

Public Document Pack
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
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**Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief
Executive's Directorate**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /
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Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Wednesday, 8 June 2022

Dear Councillor,

CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held remotely - via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 14 June 2022 at 14:30.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. 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.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 24
To receive for approval the Minutes of 08 03 22
4. Revenue Budget Outturn 2021-22 25 - 64
5. Capital Programme Update 65 - 76
6. Recycling and Waste Service Post 2024 77 - 84
7. Levelling Up Fund Priority Projects 85 - 92
8. Bridgend Net Zero Carbon - Hydrogen Technology Demonstrator 93 - 98
9. Appointment of Local Authority Governors 99 - 104
10. School Modernisation Programme - Mynydd Cynffig Primary School Outcome of Published Statutory Notice 105 - 114
11. School Modernisation Programme - Heronsbridge School Outcome of Consultation Process 115 - 186

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 12. | <u>School Modernisation Programme - Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr Outcome of Consultation Process</u> | 187 - 274 |
| 13. | <u>Outcome of Consultation to Open Provision for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Establishing a Learning Resource Centre (LRC) for Pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant</u> | 275 - 314 |
| 14. | <u>Outcome of Consultation to Open Provision for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Establishing a Learning Resource Centre (LRC) for Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Tremains Primary School</u> | 315 - 354 |
| 15. | <u>Proposed Dates for Meetings of Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting</u> | 355 - 358 |
| 16. | <u>Representation on Outside Bodies & Joint Committees</u> | 359 - 366 |
| 17. | <u>Urgent Items</u>
To consider any items of business that by reason of special circumstances the chairperson is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency in accordance with paragraph 2.4 (e) of the Cabinet Procedure Rules within the Constitution. | |
| 18. | <u>Exclusion of the Public</u>
The following item is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

If following the application of the public interest test Cabinet resolves pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private, the public will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration. | |
| 19. | <u>Approval of Exempt Minutes</u>
To receive for approval the exempt minutes of 08 03 22 | 367 - 368 |

Note: Please note: Due to the current requirement for social distancing this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Councillors:

JPD Blundell

HJ David

N Farr

Councillors

J Gebbie

W R Goode

JC Spanswick

Councillors

HM Williams

CABINET - TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
ON TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

J Gebbie
D Patel

SE Baldwin

CE Smith

HM Williams

Apologies for Absence

None

Officers:

Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive
Andrew Rees	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Mark Galvin	Interim Democratic Services Manager
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Martin Morgans	Head of Performance and Partnership Services
Jamie Cullen	Operational Manager for Customer Services/CCSU
Steven Howell	Group Manager Placements & Provider Services
Ryan Jones	Strategic Housing Commissioning Manager
Philip O'Brien	Digital Transformation and Customer Services Manager
Jason Bale	Operational Manager (Enterprise and Specialist Services)
Alix Howells	Consultation Engagement and Equalities Manager

803. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor HM Williams – agenda item 7 – Non-Domestic Rates: Discretionary Relief: Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2022-23 – Prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

804. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet of 8 February 2022 be approved as a true and accurate record.

805. STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

The Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager presented the report of the Chief Executive which updated Cabinet on the work completed within the Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 2020 – 2024 for the period 2020 – 2021.

The Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager reported that the annual report enabled the Council to monitor and review progress against its strategic equality objectives; review its objectives and processes in light of any new legislation and other new developments; engage with relevant stakeholders around equality objectives, providing transparency; include relevant updates on equality impact assessments, procurement arrangements and training. It also set out the steps taken to identify and collect relevant information; any reasons for not collecting relevant information; where

appropriate, employment information, including information on training and pay. She highlighted the progress made by the Council in each of its six equality objectives and she highlighted the key points for noting from the annual report.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations commented on the interesting data emanating from the report and stated that the Council is a female friendly employer. The Leader was pleased the support given to the Welsh language with the Council's plans for establishing children's hubs through the medium of Welsh as well as all the streams which had been reflected in the report. He stated that it was important to note that the County Borough provides sanctuary for refugees and will continue to do so given the situation in Ukraine.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet noted the progress being made and approved the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2020-2021.

806. **LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT - PARK STREET AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

The Operational Manager– Enterprise and Specialist Services reported on an update on the draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the Park Street Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), following receipt of the initial transportation and air quality modelling results undertaken on a number of the measures initially identified in the draft AQAP.

He reported that the 2021 Annual Progress Report (APR) confirmed that in 2020 air quality continued to be a concern along Park Street coinciding with the geographical boundary of the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA Order. Monitoring undertaken in 2020 at monitoring sites OBC-110 & OBC-123, located on Park Street residential facades, still demonstrated annual average levels in exceedance of the annual average air quality objective. He stated that while Shared Regulatory Services and the Council had made good headway in developing the AQAP in accordance with Welsh Government's Policy Guidance, inevitably the impacts and associated difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic have meant that the timeline has had to be extended in consultation with Welsh Government. An AQAP Work Steering Group was established, comprising specialists across Bridgend County Borough Council, as well as from partner agencies to develop ideas and to ensure an effective AQAP and to collate ideas and suggestions, a list of mitigation measures was created.

He reported that detailed air quality and transportation modelling was commissioned on the mitigation options that would manage and improve traffic flows through the Park Street AQMA, to deliver air quality improvements in the shortest time possible, and in line with the ambitions of Welsh Government and the Council, to reduce levels to as low as reasonably practicable. He informed Cabinet of the options which had emerged and modelled, namely Do Minimum - Introduction of a right turn holding lane at the Junction of Park Street with Heol y Nant (measure 21); and Do Something (inclusive of the above); deny all access onto St Leonards Road (Measure 18); and optimise the Park Street/Angel Street/Tondu Road Junction (Measure 20).

He informed Cabinet that under the planning consent for the former Ysgol Bryn Castell site, there was a requirement to introduce a right turn holding lane at the Junction of Park Street with Heol y Nant. This had been modelled as the Do Minimum scenario in the modelling exercises, as this change had now been implemented. Modelling of the right turning lane demonstrated congestion reduction on Park Street from vehicles turning right onto Heol-y-nant. He stated that to fully assess the impacts on air quality, the dispersion model had identified 35 receptor points (R1 – R35 on the location plan) along Park Street and surrounding streets in addition to modelling concentrations at the existing monitoring locations on Park Street (designated by the OBC- prefix). These

locations allow an assessment of relevant exposure across a wider area to assess the impact of the interventions.

He reported that the Do Something scenario was forecasted to provide a significant improvement in terms of NO₂ concentrations, the draft AQAP will need to be amended to reflect the final validated outcomes of the modelling. He stated that the draft AQAP would be subject to public consultation after the May 2022 local government elections. Following completion of the public consultation the results of the consultation would be reviewed to enable the finalisation of the AQAP to be reported to Cabinet for approval in advance of the revised submission deadline to Welsh Government of 30 September 2022. He stated that the final AQAP will provide a full implementation timeline of the preferred measures.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations asked for more detail on the public consultation and what opportunities would be given to residents to engage in the consultation. She also asked what residents could do in the meantime to put forward their concerns. The Operational Manager– Enterprise and Specialist Services informed Cabinet that the consultation will take place post the elections over a period of 12 weeks. He stated that Shared Regulatory Services had previously held a public consultation event which was not well attended, but he would look at holding drop-in sessions for residents to participate in. The Leader welcomed the opportunity for residents of Parkside to engage in the consultation. The Cabinet Member Communities commented that it was imperative that residents are notified of the opportunity to take part in the consultation. He stated that traffic orders would need to be in place and asked whether sufficient funding was available for this. The Operational Manager– Enterprise and Specialist Services stated that Shared Regulatory Services had been in discussions with the Traffic Management Team on the traffic orders. The Corporate Director Communities commented on the importance of looking at the traffic orders at the earliest opportunity and conformed that the Operational Manager– Enterprise and Specialist Services had been working with the Traffic Management Team.

The Leader congratulated Helen Picton on her recent appointment to the position of Head of Shared Regulatory Services which she would take up on 1 April 2022.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the progress made in assessing key transportation interventions namely Measures 18 and 20 in the draft Air Quality Action Plan for Park Street; and
2. Noted that public consultation on the Draft AQAP will need to take place after the 2022 Local Government elections.
3. Noted that following completion of the public consultation, a final AQAP will be presented to Cabinet for approval prior to being submitted to Welsh Government by the 30th of September 2022.

807. FRAUD STRATEGY AND FRAMEWORK 2022/23 TO 2024/25

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change sought approval of the Fraud Strategy and Framework 2022/23 to 2024/25 and for Cabinet to note the current Fraud Risk Register.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported that the Strategy and Risk Register had been updated following consideration by the Governance and Audit Committee. She stated that the Fraud Strategy and Framework 2022/23 to 2024/25 outlined the aims and objectives of the Strategy, identified fraud risks and includes the

measures the Council will take to further improve the Council's resilience to fraud, bribery, and corruption. She informed Cabinet that the Council maintains a suite of strategies and policies to support the effective management of the prevention, detection, investigation of fraud, corruption, and bribery (Anti-Fraud and Bribery Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Anti-Money Laundering Policy and Anti-Tax Evasion Policy) and this document provided an extension to the Council's existing policies.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change informed Cabinet that the Fraud Risk Register listed 20 potential fraud risks that had been identified throughout the Council and it outlined the consequences of each risk and how each risk was being addressed with key actions being identified. She stated that the Fraud Risk Register would be monitored by the Corporate Management Board on a quarterly basis and any significant risks identified would be escalated to the Corporate Risk Register and reported to the Governance and Audit Committee where necessary.

The Deputy Leader in commending the Fraud Strategy and Framework stated that instances of fraud were extremely rare and past exercises in acting against those not using Blue Badges as intended had been successful and he thanked the Fraud Team for the way in which they carry out their work.

The Cabinet Member Communities sought clarification as to whether any fraud cases had been brought against Councillors. The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change informed Cabinet that no cases had been brought to the attention of officers.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the Fraud Strategy and Framework 2022/23 to 2024/25 and noted the latest Fraud Risk Register.

808. **NON-DOMESTIC RATES: DISCRETIONARY RELIEF: RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY RATES RELIEF SCHEME 2022-23**

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change sought approval to adopt the Welsh Government's Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme 2022-23.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported that the Welsh Government had announced a temporary extension of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme for 2022-23 to support eligible occupied properties by offering a discount of 50% on non-domestic rates bills for such properties within the retail, leisure and hospitality sector and will apply to all eligible businesses, subject to a cap on the amount each business can claim across Wales. She stated that the total amount of relief available is £110,000 across all properties occupied by the same business. The Scheme will be administered by the Council as a 'reimbursing local authority' that uses discretionary relief powers. She informed Cabinet that the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme for 2022-23 will run alongside the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported that the Council can elect to adopt the Scheme but does not have discretion over any elements of the Scheme. She stated that if the Scheme is adopted, application forms will be made available on Bridgend County Borough Council's website for all qualifying ratepayers to apply. The Chief Executive has delegated power to award relief to all qualifying businesses in accordance with the Non-domestic Rates Relief Scheme that may be eligible following receipt of the information requested by Welsh Government.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations welcomed the support being made available to an industry which has suffered during the pandemic and asked for clarification on the rules around the grant funding and how many businesses might be

eligible for the relief. The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change stated that this scheme will run in parallel with the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme and over 840 businesses were eligible and could benefit.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet adopted the Non-Domestic Rates Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief Scheme for 2022-23 as detailed within Appendix A of the report.

809. DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (DFGS) FRAMEWORK

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change sought authority to go out to tender for a Framework to appoint contractors to deliver works required under Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs).

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported that Cabinet at its meeting on 19 January 2021, approved a new pilot model of service delivery for DFGs to be implemented, with the service being brought in-house. As part of this new model, a Framework was to be established to appoint contractors to provide works required under DFGs.

She reported that pre-market engagement with interested contractors had taken place, where contractors had the opportunity to attend one-to-one discussions and joint workshops. Following the workshops, the information gathered was being used to progress the tender documentation to reflect the findings of those discussions. Work was on-going to finalise the tender documentation and on completion, a procurement process would be commenced in accordance with the Council's Corporate Procurement Rules as soon as possible. She stated that the framework would be for a duration of 4 years totalling £7,800,000, with each call-off contract being no more than £36,000 in value. She stated that a further report would be presented to Cabinet following the conclusion of the tender process to seek permission to award the Tender.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations commended the progress made which would improve the timeliness to deliver DFGs and at the same time championing local businesses. She thanked the Employability Team for their role in promoting the engagement opportunities with local trades. The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change informed Cabinet that engagement had been carried out with possible future contractors to assist them in working with the Council and which had assisted in the development of the framework.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help was pleased to see progress being made with the framework which will help with adaptations being made to their homes, allowing for people to be discharged earlier from hospital.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:-

1. Approved the procurement of a Disabled Facilities Grants Framework of contractors to deliver works.
2. Delegated authority to the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change to tender for the Framework of contractors to deliver works under Disabled Facilities Grants in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy; and
3. Noted that a further report shall be presented to Cabinet following the conclusion of the procurement of the Framework for a decision on whether to award the

Framework and seek approval to enter into the Framework Agreement with successful bidders.

810. **DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT MEANS TESTING**

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported on Welsh Government guidance on the proposed removal of means testing on medium and small Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) and, if supported, sought approval for an interim amendment of the Council's Private Sector Housing Renewal and Disabled Adaptations Policy.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change informed Cabinet that it was currently a requirement that all adult mandatory DFG's (children's cases are exempt) undertake a means test to determine whether a contribution is required towards the works, with the maximum grant available set at £36,000 by the Welsh Government. She stated that the Welsh Government had indicated the intention to remove the requirement for a means test from small and medium DFG's, as it had estimated that they make up the vast majority of cases. Councils would save annual administration costs if the means test was removed and to meet the costs of removing the means test, enhanced Enable Grant funding would be made available to each local authority.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported that the level of increased demand which may occur if means testing was removed was unpredictable, and it was evident that the costs of implementation are likely to exceed the Enable Grant uplift of £89,973. She stated that to remain within the current annual budget could mean that cases get programmed over financial years to manage demand, potentially building up a significant waiting list. She stated that the financial and operational impact of this decision was not clearly understood, and it was proposed that Cabinet agree to an interim arrangement for the removal of means testing for small and medium grants from 1 April 2022 and the financial and operational implications of this change are monitored during the new financial year.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations stated that the removal of means testing was good news, as delays often occur in adaptations being carried out when residents are discharged from hospital. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help commented on the importance in keeping residents at home where they are most happy. The Cabinet Member Communities stated that the removal of means testing was a positive step forward and he was pleased the recommendations of Welsh Government were being implemented.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:-

1. Approved the removal of a means test for small and medium DFG's and that financial and operational implications are reviewed during the new financial year with a further report presented to Cabinet on the conclusion of the review.
2. Approved the amendment of the Private Sector Housing Renewal and Disabled Adaptations Policy on an interim basis to take effect from 1 April 2022 until the conclusion of the review.
3. Agreed the baseline Enable Grant of £180,000 remains ringfenced for very small works and current arrangements continue for the immediate future.

811. **HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME STRATEGY AND HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT SPEND PLAN**

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported on the development of a Housing Support Programme Strategy and sought endorsement of the Housing Support Grant (HSG) Spend Plan for 2022-23.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported that following the announcement of the Welsh Government's draft budget on 20 December 2021, the Minister for Climate Change agreed indicative HSG allocations for three years from 2022-23, the Council's indicative allocation for 2022-23 being £7,833,509.33, which was the same as the allocation in 2021-22. She stated that the allocation of £7,833,509.33 does represent an increase of £1,878,966.49 (32%) from the allocation in 2020-21. The increase in HSG funding was due to additional £40m being allocated to the total HSG budget by Welsh Government, which is intended to deliver the transformational change required to achieve the goal of ending homelessness in Wales.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change also reported that the draft HSG Spend Plan has been submitted to the Welsh Government, which sets out projects funded through the plan to support the Homelessness Strategy 2018-22 and the priorities in the HSG Delivery Plan. Officers are in the process of developing a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy to replace the Homelessness Strategy 2018-22 and as part of this, a Homelessness Review has been undertaken and developed with a range of stakeholders. She stated that the draft HSP Strategy would be presented to Cabinet, prior to public consultation. The Spend Plan committed to increased resources for projects which support the Authority in tackling homelessness. She stated that increased resources to increase the availability of temporary accommodation and vital support to those accommodated in temporary accommodation was key to supporting the Authority in meeting the demand on services and to ensure those who are homeless are supported to ensure their experience is as rare, brief, and non-recurrent as possible.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations asked what the percentage of the schemes is listed in the Housing Support Grant Spend Plan that are delivered by the third sector. The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change commented that 75% of the schemes will be delivered by the third sector through the development of arrangements with the Council's partners.

The Cabinet Member Communities asked for clarification of costs where the number of units is zero. The Strategic Housing Commissioning Manager explained that this was attributed to where the Welsh Government gives overarching support through contract monitoring and support provided by officers, and where there is no direct provision from those posts and without which, those projects could not be implemented.

The Leader acknowledged the additional support provided by the Welsh Government as Bridgend had experienced an increase of 61% in homelessness applications between 2016 and 2021 and 197 households in temporary accommodation.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:-

1. Noted the content of the report;
2. Endorsed the Housing Support Grant Spend Plan for 2022-23.

812. **UPDATE ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SCHEMES**

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported on an update on the Council's refugee relocation schemes, specifically the Syrian refugee resettlement

scheme and the Afghanistan refugee resettlement scheme. She also sought approval to resettle a further three refugee families under either the UK resettlement scheme, the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme or the Afghan relocations and assistance policy.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change informed Cabinet it had initially approved the resettlement of six families and then a further five families. To support the Syrian refugee resettlement schemes, a procurement exercise was undertaken to appoint a dedicated support provider for the service. A separate procurement exercise was undertaken to appoint a dedicated housing management service for the privately rented properties utilised to accommodate the families. The Council had claimed a Home Office Refugee Resettlement Grant for each refugee relocated. Funding for education was also available in the first year of support, with the amount dependent upon the age of the child.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change also informed Cabinet that the Council had committed to resettling three families through the Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement Scheme, with funding being in place for a period of three years, with funding tapering off each year. Funding for education was also available in the first year of support, with the amount dependent on the age of the child.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change reported that the Council had successfully met its pledge of resettling 11 Syrian refugee families and that the families were at different points in their resettlement journey. Dedicated resettlement support to these families was relatively minimal, with the focus at this stage on ensuring the long-term immigration status of the families was resolved, given that the families had been initially relocated on the basis of being granted leave to remain for five years only.

The Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change also reported that the Council had successfully met its initial pledge of resettling 3 Afghan families, with the families being resettled in various parts of the County Borough. She stated that the UK government aimed to resettle around 5000 people in the first year of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and up to 20,000 over the coming years. She stated that local authorities would be asked to consider increasing any existing pledges made, to support this commitment. She outlined a proposal to approve the resettlement of the further three families under either the UK resettlement scheme, the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme or the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy. Flexibility was needed to accept a family from any of the three resettlement schemes, to ensure resettlement of the highest presenting need, as identified by the Home Office. She stated that the recommendation to resettle a further three families had been determined by taking into account capacity within the Taff Housing contract for the provision of support.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations thanked all who had been involved in the resettlement schemes and she stated that it would be an oversight if she did not mention the crisis in Ukraine and that Wales and the County Borough wished to create a sanctuary for the Ukrainian people. She proposed an amendment that the Council participate in the Ukraine resettlement scheme and delegate authority to the Chief Officer Finance Performance and Change and Cabinet Member to take part in the scheme without delay.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help was pleased see the success of the resettlement scheme, however she expressed concern at the risk of trafficking and exploitation of women who could be travelling alone. She thanked all staff, the health service, and schools for helping families resettle in the County Borough. The Leader thanked the schools for the excellent work undertaken in supporting refugees who had resettled in the County. The Deputy Leader added his support and he believed that

every effort should be made to support the resettlement schemes. The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration stated that the schools would do all they could to support refugees.

The Leader stated that the Welsh Local Government Association had met with Welsh government ministers in the last week to support the people of the Ukraine. The Welsh Local Government Association on behalf of all the Leaders of the local authorities in Wales had called on the UK government to grant visas to allow people from the Ukraine to enter the UK. The Cabinet Member Communities recognised the support of the people of the County Borough and expressed his thanks to Councillor David White and to Heidi Bennett of the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations who had organised the vigil in the town centre of Bridgend, attended by over 200 people and raising over £1,200 for the people of Ukraine. The Leader stated that Bridgend had stood in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and commented that these had been the darkest days on the continent of Europe since World War Two. He informed Cabinet that he would provide updates to all Members on the support the Council would provide, and the leader of the opposition had pledged his support. He stated that Councillor Ross Penhale Thomas was supporting the organisation of a vigil in Maesteg and that the people of Ukraine need the help and support of the county Borough of Bridgend.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the contents of this report;
2. Approved participation in the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme;
3. Approved the resettlement of a further three refugee families with flexibility to resettle families under either the UK Resettlement Scheme, the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme or the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy depending on the highest presenting need for resettlement at the time.
4. Approved participation in the Ukraine citizen Resettlement Scheme and that delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change in consultation with the Leader and appropriate Cabinet Member(s) to ensure that when the UK Government allows refugees from the Ukraine into the UK that the Council fully participate in the support of refugees without delay.

813. **PORTHCAWL WATERFRONT REGENERATION: PLACEMAKING STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Corporate Director Communities reported on an update on the Porthcawl Waterfront Placemaking Strategy and on the outcomes of the public consultation completed and sought approval of the draft placemaking strategy document. She also reported on an update on the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Programme and sought endorsement on the next steps required to bring forward individual projects that form part of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Programme.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that the placemaking strategy provided a framework for future phases of development and would be used to inform the next steps taken in the programme. Significant progress had already been made in relation to several key projects that represent the first phases of the regeneration and intended to act as a catalyst for future phases. Work was also ongoing in relation to bringing forward other Council led investment and regeneration within Porthcawl. One such project being the refurbishment and enhancement of the Grand Pavilion. Works to complete the improvements to the existing Eastern Promenade and Western Breakwater sea defences continue to progress on site. While planning consent for a multi-purpose

development consisting of a play area, public community space, commercial units, harbourmaster office and toilet / changing facilities has been granted at Cosy Corner, which would be progressed to tender the construction of the project.

The Corporate Director Communities also reported that Aldi Stores Limited had been appointed as the successful bidder for the development of a new food retail store on the North western portion of Salt Lake Car park. Construction was due to commence on site this summer with a view to the store opening in the summer of 2023. Detailed design work had been completed on the proposed Metrolink bus terminus to be located on the eastern side of the Portway, enhancing linkages to Pyle and facilitating improved public transport. The Porthcawl Compulsory Purchase Order was submitted to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales and confirmation was awaited as to the procedure the order will follow.

The Corporate Director Communities reported on the emerging themes and opportunities arising from the consultation stage on the placemaking strategy. The consultation included a two-day public exhibition, attended by more than 1000 members of the public. She stated that the consultation reflected the continued levels of public interest in the future of the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area. Officers had investigated the potential for amendments, in response to the consultation to ensure the nature and scale of the development identified within the draft placemaking strategy, responded to the concerns and aspirations of the public.

The Corporate Director Communities delivered a presentation to Cabinet on the Placemaking Strategy, illustrating the site layout. Key revisions had been made in response to the consultation, namely a 200 metre long and 70-metre-wide linear park; enlarged Dock Street extension, and a third reduction in residential development land on Salt Lake. She highlighted future development areas, namely, the identification of up to 1100 homes at Salt Lake central, Salt Lake north, Sandy Bay West and Sandy Bay east.

The Corporate Director Communities highlighted the recommended next steps, namely:

- Approval of the draft Placemaking strategy;
- Business case for the delivery of development across Salt Lake sites;
- Options appraisal on delivering a leisure development on Salt Lake South;
- Feasibility study for a multi-Storey car park on the existing Hillsboro Car Park site;
- Further public consultation on the potential design of public realm and community spaces;
- Development brief for residential led development on the area of Salt Lake North;
- Development brief for the residential led mixed use of Sandy West and Sandy Bay East and;
- Progress the advertisement of the appropriation of land at Sandy Bay.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration thanked the Regeneration team and local members who he had met last week to discuss the Placemaking Strategy and to the public who participated in the consultation. He stated that the before and after maps had demonstrated that feedback had been taken into consideration, namely the reduction in numbers of housing on Salt Lake. He stated that where housing would be delivered there would also be permeability and boulevards. He informed Cabinet that the Eastern Promenade will be greener, wider, and pedestrianised, while the Metrolink will create transport linkages to and from Porthcawl. There would also be provision for car parking and the creation of squares and piazzas. He stated that there would also be an opportunity for a hotel with potential for conferencing, which would tie in with the redevelopment of the Grand Pavilion.

The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations stated that the regeneration proposals were exciting and would attract visitors to Porthcawl from further afield and she thanked officers for making amendments to the Placemaking Strategy as a result of the consultation. She asked for details on the time scales and deliverability of the regeneration proposals. The Corporate Director Communities informed Cabinet that work on the Aldi store and Metrolink would commence later this year. She highlighted the importance of undertaking works to Dock Street and the sea front park and infrastructure work to allow development to take place. She stated that an owners agreement was in place for the Coney Beach site, which would then be sold for redevelopment. The Corporate Director Communities informed Cabinet that momentum will be seen as the sea park and Dock Street proposals are laid out. Capital receipts from the Aldi store and leisure development would go towards infrastructure. She stated that she would come back to Cabinet on the detail of timescales. The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations commented on the importance of the boulevard being progressed so that the public can access it. The Corporate Director Communities informed Cabinet that a start on the Cosy Corner proposals would be made later in the summer to avoid a detrimental impact during the summer.

The Leader Stated that at the heart of the proposals is the investment in the Sea Front Park and the extension of Griffin Park which was the largest investment made by the Council in Porthcawl. He was delighted to see a commitment to net zero carbon with the Metrolink and the residential development to be built and the proposals for the parks will bring about biodiversity. He thanked the Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration for his leadership on the regeneration proposals and for championing the proposals. He also thanked the regeneration team for their part in bringing forward the regeneration proposals. He could not wait to see the development taking place on site and stated that the redevelopment proposals were ambitious but realistic.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the progress that has been made with respect to various projects that form part of the wider Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Area (PWRA) programme.
2. Approved the draft placemaking strategy and authorise the Corporate Director - Communities to (subject to such amendments as the Council's Corporate Director-Communities may authorise) publish a final copy of the placemaking strategy, for the purposes of establishing a coherent framework to guide the delivery of future development within the PWRA.
3. Acknowledged that the following steps will now be undertaken to further progress the delivery of key projects within the PWRA:
 - Prepare business cases for delivery of development on Salt Lake central residential site, Hillsboro Car Park and Salt Lake South Leisure Site.
 - Complete an options appraisal to determine the optimum route to deliver a commercially deliverable leisure development on the Salt Lake South Leisure Site.
 - Commission a feasibility study to explore potential capacity and design options for a Multi Storey Car Park on the existing Hillsboro Car Park site.

