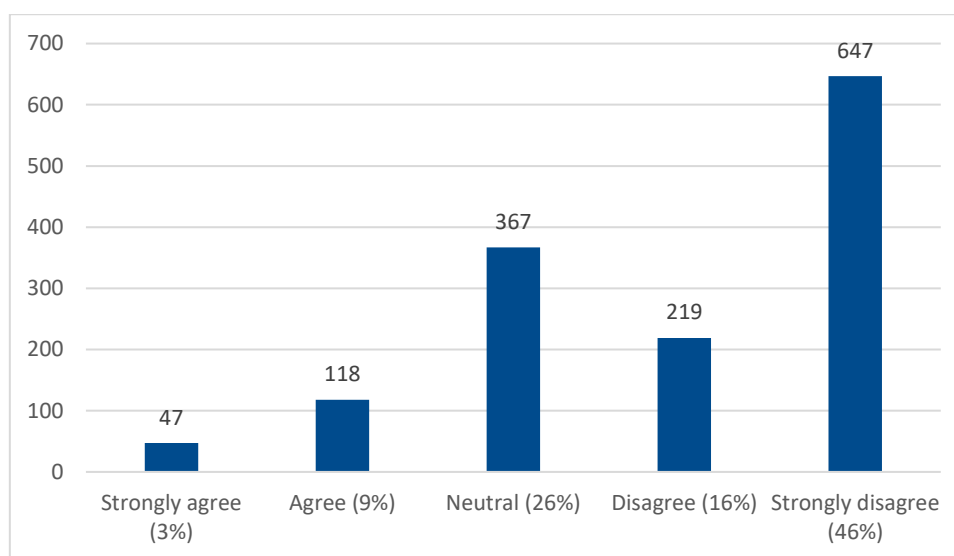


Increased travel would be too costly and too long	115
Disagree with proposal	96
CCYD should host a sixth form	63
All sixth forms should remain the same	26
Agree with proposal	6

The most common responses were increased travel would be too costly and too long (115), followed by disagree with proposal (96) and then CCYD should host a sixth form (63).

### 7.2.2.5 Outcome E – Maesteg School hosts a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen

1398 people responded to this question.



46% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal that Maesteg School could host a sixth form centre, attended by pupils from CCYD. A further 16% disagreed with the proposal. 26% provided a neutral response. 9% of respondents agreed with this proposal and 3% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome

273 comments were received in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

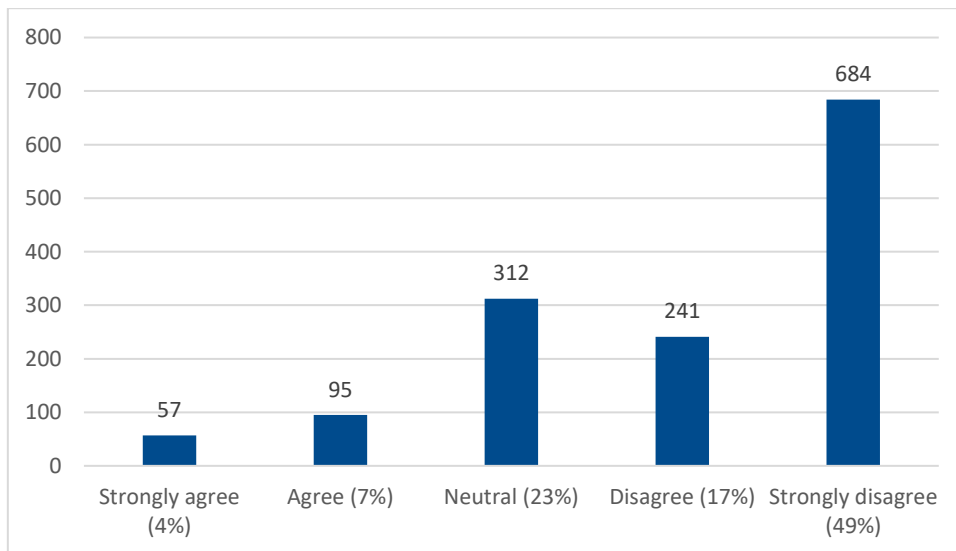
Theme	No.
Too far/too long/ too expensive to travel	134
CCYD should keep its sixth form/ host sixth form centre	44
Keep all sixth forms	19
How will standards of teaching be maintained?	17
Pupils will lose familiar teachers/environment/support	15
Pupils will not stay on in sixth form if they change	15
Disagree with proposal	9
Agree with proposal	4

It will be a difficult transition for pupils	4
Should invest in sixth forms	4
It will be overpopulated/have bigger class sizes	3
Maesteg should keep its sixth form	2
Cynffig should keep its sixth form	1
All sixth form education centre should be at Bridgend college	1
Welsh education has not been considered in proposals	1

The most common responses were too long/too far/too expensive to travel (134), followed by CCYD should keep its sixth form/ host sixth form centre (44) and then keep all sixth forms (19).

### 7.2.2.6 Outcome F – Maesteg School and Pencoed Comprehensive both become sixth form centres and host sixth form students from Cynffig Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.

1389 people responded to this question.



49% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal that Maesteg School and Pencoed Comprehensive both become sixth form centres and host pupils from CCYD and Cynffig. A further 17% disagreed with the proposal. 23% provided a neutral response. 7% of respondents agreed with this proposal and 4% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome

205 comments were received in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Too far/too long/ too expensive to travel	68
Will become overpopulated/more competition for places	26
Keep all sixth forms	24
CCYD should keep its sixth form/ host six form centre	18

Disagree with proposal	17
Agree with proposal	10
Pupils will lose familiar staff/environment/support	8
Either all schools merge or no schools merge	6
Disadvantaged students are being further disadvantaged	6
How will standards be maintained?	6
Pupils would not stay on in sixth form if they change	5
All six form education at Bridgend college	1
Cynffig should keep its sixth form	1
It will be a difficult transition for pupils	1
Should invest in sixth forms	1
Welsh education has not been considered in proposals	1

The most common responses were too long/too far/too expensive to travel (68), followed by will become overpopulated/more competition for places (26) and then keep all sixth forms (24).

### 7.2.2.7 Overall consideration of the options

Respondents were asked to rank in order of preference the options outlined in outcomes A-F.

The overall list of preferred concepts are:

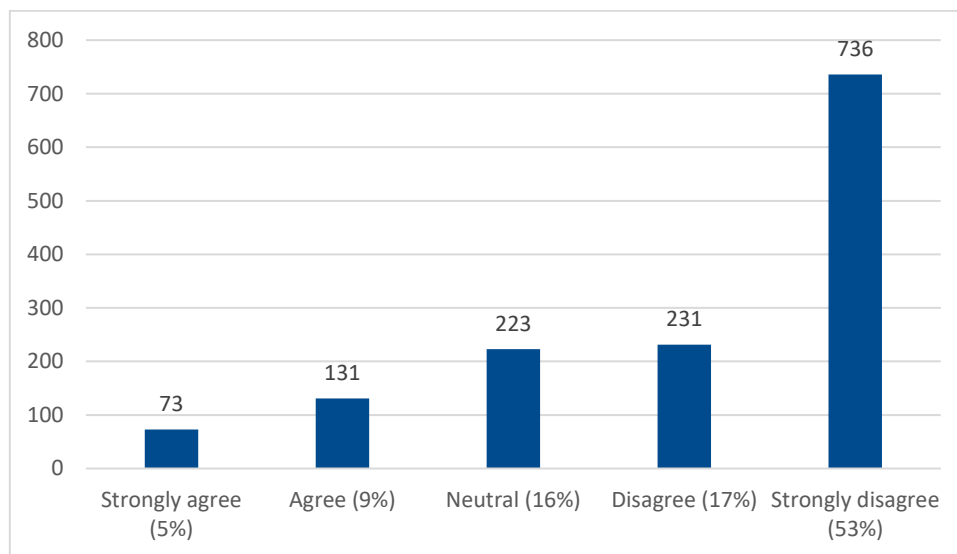
Rank	Outcome	Number of respondents who ranked each concept in position	% of respondents who ranked each concept in position
1	<b>Outcome A2</b> Brynteg school and Bryntirion Comprehensive develop a joint sixth for provision;	214	23%
2	<b>Outcome A1</b> Brynteg School becomes a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Bryntirion Comprehensive	165	30%
3	<b>Outcome B</b> Porthcawl Comprehensive keeps its sixth form	165	22%
4	<b>Outcome C</b> Cynffig Comprehensive closes or merges its sixth form with Porthcawl Comprehensive	168	24%
5	<b>Outcome D</b> Cynffig Comprehensive hosts sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Pencoed Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen	170	24%

6	<b>Outcome E</b> Maesteg School hosts a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen	200	28%
7	<b>Outcome F</b> Maesteg School and Pencoed Comprehensive both become sixth form centres and host sixth form students from Cynffig Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.	166	23%

### 7.2.3 Option two – a mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create a new FE college governed sixth form centre(s)

**7.2.3.1 Outcome A – a sixth form centre is developed in Bridgend Town centre and run by Bridgend College, drawing sixth form students from Cynffig Comprehensive school, Coleg Cymunedon y Dderwen, Pencoed Comprehensive school and Bryntirion Comprehensive school (if the merger with Brynteg school listed in Option 1/Outcome A did not take place).**

1394 people responded to this question.



53% of respondents strongly disagreed with this proposal and a further 17% disagreed with the proposal. 16% provided a neutral response. 9% of respondents agreed with this proposal and a further 5% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome

257 comments were received in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

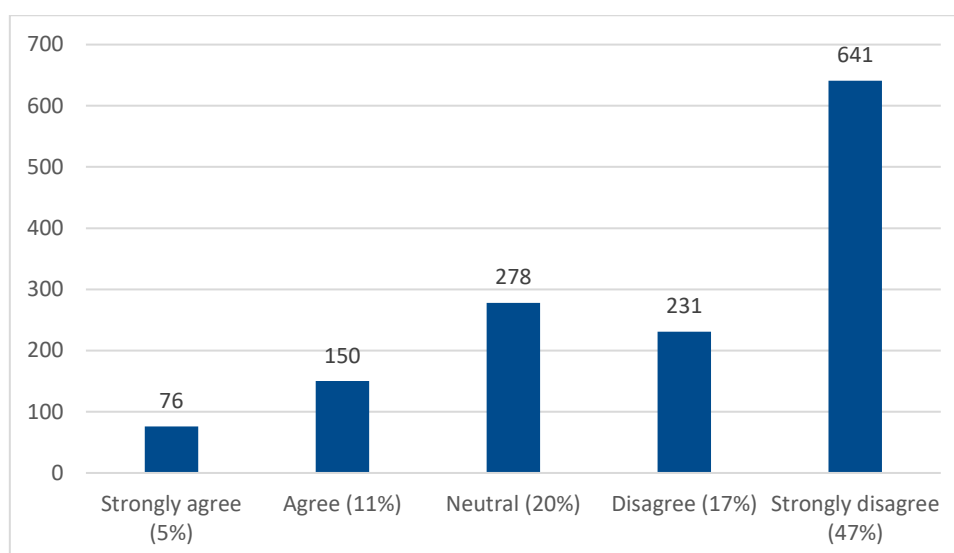
Theme	No.
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Keep all sixth forms	29
Either all schools attend a centre or no schools attend, unfair that only some schools lose sixth form	24
Additional travel is unfair/affects students if they have to pay for transport	23
Pupils will lose familiar teachers/environment/pastoral and wellbeing support	19
Staffing issues/may negatively affect standards	19
If a student wanted to go to college they would have/ some students prefer school environment	16
Will be expensive to build/not enough space in town centre	16
Disagree with proposal	15
Centre will be too big/too many students/bigger class sizes	12
Difficult transition for pupils/may be cultural differences	9
Sixth formers are role models/create a school community	9
This is better than option one (merging schools)	9
Agree with proposal	8
Location and paying for transport to a centre will impact pupils from disadvantaged areas	8
CCYD should keep its sixth form	7
Town centre is not suitable/ too many students in town	7
Bryntirion should keep its sixth form	6
Will offer more subject choices (including Welsh) and offer better opportunities	6
Pupils would not attend a centre for sixth form	3
Does not affect me	2
Location to Brynteg would increase competition and may damage Brynteg admissions	2
Cynffig should keep its sixth form	1

The most common responses were keep all sixth forms (29), followed by either all schools attend a centre or no schools attend, unfair that only some schools lose sixth form (24) and then additional travel is unfair/affects students if they have to pay for transport (23).

### **7.2.3.2 Outcome B - Sixth form centre at Bridgend College's Pencoed Campus run by the college and hosting sixth-form students from Pencoed Comprehensive, Cynffig Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.**

1376 people responded to this question.



47% of respondents strongly disagreed with this proposal and a further 17% disagreed with the proposal. 20% provided a neutral response. 11% of respondents agreed with this proposal and a further 5% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome

155 comments were received in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Additional travel is unfair/affects students if they have to pay for transport	41
Keep all sixth forms	15
CCYD should keep its sixth form	13
Expensive to build, invest in sixth forms instead	12
Disagree with proposal	9
Transport costs will be expensive, negative impact on pupils from disadvantaged areas	9
Staffing issues/may negatively affect standards	8
Agree with proposal	7
Pupils would not get to sixth form if they change and/or have to pay transport costs	7
Centre will be too big/too many students/bigger class sizes	6
If a student wanted to go to college they would have/ some students prefer school environment	6
Will offer more subject choices/opportunities	4
Better than merging schools	3
Pencoed should retain its 11-18 status	3
Sixth formers are role models/create a school community	3
What about other subjects?	3
Cynffig should keep its sixth form	2

Either all schools attend a centre or no schools attend, unfair that only some schools lose sixth form	2
Does not affect me	1
Welsh education should be protected	1

The most common responses were additional travel is unfair/affects students if they have to pay for transport (41), followed by keep all sixth forms (15) and then CCYD should keep its sixth form (13).

### 7.2.3.3 Overall consideration of the options

Respondents were asked to rank their preferred choice for outcome A and B by numbering the options one and two.

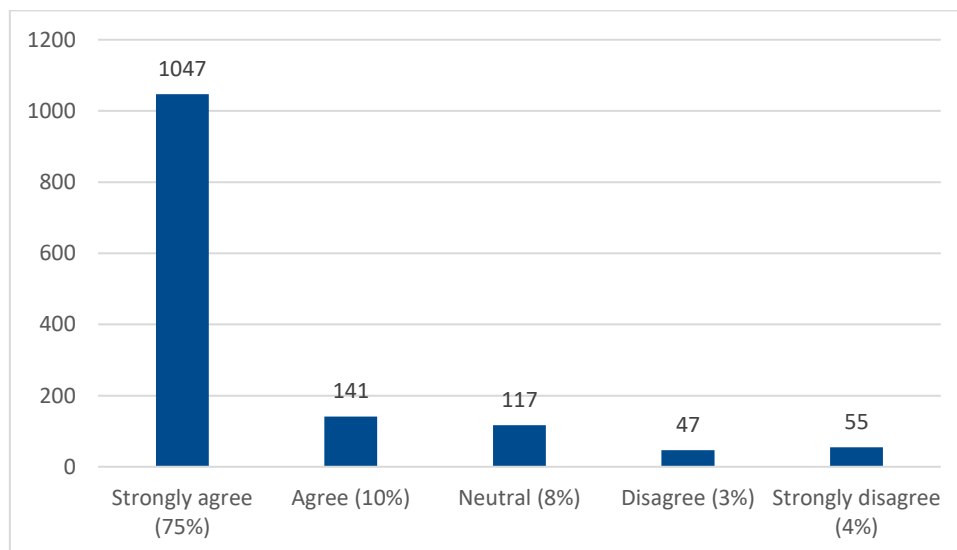
Respondents ranked outcomes A and B as:

- Outcome A Bridgend town centre sixth form centre run by the college (52%)
- Outcome B Sixth Form centre at Bridgend College’s Pencoed campus run by the college (48%)

## 7.2.4 Option three Keeping sixth forms in all schools

### 7.2.4.1 The retention of sixth forms in all schools – the current position (ie a distributed tertiary model based on collaboration, but with further development in order to improve the delivery of this option)

1407 people responded to this question.



75% of respondents strongly agreed with the proposal to keep sixth forms in all schools and a further 10% of respondents agreed with this proposal. 8% provided a neutral response. 4% of respondents strongly disagreed with this proposal and a further 3% disagreed with the proposal to keep sixth forms in all schools.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome

355 comments were received in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Keep all sixth forms	122
Pupils will lose familiar staff/environment/wellbeing and support	61
Invest in sixth forms/Need better collaboration/ Centre of excellence for subjects	33
There will be no additional travel for learners	24
Sixth formers are role models, raise aspirations of younger pupils and create a sixth form community	24
This is unsustainable/not all pupils have equal opportunities	16
Standards will be maintained if sixth forms remain in schools	13
Choice - people can change sixth forms or go to college if they prefer	12
Pupils will not continue/stay in sixth form if they change	9
Bryntirion should keep its sixth form	8
CCYD should keep its sixth form	8
Pupils will not have to worry about a difficult transition	5
There will be no loss of staff from schools	5
Parents will not send their children to a 11-16 school	4
Would be better for some schools, that are close together, to merge	4
Transport should be provided for free	3
Consideration needs to be given to Faith schools	1
Cynffig should keep its sixth form	1
Either all sixth forms close or all sixth forms stay open	1
The Borough is 20 years behind reorganisation of post 16 provision such as Coleg Sir Gar in Carmarthenshire.	1

The most common responses were keep all sixth forms (122), followed by pupils will lose familiar staff/environment/wellbeing and support (61) and then invest in sixth forms/need better collaboration/ centre of excellence for subjects (33).

### 7.2.5 Overall consideration of the options

Respondents were asked, having reviewed all the options and outcomes, to rank their preferred choice for options 1, 2 and 3.

Overall respondents ranked the outcomes in first position as follows:

- Option 3 retention of sixth forms in all schools – the current position (ie a distributed tertiary model based on collaboration, but with further development in order to improve the delivery of this option) (85%);
- Option 1 a mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new local authority maintained sixth-form centre(s) (9%);
- Option 2 a mix of school sixth form with some mergers to create new FE College governed sixth-form centre(s) (6%).



## 7.2.6 Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the proposals?

Respondents were asked if they had any further comments that they would like to make about the proposals.

437 comments were received. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Keep all sixth forms	149
Additional travel for some pupils is unfair and could be too expensive for some pupils/families	44
CCYD should retain its sixth form/ consider building or developing a sixth form centre at CCYD	32
Invest in sixth forms/more subject choice/collaboration	32
Familiar teachers/environment/wellbeing of pupils is important	30
Pupils would not attend sixth form if they changed	19
Bryntirion should retain its sixth form	18
Should have a college centre for all sixth form pupils	16
Decisions should focus on the best standards of education that can be provided	15
Sixth formers are role models/ form a school community/ raise aspirations	14
Education should be equal i.e. available to all pupils and schools treated the same	11
More consideration needs to be given to pupils with additional learning needs	9
Choices - keeping all sixth forms means people can go to a different sixth form or college if they prefer	8
Make savings elsewhere	8
Schools will lose staff if sixth forms change	6
Agree with some proposals/mergers	5
Cynffig should retain its sixth form	5
Parents would not send their child to a 11-16 school	5
There is no mention of Llangynwyd/ Welsh language provision	5
Maesteg should retain its sixth form	2
Disagree with proposals	1
Porthcawl should retain its sixth form	1
Whatever saves the most money and reduces household tax bills	1
Will Education Maintenance Allowance be increased?	1

The most common responses were keep all sixth forms (149), followed by additional travel for some pupils is unfair and could be too expensive for some pupils/families (44) and then CCYD should retain its sixth form/ consider building or developing a sixth form centre at CCYD (32).

## 7.2.7 Bridgend College students

There was one question aimed specifically at Bridgend College students, which asked if you are a student at Bridgend College, please give us your reasons for going to college.

10 people responded to this question. The comments received are detailed below:

Comment
To Study ICT
You can see all your friends and its good for you future and if you are sick you can go to wellbeing and they will help you when you got a problem
I chose Bridgend because it is the closest one to my house.
There were opportunities for be to improve my knowledge on the subject I wanted to expand upon.
I would need to travel less going to college
Messed up in sixth form and got bad grades
I need education.
I feel like it will be more beneficial for me.
Better atmosphere, more options, more excitement, less drama + no one from other school, better facilities.
To study information technology

## 8. Social media responses

During the consultation period there were 9 interactions on our social media channels.

The comments have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Sharing the online survey	2
Keep sixth forms as they are	2
Decisions need to be more informed and include residents views	2
Sharing Facebook page	1
Decisions need to consider where additional housing and developments will be	1
Travel would be difficult for pupils, too far and too long	1

There were two interactions where the survey was shared online, and the most comment themes were keep all sixth forms as they are (2) and decisions need to be more informed and include residents views (2).

## 9. Parents and carers meetings

The consultation and engagement team attended engagement sessions with parents in comprehensive schools and Bridgend College. Parents from comprehensive schools and primary schools across the county borough were informed about the engagement sessions.

We engaged with 193 parents and carers during these sessions. Parents and carers were given an overview of the consultation and were invited to ask questions and make comments about the proposals. Comments made during these sessions have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Pupils have familiar teachers/environment/pastoral support in their current settings	19
Travel is unrealistic in some options	14
Invest in sixth forms/better subject choice/collaboration	14
Pupils/families may not be able to pay for (additional) transport	14
Sixth form are important to schools/ act as role models	13
Keep sixth forms as they are	11
Consultation process/timelines	9
Should have considered this consultation in line with transport/local development plan consultation	9
Parents will not send their children to a 11-16 school	8
Staffing issues: teachers will lose jobs/who will teach at mergers/centres	7
Pupils will not attend sixth form if they change	6
There is no referral to welsh language growth in the consultation/ no link to the WESP	5
Do schools have space/capacity to take additional pupils?	5
Standards here are good, how would this be maintained?	5
This will disproportionately affect disadvantaged pupils	4
Lots of work going into English speaking schools but there is no comparable for the welsh language	4
Pupils and parents are concerned about Welsh medium post 16 provisions and the subjects/opportunities on offer	3
There are cultural differences between schools	3
Pupils already have a choice of where to go for post 16 education	3
How would mergers be managed and funded/will they affect school funding?	3
Why are some sixth forms protected?	2
Where will centres be based and how will they be funded?	2
Welsh medium education has been omitted from this consultation	2

The most common comments were pupils have familiar teachers/environment/pastoral support in their current settings (19), followed by travel is unrealistic in some options (14), invest in sixth forms/better subject choice/collaboration (14) and pupils/families may not be able to pay for (additional) transport (14).

## 10. Staff and Governor Meetings

The consultation and engagement team attended engagement sessions with staff and governors in comprehensive schools across the county borough and Bridgend College. Staff and governors were given an overview of the consultation and were invited to ask questions and make comments about the proposals. We engaged with 322 staff and governors during

these sessions. Comments made during these sessions have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Invest in sixth form/collaboration	14
In options that require transport will this be provided free for pupils/teachers?	13
What effect will the local delivery plan have on projected numbers and will this be considered?	12
Keep the sixth form at this school/keep all sixth forms	11
Parents will not send their children to a 11-16 school	11
Travel is unrealistic in some options	10
Subject offer and standards are very good here, how will this be maintained elsewhere?	10
Where will the proposed centres be built and how will they be funded?	9
Consultation process/timelines	9
Teachers will not want to teach at 11-16 school/ how will you attract/retain high quality teachers	9
Difficult transition for pupils/ no pastoral or mental health support	8
If pupils have to travel to other site/go to college they will not stay on in sixth form or drop out	7
Some options will mean teacher redundancies	5
Sixth forms are role models, give our school an identity and provide a familiar supportive environment	5
Could host centre on our school site/ take additional pupils	5
Need to take a whole education view i.e. from nursery to post 16 and consider the new curriculum/ALN Bill	5
College could offer wider subject choice/opportunities	5
Pupils from disadvantaged areas will be further disadvantaged	4
Are all of these options viable and sustainable?	4
Will create a two-tier system of schools if some schools lose their sixth forms	3
Have worked hard to develop our sixth form/pupils into sixth form	3
Welsh language pupils have been involved in English medium decisions and collaboration but have been unable to have a say on their own provision	3
Discussion of new centres but what is being done to promote/invest in Welsh language provision	3
What support would you provide to schools if they merge, including financial?	2
Could multiple outcomes from the consultation happen?	2
New centres could draw pupils away from the school	2
Does the consultation data include post 16 learners at college and twilight data, or is it just schools?	2
How can Welsh education be raised to have parity with English medium?	2
Housing developments only refer to English medium schools but this will affect Welsh language provision numbers	1
Consultation does not include Welsh language primary schools and the impact on Llangynwydd/WESP	1

The most common comments were invest in sixth form/collaboration (14), followed by in options that require transport will this be provided free for pupils/teachers? (13) and then what effect will the local delivery plan have on projected numbers and will this be considered? (12).