- Engage in further public consultation on the potential design and use of new and extended areas of public realm and community space identified within the placemaking strategy.
 - Prepare a development brief for the delivery of residential led development on the area of Salt Lake north that lies immediately to the east of the food retail site.
 - Prepare a development brief for the delivery of residential led mixed-use development across Sandy West and Sandy Bay East in line with the principles outlined within the draft placemaking strategy.
 - Progress the advertisement of the appropriation of land at Sandy Bay in line with the previous authorisation provided by Cabinet on 20 July 2021.
4. That the Corporate Director - Communities will report back to Cabinet to provide updates and seek any further authorisations required in order to progress development within the PWRA.

814. **PORTHCAWL HARBOUR BYELAWS**

The Corporate Director Communities reported on an update on the process to revise the byelaws that are currently effective at Porthcawl Harbour, to reflect the current operations and activities that take place, and the consultation on the proposed new byelaws, under the provisions of the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012. She also sought approval of the proposed new byelaws and requested that, subject to Cabinet approval, they be presented to Council for adoption.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that she was authorised by Cabinet at its meeting in December 2020 to undertake a consultation on the proposed draft byelaws. Consultation took place between 23 August 2021 – 14 November 2021, via the Council's website and following the consultation, the proposed byelaws were reviewed by the Harbour Board.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration in commending the proposed byelaws stated that they would discourage people from entering the water away from the lifeboat and shipping operations. He stated that a possibility existed of developing a platform where swimmers could enter the sea directly into deep water, which would be the first such facility along this coastline. The Cabinet Member Communities stated that the proposed byelaws would mitigate against people being hit by boats entering and exiting the marina. The Leader commented that the safety of the harbour to its users is paramount due to there being an increase in water sports.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted a consultation process, under the provisions of the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012, has been undertaken and the consultation report is set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
2. Approved the proposed byelaws as set out in Appendix 3, and;
3. Agreed that the proposed byelaws, as set out in Appendix 3, be presented to Council for adoption.

815. **BRIDGEND 2030 - NET ZERO CARBON STRATEGY**

The Corporate Director Communities reported on an update on work to develop the Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy and requested approval to carry out a formal public consultation on the draft Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy.

She reported that the Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019 and committed to achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. Local authorities in Wales had been set a net-zero target which must be met by 2030 and in pursuance of this target, the Council had commissioned the Carbon Trust to guide on the route to Net Zero.

She informed Cabinet that the draft Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy has been developed following an in-depth review of data and extensive engagement with internal and external stakeholders. She stated that this Strategy would not be the only driver for net zero and it would also be a part of the Council's Corporate Plan, whilst policies, strategies and ongoing plans will all need to reflect the commitment to net zero. Formal public consultation on the draft Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy would be carried out over 12 weeks and following which, it was likely that it would require amendment as a result of comments received through the consultation.

The Corporate Director Communities highlighted the percentage of the Council's emissions are in which area of Scope, which had been defined by the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide. She stated that it would not be practical or possible for the Council to stop all carbon emissions entirely from its operations, but it must strive to reduce its emission as far as possible before using offsetting measures as the final step to Net Zero. The Corporate Director Communities highlighted the proposed strategic commitments that were set out in the draft Bridgend – Net Zero carbon Strategy, together with a series of proposed initiatives in relation to the themed areas.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that governance and engagement are essential to successfully deliver the Programme and the Board will oversee and track progress to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The Programme Board will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Communities and led by the Corporate Director Communities.

The Corporate Director Communities also reported that Bridgend had been selected by the Japanese Consortium Marubeni, a global specialist in renewables and hydrogen projects, as their chosen location to develop a New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation (NEDO) Investment Project. She stated that this would provide a significant opportunity for the Council to look to possibly decarbonise its corporate fleet and to look further at Hydrogen Energy applications. It could also provide potential benefits for other Local Authorities in the region, and to public sector partners such as the South Wales Police and Welsh Ambulance Service. She informed Cabinet that to move the development of the possible investment project forward, the Council needed to work alongside the Marubeni Corporation to both design and develop the project, which would also outline the precise components of the project, whether it be power or heat.

The Cabinet Member Communities stated that this is an essential as a corporate strategy and he was pleased to see how Directorates had bought into it. He thanked his predecessor in his role, Councillor Richard Young for being an advocate of the strategy and for his pioneering work. He stated that the Marubeni Corporation are innovators in the field, and it puts the Council at centre stage. The Leader stated that this was another strategy where the Council will deliver and where the Council has already commenced a programme of tree planting throughout the County Borough.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the progress to develop a Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy;
2. Gave approval to carry out a formal public consultation on the draft Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy, set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
3. Noted that a further report shall be received following the end of the consultation period to consider formally adopting the Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy, and;
4. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, to work with the Marubeni Corporation to design and develop the Hydrogen Demonstrator Project, to commission specialist legal advice utilising resources that will be made available from the Communities Directorate Earmarked Reserve (EMR) 2020-21 for implementing Bridgend 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy at an initial anticipated value of £30,000, from the Communities Directorate budget as required and to reports back to Cabinet on the full project proposal.

816. **BRIDGEND TOWN HEAT NETWORK PROJECT**

The Corporate Director Communities reported on an update on the development of the Bridgend Town Heat Network Project and sought delegated authority to award the contract for the construction and operation of the heat network subject to the approval of the revised project Financial Model by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that Cabinet at its meeting in April 2018, approved the Outline Business Case for the project and to the submission of an application to UK Government through its Heat Network Investment Programme (HNIP). The application was approved in December 2019 for £1,000,000 capital investment towards the construction of the heat network and £241,000 for pre-construction activities. Cabinet was advised on an update on the project in January 2021 covering elements such as the procurement of a Design Build Operate Maintain contractor under the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 and applications for the necessary permits (Environmental Permit due to the gas CHP engine falling under the Medium Plant Combustion Directive) and permissions (planning permission for the location of a thermal store at the rear of the Bridgend Life Centre).

The Corporate Director Communities informed Cabinet of the progress made on the Environmental Permit; Planning Permission and the Design Build Operate Maintain Contractor Procurement. She stated that all the bids received for the main construction contract were outside the project's expenditure budgets, due to the impact of Covid-19 and the cost of raw materials and labour. She stated that extensive dialogue was carried out with all the bidders over the following months to understand where savings could be made to re-align the costs of the project within the project budget, whilst ensuring deliverables remained the same, final bids were received at the end of January 2022. The bids were assessed as compliant from a procurement process perspective and officers and the consultant team evaluated the bids from a quality and cost perspective. Following the evaluation of the bids, an updated financial model is being produced by the consultant team for the project containing the actual bid prices, to be approved by the Section 151 Officer. She stated that a further report would be presented to Cabinet to award the Design Build Operate Maintain (DBOM) contract, however as this was the last meeting of Cabinet prior to the local government elections

in May 2022, there was insufficient time to evaluate the bids received, update the financial model, and present the financial model to the finance department for approval by the Section 151 Officer. In addition, a decision to award the contract cannot wait until after the local government elections because the tender prices submitted by bidders would not remain valid for that length of time. It was proposed that delegated authority be given to officers to award the DBOM contract and enter and arrange execution of that contract on behalf of the Council subject to the Section 151 Officer approving the updated financial model (which would be updated following the evaluation of the bids) and determine that the scheme is financially viable.

The Cabinet Member Communities in commending the proposal stated that the project was innovative and at the cutting edge and that the emergency services as well as Bridgend College were interested in connecting to the Heat Network.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the update on the development of the Bridgend Town DHN Project.
2. Subject to the determination by the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change that the Bridgend Town DHN Project is financially viable, delegated authority to the Corporate Director – Communities in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to award the contract for the design build operation and maintenance of the Bridgend Town DHN Project and subject to no challenge being received during the standstill period, enters into and arrange execution of that contract on behalf of the Council with the successful bidder.

817. **BRIDGEND COUNTY ECONOMIC STRATEGY**

The Corporate Director Communities reported on an update on work to develop a new Economic Strategy and sought approval of the Economic Strategy. She also sought approval of the terms of reference for the new Bridgend County Economic Partnership Board and for the proposed use of the Economic Futures Fund.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that Cabinet at its meeting in June 2020 approved the creation of an Economic Taskforce, chaired by the Leader and is in response to economic uncertainties and challenges arising from the coronavirus pandemic. Officers were mandated by the Taskforce in partnership with key stakeholders, to develop an economic plan for the future of the County Borough to include action to help businesses adapt to the changing economic landscape and improve resilience, as well as support for residents to develop new skills, training, and employment opportunities.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that the proposed Economic Strategy which had been developed following in-depth data review and engagement with stakeholders, would be the basis of dialogue on prioritised actions with Welsh and UK Governments, the Cardiff Capital Region, a range of funding sources, investors, and developers. It would support the Council's ongoing ambitions to play a full and active role supporting the local economy.

The Corporate Director Communities informed Cabinet that the Economic Strategy Data Report includes a comprehensive review of existing research, evidence, and published datasets as a core part of the basis on which the Economic Strategy is based and is aligned with the replacement Local Development Plan. She stated that it was proposed to develop a new governance model to support the delivery of the Economic Strategy,

including the development of a Bridgend County Economic Partnership Board as an evolution from the current Economic Task Force.

The Corporate Director Communities reported that the proposed Economic Strategy set out a long-term strategic vision that clearly articulated Bridgend's growth ambitions for the economy of the County Borough. It also set out a clear plan of action, strengthening linkages into all sectors of the economy and will all relevant stakeholders within the short, medium, and long term.

The Corporate Director Communities informed Cabinet that it was proposed that she in consultation with the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support, Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change submit proposals to secure resources for programmes, projects and activities from funders at the UK, Welsh and regional level, such as, but not exclusively to the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and the forthcoming United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and if successful, would support delivery of actions contained within the Economic Strategy. The Corporate Director Communities also informed Cabinet that subject to approval of the Economic Strategy, a sum of £1.197m (inclusive of the current allocation of £200k) would be allocated towards the delivery of an enhanced Innovation Fund via the internal panel mechanism previously agreed by Cabinet. Spend from the capital programme will be subject to approval by Council and monitored through the capital programme.

The Cabinet Member Communities commented on the importance of having in place high-level strategy and thanked the Corporate Director Communities and Team for drafting the Strategy. The Leader added his support to the Strategy which had been developed with partners and businesses and with a focus on small and medium businesses. He was particularly pleased that £2m had been identified to invest in micro and small businesses.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Noted the progress to develop an Economic Strategy;
2. Approved and adopted the Economic Strategy, set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
3. Noted the Economic Strategy Data Report, set out in, as the evidence base for the Economic Strategy;
4. Approved the terms of reference for the Bridgend County Economic Partnership Board, set out in Appendix 3, and;
5. Approved the proposed use of the Economic Futures Fund, as set out in section 8.5 of the report.

818. FOSTERING ALLOWANCES POLICY

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing reported on a proposed Fostering Allowances Policy and sought approval of the policy and delegated authority to the Head of Children's Social Care to implement the new policy.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed Cabinet that in Wales, the National Fostering Framework has been undertaking work to develop greater consistency in the use of Kinship care for children who are looked after and harmonisation of policies across Wales in relation to the payment of fees and

allowances to Foster Carers. She stated that the Council had been awaiting the outcome of this work prior to making any changes to the fees and allowances paid to all Foster Carers.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing reported that the Council's foster carers receive a basic allowance for looking after a child, which is paid at the level recommended by the Welsh Government. The recommendations for payments are based on an estimation of the actual costs of looking after a child. In addition, fees are paid to foster carers who are assessed to provide care to a range of children and are not applicable to those who are approved for specific children. This Fee is paid to General Foster Carers but not to Connected Persons Foster Carers. The fee element is split into two levels, with Level 2 – paid to foster carers post approval and Level 3 - paid to foster carers once they have had their 1st Annual Review and have completed the Qualification Credit Framework (QCF) training requirement.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing reported that the National Fostering Framework had recognised that changes need to be made to Foster Carer Allowances in respect of fees (which will become an Additional Allowance) which are paid to Foster Carers whether they are General Foster Carers or Connected Persons Foster Carers and a new Eligibility Criteria had been established. She stated that the Bridgend Fostering Service had drafted its Fostering Allowances Policy, setting out all the allowances that approved Foster Carers are entitled to claim and the Eligibility that a Foster Carer needs to meet to be entitled to the "Additional Allowance" (Formerly Fee). The new policy will be equally applicable to all BCBC Foster Carers i.e., Connected Persons Foster Carers will also be entitled to an Additional Allowance, if they are assessed as meeting the Eligibility Criteria.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing highlighted the financial implications of implementing the policy, which would result in a small increase in the budget for fostering with all unrelated Foster Carers moving from a Level 2 "Fee" to the age-appropriate Enhanced Allowance. There was also potentially a more significant impact which is dependent on the number of Connected Persons Foster Carer who express a wish to be assessed against the new Eligibility Criteria and are assessed as meeting the criteria. A budget pressure of £191,000 for 2022-23 had been approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025- 26, to meet the anticipated increase to 'Connected Persons' Fostering Fees.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help stated that it had been evident during the pandemic of the challenges faced by foster carers and the need to value foster carers as they look after children who have had the most difficult of starts to life. She appealed to residents to come forward as foster carers to help children grow in a family environment.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the Fostering Allowances Policy and delegated authority to the Head of Children's Social Care to implement the new policy.

819. **NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WELSH (LOCAL AUTHORITY) ADOPTION AND FOSTERING SERVICES NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICE FOR WALES AND FOSTER WALES – ENHANCING GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND ENABLING**

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing reported that the National Adoption Service (NAS) has been in existence since 2014, enabling significant change and improvement in adoption services across Wales. She stated that its structure and governance through national, regional, and local arrangements were agreed by all

councils at that time and a review in 2018 led to proposals to streamline governance and improve accountability. Creating a Combined Governance Board (bringing together the Advisory Group and Governance Board required by the legislation) and a new Partnership Agreement to replace the original functional model have been implemented.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing reported that for the arrangements to be put on a formal footing that a National Joint Committee be established and with an agreement underpinning for its extension to include Foster Wales. She stated that the National Joint Committee will, on behalf of the 22 Welsh Local Authorities, exercise their powers for the provision of the collaborative arrangements for the National Adoption Service for Wales (NAS) and for Foster Wales (FW), comprising Council Members and meeting twice yearly. A Joint Committee Legal Agreement to be signed by all 22 local authorities has been drafted by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) lawyers, which also contains a formal Scheme of Delegation and provision for the formal agreement with the host local authority for national functions. She stated that funding for the governance arrangements and central / national leadership and enabling, is provided from the WLGA via a top slice of the Rate Support Grant plus grant funding from the Welsh Government, there was no expectation that individual councils will incur additional costs in relation to these functions.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

1. Approved the Council entering into the Joint Committee Arrangement;
2. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to agree the final terms of and enter into the Joint Committee Agreement for the National Adoption Service as the legal document that formally establishes the Joint Committee with delegated functions;
3. Approved the Cabinet Member - Social Services and Early Help sitting as the Council's representative on the Joint Committee;
4. Approved Cardiff Council acting as host authority for the arrangement and delegates authority to the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to agree the final terms of and enter into the hosting agreement;
5. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and the Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to agree the terms of and enter into any ancillary documents which the Council is required to enter into as a result of this arrangement;
6. Noted that a report will be presented to Council to amend the Council's Constitution as necessary to facilitate the operation of the Joint Committee Agreement for the National Adoption Service.

820. **EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE CURRENT SECTION 33 AGREEMENT FOR ADULTS AND OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES**

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing sought approval for the extension of the current Section 33 Agreement for Adults and Older People Services which covered partnership arrangements with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

for Intermediate Care Services through the integrated community resource team, enabling sufficient planning time to progress a number of service and strategic developments across the region and in the locality.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing reported that following the transition to Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board from the former Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, a formal partnership agreement took effect for Adults and Older People Services from 1 April 2019, ending on 31 March 2022. She informed Cabinet that the integrated services in Bridgend embarked on a programme of change as part of the bid for Welsh Government's transformation funding in 2019, which built upon a suite of intermediate care services. It also looked to extend this wider multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach within the integrated cluster networks with primary care, community service and social care, to build more resilient communities.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated that Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board clarified their intention to continue with and progress further with integration and the Bridgend Integrated Locality Group and Social Care embarked on a piece of work in Summer 2021, however the focus of health and social care services, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, had meant this work had not been able to progress as originally anticipated. Discussions are ongoing on the next steps in terms of service development and the regional approach to integration and due to the delays identified at the Joint Partnership Board, it was recommended that the current Section 33 agreement be extended for 2 years to 31 March 2024.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help stated that the Welsh Government is discussing a national care service and was pleased to see steps being taken towards that measure. The Leader also commented on the need for a focus on integration nationally.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- Approved the extension of the current Section 33 agreement for the Adults and Older People Services with Cwm Taff Morgannwg University Health Board Board for a further two years to 31st March 2024 to support the strategic planning of the future service model.
- Delegated authority to the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change and the Chief Officer, Legal Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy, to negotiate and enter into a variation agreement to the Section 33 agreement for Adults and Older People Services with Cwm Taff Morgannwg University Health Board to effect the above extension.

821. FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE SERVICE

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support sought approval to suspend the Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) to enter a contract with TGP Cymru for 6 months to deliver the Family Group Conference service.

He informed Cabinet that the Family Group Conference service is an approach to working with children and families which enables parents, carers and wider family support networks manage the risks related to the care of their children. The approach has been identified by the Welsh Government as an essential area of practice for local authorities to use, to prevent children becoming looked after or to return children home to their families. He also informed Cabinet that the Council has been working in partnership with the sole provider of this service in the region, TGP Cymru and that the

existing contract ends on 31 March 2022, with no option to extend. He stated that there had been an increase in referrals from 27 in 2020 to 100 in 2021 and that the relationships built by TGP Cymru had been positive, with positive outcomes for families engaged with TGP Cymru.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- Suspended the relevant parts of the Council's CPRs in respect of the requirements relating to the procurement of the contract for the provisions of the FGC Service; and
- Delegated authority to the Group Manager (Family Support) in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy to enter into a contract for the provision of the FGC service with TGP Cymru from 1 April 2022 until 30 September 2022.

822. **SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2023-2024**

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support sought approval of the Schools Admissions Policy 2023-2024.

He reported that the local authority is required to annually publish an admissions policy and guidance on the admission arrangements for its schools and the Bridgend Admissions Forum has agreed a draft School Admissions Policy for 2023- 2024, as per the requirements under the Code. He stated that consultation has subsequently taken place on the 2023-2024 policy, including the published admission numbers for the schools, and no representations were received in response to the consultation.

The Leader asked whether any Members had made any representations on the policy. The Corporate Director Education and Family Support confirmed that no representations were received from Members on the policy. The Leader also asked whether support for children of refugee families and unaccompanied children was included within the policy. The Corporate Director Education and Family Support informed Cabinet that the policy is very much an inclusive policy, which will accommodate all learners.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the School Admissions Policy 2023-2024.

823. **SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME - HERONSBRIDGE SPECIAL SCHOOL**

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support sought approval to commence a statutory consultation process to make regulated alterations to Heronsbridge Special School, by increasing the number of pupils for whom the school makes provision to 300, and for its relocation from its current location to Island Farm, Bridgend. He informed Cabinet that the proposed new school would open from the beginning of the autumn term 2025 (i.e., September 2025).

He reported that Cabinet at its meeting in December 2020 gave approval to a new-build for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Severe Learning Difficulties and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties plus residential provision, replacing the existing Heronsbridge Special School and the Pencoed College sites for the development of a privately owned site at Island Farm. Council in December 2020 gave approval to include funding in the capital programme to deal with payments associated with securing the land. He informed Cabinet that in March 2021, Ministerial approval was received in respect of the Strategic Outline Business Case for a replacement 300-place

Heronbridge Special School, plus residential provision and a feasibility study was progressed to consider the development of the school on privately owned land at Island Farm.

He also informed Cabinet of the significant issues regarding the size of teaching and non-teaching spaces, storage and circulation space is extremely poor, and given the needs of the learners, this causes issues in managing safe movement around the school. He stated that the overall condition of the school is poor, exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended, with a backlog of maintenance costs, assessed in October 2020 at £1,248,200.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support reported that the outline business case for the school received Ministerial approval in November 2021 and he highlighted the qualitative benefits of an enlarged Heronsbridge Special School which would be designed on guidelines for special schools. He stated that a site fit feasibility study had been commissioned which demonstrated that the school can be developed on the site, although some ecology mitigation would be required. He informed Cabinet that the Corporate Landlord Department is in the process of acquiring the Island Farm site for the proposed school, however, should the proposal to relocate the school to that site not proceed, there would be limited financial risk based upon the likely future onward sales value. He stated that the number of existing pupils on roll is 236 and to increase the number of pupils to make provision to 300, the School Organisation Code requires that a consultation exercise with the school governing body, staff, parents, pupils and interested parties is undertaken, which is the first step in the statutory process.

The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support informed Cabinet of the financial implications of the proposal, in that £25m had been allocated within the capital budget, however contractor inflation and the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit may have an impact on scheme costs.

The Cabinet Education and Regeneration in commending the proposal stated that it was the ambition to provide a new school for Heronsbridge, which would be widely recognised as the best special school with the best facilities in Wales. A further ambition could be to have a training facility to train teachers and teaching assistants for special schools. He stressed the importance of retaining the façade of the current school, which would result in a brownfield site with development potential near the town centre. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help thanked the officers in developing an immense piece of work for consultation and stressed the importance of future proofing the school and to have a 21st century school given the rise in the number of pupils with additional learning needs and ASD.

The Leader stated that the school had been applauded for its excellent work and for the support the school has, however it does not have the best facilities. He stated that it was an ambition to develop the best special school facilities in Wales and he looked forward to people taking part in the consultation, for which he knew the governing body is excited by the proposals. He also stated that he was especially proud that an item on the school modernisation programme is the last public item on the agenda as Leader of the Council in this term.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet approved the commencement of a statutory consultation process to make the following regulated alterations to Heronsbridge Special School:

- to increase the number of pupils for whom the school makes provision to 300; and

- to relocate the school from its current location at Ewenny Road, Bridgend to Island Farm, Bridgend. The proposed new school would open from the beginning of the autumn term 2025 (i.e., September 2025).

824. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

825. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the following item in private, with the public excluded from the meeting, as it was considered that in all circumstances relating to the item, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

826. PARC AFON EWENNI

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

REVENUE BUDGET OUTTURN 2021-22

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's revenue financial performance for the year ended 31st March 2022, and to seek approval for budget virements between £100,000 and £500,000, as required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

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**:-
1. **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.
 2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy 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.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring 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.
- 2.2 The allocation of budget determines the extent to which the Council's well-being objectives can be delivered.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 24th February 2021, Council approved a net revenue budget of £298.956 million for 2021-22. As part of the Performance Management Framework, budget projections are reviewed regularly and reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The delivery of agreed budget reductions is also kept under review and reported to Cabinet as part of this process.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Summary financial position at 31st March 2022

- 4.1.1 The 2021-22 financial year has continued to be a complex year in managing the financial position of the Council, primarily as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Significant changes have occurred throughout the year as circumstances altered and services were supported in different ways to deliver outcomes in the best way possible.

The Welsh Government (WG) allocated £206.6 million in its budget to the Hardship Fund to support local government for the first six months of 2021-22. In addition, £23.3 million was allocated to support free school meals during the school holidays. WG subsequently confirmed a further allocation of £97.5 million for the remainder of the 2021-22 financial year with revised principles for claims and tapering of support for social care uplifts and void payments. Finally, three new allocations were added to the Hardship Fund in quarter 3 - £38 million for winter fuel support, £600,000 for community hubs and £2 million for homelessness support. The process for drawing down the money continued to be the submission of complex claims, covering a wide range of costs and loss of income without knowing with any certainty whether those claims would be successful.

The outcome of these claims have been reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis and have impacted favourably on the end of year position. Our claims against the WG Hardship fund totalled £16.510 million, of which only £66,000 were disallowed.

Furthermore, once again significant grants were received in the last quarter of the financial year, £3.341 million of directorate grants and £6.041 million for schools, resulting in a change in the financial position between quarter 3 and quarter 4. These will be spent in 2022-23 in accordance with the conditions applied to the grants and will be closely monitored to ensure their effective use.

The other significant changes between quarter 3 and quarter 4 were:

- the £1.151 million contribution from WG in March 2022 in recognition of the reduced council tax collection rates experienced by Councils in 2021-22, as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, and;
- the one-off increase to the Revenue Support Grant of £2.703 million against the context of inflationary and service pressures, the ending of the WG Hardship Fund as well as continuation of decarbonising services and responding to the climate and nature emergency, increasing the Council's net budget from £298.956 million to £301.659 million for 2021-22 (Table 1).

Given the changes that have occurred which have resulted in a better financial position at the end of 2021-22, the Council is able to apply some of this funding to investments to support its residents. A more detailed review of Earmarked reserves is provided in section 4.4 of the report and **Appendix 4** and another report on this agenda and the Council agenda on 15th June to seek approval for a range of capital schemes to be funded from this year's under spend.

4.1.2 The Council's net revenue budget and final outturn for 2021-22 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Comparison of budget against actual outturn at 31st March 2022

Directorate/Budget Area	Original Budget 2021-22 £'000	Current Budget 2021-22 £'000	Final Outturn Q4 2021-22 £'000	Final Over / (Under) Spend 2021-22 £'000	Projected Over / (Under) Spend Qtr 3 2021-22 £'000
Directorate					
Education and Family Support	127,055	128,292	128,119	(173)	1,019
Social Services and Wellbeing Communities	74,043	75,239	69,848	(5,391)	(1,093)
Chief Executive's	28,137	28,654	28,456	(198)	90
	21,304	21,801	18,731	(3,070)	(2,088)
Total Directorate Budgets	250,539	253,986	245,154	(8,832)	(2,072)
Council Wide Budgets					
Capital Financing	7,329	7,329	8,447	1,118	1,000
Levies	7,783	7,797	7,775	(22)	(22)
Apprenticeship Levy	650	650	682	32	23
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	15,654	15,654	15,239	(415)	(150)
Insurance Premiums	1,363	1,363	2,840	1,477	62
Repairs & Maintenance	670	506	37	(469)	(150)
Pension Related Costs	430	430	426	(4)	0
Other Council Wide Budgets	14,538	11,241	2,094	(9,147)	(8,220)
Total Council Wide Budgets	48,417	44,970	37,540	(7,430)	(7,457)
Accrued Council Tax Income			(2,463)	(2,463)	0
Appropriation to Earmarked Reserves	0	2,703	21,097	18,394	7,004
Transfer to Council Fund			331	331	
Total	298,956	301,659	301,659	0	(2,525)

4.1.3 The overall outturn at 31st March 2022 is a net under spend of £331,000 which has been transferred to the Council Fund, bringing the total Fund balance to £10.103 million in line with Principle 9 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Total Directorate budgets provided a net under spend of £8.832 million, and Council Wide budgets a net under spend of £7.430 million. As a result of effective financial management across the Council through the pandemic, along with ensuring that eligible monies have been claimed from the WG Hardship and Loss of Income funds, and additional one-off funding from WG to support pressures in Social Services and Wellbeing and Council Tax, the Council is in a position to invest in services and facilities for its residents and to mitigate future risks and expenditure commitments. The outturn position also takes into account a net under spend of £2.463 million on council tax income during the financial

year (see paragraph 4.1.7 for detail) and additional RSG income of £2.703 million (see paragraph 4.1.8 for detail).

4.1.4 Table 1 highlights a £6.760 million movement since quarter 3 on total Directorate Budgets. Table 2 below highlights the main reasons for the change, including additional funding received by the Council since quarter 3, that support the changed outturn position. Since quarter 3, the Authority has successfully claimed £1.095 million of Hardship funding to support additional expenditure and loss of income experienced by the Authority as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 2 – Movements since quarter 3 2021-22

Directorate/Budget Area	Rebates from Regional Service	WG Hardship Claims	Reallocation of Existing Grants	Additional Grants
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education and Family Support	0	26	418	400
Social Services & Wellbeing	0	411	1,824	3,031
Communities	0	240	0	0
Chief Executives	129	418	354	0
Total Directorate Budgets	129	1,095	2,596	3,431
Revenue Support Grant (see Earmarked Reserve line in Table 1)	0	0	0	2,703
Council Tax	0	0	0	1,151

4.1.5 The outturn position has also been impacted by unexpected grant funding and maximisation of grant funding streams since quarter 3 in Directorate budgets of over £6.027 million and £2.703 million in Council Wide Budgets - £8.730 million in total. It is important to note that the Authority would not have been aware of these funding streams when setting and approving its 2021-22 budget and the majority of the additional grants are one-off as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.1.6 Further detail is provided on the movements since quarter 3 at individual directorate level and on Council wide budgets in section 4.3.

4.1.7 The outturn position also takes into account the net under spend on council tax income of £2.463 million during the financial year. The end of year position on council tax comprises £1.312 million of additional council tax income collected along with a contribution from WG of £1.151 million in March 2022 in recognition of the general reduced collection rates experienced by Councils in 2021-22 as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 4.1.8 The net position also takes into account a one-off increase to the Revenue Support Grant for 2021-22 from WG of £2.703 million, provided to give support to manage budgets more effectively over the period 2021-22 to 2024-25 against the context of inflationary and service pressures, and the ending of the Local Government Hardship Fund, as well as helping to continue work to decarbonise services and respond to the climate and nature emergency.
- 4.1.9 The under spend on the Council budget significantly masks the underlying budget pressures in some service budgets which were reported during the year and still persist. The main financial pressures are in the service areas of Social Services and Wellbeing, Homelessness, Waste and Home to School Transport (HtST). It should be noted that these budget areas can be volatile and small changes in demand can result in relatively high costs being incurred.
- 4.1.10 It is forecast that the long-term impact of Covid-19, alongside the already known pressures of an ageing population, increasing dementia rates and more complex and challenging needs is going to result in increasing demands on already pressurised services in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. The underlying pressure on the budget is masked by one off grant funding of £5.581 million from WG, £770,000 contribution from the WG Hardship fund supporting BCBC social care core budgets, maximisation of Housing Support Grant (£717,000) along with under spends on staffing budgets due to difficulties in recruitment, which subsequently impacts on the ability to meet demands for packages of care.
- 4.1.11 Whilst budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) budget setting process in February 2021, to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals, the Council has seen a significant increase in the provision of temporary accommodation. Welsh Government has confirmed support for the first six months of 2022-23 to support homeless individuals but given the increase in provision the budget growth might be insufficient to meet the increase in demand going into 2022-23 and will require close monitoring.
- 4.1.12 Waste tonnages increased in 2020-21, primarily due to lockdowns and more residents working from home in general, and this trend has continued into 2021-22. Support was received in 2020-21 and in the first half of 2021-22 from the WG Hardship Fund towards these increased costs. Support continued for the second half of 2021-22, albeit that funding was reduced to 50% of the increased costs. As the Hardship Fund will not be in place beyond the 31st March 2022, Council approved a budget pressure of £387,000 as part of the MTFS 2022-23 to 2025-26 to support the continuing increase in disposal costs of Kitchen Waste, Street Litter and Blue Bag waste.
- 4.1.13 There is an over spend on Home to School Transport (HtST) of £948,000 in 2021-22. This is on top of the underlying pressure on the HtST budget which has been supported in 2021-22 by a one-off MTFS Budget Pressure of £1.210 million that was approved by Council in February 2021 to support the increased costs of HtST and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs. An MTFS Budget pressure of £2.472 million was approved by Council in February 2022 to support the ongoing pressures on the HtST budget.

4.1.14 In addition, given the potential for significant funding being required to meet pay and price costs in 2022-23, along with any ongoing budget pressures arising as a result of the pandemic, uncertainties around the end of the Brexit transition period and soaring inflationary levels for 2022-23 any uncommitted funding in 2021-22 will be required to meet these pressures in the new financial year. There are also potential pressures on council tax collection and an increase in eligibility for council tax support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (see paragraph 4.3.5) with no ongoing support from WG confirmed for 2022-23. Therefore, any uncommitted funding from other council wide budgets will be carried forward to meet those pressures in the new financial year.

Budget virements/technical adjustments

4.1.15 There have been a number of budget virements and technical adjustments between budgets since the quarter 3 Revenue Forecast was presented to Cabinet in January 2022. The outturn position is reported on the assumption that these virements will be approved. The main virements and technical adjustments in quarter 4 are outlined below:

Budget Virements

Service vired from / to	Amount
A centrally retained allocation for the provision of additional 1:1 support in special schools has been transferred from Schools to the Education and Family Support Directorate budget (Recoupment) in line with the responsibility for the provision of this specialised service.	£185,000

Technical Adjustments

Service vired from / to	Amount
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of NJC pay award 2021-22 - confirmed in March 2022	£1,826,134
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of JNC pay award 2021-22 for Chief Officers - confirmed in March 2022	£33,890
Allocation of funding retained centrally in respect of Soulbury pay award 2021-22 - confirmed in March 2022	£8,440
Allocation of corporately held funding for Feasibility works in line with spend	175,824
Allocation of corporately held funding for Revenue minor works in line with spend	64,152

4.1.16 The net budget for the financial year was set assuming full implementation of the approved budget reduction requirements across the Council's budget, which amount to £1.760 million. Where proposals to meet this requirement have been delayed or are not achievable directorates have been tasked with identifying alternative proposals to meet their requirements such as vacancy management or bringing forward alternative budget reduction proposals. These are set out in paragraph 4.2.4.

Covid-19

4.1.17 When the UK was put into lockdown WG established a Covid Hardship Fund to give special financial assistance to local authorities to meet the additional costs incurred as a result of the pandemic which the Council was able to draw on for financial support. Bridgend successfully claimed over £15 million in expenditure claims and over £5.5 million in loss of income claims in 2020-21. The WG allocations to the Hardship Fund in 2022-23 are set out in 4.1.1.

4.1.18 The Hardship Fund was established to meet the additional costs and loss of income arising from Covid 19 ended on the 31 March 2022. However local authorities continue to administer three elements that were paid through the Hardship fund on behalf of WG – Self Isolation Payments (to end of June 2022), Statutory Sick Pay enhancement scheme (to end of June 2022) and Free School Meal payments (to end of summer 2022 school holiday).

4.1.19 Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CCMB) agreed to establish a £1 million Covid-19 Recovery Fund in 2020-21 to provide funding for conscious and proactive decisions aimed at boosting recovery that were unlikely to be paid for by WG. The recovery fund was utilised in 2021-22 to support a phased return to historic rental income levels for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) owned premises following the rental holiday periods supported during the pandemic. The balance of £443,865 on the Covid-19 Recovery Fund will be carried into 2022-23 with further proposals to boost recovery considered by CCMB.

Cost of the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic

4.1.20 Welsh Government has provided specific eligibility criteria for each of its funding streams, and all directorates were made aware of them, and captured costs accordingly. Covid-19 costs which were not reimbursed by WG have been funded from the normal service budgets or established earmarked reserves. WG Hardship Expenditure claims submitted to Welsh Government in 2021-22, and the outcome of these claims, are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Covid-19 expenditure claims 2021-22

Specific Hardship Fund	Claimed	Paid	Disallowed	Movement since Qtr 3 – excl disallowed
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General	752	687	65	186
Homelessness	2,794	2,794	0	178
Free School Meals	1,182	1,182	0	368
Schools	1,515	1,514	1	692
Adult Social Services	4,483	4,483	0	877
Visitor Economy	86	86	0	2
Winter Fuel	1,820	1,820	0	1,820
Self Isolation Payments (SIP)/ Statutory Sick Pay Enhancements (SSP)	2,116	2,116	0	1,258
Total	14,748	14,682	66	5,381

- 4.1.21 The majority of the disallowed expenditure (£55,334) related to the fact that WG only supported 50% of the increased costs associated with increased waste tonnages for the second half of 2021-22. £9,701 was also disallowed as it related to costs incurred by the Council in continuing to support home working arrangements. The WG hardship panel agreed that these costs may be additional and not within the Council's financial plans, however they also felt that having such assets in place provides longer term benefits to local authorities. Again, a contribution of 50% was agreed to be funded by WG.
- 4.1.22 The overall increase in claims paid since quarter 3 of £5.381 million does not all relate to reimbursement of expenditure incurred by the local authority, and therefore does not fully match the figures in Table 2. For example, adult social services mostly represents claims made by independent and third sector providers to meet the additional costs of providing care and support for voids in care homes and the Winter Fuel and Self Isolation Payments/Statutory Sick Payments (SIP/SSP) are administered by local authorities on behalf of WG.
- 4.1.23 The Council has also submitted claims for loss of income to Welsh Government in 2021-22 totalling £1.762 million as shown in Table 4. £608,000 of the claims were paid in quarter 4.

Table 4 – Covid-19 loss of income claims 2021-22

Directorate	Claims 2021-22	Paid	Main areas funded
	£'000	£'000	
Education and Family Support	74	74	£74k - School meal income
Schools	155	155	£97k - school meal income, £58k - loss of income from hire of school premises
Social Services & Wellbeing	1,034	1,034	£1.007m – contribution to Council's leisure service provider, £27k – dual use sites where facilities are managed for community use outside of school hours
Communities	344	344	£216k - Car Park Income, £45k pitch and pavilion hire, £67k – civil enforcement income
Chief Executive's	155	155	£85k – Legal, democratic and regulatory services £41k – Housing £14k - Finance
Total	1,762	1,762	

- 4.1.24 All of the loss of income claims in 2021-22 have been approved by WG.

Ongoing impact of Covid-19 pandemic in 2022-23

- 4.1.25 The Local Government Hardship fund, established to meet the additional costs and loss of income arising from Covid-19, ended on the 31 March 2022. However, as noted in 4.1.18 local authorities continue to administer three elements that were paid through the hardship fund on behalf of Welsh Government – Self Isolation Payments, SSP enhancement scheme and Free School Meal payments. No commitment for support from WG beyond this period has been given at present.
- 4.1.26 As part of the MTFs Budget setting process 2022-23 to 2025-26 in February 2022, Council approved a budget pressure of £1 million following the end of the WG Hardship Fund. This has been set aside to meet any ongoing pressures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, both in respect of additional cost pressures and ongoing loss of income. The budget pressure will be allocated out during the 2022-23 financial year in line with need and will be reviewed annually to determine whether or not it is still required.

4.2 Monitoring of Budget Reduction Proposals

Prior Year Budget Reductions

- 4.2.1 As outlined in previous monitoring reports during the year there were still £2.376 million of outstanding prior year budget reduction proposals that had not been met in full. Directors have been working to realise these savings during the 2021-22 financial year. A summary of the latest position is attached as **Appendix 1** with a summary per directorate provided in Table 5. Of the £2.376 million of prior year budget proposals outstanding, £2.276 million has been realised, leaving a balance of £100,000.

Table 5 – Outstanding Prior Year Budget Reductions

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education and Family Support	344	344	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	185	185	0
Communities	1,847	1,747	100
TOTAL	2,376	2,276	100

4.2.2 The proposal still not achieved is:

- COM19 – Streetworks review (£100,000) – the final business case was submitted to WG in quarter 3 of 2021-22. The service area has linked in on several occasions with WG who are required to provide approval for the scheme to progress before steps can be taken towards implementation. To date no official response has been received. Whilst the Highways network budget area is committed to stay within budget through the implementation phase it is recognised that having to underwrite this saving has put pressure on the service by having to cut back maintenance operations. If a response is not forthcoming from WG in the first quarter of 2022-23, the Communities Directorate will identify alternative budget reduction proposals.

Budget Reductions 2021-22

4.2.3 The budget approved for 2021-22 included budget reduction proposals totalling £1.760 million, which is broken down in **Appendix 2** and summarised in Table 6 below. The end of year position is a shortfall on the savings target of £65,000, or 3.7% of the overall reduction target.

Table 6 – Monitoring of Budget Reductions 2021-22

	Total Budget Reductions Required	Total Budget Reductions Likely to be Achieved	Shortfall
DIRECTORATE /BUDGET REDUCTION AREA	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education and Family Support	116	116	0
Schools	0	0	0
Social Services and Wellbeing	315	315	0
Communities	823	758	65
Chief Executive's	130	130	0
Council Wide Budgets	376	376	0
TOTAL	1,760	1,695	65

4.2.4 The most significant budget reduction proposal not achieved in full is COM 2 – Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site (£60,000). The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in 2022-23, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2023-24. The saving will therefore have to met through alternative one-off efficiencies in 2022-23 in order to deliver a balanced budget position.

4.2.5 As outlined in the MTFS reports to Cabinet and Council, MTFS Principle 7 states that “Savings proposals are fully developed and include realistic delivery timescales prior to inclusion in the annual budget. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency Reserve will be maintained to mitigate against unforeseen delays”. An MTFS Budget Reduction Contingency reserve was established in 2016-17. This reserve has been used to meet specific budget reduction proposals in previous years on a one-off basis pending alternative measures. It has not been used in 2021-22 to mitigate on-going shortfalls as service areas committed to identify alternative one-off under spends in the service areas affected.

4.3 Commentary on the financial position at 31st March 2022

A summary of the financial position for each main service area is attached as **Appendix 3** to this report and comments on the most significant variances are provided below.

4.3.1 Education and Family Support Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 was £128.292 million and the actual outturn was £128.119 million, following draw down of £1.054 million from earmarked reserves, resulting in an under spend of £173,000. The outturn has improved since the projected over spend at quarter 3 of £1.019 million due primarily to:-

- New grant funding - £400,000 (Additional Learning Needs (ALN) grant - £329,000, Counselling Intervention grant - £71,000)
- Re-allocation of existing grants - £418,000 (Families First and Flying Start - £231,000, Children and Communities Grant - £187,000)
- Successful WG Loss of income claims in the Catering Service - £26,000

The most significant variances were:

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Learner Support	2,848	3,015	167	5.9%
Youth Development Service	469	328	(141)	-30.1%
Business Support	525	428	(97)	-18.5%
Home-to-School Transport	6,739	7,687	948	14.1%
Catering Service	1,117	963	(154)	-13.8%
Family Support	1,406	1,188	(218)	-15.5%
Early Help	40	(58)	(98)	-245.0%
Youth Justice Service	319	237	(82)	-25.7%
Historic pension and redundancy costs	983	813	(170)	-17.3%
Corporate Health & Safety Unit	387	216	(171)	-44.2%

Schools' Delegated Budgets

Total funding delegated to schools in 2021-22 was £110.980 million (including Post-16 grant funding of £6.705 million).

The schools' delegated budget is reported as balanced in any one year as any under or over spend is automatically carried forward, in line with Welsh Government legislation, into the new financial year before being considered by the Corporate Director - Education and Family Support in line with the 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances', as set out in the Financial Scheme for Schools.

The year-end position for 2021-22 was:-

- Net overall school balances totalled £8.490 million at the start of the financial year. During 2021-22 school balances increased by £4.004 million to £12.494 million at the end of the financial year, representing 11.26% of the total funding allocated in 2021-22.
- Out of a total of 59 schools, there are no schools with a deficit balance and 53 schools (42 primary, 9 secondary, and 2 special school) have balances in excess of the statutory limits (£50,000 primary, £100,000 secondary and special schools) in line with the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010. These balances will be analysed in line with the agreed 'Guidance and Procedures on Managing Surplus School Balances'.
- A summary of the position for each sector and overall is provided below:-

	Balance brought forward	Funding allocated in 2021-22	Total Funding available	Actual Spend	Balance at year end
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Primary	4,550	50,468	55,018	48,024	6,994
Secondary	2,978	50,384	53,362	48,572	4,790
Special	962	10,128	11,090	10,380	710
Total	8,490	110,980	119,470	106,976	12,494

It must be noted that there has been a significant improvement from the projected outturn position for schools of a £3.93 million surplus at quarter 3.

The main reason for this is additional schools' revenue funding announced late in 2021-22 through the following grants:-

<u>Name of grant</u>	<u>Additional Value</u> <u>£'000</u>
Supplementary Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards (RRRS) – to further support learning recovery and progression in schools	1,376
School Revenue Maintenance Grant - the purpose of this funding is to cover school revenue maintenance costs	2,153
Additional Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) to support pupils in the Foundation Phase years	444
Additional Learning Needs (ALN) New Systems - this funding is intended to support maintained schools and special schools to prepare for the phased commencement and full implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.	268
Additional ALN - additional grant funding for special schools and schools with specialist ALN classes/units. The purpose of the funding is to reimburse schools for increased costs incurred in 2021-22 (due to the impacts of the pandemic) to provide high quality support for children and young people with ALN.	180
Additional Post-16 funding to support transition in Years 11, 12 and 13	197
'Winter of Wellbeing' - to support schools to provide additional opportunities for learners to play, and to engage in social, cultural and physical activities and experiences outside of formal learning.	252
Allocation of funding to schools from the Central South Consortium (CSC) for quarter 4 (for example, collaboration and curriculum reform, support for learners in examination years and the curriculum design programme)	1,171
Total	6,041

The year-end balances have also improved due to the following:-

<u>Other Movements</u>	<u>£'000</u>
Additional funding distributed to schools to cover costs of increased numbers of pupils entitled to free school meals during 2021-22	307
Successful claims from WG Hardship Additional Expenditure Fund since quarter 3 – staff costs (£609K), non-staffing costs (£83K) - Table 3	692
Successful claims from WG Hardship Loss of Income fund since quarter 3 – school meal income (£32K), Hire of school premises (£13K) - Table 4	45
Total	1,044

In addition, schools have seen delays in securing goods and services, including building materials, as a direct consequence of the pandemic and Brexit. This has resulted in delayed or unachievable planned projects which had been budgeted for in 2021-22. General and agency staff shortages have also meant that schools have been unable to fill vacant posts and therefore have experienced under spends on staffing budgets. These have all contributed to the significant and unpredicted increase in year-end school balances.

Central Education and Family Support budgets

Learner Support

- The over spend of £167,000 primarily relates to the shortfall in income from other local authority (LA) placements at Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell. A budget pressure of £500,000 was agreed by Council as part of the MTFS in February 2021, but there has been a further reduction in the number of other LA pupils in Bridgend schools. The position has improved since quarter 3 due to receipt of additional ALN Grant of £328,638 and Counselling Intervention Grant of £71,290. Without these, the underlying pressure would have been £566,928. A Budget Pressure of £200,000 was approved by Council in February 2022 as part of the MTFS 2022-23 to 2025-26 to address the underlying recoupment income shortfall. This budget pressure will address the over spend position only if grant funding levels are maintained for 2022-23.

Youth Development Service

- The under spend of £141,000 relates primarily to maximisation of Families First grant funding (£199,275) and is therefore not a recurring under spend for 2022-23.

Business Support

- The under spend of £97,000 relates primarily to staff vacancy management. The service area is looking to recruit and fill the vacancies therefore this saving will not be recurring in 2022-23.

Home-to-school transport (HtST)

- There is an over spend on the Home to School Transport of £948,000 in 2021-22. This is on top of the underlying pressure on the HtST budget which has been supported by a one-off MTFs Budget Pressure of £1.210 million, approved by Council in February 2021, to support the increased costs of HtST and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.
- In addition to the historic pressures, Cabinet and Corporate Management Board also determined in 2020-21 that in order to ensure the safety of nursery pupils on school transport vehicles, those previously transported on big buses should be transported in either dedicated minibuses or taxis or in existing taxis and minibuses. This is an additional requirement for the 2021-22 school year onwards and has increased costs annually by an estimated £170,000.
- School transport operators have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and have passed many of the risks associated with continuing to operate including, for example, driver retention, relatively low paid jobs and ongoing insecurity in the market, on to the local authority. For example, the cost of drivers and escorts has increased significantly.
- A retendering exercise has also been completed on home to school transport contracts, principally big buses and minibuses, with an annual increase of £752,000.
- A further procurement exercise has been undertaken for special taxis, taxis, and minibus contracts which will put further pressure on the HtST budget in 2022-23.
- By combining the final over spend of £948,000 with the one-off support of £1.210 million, the underlying budget pressure on the HtST budget amounts to £2.158 million. An MTFs Budget pressure of £2.472 million was approved by Council in February 2022 to support the increased costs of HtST. The budget will need close monitoring given that the outcome of the recent procurement exercise for special taxis, taxis, and minibus contracts will impact on the costs in 2022-23.

Catering Service

- The under spend of £154,000 in the Catering Service has primarily arisen as a result of a £201,000 under spend on the Free Breakfast Club core budget due directly to Covid-19 restrictions continuing to limit the ability to provide the service at full capacity in 2021-22.
- WG have confirmed that funding is available in the WG Hardship Fund to cover free school meal provision within school holidays up to the end of the summer 2022 school holiday.

Family Support

- The £218,000 under spend within the Family Support Group is primarily due to maximisation of Children and Communities grant funding and is therefore not a recurring under spend for 2022-23.

Early Help

- The £98,000 under spend within Early Help relates primarily to the maximisation of the Families First and Flying Start Grants.

Youth Justice Service

- The under spend of £82,000 within the Youth Justice Service is primarily due to staff vacancies experienced within the service. Following a re-structure of the service a strategic service manager has been appointed. This appointment, together with the vacant posts expected to be filled in 2022-23, should mean that there will not be an under spend in 2022-23.

Historic pension and redundancy costs

- The £170,000 under spend is due primarily to a reduction in redundancy costs requiring funding in 2021-22. Due to the reduction in schools in a deficit position since 2020-21, fewer staffing restructures have been required in 2021-22. There has also been a reduction in the costs of supporting historic employee pension costs - there will be an incremental reduction each year as members pass away. The budget will be monitored in 2022-23 to determine if any of these savings can be proposed for future MTFs savings.

Corporate Health & Safety Unit

- The £171,000 under spend within the Corporate Health and Safety Unit is due to staff vacancy management. The vacant posts are expected to be filled in 2022-23 therefore this saving should not be recurring in 2022-23.

4.3.2 **Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 was £75.239 million and the actual outturn was £69.848 million following draw down of £48,000 from earmarked reserves, resulting in an under spend of £5.391 million. The outturn has significantly improved since the projected under spend at quarter 3 of £1.093 million. This is mainly due to notification in February 2022 of £2.221 million in Grant funding from the Welsh Government Social Care Pressures Grant. This grant was to support local authorities with social care pressures from over spends and winter pressures and is reflected in the individual budget areas in the narrative below. The improvement in the outturn position is also due to:-

- Maximising Social Care Recovery Grant - £725,000. As noted in the quarter 3 budget monitoring report, this grant had received a further allocation of £1.139 million increasing the overall 2021-22 Social Care Recovery Grant to £2.916 million. It was also noted at quarter 3 that whilst a significant amount of the grant was planned to be used on staffing to provide additional support in key areas throughout the directorate, due to difficulties in recruitment, the grant would continue to be, and was, maximised in the final quarter of 2021-22.
- Re-allocation of existing Housing Support Grant - £717,000
- New funding from WG to promote the independence of people with care and support needs or in an early intervention and prevention context to maintain people in their own homes - £444,000
- Successful WG Hardship claims for internal BCBC social care services - £411,000
- Maximisation of Winter Pressures Grant - £382,000
- Additional Integrated Care Fund (ICF) Funding - £271,000. (Multi Agency Permanence Support Service (MAPPS) - £162,000. A new residential 'Pop up' service that can be made operational at short notice to provide accommodation to a young person/young adult who, due to their complex needs, cannot be placed alongside others - £109,000).
- New funding within Prevention and Wellbeing services - £95,000

The most significant variances are:

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Adult Social Care	50,362	46,113	(4,249)	-8.4%
Prevention and Wellbeing	5,340	5,111	(229)	-4.3%
Children's Social Care	19,537	18,624	(913)	-4.7%

Adult Social Care

There is a net under spend of £4.249 million on the Adult Social Care budget. The most significant variances contributing to this under spend were:-

ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget
	£'000
Residential Care for Older People	(321)
Homecare	(1,842)
Direct Payments	(385)
Residential Care – Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment	(111)
Equipment and Adaptions	(358)
Supported and Other Accommodation – Mental Health	(206)
Residential Care - Mental Health	(251)
Assessment and Care Management	(473)

- Residential Care for Older People – the under spend of £321,000 can be attributed to external care home provision (£150,000) and BCBC managed care home provision (£171,000). External care homes have seen an increase to the average resident's contribution received in 2021-22 and reduced residential/nursing placements. All contributions are financially assessed in accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 but the average income received each year will vary in total depending on the financial position of the persons needing care during the financial year – e.g. if there are a small number of people who have savings or assets, and are paying their contribution in full or have a high contribution then this will increase the overall average. Secondly, whilst residential/nursing are recovering from their lowest vacancy rate of around 19% earlier in the pandemic (currently around 7.4%), increases are still at a slow rate, but improving month on month. Nursing placements have limited capacity due to nursing staff shortages. The BCBC Managed Residential Care Homes under spend is mainly due to successful claims to the WG Covid Hardship Fund.
- Homecare – at quarter 3 a projected over spend of £168,000 was reported within the homecare service in Adult Social Care which was due to an increase in the number of people receiving domiciliary care within a home setting or supported accommodation within Learning Disabilities and an increasing number of placements requiring complex packages of support within Mental Health Services.