## 11. Letters and emails

13 emails were received during the consultation. The details of the emails have been themed and are detailed in the table below, some emails contained multiple themes:

Theme	No.
Email with formal letter attached*	10
CCYD have already faced adversity as an amalgamated school	1
Most of the children in CCYD come from low income areas so they should be able to stay in a school in their local area	1
Figures in the consultation document do not reflect out five year plan	1
Students will not be able to afford to pay for travel	1
These proposals would create a two tier education system	1
CCYD have the capacity to increase – original plans show another wing	1
PAN data for Bryntirion is incorrect	1
Is the data for all other schools accurate within the consultation documents?	1
Dates for any decision and changes due to school uniform providers needing to be made aware.	1

\*Letters have been included in Appendix 12.

110 letters and one report from a school governing body were received during the consultation. These have been attached in Appendix 12.

## 12. Communication regarding the consultation

Would you like to be emailed once the consultation report is available?

Yes	528	37%
No	907	63%

## 13. Conclusion

### 13.1 Summary

A sample of 1435 survey completions is robust and is subject to a maximum standard error of  $\pm 2.574$  at the 95% confidence level. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within  $\pm 2.574\%$  of the percentages reported. This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 47.426% and 52.574%.

## 13.2 Equality Impact Assessment

The Full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed to consider the impact of these proposals, and presented to Cabinet alongside the consultation report.

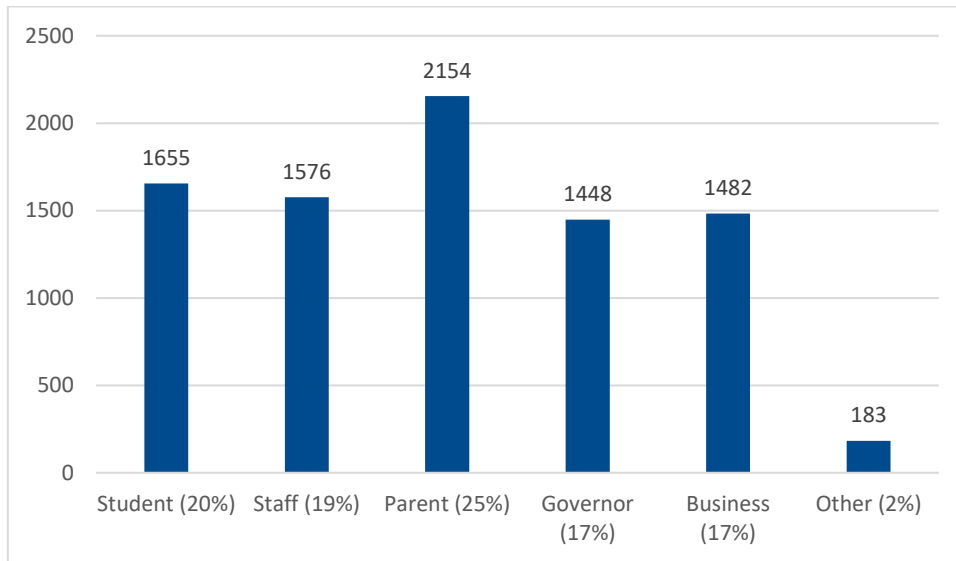
## 14. Appendix 1.

This section details the responses received to the standard online survey, including automated response data.

### 7.1 About you

#### 7.1.1 Please tick the option that best described you as a respondent

There were 8498 responses to this question.



Respondents were able to choose multiple options to represent themselves. The most common respondents were parent (25%), followed by staff (11%) and then student (20%).

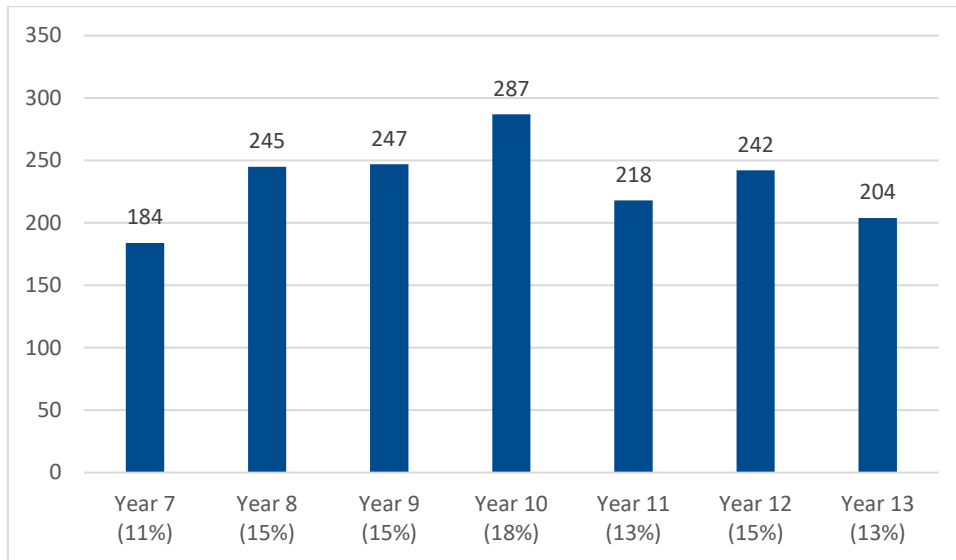
#### 7.1.2 Please specify (if you chose other)

There were no additional comments from the automated response data

#### 7.1.3 Year group

Respondents that said they were a student were then asked to select their year group.

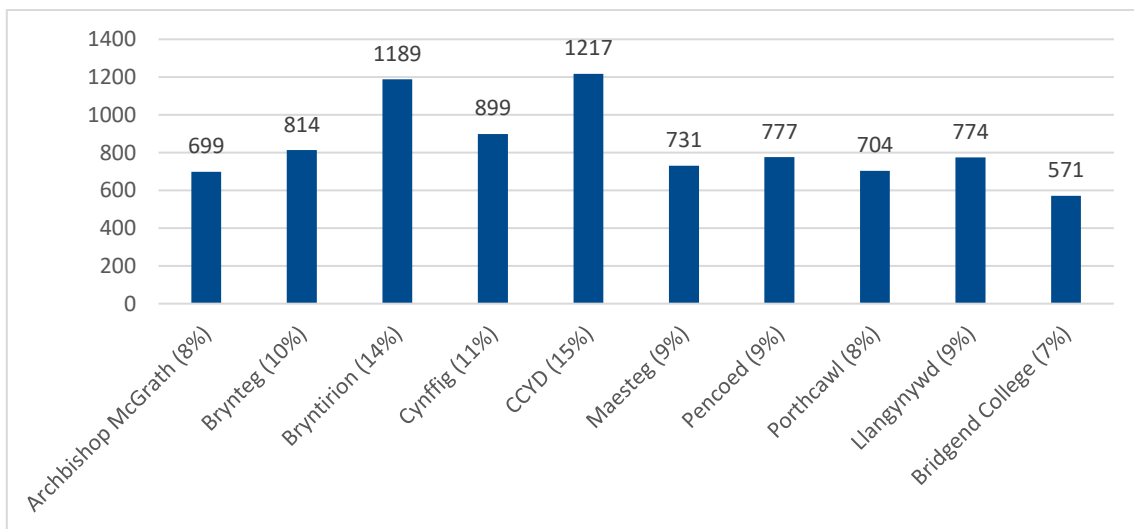
There were 1627 responses to this question.



18% of respondents stated that they were in year 10, followed by year 8, year 9 and year 12 equally (15%).

#### 7.1.4 Which secondary school are you connected to?

There were 8375 responses to this question

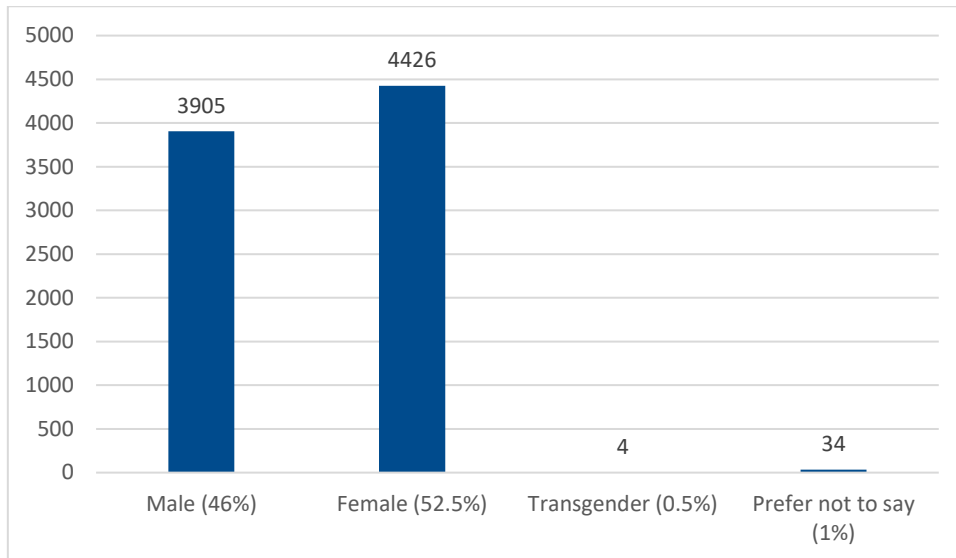


15% of respondents were connected to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen followed by 14% connected to Bryntirion, this was followed by Brynteg (10%).

#### 7.1.5 Gender

There were 8369 responses to this question





52.5 % of respondents stated that they were female and 46% stated male. 1% of respondents stated that they would prefer not to say and 0.5% stated they were transgender.

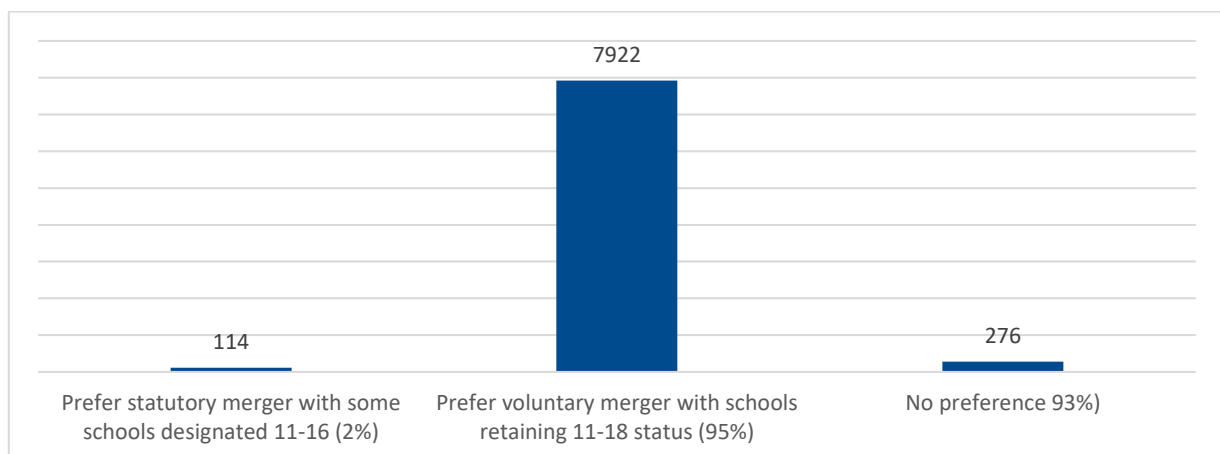
## 7.2 Survey questions

### 7.2.1 Sixth form mergers

Respondents were given information about the types of mergers under consideration, described as statutory and voluntary mergers.

Please indicate if you have a preference or not for either type of sixth form merger

There were 8312 responses to this question

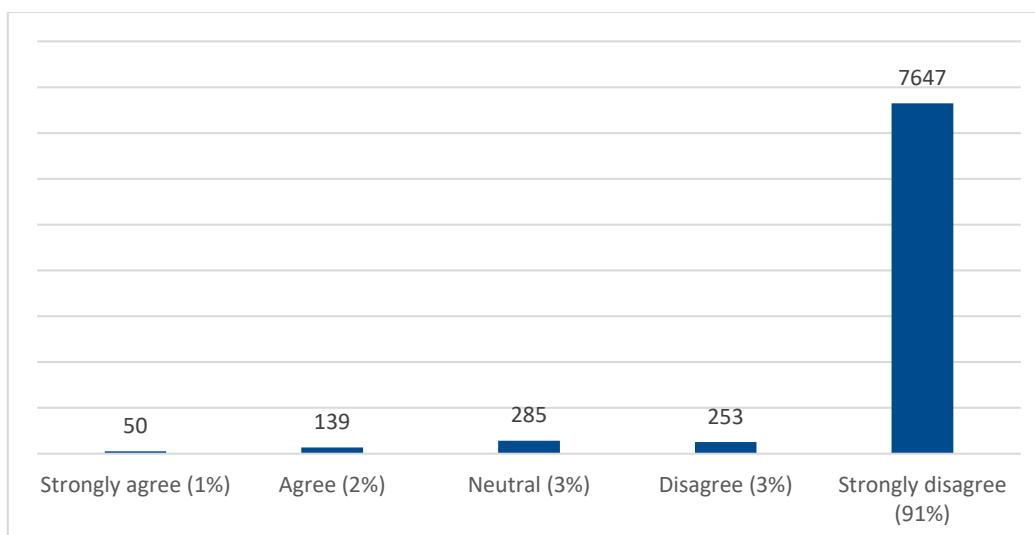


95% of respondents preferred voluntary merger with both schools training 11-18 status, 9% of respondents stated that they had no preference and 2% of respondents preferred a statutory merger with some schools being designated 11-16.

## 7.2.2 Option one – a mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new local authority maintained sixth form centre(s)

### 7.2.2.1 Outcome A – Brynteg School becomes a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Bryntirion comprehensive

There were 8374 responses to this question.



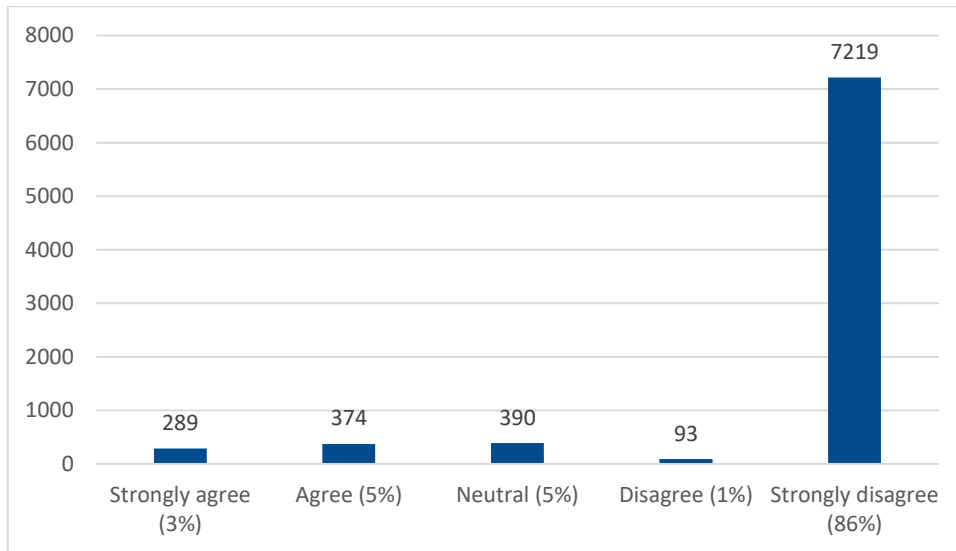
91% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal for Brynteg School to become a sixth form centre and host sixth form students from Bryntirion comprehensive, a further 3% disagreed. 3% of respondents gave a neutral responses and 3% either strongly agreed or agreed with this proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

### 7.2.2.2 Outcome B – Porthcawl Comprehensive keeps its sixth form

There were 8365 responses to this question



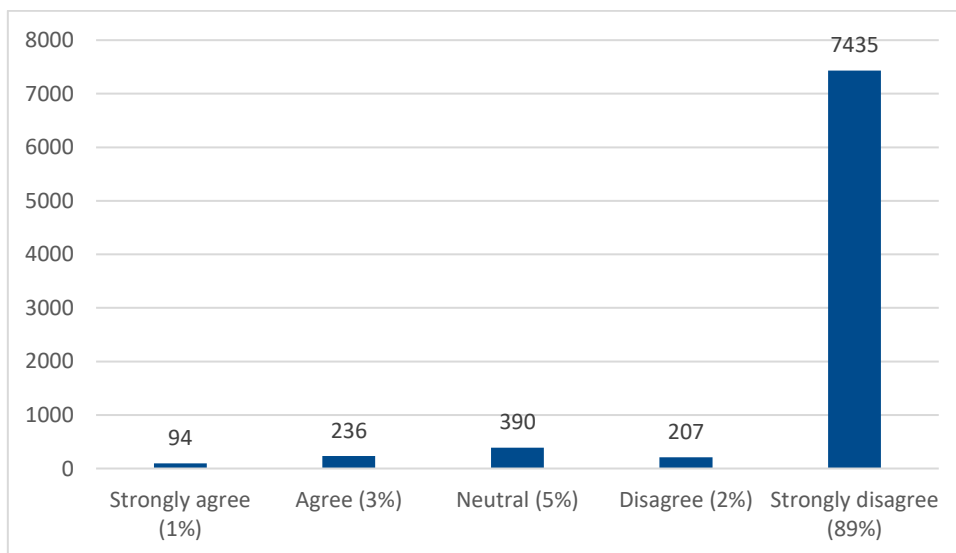
86% of respondents strongly disagreed that Porthcawl should retain its sixth form, a further 1% disagreed. 5% gave a neutral response. 5% of respondents agreed with this proposal and a further 3% strongly agreed.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

### 7.2.2.3 Outcome C – Cynffig Comprehensive closes or merges its sixth form with Porthcawl Comprehensive

There were 8362 responses to this question



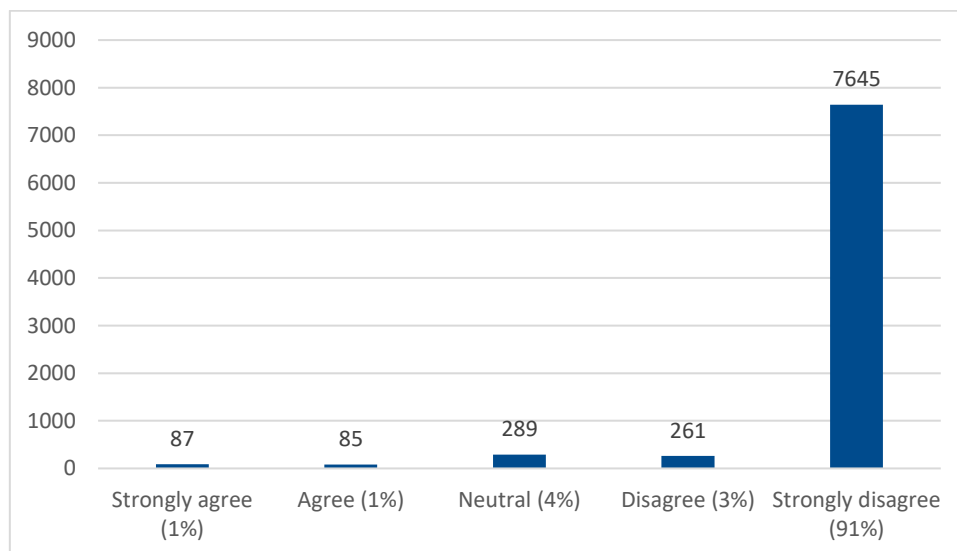
89% of respondents strongly disagreed with this proposal and a further 2% disagreed with the proposal. 5% provided a neutral response. 3% of respondents agreed, and 1% strongly agreed with the proposal for Cynffig comprehensive to close or merge its sixth form with Porthcawl comprehensive.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

#### 7.2.2.4 Outcome D - Cynffig Comprehensive hosts sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Pencoed Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen

There were 8367 responses to this question



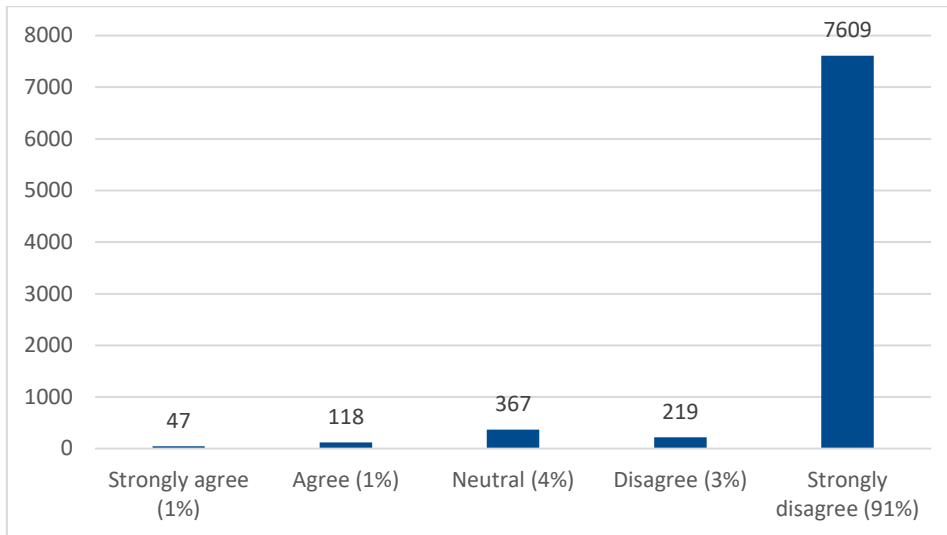
91% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal that Cynffig could host a sixth form centre, attended by pupils from Pencoed and CCYD. A further 3% disagreed with the proposal. 4% provided a neutral response. 1% of respondents agreed with this proposal and 1% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

#### 7.2.2.5 Outcome E – Maesteg School hosts a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen

There were 8360 responses to this question



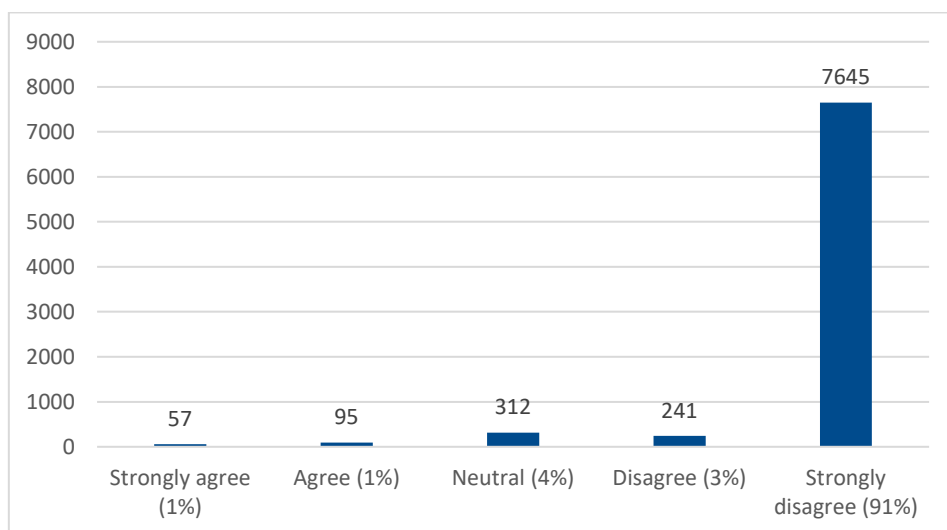
91% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal that Maesteg School could host a sixth form centre, attended by pupils from CCYD. A further 3% disagreed with the proposal. 26% provided a neutral response. 1% of respondents agreed with this proposal and a further 1% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

#### 7.2.2.6 Outcome F – Maesteg School and Pencoed Comprehensive both become sixth form centres and host sixth form students from Cynffig Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.