Since quarter 3, significant amounts of grant funding have been maximised to offset these pressures – Social Care Pressures Grant (£1.348 million) and Housing Support Grant (£648,000).

- There is an under spend on Direct Payments of £385,000. As reported in quarter 3 this is mainly due to the one-off reimbursement from the previous provider. The local authority undertook a procurement exercise during 2021-22 which resulted in a change of provider for payroll/managed accounts services and advisor support as part of the Direct Payments service. Managed direct payment accounts are constantly under review and reimbursements actioned periodically in line with contract requirements where accounts are under spent due, for example, to under-utilisation of hours or no cover arrangements being required. These circumstances have been more prevalent during the pandemic, due primarily to Welsh Government restrictions. During quarter 3 a one-off transfer of reimbursements was actioned upon the cessation of the contract with the previous provider.
- Residential Care – Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment – the under spend of £111,000 is mainly due to a reduction in the number of packages in line with the current practice outcome focussed model. This budget area will be closely monitored with a view to determining whether the under spend is recurring, with potential re-alignment to other budgets facing projected over spends within Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment service areas in 2022-23.
- Equipment and Adaptions – this service area has seen a significant increase in spend on equipment due to the need to support individuals in line with Welsh Government's rehabilitation and recovery model. However, grant funding has been maximised to offset these pressures - Independence of People with Care and Support Needs funding (£444,000), Winter Pressures Grant (£235,000) and Social Care Workforce Grant (£80,000). Without this additional funding there would have been a £401,000 over spend and recurrent budget pressure in this service area.
- Supported and Other Accommodation – Mental Health – the under spend of £206,000 is primarily due to maximisation of Innovation Grant funding received in 2021-22 of £262,000.
- Residential Care Mental Health – the under spend of £251,000 is primarily due to a reduction in placements – there were 45 placements as at 31 March 2022 compared with 51 as at 31 March 2021. This is primarily due to alternative service solutions being provided that were more suitable for people and adaptable to Covid-19 circumstances. Close monitoring of this budget will be required in 2022-23, with a view to potential budget virements within Mental Health if these alternative solutions continue to prove beneficial. Considerable pressure on the overall Mental Health Budget is anticipated as a result of the medium to long term impact of the pandemic on individuals.
- Assessment and Care Management – there is an under spend of £473,000 across all service areas due to a continuing challenging recruitment environment for qualified social workers and maximisation of grant income to offset staffing costs. The position reflects grant funding from Winter Pressures (£31,000), Integrated Care Fund (ICF) (£210,000) and Social Care Recovery Grant (£48,000). Various recruitment activities have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts.

Prevention and Wellbeing

- There is an under spend of £229,000 in 2021-22 which has improved by £116,000 since quarter 3. This is primarily due to £21,000 being successfully claimed from the Covid loss of income fund since quarter 3 for dual use sites where facilities are managed for community use outside of school hours along with £95,000 from various grants - Local Authority Partnership Agreement (LAPA) £16,000, Play Sufficiency £34,000 and maximisation of grants from Sports Wales - £45,000.
- The Council received WG funding of £1.007 million in 2021-22 for the loss of income experienced by Halo in running the leisure services due to Covid-19. The financial impact of this will have to be closely monitored in the first half of 2022-23 as income is not projected to return to pre-pandemic levels for the first 2 quarters of 2022-23 as a minimum.

Children's Social Care

There is a net under spend of £913,000 on Children's Social Care which has improved from a projected over spend at quarter 3 of £505,000. Whilst there has been an increase in spend of £868,000 in targeted areas in quarter 4 to address service pressures (additional staff - £557,000, increased placement costs - £311,000), these have been offset by the Social Care Pressures grant. The underlying movement in quarter 3 is due to other new funding streams and maximisation of grant funding. The outturn includes re-allocation of Social Services Workforce Grant to Children's Services (£379,000), Residential Pop Up Grant (£109,000), ICF (£36,000), MAPPS (therapeutic behaviour funding) (£162,000), Housing Support Grant (£69,000), Covid Hardship (£46,000) and Social Care Recovery Funding (£669,000). Without the one-off grant funding streams, Children's Social care would have had an over spend of £848,000.

- The Care Experienced population at the end of 2020-21 was 390. Movements in year has resulted in 385 at quarter 1, 388 at quarter 2, 378 at quarter 3 and 374 at quarter 4.
- At the end of quarter 3 there were 11 children in independent residential placements (in and out of authority) and 3 in BCBC 39 week local authority education provision. At the end of quarter 4 the numbers have decreased in independent residential placements to 9 but stayed at 3 in BCBC local authority education provision. Going forward, it is hoped the Residential Pop Up Service will be utilised to prevent children going into high cost residential out of county placements. In addition, a high-cost one-to-one residential placement is due to cease in 2022-23, which will further reduce the pressure on this budget area.
- There is an under spend on Independent Fostering Agency placements of £310,000 and Fostering of £365,000. This is due to alternative placement options being utilised, including In-House residential provision and Special Guardianship Orders. These budgets will be monitored closely in 2022-23 and budgets vired as appropriate within Children's Services.
- A key piece of Bridgend's Care Experienced Children's strategy action plan is to increase the revocation of care orders for children placed with relatives/ friends or parents, increase the number of care order discharges, and increase the use of alternative orders such as Special Guardianship Orders. A key part of this strategy is the utilisation of Reunification Workers, funded via Regional Funding in 2021-22, which will continue into 2022-23. The service will continue with the initiatives and

actions in line with the services key aim to reduce the number of children placed within the Looked After system as required in the Children’s Social Care Strategic Plan 2022-25.

- Successful claims of £67,000 from the WG Covid-19 Hardship fund have been made since quarter 3 along with additional Housing Support Grant of £64,000.
- Commissioning and Social Work – there is an under spend of £133,000, however this includes Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers Grant funding of £103,000. This is a Home Office funded initiative which is confirmed on a year by year basis, and therefore may not be recurring in 2022-23.
- An overall Budget Pressure of £1.026 million was approved in February by Council as part of the MTFs 2022-23 to 2025-26 to mitigate the workforce pressure being experienced in Children’s Services.

4.3.3 Communities Directorate

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 was £28.654 million and the actual outturn was £28.456 million following draw down of £1.884 million from earmarked reserves, resulting in an under spend of £198,000. The outturn has improved since the projected over spend at quarter 3 of £90,000 primarily due to successful claims from the WG Hardship fund of £240,000 in the final quarter.

The main variances are:

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE	Net Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Development Control	(223)	26	249	-111.7%
Policy and Development	(275)	(30)	245	-89.1%
Waste Disposal and Collection	9,004	9,197	193	2.1%
Highways	7,266	6,878	(388)	-5.3%
Fleet Services	16	381	365	2281.3%
Traffic and Transport	747	418	(329)	-44.0%
Engineering Services	90	(98)	(188)	-208.9%
Corporate Landlord	2,825	3,480	655	23.2%
Public Realm	1,036	370	(666)	-64.3%

Development Control

- The over spend in Development Control of £249,000 is primarily due to a downturn in planning application income. Fee income is subject to considerable fluctuations between years, depending on number and types of applications. For example in 2020-21 the service generated a surplus of £14,000.

Policy and Development

- The over spend of £245,000 within the Policy and Development Section is due to a shortfall in income linked directly to the amount of Section 38 fees received. These fees are charged to developers and relate to assessments and inspection of new street works. Due to the nature of Section 38 fees, income can be subject to considerable fluctuations between years depending on number and type of applications.

Waste Disposal and Collection

- There is an over spend of £193,000 on the Waste Disposal and Collection budget. £60,000 of this is due to the delay in the achievement of COM 2 - Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at the existing site. The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in 2022-23, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2023-24.
- The balance of the over spend is due to continued increased tonnages of residual waste being experienced by the service. Tonnages increased in 2020-21, primarily due to lockdowns and more residents working from home in general and this trend continued into 2021-22. The figures include successful claims of £267,161 from the WG Hardship fund, albeit funding was reduced to 50% of the increased costs for the second half of 2021-22. A budget pressure of £387,000 was approved by Council in February 2022 to mitigate the increased disposal costs due both to an increase in the number of households in the borough and lifestyle changes due to the pandemic – more people working from home and hence producing more domestic waste as a result.

Highways

- There is a net under spend on Highways of £388,000 which is made up of an under spend of £271,000 on Street lighting energy, an under spend of £364,000 on the Highways DSO budget, offset by expenditure on highways maintenance borne by the directorate.
- Street lighting energy - due to a change in energy providers in 2021-22, the kilowatt per hour charge decreased by 7% which, based specifically on the energy budget for street lighting, led to a reduction in costs of circa £63,000. In addition, there is an under spend of £73,000 due to financial profiling of the annual loan repayments to Salix - the LED replacement programme was funded through Salix Finance who provide interest-free government funding to the public sector to improve energy efficiency. The LED replacement programme has generated the balance of the saving due to reduced energy consumption. This budget area will be closely monitored throughout 2022-23 especially in light of the high inflationary uplifts currently being experienced in the energy market, to determine the element of under spend that is recurring, with potential re-alignment to other budgets facing projected over spends within the Communities Directorate in 2022-23. The project demonstrates a successful outcome of an invest to save programme within the Council.
- Highways Services DSO - is primarily due to members of staff working on, and hence charging their time to, the SALIX capital scheme to enable the replacement of street lighting with new energy efficient LED units. Whilst the scheme was anticipated to be completed in quarter 2 of 2021-22 it was extended by SALIX to the end of March 2022 to maximise the budget on LED/energy saving works. This is not a recurring saving as the SALIX Scheme has now been completed.

Fleet Services

- There is a £365,000 over spend on Fleet services. Whilst the service underwent a review in 2019-20 which resulted in an increase to charge out rates to recover fixed costs, the pandemic impacted on productivity rates, primarily due to social distancing requirements in the workplace. Whilst the outturn for Fleet Services includes £24,000 claimed for Fleet Services from the WG Loss of Income fund due to loss of external income, internal recharges impacted by Covid were not eligible to be claimed from the WG Hardship fund. Reduced spend will have been incurred on Hire and Servicing budgets across the service departments and included in the year end positions for service areas.

Traffic and Transport

- There is an under spend of £329,000 within Traffic and Transport Services. Parking Services is showing an under spend of £154,000. This is primarily due to better than forecast levels of income received in some car parks. This additional income is contributing to running parking services and pressures within the overall transport budget, e.g. Fleet services, shop mobility.
- There is an under spend within Traffic Management and Road Safety of £104,000. This budget area had an allocation from the Public Realm fund of £80,000 to progress junction traffic assessments. The work was delayed and is now planned to take place in 2022-23, with additional external funding confirmed to widen the assessment brief.
- The remainder of the under spend relates to staff vacancies and maximisation of grant funding streams.

Engineering Services

- The under spend of £188,000 within Engineering Services is primarily due to an increase in the level of fee earning jobs (grant funded/non grant funded projects) and the differing chargeable rates allowed on the schemes.

Corporate Landlord

- There is an over spend of £655,000 against Corporate Landlord for 2021-22. The outturn position includes £175,000 in support from the Covid-19 Recovery Fund towards a phased return to historic rental income levels for BCBC owned premises following the rental holiday periods supported during the pandemic.
- There are other shortfalls in income generated from properties run by the Council that are not necessarily Covid-19 related but relate to occupancy shortfall. These include:-

Property	Income Shortfall	Narrative
Science Park	£30,000	Shortfall anticipated to be one-off in 2021-22
Innovation Centre	£124,000	During the pandemic the Innovation Centre has been used to store PPE and relocate furniture from Ravens court to facilitate the vaccination centre being located there. The strategy for the asset is under review to reduce the income shortfall in the longer term.
Bridgend Market	£256,000	A new Bridgend Market strategy is being developed to reduce the income shortfall in the longer term.

- The Corporate Landlord service area has also incurred additional one-off Health and Safety demolition costs of £104,000 which are reflected in the outturn position.

Public Realm Infrastructure

- CCMB approved a list of schemes to be funded from this budget in 2021-22, with the majority of schemes being completed. A small number of schemes were impacted by the pandemic, either through an unanticipated delay to the commencement date or having to go to out to re-tender. These projects have been re-profiled to be completed in 2022-23.

4.3.4 **Chief Executive's**

The net budget for the Directorate for 2021-22 was £21.801 million and the actual outturn was £18.731 million following draw down of £774,000 from earmarked reserves, resulting in an under spend of £3.070 million. The projected under spend at quarter 3 was an under spend of £2.088 million. However, the Directorate has been successful in claiming £418,000 from the WG Hardship Fund since quarter 3, has had a rebate of £129,329 from the Regional Internal Audit Service and has re-allocated existing grants of £354,000.

The most significant variances are:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	Net Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Housing & Homelessness	3,375	821	(2,554)	-75.7%
Finance	3,761	2,957	(804)	-21.4%
ICT	3,964	4,133	169	4.3%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	4,960	5,530	570	11.5%
Partnerships	2,086	1,658	(428)	-20.5%

Housing & Homelessness

- Budget growth of £2.192 million was approved by Council as part of the MTFS budget setting process in February 2021 to continue the commitment to focus support for homeless individuals, providing them with accommodation. The budget was approved prior to confirmation from WG that the Covid Hardship Fund was to be extended for the first six months of 2021-22, and later in the year, confirmed that it would be in place for the remainder of 2021-22. Successful claims to the WG Hardship fund of £2.794 million significantly supported these services throughout 2021-22 and make up the majority of the under spend. £178,000 was successfully claimed since quarter 3 and has improved the under spend from the £2.294 million projected at quarter 3.
- The Council has seen a significant increase in the provision of temporary accommodation. At quarter 4, the service is providing temporary accommodation for 309 individuals, compared with 269 individuals in temporary accommodation in March 2021.

Finance

- The improvement from the quarter 3 projected year-end position of an under spend of £118,000 is primarily due to successful claims from the WG Hardship Fund for the administration of the Winter Fuel and Self Isolation Payment Schemes (£240,000). There was also a £162,000 improvement in relation to court cost income as there was a one-off reimbursement of excess court costs charged by the courts over a period of years of £84,000 and a general recovery of court cost income due to additional court hearings taking place in 2021-22. Finally, there was a rebate of £129,329 from the Regional Internal Audit Service (RIAS) in respect of a reduced number of audit days received in the 2020-21 financial year as a result of staff vacancies within the service. The restructure of the RIAS was completed in 2021-22 and the service are actively recruiting to fill, or have already filled, vacant posts therefore this saving will not be recurring in 2022-23.

ICT

- There is a net over spend of £169,000 across ICT budgets. This was largely due to the costs of implementing the Hwb infrastructure works (a centrally managed WIFI solution) at all the Primary, Secondary and Special Schools in Bridgend, which exceeded the grant allocation provided by WG by £278,000. This was mainly due to the fact that the grant assumed an average cost per school for infrastructure works which was insufficient to ensure infrastructure of equitable quality was provided across all schools in Bridgend. Unforeseen costs arose based on specific circumstances in schools – e.g installation across older school sites where there was no previous infrastructure, and this shortfall has been funded by a revenue contribution from ICT services. This has been offset by a £100,000 under spend on staff budgets due to vacancies. Most of these vacancies have now successfully been filled, so this under spend will not be recurring in 2022-23.
- Additional costs of £30,000 were also incurred on postage budgets as a consequence of providing support for staff working from home. A budget pressure of £30,000 was approved by Council in February 2022 to mitigate the increased costs incurred as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting change in work practices to accommodate this scenario.

Legal, Democratic & Regulatory

- There is over spend of £570,000 within Legal, Democratic and Regulatory services. This is primarily due to the over spend of £591,000 on childcare legal costs. There has been an unprecedented increase in public and private law childcare cases. The volume has increased considerably since the start of the pandemic, along with an increase in volume of complex cases that have required Senior Counsel.
- The over spend has been mitigated by a rebate of £102,000 relating to Shared Regulatory Services as service level delivery has been impacted by the pandemic resulting in an under spend.
- Included in the final figures are successful claims of £88,000 from the WG Loss of Income fund to support lower levels of income being experienced for licencing fees and public health fees.

Partnerships

- This service area includes Transformation, Partnerships and Customer Services and Engagement. The under spend of £428,000 relates primarily to maximisation of Housing Support Grant - £354,000 and is therefore not a recurring under spend for 2022-23. The balance is due to staff vacancies. Various recruitment activities have been actioned in order to fill vacant posts, but appointments have been affected by Covid-19 and challenging recruitment market conditions.

4.3.5 Council Wide budgets

This section includes budgets, provisions and services which are Council wide, and not managed by an individual directorate. The budget for 2021-22 was £44.970 million and the actual outturn was £37.540 million, resulting in an under spend of £7.430 million.

The most significant variances were:-

COUNCIL WIDE BUDGETS	Net Budget	Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Capital Financing	7,329	8,447	1,118	15.3%
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	15,654	15,239	(415)	-2.7%
Insurance Premiums	1,363	2,840	1,477	108.4%
Repairs and Maintenance	505	37	(469)	-92.7%
Other Council Wide Budgets	11,241	2,094	(9,147)	-81.4%

Capital Financing

- The over spend of £1.118 million on capital financing costs is due to utilising the budget in 2021-22 to pay off historic prudential borrowing costs, where feasible, which will have a long term revenue cost saving benefit for the Council.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- There is an under spend of £415,000 on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. This is a demand led budget and take-up is difficult to predict with £400,000 vired from the central price inflation budget in anticipation of increased demand in 2022-23. The take up has remained similar to 2021-22 when the gross spend in this budget area was £15.299 million. The budget will be closely monitored in 2022-23 as it is likely that there will be an additional call on the council tax reduction scheme in view of the impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis on personal financial circumstances and a likely increase in the number of benefit claimants.

Insurance Premiums

- There is an over spend of £1.477 million on the insurance premium budget. The insurance budget has experienced an increase in the level of claims in 2021-22 of 56% compared with 2020-21. It is anticipated that this is a one-off pressure due to the first year of the Covid pandemic experiencing an unusually low claim value (2020-21 saw an under spend on the insurance budget of £1.314 million). The insurance budget will be monitored closely in 2022-23 and any early indication of

any ongoing significant changes will be reported to Cabinet through the quarterly budget monitoring reports.

Repairs and Maintenance

- There is an under spend of £469,000 which is as a result of slippage on some minor works schemes and feasibility studies, which will now be completed in 2022-23. An earmarked reserve has been established to meet these costs in the next financial year.

Other Council wide Budgets

- Other Council wide budgets includes funding for pay, price and pension increases along with funding to deal with unexpected costs unforeseen when the budget was set. There is a net under spend of £9.147 million on other council wide budgets. The main areas contributing to this under spend are:-
 - When the MTFS was approved in February 2021, the pay increases for NJC, JNC employees, Soulbury and teachers had not been finalised. Provision was made in the budget based on previous years' increases with an element of contingency built in. The agreed pay awards were lower than anticipated. Even a variance of 1% on the pay settlement for NJC staff alone can result in a swing of required funding of over £1 million per annum.
 - Inflation rates have fluctuated since the budget was set - CPI was 0.7% in February 2021, had increased to 3.2% in August, 5.1% in November increasing further to 7% in the 12 months to March 2022. The majority of the budget estimated for price inflation is retained centrally within Council wide budgets and allocated to directorates/ schools as further information is known about specific contractual price increases e.g. for energy. Part of the under spend relates to projected reductions in requirements to allocate price budgets to service areas in-year as the Council has not seen the estimated increases in CPI impact on contractual arrangements to date in 2021-22. However, given the uncertainty around Brexit and Covid-19 and the possible economic fallout arising from these, along with the rising energy and supply costs it is likely that the provision set aside in the MTFS for 2022-23 will need to be supplemented by any funding not committed from the council wide budgets this financial year.
 - The Covid-19 pandemic has also impacted on projected spend on other Council wide budgets, for example, there has been reduced spend on feasibility as projects have been delayed and reduced corporate support required to enable restructures to be undertaken as these have also been delayed by the pandemic.

4.4 Review of Earmarked Reserves

4.4.1 The Council is required to maintain adequate financial reserves to meet the needs of the organisation. The MTFs includes the Council's Reserves and Balances Protocol which sets out how the Council will determine and review the level of its Council Fund balance and earmarked reserves. During 2021-22 Directorates drew down funding from specific earmarked reserves and these were reported to Cabinet through the quarterly monitoring reports. The final draw down from reserves was £8.995 million and is summarised in Table 7 below. A more detailed review of draw-down of reserves is outlined in **Appendix 4**.

Table 7 – Draw Down from Earmarked Reserves during 2021-22

	Draw down from Earmarked Reserves 2021-22
	£'000
Education & Family Support	1,054
Social Services & Wellbeing	48
Communities	1,884
Chief Executives	774
Corporate/Equalisation	5,235
Total	8,995

4.4.2 The year end review also examined:-

- commitments against existing reserves and whether these were still valid;
- earmarked reserve requests from Directorates as a result of emerging issues and;
- emerging risks for the Council as a whole.

Table 8 below details the creation of new earmarked reserves, increases to existing earmarked reserves and amounts that have been unwound from reserves. The net additions to reserves for the whole of 2021-22 is £32.852 million which includes the £4.004 million increase to School Balances set out in paragraph 4.3.1, along with £11.122 million to fund new capital projects. The final column shows that there have been net additions of £17.240 million in the last quarter of the financial year.

Table 8 – Net appropriation to/from Earmarked Reserves 2021-22

	Unwound 2021-22 £'000	Net Additions to Reserves 2021-22 £'000	TOTAL £'000	Increase/ (Decrease) Qtr 4 only £'000
Corporate Reserves:				
Education & Family Support	(6)	1,309	1,303	1,029
Social Services & Wellbeing	-	-	-	(17)
Communities	(284)	(451)	(735)	(1,019)
Chief Executives	-	10,100	10,100	2,961
Non-Directorate	(1,413)	2,937	1,524	(2,559)
Total Corporate Reserves	(1,703)	13,895	12,192	395
Directorate Earmarked Reserves:				
Education & Family Support	(12)	406	394	369
Social Services & Wellbeing	(42)	5,563	5,521	5,655
Communities	(186)	2,050	1,864	1,410
Chief Executives	(1,000)	2,748	1,748	1,558
Total Directorate Reserves	(1,240)	10,767	9,527	8,992
Equalisation & Grant Earmarked Reserves:				
Education & Family Support	-	2,160	2,160	2,165
Social Services & Wellbeing	-	(243)	(243)	458
Communities	-	1,806	1,806	1,453
Chief Executives	-	(393)	(393)	62
Non-Directorate		856	856	(289)
Total Equalisation & Grant Reserves	-	4,186	4,186	3,849
School Balances	-	4,004	4,004	4,004
TOTAL RESERVES	(2,943)	32,852	29,909	17,240

4.4.3 A full breakdown of the total movement on earmarked reserves at 31st March 2022 is provided in **Appendix 4**. Table 9 below summarises the final position on all useable reserves for the year.

Table 9 – Summary of Movement on Earmarked Reserves 2021-22

Opening Balance 1 April 2021 £'000	Reserve	Movement at Quarter 4		Closing Balance 31 March 2022 £'000
		Additions/ Reclassification £'000	Drawdown £'000	
9,772	Council Fund Balance	331	-	10,103
52,620	Corporate Reserves	13,895	(7,321)	59,194
15,423	Directorate Reserves	10,767	(2,125)	24,065
6,315	Equalisation & Grant Reserves	4,186	(2,492)	8,009
8,490	School Balances	4,004	-	12,494
82,848	Total Earmarked Reserves	32,852	(11,938)	103,762
92,620	Total Reserves	33,183	(11,938)	113,865

4.4.4 In terms of financial reserves, the Council Fund balance represents 3.35% of the net revenue budget for 2021-22, or 5.12% of the net revenue budget, excluding schools. This aligns with MTFs Principle 9 which states that:-

The Council Fund balance should be set at a prudent but not excessive level. This will normally be maintained at a level of 5% of the Council's net budget, excluding schools.

4.4.5 The main addition in quarter 4 highlighted in Table 8 is a £5.655 million addition to the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. As noted in 4.1.10, the Directorate received a significant amount of one-off funding from WG with £2.221 million from the Welsh Government Social Care Pressures Grant notified in February 2022. The earmarked reserves will enable continuation of support with social care pressures from over spends and winter pressures in 2022-23.

4.4.6 As noted in 4.4.2 there have been additions to the Capital Programme Contribution earmarked reserves of £11.122 million in 2021-22. The Capital Programme Contribution reserve was established to avoid the Council needing to borrow, which would result in consequential borrowing costs on the revenue budget, and will be used to fund schemes within the capital programme, both current and future capital pressures. The reserve supplements the funding we receive from WG and via capital receipts to fund our capital programme. Currently we have a balance of £40.195 million of funding in this reserve which constitutes 38.65% of our overall earmarked reserves balance. This will be used to fund a wide range of schemes in the capital programme.

4.4.7 The School balances reserve increased significantly from £8.490 million at the end of 2020-21 to £12.494 million at the end of 2021-22 due primarily to additional school grant funding announced late in 2021-22.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 As required by section 3 (budgetary control) of the Financial Procedure Rules; Chief Officers in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member are expected to manage their services within the approved cash limited budget and to provide the Chief Finance Officer with such information as is required to facilitate and monitor budgetary control.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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

- 7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. As the report is for information it is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 These are reflected in the body of the report.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the revenue outturn position for 2021-22
- recommend that Council approve the virements between £100,000 and £500,000 as outlined in paragraph 4.1.15

Carys Lord
Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
June 2022

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Background documents: Individual Directorate Monitoring Reports

PRIOR YEAR BUDGET REDUCTIONS CARRIED FORWARD INTO 2021-22

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Revised RAG £000	Total amount of saving achieved in 2021-22 £000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed Action in 2022-23 to achieve
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RAG STATUS KEY	
RED	Not likely to be achieved at all in this financial year or less than 25%.
AMBER	Reduction not likely to be achieved in full in financial year but greater than 25%
GREEN	Reduction likely to be achieved in full

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

EFS1 (2017-18)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		20		20	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a one-off Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 in February 2022. No further action required.
EFS2 (2017-18)	School transport route efficiencies.		40		40	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 in February 2022. No further action required.
EFS1 (2018-19)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		67		67	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 in February 2022. No further action required.
EFS27 (2018-19)	Review arrangements for Special Schools Home to School Transport with a view to achieving efficiency savings		75		75	A Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 in February 2022. No further action required.
EFS 1 (2019-20)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		67		67	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 in February 2022. No further action required.
EFS 1 (2020-21)	Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel.		75		75	Cabinet deferred the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learning Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government. In the meantime, a Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-22 to 2024-25 in February 2021 to support the increased costs of Home to School Transport and the increased provision of taxis and minibuses for those pupils with additional learning needs.	A Budget Pressure was approved by Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26 in February 2022. No further action required.
Total Education & Family Support Directorate			344		344		

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal		Original Reduction and RAG £000	Revised RAG £000	Total amount of saving achieved in 2021-22 £000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed Action in 2022-23 to achieve
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SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

SSW19	Further review of HALO partnership contract, including the Council taking over the management and payment of utility bills currently incurred by HALO. This will result in VAT efficiencies for HALO and contribute towards the reduction in the management fee		40		40	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
SSW20	Identify further savings from library and cultural facilities and related services including reviewing the numbers of facilities (libraries, community centres) and also reductions in services or opening hours.		70		70	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
SSW27	Increase income generation from mobile response and telecare charging		75		75	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
	Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate		185		185		

COMMUNITIES

COM19 (2017-18)	Permitting Scheme road works net of existing income of £95,000		100		0	The final business case was submitted to WG in quarter 3 of 2021-22. The service area have linked in on several occasions with WG who are required to provide approval for the scheme to progress before steps can be taken towards implementation. To date no official response has been received.	Whilst the Highways network budget area is committed to stay within budget through the implementation phase it is recognised that having to underwrite this saving has put pressure on the service by having to cut back maintenance operations. If a response is not forthcoming from WG in the first quarter of 2022-23, the Communities Directorate will identify alternative budget reduction proposals.
COM 4 (2019-20)	Review of School Crossing Patrol service in line with GB standards		10		10	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
COM 26 (2019-20)	Investigate the introduction of charging to users of the Shopmobility facility in Bridgend Town Centre to reduce/remove the current level of subsidy		5		5	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
COM 52 (2019-20)	Reductions to the budget for the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) to be achieved through the current procurement being undertaken with Neath Port Talbot CBC for the provision of new operator arrangements for the MREC facility at Crumlyn Burrows		1,300		1,300	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
COM 55 (2019-20)	Increase charge for Green Waste Service from £28.30 per household to £38.30		25		25	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
COM 26 (2020-21)	Investigate the introduction of charging to users of the Shopmobility facility in Bridgend Town Centre to reduce/remove the current level of subsidy		18		18	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
COM51	The savings will be delivered in a number of ways including operational efficiencies, streamlined business processes, IT investment, improved procurement and contract management, and some deletions of vacant posts.		350		350	Service area has identified efficiencies to meet the shortfall in 2021-22 with budget re-alignment taken place as part of the budget setting process for 2022-23	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
COM 55 (2020-21)	Increase charge for Green Waste Service from £28.30 per household to £38.30		25		25	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
COM96	WG National AHP Waste Programme - capital contribution from WG towards 7.5 tonne vehicle to collect AHP recycling		14		14	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
	Total Communities Directorate		1,847		1,747		
GRAND TOTAL OUTSTANDING REDUCTIONS			2,376		2,276		
REDUCTIONS SHORTFALL					100		

MONITORING OF 2021-22 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2021-22 £'000	Value of Saving Achieved 2021-22 £'000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed action in 2022-23 to achieve
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Page 57

EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT
CENTRAL EDUCATION & FAMILY SUPPORT

EFS2	Removal of a vacant post within Cognition and Learning Team	Potential reduction in support for a vulnerable group, however it is anticipated that this has been mitigated by a change in working practices by the team as a result of the ALN reform	61	61	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
EFS3	Reconfiguration of the team providing support to Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners to create a more efficient service	Whilst the impact is more on the management and leadership of the team, this may result in some slight reduction in the service offered to this vulnerable group but there will still be a service offering support	50	50	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
EFS4	Reduction in Central South Consortium (CSC) Budget of 1%	Reduction is achievable within the overall CSC budget and will be mainly achieved through efficiency savings	5	5	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
Total Education and Family Support			116	116		

SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

SSW1	Remodelling day service provision for older people and learning disability services	Full review of services which could mean alternative methods of service delivery	90	90	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
SSW2	Across Adults and Children's services embed and consolidate outcome focussed practice and commissioning for all service areas	This will support people to live their lives and will require our systems to be adapted to support the changes in practice. There will be a shift to embed outcome focussed practice which will have a focus on targeted prevention initiatives and by developing collaborative, long term relationships with providers as well as maximising the opportunities of the use of technology. this will be underpinned by planning accommodation, care and support together and listening to people who are experts in their own lives and acting upon what will make a difference.	225	225	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
Total Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate			315	315		

MONITORING OF 2021-22 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2021-22 £'000	Value of Saving Achieved 2021-22 £'000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed action in 2022-23 to achieve
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Page 50

COMMUNITIES

COM1	Transfer of pitches/pavilions through Community Asset Transfer. Increased charges for end-users to achieve full cost recovery for pitches/pavilions that do not transfer. Reduction of grass cut areas and areas within maintained parkland.	The savings identified will see the removal of the remaining seasonal operatives' budget with corresponding cuts to plant, equipment and materials. Where asset transfers occur the respective club (rugby, football, bowls and cricket etc) will be expected to fully fund the ongoing maintenance of the asset. The remaining parks budget will be used to maintain the Council's main parks, including children's play areas, highway grass cutting which is safety related, and to secure the ongoing site management and safety of the sites that will remain in Council ownership. the level of funding will also dictate the standard of open space maintenance and may result in a further reduction of grass cut areas if the proposed savings are not forthcoming through the asset transfer process.	300	300	The full saving in 2021-22 has been achieved as the seasonal operative budget has been capped at a level to ensure the Parks and Playing Fields expenditure does not exceed available budget. Successful CAT transfers have taken place to date, and will continue to be progressed by the CAT Officer.	In addition to the Community Asset Transfers already completed, the Corporate Landlord and Legal Services have, or are in the process of, issuing licences to sports clubs to undertake the day to day management of playing surfaces before the commencement of the new season under an initial License to Use as the first stage of CAT while long-term leases for whole sites are being finalised. Playing Field and Green Spaces being maintained by Town and Community Councils are also progressing. The Seasonal operative budget continues will continue to be capped as further CAT transfers take place.
COM2	Re-location of Community Recycling Centre from Tythegston to Pyle resulting in cessation of lease payments at existing site	Construction of the new site will mean that this saving will not be effective until 2021/22	60	0	The new site in Pyle is anticipated to open in 2022-23, with both sites being maintained until the new site is fully operational, therefore the saving will not be achieved in full until 2023-24.	The saving will be met through alternative one off efficiencies in 2022-23 to deliver a balanced budget position.
COM5	The lease for Sunnyside House expires on 31/03/21 - savings will be made from this date.	No impact on service provision	309	309	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
COM6	One off capital payment for the fire suppression system required at Tondy. Revenue cost of system is included in the annual contract price with Kier.	Minimal impact. The fire system will be provided and if paid from the Capital Asset Management Fund as opposed to the revenue budget, the £60K per annum can be saved.	60	60	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
COM7	WG National AHP Waste Programme - capital contribution from WG towards 7.5 tonne vehicle to collect AHP recycling	A Contract Variation will be progressed with Kier to achieve the saving levels proposed based on a reduction in costs in relation to the current AHP vehicle that is leased.	19	14	New vehicle purchased part-way through 2021-22 therefore only partial saving achieved.	None required - saving will be made in full in 2022-23
COM8	Reduction to energy budget for Street Lighting - savings due to replacement with more efficient LED	Reduction will have limited impact	75	75	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
Total Communities Directorate			823	758		



MONITORING OF 2021-22 BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ref.	Budget Reduction Proposal	Impact, including on 5 Ways of Working as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act	Budget Reductions 2021-22 £'000	Value of Saving Achieved 2021-22 £'000	Reason why not achieved	Proposed action in 2022-23 to achieve
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CHIEF EXECUTIVES

CEX1	Reduction of the ICT Telephony Budget	No impact on the communications infrastructure and maintenance	41	41	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
CEX2	Reduction of HR Staffing Budget	Reduction of a post and increased workload. Where possible savings will be made from vacant posts.	24	24	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
CEX3	Reduction of Finance staffing budgets	Reduction in capacity across the finance service following proposed restructure, which could impact on time taken to undertake functions. Will endeavour to make savings from vacant posts where possible	65	65	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
Total Chief Executive's Directorate			130	130		

CORPORATE / COUNCIL WIDE

CWD1	Reduction in insurance budget through on-going efficiencies in managing the insurance contract.	No impact as favourable insurance contract renewals have been achieved, however no mitigation available for potential increases to premiums in future years.	75	75	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
CWD2	Savings on building maintenance prudential borrowing budget	No impact - capital financing budget was utilised in 2019-20 to pay off prudential borrowing associated with Minor Works with a long term cost saving benefit for the Council.	120	120	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
CWD3	Reduce provision made for pay and prices following Chancellor's announcement of pay freeze, and lower than anticipated current inflation rate.	Impact will need to be kept under review, and may be risk depending on final pay awards agreed and inflation increases during the year.	181	181	Saving achieved in full in 2021-22	None required - saving made in full in 2021-22
Total Corporate / Council Wide			376	376		

GRAND TOTAL REDUCTIONS	1,760	1,695
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TOTAL BUDGET REDUCTION REQUIREMENT	1,760	1,760
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REDUCTION SHORTFALL	0	65
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740	1,681
795	19
225	60
1,760	1,760

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL	Budget 2021-22			Actual Outturn	Actual Variance Over/(under) budget	% Variance
	Expenditure Budget	Income Budget	Net Budget			
	£000	£000	£000			
EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT						
School Delegated Budgets	125,577	(21,302)	104,275	104,275	-	0.0%
Learning	10,229	(2,398)	7,831	7,946	115	1.5%
Strategic Partnerships & Comm	25,938	(10,139)	15,799	15,682	(117)	-0.7%
Health and Safety	389	(2)	387	216	(171)	-44.1%
TOTAL EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT	162,133	(33,841)	128,292	128,119	(173)	-0.1%
SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING						
Adult Social Care	69,462	(19,100)	50,362	46,113	(4,249)	-8.4%
Prevention and Wellbeing	6,170	(830)	5,340	5,111	(229)	-4.3%
Childrens Social Care	20,621	(1,084)	19,537	18,624	(913)	-4.7%
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING	96,253	(21,014)	75,239	69,848	(5,391)	-7.2%
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE						
Planning & Development Services	2,092	(1,523)	569	1,045	476	83.7%
Strategic Regeneration	2,286	(597)	1,689	1,554	(135)	-8.0%
Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability	8,100	(6,894)	1,206	1,206	-	0.0%
Cleaner Streets and Waste Management	12,498	(1,585)	10,913	10,992	79	0.7%
Highways and Green Spaces	22,914	(11,734)	11,180	9,913	(1,267)	-11.3%
Director and Head of Operations - Communities	272	-	272	266	(6)	-2.2%
Corporate Landlord	14,915	(12,090)	2,825	3,480	655	23.2%
TOTAL COMMUNITIES	63,077	(34,423)	28,654	28,456	(198)	-0.7%
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S						
Chief Executive Unit	592	-	592	532	(60)	-10.1%
Finance	46,733	(42,972)	3,761	2,957	(804)	-21.4%
HR/OD	2,283	(336)	1,947	1,933	(14)	-0.7%
Partnerships	2,932	(846)	2,086	1,658	(428)	-20.5%
Legal, Democratic & Regulatory	5,938	(978)	4,960	5,530	570	11.5%
Elections	155	(49)	106	134	28	26.4%
ICT	5,090	(1,126)	3,964	4,133	169	4.3%
Housing & Homelessness	10,794	(7,419)	3,375	821	(2,554)	-75.7%
Business Support	1,121	(111)	1,010	1,033	23	2.3%
TOTAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S	75,638	(53,837)	21,801	18,731	(3,070)	-14.1%
TOTAL DIRECTORATE BUDGETS						
	397,101	(143,115)	253,986	245,154	(8,832)	-3.5%
Council Wide Budgets						
	45,940	(970)	44,970	37,540	(7,430)	-16.5%
Accrued Council Tax Income				(2,463)	(2,463)	0.0%
Appropriations to Earmarked Reserves	2,703	-	2,703	21,097	18,394	0.0%
Transfer to Council Fund				331	331	0.0%
NET BRIDGEND CBC	445,744	(144,085)	301,659	301,659	0	0.0%

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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TOTAL MOVEMENT ON EARMARKED RESERVES AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

Opening Balance 01 Apr 21	Reserve	Movement as at 31 March 2022		Closing Balance 31 Mar 22
		Net Additions/ Reclassification	Draw-down/ unwound	
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
	Corporate Reserves:			
1,289	Asset Management Plan	105	(482)	912
2,838	Building Maintenance Reserve	(685)	(233)	1,920
1,273	Capital Asset Management & Asbestos Fund	209	(426)	1,056
667	Capital Feasibility Fund	333	(355)	645
28,920	Capital Programme Contribution	11,122	(17)	40,025
1,424	Change Management	-	(312)	1,112
1,626	Digital Transformation, ICT & Finance Systems	-	(196)	1,430
800	Economic and Future Resilience Fund	-	-	800
2,160	Insurance Reserve	-	-	2,160
5,395	Major Claims Reserve	2,654	(3,900)	4,149
906	MTFS Budget Contingency	-	-	906
35	Property Disposal Strategy	157	-	192
4,993	Service Reconfiguration	-	(1,400)	3,593
294	Welfare Reform Bill	-	-	294
52,620	Total Corporate Reserves	13,895	(7,321)	59,194
	Directorate Reserves:			
5,199	City Deal Reserve	771	-	5,970
7,370	Directorate Issues	9,996	(2,026)	15,340
932	Highways Asset Management Reserve	-	(27)	905
578	Looked After Children	-	-	578
103	Porthcawl Regeneration	-	-	103
196	Property Reserve	-	(16)	180
11	Safe Routes to Schools	-	-	11
365	School Projects Reserve	-	(56)	309
669	Wellbeing Projects	-	-	669
15,423	Total Directorate Reserves	10,767	(2,125)	24,065
	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:			
44	Building Control Reserve	-	(19)	25
82	Civil Parking Enforcement	-	(32)	50
68	Election Costs	150	(90)	128
404	HWB Schools Infrastructure	401	(13)	792
4,699	IFRS Grants	2,656	(1,467)	5,888
153	Legal Fees	-	-	153
173	Local Development Plan	-	(15)	158
692	Special Regeneration Fund	123	-	815
-	Loss of income	856	(856)	-
6,315	Equalisation & Grant Reserves:	4,186	(2,492)	8,009
8,490	School Balances	4,004	-	12,494
82,848	TOTAL RESERVES	32,852	(11,938)	103,762

NB: Differences due to rounding of £000's

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek agreement from Cabinet to present a report to Council for approval for a revised capital programme for 2021-22 to 2031-32 (**Appendix A**).

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**:-

1. **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 for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy 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.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring 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.

- 2.2 Capital investment in the Council's assets is a key factor in meeting the Council's well-being objectives as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 as amended, contain detailed provisions for the capital finance and accounting controls, including the rules on the use of capital receipts and what is to be treated as capital expenditure. They modify accounting practice in various ways to prevent adverse impacts on authorities' revenue resources.

- 3.2 As well as the legislation, the Council manages its Treasury Management and Capital activities in accordance with the following associated guidance:-

- The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice

- CIPFA's The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities
- Welsh Government (WG) revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments

3.3 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Local Authorities to have in place a Capital Strategy which demonstrates that the Authority takes capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with service objectives and properly takes account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, sustainability and affordability. To demonstrate that the Council has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out a number of Indicators that must be set and monitored each year. The Council's Capital Strategy, incorporating the Prudential Indicators for 2022-23, was approved by Council on 23 February 2022.

3.4 On 23 February 2022, Council also approved a capital programme covering the period 2021-22 to 2031-32 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Since then a review has been undertaken of available capital resources, taking into consideration uncommitted funding in the capital programme, the anticipated year end revenue position for 2021-22, the position on earmarked reserves and revenue budgets available for 2022-23.

3.5 As a result, a number of new capital schemes have been proposed by Directorates, which have undergone rigorous review and challenge by members of Corporate Management Board, before being submitted for inclusion in the capital programme.

3.6 This report is only seeking approval for the inclusion of new schemes within the capital programme that was approved by Council in February 2022. In July 2022 a report will be presented to Cabinet and Council outlining the 2021-22 year end capital position, showing slippage between the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years, the updated capital programme for 2022-23 onwards and the outturn position on the Prudential and Other Indicators.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The capital programme approved by Council in February 2022 for the period 2021-22 to 2031-32 totalled £230.174 million, of which £123.542 million is to be met from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) resources, including capital receipts and revenue contributions from earmarked reserves, with the remaining £106.632 million coming from external resources, including General Capital Grant.

4.2 As mentioned above, a number of proposals for new capital schemes have been received from Directorates, and these have been considered and prioritised by Corporate Management Board, in line with the Council's Capital Strategy. Funding for these schemes has been set aside through new earmarked reserves, established during the 2021-22 year end process, from unallocated general capital funding received at the end of 2021-22 and through the 2022-23 Local Government Settlement and from revenue contributions.

4.3 The total cost of the new schemes is £9,939,209 and this is broken down in Table 1, with Table 2 showing the breakdown of funding for the proposed schemes. Further detail on some of these schemes will form the basis of future Cabinet and Council reports, and some allocations may change going forward

based on the outcome of tender processes, but will follow agreed approval processes.

Table 1: Proposed new capital schemes

Directorate	Description	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	Total £
Education	Pencoed Primary School	52,500	450,000	397,500	900,000
Education	Coety Primary School	43,750	500,000	1,106,250	1,650,000
Education	Bryntirion Comprehensive School	650,000	1,102,500	47,500	1,800,000
Social Services	Telecare Transformation Project	483,142	526,895	395,172	1,405,209
Communities	Cardiff Capital Region Metro Plus Scheme – Penprysg Road Bridge	250,000	250,000	0	500,000
Communities	Community Asset Transfer	500,000	0	0	500,000
Communities	Children's Playground Refurbishment	500,000	0	0	500,000
Communities	Cosy Corner	684,000	0	0	684,000
Communities	Highways Carriageway & Footway Refurbishment	1,500,000	0	0	1,500,000
Communities	Unadopted Roads	500,000	0	0	500,000
TOTAL		5,163,392	2,829,395	1,946,422	9,939,209

Table 2: Funding of proposed new capital schemes

Funding Source	2022-23 £	2023-24 £	2024-25 £	Total £
Unallocated General Capital Grant	3,000,000	0	0	3,000,000
Capital Earmarked Reserves	1,208,796	1,783,787	1,694,325	4,686,908
Directorate Earmarked Reserves	248,069	148,069	148,069	544,207
Revenue Contributions	206,527	56,527	56,528	319,582
Section 106 Funding	500,000	841,012	47,500	1,388,512
TOTAL	5,163,392	2,829,395	1,946,422	9,939,209

4.4 More detail on each of these schemes is set out below.

Pencoed Primary School (£900,000)

Pencoed Primary School, which was built as part of Band A of the local authority's School Modernisation Programme, has proven to be extremely popular since opening. As a consequence, the school is now significantly oversubscribed and there is a need to create additional pupil places in order to address demand (even though the school was sized to the maximum that Welsh Government funding regulations would allow at the time it was built – it opened in 2018).

A two-classroom extension has been identified as being required. The Major Projects Team has calculated that the total project cost is £900,000. Approval is sought to utilise BCBC capital resources to fund the extension and to include the scheme in the capital programme. Any subsequent Section (s) 106 funding identified for this scheme will be used to offset the cost to BCBC as the project progresses.

Coety Primary School (£1,650,000)

Coety Primary School was constructed during Band A of the School Modernisation Programme, and opened in 2015. The adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 16, applicable at that time, was used to calculate the size of provision required. However, a 2019 review of pupil yield rates from new housing developments demonstrated a higher pupil yield figure compared to the rates contained in the BCBC adopted SPG16 at that time. The SPG16 has since been updated to reflect the revised rates.

More housing has also been built at Parc Derwen, which was not planned as part of the original section s106 for the development. The local authority has entered into a separate s106 agreement in respect of this additional housing and is awaiting payment from the developer.

There continues to be significant demand for places at Coety Primary School and the need for four additional teaching spaces to be provided has been identified. The Major Projects Team has calculated that the total project cost for a four-classroom extension is £1.65 million.

Approval is sought to utilise BCBC capital resources to fund the extension. Once the s106 contribution has been received (circa £300,000 total), this funding will displace some of the BCBC funding.

Bryntirion Comprehensive School (1,800,000)

Planned housing developments are under construction within Bryntirion Comprehensive School's catchment area. The school is at capacity and additional places are required to accommodate the pupil yield from these developments. A feasibility study has demonstrated the need for a six-classroom block in order to meet this increasing demand. The total project cost is estimated at £1.8 million.

The local authority has entered into a number of s106 agreements with developers to secure funding contributions. Table 3 sets out payments received to-date plus anticipated future payments.

Table 3: Section 106 Funding

Development	Developer	Received	Remaining
Land at Heol Ty Maen, Cefn Glas	Barratt Homes	£713,116	
Land at former Ogmere Constituency Labour Party Club, Bryntirion	Hafod Housing	£18,616	
Former Sunnyside site	Linc	-	£115,669
Former Ysgol Bryn Castell site (Phase 2)	Persimmon	-	£541,111
TOTAL		£731,732	£656,780

In addition, the school has confirmed a financial contribution of £150,000 from the school's delegated budget. Therefore, £261,488 of capital funding is required to meet the projected shortfall to deliver the scheme.

Council will need to be aware that there is a risk in the outstanding s106 contributions not being received. However, this risk is considered to be relatively low. Conversely, there is also a risk of not being able to deliver pupil places to fulfil the local authority's statutory duty should a scheme not be progressed.

Telecare Transformation Project (£1,405,209)

In 2017 BT announced plans to switch off their analogue telephone network (PSTN) by 2025 and replace it with an 'all-IP' digital solution. From as early as 2023, people may no longer be able to purchase an analogue telephone connection. From the time of switchover from analogue to digital, emergency Telecare alarm calls will no longer be received in the traditional analogue method but instead will rely on a digital network. Therefore, for any telecare equipment relying on the old analogue lines to connect to the digital lines within the Call Monitoring Centre, the emergency call could fail to connect, become corrupted or get lost entirely. Therefore, analogue telecare equipment cannot be relied upon to operate safely and reliably over a digital network.

Telecare is a successful preventative service, one that supports the objectives of the integrated community services of extending an individual's stay at home and supporting earlier hospital discharge. It also has an important role in supporting carers and sustaining their important role. There is a requirement, eventually, to replace current analogue telecare equipment to digital on a like for like basis, as the equipment that has been provided has been prescribed from an individual assessment. The service recommends a gradual switch over to digital equipment initially, i.e. for new referrals and replacement of kit that is expiring. This would be followed by a more structured plan of wider scale replacement closer to the local switchover date.

The financial cost of the transition is estimated to be in the region of £1.405 million capital, with some additional revenue costs e.g. purchase of SIM cards. The capital costs will be met from a combination of earmarked reserves established from displaced grant funding in 2021-22 (£544,000), revenue savings arising in the early years of the project as all equipment is replaced new with digital and therefore fewer replacements for wear and tear are required (£170,000), and Council capital (£691,000).

Cardiff Capital Region Metro Plus – Penprysg Road Bridge (£500,000)

The project relates to the design of a replacement substandard road bridge at Penprysg Road, Pencoed, the removal of the current pedestrian overbridge at Pencoed Station and its replacement with an active travel bridge. The project will see the closure of the existing level crossing on the mainline railway in the town. Currently the total commitment to the Metro Plus scheme from the Council is £3.082 million. The project requires additional funding for continuing the design of Penprysg Bridge with Network Rail and to undertake additional engineering solutions as a result of the public consultation. This is imperative to get to a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) design position to apply for the Levelling Up (LUF) Grant Fund in June 2022.

Community Asset Transfer (£500,000)

The Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme facilitates a change in management of land, buildings and/or services from BCBC to community groups, such as town and community councils and sports clubs in order to ensure longer term viability of such facilities.

The Council established a £1 million Sports Pavilion Fund in February 2014 to encourage sports clubs to self-manage pavilions. The fund was intended to allow investment to improve the condition of such assets as part of an agreement to lease and take over the responsibility for the maintenance and repair of facilities and the payment of running costs - in line with their needs and expectations. The scope for this fund was later expanded to include all facilities suitable for community asset transfer e.g. community centres, pitches, and agreement was also given by Cabinet that the fund would be replenished as and when necessary. To date £603,461 has been expended from the CAT Fund, leaving a balance of £396,539 and therefore a further £500,000 is now sought to reflect the increased pace of the CAT Programme to achieve financial savings required under the MTFS.

Children's Playground Refurbishment (£500,000)

The local authority has over 100 equipped children's play areas across the county borough. An assessment has been carried out which identifies that equipment is in need of renewal at a number of these authority-run play areas. Additional funding of £460,000 was approved by Council in June 2021 to address the works in around 30 play areas, but this additional funding will enable more play areas to be either fully or partially upgraded in play equipment and surfacing to provide safe opportunities for outdoor play.

Cosy Corner (£684,000)

The Cosy Corner Porthcawl Resort Investment Focus (PRIF) project aims to re-develop the Cosy Corner site into a modern visitor and retail attraction and support enhancements to the public realm of the area. In December 2020 the following were proposed to, and agreed by, Cabinet as a set of guiding principles for the way forward for the development of Cosy Corner, based on information available at the time:

- Desire to ensure funding allocated for Cosy Corner is retained for Cosy Corner. There is potentially funding still available through the Tourism Attraction Destination (TAD) programme for Cosy Corner
- Adopting a partnership approach with key stakeholders
- Taking action in a suitable timeframe
- Minimising the period of time that Cosy Corner remains in its current condition
- Minimising the on-going maintenance requirements and costs for BCBC
- Enhancing the tourism offer of Porthcawl

The current capital budget for the scheme is £2.115 million, but an additional £684,000 is required, following the outcome of the tender process, in recognition of current price volatility of capital projects, and to enable the full

scope of works to be provided in respect of additional public realm, landscaping and children's play.