There were 8350 responses to this question



91% of respondents strongly disagreed with the proposal that Maesteg School and Pencoed Comprehensive both become sixth form centres and host pupils from CCYD and Cynffig. A further 3% disagreed with the proposal. 4% provided a neutral response. 1% of respondents agreed with this proposal and 1% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

### 7.2.2.7 Overall consideration of the options

Respondents were asked to rank in order of preference the options outlined in outcomes A-F.

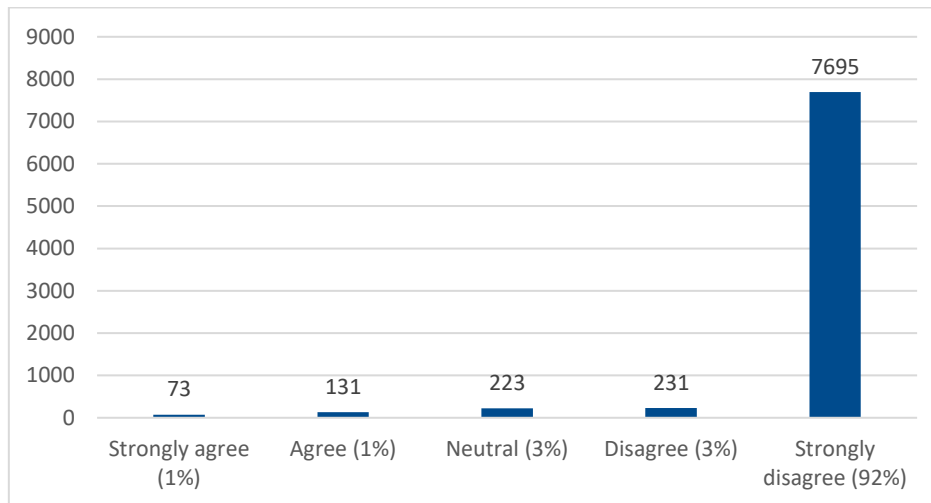
Overall the options were ranked as follows:

Rank	Outcome	Number of respondents who ranked each concept in position	% of groups who ranked each concept in position
1	<b>Outcome A1</b> Brynteg School becomes a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Bryntirion Comprehensive <b>Outcome A2</b> Brynteg school and Bryntirion Comprehensive develop a joint sixth form provision;	7109	92%
2	<b>Outcome B</b> Porthcawl Comprehensive keeps its sixth form	5208	65%
3	<b>Outcome C</b> Cynffig Comprehensive closes or merges its sixth form with Porthcawl Comprehensive	5193	67%
4	<b>Outcome F</b> Maesteg School and Pen-coed Comprehensive both become sixth form centres and host sixth form students from Cynffig Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.	5114	67%
5	<b>Outcome A2</b> Brynteg school and Bryntirion Comprehensive develop a joint sixth form provision;	5064	66%
6	<b>Outcome E</b> Maesteg School hosts a sixth form centre and hosts sixth form students from Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen	5209	67%
7	<b>Outcome D</b> – Cynffig Comprehensive hosts sixth-form centre and host sixth-form students from Pen-coed Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen	5152	66%

## 7.2.3 Option two – a mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create a new FE college governed sixth form centre(s)

**7.2.3.1 Outcome A – a sixth form centre is developed in Bridgend Town centre and run by Bridgend College, drawing sixth form students from Cynffig Comprehensive school, Coleg Cymunedon y Dderwen, Pencoed Comprehensive school and Bryntirion Comprehensive school (if the merger with Brynteg school listed in Option 1/Outcome A did not take place).**

There were 8353 responses to this question



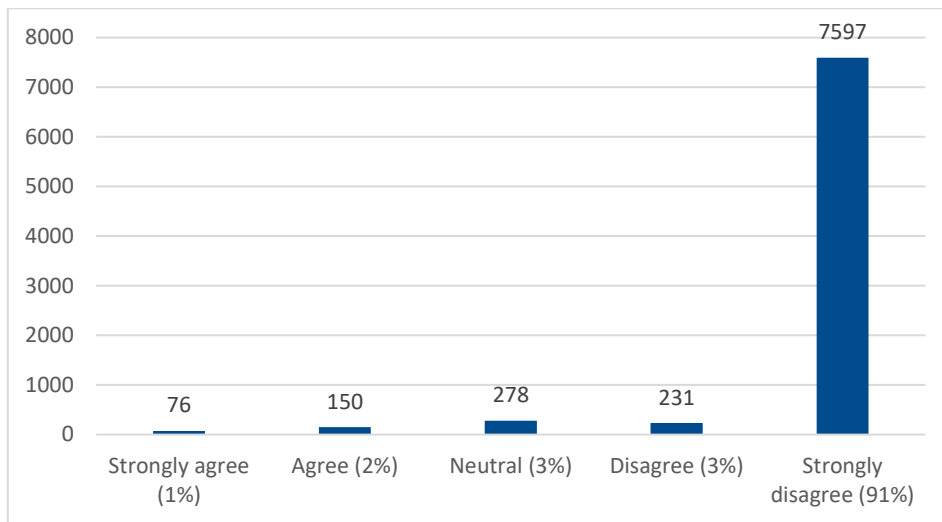
92% of respondents strongly disagreed with this proposal and a further 3% disagreed with the proposal. 3% provided a neutral response. 1% of respondents agreed with this proposal and a further 1% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

**7.2.3.2 Outcome B - Sixth form centre at Bridgend College's Pencoed Campus run by the college and hosting sixth-form students from Pencoed Comprehensive, Cynffig Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.**

There were 8332 responses to this question



91% of respondents strongly disagreed with this proposal and a further 3% disagreed with the proposal. 3% provided a neutral response. 2% of respondents agreed with this proposal and a further 1% strongly agreed with the proposal.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

### 7.2.3.3 Overall consideration of the options

Respondents were asked to rank their preferred choice for Outcome A and B by numbering the options one and two.

Respondents ranked outcomes A and B as:

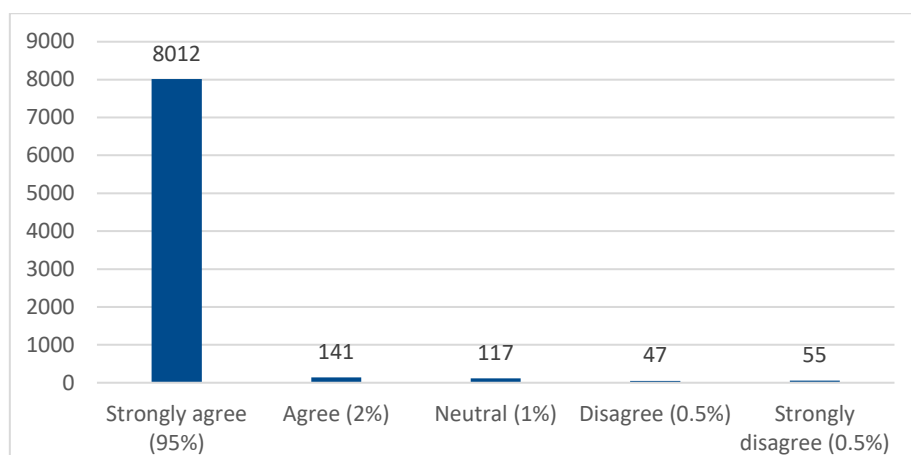
- Outcome A Bridgend town centre sixth form centre run by the college (51%)
- Outcome B Sixth Form centre at Bridgend College's Pencoed campus run by the college (49%)

## 7.2.4 Option three Keeping sixth forms in all schools

**7.2.4.1 The retention of sixth forms in all schools – the current position (ie a distributed tertiary model based on collaboration, but with further development in order to improve the delivery of this option)**

There were 8372 responses to this question





95% of respondents strongly agreed with the proposal to keep sixth forms in all schools and a further 2% of respondents agreed with this proposal. 1% provided a neutral response. 0.5% of respondents strongly disagreed with this proposal and a further 0.5% disagreed with the proposal to keep sixth forms in all schools.

Respondents were asked to add any further comments on this outcome.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

### 7.2.5 Overall consideration of the options

Respondents were asked having reviewed all the options and outcomes to rank their preferred choice for Options 1,2 and 3.

Overall respondents ranked the outcomes in first position as follows:

- Option 3 retention of sixth forms in all schools – the current position (ie a distributed tertiary model based on collaboration, but with further development in order to improve the delivery of this option) (97%);
- Option 1 a mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new local authority maintained sixth-form centre(s) (2%);
- Option 2 a mix of school sixth form with some mergers to create new FE College governed sixth-form centre(s) (1%).

### 7.2.6 Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the proposals?

Respondents were asked if they had any further comments that they would like to make about the proposals.

There were no additional comments made on the automated response data.

### 7.2.7 Bridgend College students

There was one question aimed specifically at Bridgend College students, which asked if you are a student at Bridgend College, please give us your reasons for going to college.

No additional responses were received within the automated response data

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES ONE AND TWO

6 JULY 2020

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

#### LEARNER TRAVEL CONSULTATION

##### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform the committees of the outcome of the public consultation in relation to the local authority's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy and for the committees to consider and agree any recommendations it may wish to make to Cabinet when it meets to consider the matter in July 2020.

##### **Executive summary**

- 1.2. This report provides feedback on the outcome of the public consultation on proposals to amend the local authority's current Home to School/College Transport Policy. The public consultation prompted 1396 responses from the public and from learners. The results are a product of an online survey and ten public meetings as well as several bespoke consultation meetings/events with both primary and secondary school-age pupils. The analysis of the survey results is presented in the consultation report (see Appendix 2).
- 1.3. Five proposals were consulted upon as follows:

##### **Proposal 1**

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils.

##### **Proposal 2**

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than 8 passengers.

##### **Proposal 3**

Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.

##### **Proposal 4**

To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college other than those pupils who attend a Welsh-medium sixth-form at a school within Bridgend or who wish to pursue a faith-based education in a sixth-form at a voluntary aided school within Bridgend.

## Proposal 5

To stop providing free transport for nursery-age pupils (aged three and four-years-old).

- 1.4. For Proposals 1, 2, 4 and 5, more respondents objected to the proposals than agreed with them. For Proposal 3, it was clear from the responses, that there was some misunderstanding over the intention of the proposal and therefore the majority of respondents were unsure about the proposal. Proposal 4 invoked the greatest proportion of objections from both respondents and from learners. Appendix 2 provides greater detail.
- 1.5. Detailed comments and suggestions were received via the written responses to the consultation. A summary of these are reported in Appendix 3, against the following main themes:
  - Time
  - Distance
  - Responsibility
  - Safety
  - Faith-based education
  - Welsh-medium education
  - Cost
  - Environment
  - Additional learning needs (ALN)
  - Attendance/attainment
  - Expectation

## 2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1. This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priorities:

- **Helping people and communities to be healthy and resilient** - helping people and communities to be more health and resilient - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives
- **Smarter use of resources** - ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

## 3. Background

3.1. The learner transport budget has been under significant financial pressure for many years. Ongoing annual budget reductions under the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) have been significant with efficiency savings of £1.794m between 2014-2015 and 2019-2020. There has, however, also been some budget growth of £550k to

support increased pressure on the home-to-school transport budget in the period 2018-2020. Table 1 below provides further detail of these savings and growth.

**Table 1 MTFS savings/growth 2014-2015 to 2019-2020**

MTFS savings	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	TOTAL
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Retender learner transport contracts	250	400	100				750
Rationalise special education needs transport	200	100	150				450
School transport route efficiencies		200	200	40			440
Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel				20	67	67	154
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1,794</b>

MTFS growth	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	TOTAL
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Increasing costs associated with home-to-school transport, including demand for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) and demographic growth						427	427
Transport costs for Welsh Government's Junior Apprenticeship Programme						42	42
Increase in costs of learner travel due to re-tender exercise that took place in 2017-2018					81		81
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>81</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>550</b>

3.2. However, ongoing pressure on the home-to-school transport budget, as a result of the significant savings set against the budget identified in Table 1, has meant that year-on-year spend has exceeded the available annual budget, leading to a £1.1m

overspend position in 2019-2020. While there has been additional budget growth of £550k over the 2018-2019 to 2019-2020 period, this has only addressed the additional costs brought about primarily through increased contractor prices, changes to eligibility for pupils and additional costs associated with transporting pupils with ALN.

- 3.3. In addition to the savings and growth outlined in Table 1, the MTFs 2020-21 to 2023-24 approved by Council on 26 February 2020 includes additional proposals in 2020-2021 for the 'Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel' of £75k which will bring the MTFs savings total to £1.869m since 2014-2015. In addition, Council approved additional funding growth of £356k relating to retendering of contracts for buses and taxis bringing the total growth to £906k since 2018-2019.
- 3.4. In September 2015, Cabinet determined changes to the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy in order to meet MTFs savings identified from 2016-2017 to 2019-2020. The policy change was implemented in September 2016. However, initial savings were predicated on the full implementation of a change to statutory distances of 2 miles for primary school-age children from the current 1.5 miles and 3 miles for secondary school-age children (including post-16 learners) from the current 2 miles. No change was proposed to nursery-age children eligibility of 1.5 miles. On implementing the policy change, Cabinet determined to protect the entitlement of all pupils currently benefitting from home-to-school transport at the former distances until they moved schools or moved from one phase of education to another. Furthermore, protection was provided for siblings of children already in receipt at the former distances.
- 3.5. Cabinet was not minded to remove the discretionary arrangements for post-16 learners, who would therefore continue to benefit from home-to-school/college transport at the 3-mile distance.
- 3.6. The 'in-receipt' and the 'sibling rule' entitlement has meant that, year-on-year, the number of pupils the policy change applies to, is relatively small. However, parents have challenged this inequity and have been critical of its intention, especially as children without siblings are disadvantaged.
- 3.7. In July 2019, Cabinet agreed to undertake a full 12-week public consultation on the following new proposals:
  - removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses (excluding those transporting pupils with special education need) of less than 8 passengers;
  - withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an identified and available (safe) routes to school in line with statutory distances of 2 miles for primary school-age pupils and 3 miles for secondary school-age pupils;
  - removal of 'sibling' and 'in receipt' protection for pupils;
  - removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport;
  - removal of all transport for nursery pupils; and
  - removal of all post-16 transport.

- 3.8. The public consultation took place over a 12-week period from 14 October 2019 to 5 January 2020 and was available bilingually, through a variety of alternative formats. Consultation with learners took place throughout January at specially arranged events in the Council Chamber and in support of the separate consultation on the review of Post-16 education in Bridgend.
- 3.9. Two of the proposals agreed by Cabinet were combined as material issues into five total proposals that formed the proposals detailed in the public Consultation Document (see Appendix 1) and summarised at paragraph 1.4.
- 3.10. Table 2 below provides a summary of the impact of these proposals on learners if they were to be approved by Cabinet.

**Table 2 Current and proposed learner travel policy arrangements**

<b>Post-16 transport</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<b>Post-16 student</b> (English-medium) Attending Bridgend College or the nearest college offering the course eg Coleg Cymoedd	Free home-to-college transport provided over three miles from college or where there is no available walking route (normally this is provided via a public service bus pass)	No home-to-college transport provided
<b>Post-16 student</b> (English-medium) Attends sixth-form at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brynteg School</li> <li>• Pencoed Comprehensive School</li> <li>• Cynffig Comprehensive School</li> <li>• Porthcawl Comprehensive School</li> <li>• Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen</li> <li>• Maesteg School</li> <li>• Bryntirion Comprehensive School</li> </ul>	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	No home-to-school transport provided
<b>Post-16 student</b> (Welsh-medium)	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or	No change

<b>Post-16 transport</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
Attends sixth-form at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	where there is no available walking route	
<b>Post-16 student</b> (faith-based education) Attends sixth-form at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route	No change
<b>Post-16 student</b> with additional learning needs (ALN) in specialist provision	Free home-to-school transport provided if over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route  Free home-to-school transport also provided at the discretion of the local authority	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority following an assessment of the needs of the learner
<b>Post-16 student</b> with ALN not in a specialist provision	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority following an assessment of the needs of the learner

<b>School transport for secondary school-age pupils</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)</b>



<b>School transport for secondary school-age pupils</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<p><b>Secondary school-age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 11-16</p> <p>Attends a secondary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over three miles from the school or no available walking route exists</p>	Free home-to-school transport provided	No change
<p><b>Secondary school-age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 11-16</p> <p>Attends a secondary school but it is not their nearest suitable school, as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school</p>	No home-to-school transport provided	No change
<p><b>Secondary school-age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 11-16</p> <p>Attends a secondary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over two miles from the school and they were previously in receipt of free home-to-</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route

<b>School transport for secondary school-age pupils</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
school transport at this distance when the policy changed in September 2016		
<p><b>Secondary school-age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 11-16</p> <p>Attends a secondary school which is their nearest available school and they live over 2 miles from the school as they became eligible for free transport when the policy changed in September 2016 as a sibling was already attending the same school and was already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route

<b>School transport for primary school-age pupils</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<p><b>Primary age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 5-11</p> <p>Attends a primary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over two miles from the</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	No change

School transport for primary school-age pupils		
Learner type	Current arrangement	Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)
school or no available walking route exists		
<p><b>Nursery-age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 5-11</p> <p>Attends a primary school, but it is not their nearest suitable school as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school</p>	No home-to-school transport provided	No change
<p><b>Primary school-age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 5-11</p> <p>Attends a primary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school, as they were previously in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance when the policy changed in September 2016</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over two miles from school or where there is no available walking route
<b>Primary school-age pupil</b>	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the

<b>School transport for primary school-age pupils</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<p>(English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 5-11</p> <p>Attends a primary school which is their nearest suitable school and they live over 1.5 miles from the school and they became eligible for free transport when the policy changed in September 2016, as a sibling was already attending the same school and was already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance</p>		<p>pupil lives over two miles from school or where there is no available walking route</p>

<b>Transport for nursery children</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<p><b>Nursery age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 3-4</p> <p>Attends nursery school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school or no available walking route exists</p>	<p>Home-to-school transport provided</p>	<p>No home-to-school transport provided</p>

<b>Transport for nursery children</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<p><b>Nursery age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education)</p> <p>Age 3-4</p> <p>Attends nursery school, but it is not their nearest available school as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school</p>	No home-to-school transport provided	No change

3.11. Some learners with ALN who are of compulsory school age have their needs met within a mainstream school setting, but with prescribed support (confirmed on their Statement of Special Education Needs). For these learners travel assistance will be assessed and provided on an individual basis.

3.12. The Consultation Report (see Appendix 2) provides detail of the consultation approach taken and results.

3.13. In total, there were 1396 interactions during the consultation. The method of response is detailed below in Table 3 below.

**Table 3 Consultation response interactions**

<b>Interactions</b>	<b>Number</b>
Survey completions	943
Parents meetings	97
Pupil workshops	305
Emails	13
Letters	3
Social media comments	35
<b>Total interactions</b>	<b>1396</b>

#### **4. Current situation**

##### **The outcome of the consultation**

##### **4.1. Proposal 1**

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and 3 miles for secondary school-age pupils

4.2. There were three main responses relating to this proposal (for a full breakdown see consultation report in Appendix 2).

- 57% of the respondents and 76% of learners did not agree with the proposals.
- 29% of the respondents did agree with the proposal and 14% were unsure. Whereas 18% of learners agreed with this proposal and 6% were unsure.
- Of the 456 respondents disagreeing with the proposal 27% identified that it was too far to walk and would take too long especially in bad weather and 24% identified that children would be unsafe walking to school.
- Of the 296 learners responding, 14.5% identified that it would be too far to walk, 11% identified that the local authority should keep all transport and 9% identified that there was no safe walking route to school.

4.3. There did seem to be some misunderstanding of the already implemented distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils. The local authority's current Home-To-School/College Transport Policy was approved in September 2015 and implemented from September 2016. The local authority's current policy matches the statutory distances of two miles for primary school children and three miles for secondary school children are laid down in national legislation ie the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.

#### **4.4. Proposal 2**

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

4.5. There did appear to be some confusion regarding this proposal, as many public respondents as well as learners, assumed that this proposal included the complete removal of escorts on vehicles for pupils with additional learning needs, even though this is not part of the proposal as clarified in the consultation document.

- 43% of the respondents and 35% of learners did not agree with the proposals.
- 37% of the respondents did agree with the proposal and 20% were unsure. Whereas 37% of learners agreed with this proposal and 28% were unsure.
- Of the 264 respondents disagreeing with the proposal 16% identified that there could be safeguarding issues for both children and driver and 15% identified that child safety could be compromised.
- Of the 303 learners responding 40% provided reasons for their responses, 18% of these commented that escorts were not needed, 18% commented that an escort was not needed if the driver makes the pupil feel comfortable and safe and 16% commented that escorts provide personal/medical support.

4.6. It is important to note that the role of escorts is not to provide any form of medical support to pupils, merely to ensure pupil and vehicle safety by communicating with the driver who takes ultimate charge of the safety of the vehicle and occupants. Any emergency situation would be dealt with via the vehicle stopping and the emergency

services being contacted. Escorts are not authorised to administer medication to pupils or provide any personal support.

#### **4.7. Proposal 3**

Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport

4.8. There did appear to be some confusion regarding this proposal, as it does not identify a specific reduction of provision, merely the refinement of the Home to School/College Transport Policy.

- 37% of the respondents and 31% of learners did not agree with the proposal. 20% of respondents and 44% of learners agreed with this proposal.
- 43% of respondents and 25% of learners were unsure.
- There 138 comments from respondents disagreeing with the proposal. Of these 25% identified that each pupil should be assessed on a case by case basis and 14% identified that the service is needed.
- 78 learners responding provided comments. 34% of these commented that it will encourage more people to apply and 26% commented that pupils with special circumstances should have this transport.

#### **4.9. Proposal 4**

To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college

4.10. A significant 71% of public respondents and 85% of learners did not agree with this proposal.

- 18% of public respondents and 8% of learners agreed with this proposal.
- 11% of public respondents and 7% of learners were unsure.
- There were 412 comments received from respondents disagreeing with the proposal. Of these, 19% identified that 'it will discourage young people from attending sixth form' and 54% identified that it will be costly to pay for transport. 13% commented that it would negatively impact young people living in poverty/deprived areas and a similar 13% commented that we should encourage young people to attend sixth form.
- 136 learners responding provided comments. 41% of these commented that pupils will be unable to pay for travel and 20% commented that this proposal limits opportunities for pupils.

4.11. Respondents and learners were asked to identify who they believed should still receive free post-16 transport if this was to be removed. Disabled young people (694) and young people in care (572) were the two highest responses from public respondents. Learners chose disabled young people' (155) followed by 'care leavers' (96).

#### **4.12. Proposal 5**

To remove all transport for nursery pupils

- 58% of the respondents and 63% of learners did not agree with the proposals.
- 25% of the respondents did agree with the proposal and 17% were unsure. Whereas 26% of learners agreed with this proposal and 11% were unsure.
- Of the 246 respondents disagreeing with the proposal 19% identified that it would impact negatively on Welsh-medium education and 15% commented it would be difficult for working parents.
- 117 learners responded with comments 27% commented that Welsh-medium education should be protected.