Highways Carriageway & Footway Refurbishment (£1,500,000)

In the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-23 to 2025-26, which was approved by Council in February 2022, a budget of £2 million was included within the capital programme to enable the Council to continue to invest in, and proactively maintain, its highways network. This will now be supplemented by an additional £1.5 million, to enable the Council to manage the decline in the local carriageway and footway asset, and reduce subsequent needs to undertake ad hoc repairs.

Unadopted Roads (£500,000)

A private or unadopted road is a highway that is not maintainable at the public expense. Within the County Borough there are a large number of unadopted roads, which are in poor condition. In a recent Welsh Government pilot the Council was awarded funding to undertake work, including repairing drainage and reconstructing highways, to bring the condition of one road up to a standard that would enable the Council to take over the maintenance responsibility. This will then allow this road to receive regular maintenance and the benefits of being part of the main road network. This capital budget will allow additional streets to be brought up to an adoptable standard and then maintained going forward by BCBC.

- 4.5 A revised Capital Programme, incorporating the schemes outlined above, is included as **Appendix A**.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 As required by Financial Procedure Rule 3.2.5 within the Council's Constitution, "Any variations to the capital programme, other than those permitted under paragraphs 3.4.7 and 3.4.9, shall require the approval of the Council following a report of the Chief Finance Officer after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Cabinet".

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. Projects within the capital programme will be subject to the preparation of Equality Impact Assessments before proceeding. However, it is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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

- 7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable

impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report. Specifically the development of a 10 year capital programme, which reflects the Council's affordability in terms of capital receipts and borrowing, supports the principle of sustainability over the long term.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The financial implications are outlined in the body of the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet agrees that the revised Capital Programme (**Appendix A**) be submitted to Council for approval.

Carys Lord

Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change

June 2022

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Background documents:

None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

RECYCLING AND WASTE SERVICE POST 2024

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the future direction of the recycling and waste service and to seek Cabinet approval: -

- To proceed to tender, for an interim contract for the recycling and waste collection / community recycling centre management contract, for upto a two-year duration
- To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Communities to negotiate and finalise acquisition fees for the existing vehicles, plant and equipment utilised in the provision of the current service with Kier Services Limited.
- To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Communities to negotiate terms with Kier to change fuel supply for the existing fleet of recycling and waste vehicles and plant to a hydrogenated vegetable oil (HVO) derived fuel, in the period upto the end of the contract in 2024
- To commence work on the future service provision post 2026, including looking at decarbonisation of the waste fleet and additional material streams for recycling with the aim of being the best performing waste & recycling Local Authority in Wales.

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

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **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 The Council has outsourced its recycling and waste contract to a commercial contractor since 2003. The contract has been renewed every 7 years and the Council has had three contractors fulfil that service. The current outsourced waste contract was awarded to Kier Services Limited in April 2017. This contract will end on 31st March 2024.

3.2 There is no doubt that overall this current contractual arrangement has been successful in terms of relative cost and also meeting and exceeding recycling targets, the Council continues to be consistently in the top performing Local Authorities in Wales, with 70% of our waste being recycled. The Council now has

the ambition of providing the best recycling and waste collection service in Wales. A key part of this ambition is to look to increase the number of waste streams that can be recycled, including from the kerbside collections and within the Community Recycling Centres (CRC's) across the Borough. To ensure community re-use shops provide extended life to unwanted items that are still in good and working condition. Also, of significant importance, if the Council is to meet its Net Zero Carbon target by 2030, it must decarbonise the Refuse Vehicle Fleet by switching to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV). The Council is considering both Electric and Hydrogen fuel applications for this currently. However, for large goods vehicles, high costs and a developing marketplace, which contains both purely electric powered and hydrogen powered vehicles, means commitment to a fleet type is difficult to determine currently.

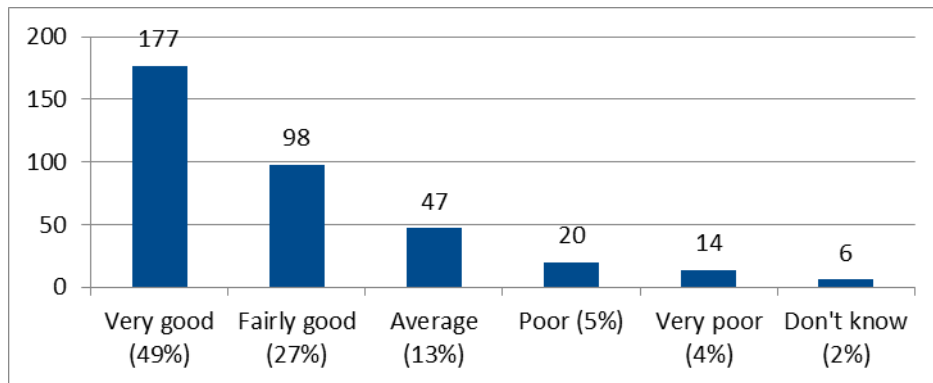
- 3.3 It is also clear that a great deal of uncertainty exists with regards to the methodology and targets for the future recycling and waste service model. This is because the Welsh Government (WG) targets for recycling post April 2024 are not yet known. There is also increased uncertainty with regards to the future effect that planned changes in legislation in relation to Deposit Return Schemes and Extended Producer Responsibility, will have on recycling tonnages presented at the kerbside for collection. Therefore, it is these factors combined with the market issues surrounding the current availability and cost of a new and innovative decarbonised refuse fleet, that make deciding exactly what a new model of contract/service would need to look like from 2026 and onwards currently difficult.
- 3.4 It is for these reasons that the Cabinet is strongly recommended to make a decision to put a short-term interim contract into place, of no more than two years, to cover the period from 2024 to 2026. This contract would use the existing fleet of vehicles, with minimum service changes. This would also allow for achievement of the next Welsh Government recycling target in 2024. This short contract period would also allow time for the development of the ULEV marketplace, such that a clear best way forward with vehicle types would become apparent and financially sustainable. Welsh Government recycling targets and relevant forthcoming legislation would also be published, and future service configurations would be able to be tailored to achieve the set targets.
- 3.5 In summary, the short interim contract period would allow time for the development of the complex future waste collection model post 2026, including the key decisions around how the service is provided, to be made at a time when there would be less uncertainty. This would ensure that the most cost-effective service and innovative technology is deployed, which is critical if the Council is to achieve its ambition of being the best recycling and waste service in Wales. The Council will work on the interim contract and in parallel use this time to look at all service delivery options available, including a new contractual arrangement or bringing the service back in-house, possibly via an arm's length arrangement.

PERFORMANCE OF THE CURRENT CONTRACT

- 3.6 It is now recognised that the lead in time to secure robust service continuation arrangements for the provision of a large-scale recycling and waste services contract are both complex and substantial. The current recycling & waste service overall performs very well, and it will be important to improve on this position if the Council is to achieve its ambition of being the best in Wales. In July 2021, officers presented a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (OVSC 3) on the

good performance of the current waste services contract and also considered the issues outlined above, that is, the option and risks of progressing with a new contract post 2024 with so much uncertainty. In addition, a Citizen's Panel Survey from 2021, also demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with the existing waste service contract. The graph below shows that 76% of respondents rated the kerbside collection as good or fairly good, with only 9% rating it as poor.

Overall, how would you rate the kerbside collection service 2021?



3.8 Another key indicator of good performance is the rate of Missed Collections. These are used as a standard industry measurement of service performance for recycling and waste collections. Put simply, it is the number of collections reported as missed during service. Service standards of 80 misses or less per 100,000 collections undertaken for fortnightly collections and 50 misses per 100,000 or less for weekly collections are considered to represent excellent standards of service. The latest recorded monthly figures for missed collections across all collection services available are for April 2022 in Bridgend and stand at 39 misses per 100,000 collections undertaken. Expressed in percentage terms reported missed service collections occur on 0.039 % of the collection service occasions. This shows that overall, an excellent service is provided. It is recognised that there remain isolated cases of concern, as there are with all waste contracts, however they are managed and delivered, including some issues with communal waste collections which will be reviewed where possible.

3.9 There have been significant increases in recycling performance levels in recent years. WG has developed a future strategy and implemented national targets for annual waste reuse/recycling/composting. At the last formal reporting of recycling performance given at the Scrutiny meeting on the 19 July 2021 a recycling level of 67.58% for Bridgend was recorded for the 2019/20 year, exceeding the current 64% Welsh Government statutory target. Whilst still provisional, the expected 2021/22 recycling performance is anticipated to be 72.97%, a potential all-time best for the authority and a result exceeding the next 70% statutory target that will come into place for the 2024/25 year, three years ahead of target. This will mean that Bridgend will be amongst the top Local Authorities for recycling in Wales, and therefore by default one of the best in the world as Wales is a world leading country in this regard.

3.10 Also of importance to note here is that our current waste contractor, Kier, have implemented the Real Living Wage with the workforce and also applied a number of improvements to payment terms for LGV drivers. The latter improvements were made in response to a national LGV driver shortage and an increasingly competitive

marketplace to ensure continuity of collections service for the authority. These costs have been absorbed by Kier as the contractual arrangement has protected the authority from these cost pressures and will continue to do so until 31 March 2024.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The recommended way forward in this report is to procure a new short term interim waste contract for a period of upto 2 years, between 2024 and 2026. This will use the existing collection methodology and waste vehicle fleet and allow the Council the time required to look at a new model of service provision post 2026, with a decarbonised fleet, additional material streams recycled, against the backdrop of certainty of WG targets and new environmental legislation. All with the ambition of the Council being the best performing waste and recycling Local Authority in Wales.
- 4.2 Following confirmation from Kier that they were exiting the waste market and that a contract extension would not be available, officers comprising Communities' operational management staff, legal officers and procurement officers have considered the future options for the service post 2024. In addition, further strategic discussions took place at Corporate Management Board to consider what might be achievable and deliverable in the timescale and in the circumstances.
- 4.3 These internal discussions explored service continuation models and determined that as a preferred option officers pursue preparations for procurement of a short-term contract for a period of upto 2 years. This would engage a contractor to utilise the existing fleet (requiring acquisition of the existing fleet and equipment) and provide a service aligned to the current provision. In effect, procuring a short duration new contract that would provide the same service and advantages to the decision-making timeline that would have been provided had a short contract extension be entered into with Kier. In the intervening months officers have progressed with the preparations putting together tender documentation regarding a two-year continuation contract which is obviously considerably easier and quicker to develop and procure than an entirely new contract, with new collection methodologies, which would also require public consultation.
- 4.4 Officers are now nearing readiness to go out to tender and are seeking the formal approval of Cabinet to progress to tender stage. As the contract will provide virtually the same service as present to the public, no public consultation is required to proceed and the process of switching from one provider to another should be relatively seamless and without some of the issues that sometimes occur when a new contract with entirely new collection methodologies and routes are implemented. There may be an opportunity however, to review and improve the position with some minor areas such as communal bin collection, albeit the team are currently working on this issue currently to improve recycling rates and general cleanliness.
- 4.5 In order to proceed with the approach outlined above the Council will need to purchase the current vehicles, plant and equipment utilised by Kier in the provision of the service at the end of the contract, in order for the new contractor to continue to use these items. The current contract provides Bridgend Council with the exclusive right to acquire the plant and equipment at set individual unit values. It is envisaged negotiation will be required, as the exact list of vehicles and equipment now in use in the performance of the contact is somewhat varied from the original

prediction. Delegated authority for the Corporate Director of Communities will be required to negotiate and finalise a value for the acquisition of the Kier assets and Council approval will be required to acquire these assets through the Capital Programme or an EMR

- 4.6 When the value of the plant to be acquired is finalised, approval will be sought in a future Council Capital Programme report prior to the required purchase in March 2024.

IMMEDIATE CARBON REDUCTION OPPORTUNITY

- 4.7 It is recognised that in the medium to long term the highest environmental benefit in terms of fleet provision will be a change to ULEV Electric/Hydrogen powered vehicles that produce zero emissions in use. If these are fuelled by a renewable energy supply, they will represent the cleanest possible method of recycling and waste collection. An interim step has been being explored and discussed between Kier and Council officers, namely the introduction of Hydrogenised Vegetable Oil (HVO) derived fuel vehicles. Kier have undertaken investigations and confirmed that the existing fleet is able to be run using this fuel type.
- 4.8 A switch to Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil fuel can bring a reduction of circa 975 tonnes of CO2 emissions per annum to the current carbon footprint of the waste and recycling operations - this represents a 93.54% carbon reduction. The change to HVO fuel would however cost more than standard diesel. The additional cost of fuel purchase is anticipated to be in the region of £75,000 per annum. This would benefit both Bridgend Council in its carbon agenda and Kier who also wish to lower their carbon footprint. Officers recommend that, as this would represent a very positive carbon reduction change for a relatively low cost, we proceed with the proposal and authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Communities to negotiate and agree a shared cost with the existing contractor to implement this change as an interim measure on our journey to a carbon zero 2030. The Council's share of the cost would be funded from within existing Communities Directorate budgets.
- 4.9 In addition to proceeding to tender with a short-term waste contract, it is also imperative that work is now commenced on determining the direction of waste services post April 2026. This will be both complex and lengthy and will need to be resourced appropriately to build on the already high performing service. There will be a number of key decision areas for the Council to consider in its post 2026 future waste service. It is proposed these will form part of future Cabinet Reports.
- 4.10 Key decision-making areas will include:
- The future waste fleet configuration in regard to decarbonisation, that is the ULEV needs whether electric or hydrogen vehicles.
 - The changes to the service provided and collection methodology to ensure future recycling targets continue to be met and exceeded.
 - The impact that new legislation or material waste streams will have on collections and recycling rates.
 - The Model of service provision to be utilised in future. This could be continued outsourcing to an external contractor ,a shared service with a neighbouring local authority with the same collection methodology, a

Bridgend Council provided service, or a service provided via an arm's length Bridgend Council owned company.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 This report has no effect on the policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment based on the 5 ways of working and any requisite mitigating measures have been set out in.

The proposed short duration recycling and waste contract together with the proposed more immediate change to HVO fuel. Demonstrate the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is evidenced through the 5 ways of working as follows:

- Long-term: The proposed contract allows for consideration of not only the current targets and issues in the service area, but also those that are considered to be issues in the future. The proposal allows for appropriate time to be given to seek to put in place a more fit for purpose recycling and waste solution in the long term with decisions being able to be made in this regard, at a time when more information is available.
- Prevention: The proposed change to HVO fuel will generate immediate carbon footprint reductions, preventing further harm to the environment and protecting the environment for future generations.
- Integration: The proposed recycling and waste contract will be undertaken to ensure that future services and their implementation integrates with current and future recycling and environmental objectives.
- Collaboration: The process for providing the continuing service will be undertaken through a partnership approach between BCBC and service providers.
- Involvement: The long-term future direction of the recycling and waste contract beyond the short-term contract proposed will require changes to the service provided to the public. This will be subject to a future full public consultation.

8. Financial implications

8.1 A competitive tender process with an emphasis on value for money will ensure all bidders competing to win the contract keep costs as low as possible, however,

significantly increasing national and global fuel costs, increasing wage costs particularly for implementing the real living wage, enhanced LGV driver payments to compete in the jobs market for drivers during a time of national shortage combined with the current inflationary pressures and housing growth will impact on the future cost of the provision of waste and recycling services. The outcome of the tender exercise will have to be considered by Cabinet as part of the future Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- 8.2 Changing to HVO fuel will bring an additional cost in the region of £75,000 per annum, anticipated to be shared between the existing contractor and Bridgend County Borough Council during the current contact term. The Council's share of the cost would be funded from existing Communities Directorate budgets.
- 8.3 Subject to negotiations with Kier, it is proposed that the Council acquire all Vehicles, Plant and Equipment associated with the running of the contract. This is anticipated to vary dependant on the exact configuration of vehicles and plant currently deployed in the delivery of services, and any subsequent funding required for this will be through approval from Council.

9.0 Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to: -

- 9.1 Authorise officers proceeding to seek invitation of tenders for the provisions of the short duration waste contract from 2024 to 2026.
- 9.2 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Communities in conjunction with the Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, Human Resources and Corporate Policy to negotiate with Kier and agree the final cost for the acquisition of the vehicles and plant and equipment from Kier required to perform the recycling and waste service.
- 9.3 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Communities in conjunction with the Section 151 Officer and Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, Human Resources and Corporate Policy to negotiate terms with Kier to change fuel supply for the existing fleet of recycling and waste vehicles and plant to a HVO - hydrogenated vegetable oil derived fuel.
- 9.4 Note that future financial implications will be reported back to Cabinet and Council in due course.
- 9.5 Authorise officers to commence work on the future waste service model, commission specialist advice if required and report back to Cabinet on the new service model as developed.

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June 2022

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Background Documents:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 Report on Waste Provision post 2024 dated 19th July 2021

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

LEVELLING UP FUND PRIORITY PROJECTS

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide background on the UK Government Levelling Up Fund (LUF), and to update Cabinet on the development of projects previously endorsed by them to be developed for this and future rounds of the fund. The report also seeks endorsement to submit projects in the next round of the fund.

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 for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people to be more healthy 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 LUF was announced by the UK Government at the 2020 Spending Review. In March 2021, the Government set aside an initial £4 billion for the LUF for England over the next four years (up to 2024-25) and a minimum of £800 million for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. As such, up to £4.8 billion until 2024-25 will be available in the LUF across the UK.

3.2 The UK Government will use the new financial assistance powers in the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (UKIM Act) to make the LUF available to the whole of the UK, with financial support provided directly to Local Authorities in Wales from Whitehall.

- 3.3 The LUF is jointly managed by HM Treasury (HMT), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Transport (DfT). A Department for Wales has been set up to engage with and provide support directly to Welsh Local Authorities.
- 3.4 The LUF will invest in local infrastructure and capital projects that have a visible impact on people and their communities. This includes a range of high value local investment priorities, including local transport schemes, urban and economic regeneration projects and supporting cultural assets.
- 3.5 A prospectus was published on guidance and priorities relating to the LUF. Alongside the prospectus UK Government published a 'priority area' ranking, with each local area ranking between 1 and 3. As part of this ranking Bridgend was given a priority category 1, which represents the highest need for the LUF.
- 3.6 The LUF programme is competitive, despite a ranking system for priority. There are no set allocations for each area and each application will be reviewed on merit.
- 3.7 It is important to note that Local Authorities can only receive funding for one bid for every Member of Parliament (MP) whose constituency lies wholly within their boundary. The UK Government would also like to see MPs express support for one bid that they see as a priority, but it is not a requirement of the bidding process for MPs to have expressed their support. Each Local Authority is also eligible to make one additional bid for potential transport projects in the area. This enables Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to make 3 bids in total - one for each constituency, Bridgend and Ogmore, and a third for a strategic transport project.
- 3.8 Each constituency bid can be up to the value of £20m. However, there is also scope for investing in larger, high-value transport projects, allowing for bids of up to £50m, with each bid being encouraged to contribute a minimum of 10% funding from local and third-party contributions.
- 3.9 The first round of funding, which opened for applications in June 2021, saw £1.7 billion awarded to 105 projects across the UK. Six Local Authorities in Wales made successful bids, with 10 projects in total being supported.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 Officers presented a report to Cabinet in November 2021 setting out the potential projects identified within each constituency which could be developed further to meet the objectives and criteria of the fund and would be able to be delivered within the timeframe of the programme.
- 4.2 Officers have also had the ability to take advice from successful applicants, consult with the UK Government, Cities and Local Growth Unit, Regional Team and review amendments to the round two technical advice note which has enabled thoughts to be galvanized in relation to the projects and position previously endorsed by Cabinet.
- 4.3 Officers have discussed the position in relation to the LUF with the local MPs for both the Ogmore and Bridgend constituencies, and will present further detail of the projects in advance of the funding deadline to confirm their endorsement.

- 4.4 Applications for round two of funding must be submitted in full by midday on Wednesday 6 July 2022, with any information submitted after this deadline not considered as part of an application. Following a three month assessment period, decisions are anticipated to be announced in Autumn 2022.
- 4.5 Outlined below are updates on those constituency projects which officers previously reported to Cabinet, setting out the current position and proposals for the way forward.

Bridgend Constituency proposed project : Porthcawl Pavilion Redevelopment.

- 4.6 The LUF prospectus sets out a clear agenda to support cultural investment. To maintain, regenerate, or creatively repurpose museums, galleries, visitor attractions (and associated green spaces) and heritage assets as well as creating new community-owned spaces to support the arts and serve as cultural spaces.

Following a review of the round 2 technical guidance, officers are confident that the pavilion project continues to strongly meet the objectives of the fund and that the pace of development work will enable a robust application to be made.

- 4.7 The project has been in development since 2016 when Awen Cultural Trust (Awen,) in partnership with BCBC, commissioned a study on the options for enhancing and re-developing the Grade II Listed building. The study considered the physical, artistic and social significance of the Grand Pavilion; provided a high level appraisal of its condition; considered the possible treatment of the historic building for renovation and concept designs that could unlock new social and commercially sustainable benefits.
- 4.8 The principal objectives of the renewal of the Grand Pavilion have been to address the issues of risk to the building fabric that exist in the condition of the concrete structure whilst also meeting the needs and aspirations of local people for extended and improved arts, heritage and library services.
- 4.9 The new facilities proposed within the most recent feasibility work on the Grand Pavilion include:
- New function spaces at first floor (Esplanade) level,
 - New rooftop function and cafe spaces offering elevated sea-views across the Bristol Channel,
 - New Studio theatre and ancillary facilities,
 - Increased and improved welfare facilities including new changing places facility,
 - Business incubation or workshop spaces to street level,
 - New office facilities.
- 4.10 BCBC has already committed a sum of £200,000 to the development for this project from BCBC's Feasibility Funding budget. The RIBA Stage 3 design work is progressing at pace and will be packaged to present a well progressed and detailed application.

- 4.11 Project costs are expected to be close to £14m, with detailed work on costing currently being undertaken to be completed in advance of the submission on the 6 July 2022. The detailed work will ensure that the cost of inflation and the recent significant increase in the costs of materials are taken into consideration.
- 4.12 It is acknowledged that the delivery of this project will require significant financial and grant investment. In addition to the LUF application is a need to submit an expression of interest to the National Heritage Lottery Fund to secure further development and capital funding. There has already been positive early discussions with the National Heritage Lottery Fund, however due to the timing of bidding rounds, submitting an application has not yet been possible, and as such at the point submitting an application to the LUF, BCBC would need to confirm this decision to underwrite 10% match funding requirement for the project. When the value of the match required to support the project has been confirmed, approval will be sought in a future Council Capital Programme Report, prior to acceptance of any successful award of LUF funding.
- 4.13 The re-development of the Grand Pavilion clearly represents an opportunity for a flagship and legacy capital scheme. It is also a key component of the wider Porthcawl Regeneration Programme being pursued.

Ogmore Constituency proposed project

- 4.14 Within the previous report endorsed by Cabinet, officers sought agreement to pursue a Bridgend Enterprise Development Project, which officers felt was the most advantageous project to meet local needs and achieve the aspirations of the Levelling Up programme, by delivering commercial and employment space in key locations.
- 4.15 Despite officers views that we would be able to develop a strong bid which met local needs, UK Government Levelling Up officials have been unsupportive of this project, and in a number of meetings impressed on us that they did not believe that this project would be successful and would not find favour during the assessment process.
- 4.16 Officers have, in tandem with this process, now identified other potential funding sources which could be available to support the development of our Bridgend Enterprise Development Project, and therefore previous development work can still be capitalised on to deliver badly needed employment space within the Ogmore constituency.
- 4.17 Despite having considered other strategic opportunities within the constituency area, there has not been a mandate to develop any other projects further, to a point where officers could recommend the submission of an alternative project at this point.
- 4.18 Officers would like to take the opportunity to identify an alternative strategic project and potential partners to develop a bid for the communities of the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore Valleys, in anticipation of the next bidding round.

Bridgend Transport Proposal : Penprysq Railway Bridge

- 4.19 The Penprysg railway bridge proposal has been a long-standing infrastructure project for Bridgend and is included in the current and replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) as well as predecessor land use plans.
- 4.20 This project will result in the rebuilding of the Penprysg road bridge so that it can accommodate two-way traffic leading to the eventual closure of Pencoed's railway level crossing, and an all-new active travel bridge for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 4.21 The Pencoed level crossing is on the South Wales mainline railway as well as local Metro routes. When in operation there is a resultant build up of road traffic leading to significant congestion in the town centre. The current alternative road bridge on Penprysg Road is a substandard single lane with limited pedestrian/active travel provision.
- 4.22 Due to these constraints, there is a longstanding moratorium on development west of the level crossing. The plans will also unlock potential development land located to the west of the current level crossing, and enable fresh investment and facilities to be introduced.
- 4.23 Once the level crossing is closed, the proposal also provides opportunity to enhance the public realm in and around the commercial area at the level crossing and to enhance the local environment.
- 4.24 Only 23 transport specific projects were successful across the UK in the first round, with a significant amount more detail being required to support larger projects.
- 4.25 This is a highly complex and challenging project to deliver, however, there is confidence that this project which is being developed in conjunction with Network Rail and through a working group comprising the MP, Member of the Senedd (MS), BCBC Members (including the Leader and Cabinet Members), Town Council representatives, technical officers, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales, Network Rail and Transport for Wales, will present a well considered and supported project.
- 4.26 The timeframe for the completion of this project will go beyond that of the LUF's current programme for projects to be completed by March 2025. The guidance notes state that in exceptional circumstances a project would need to demonstrate completion by March 2026. This will be made explicit within the application form.
- 4.27 An internal project management and governance structure is being set up to lead the project and will further progress the design and development work in tandem with the submission of the LUF bid.
- 4.28 Post application this project will require significant detailed design work to continue, and until such a time as the design is complete a definitive cost cannot be established. Work to date puts the cost close to £25m, which is the value to be requested in the LUF bid. When the value of the match required to support the project has been confirmed, approval will be sought in a future Council Capital Programme Report, prior to acceptance of any successful award of LUF funding.

4.29 The value of the project would place it into the 'large transport scheme' category and therefore there will be a need for a more substantial financial and economical case.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment based on the 5 ways of working has been considered and there are no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives:

- Long Term - Investment in and redevelopment of major infrastructure is critical to developing confidence in and growing the economy, ensuring local investment while providing the ability to operate across the region and beyond. Investment in some of our major assets is also essential to secure their long term sustainability and contribution to the reduction in carbon emissions of our infrastructure and assets.
- Prevention - Investment in assets now will prevent further decline in the integrity of our structures. It will also prevent a decline in local environment and the quality of business and employment facilities within our communities.
- Integration - These projects will ensure that local cultural facilities, and better public transport facilities will be provided and integrated into the local communities. The public will be able to make better use of existing facilities and will be provided with greater employment and social opportunity within their communities.
- Collaboration - The success of the suite of projects will be founded on cross sector working and collaborative effort with partners and stakeholders to use creative and cultural activity to improve population well-being.
- Involvement - These are two very different projects being proposed with levels of engagement varying significantly to date. However, the success of each project will rest of the effective engagement with key public and operational stakeholders. This will be through formal channels such as Weltag and more informal conversations with critical partners.