4.13. The community engagement workshops primarily identified concerns in relation to safe walking routes and the distance from home-to-school and how this is measured. The impact on post-16 learners was also identified as a concern and that the proposal to remove post-16 transport should be considered alongside the proposed options for post-16 education in Bridgend.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

5.1. There are no implications for the Council's policy framework or procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

6.1. An initial screening has been carried out. A full EIA will be produced to accompany the report to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation when it is considered.

## **7. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment**

7.1. A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

**Long-term** Ongoing reliance on the local authority to provide free home-to-school transport where this is not supported by national policy will have a significant impact on the ability of the local authority to support and sustain other critical services long-term. National government policy supports active travel and the reduction in the reliance on private and public transport. Benefits include the reduction in emissions, less dependence on fossil fuels and improvements to health and wellbeing.

**Prevention** The proposal to remove discretionary transport is not taken lightly. However, there are current tensions in respect of the inequity in the current policy. The proposal, therefore, is for a public consultation to address the inequity in the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy and to ensure that further budget efficiencies.

**Integration** The local authority has a strategic role in facilitating the attendance of pupils to school where they are eligible for free home-to-school transport or where it is provided under the discretion of the local authority.



**Collaboration** The local authority works closely with schools and pupils to ensure that the needs of learners are taken into consideration in the identification and delivery of transport services.

**Involvement** The local authority intends to involve all sectors of society in consulting on its proposals. This will involve sufficient time and resources to fully identify, understand and respond to the issues identified for individuals and their communities.

## 8. Financial implications

- 8.1. There are significant potential efficiency savings associated with this public consultation. The pressure on the home-to-school/college transport budget is significant (see Table 1).
- 8.2. The learner transport budget has reduced by £1.794m from 2014-2015 to 2019-2020 with future year savings also identified as part of ongoing medium-term financial strategy savings.
- 8.3. For 2019-2020, there is a school/college transport budget of £5.47m with a projected £761k overspend for the current financial year as at Quarter 3. The provision of post-16 transport (c. £500k), nursery transport (c. £40k) and transport escorts (c. £35k) are all non-statutory.
- 8.4. £906k of recurring corporate funding has been allocated to support the learner transport budget covering the period 2018-2019 to 2020-2021.
- 8.5. Table 4 below identifies the potential savings associated with each of the five policy proposals being put forward for consideration.

**Table 4 Approximate savings for learner transport policy proposals**

	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Potential Savings</b>
<b>Proposal 1</b>	Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking routes to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils	£200k
<b>Proposal 2</b>	Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers	£35k
<b>Proposal 3</b>	Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport	£0k
<b>Proposal 4</b>	To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college	£500k
<b>Proposal 5</b>	To remove all transport for nursery pupils	£40k
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£775k</b>

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 It is recommended that Committees:

- note the content of this report and the outcomes from the consultation (see Appendix 2); and
- consider any recommendations the Committees may wish to make to Cabinet which are consistent with their challenge and support role in light of the proposals and the consultation responses.

**Mr Lindsay Harvey**  
**Corporate Director, Education and Family Support**

**Contact officer:** Robin Davies  
Group Manager (Business Strategy and Performance)

**Telephone:** (01656) 754881

**E-mail:** robin.davies@bridgend.gov.uk

**Postal address:** Education and Family Support Directorate  
Bridgend County Borough Council  
Civic Offices  
Angel Street  
Bridgend  
CF31 4WB

### **Background documents**

Cabinet report, 1 September 2015, Learner Travel Policy  
Cabinet report, 23 July 2019, Learner Travel Efficiencies  
Report to Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2, 5 February 2020, Home-To-School Transport

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Learner Travel Consultation Document, October 2019  
Appendix 2 - Learner Travel Consultation Report, February 2020  
Appendix 3 - Learner Travel Consultation, Emerging Themes

# Learner Travel

## Consultation document

**Date of issue:** 14 October 2019

**Action required:** Responses by 5 January 2020

**Tel:** (01656) 643 664

**Email:** [consultation@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Web:** [www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation)

## Learner Travel Consultation Document

### Overview

This consultation is to invite views on potential changes to the travel arrangements for pupils and college learners, and how any proposed changes to the Home to School/College Transport Policy will affect you and your family.

### How to respond

This consultation period will begin on the **14 October 2019** and close on the **5 January 2020**. You can respond or ask further questions in the following ways:

**Tel:** (01656) 643 664

**Email:** [Consultation@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:Consultation@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Online:** [Link to survey](#)

**Post:** Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB. Alternative formats are also available upon request.

### Data protection

Information provided by you on this form will be used to inform the Home to School/College Transport Policy.

The Council will take all reasonable precautions to ensure confidentiality and to comply with data protection legislation. Your information may be shared with relevant service areas for the purposes of future policy development. Your information will be retained in accordance with the Council's Data Retention Policy.

You have a number of rights under data protection legislation. You may also withdraw your consent and ask us to delete your personal information at any time by contacting us. Further information about this is available on our website or you may contact the Data Protection Officer.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which we process your personal data then you have the option to make a complaint to the Data Protection Officer and the Information Commissioner's Office.

### Legal and Regulatory Services

**Email:** [foi@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:foi@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Address:** Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

### Information Commissioner's Office – Wales

2nd Floor, Churchill House  
Churchill Way  
Cardiff  
CF10 2HH

**Tel.** 0330 414 6421

**Email:** [wales@ico.org.uk](mailto:wales@ico.org.uk)

## **Related documents**

[Learner Travel \(Wales\) Measure 2008.](#)

[Active Travel \(Wales\) Act 2013.](#)

[Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance June 2014](#)

For more information on consultations in Bridgend County Borough or how to join our Citizens' panel.

**Visit:** [www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation)

## **Why is the local authority consulting on proposed changes to its Home to School/College Transport Policy?**

Bridgend County Borough Council is currently facing unprecedented cuts to its budget. The local authority currently faces making required savings of £35.2 million over the period 2019-2023. The local authority takes pride in the services it provides to its citizens and wants to continue to do as much as possible to support families in a difficult financial climate.

These cuts however, means that the local authority must review all of the services that it provides.

Local Authorities in Wales need to ensure that they are providing home-to-school transport where the law says they have a duty to do so. Local authorities can also provide transport on a discretionary basis.

The local authority's current Home to School/College Transport Policy sets out how the local authority provides home-to-school and home-to-college transport.

The local authority's current policy came into effect on 1 September 2016. The local authority is now seeking the views of the public and other stakeholders on proposed changes to the current policy.

This consultation is to invite views on potential changes to the travel arrangements of school pupils and students attending further education colleges.

The local authority must consider if it can continue to provide the current assistance beyond what it is required to do by law.

The review of the local authority's current Home to School/College Transport Policy contributes to the local authority's wider budget strategy by making the most efficient use of resources.

Home-to-school transport falls into two categories, as follows:

### Statutory

- The arrangements the local authority needs to make by law, to enable free travel for those learners who are entitled.

### Discretionary

- The arrangements made through choice by the local authority.

At present, the local authority has a legal duty to provide free transport to school for:

- all learners receiving statutory primary education (aged 5-11) living two miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school, or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated;
- all learners receiving statutory secondary education (aged 11-16) living three miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated;
- all learners who attend a specialist provision and cannot walk to school because of their additional learning need / special education need, disability or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated above.

There are currently no requirements to provide free home-to-school transport for learners who:

- are not of statutory school age - this includes nursery aged children as well as post-16 students;
- are not attending their nearest suitable school.

At present, the local authority provides free transport on a **discretionary basis** for:

- all learners attending nursery school (age 3-4) living 1.5 miles or more from their nearest suitable school, or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated;
- all post-16 learners (age 16-18) who live over three miles to either their nearest suitable school (sixth-form) or to the nearest college that provides the course they wish to study and are studying their first course of full-time study.
- learners attending their nearest voluntary aided (faith) school and the distance criteria of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils is met.

- learners attending their nearest Welsh-medium school and with the distance criteria of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils is met.
- Pupils who were the siblings of pupils eligible at the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary age pupils and two miles for secondary age pupils, prior to the policy change in September 2016 and attend the same school, also receive free home-to-school transport under the same distances.
- Pupils who were already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary age pupils and two miles for secondary age pupils prior to the policy change in September 2016, continue to benefit from free-home-to-school transport under the former distances. This arrangement continues until they leave or move schools or transition from one phase of education to another, eg primary to secondary.

## Active Travel

Bridgend County Borough Council needs to pay due regard to the Welsh Government's Active Travel Action Plan for Wales and the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The action plan aims to address congestion and encourage people to walk and cycle more often. The Welsh Government estimates that one in five cars on the road at 8:50am on a weekday is for the school run. Congestion in towns is therefore a serious issue. The Active Travel Action Plan sets out the actions that the Welsh Government and its partners will take to encourage more people to walk and cycle for more journeys. It is hoped that this will not only improve the health of our young people, but also improve the health and well-being of those who live and work in the area.

## What will it mean if we do not make this change?

The council takes pride in the services it provides to its citizens and wants to continue to do as much as possible to support families in a difficult financial climate. However, the savings associated with the following proposals are needed because the budget pressures for the next three years are significant and unprecedented. The learner travel arrangements currently provided by Bridgend County Borough Council are amongst the most generous to be found in Wales. Financial savings of £1.78m have already been made to the learner travel budget since 2014/2015 through efficiencies.

## The Consultation Process

An important part of the process, when considering any change, is to gauge the views of the public and other stakeholders. The purpose of this consultation document is therefore to outline the **proposed** changes. This document has been prepared to provide stakeholders with information about the new proposals to allow stakeholders the opportunity to have their say.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period all comments received will be presented to the local authority's Cabinet and all views expressed will be taken into account when the Cabinet make any decision.

If it is decided to implement the proposals, these will come into effect on the **1 September 2021**.

If it is decided not to go ahead with the proposal, it may be that an alternative proposal may be sought.

The table below sets out the timetable for the consultation:

What	When
Consultation begins	<b>14 October 2019</b>
Consultation ends	<b>5 January 2020</b>
Proposed implementation date for new policy	<b>September 2021</b>

**(Please note that any response received after the consultation has ended will not be considered)**

## Who is being consulted

- The public
- Learners and their parents/carers
- Schools and colleges
- Careers Wales
- RhAG
- Welsh Government
- Diocesan authorities
- Councillors
- Regional AMs
- Local MPs
- The First Minister
- Town and community councils
- Neighbouring councils
- Estyn
- School governors
- Public Service Board members
- The Bridgend School Admissions Forum
- Bridgend Equalities Forum (BEF) members
- Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equalities Forum (BCCEF) members

## How to respond

The local authority is asking the public and other stakeholders to answer the questions and provide their views via an [on-line survey](#). The local authority is able to provide paper copies of the survey and in accessible formats, on request. Please e-mail your request to [consultation@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@bridgend.gov.uk) or Tel. (01656) 642617



You can also respond by sending paper survey forms to:

**Post:** Communications, Marketing and Engagement,  
Bridgend County Borough Council,  
Civic Offices,  
Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council. If there is a decision not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal and an alternative proposal may be sought.

If any of the proposals are accepted by Cabinet the earliest the change(s) will come into effect is 1 September 2021.

## Events

For those consultees who wish to take the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed new policy, consultation drop-in events will be held. You **must** book to attend one of these events by either using the following [link](#) or by e-mailing [consultation@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@bridgend.gov.uk) or Tel. (01656) 643664.

Venue	Time	Date
Pencoed Comprehensive School	18:00	11/11/2019
Maesteg School	18:00	13/11/2019
Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	18:00	18/11/2019
Cynffig Comprehensive School	18:00	19/11/2019
Brynteg School	18:00	20/11/2019
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	18:00	21/11/2019
Bryntirion Comprehensive	18:00	26/11/2019
Porthcawl Comprehensive School	18:00	03/12/2019
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	18:00	04/12/2019
Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road	18:00	05/12/2019

## The Proposals

### Proposal 1

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from available walking routes to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils.

This would mean that from September 2021 the following would apply to the council's provision of free school transport:

- Pupils attending primary schools living two miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school would receive free transport.
- Pupils attending secondary schools living three miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school would receive free transport.
- Pupils attending the nearest faith school of their religion within the county borough, living two miles or further for primary schools and three miles or further for secondary schools would receive free transport.
- Pupils attending the nearest Welsh language schools in the county borough, living two miles or further for primary schools and three miles or further for secondary schools, would receive free transport, regardless of whether the school is considered to be the nearest suitable school.
- Any previous protection offered to sibling groups benefitting from home-to-school transport at the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary pupils and two miles for secondary pupils, will cease from 1 September 2021.
- Any previous protection offered to pupils under the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary pupils and two miles for secondary pupils will cease from 1 September 2021.

### Proposal 2

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than 8 passengers.

There is no law to say the council needs to provide escorts on any home-to-school transport.

The change would mean that pupils travelling in smaller vehicles provided by the council would no longer have an escort on board. The driver of the vehicle would act as driver/escort.

However, the local authority would consider on a case-by-case basis the provision of an escort for any child with additional learning needs (ALN) or for a looked-after child following an appropriate assessment of their needs.

### **Proposal 3**

Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.

The council may on occasion provide home-to-school transport to pupils who are not currently eligible. The current policy gives specific examples of the circumstances where discretionary transport might be considered.

This proposal will mean that specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport provided to pupils, will be removed from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy.

### **Proposal 4**

To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college other than those pupils who attend a Welsh-medium sixth-form at a school within Bridgend or who wish to pursue up a faith-based education in a sixth-form at a voluntary aided school within Bridgend.

There is no law that says the council needs to provide free transport for post-16 pupils and students continuing into further education or sixth-form.

However, the council understands that there may be an impact on learners and their families who rely on this free service to support their learning.

The local authority is committed to support the development of, and acknowledges its statutory duty to promote the Welsh language. Therefore, as there is currently only one Welsh-medium sixth-form within Bridgend, which is located at the north of the Llynfi Valley, it is likely that the withdrawal of post-16 transport will have a disproportionate impact on learners wishing to attend this school given the distances they would need to travel from the rest of the county borough. Similarly, the local authority respects the wishes of learners who wish to pursue a faith-based education and acknowledges that as there is only one voluntary aided secondary school within Bridgend offering a faith-based education, it is likely that the withdrawal of post-16 transport will have a disproportionate impact on learners wishing to attend this school, given the distances learners would need to travel from the rest of the county borough.

It is important to note that some learners will already receive Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). This is an income assessed weekly allowance of £30 to help students with the cost of further education, including transport.

Additionally the 'mytravelpass' scheme funded by the Welsh Government, provides discounted bus fares to young people aged 16 to 21 with approximately one third off their bus fare.

## Proposal 5

To stop providing free transport for nursery age pupils (ages 3 & 4)

There is no law that says the council needs to provide free transport for nursery pupils. Bridgend County Borough Council is one of the few councils in Wales offering this provision. The council understands that there may be an impact on learners and their families who rely on this free service to support their learning.

## Summary of Proposals

The following table shows examples of what the proposed changes may mean if approved:

Post-16 transport		
Learner type	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement (from September 2021)
<b>Post-16 student</b> (English-medium) Attending Bridgend College	Free home-to-college transport provided over three miles from college or where there is no available walking route.	No travel assistance offered
<b>Post-16 student</b> (English-medium) Attends sixth-form at <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brynteg School</li><li>• Pencoed Comprehensive School</li><li>• Cynffig Comprehensive School</li><li>• Porthcawl Comprehensive School</li><li>• Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen</li><li>• Maesteg School</li><li>• Bryntirion Comprehensive School</li></ul>	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	No travel assistance offered
<b>Post-16 student</b> (Welsh-medium) Attends sixth-form at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	No change

<b>Post-16 transport</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current Arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed Arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<b>Post-16 student (Faith)</b> Attends sixth-form at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	No change
<b>Post-16 student with ALN/SEN in specialist provision</b>	Free home-to-school transport provided if over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route. Free home-to-school transport also provided at the discretion of the local authority	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority
<b>Post-16 student with ALN/SEN not in a specialist provision</b>	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority

<b>Secondary age school transport</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current Arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed Arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<b>Secondary age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16  Attends a secondary school which is their nearest available school, and they live over three miles from the school or no suitable walking route exists.	Free home-to-school transport provided	No change

<b>Secondary age school transport</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current Arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed Arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<p><b>Secondary age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16</p> <p>Attends a secondary school but it is not their nearest available school, as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school.</p>	No home-to-school transport provided	No change
<p><b>Secondary age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16</p> <p>Attends a secondary school which is their nearest available school, and they live over two miles from the school and they were previously in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance when the policy changed in September 2016.</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.
<p><b>Secondary age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16</p> <p>Attends a secondary school which is their nearest available school and they live over two miles from the school as they became eligible for free transport when the policy changed in September 2016 as a</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.

Secondary age school transport		
Learner type	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement (from September 2021)
sibling was already attending the same school and was already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance.		

Primary age school transport		
Learner type	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement (from September 2021)
<p><b>Primary age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11</p> <p>Attends a primary school which is their nearest available school, and they live over two miles from the school or no suitable walking route exists.</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	No change
<p><b>Primary age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11</p> <p>Attends a primary school, but it is not their nearest available school as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school.</p>	No home-to-school transport provided	No change

Primary age school transport		
Learner type	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement (from September 2021)
<p><b>Primary age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11</p> <p>Attends a primary school which is their nearest available school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school, as they were previously in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance when the policy changed in September 2016.</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over two miles from school or where there is no available walking route.
<p><b>Primary age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11</p> <p>Attends a primary school which is their nearest available school and they live over 1.5 miles from the school and they became eligible for free transport when the policy changed in September 2016 as a sibling was already attending the same school and was already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance.</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over two miles from school or where there is no available walking route.



<b>Nursery age school transport</b>		
<b>Learner type</b>	<b>Current Arrangement</b>	<b>Proposed Arrangement (from September 2021)</b>
<p><b>Nursery age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 3-4</p> <p>Attends nursery school which is their nearest available school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school or no suitable walking route exists.</p>	Home-to-school transport provided	No home-to-school transport provided
<p><b>Nursery age pupil</b> (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 3-4</p> <p>Attends nursery school, but it is not their nearest available school as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school.</p>	No home-to-school transport provided	No change

Some learners with ALN/SEN who are of compulsory school age have their needs met within a mainstream school setting, but with prescribed support (confirmed on their Statement of Special Education Needs). For these learners travel assistance will be considered on an individual basis.

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# Learner Travel Review

## Consultation Report

**Date of issue: 19 February 2020**

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## 1. Overview

A public consultation reviewing learner travel was undertaken over a 12 week period from 14 October to 5 January 2020. The consultation received 1396 interactions from a combination of survey completions, workshops held with primary and comprehensive school pupils, social media engagements, emails and letters. This paper details the analysis associated with the consultation.

## 2. Introduction

The public survey was available to complete online through a link on the consultation page of the council's website. Paper copies of the consultation were made available via request to the Consultation and Engagement Team. Surveys were available in several formats, including large print, standard and a youth version was made available for the primary school engagement workshops. All were available in English and Welsh. The content of the page remains available online.

In total, there were 11 questions (within all survey formats) that required a reply from respondents. These were made up of questions about five overall proposals in relation to learner transport. The council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey, in line with recommended good practice for all public-facing surveys carried out by the council.

A programme of engagement events were held in comprehensive schools across the county borough and at Bridgend College, engaging with learners, staff, parents and carers.

Comments regarding the consultation were also invited via social media, letter, email and phone call.

## 3. Promotional tools and engagement methods

Details of the consultation were shared with:

- The public
- Learners and their parents/carers
- Schools and colleges
- Careers Wales
- RhAG
- Welsh Government
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Diocesan authorities
- Councillors
- Regional AMs
- Local MPs
- The First Minister
- Town and community councils

- Neighbouring councils
- Estyn
- School governors
- Public Service Board members
- The Bridgend School Admissions Forum
- Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equalities Forum (BCCEF) members

### 3.1 Promotional tools

This section details the methods used to raise the profile of the consultation and encourage participation.

#### 3.1.1 Social media

Facebook and Twitter have been widely used to promote the consultation. Information was posted to the council's corporate Twitter accounts throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,110 followers on its corporate Twitter accounts. During the period, the authority 'tweeted' 54 times (27 English and 27 Welsh) and the information was seen by 39,954 people.

Information was also posted to the council's corporate Facebook page during the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,426 followers. During the period, the authority posted 6 times (three English and three Welsh) on Facebook and the posts were seen by 25,747 people, these posts generated 149 link clicks, 72 shares, 14 reactions and 35 comments. The comments received have been themed and can be seen in section 9.

#### 3.1.2 Press and media

Details of the consultation were sent as part of press releases emailed to local and national press during the consultation (23 October and 6 December 2019) and supported with social media messages throughout the live period.

### 3.2 Engagement methods

This section details the mechanisms available for stakeholders to engage with the council and share their views.

#### 3.2.1 The Learner Travel Review Survey

A standard survey and large print version of the survey were all made available in Welsh and English, and a youth version of the survey was made available for the primary workshops. All were available in paper format and online. The consultation feedback is contained in section seven.

#### 3.2.2 Parents and carer meetings

Parent and carer sessions took place in all comprehensive schools across the county borough. Parents and carers were given an overview of the consultation and the proposals, and were invited to give views and comments which were recorded by the Consultation and Engagement Team and are themed in section ten.

### 3.2.3 School engagement sessions

In order to gather the views of young people the consultation team attended comprehensive schools across the county borough. Pupils completed the survey either via paper surveys or via clicker pads.

The consultation team engaged with **305 young people** in a variety of pupil workshops.

Engagement sessions took place in:

- Bryntirion Comprehensive School
- Porthcawl Comprehensive School
- Maesteg School
- Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen
- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd
- Brynteg School
- Cynffig Comprehensive School
- The Bridge Alternative Provision
- Welsh-medium primary school pupils took part in an engagement session in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd
- Primary school pupils from English-medium schools took part in engagement sessions in the council chamber

The feedback from young people is detailed in section eight.

## 4. Response rate

In total, there were **1396** interactions during the consultation. The response rate has been segregated into several areas: consultation survey responses, engagement event attendees, social media interactions emails and letters.

Interactions	Number
Survey completions	943
Parents meetings	97
Pupil workshops	305
Emails	13
Letters	3
Social media comments	35
Total interactions	1396

## 5. How effective was the consultation?

The consultation was conducted over a 12 week period. The data collection methods, which include the online survey and paper survey, were developed using plain English to maximise understanding.

## 6. Headline figures

- 6.1 57% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to increase the walking distance to school to two miles for primary and three miles for secondary schools.
- 6.2 76% of learners did not agree with the proposal to increase the walking distance to school to two miles for primary and three miles for secondary schools.
- 6.3 43% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to remove escorts from taxis or minibuses with less than eight passengers.
- 6.4 37% of learners agreed with the proposal to remove escorts from taxis or minibuses with less than eight passengers.
- 6.5 43% of survey respondents were unsure about the proposal to remove specific examples from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy, 37% disagreed with this proposal.
- 6.6 44% of learners agreed with the proposal to remove specific examples from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy.
- 6.7 71% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over.
- 6.8 85% of learners did not agree with the proposal to stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over.
- 6.9 58% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to remove all transport for nursery pupils.
- 6.10 63% of learners did not agree with the proposal to remove all transport for nursery pupils.

## 7. Question and analysis - consultation survey

The consultation contained 11 questions related to the proposals. All questions were optional, so participants could choose to answer all or some of the questions.

Respondents were asked to provide information about themselves and were then asked if they agreed or disagreed with the individual proposals, with reasons for their choice.

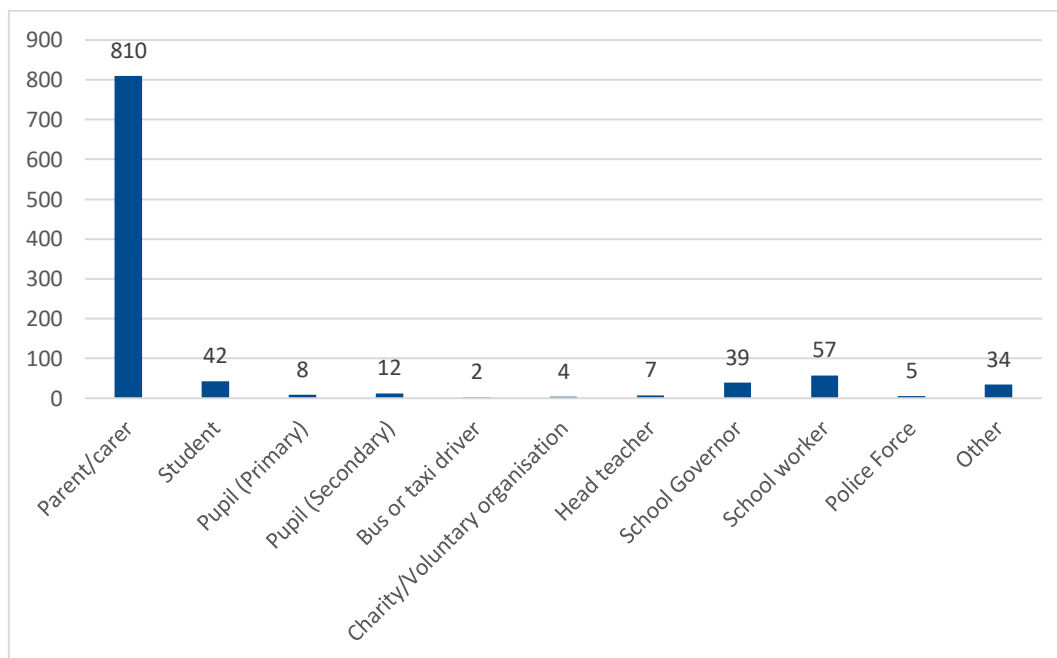
In the final question, respondents could provide anything they would like to say about the proposals.



This section details the responses received to the main survey, the responses received from learners are detailed in section eight of this report.

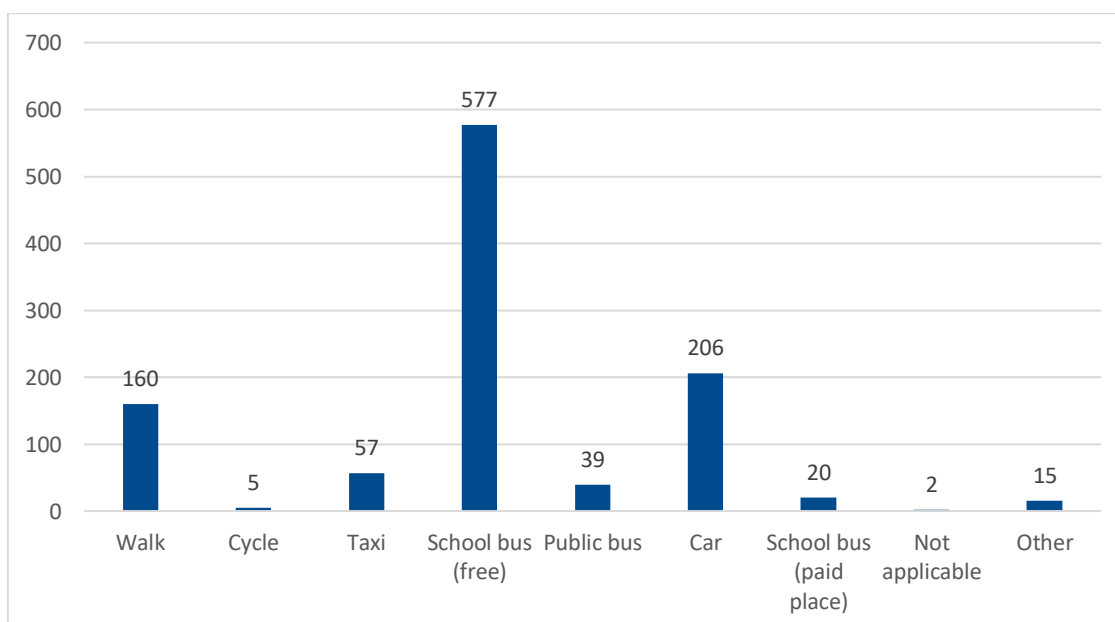
## 7.1 About you

### 7.1.1 Please tick the option that best described you as a respondent



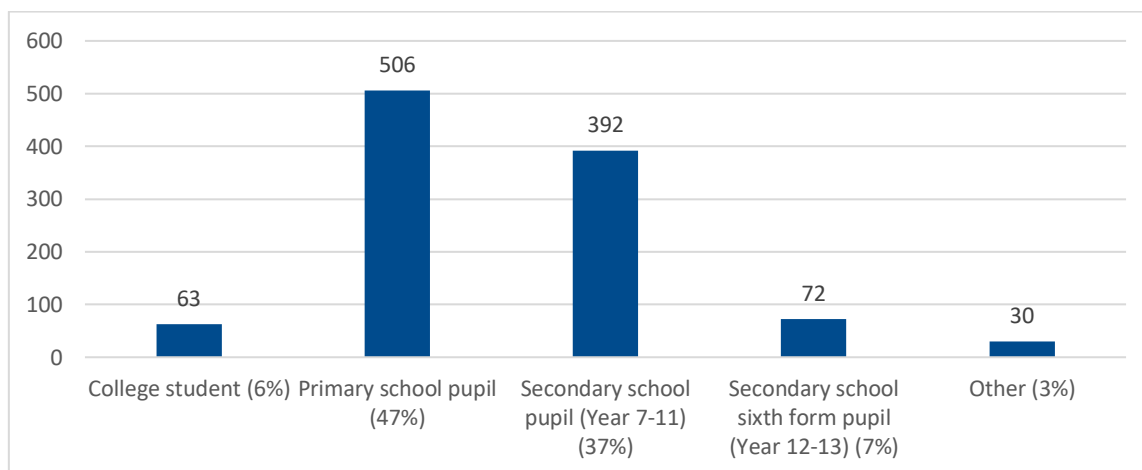
Respondents were able to choose multiple options to represent themselves. The most common respondents were parent/carer (810), followed by student (42) and then school worker (57).

### 7.1.2 How do you or your children travel to school?



Respondents were able to choose multiple options to this question. The most popular method of transport to school was free bus (577), followed by car (206), and then walk (160).

### 7.1.3 Please tick the option(s) that best describes you or your child(ren) as pupils/students?



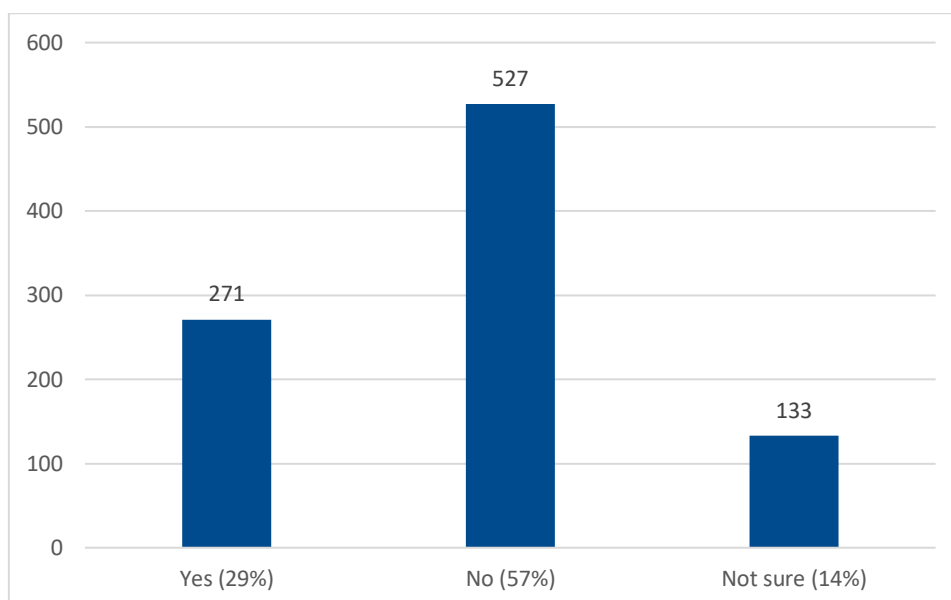
47% of respondents stated that their children were in primary school, followed by 37% in secondary schools (Years 7-11) and then 7% in secondary school sixth forms.

## 7.2 Survey questions

### 7.2.1 Proposal one.

**Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefiting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of 2 miles for primary pupils and 3 miles for secondary pupils.**

931 people responded to this question.



The majority of respondents did not agree with this proposal (57%). 29% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 14% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 55 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Agree with proposal	19
Proposal does not affect me	10
Young people should walk/cycle	5
Parents responsibility not the councils	4
Pupils with additional needs should be supported	4
Must ensure walking routes are safe	3
Welsh education should be supported	3
Faith education should be supported	2
Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) will be in line with other authorities	2
Limit traffic outside schools	1
Offer paid places on the school bus	1
Public transport options need to be improved	1

The most common responses were 'agree with proposal' (19) followed by 'proposal does not affect me' (10) and then 'young people should walk or cycle' (5).

There were 456 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
It will be too far to walk and will take too long especially in bad weather	124

Children will be unsafe walking to school	111
Negative impact on Welsh language schools	45
Public transport is expensive/additional costs for pupils	32
Will have negative environmental impact	29
Supports families to go to work	22
Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported	21
Roads are unsafe	16
Keep the free school transport	15
Will negatively impact attendance and/or attainment	13
Make internal savings	7
Faith schools need transport	6
Could cause health issues (walking in cold weather/wet clothes)	6
Would be prepared to contribute towards travel costs	5
Should not be preferential treatment for faith schools	4

The most common responses were 'it will be too far to walk and will take too long especially in bad weather' (124), followed by 'children will be unsafe walking to school' (111) and this will have a 'negative impact on Welsh language schools' (45).

There were 66 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

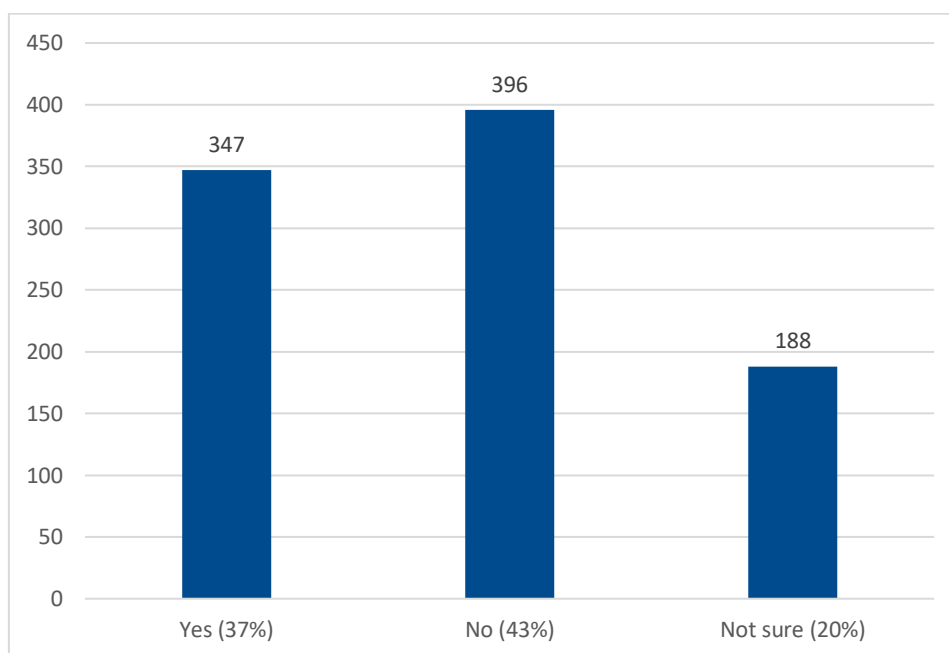
Theme	No.
Must ensure there are safe routes	19
Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported	8
Need more information/unsure of impact	8
Environmental impact/ Traffic	7
Additional expense/cost for pupils	5
Too far/long walk/bad weather	5
Welsh schools should have transport	5
May be difficult for a parents that work	3
School transport is convenient	1
Cut council wages instead	1
Faith schools should have transport	1
Negative impact on health (walking in bad weather/wet clothes)	1
Primary children should have transport	1
Reconfigure catchment areas	1

The most common responses were as must ensure there are safe routes (19), followed by pupils with additional learning needs should be supported (8) and need more information/unsure of impact (8).

## 7.2.2 Proposal two.

### Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

931 people responded to this question.



43% of respondents did not agree with this proposal. 37% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 20% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 110 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Agree with proposal	33
Drivers should have a DBS check	23
Children with additional needs should be supported	16
Escorts are not needed	17
Drivers will need training	8
As long as the children behave themselves	5
Provide CCTV in vehicles	2
It shouldn't include infant aged children	2
As long as those who need support are supported	2
Unsure of impact	1
We should be able to trust our children, especially secondary school	1

The most common responses were 'agree with proposal' (33), followed by 'drivers should have a DBS check' (23) and then 'children with additional needs should be supported' (16).

There were 456 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
There could be safeguarding issues (for children and driver)	43
Compromises child safety	39
Driver should focus on driving	35
Children with additional needs should be supported	31
Children need support/supervision	28
Will encourage bad behaviour/bullying	20
Children may distract driver	18
Primary are too young to travel without an escort	16
Driver is not responsible for children	14
Escorts should be on all buses	7
Assess on case by case basis	3
Cut council spending/pay	3
May incur additional cost for parents	2
Issues will arise if the driver falls ill/ has accident	2
Should not impact Welsh schools	2
Disagree with proposal	1

The most common responses were 'there could be safeguarding issues (for children and driver)' (43), 'compromises child safety' (39) and 'driver should focus on driving' (35).

There were 66 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

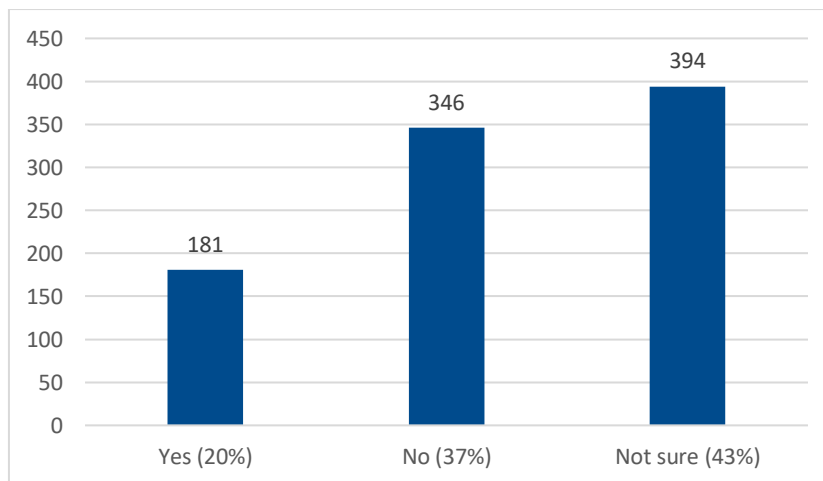
Theme	No.
Children with additional needs should be supported	17
Primary children are too young to not have an escort	15
Needs of children should be considered	13
Unsure of impact	11
Provided the children are safe	9
As long as the driver has a DBS	8
If the driver is capable for supporting the children	6
Children could distract driver	2
Escorts are needed	1

The most common responses were 'children with additional needs should be supported' (17), followed by 'primary children are too young to not have an escort' (15) and the 'needs of children should be considered' (13).

### 7.2.3 Proposal three.

**Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.**

921 people responded to this question.



The majority of respondents were unsure about this proposal (43%). 20% of respondents agreed with this proposal and 37% disagreed with this proposal.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 27 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Should be assessed on a case by case basis	6
Transport availability should be equal for all	5
Agree with proposal	4
Children with additional needs should be supported	3
Parents should provide/organise transport	3
They are old enough to organise own transport	2
Welsh schools should be protected	2
Ask for contributions	1
Decisions should be made available for public scrutiny	1

The most common responses were 'should be assessed on a case by case basis' (6), followed by 'transport availability should be equal for all' (5) and 'agree with proposal' (4).

There were 138 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Should be assessed on a case by case basis	34
The service is needed	20
Should keep all school transport	13
Children with additional learning needs should be supported	12
May compromise child safety	11
Need more information/unsure of impact	11
Expensive for families/pupils in deprived areas	10

Children have a right to education	7
Welsh education should be supported	5
Service supports families to go to work	5
Disagree with proposal	4
Make internal cuts at the council	3
How would the pupils get to school?	2
Negative environmental impact	1

The most common responses were 'should be assessed on a case by case basis' (34), followed by 'the service is needed' (20) and then 'should keep all school transport' (13).

There were 121 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Need more information about discretionary transport	78
Assessed on a case by case basis	21
Unsure of impact	11
This service should be available to all	3
Was unaware service was available	3
Children with additional needs should be supported	2
Welsh schools should be supported	2
May incur additional costs for parents	1

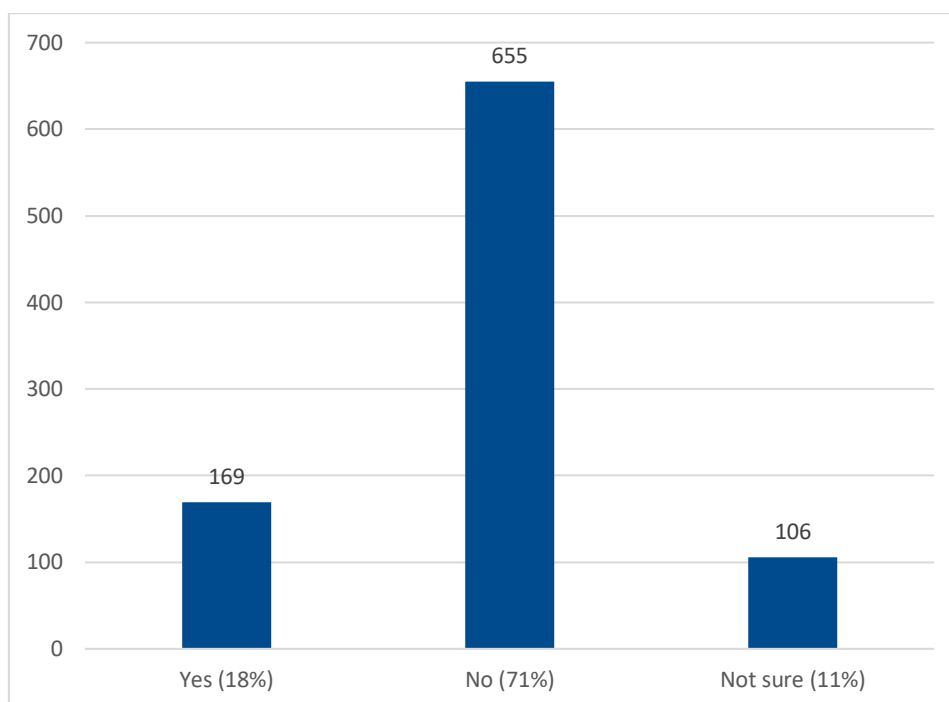
The most common responses were 'need more information about discretionary transport' (78), followed by 'assessed on a case by case basis' (21) and then 'unsure of impact' (11).

#### 7.2.4 Proposal four.

**To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college.**

930 people responded to this question.





71% of respondents did not agree with this proposal, 18% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 11% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 59 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Old enough to catch a bus/organise a journey	18
Personal choice to attend college so should pay for transport	16
Effective way to save money	8
Vulnerable students should be supported	8
Students get Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) so can pay for transport	6
Students can walk	2
Agree with proposal	1

The most common responses were 'old enough to catch a bus/organise a journey' (18), followed by 'personal choice to attend college so should pay for transport' (16) and then 'effective way to save money' (8) and 'vulnerable students should be supported' (8).

There were 412 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
It will discourage young people from attending sixth form	80
It will be costly to pay for transport	77
It will negatively impact young people living in poverty/deprived areas	55

We should encourage young people to attend sixth form	53
Welsh education should be protected	34
Continue with free transport (as continuing with education)	31
Limits opportunities for progression for young people	25
All pupils should have transport	14
Children with additional needs should be supported	12
Walking will be unsafe	7
How else will they get there?	6
Faith education should be protected	3
Free transport for school students but not college students	3
Too far to walk	3
Environmental impact from increased traffic	2
Council should make internal savings/ save elsewhere	2
Age discrimination	1
Young people attending bridge provision only have the option of continuing at college	1
Students could contribute to cost of transport	1
Free transport for college students but not for school students	1
Welsh and faith schools should not be protected	1

The most common responses were 'it will discourage young people from attending sixth form' (80), followed by 'it will be too costly to pay for transport' (77) and then 'it will negatively impact young people living in poverty/deprived areas' (55).

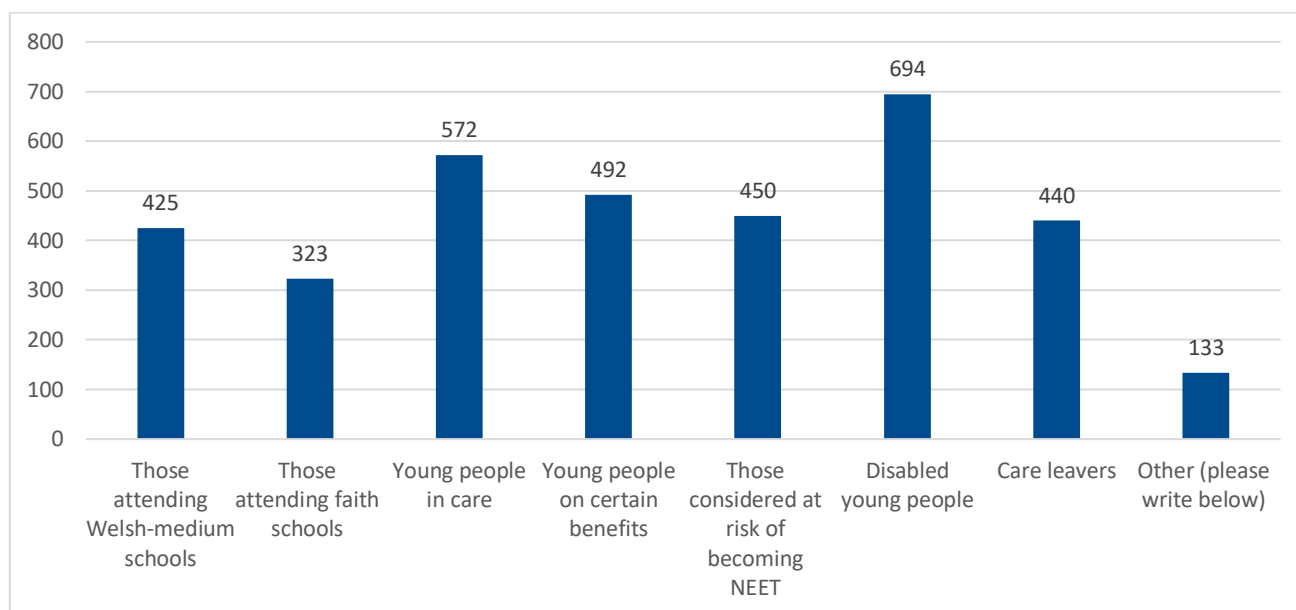
There were 54 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Could discourage pupils attending sixth form	18
Vulnerable pupils should be supported	12
Could offer reduced pass/season ticket	7
Not all post-16 students will need/want the bus	6
Free transport for college students but not school students	4
Welsh education should be protected	3
If they are working they can pay for transport	3
EMA should be used specifically for transport	1

The most common responses were 'could discourage pupils from attending sixth form' (18), followed by 'vulnerable pupils should be supported' (12) and then 'could offer reduced pass/season ticket' (7).