8. Financial implications

8.1 Two bids are proposed to be submitted for funding in round two of the LUF programme.

- 8.2 As stated earlier in the report the detailed design work for both continues to be worked up in tandem with the drafting of the full LUF applications. Until the detailed design and costing work is complete an explicit total project cost is not available.
- 8.3 The LUF application encourages a minimum 10% match funding requirement for each project. As the details of the delivery costs related to each project emerges following further detailed design work, both projects will be seeking the support of partner organisations and other external funding sources to support the total cost of the delivery of the projects. However, at this point match funding from external sources has not been secured.
- 8.4 This report sets out the anticipated value of the match funding requirements, until such a point as officers have been able to identify and apply for additional funding from alternative partners and funding sources. If the Council meets this match funding requirement from its own resources, this will require approval from Council.
- 8.5 The anticipated costs of both projects are as follows:

<i>Porthcawl Grand Pavilion redevelopment</i>	
Total Project Cost	£14m
Match funding requirement	£1.4m

<i>Penprysg Road Bridgend Replacement and Pencoed Level Crossing Closure</i>	
Total Project Cost	£25m
Match funding requirement	£2.5m

- 8.6 There are currently no existing financial commitments within the Council's capital programme for the delivery of these two projects.
- 8.7 There is however a recommendation within the Capital Programme Update report going to Cabinet on 14 June 2022 and Council on 15 June 2022 to include a financial allocation of £500,000 towards the Penprysg Road Bridge Scheme, for continuing the design of the bridge with Network Rail and to undertake additional engineering solutions as a result of the recent public consultation.

9. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note the overview and update on the application process associated with the LUF.
- Endorse the projects proposed by officers to be submitted in round two of the LUF programme.
- Delegate authority to the Director of Communities to liaise with the Section 151 Officer to agree the total project costs to be submitted within the applications
- Approve that future financial implications will be reported back to Cabinet and Council in due course prior to acceptance of any grant funding.
- Receive a future report on the development of a bid for the Ogmore Constituency.

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14 June 2022

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Background documents:

Levelling Up Fund Technical Note – UK wide

Levelling Up Fund Priority Projects Cabinet Report dated 16th November 2021

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

BRIDGEND NET ZERO CARBON - HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATOR

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on discussions on the opportunity to develop a Hydrogen Demonstrator Project in Wales providing local green hydrogen that support decarbonisation of the Council's assets and the wider region.

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 focussed on raising the skills, qualifications, and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be healthier and more 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** – ensuring 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 In June 2020 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Cabinet approved a report that set out the crucial roles that BCBC must play through the management of its own resources and assets and the way in which it works with and supports residents, organisations, and businesses to respond to climate challenges.
- 3.2 BCBC's latest Corporate Plan highlights 'decarbonisation and environmental sustainability' as a priority area for the Council. Alongside this BCBC ensures that the climate is considered at an everyday decision-making level. This is underpinned by The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Bridgend Public Service Board Wellbeing Plan.
- 3.3 In March 2022 the Council published its draft Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy developed in line with the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting

Guide and extensive engagement with internal and external stakeholders. The Strategy commits to demonstrating leadership and commitment to deliver the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy, decarbonizing all its activities. The Draft Strategy will be subject to public consultation and then Cabinet approval of the finalise strategy will be sought in Autumn this year

- 3.4 The Decarbonisation 2030 Programme Board (“Programme Board”) oversees and tracks progress to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The Programme Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Communities and led by the Corporate Director for the Communities Directorate.
- 3.5 It is recognised that the decarbonisation sector is developing rapidly. The sector is recognising the important role that the use of Hydrogen technology can play in both energy use and transportation. In 2021, Welsh Government were approached by the Japanese Consortium Marubeni, global specialist in renewables and hydrogen projects, to ask if they were interested in an investment opportunity for a Hydrogen Demonstrator Project in Wales. The Japanese Government’s New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organisation (NEDO) has pledged some £13m to co-fund Hydrogen Power Demonstrators Projects with the Marubeni Corporation in the UK. The key to this project was the supply of Green Hydrogen power for heat and transportation using green energy sources. Bridgend was chosen as the most appropriate location and potential investment partner as it had an approved Local Area Energy Strategy and Heat Map developed, one of the first in Wales and it was also advanced in its work on a district heat network.
- 3.6 After considering other sites within the UK, including at Sheffield and Aberdeen, Bridgend County was selected by Marubeni as their chosen location to develop this NEDO Hydrogen Investment Project. Welsh Government having put Bridged forward for the initiative were pleased with this investment decision as it complements their Decarbonisation and Hydrogen ambitions and provides an opportunity to test new technologies. Similarly, it also provides a significant opportunity for BCBC to look to possibly decarbonise its corporate fleet and to look further at Hydrogen Energy applications. The project could also provide potential benefits for other Local Authorities in South Wales, in addition to public sector partners such as the South Wales Police and Welsh Ambulance Service.
- 3.7 In order to move the detailed development of this project forward, BCBC needs to work more formally alongside the Marubeni Corporation to develop the project with a shared understanding and the Marubeni Corporation haved asked that this understanding be documented in a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”). This provides a governance framework for operating within, prior to any binding contractual relationships being established. The unique components of the project, power, heat or fuel, the research and development benefits, to Bridgend and other public sector partners and financial and legal implications will be developed during this period to inform a later potential joint development agreement.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The project will potentially bring a total of £26 million external investment funds into the borough through the NEDO (£13M) and Marubeni (£13M) that will develop a unique local energy and management system providing green low-cost energy and heat. The Cardiff Capital Region have in principle agreed to consider the opportunity

for investment on receipt of a detailed proposal and are engaged with the project. Welsh Government, having introduced the opportunity, are also keen to see the project to fruition and to support its development. South Wales police (our fleet management partner,) and other regional authorities could benefit from the assessment of hydrogen as a heavy fleet fuel and the heating potential for their assets. Bridgend therefore have the opportunity to demonstrate its leadership regionally in this green technology advancement.

- 4.2 In March 2022 Cabinet authorised the Corporate Director of Communities to undertake feasibility work, to engage specialist legal advice where required, utilising resources made available from the Communities Directorate Earmarked Reserve (EMR) 2020-21 for implementing Bridgend 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy at an initial anticipated value of £30,000, and to report back to Cabinet at a future date on the Project Details. This report addresses the next phase of this feasibility assessment and namely the correct governance structure to undertake this work in a clear and transparent manner, supported internally and externally with regional and Welsh Government partners.
- 4.3 A draft MoU which sets out a non legally binding commitment to cooperate in good faith and the framework under which BCBC and Marubeni Corporation will closely collaborate during any development stage. The MoU defines a working relationship and its limitations, to define the research, development, and potential implementation of the green hydrogen project mainly focusing on producing and off-taking green hydrogen to transport and heat applications in Bridgend. Supporting our:
 - i) decarbonisation of the vehicle fleet and heat networks in Bridgend,
 - ii) achievement of targets set out in the net zero strategy of BCBC, the region and Wales, and
 - iii) provision and expansion of public services in Bridgend.
- 4.4 The MoU also sets out the roles, responsibilities and limitations of the relationship to develop detailed proposals which may then lead to a joint development agreement, which would be subject of a further report to Cabinet. Initial legal advice has been provided and further advise will be commissioned as needed.
- 4.5 As with all agreements, confidentiality, termination and dispute resolution clauses are also included. The provisions in the MoU are non-binding and are not intended or construed to create any legal obligation on the Council or Marubeni at this stage.
- 4.6 The project's funding profile and viability will also be determined in this period. While Marubeni and NEDO funding provides the majority, BCBC are leading the negotiation and discussions with Welsh Government and Cardiff Capital Region for funding in Wales. This would be included in any future Joint Development agreement and subject to a further report to cabinet.
- 4.7 Revenue funding will also be required for supporting the implementation phase and the Council are seeking support from external bodies such as Welsh Government, and British Energy Industrial Strategy (BEIS) of central government, for heat network development, and may need to match-fund utilising the Communities Directorate Earmarked Reserve (EMR) 2022-23 for implementing Bridgend 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy, on a case-by-case basis.

4.8 In order to determine the technical, investment parameters, risks, carbon analysis and detailed benefits, to the Council, the region and Wales, a robust governance structure will be set up to oversee the progress of the MoU activities and required due diligence. This would comprise technical, legal and finance expertise alongside supporting input from officers of the Cardiff Capital Region and Welsh government. The Welsh Government Energy Services are also providing technical support to the project's development and due diligence.

4.9 Upon completion of this phase, a further report will be submitted to cabinet to consider the conclusions and for BCBC to decide whether to proceed to the next stage.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the Council's Policy Framework or Procedure Rules as a result of this report.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal at this stage.

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

7.1 The Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy and its related projects including the Hydrogen Demonstrator Project, demonstrates the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is evidenced through the 5 ways of working as follows:

- **Long Term:** A Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy will provide the pathway for Bridgend County Borough to develop a decarbonised, digitally advanced transport, buildings power and heat systems and green space enhancements that meet the UK decarbonisation targets that are supported by BCBC's Local Area Energy Strategy and Smart Energy Plan and Green Infrastructure Plans and this Hydrogen Demonstrator Project.
- **Prevention:** A Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy - Hydrogen Demonstrator Project provides an opportunity for all to benefit from the decarbonisation transition and ensure that solutions are designed and available for Bridgend, the wider region and Wales.
- **Integration:** A Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy – Hydrogen Demonstrator Project offers an opportunity to develop a range of transport, buildings power and heat systems and green space enhancements options to communities, public and business partners offering carbon reductions, reduced fuel bills and create economic opportunities through a clearly identified value chain for the area.
- **Collaboration:** BCBC will continue to work in partnership with our communities, public sector partners and UK and Welsh Government and

private sector partners to deliver a Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy – Hydrogen Demonstrator Project.

- **Involvement:** Creating and delivering a Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy – Hydrogen Demonstrator Project, involves working with a variety of stakeholders, notably international investors, local public service partners, to jointly deliver sustainable solutions.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The resource challenge faced by all public bodies in Wales in their efforts to achieve net-zero carbon by 2030 is significant. Whilst the process for developing the Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy and its projects such as the Hydrogen Demonstrator Project, has been led by the Communities Directorate there has been a Council wide approach towards its creation and its delivery must be seen as a corporate responsibility. Delivery will also require an on-going partnership approach with key external stakeholders and a wide range of funders.
- 8.2 Much has been achieved by BCBC in securing external resources to date, often matched on a case-by-case basis with BCBC resources, for a number of the early phase actions being delivered to support the Council to reach net-zero carbon, such as the Bridgend District Heat Scheme, active travel and the Re:Fit scheme.
- 8.3 Like these schemes, many of the initiatives in future years will require feasibility funding to finalise their detailed cost and delivery profiles. Such funding is available on an annual basis via bids to BCBC's Corporate Feasibility Fund.
- 8.4 As initiatives that require additional resources are taken forward it is noted that the Corporate Director Communities, in consultation with the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support, Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change will submit proposals to secure external resources to fund 2030 initiatives through appropriate funds. As initiatives are developed, each one, including their potential resource requirements and carbon reduction potential, will be considered based on the information available at the time.
- 8.5 It is noted that, depending on fund criteria, an element of match funding may be required from BCBC. As the specific detail of individual funding packages are not yet known at this stage it is considered that any match funding requirement would be highlighted by the Corporate Director Communities, and the most appropriate source of match funding identified, which could require further reports to Cabinet and Council, particularly if capital match funding is required.
- 8.6 BCBC does not currently have a dedicated capital resource to deliver the 2030 programme in its entirety within its capital programme. The Council is facing a number of capital pressures which it needs to address, as outlined in the latest reports to Cabinet and Council on the capital programme, and if a specific ringfenced fund was to be created within the current Capital programme solely for decarbonisation then it may prevent other pressures being funded. There is however an EMR for 22-23 of £204K and this will be used for resourcing wherever possible.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

9.1.1 Notes the progress to develop; Bridgend Net Zero Carbon – Hydrogen Demonstrator Project

9.1.2 Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and Chief Officer - Legal and Regulatory Services, Human Resources and Corporate Policy, to work with the Marubeni Corporation to develop the Hydrogen Demonstrator Project and to negotiate the terms of the MoU and enter into the document.

9.1.3 Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Communities, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change and Chief Officer - Legal and Regulatory Services, Human Resources and Corporate Policy, to commission specialist advice utilising resources that will be made available from the Communities Directorate Earmarked Reserve (EMR) 2022-23 for implementing Bridgend 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy from the Communities Directorate budget as required and to report back to Cabinet on the full project proposal.

9.1.4 Notes that a further report shall be received following the end of the MoU period to consider detailed viability of the project.

Janine Nightingale
Corporate Director Communities
7th June 2022

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Background documents

None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the appointment of local authority governors to the school governing bodies listed at paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

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 focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 - **Helping people and communities to be more healthy 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 In accordance with the Council's 'Guidance on the appointment of local education authority governors' approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2008, officers have considered applications received for current vacancies for local authority governor positions on school governing bodies (see paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2, and Appendix A).

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 For the 15 current local authority governor vacancies at the 13 schools in the table below, all applicants met the approved criteria for appointment as a local authority governor and there was no competition for these vacancies. Therefore, the recommended appointments are as follows:

Name of applicant	School
Cllr Hywel Williams	Abercerdin Primary School
Mrs Sally Evans-Ryle	Abercerdin Primary School
Mr Kevin Burnell	Cefn Cribwr Primary School
Mrs Louise Clarke	Coety Primary School
Mrs Diane Tiltman	Coety Primary School
Reverend William John	Cwmfelin Primary School
Cllr Jane Gebbie	Mynydd Cynffig Primary School
Cllr Chris Davies	Nantyllyllon Primary School
Ms Nicole Burnett	Penybont Primary School
Mr Nicky Owen	Pen y Fai Church in Wales Primary School
Mr Cynwyd Williams	Porthcawl Primary School
Mr Neil Arbery	Tynyrheol Primary School
Miss Rebecca Powell	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
Mr Daniel Esmond	Brynteg School
Mrs Anjali Sharma-Thomas	Maesteg School

- 4.2 There was competition for one vacancy at one school and the applicants are detailed in the table below:

Name of applicant	School
Mrs Amanda Atkinson	Porthcawl Comprehensive School
Cllr Neelo Farr	Porthcawl Comprehensive School

- 4.3 The officer panel scrutinised the applications and noted that Cllr Neelo Farr has recently become an elected member for part of the school's catchment area since submission of the application form. Therefore, in accordance with the criteria identified in the aforementioned Council's 'Guidance on the appointment of local education authority governors', the recommended appointment is Cllr Neelo Farr.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is, therefore, not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

Long-term

While it is desirable for local authority governors to have previous or relevant experience of the role, in the short-term, the local authority may support any person for such an appointment who is interested in supporting schools, is not disqualified from being a school governor and is willing and able to dedicate the necessary time to the role.

Prevention

The local authority assesses the suitability of applicants for the local authority governor vacancy/vacancies applied for. The local authority, in conjunction with Central South Consortium, supports governors with a comprehensive programme of both mandatory and voluntary training and access to resources, to enable them to develop and maintain their knowledge and skills, and be successful in fulfilling the role.

Integration

School governing bodies have a strategic role in running schools and ensuring that all pupils are supported to learn and achieve so that they can access opportunities for further learning and employment, know how to maintain their wellbeing, can play active roles in their communities and can contribute positively to society as a whole.

Collaboration

School governing bodies have a strategic role in ensuring that schools safeguard the health and well-being of pupils and staff. The local authority, in conjunction with Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in this respect.

Involvement

The local authority treats all applications for local authority governor vacancies fairly, to ensure equality of opportunity. School governing bodies have a strategic role in ensuring that schools safeguard the health and well-being of pupils and staff. The local authority, in conjunction with Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in this respect.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the appointments detailed at paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

Mr Lindsay Harvey
CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

14 June 2022

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Background documents

None

Appendix A

The following table represents current and future local authority governor vacancies (up to the end of August 2022) subject to the approval of the recommended appointments in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

Name of school	Number of current and future vacancies	Latest date for submission of an application
Abercerdin Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Afon y Felin Primary School	1 (vacant from 18 July 2022)	20 June 2022
Brackla Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Bryntirion Infant School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Coychurch (Llangrallo) Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Croesty Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Ffaldau Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Garth Primary School	2 (current)	20 June 2022
Litchard Primary School	1 (current) 1 (vacant from 18 July 2022)	20 June 2022
Llangewydd Junior School	2 (current)	20 June 2022
Mynydd Cynffig Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Nantymoel Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Newton Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Nottage Primary School	3 (current) 1 (vacant from 18 July 2022)	20 June 2022
Pîl Primary School	2 (current)	20 June 2022
Plasnewydd Primary School	2 (current)	20 June 2022
St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School	2 (current)	20 June 2022
Tondy Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Tremains Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Tynyrheol Primary School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Ysgol Bryn Castell	1 (vacant from 18 July 2022)	20 June 2022
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	2 (current)	20 June 2022
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd	2 (current)	20 June 2022
Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	3 (current)	20 June 2022
Cynffig Comprehensive School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Pencoed Comprehensive School	1 (current) 1 (vacant from 18 July 2022)	20 June 2022
Porthcawl Comprehensive School	1 (current)	20 June 2022
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	1 (vacant from 18 July 2022)	20 June 2022

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME - MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTCOME OF PUBLISHED STATUTORY NOTICE

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Cabinet of the outcome of the published statutory notice in respect of the proposed enlargement of Mynydd Cynffig Primary School, as detailed in the Objection Report (Appendix A);
- seek approval to publish the Objection Report, as prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018 (Code);
- seek approval to implement the proposal with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025; and
- seek approval to issue and publish a decision letter, as prescribed by the Code.

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 for 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 In April 2009, Cabinet approved a number of individual projects that emerged from a feasibility study, which reviewed 3 to 18 learning provision in the Cefn Cribwr, Cornelly, Kenfig Hill and Pyle area. Approval was received to progress

a project to cater for a proposed amalgamation and enlargement of Mynydd Cynffig Infant and Junior Schools.

- 3.2 In December 2010, the Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the 21st Century Schools Programme was submitted to Welsh Government (WG) and a replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School scheme was identified as a Band A project. In 2011, the project was again confirmed as a priority Band A scheme in a further SOP submission to WG.
- 3.3 A feasibility study was undertaken in 2011 to establish the most suitable site for the primary school. That study considered the establishment of primary provision on Mynydd Cynffig Infant and Junior Schools' sites plus the site of Cynffig Comprehensive School, the outcome of which determined that the preferred site was that of the Junior School.
- 3.4 Following the establishment of Mynydd Cynffig Primary School in September 2015, a decision was made to undertake further feasibility work to explore the potential Cynffig Comprehensive School, to accommodate Mynydd Cynffig Primary School at that location.
- 3.5 The feasibility study showed that Cynffig Comprehensive School site allowed for suitable alternative solutions to the critical issues of sufficient developable area and appropriate site access. It also offered sufficient space to develop a 2-form entry (FE) school plus nursery and remove some secondary surplus places.
- 3.6 The outcome of the feasibility study was reported to Cabinet in July 2016 and approval was provided to commence the consultation process to relocate the primary school to the secondary school site.
- 3.7 The outcome of the consultation was reported to Cabinet in January 2017. The community strongly opposed the proposal and Cabinet determined to consider a counter proposal from the objectors (that is, to locate the new school on the school's junior site).
- 3.8 In March 2017, the outcome of a review of the 2011 feasibility study and the counter proposal was reported to Cabinet together with concerns regarding revised budget estimates for the new school development at the secondary school site. Cabinet determined to abandon the proposal, as there was insufficient funding available to take forward the scheme at the comprehensive or junior site.
- 3.9 In October 2017, Cabinet approved Bridgend's Band B priorities and agreed that further feasibility work would be undertaken for a replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School which, depending on the outcome and available funding, could be delivered as a priority scheme in Band C.
- 3.10 In November 2019, the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School's infant site suffered a catastrophic failure of its heating system and the repair forced the temporary closure of the school building.

- 3.11 A subsequent building condition survey reduced the school from its previous condition, that is 'C', to a category 'D' (that is, 'Bad – life expired and/or at risk of imminent closure, requiring significant immediate/urgent works'). The nature and assortment of the disrepairs highlighted within the survey made isolated repair works to individual fabric elements at the school extremely challenging and economically unfeasible. As a result of the health and safety risk to pupils and staff, it was agreed that the school building would close, and alternative teaching accommodation would be provided as a matter of urgency.
- 3.12 Funding was made available through the capital programme to procure temporary accommodation.
- 3.13 On 30 June 2020 Cabinet approval was received to reprioritise Band B, bringing forward the replacement school scheme for Mynydd Cynffig Primary. Approval was received to submit a revised SOP to WG to reflect this and for officers to commence an options appraisal and feasibility study for the proposed replacement primary school.
- 3.14 In September 2020 the outcome of the options appraisal process was reported to Cabinet and approval received to undertake a feasibility study on Mynydd Cynffig Primary School's junior site.
- 3.15 In December 2020, the Strategic Outline Business Case received Ministerial approval.
- 3.16. In October 2021, the outcome of the feasibility study was reported to Cabinet and approval was given to commence a statutory consultation process to enlarge Mynydd Cynffig Primary School to a 2FE school, plus a 75-place nursery to be located on the junior site and open with effect from September 2025.
- 3.17 A consultation process was undertaken between 23 November 2021 and 12 January 2022, the outcome of which was reported to Cabinet on 8 February 2022.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 Following Cabinet approval on 8 February 2022, the consultation report was published on the Council's website and stakeholders were advised accordingly.
- 4.2 The statutory public notice was published on 7 March 2022 for a period of 28 days and formal written objections were invited during this time.
- 4.3 The Council received one email in respect of the proposal during the statutory notice period. Legal advice was sought and it was recommended to consider the correspondence as an objection to the proposal. An Objection Report must now be published summarising the objection and the local authority's response to the objection. Cabinet will now need to consider the proposal in light of the objection. Cabinet can then accept, reject, or modify the proposal.

4.4 The attached Objection Report (Appendix A) sets out the objection received and the local authority response.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An initial Equality Act Impact (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fulfils the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places.• Allows teaching and learning to take place on one site, assisting with sharing expert knowledge and resources.• Supports the day-to-day management and operation of the school.• Helps parents with drop-off and pick-up arrangements, as all pupils will attend one site.
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguards the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge regarding the supply of school places.
Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensures that the curriculum can be delivered from a purpose-built facility that meets social, environmental, and cultural objectives.
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works effectively with schools and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building meets the short-term and future needs of users and the community that it will serve.
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement of potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 In December 2018, the Council approved a programme envelope of £71.3m, covering Band B new school builds of £68.2m and potential highways works of £3.1m (the cost of highway works will have to be met in full by the local authority, as there is no match funding from WG). Following subsequent amendments to the capital programme, the current position is that there are budgets of £49.504m for works and £3.4m for infrastructure within the capital programme, with the remaining schemes funded via the revenue funded Mutual Investment Model (MIM).
- 8.2 £10.2m has been allocated in the Capital Programme for this project and the WG intervention rate is 65%. An additional 15 FTE places for rising 3's would need to be funded from BCBC capital and would form part of the total project costs.
- 8.3 Contractor inflation and the impact of Covid-19 and 'Brexit' will have a detrimental impact on the scheme costs. WG has recently issued revised cost standards to local authorities and the impact of these revisions, which not only address the price increases, but also cover decarbonisation and the commitment to deliver Net Zero Carbon schools, is in the process of being considered by officers. This impact will be reported in due course and will continue to be reviewed regularly throughout the course of the project. Any changes to the total cost of the scheme or council contributions will be reported back to Cabinet and Council as appropriate.
- 8.3 The scheme, should it go ahead, could generate revenue cost efficiencies as a consequence of moving from multiple sites to a single site. The exact amounts are difficult to quantify at present as they will be determined through the annual school formula funding process. As part of the scheme, there is a requirement to utilise Council-owned land currently occupied by Pwllgath Allotment Association and the Air Training Corps (ATC), in order to develop the school (as detailed in Appendix A). Any potential revenue costs involved with moving the allotments and ATC would be minimal.
- 8.4 The cost of the feasibility study has been funded from the Band B revenue feasibility funding allocation.

9. Recommendations.

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
- note the outcome of the published statutory notice in respect of the proposed enlargement of Mynydd Cynffig Primary School as detailed in the Objection Report (Appendix A);
 - give approval to publish the Objection Report;
 - determine to implement the proposal with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025; and
 - give approval to issue and publish a decision letter.

Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey
Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

14 June 2022

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CF31 4WB

Background documents

None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OBJECTION REPORT

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY
SUPPORT**

**SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF THE PUBLISHED
STATUTORY NOTICE IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATED
ALTERATION TO MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE FORM OF AN
ENLARGEMENT**

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report details an objection received in respect of the statutory proposal to make a regulated alteration to Mynydd Cynffig Primary School in the form of an enlargement (that is, 2 form-entry plus 75-place nursery).

2. Background

- 2.1 In October 2021, Cabinet approval was received to undertake a statutory consultation process in respect of the proposed enlargement to Mynydd Cynffig Primary School. Under the proposal, the existing split-site arrangement would cease and the infant department would relocate to a new build primary school on the existing Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site at Pwllgath Street, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, CF33 6ET with effect from September 2025.
- 2.2 The proposal was subject to a consultation process which was carried out between 23 November 2021 and 12 January 2022, in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018. It provided an opportunity for prescribed consultees as well as members of the local community to learn about the proposal. The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal in order for Cabinet to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be considered before decisions are made.
- 2.3 In February 2022, a summary of the views and opinions received in respect of the proposal were presented to Cabinet in a consultation report and approval was received to publish the report. A copy of the consultation report was made available on the Council's website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/12846/mynydd-cynffig-primary-school-consultation-report.pdf>

2.4 Following consideration of the consultation report, Cabinet determined to progress the proposal and approve the publication of a statutory public notice. A statutory notice outlining the proposals was subsequently published on 7 March 2022 for a period of 28 days and formal written objections were invited during this time, as prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018.

3. Objection to the proposal

3.1 The Council received one email during the statutory notice period. Legal advice was sought, and it was recommended to consider the correspondence as an objection.