#### 7.2.4.1 Are there any groups of learners aged 16 or over who you believe should continue to receive free transport?

Respondents were able to select learners who they believed should still receive free post-16 transport if this was to be removed. Respondents were able to select multiple categories.



The most popular responses were 'disabled young people', followed by 'young people in care' and then 'young people on certain benefits'.

Where other was selected respondents were asked to identify other groups of learners. The following responses were received:

Theme	No.
All pupils	72
Should be means tested – those receiving benefits/free school means/objective one areas	9
Should be based on distance from school/college	7
Learners with additional needs	5
College students	3
Pupils who can't drive	2
None	1
Young carers/ young adult carers	1
Where they have younger siblings they would be travelling with	1
Pupils attending collaboration courses	1

The most popular responses were 'all pupils' (72), followed by 'should be means tested – those receiving benefits/free school means/objective one areas' (9) and then 'should be based on distance from school/college' (7).

Respondents were then asked to give reasons for their choice. 284 comments were made. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

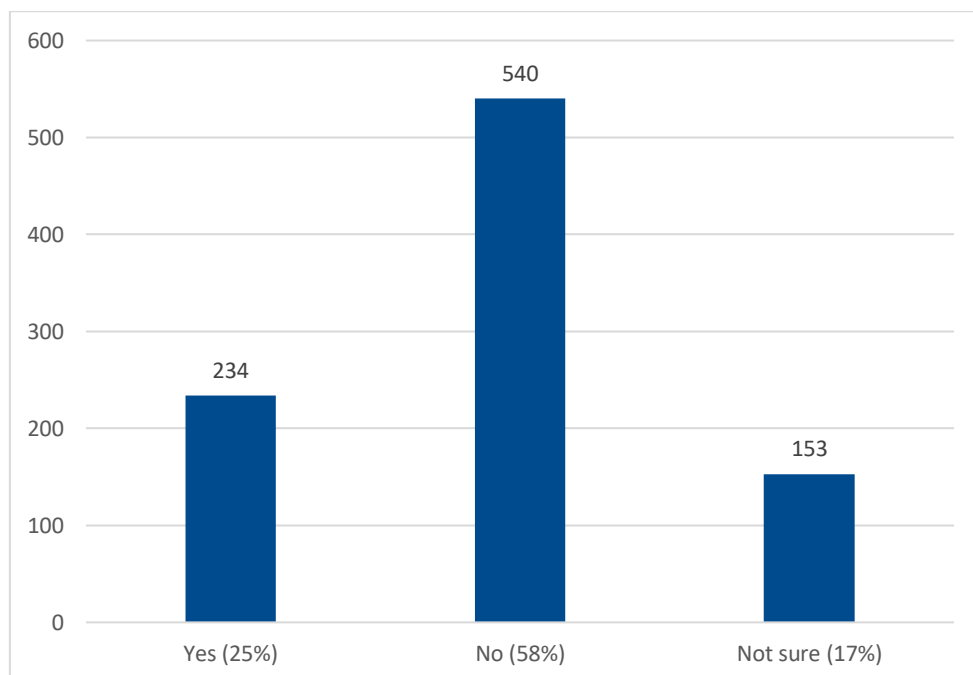
Theme	No.
All pupils should receive transport	114
We should ensure vulnerable young people are protected	55
We should encourage these young people to attend sixth form	26
Cost of transport is too high	23
Welsh and Faith schools should not be protected	19
Welsh education should be protected	17
It is harder for these young people to attend sixth form	12
Cuts will negatively impact young people from disadvantaged areas	7
Council should make internal savings	5
Will limit opportunities for these young people	4
Faith schools should be protected	2

The most popular responses were 'all pupils should receive transport' (114), followed by 'we should ensure vulnerable young people are protected' (55) and then 'we should encourage these young people to attend sixth form' (26).

### 7.2.5 Proposal five.

#### To remove all transport for nursery pupils.

927 people responded to this question.



58% of respondents did not agree with this proposal. 25% agreed with the proposal and 17% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 90 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Nursery education is not compulsory	31
It is the parent's responsibility	27
They are too young to go on the bus	11
Shouldn't be alone on bus	8
Nurseries are usually local	3
Good way to save money	2
It is unsafe for them to be on a bus	2
Unsure of impact	2
They can walk	1
Nursery children who are disabled or have a learning disability should have transport	1
I am surprised this is even available	1
But should support welsh provision	1

The most common responses were 'nursery education is not compulsory' (31), followed by 'it is the parents responsibility' (27), and then 'they are too young to go on the bus' (11).

There were 246 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
This will negatively impact Welsh-medium education	48
Will be difficult for working parents	38
Nursery education is important	21
Too far to walk	20
If nursery place is provided then transport should be provided	17
Continue to provide transport for all pupils	15
Additional costs to families	13
Disagree with proposal	13
Should support parents/ choices will be limited	13
Families may have siblings in primary	9
It is unsafe to walk	8
Limits opportunities of children	6
Right to education - and transport	6
Environmental impact	4
Will negatively impact deprived areas	4
Contradicts free nursery/ childcare grant	3
Faith schools should be protected	3
Children with additional needs should be supported	2
Council should make internal savings	2
Build more schools	1

The most common responses were 'this will negatively impact on Welsh-medium education' (48), followed by 'will be difficult for working parents' (38) and then 'nursery education is important' (21).

There were 51 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Depends on circumstances	12
Unsure of impact	12
Unaware nursery children had transport provided	10
They may need adult support/help	4
Personal choice of parents to send their child to nursery	4
Welsh and Faith schools should be supported	4
Nursery not compulsory so transport is useful but not necessity	3
Children with additional needs should be supported	2

The most common responses were depends on circumstances (12) and unsure of impact (12), followed by unaware that nursery children had transport provided (10).

### 7.2.6 Do you have anything else that you would like to say about the proposals?

Finally, respondents were asked if they had anything else to add about the proposals. 406 comments were received and have been themed. These are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Make savings elsewhere/ internal savings	74
Proposals will impact on child safety	49
Keep all school transport	40
Welsh education should be protected	34
Should invest in education, it is important	33
Disadvantaged families and communities will be impacted the most	27
Support families and those who need it	22
Those with additional needs should be supported	18
Ask for contribution from parents	16
Disagree with proposals	14
Right to education and so should have a right to transport	13
Will have negative environmental impact	12
It is too far for children to walk	11
Will incur additional costs for families/students	9
Will affect attendance /students will drop out	8
Working parents rely on this service	8
Keep escorts on taxis and minibuses	5
Parents responsibility to provide/organise transport for their children	5
Keep transport for post-16 students	4
Review process as opposed to policy	2

Welsh and Faith schools should not be protected	1
Walking is good for children	1

The majority of the comments related to 'make savings elsewhere/internal savings' (74), followed by 'proposals will impact on child safety' (49) and then 'keep all school transport' (40).

## 8. Question and analysis – school engagement sessions

Pupils were able to complete the survey via clicker pads or paper questionnaire. The consultation contained 11 questions. All questions were optional, so participants could choose to answer all or some of the questions.

A total of 305 learners took part in the consultation engagement sessions. 263 Learners took part in their comprehensive schools. A further 35 primary pupils took part in engagement session held in the Council Chamber, and 7 pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools took part in an engagement session held in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

Learners were asked to provide information about themselves and were then asked if they agreed or disagreed with the individual proposals with reasons for their choice.

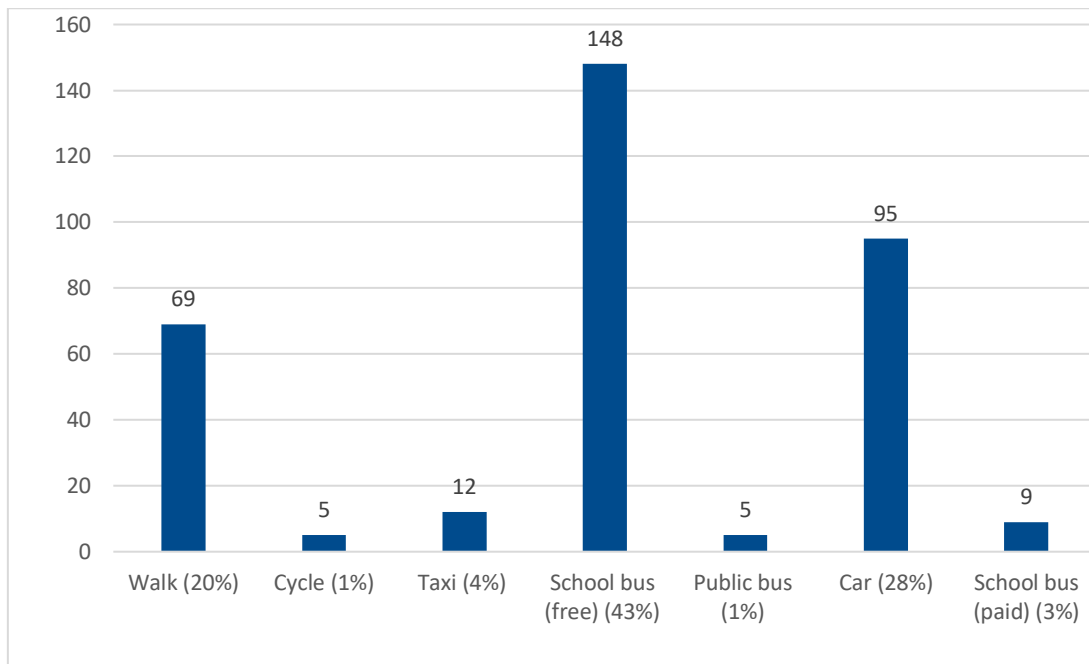
In the final question, learners could provide anything they would like to say about the proposals.

This section details the responses received from learners in the school engagement sessions.

### 8.1. About you

#### 8.1.1 How do you travel to school?

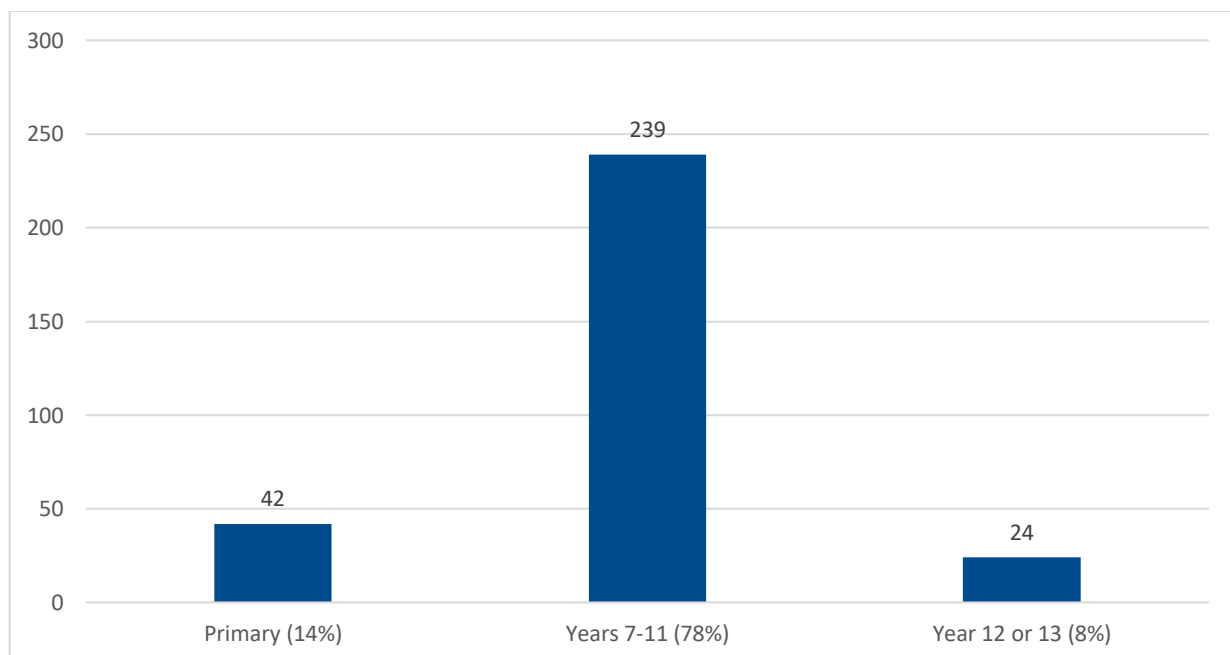
Learners were able to choose more than one option.



43% of learners identified that they used a free bus to get to school, followed by 28% car and then 20% walked to school.

### 8.1.1 Please tell us your year group

305 learners provided a response to this question.



78% of participants were from Years 7-11 in comprehensive schools, 14% were from primary school and 8% were in Years 12 or 13 in comprehensive school.

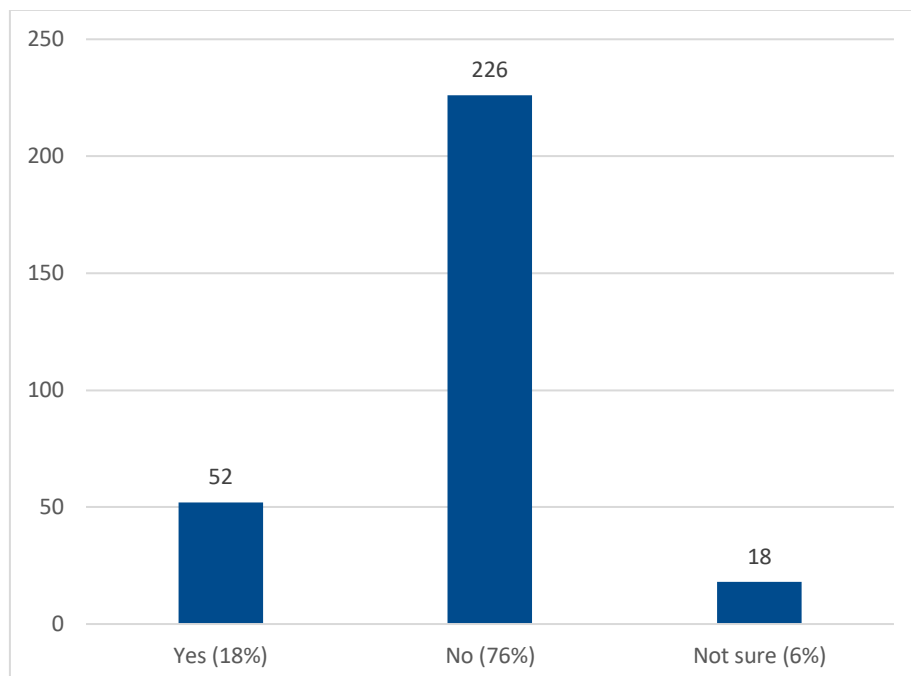
## 8.2 Survey questions

### 8.2.1 Proposal one.



**Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefiting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of 2 miles for primary pupils and 3 miles for secondary pupils.**

296 people responded to this question.



The majority of learners did not agree with this proposal (75%). 18% of learners did agree with this proposal and 6% were unsure

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

249 comments were received from learners. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
It is too far/it is a long way to walk	43
Keep all transport	34
There is no real safe route to school	29
Will negatively impact attendance/achievements	26
Pupils will more likely be late	23
dark/cold/wet	20
Pupils will be tired from walking	14
It would be expensive to catch a public bus	13
There are dangerous people around	8
Welsh education should be supported	7
Negative environmental impact from more cars on the road	5
I think it is fair to change the 2 to 3 mile distance	5

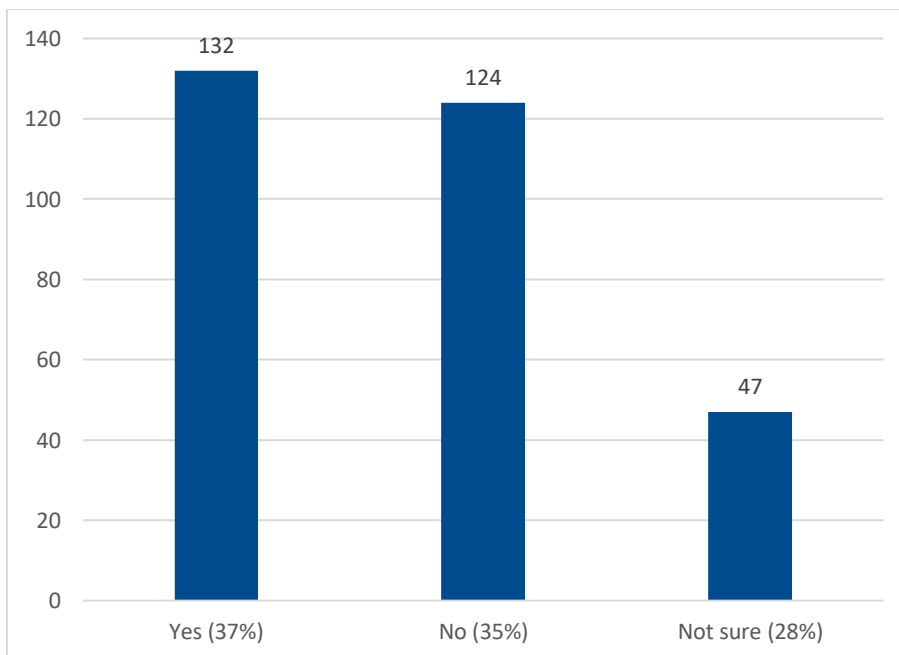
Parents can't take me/ pick me up	5
Faith schools should not be exempt	3
Increase chance of bullying incidents walking to school	3
Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported	3
It is good for pupils to walk	2
Primary pupils should have a bus	2
Pupils walking will disturb residents	1
Hard to carry all your school books and bags all that way	1
Amount of litter will increase if more people walk	1
Better bike facilities at school (if more pupils ride their bikes)	1

The most common responses were it is too far/it is a long way to walk (43), followed by keep all transport (34) and then there is no real safe route to school (29).

### 8.2.2 Proposal two.

#### Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

303 learners responded to this question.



37% of learners agreed with this proposal, 35% did not agree and 20% were unsure.

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

121 comments were received from learners. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Escorts are not needed	22

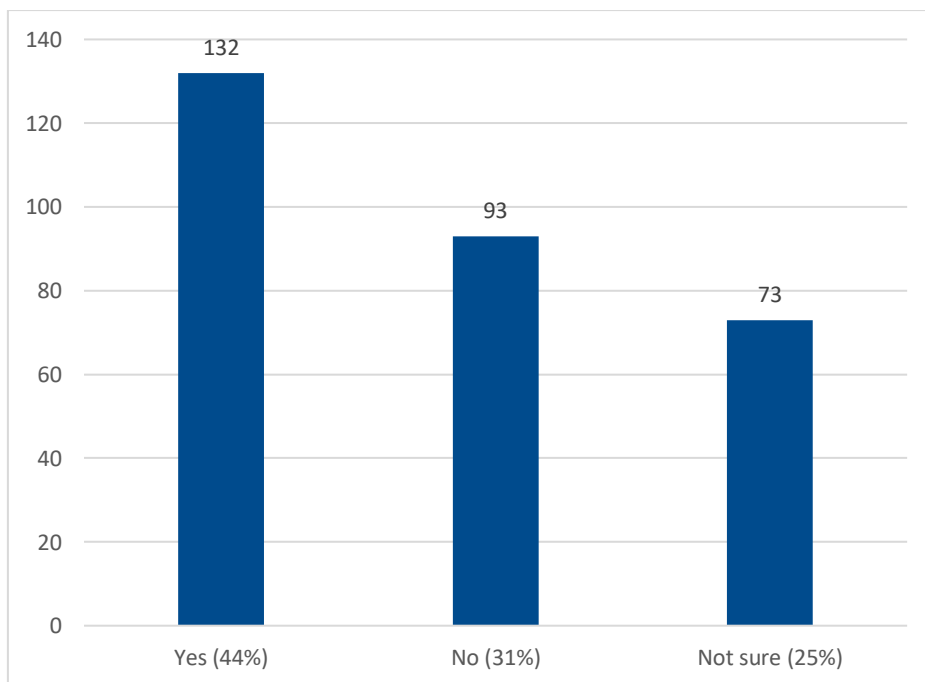
No need for an escort if the driver makes pupils feel comfortable and safe	22
Escorts provide personal/medical support	19
Pupils with additional needs need support	13
Driver should drive/ not be distracted	9
Escorts keep pupils safe	8
Primary pupils should have an escort	7
Driver will be unable to stop bad behaviour	6
Disagree with proposal	4
With no escort there will be more room for pupils	3
Young people are mature enough so do not need an escort	3
It depend on the young people	2
Better for the environment (people do not bring their cars)	1
Parents should be informed of changes	1
Pupils could use the main bus	1

The most common responses were ‘escorts are not needed’ (22) and ‘no need for an escort if the driver makes pupils feel comfortable and safe’ (22) and then ‘escorts provide personal/medical support’ (19).

### 8.2.3 Proposal three.

**Removal from the local authority’s Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.**

298 learners responded to this question.



The majority of learners agreed with this proposal (44%). 31% of learners did not agree with this proposal and 25% were unsure.

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

78 comments were received from learners in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

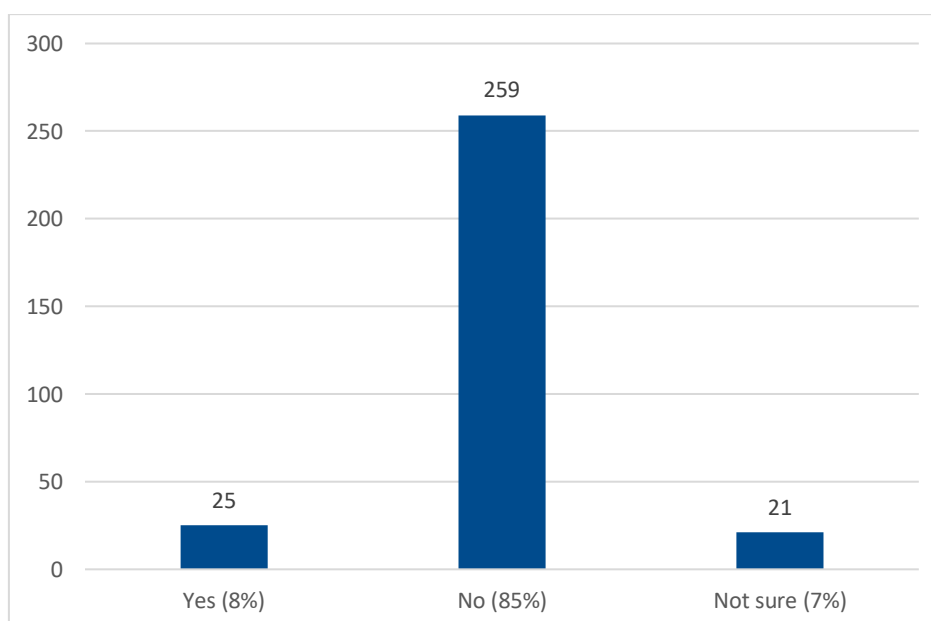
Theme	No.
It will encourage more people to apply	26
Pupils with special circumstances should have this transport	21
The service is needed	12
People may take advantage of service	7
Everyone should have access to transport	4
It might discourage people from applying	4
We pay for service through council tax	2
It is the parent's responsibility to take their child to school	1
Was unaware service existed	1

The most common responses were 'it will encourage more people to apply' (26), followed by 'pupils with special circumstances should have this transport' (21), and then 'the service is needed' (12).

#### 8.2.4 Proposal four.

**To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college.**

305 learners responded to this question.



85% of learners did not agree with this proposal, 8% of learners did agree with this proposal and 7% were unsure.

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

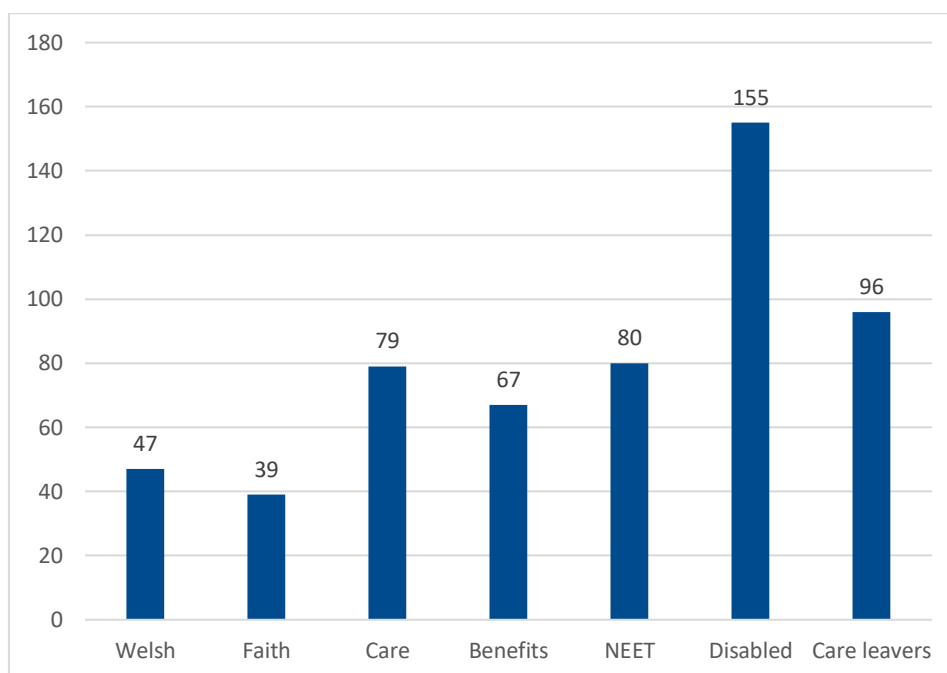
136 comments from learners in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Pupils will be unable to pay for travel	56
Limits opportunities for pupils	27
Welsh-medium education should be supported	16
People would not go to sixth form	13
Transport should be free for all students of all ages	9
The school bus may be their only option	6
Walking to school is not safe	4
Encourages pupils to walk	2
Disabled pupils should have transport	1
Public transport is unreliable	1

The most common responses were 'pupils will be unable to pay for travel' (56), followed by 'limited opportunities for pupils' (27) and then 'Welsh-medium education should be supported' (16).

#### 8.2.4.1 Are there any groups of learners aged 16 or over who you believe should continue to receive free transport?

Learners were able to select groups of learners who they believed should still receive free post-16 transport if this was to be removed. Respondents were able to select multiple categories.



The most popular responses were 'disabled young people' (155) followed by 'care leavers' (96) and then those 'not in employment education or training (NEET)' (80).

Learners were then asked to give reasons for their choice. 73 comments were made. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

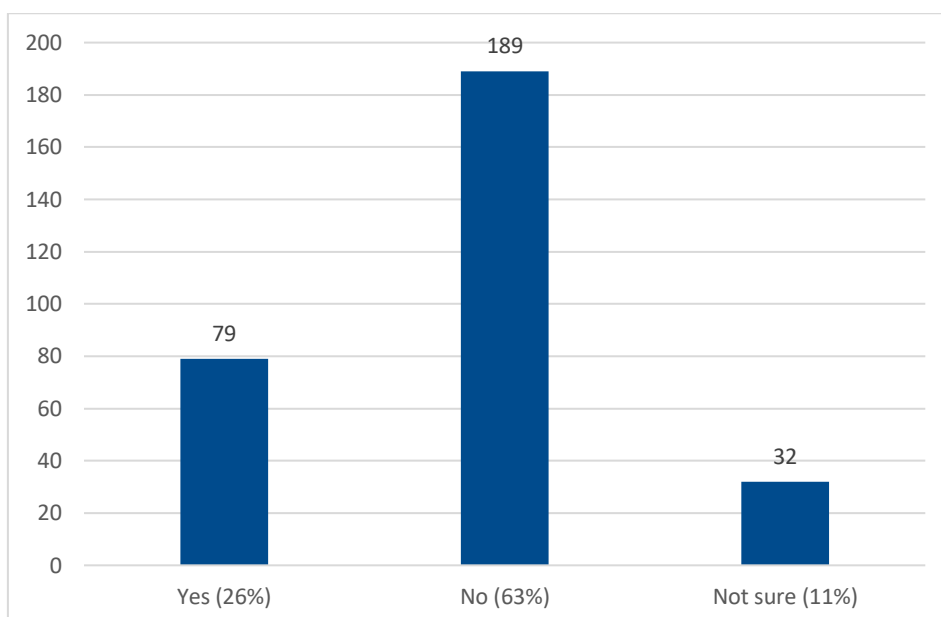
Theme	No.
Everyone should be entitled to transport to attend school	37
These groups of learners need more support	19
People who need support should be supported	14
They may have additional financial issues	2
Should encourage students	1

The most popular responses were 'everyone should be entitled to attend school' (37), followed by 'these groups of learners need more support' (19) and then 'people who need support should be supported' (14).

### 8.2.5 Proposal five.

#### To remove all transport for nursery pupils.

300 learners responded to this question.



63% of learners did not agree with this proposal. 26% agreed with the proposal and 11% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

117 comments were received from learners in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Welsh-medium education should be protected	32
It might be difficult for parents to take them	28
Too young to walk far/unable to walk alone	20
It is safer for them to go on the bus	11
It should be the parents responsibility	6
Entitled to school place then they should be entitled to transport	4
Unsure of impact	4
Keep nursery transport	3
Parents might not be able to afford to get their child to school	2
Nursery education is not compulsory so do not need bus	2
Nursery is important for social growth so should support with transport	2
Nursery schools are usually local so do not need bus	2
Disagree with proposal	1

The most common responses were 'Welsh-medium education should be protected' (32), followed by 'it might be difficult for parents to take them' (28) and then 'too young to walk far/unable to walk alone' (20).

## 8.2.6 Do you have anything else that you would like to say about the proposals?

Finally, learners were asked if they had anything else to add about the proposals. 62 comments were received and have been themed. These are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Keep all transport	12
Will negatively affect attendance/lateness	8
Biggest impact will be on disadvantaged pupils/communities	7
Welsh education should be supported	7
Keep transport for all sixth forms	5
It will not be safe walking to school	5
Disagree with proposals	3
Environmental impact - more cars on the road	3
Should support children with additional needs	3
Disagrees with UNCRC (Article 2, 28 and 31	3
Will incur additional costs for pupils/families	2
Extra walking means a long day	2
Will incur additional costs for pupils/families	2

The majority of the comments were 'keep all transport' (12), followed by 'will negatively affect attendance and lateness' (8) and then 'biggest impact will be on disadvantaged pupils/communities' (7) and 'Welsh-medium education should be supported' (7).

## 9. Social media responses

During the consultation period there were 35 interactions on our social media channels.

The comments have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Close the council	6
The council doesn't care / Consultation just a formality	6
Comments about sports pitches and fees increasing	4
Increase in council tax less service	3
Too far for children to walk	3
Cut councillors/ cut councillors wages	3
Sack council staff	2
Stop giving money to Cardiff City Deal	2
No transport will stop children going to college	2
MP money from EU	1
Car emissions will rise	1
There have been £35 million in cuts where has the money gone	1
Need change in management	1

The majority of the comments were not related specifically to the consultation. Most common comments were related to 'close the council' (6), the 'council doesn't care/consultation is just a formality' (6), and then 'comments about sports pitches and fees increasing' (4).



Three comments were made about it being 'too far for children to walk', and two comments were made about 'no transport will stop children going to college'. One comment was made that car emissions will rise.

## 10. Parents and carers meetings

The Consultation and Engagement Team attended engagement sessions with parents in all comprehensive schools and Bridgend College. Parents from comprehensive schools and primary schools across the county borough were informed of about the engagement sessions. We engaged with 97 parents and carers during these sessions. Comments made during these sessions have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
There is no safe route	18
How are distances measured and routes identified as 'safe'?	10
May stop pupils going to post-16/This needs to be considered alongside post-16 consultation	10
Will the proposals affect Additional Learning Needs (ALN)?	9
Takes too long/too far/wet	9
Make cuts elsewhere	8
There will be an increase in lateness/attendance	7
This will negatively affect Welsh-medium education	7
Are you working to ensure that public transport will be available for all pupils?	6
Additional costs for pupils/families	6
Decisions about sending children to Welsh-medium nursery will be affected/ wider impact upon Welsh-medium education	5
Can we buy a school bus pass/make contributions	5
Will be an increase in parents driving/traffic at school/environmental impact	5
School specific route question	4
Will negatively impact college students/vocational courses	4
Parents are unaware of discretionary payment availability	4
Clarity of proposals	3
Having no escorts is a safeguarding issue	3
Pupils in deprived areas will suffer more	3
Whose responsibility is child safety walking to/from school	3
Why aren't the buses complying with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation	2
Can decisions be appealed/challenged	1
Are all local authorities doing this?	1
There are no escorts on school buses	1
There have been issues when older siblings have tried to pick up their brothers and sisters from the primary schools as they are not over 18.	1
Welsh/Faith should not be protected	1
Can we get together as parents and sort out our own buses and school transport.	1
Will you increase funding for Welsh-medium schools to provide their own transport	1

Has the Welsh Language Commissioner been contacted about consultation	1
New WESP include statutory targets for 3 and 4 year olds – how will cutting nursery transport affect this	1
Welsh/Faith schools should not be protected	1

The most common comments were ‘there is no safe route’ (18), followed by ‘how are distances measured and routes identified as safe’ (10) and ‘may stop pupils going to post-16/ this needs to be considered alongside post-16 consultation’ (10).

## 11. Letters and emails

13 emails were received during the consultation. The details of the emails have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Personal walking route requested	8
Survey request/submission	3
Letter attached	2

Three letters and one report from a school governing body were received during the consultation. These have been attached in Appendix one.

## 12. Communication regarding the consultation

Would you like to be emailed once the consultation report is available?

Yes	640	68%
No	303	32%

## 13. Conclusion

### 13.1 Summary

A sample of 943 survey completions is robust and is subject to a maximum standard error of  $\pm 3.181$  at the 95% confidence level. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within  $\pm 4.752\%$  of the percentages reported. This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 46.819% and 53.181%.

### 13.2 Equality Impact Assessment

The Full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed to consider the impact of these proposals, and presented to Cabinet alongside the consultation report.

## 14. Appendix one.

### 14.1 Covering letter from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger Governing body.



## Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger

Pennaeth : Mrs Rhiannon Dixon BA Hons. PGCE, NPQH

### Re: Learner Transport Consultation

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

Dear Sir,

Please find attached a report on behalf of our school governing body regarding the Bridgend County Borough Council Learner Travel review. The report highlights the impact of the proposed changes to school transport on Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger and on Welsh medium education within our Local Authority.

Whilst we understand that the Local Authority, in the same way as schools must explore all means of making savings we are seriously concerned about the possible disproportionate effect on Welsh medium education.

In order to have our own measure for this we held a short survey at school during a recent parents meeting. We have included the results in the report.

We as a school have recently seen a reduction in pupil numbers starting at school from the Kenfig Hill area, and we feel that this is due in part to the LAs decision to revert to the statutory minimum distance as outlined in proposal 1.

Proposal 5 is a significant concern for us. Though some parents choose to transport their children to school at nursery age, a significant proportion of our nursery pupils use the school bus. Should this option be withdrawn the effect on our school and on Welsh medium education could be devastating. If we are unable to attract pupils in to our nursery they are highly unlikely to transfer in to the Welsh medium sector at reception age when they have already settled in at their nearest school, a school where parents will also have begun making associations.

Dr Rhyd Lewis, a school parent and an academic at the school of mathematics in Cardiff University who lives in the Porthcawl area has undertaken some research regarding the consultation on learner travel. He has written to the LA in regard of this. Over the past few years he has been part of a project that seeks to design efficient bus routes for schools. This has involved using automated tools to determine qualifying students, and then design bus routes that deliver children to school on time, but that optimise things like:

- minimising the number of vehicles used
- minimising journey times and walking distances from homes to suitable bus stops.

Some examples of his work can be found here.

<http://www.rhydlewis.eu/bus/Bridgend-6Buses-Walk-5.749081-route-33.933333.html>



Greenfield Terrace, Cornell, Panybont ar Ogwr, CF33 4LW  
Ffôn / Tel 01656 754865

Gwefan/ Website [www.yferchorsger.co.uk](http://www.yferchorsger.co.uk)  
abost / email [admin.yfos@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:admin.yfos@bridgend.gov.uk)

**14.2 Consultation response from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger Governing body.**

**TRANSPORT CONSULTATION 2019**

**A survey of the impact of 2019 BCBC  
Learner Travel Review on Welsh-medium Education using  
data from the parents of pupils of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger**

Produced by the Governing body of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger

January 2020

## Main Findings

1. There is a very strong desire among the parents and pupils of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger (YFOS) to access Welsh-medium.
2. Parents' response to the changes indicate that 70% of parents who currently have children in Welsh-medium education would not have chosen to do so if free transport at all ages had not been available to them.
3. The provision of effective free transport is crucial throughout the child's education to ensure the equality of access to Welsh-medium education as the secondary school is such a long distance from the homes of the majority of pupils.
4. Parents have a general anxiety any further changes to the funding of transport will have a detrimental effect on their ability to continue to choose Welsh-medium education.
5. The Governors have a genuine concern that removal of free transport to Nursery aged pupils will result in significant falling numbers at a time where we have shown in a recent report to Finance that it is imperative to grow the pupil numbers in order to escape the schools current financial deficit.
6. Welsh-medium schools are unique geographically in the local authority as most pupils attending the secondary school at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd (YGGL) live more than 3 miles from school and nearly all students depend on a bus to attend.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Removing free Nursery transport is likely to significantly reduce pupil numbers in YFOS (and other Welsh-medium primary schools). It is unlikely that pupils will move from an English Nursery setting to Welsh-medium once they have settled and established friend groups.
2. Charging for Nursery transport will have a disproportionate impact on those who choose Welsh-medium education within the County Borough.

3. The transport charge will affect those on low incomes more than most, and will mean that those from disadvantaged backgrounds will not be able to access Welsh-medium education.
4. The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 gives Local Authorities responsibility to provide transport to school with the aim of promoting Welsh-medium education. This proposal will have the opposite affect and has the potential to be detrimental towards Welsh-medium education.
5. The Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) demands that the local authority increases pupil numbers in Welsh-medium education to support the Welsh Governments vision of achieving 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Proposal five would have an adverse effect on this by placing additional obstacles in the way of parents choosing Welsh-medium education.
6. In an area such as Bridgend County (unlike surrounding authorities) Welsh-medium education is a considered choice due to locations and the limited number of primary schools available e.g. The Vale of Glamorgan which is similar in population, size and demographic has eight Welsh-medium primary schools in comparison to our four.
7. Previous consultations have seen a detrimental effect on pupil numbers at YFOS with parents from the Kenfig Hill area anxious about committing to Welsh-medium education if assurances could not be given to the continuity of their child's education due to free transport being withdrawn.

## 1. Background

In October 2019 Bridgend County Borough Council launched a public consultation on pupil transport.

### Proposal One

Withdrawal of Transport for all learners benefitting from available walking routes to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils

### Proposal Two

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than 8 passengers

### Proposal Three

Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport

### Proposal Four

To stop providing free Transport for learners aged 16 and over, who go to school or college other than those who attend a Welsh-medium sixth-form at a school within Bridgend, or who wish to pursue up a faith-based education in a sixth-form at a voluntary aided school within Bridgend

### Proposal Five

To stop providing free Transport for nursery aged pupils (ages 3 & 4)

The Welsh-medium sector acknowledges the exclusion of students attending YGG Llangynwyd post-16 education in this consultation, and we are grateful.

However it appears that the impact and consequences of withdrawing free transport at nursery age for the same sector has not been sufficiently researched. This will have a detrimental impact upon:

- The number of pupils entering Welsh-medium education at nursery
- Low income families
- The local authority's commitment to Welsh Government as laid out in the WESP

The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 gives local authorities the option, to pay the full or part cost for students whose free transport is not statutory. Part of the LA's responsibility is to provide transport which does not place a long term stress on students, and which places obstacles for them to access the education provided.

Clause 10 of the Measure notes:

#### **Promotion of access to education and training through the medium of Welsh**

Each local authority and the Welsh Ministers must promote access to education and training through the medium of the Welsh language when exercising functions under this Measure.

There is no evidence that the Authority has made reference to this clause in drafting proposal five, and they have not accounted for the impact this proposal would have in promoting education and training through the medium of Welsh.

## 2. Geography

Bridgend County Borough is comparatively compact in comparison to other local authorities in Wales. The distance East –West is approx. 12 miles and from North to South approx. 18 miles.

The majority of the population is concentrated in the south of the County Borough in the Bridgend, Porthcawl and Cornelly areas and yet YFOS is the smallest of the four Welsh-medium primary schools in the County.

## 3. Survey brief

It was decided to conduct a survey, which would seek to gauge the following from parents:

1. Year group of pupil
2. Home location
3. Distance from school
4. Current mode of transport to school
5. Likelihood to remain in Welsh-medium education if free transport is withdrawn
6. Had your child received free transport in Nursery (ages 3 & 4)
7. Would you have chosen Welsh-medium education had free transport not been available
8. Will your child remain at YGG Llangynwyd for post-16 education if free transport was withdrawn
9. Comments

*Point 8 was included by parental request. Despite this not being an issue in the current proposals, parents remain extremely anxious about their children's access to a full learning pathway through the medium of Welsh. It is clear from the comments at the end of this report (section 9) that any withdrawal of post-16 transport would have a catastrophic effect on every Welsh school within the authority.*

When responses were received, the questionnaires were processed using Excel software, which enabled responses to be compared according to the whole data collected.

This report notes the main findings of the survey, and includes further comments by parents.

## 4. Responses

Questionnaires were distributed to parents of children in YFOS and/or YGGL

71 responses were received. With 160 pupils currently on roll at YFOS this response was deemed a fair percentage to be assessed and to be taken as a fair reflection. There is a fair differential between home locations throughout the authority.



It was unfortunate that the consultation period included the Christmas period and some parents may simply have not responded due to other commitments. It is of course possible, that those who responded are more likely to be interested in this matter rather than those who chose not to respond, (and this is common in surveys of this nature). However, the clear pattern of responses demonstrates that there is real interest in this matter and that there are significant issues to be considered.

## 5. Home location and current travel to school

Respondents live in the following areas:

Bridgend	3%
Cornelly	34%
Kenfig Hill	7%
Margam Village	14%
Porthcawl	24%
Pyle	18%

## 6. Distance from school

30 pupils (42%) live closer than 2 miles from school. These pupils will not be eligible for free transport. Five of these pupils will lose their free transport if proposal one is adopted. Two have indicated that they are unlikely to remain in YFOS should this happen as they are within walking distance of Mynydd Cynffig primary school.

This pattern of distances from school is very different from other schools within the County Borough, where the vast majority of pupils live within 2 miles of their nearest local English medium primary school.

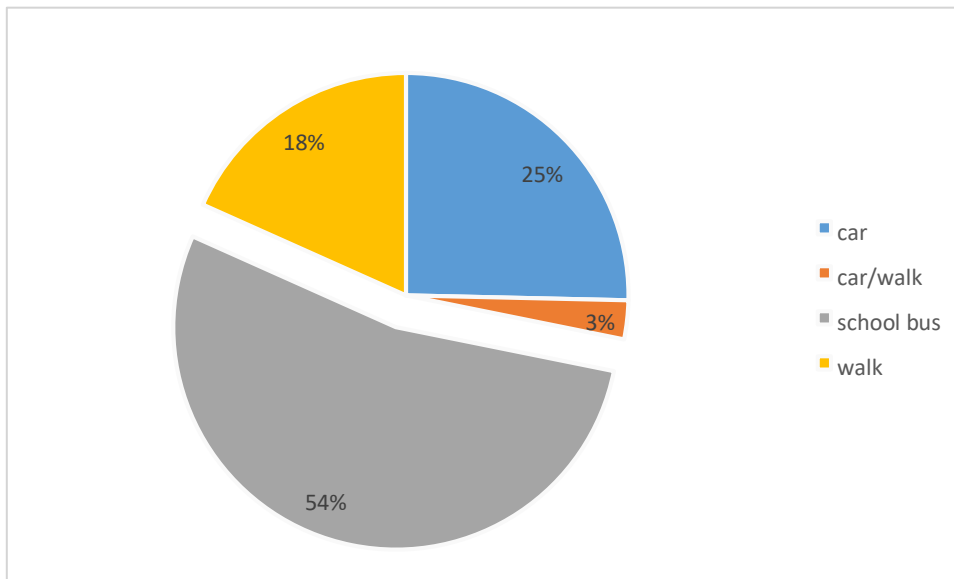
In order to ensure that access to Welsh-medium education is comparable to access to English medium education, provision of transport needs to be easily available.

## 7. Mode of transport to school

The provision of a free school bus service is essential in supporting parents in choosing Welsh-medium education whilst maintaining employment. Many parents' comments reflect their reliance on family members to assist in the school run.

Due to the distance of the school from the majority of pupils' homes, free school transport is crucial in securing the future of the school. 13% of pupils regularly walk to school, 25% travel by car, 3% a combination of the two. Significantly 54% travel by school bus.

**Graph 1 Mode of transport to school**

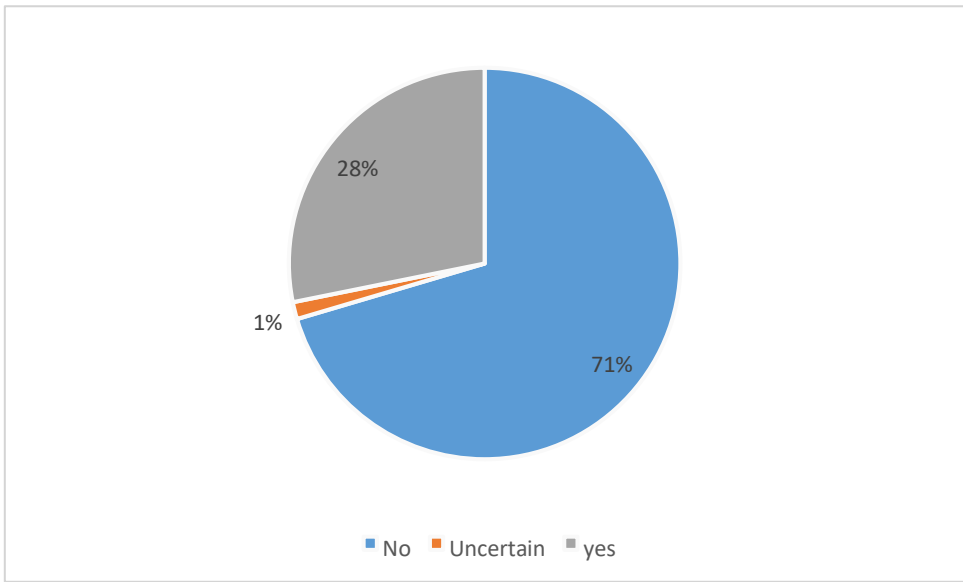


## **8. Likelihood to choose Welsh-medium education if free transport is withdrawn**

Responses were very positive regarding the desire to access Welsh-medium education. This reflects previous surveys such as the “Measuring Demand” survey which highlighted high demand within the Porthcawl, Pyle and Kenfig Hill areas.

However, the likelihood of choosing Welsh-medium education if free transport were not available is very low due to the financial burden this will incur.

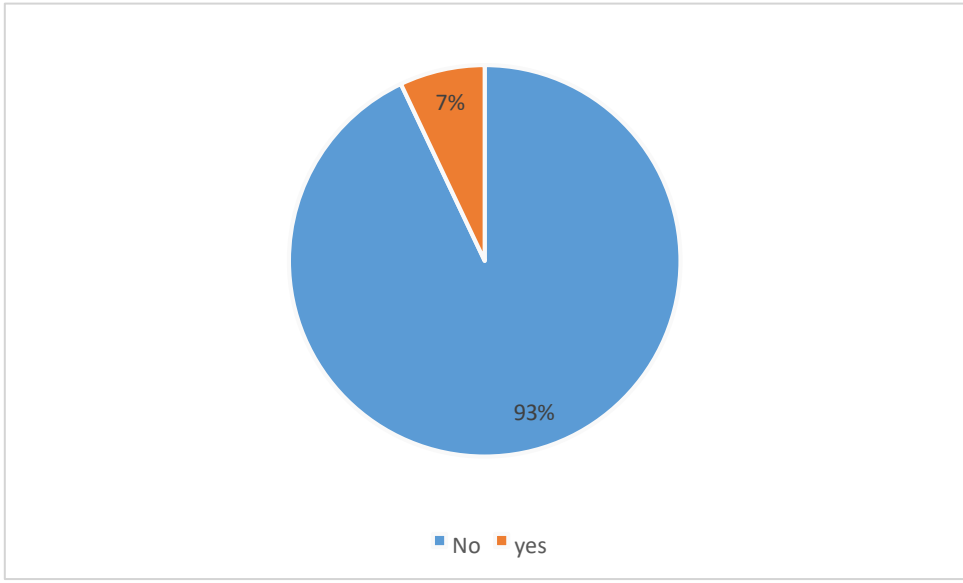
**Graph 2 Likelihood to choose Welsh-medium education**



Thus if parents do not choose to send their child to a Welsh-medium primary school in the first instance the secondary school at YGG Llangynwyd would no longer be viable.

Parents were therefore asked if their child would continue in Welsh-medium education should post-16 transport be withdrawn.

**Graph 3 Post-16 Welsh-medium education**



## 9 Parent Comments

The following are a sample of comments are from parents whose children already attend Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger and/or Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

- The withdrawal of nursery transport will have a detrimental effect on people choosing Sger because of where the school is. The same is true for Llangynwyd. I don't understand how government targets can be met (increasing Welsh Language) if choice is taken away from parents. If a child starts nursery in Welsh-medium they are likely to continue but if they start in English medium there is limited chance of them transferring to Welsh-medium. Again with post-16 where the school is makes it difficult/impossible when working to attend without a designated bus.
- Children will no longer be able to attend Welsh comp
- Transportation means a lot to us as we as a family have different time restraints and struggle to meet them now, Cutting post-16 transportation would mean that we would not be able to keep out children in Welsh-medium
- I wasn't me children to have a Welsh education being we are Welsh but if free transport is withdrawn I would be unable to get my children to school. They would then be robbed of learning their national language as Welsh schools are very few and far away.
- If transport is withdrawn, I will be seriously considering moving my child into English medium education. In prep for secondary transition. This will be a really difficult decision as she is thriving. It is a shame transport will decrease her Welsh education and the number of Welsh speakers in Wales, especially with the current drive for more Welsh speakers.
- We do not qualify for free transport currently. It's becoming more difficult to rely on grandparents dropping off & collecting. Will need to reassess Welsh education before juniors as to whether we can continue [*this child qualified for free transport under the old rules*]
- Please do not discriminate against Welsh-medium education, it should be an easy choice to make not limited by cost or distance. Diolch yn fawr.
- Luckily I live close enough atm. Will not be able to afford transport to comp
- School transport is a massive part of my kids getting to school as I work and grandparents don't drive [*4 children all received free transport to Nursery*]
- I think the local authority should continue to make reasonable adjustments to ensure Welsh-medium children can access schools free, this would include free transport to sites
- If I lived further away I would not have put them in Welsh-medium education. If transport wasn't free I would not be able to afford for all my children to attend Welsh-medium education [*3 children all received free transport to Nursery*]

- When choosing Welsh education we are protection the future of our culture and language. If this becomes lost to people then our language will die!
- Children will continue in Welsh education regardless as we have access to cars
- Sadly my children would leave Welsh education
- It would be very difficult for Welsh schools to attract pupils if transport is removed
- Welsh-medium education is important in Wales. I feel if free transport was removed many parents would not send their children, slowly resulting in less and less children attending Welsh education

## Sources

Research includes:

Questionnaires to parents at YFOS and/or YGG Llangynwyd.

Published:

Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008, Welsh Government.  
Bridgend Welsh Education Strategic Plan

### 14.3 Letter received from Mudiad Meithrin



Y Ganolfan Integredig  
Boulevard de Saint-Brieuc  
Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 1PD

### **YMATEB MUDIAD MEITHRIN I DDOGFFEN YMGYNGHORI TREFNIADAU TEITHIO DYSGWYR BWRDEISTREF SIROL PEN Y BONT ar OGWR**

Ann Angell, LI.B, Assoc.CIPD  
Rheolwr Talaith De Ddwyrain Cymru  
Regional Manager South East Wales  
Mudiad Meithrin

☎ 01970 639639  



Mae Mudiad Meithrin yn fudiad gwirfoddol ac mae'n cael ei gydnabod fel prif ddarparwr gofal ac addysg blynyddoedd cynnar cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sector wirfoddol. Ein nod yw rhoi cyfle i bob plentyn ifanc yng Nghymru fanteisio ar wasanaethau a phrofiadau blynyddoedd cynnar trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Mae tua 200 o staff cyflogedig gan y Mudiad yn genedlaethol a thros 1,500 o staff yn gweithio yn y cylchoedd meithrin.

Diolchwn am y cyfle i ymateb i ddogfen ymgynghori Trefniadau Teithio Dysgwyr Pen y Bont ar Ogwr a gyhoeddwyd ar y 14/10/2019.

Byddwn yn manteisio ar y cyfle i roi sylwadau ar newidiadau posib a sut y byddant yn effeithio'n annymunol ar dwf addysg a gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn y Bwrdeistref yn unig.

Deallwn yn iawn fod y Fwrdeistref yn wynebu toriadau i'w gyllideb. Oherwydd ein gwaith gyda siroedd eraill yn nhalaith y De Ddwyrain, gwn hefyd bod Pen y Bont yn defnyddio disgresiwn ar hyn o bryd wrth gynnig cludiant am ddim tu hwnt i'w gofynion statudol mewn amryw amgylchiadau gan gynnwys plant 3-4 oed a dysgwyr ôl 16.

Nodwn sylwadau a chodwn bryderon yn benodol parthed y cynigion isod a hoffwn i'r cabinet ystyried ein sylwadau wrth wneud penderfyniad am drefniadau cludiant wrth edrych i'r dyfodol:

1. Cynnig 1- Rydym yn croesawu'r pwynt bwled sy'n nodi y bydd disgyblion sy'n mynd i'r Ysgol Gymraeg agosaf os yw'r ysgol ddwy filltir neu ragor o'r cartref (cynradd) neu 3 milltir neu ragor o'u cartref (uwchradd) yn derbyn cludiant am ddim p'un a'i hystyriar mai honno yw'r ysgol addas agosaf ai peidio. Yn hanesyddol disgwylir i blant sy'n derbyn addysg Gymraeg deithio llawer ym mhellach ar y cyfryw na phlant sy'n derbyn addysg Saesneg (a hynny, rhan amlaf, o fewn eu cymuned). Mae hyn yn wir am Ben y Bont ar Ogwr. Mae'r cynnig yma yn amddiffyn hawl plant a rhieni i ddewis addysg Gymraeg.
2. Cynnig 3 - Newid polisi'r awdurdod lleol ar gyfer cludiant rhwng y cartref a'r ysgol drwy ddileu'r enghreifftiau penodol sy'n dangos o dan ba amgylchiadau y byddai'r awdurdod lleol yn darparu cludiant yn ôl disgresiwn. Gwelwn y cynnig yma fel cyfle i ddefnyddio disgresiwn er mwyn sicrhau twf a chyfle am dwf yn y sector Gymraeg.
3. Cynnig 4 - Rhoi'r gorau i ddarparu cludiant i ddysgwyr 16 oed neu hyn sy'n mynd i'r ysgol neu goleg, ar wahân i ddisgyblion sy'n mynd i Ysgol neu chweched dosbarth Cymraeg ym Mhen y bont ar Ogwr ....

Mae'r cynnig yma yn hollol allweddol i dwf addysg Gymraeg o fewn yr awdurdod. Rydym yn ymwybodol am dystiolaeth anecdotaidd gan rieni sy'n nodi eu bod yn gwneud penderfyniadau ar iaith addysg eu plant ar sail y daith addysgol o'r cychwyn cyntaf a thu hwnt i oed 16. Trwy sicrhau cludiant am ddim i blant ôl 16 rydych yn sicrhau cynnig cyfartal i blant a rhieni i ddewis addysg Gymraeg beth bynnag bo'r pellter o Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd a beth bynnag bo'u sefyllfa economaidd. Mae'r Gymraeg yn parhau yn opsiwn realistig a chyflawnadwy i rieni.

4. Cynnig 5 -Rhoi'r gorau i ddarparu cludiant i ddisgyblion meithrin (3 a 4 oed)

Credwn gall y cynnig yma gael effaith drychinebus a bell gyraeddiadol ar dwf Addysg Gymraeg o fewn y sir:

Deallwn yn iawn am bryderon lechyd a diogelwch ac wrth gwrs, mae rhaid i lesiant plant fod wrth wraidd pob ystyriaeth cludiant. Deallwn fod y plant 3-4 oed yn teithio am fysiau mawr ar hyn o bryd. Wrth ystyried y newidiadau delfrydol y gellir eu gwneud, gofynnwn i'r cabinet ystyried:

- Taw dim ond 4 ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg sy'n bodoli o fewn y sir ac fel canlyniad, disgwylir i blant deithio tu hwnt i'w cymunedau am addysg Gymraeg. Baswn yn dyfalu taw swm gymharol fach rydym yn ei drafod ar gyfer cludiant i ysgolion cynradd Gymraeg?
- Oherwydd natur ddemograffig a daearyddol rhai ardaloedd o fewn yr awdurdod, ni fydd yn bosib i rieni trosglwyddo eu plant am addysg feithrin heb gludiant a hynny'n gludiant am ddim.
- Ni ddylid cosbi rhieni a phlant sy'n dewis addysg Gymraeg oherwydd problemau lechyd a Diogelwch. Dylid ystyried opsiynau amgen i sicrhau cydraddoldeb mewn cyfleoedd
- Ni ddylid ystyried newidiadau i gludiant ar wahân i ofynion rheoliadol a statudol ar yr awdurdod, yn benodol parthed datblygu a chreu twf mewn addysg Gymraeg . Nid nawr (pan mae'r twf yn ddisymud) dylid rhoi cynigion mewn lle sy'n mynd i ddinistrio cynlluniau'r CSGA .
- rhoi ystyriaeth gref ar sut i symbylu twf a diddordeb mewn gofal ac addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg trwy ddefnyddio'r newidiadau a'r cynigion ar gludiant mewn modd arloesol a chyffrous i ddenu rhieni ( mewn cyd weithrediad gyda chynllun marchnata gref) i ystyried gofal ac addysg Gymraeg fel opsiwn deniadol.

Ann Angell  
Ionawr 2020

[www.meithrin.cymru](http://www.meithrin.cymru)

## arbenigwyr y blynyddoedd cynnar Welsh early years specialists

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive: Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies. Elusen Gofrestredig/Registered Charity 1022320. Cwmni Cyfyngedig dan Warant/Company Limited by Guarantee 2164058. Cofrestrwyd yng Nghymru/Registered in Wales





### 14.3.1 Letter received from Mudiad Meithrin (translated)



Y Ganolfan Integredig  
Boulevard de Saint-Brieuc  
Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 1PD

### **MUDIAD MEITHRIN'S RESPONSE TO THE BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH LEARNER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

Ann Angell, LI.B, Assoc.CIPD  
Rheolwr Talaith De Ddwyrain Cymru  
Regional Manager South East Wales  
Mudiad Meithrin

☎ 01970 639639  



Mudiad Meithrin is a voluntary organisation and is recognised as the main provider of Welsh-medium early years care and education in the voluntary sector. Our aim is to give every young child in Wales the opportunity to access early years' services and experiences through the medium of Welsh.

The Movement nationally has approximately 200 paid staff and over 1,500 staff work in the playgroups.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Bridgend Learner Travel Arrangements consultation document which was published on 14/10/2019.

We will take the opportunity to comment on possible changes and how they will have an undesirable effect on the growth of Welsh-medium education and childcare only within the Borough.

We understand very well that the Borough is facing cuts to its budget. Because of our work with other counties in the South East region, I also know that Bridgend is currently exercising its discretion in offering free transport beyond its statutory requirements in various circumstances including for children aged 3-4 years and post-16 learners.

We note comments and raise concerns specifically in relation to the proposals below and would like the cabinet to take our views into account when making a decision concerning transport arrangements as we look to the future:

5. Proposal 1 - We welcome the bullet point that states that pupils who attend the nearest Welsh school, if the school is two miles or further from home (primary) or 3 miles or more from their home (secondary) will receive free transport, whether or not it is considered to be the nearest suitable school. Historically, children who receive Welsh-medium education are expected to travel much further on the whole than children receiving English-medium education (and that, most often, within their community). This is true of Bridgend. This proposal protects the right of children and parents to choose Welsh-medium education.
6. Proposal 3 – Change the local authority's policy for home to school transport by removing the specific examples which show the circumstances in which the local authority would provide discretionary transport. We see this proposal as an opportunity to exercise discretion in order to ensure growth and the opportunity for growth in the Welsh-medium sector.
7. Proposal 4 - Discontinue the provision of transport to learners aged 16 or over who attend school or college, apart from pupils attending a Welsh-medium school or sixth form in Bridgend....

This proposal is absolutely crucial to the growth of Welsh-medium education within the authority. We are aware of anecdotal evidence from parents that they are making decisions about their children's language of education based on the educational journey from the start and beyond age 16. By ensuring free transport for post-16 children you ensure an equal offer to children and parents to choose Welsh-medium education whatever the distance from Llangynwyd comprehensive school and whatever their economic situation. The Welsh language remains a realistic and achievable option for parents.

8. Proposal 5 – Cease to provide transport for nursery pupils (ages 3 and 4).

We believe that this proposal can have a catastrophic and far-reaching effect on the growth of Welsh Education within the county:

We understand very well the concerns over health and safety and, of course, the well-being of children must be at the heart of all transport considerations. We understand that the 3-4 year old children are currently travelling on large buses. In considering the ideal changes that can be made, we ask the cabinet to consider:

- Only 4 Welsh-medium primary schools exist within the county and, as a result, children are expected to travel beyond their communities for Welsh-medium education. I would guess that the amount we are discussing is relatively small for transport to Welsh-medium primary schools?
- Due to the demographic and geographical nature of some areas within the authority, it will not be possible for parents to convey their children for nursery education without transport and that transport being free of charge.
- Parents and children who choose Welsh-medium education should not be penalised because of Health and Safety problems. Consideration should be given to alternative options to ensure equality of opportunity.
- Changes in transport should not be considered separately from regulatory and statutory requirements on the Authority, in particular regarding the development and growth of Welsh-medium education. Now (when growth is stagnant) is not the time that proposals should be put in place that will destroy the plans of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- Give strong consideration to the way growth and interest in Welsh-medium care and education may be stimulated by using the changes and proposals on transport (in conjunction with a strong marketing plan) in an innovative and exciting manner to attract parents to consider Welsh-medium care and education as an attractive option.

Ann Angell  
January 2020

[www.meithrin.cymru](http://www.meithrin.cymru)

## arbenigwyr y blynyddoedd cynnar Welsh early years specialists

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive: Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies. Elusen Gofrestredig/Registered Charity 1022320. Cwmni Cyfyngedig dan Warant/Company Limited by Guarantee 2164058. Cofrestrwyd yng Nghymru/Registered in Wales



## 14.4 Letter received from Croesty Primary school council



Cyngor Ysgol **Croesty** School Council  
Ysgol Gynradd Croesty / Croesty Primary School, Coychurch Road, Pencoed CF35 5LY

28/01/2020

Mr Robin Davies  
Group Manager  
Business Strategy  
Bridgend County Borough Council  
Bridgend

Learner Travel in Bridgend

Dear Mr Davies

Please find below our thoughts and ideas about the proposals for Learner Travel. We have written something about each of the proposals which we think might be useful to you.

**Proposal 1**

Five of us felt that this was a fair proposal. Getting children to walk, cycle or scoot is good for us and our environment. Two of us were worried. We can all walk to our school but when we thought about walking or cycling from Coychurch to Pencoed Comprehensive School we know that is quite far if you are going on your own. Would it be safe?

**Proposal 2**

We did not support this proposal. Children with special needs must always have an escort. Cerys comes to school in a special mini bus for her wheel chair. This year they don't have an escort which is ok because all the children on the bus are nice and well behaved. Last year there was a child on the bus who was badly behaved; who could get distressed and frightened the other children. That pupil had an escort to watch and keep everyone safe.

**Proposal 3**

We did not understand this proposal very well. We talked about what it would be like to be a looked after child who had lost their Mum and Dad and had to go and live with someone else. They might want to stay in their school where they have friends and teachers who know them. The council should pay to help keep a child like this in their school so they feel safe and feel loved.

**Proposal 4**

We thought that 16 year olds were able to get to college or school on their own but not everyone will have enough money to pay for the transport they need.

**Proposal 5**

We think nursery children are too young and small to go on a bus to school on their own. They should always have an adult with them.

Thank you for considering our ideas. We hope we have been helpful.

Yours sincerely

C.C.M. J.C. R.R. Hancak G.K. Cerys A.H. M. Kaye

Cyngor Ysgol / School Council

## Learner travel consultation

14 October 2019 to 5 January 2020

### Emerging themes

#### Proposal 1

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils

Aspect	Issues raised
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too long to walk, especially in bad weather</li> </ul>
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too far to walk, especially for younger children</li> <li>• Young people should walk/cycle</li> <li>• Public transport options need to improve</li> </ul>
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents responsibility, not the councils</li> <li>• BCBC will be in line with other local authorities</li> <li>• The current policy supports families going to work</li> </ul>
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will be unsafe</li> <li>• Walking routes should be safe</li> <li>• Limit the traffic outside schools</li> <li>• Roads are unsafe</li> <li>• Walking in cold/wet weather could cause health issues</li> </ul>
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith education should be supported</li> <li>• There should not be preferential treatment</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh-medium education should be supported</li> <li>• There will be a negative impact on Welsh-medium schools</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public transport is expensive and there will be additional costs for pupils/families</li> <li>• Council should make other internal savings</li> <li>• Some parents would be prepared to contribute towards travel costs</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a negative impact on the environment</li> </ul>
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils with ALN should be supported</li> </ul>
Attendance/attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance/attainment will be negatively impacted</li> </ul>

**Proposal 2**

Remove escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drivers should have DBS checks</li> <li>• Drivers will need training</li> <li>• Safeguarding concerns for children and driver</li> <li>• Will compromise child safety</li> <li>• A driver should focus on driving</li> <li>• As long as children behave themselves</li> <li>• CCTV should be provided in vehicles</li> <li>• We should be able to trust our children, especially those in secondary school</li> <li>• Children need support and supervision</li> <li>• This proposal will encourage poor behaviour</li> <li>• Children could distract the driver</li> <li>• Concern if the driver falls ill/has an accident</li> </ul>
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils with ALN should be supported</li> </ul>
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This shouldn't apply to infant age pupils</li> <li>• Primary age pupils shouldn't travel without an escort</li> </ul>
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Escorts should be on all buses</li> <li>• The driver is not responsible for children</li> <li>• Each pupil should be assessed on a case-by-case basis</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Such a proposal might increase costs to parents</li> <li>• Council should make other internal savings</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh-medium education should be supported</li> <li>• There will be a negative impact on Welsh-medium schools</li> </ul>

**Proposal 3**

Removal from the local authority's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May compromise child safety</li> </ul>
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils with ALN should be supported</li> </ul>
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each pupil should be assessed on a case-by-case basis</li> <li>• Should keep all school transport</li> <li>• The service is needed</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have a right to attend school</li> <li>• The service supports families to go to work</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Such a proposal might increase costs to parents especially in deprived areas</li> <li>• Council should make other internal savings</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh-medium education should be supported</li> <li>• May allow the council to better exercise its discretion to support Welsh-medium education</li> <li>• There will be a negative impact on Welsh-medium schools</li> </ul>
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negative environmental impact</li> </ul>

#### Proposal 4

To stop providing free transport for learners age 16 or over, who go to school or college

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking will be unsafe</li> </ul>
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too far to walk</li> </ul>
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age discrimination</li> </ul>
Ongoing education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will discourage young people from attending sixth form</li> <li>• Will limit the opportunities for progression of young people</li> <li>• Young people attending the Bridge provision only have the option of continuing at college</li> </ul>
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with ALN should be supported</li> <li>• Vulnerable pupils should be supported</li> </ul>
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We should encourage young people to attend sixth form</li> <li>• All pupils should have transport</li> <li>• Concern over how else pupils will get to school</li> <li>• Not all post-16 pupils will need the bus</li> <li>• If they are working they can pay for transport</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will be costly to pay for transport</li> <li>• There should be free transport for school students but not college students</li> <li>• Students could contribute to the cost of transport</li> <li>• Could offer a reduced pass/season ticket</li> <li>• Educational Maintenance Allowance should be used specifically for transport (EMA)</li> <li>• Should be means tested</li> <li>• Not everyone will be able to afford transport</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council should make other internal savings</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh-medium education should be protected</li> <li>• By ensuring free transport for Welsh-medium pupils is retained this will help support decision by parents/carers to choose Welsh-medium education for their children</li> <li>• Welsh-medium education should not be protected</li> <li>• The location of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd (YGGL) makes it difficult/impossible to attend without transport</li> <li>• Children may no longer attend YGGL</li> <li>• School transport helps get children to school</li> </ul>
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental impact from increased traffic</li> </ul>
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith-based education should be protected</li> <li>• Faith-based education should not be protected</li> </ul>

### Proposal 5

To remove all transport for nursery pupils

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will be unsafe to walk</li> <li>• Will impact on child safety</li> <li>• Nursery pupils are too young to go on a bus on their own</li> </ul>
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too far to walk</li> </ul>
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be difficult for working parents</li> <li>• May have siblings in primary school already</li> <li>• Contradicts free nursery/childcare grant</li> <li>• It is the personal choice of parents to send their children to nursery</li> </ul>
Ongoing education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nursery education is important</li> <li>• Limits the opportunities for children</li> <li>• Children have a right to education and therefore transport</li> </ul>
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children with ALN should be supported</li> </ul>
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a nursery place is provided then transport is provided</li> <li>• Continue to provide transport for all pupils</li> <li>• Build more schools</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be additional cost to families</li> <li>• Will negatively impact deprived areas</li> <li>• Council should make other internal savings</li> </ul>



Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be an environmental impact</li> </ul>
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith education should be protected</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will negatively impact Welsh-medium education</li> <li>• Welsh-medium education should be protected</li> <li>• This decision would be catastrophic to the growth of Welsh-medium education</li> <li>• The geographic location of Welsh-medium schools in the county borough poses an issue and a significant number of pupils live over three miles from home to school. Transport provides equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils</li> <li>• School transport helps get children to school</li> <li>• Very difficult for Welsh-medium schools to attract pupils without transport</li> <li>• Falling numbers of pupils is a real threat to Welsh-medium schools</li> </ul>

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