3.2 Objection

'I refer to our telephone conversation on the 31/01/2022 for the council to confirm in writing that they would be moving or replacing greenhouse, sheds and chicken coops I also refer to the allotment being a in statute. As there has been no response to this it is with regret must now give you five days in which to respond if you do not do so then we will be forced to take the matter to a higher authority ie the Secretary of State, The Welsh Government Planning Dept. along with the leaders of the main political parties. This would mean objecting to your plans at the highest level possibly delaying the development of the new school.

With regret'

3.3 Local authority response to the objection made

To progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 23 November 2021 and 12 January 2022 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018. The local authority held 4 stakeholder consultation meetings at Mynydd Cynffig Primary School (infant site), and held 'virtual' meetings with learners, school staff, governors, and Pyle Community Council. Representatives from the Pwllgath Allotments Association and the Air Training Corp (ATC) attended the sessions held at the school. In addition, separate sessions were held with both organisations to address their specific concerns. Local members actively engaged and supported the process.

The land occupied by Pwllgath Allotments Association was acquired by the Council for Education purposes. Should the proposal proceed, the tenancy of the allotment site would end, subject to the relevant notice period.

Suitable replacement land has been identified which is located adjacent to the proposed school site and will provide for the same level of accommodation and number of allotment plots (that is, 26). The design team has confirmed that the provision can be accommodated with the aim of not exceeding any gradients experienced on current plots within the new site.

The terms of the occupation are to be agreed. However, the intention, subject to Council approval, would be to designate the replacement facility a 'statutory' allotment site.

Officers of Bridgend County Borough Council have provided Pwlllygath Allotment Association with a proposed site layout plan for the new allotments and have discussed plot sizes, positioning and access points.

The following are outline draft specification and design proposals for the replacement site. However, the local authority will provide more detail and layout plans as the design process progresses:

- replicate the number of existing allotments (layout to be confirmed);
- any gradients on the replacement site aim to not exceed any gradients already experienced on current plots;
- after cut and fill works, the ground will be finished with topsoil and fertilised;
- the new access will be tarmac surfaced for a short section and then switch to an appropriate fill material;
- 4 car parking spaces will be provided;
- a perimeter galvanised steel security fence to a minimum height of 1.8m plus a main gate to match; and
- a 'stoned up' footway from the access track into each plot to the shed.

The following is proposed in respect of each plot:

- a shed per allotment. Type and size to be agreed;
- a water butt (off the shed) per allotment;
- replacement pigeon lofts and chicken coups; and
- a timber stock type fence with matching gate (approximately 1.2m high) to each allotment.

In terms of improvements, the following is proposed:

- provision of improved security fencing;
- provision of improved plot fencing;
- improvement in access (wider) and circulation routes;
- provision of parking (4 spaces); and
- ground and soil suitability will be finished in accordance with relevant standards.

In terms of replicating the existing site, the focus has been on the land element and where reasonable, the local authority aims to provide the specification typically associated with an allotment provision, as outlined above. For clarity, the local authority will **not** be providing (but not limited to) the following;

- greenhouses; or
- any utility supplies to the site.

The local authority will ensure Pwlllygath Allotment Association is updated regularly on the programme and timescales which will allow all parties to plan accordingly.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Council concludes that the proposal would have a positive impact on education provision and standards and deliver suitable and sufficient accommodation that meets the needs of staff and learners at Mynydd Cynffig Primary School.
- 4.2 The proposal would result in appropriate teaching and learning environments that would promote pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning. The new building and external areas would be designed to meet the needs of learners and would provide access to the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- 4.3 The proposal would ensure the Council is able to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places that meets the needs of the learners.

Hard copies of this report are available on request in the following ways:

Telephone: (01656) 643 643

Email: edsu@bridgend.gov.uk

Online: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

Post: Education and Family Support Directorate, Directorate Support Unit (EDSU), Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Alternative formats are available upon request.

This report is subject to the call-in procedures as set out in Part 4 Rules of Procedure in the Council's Constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet, but yet to be implemented, to be reviewed. Should a valid call-in notice of the report be received from an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, all stakeholders would be informed.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation in respect of the proposal to make regulated alterations to Heronsbridge School;
- present the findings of the consultation in a detailed Consultation Report (**Appendix A**); and
- seek approval to progress the publication of a statutory notice as prescribed in the School Organisation Code 2018 (the Code).

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 for 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The Band B Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) was submitted to Welsh Government (WG) in July 2017. In October 2017 Cabinet was presented with a report detailing the outcome of the Band B review and gave approval to discontinue the original Band B schemes identified in the November 2010 Cabinet report and approved the revised SOP.

3.2 On 6 December 2017, the WG Department for Education gave 'approval in principle' for Bridgend's second wave of investment, which at that stage had

an estimated programme envelope cost of £68.2m. Further costs were to be determined, and these would be associated with additional infrastructure capacity.

- 3.3 In January 2018, Council approved in principle the financial commitment required for Band B of the School Modernisation Programme, subject to sufficient resources being identified and allocated to meet the match funding commitment.
- 3.4 In January 2020, Cabinet was presented with the outcome of the extensive options appraisal relating to each of the approved projects.
- 3.5 In December 2020, Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CCMB) gave approval to progress the preferred 'Do maximum' option for Heronsbridge Special School (that is, a new-build for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Severe Learning Difficulties and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties plus residential provision). The school would be sized to accommodate 300 pupils. The existing Heronsbridge Special School and the Pencoed College sites, which had been approved for further consideration in January 2020, would no longer be considered, and work would focus on the privately owned site at Island Farm. This was reflected in the Strategic Outline Case, which was subsequently submitted to WG for consideration.
- 3.6 In December 2020, Council approval was received to include funding in the Capital Programme to deal with payments associated with securing the land.
- 3.7 In March 2021, Ministerial approval was received in respect of the Strategic Outline Business Case for a replacement 300-place Heronsbridge Special School, plus residential provision. Although no capacity calculation is available for special schools, an assessment of existing teaching spaces based on a notional 5m² per pupil (that is, less area per pupil than is specified in the Building Bulletin area guidelines) highlighted the significant overcrowding issue that exists at the school, producing a capacity of circa 180 pupils. Currently, there are 236 pupils on roll. Although every effort has been made to make best use of the building, the unprecedented increase in the number of learners with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) requiring an education suited to their needs has resulted in an increased demand for places, which simply cannot be accommodated. The existing school has a range of specialised facilities. However, it is not fit for purpose. There are significant issues with regard to the size of teaching and non-teaching spaces. Storage and circulation space is extremely poor, and given the needs of the learners, (many of whom require walking aids/wheelchairs), this causes issues in managing safe movement around the school. The overall condition of the school is grade C (poor - exhibiting major defects and/ or not operating as intended) and the backlog maintenance costs (assessed in October 2020) is £1,248,200.
- 3.8 Ministerial approval of the WG Outline Business Case was received in November 2021.
- 3.9 The outcome of the feasibility study to consider the development of the school on privately owned land at Island Farm, Bridgend was reported to Cabinet on 8

March 2022 and approval was received to commence a statutory consultation process to make regulated alterations to Heronsbridge Special School to increase the number of pupils for whom the school makes provision to 300 and to relocate the school from its current location at Ewenny Road, Bridgend to Island Farm, Bridgend. The proposed new school would open from the beginning of the autumn term 2025 (that is, September 2025).

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 In order to progress the proposed regulated alterations to Heronsbridge School, consultation exercises were carried out between 4 April and 18 May 2022, in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council's website and prescribed consultees were advised of its availability and sent a link to the document. The document can be viewed via the following link:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/13300/heronsbridge-school-consultation-document.pdf>

4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A summary of the issues raised by consultees and the local authority's responses are provided in the Consultation Report as detailed in Appendix A of this report. Cabinet will need to consider the Consultation Report and determine the preferred way forward.

4.3 Should Cabinet wish to proceed with the proposal, the next stage of the process is to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposal which would need to be published for a period of 28 days. Any formal written objections would be invited during this time.

4.4 If there are no objections during the statutory notice period, then the proposal can be implemented with Cabinet's approval. If there are objections at this statutory notice stage, an Objection Report will be published summarising the objections and the local authority's response to those objections. Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of any objections made. Cabinet could then accept, reject or modify the proposal.

4.5 The following timetable provides an indication of the likely timescales involved:

Activity	Dates
Consultation period.	4 April 2022 to 8 May 2022
Outcome of consultation reported to Cabinet.	14 June 2022
Subject to Cabinet approval, publish the approved Consultation Report on the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) website and inform prescribed stakeholders of its availability ('subject to the call-in period as outlined in Part 4 Rules of	15 June 2022

Procedure of the Council's constitution').	
If agreed by Cabinet, a statutory notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	30 June 2022
If there are no objections, Cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objection Report will be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request. Cabinet approval would also be sought to publish a decision letter in respect of the proposal. The decision letter must be made available within 7 days from the date of the decision being taken. Therefore, the letter would be published, subject to the call-in period.	September 2022
Implement the proposal (that is, subject to the successful outcome of the activities detailed in this table).	September 2025

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal. There have been positive impacts identified, including disability and gender.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	The proposal fulfils the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and will allow teaching and learning to take place in a building and site which is suited to the needs of the learners and staff.
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Prevention	The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient supply of school places, and this scheme will safeguard the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge in this regard.
Integration	Providing sufficient places at Heronsbridge School, ensures that the curriculum can be delivered and meets the social, environmental, and cultural objectives of learners and the community it will serve. This scheme will promote inclusion. Community use of facilities will be explored and, where appropriate, will be incorporated into the design. Should the proposal proceed in the future, construction will be competitively tendered, via a mini competition through the South East and Mid Wales Collaborative Construction Framework (SEWSCAP3) or potential future iterations of the framework. This will potentially provide opportunities for local companies to engage with the main contractor for inclusion in their supply chain, via 'Meet the Buyer' events. This would support economic activity in the area. Community benefits will be maximised.
Collaboration	The local authority will work effectively with the school, Estyn, Central South Consortium, health, town and community councils and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building meets the short-term and future needs of the users and the community which it will serve. Officers will work with an external design team in developing the scheme to ensure that the building design is sustainable and energy efficient and delivers on the decarbonisation agenda.
Involvement	This scheme was subject to a long list of education and site options. These were systematically evaluated and have been reduced from a long list to a short list to confirm the preferred option. Further work involves the engagement of all potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners which will include third sector organisations, during the consultation exercise. A public consultation process has been undertaken, according to the WG School Organisation Code 2018.

As a result of the assessment, it is considered that there will be a positive impact upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 In December 2018, Council approved a programme envelope of £71.3m, covering Band B new school builds of £68.2m and potential highways works of £3.1m (the cost of highway works will have to be met in full by the local authority,

as there is no match funding from WG). Following subsequent amendments to the capital programme, the current position is that there are budgets of £49.504m for works and £3.4m for all Band B schools highways infrastructure within the capital programme, with the remaining Band B school build schemes funded via the revenue funded Mutual Investment Model (MIM).

- 8.2 £25m has been allocated within the £49.504m capital budget for this project and the WG intervention rate is 75%. Contractor inflation and the impact of COVID-19 and 'Brexit' will have a detrimental impact on the scheme costs. WG has recently issued revised cost standards to local authorities and the impact of these revisions, which not only address the price increases, but also cover decarbonisation and the commitment to deliver 'net zero carbon' schools, is in the process of being considered by officers. This impact will be reported in due course and will continue to be reviewed regularly throughout the course of the project. Any changes to the total cost of the scheme or council contributions will be reported back to Cabinet and Council as appropriate.
- 8.3 The scheme would be tendered as a design and build contract through the South East Wales and Mid Wales Collaborative Construction Framework (SEWSCAP3) or potential future iterations of the framework.
- 8.4 Any revenue implications resulting as a consequence of moving sites, including increases to the schools' delegated budget to cover a larger premises areas, and any potential increases in school transport costs, will not be known until the scheme is developed further.
- 8.5 The cost of the feasibility study has been funded from the Council's feasibility funding allocation for Band B school modernisation.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
- note the outcome of the consultation with prescribed consultees, as detailed in the attached Consultation Report and appendices;
 - approve the Consultation Report (Appendix A) for publication; and
 - authorise the publication of a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.

Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

14 June 2022

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Background documents

Equality Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Welsh Language Impact Assessment

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATIONS TO HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PUPILS FOR WHOM THE SCHOOL MAKES PROVISION TO 300 AND TO RELOCATE THE SCHOOL FROM ITS CURRENT LOCATION AT EWENNY ROAD, BRIDGEND TO ISLAND FARM, BRIDGEND, WITH EFFECT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE AUTUMN TERM 2025.

1. Purpose of report

1.1 This public report is to inform of the outcome of the consultation on a proposal to make regulated alterations to Heronsbridge School:

- to increase the number of pupils for whom the school makes provision to 300; and
- to relocate the school from its current location at Eweny Road, Bridgend to Island Farm, Bridgend.

1.2 The proposed new school would open from the beginning of the autumn term 2025 (that is, September 2025).

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

2.1 This school modernisation programme 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 for 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 In March 2022, Cabinet approval was received to commence a statutory consultation process in respect of proposed regulated alterations to Heronsbridge School, as set out in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 of this report.
- 3.2 This report outlines responses received to the consultation and details the local authority's observations.

4. Consultation process

- 4.1 To progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 4 April and 18 May 2022 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council's website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/13300/heronsbridge-school-consultation-document.pdf>

- 4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A list of stakeholders consulted can be seen at Appendix 12.
- 4.3 In addition, the Governing Body of Heronsbridge School requested that the local authority issue a set of frequently asked questions in relation to the proposal, which were also made available on the Council's website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/consultations/closed-consultations/heronsbridge-school/>

5. Summary of responses to consultation

- 5.1 Key points from the consultation exercise were as follows, with full details appended at the end of this report. The local authority held 'virtual' meetings with learners, staff, governors and Bridgend Town Council and members of the community.

5.2 Governing body consultation

A 'virtual' Microsoft Teams consultation meeting was held with Heronsbridge School's Governing Body on 11 May 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions, responses and clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 1 of this Consultation Report.

School governors asked about the size of school and future demand for places. Officers have worked closely with the Headteacher in establishing the projected school population by looking at historic data and projecting the population forward. The projected capacity of 300 is considered sustainable. Governors were advised that a school that is too big could dilute the quality of teaching and learning. A 300-place school is considered the limit whereby the quality of teaching, intervention, management and governance is not lost.

New admission criteria, introduced in 2013, has meant that the pupil numbers have remained relatively static and there is confidence in the pupil projections

for the next five to ten years. If housing developments continue to grow in Bridgend, the local authority will need to consider a strategy for the way forward in the future.

The school currently benefits from bespoke facilities (for example, a swimming pool, eco lodge). Governors asked why they should support the proposal if the new school does not have the same facilities, if not better than the existing provision. Officers advised that Building Bulletin (BB) 104 must be followed in terms of floor area. However, there will be engagement sessions with the school to ensure the area provided meets the needs of the school, ensuring the learning experience and facilities provided will be as good as, if not better than the existing provision, in alignment with BB104.

Governors wanted assurance that the appointed contractor would have relevant experience in terms of special school delivery. The successful contractor would be appointed from the South East Wales and Mid Wales Collaborative Construction Framework (SEWSCAP3) or potential future iterations of the framework via a mini competition. The tender would be based on cost and quality. Examples of experience in delivering special schools or similar schemes (that is, health or social care) would be sought. Consultation sessions would be held with the school in respect of the design, as input from staff is critical. These sessions will be led by the design and build contractor, once appointed. It is critical that everyone is involved and has an input. The design will be bespoke.

The existing building is not suitable or fit-for-purpose. A school is required which has warm, dry, safe classrooms and corridors where pupils can move around safely. Larger, dignified toilet and changing areas are required. The school must be a safe place with a perimeter fence for pupils to explore the site safely.

5.3 Bridgend Town Council consultation

A 'virtual' Microsoft Teams consultation meeting was held with Bridgend Town Council on 17 May 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 2 of this consultation report.

A question was asked about the sustainable features of the building. Council representatives explained that the building will be designed in line with the long-term commitment towards carbon reduction and achieving net zero carbon buildings. The expectation is that the building would have increased insulation to floors, walls, roofs and glazing and a significant number of solar panels, air source and ground source heat pumps.

Concerns were expressed regarding the traffic outside the school on Ewenny Road, especially when the school taxis and minibuses have to queue. Children travel from all over the county borough to the existing Heronsbridge School and a very small number travel from outside the county. The number of minibuses and taxis that queue outside the school, including traffic from Oldcastle Primary School and Brynteg School, causes gridlock. The highway infrastructure outside of the school was not built for the volume of traffic. There

is a single lane, one-way system on the school site and the school has had to implement a “no vehicle movement lockdown” to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff. This all puts additional pressure on Ewenny Road. If the proposals go ahead at the new site, there would be a private road, (shared with a proposed tennis centre) and it is anticipated that there will be an entrance and exit system with a large drop-off area.

A question was asked about how the access to the new school would be dealt with. Access to the school would be via the Science Park. A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) has been undertaken relating to the proposal. The TIA has considered the highway network and there is pressure on the roundabout. Improvements to the roundabout will be required by introducing an additional lane on the highway network (within highway extents), which will mitigate the issue. Subject to the improvement being implemented, the pressure on the roundabout will not be exacerbated by moving the school to Island Farm.

5.4 Staff consultation

A ‘virtual’ Microsoft Teams consultation meeting was held with the staff of Heronsbridge School on 25 April 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 3 of this consultation report.

Questions were raised mainly concerning the size of school and the future demand for places, facilities at the new school (for example, rebound therapy and hydrotherapy), consultation with staff, out of authority pupils, residential provision, planning permission, future use of the existing school site, drop off areas and the environmental features of the new building.

Council representatives explained the rationale for establishing the size of school and that the Headteacher had input into establishing the projected pupil numbers (that is, based on historic trends and projecting the data forward).

The new building will be designed according to BB104. Officers will work closely with the school to ensure the areas/facilities required are provided within the floor area guidelines. Once a design and build contractor is appointed, a series of consultation and engagement sessions will be held with the staff. Planning consent would be required for the development.

There is no spare capacity to offer places to learners living outside of the county. However, there will always be exceptions. Currently, there are approximately 13 out-of-authority pupils.

Two, four-bedroom houses will be provided as part of the school development for residential pupils.

Future use of the existing school site would be subject to the outcome of the Heronsbridge School proposal and a Cabinet decision. The existing main school building has been listed by Cadw.

The building will be designed in line with the long-term commitment towards carbon reduction and achieving net zero carbon buildings. The contractor will need to consider their carbon use during construction and will have to factor in

lifetime carbon, for example selecting low carbon materials. The site will have to be left in a better biodiverse condition. The proposed school site has many opportunities to enhance and increase its ecology and biodiversity.

There are guidelines for parking and drop-off areas. However, there are no guidelines for special schools. Therefore, such provision will require discussion with the local authority's highway team and planning officers. Cycling facilities will be included.

5.5 Learners' consultation

Héronsbridge School's School Council met virtually via Microsoft Teams with BCBC council representatives on 4 April 2022 to discuss the proposal. The pupils were given a child friendly version of the consultation document prior to the meeting and asked about their views. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 4 of this Consultation Report.

The School Council were interested in access to the school site, the duration of build, security, future use of the residual building, the school name, number of pupil places, equipment and IT provision, a track for their 'daily mile' walk, and facilities at the new school.

Council representatives explained that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient indoor and outdoor space would be provided for 300 pupils, including specialist facilities, classrooms, hall and circulation space, sports pitch, yard and soft play. External areas would be developed to suit the school's needs (for example, a track for the 'daily mile' walk, an allotment).

There will be a budget allocation for furniture, equipment and IT. However, there will be resources that would transfer with the school.

Safety is of paramount importance. The site would have security fencing and CCTV would be provided. Should the proposal progress, further meetings would be arranged so that pupils can input into the design process.

It is not anticipated that the name of the school would change, this is a matter for the school governing body. Cabinet would be asked to consider the future use of the residual site once an options appraisal has concluded and subject to the successful outcome in respect of this proposal.

5.6 Open consultation event – virtual meeting

A 'virtual' Microsoft Teams consultation meeting was held on 25 April 2022. There were no attendees at this meeting. Appendix 5 of this Consultation Report details the council representatives that were present.

5.7 Summary of written representations

Three items of direct correspondence were received during the consultation period. See Appendix 6 of this Consultation Report for details and responses/clarifications.

- 5.8 Responses were sent to the originators of items of correspondence thanking them for their submissions and stating that their comments would be taken into consideration.

5.9 **Summary of online survey responses**

Overall, 81 respondents completed the online questionnaire. In respect of the question on whether they support the proposal, 51 responded 'Yes' and 30 responded 'No'. See Appendix 7 of this Consultation Report for details and the local authority's responses/clarifications in respect of issues raised.

6. **The view of Estyn, her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales**

- 6.1 Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal. See Appendix 8 of this Consultation Report for full details. Estyn has concluded as follows:

'It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standard of education'.

7 **Impact Assessments**

- 7.1 A Community Impact Assessment (Appendix 9) was carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document.

The Community Impact Assessment has been updated following the consultation process.

- 7.2 A Welsh Impact Assessment (Appendix 10) was undertaken and published as part of the consultation document. The proposal is considered to have a positive effect on the Welsh language:

- The school's facilities could be utilised for community use/adult classes through the Welsh language.
- The site is located centrally which will encourage use by the immediate and wider community seeking an opportunity to engage in Welsh classes/courses.
- The new school will be fully accessible.

Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the conclusion remains valid.

- 7.3 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 11) has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. It identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. There have been positive impacts identified, including disability and gender. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the conclusion remains valid.

- 7.4 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been considered in formulating the proposal.

8. Conclusion

Following the consultation process, the local authority has revisited the proposal to determine the likely impact on the quality and standards in education, transport and the community.

Quality and standards

The proposal would deliver a Sustainable Communities for Learning school with a first class teaching and learning environment which will promote wellbeing and attitudes to learning. This proposal will have a positive impact on education provision and standards by providing specialist support for pupils with additional learning needs. The building and external spaces would be designed to meet the needs of school staff and pupils.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standard of education.

The proposal will ensure the council is able to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and meet the needs of our most vulnerable pupils.

Transport

There will be very little impact on the school transport provision, as the vast majority of pupils receive home-to-school transport and the proposed site is located approximately 1 mile from the existing school.

Sufficient car-parking and drop-off/pick-up areas and highway links would be provided as part of the new school design.

The provision of a school at Island Farm will require the local authority to make highway improvements to the roundabout at Ewenny Road, which can be achieved within highway extents.

Community

A Community Impact Assessment was undertaken and published alongside the consultation document. The assessment concludes the impact on community use is unlikely to be affected, although there will likely be a positive impact in terms of modern, accessible, purpose-built facilities provided in the proposed new school.

The local authority engaged with the community during the consultation. All community and town councils received the consultation document and a meeting was held with Bridgend Town Council.

The proposal would have a positive impact on the local community by:

- Ensuring a sufficient supply of school places for pupils with complex ALN; and
- Providing improved school facilities that could be utilised for community use.

Encouraging community use is a key objective of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. There are concerns regarding increased traffic and the impact on local infrastructure, as detailed within this report. However, there are proposed mitigation measures and officers will ensure that the necessary highway improvements are addressed by the project.

9. Statutory process in determining proposals

9.1 The following table sets out the provisional timetable:

Activity	Date
Consultation period where we welcome your views and observations on the proposal*.	4 April to 18 May 2022
Draft Consultation Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	14 June 2022
Publish approved Consultation Report on BCBC website, hard copies available on request.	15 June 2022
If agreed by the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council, a Public Notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	30 June 2022
If there are no objections Cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objections Report will be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request. Publication of the decision letter.	September 2022
Implementation.	September 2025

Hard Copies of this report are available on request.

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This report is subject to the call-in procedures as set out in Part 4 Rules of Procedure in the Council's Constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet, but yet to be implemented, to be reviewed. Should a valid call-in notice of the report be received from an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, all stakeholders would be informed.

APPENDIX 1



Heronsbridge School Consultation with School Governors Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 3:45pm

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Schools Programme Manager
Strategic Resources and Planning Officer
Principal Architectural Assistant
Group Manager, Learner Support
Headteacher, Heronsbridge School
Principal Educational Psychologist
4 School Governors

Apologies: 3 School Governors

The Headteacher introduced the consultation session and the team introduced themselves. The Corporate Director set out the purpose of the meeting and thanked the school governors for their support with the project. The Schools Programme Manager, School Modernisation, explained the nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal. The Principal Architectural Assistant provided an overview of the site layout and access points and explained that we are working to achieve Net Zero Carbon.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
XX: Will the new school be able to cope with future demand for places?	<p>XX: This question has been raised at each consultation. Heronsbridge School and the local authority have worked very closely regarding the placement process. The team has tracked five and ten-year past and future pupil projection figures.</p> <p>XX: There were 221 pupils at Heronsbridge School 11 years ago. 243 was the highest number of pupils in previous years. There will be 250 pupils in September, with the expansion at Bridgend College. This is a growth of 20 pupils in 11 years.</p> <p>XX: There is a static number of places that we need to fill. The challenge is that the number of available places depends on the number of school leavers. We will be incorporating a nursery provision which we haven't had at Heronsbridge for many years, and we are confident that a capacity</p>

	of 300 is sustainable and we won't outgrow it.
XX: A school capacity of 300 will not be sufficient. We will require more space and I feel that this should be factored into the planning.	XX: We have consulted with the school and carefully considered the balance that we need to meet. If we build a school that is too big, it could dilute the quality of teaching and learning for our pupils. We have held discussions at what limit we will lose that quality, intervention, management and governance. A capacity of 300 will make Heronsbridge School the largest special school in Wales. Nursery provision will be included in the capacity of 300.
XX: I don't want us to have to look for additional accommodation after a year of opening the school because we don't have enough room.	<p>XX: New admission criteria was introduced in 2013. Pupil numbers have remained static and we are confident that our projected figures for the next five to ten years are accurate.</p> <p>XX: The admission criteria has become a lot tighter and places are offered to children who need a space at Heronsbridge School. We want to ensure our pupils receive a bespoke and personal feel to their education. A school bigger than 300 places, could mean that we lose this. If housing developments continue to grow in Bridgend, then Cabinet and the Director will need to consider a strategy for the way forward in the future.</p> <p>XX assured XX and XX that officers have taken a lot of time to ensure we have a correctly sized school.</p>
<p><i>XX shared questions from XX.</i></p> <p>XX: A move to Island Farm takes pupils further away from the town centre. Would the local authority provide minibuses to transport pupils from the new site to the town centre? They need to have safe access to the community.</p>	<p>XX: We want to enhance opportunities for learners. We know that pupils undertake a lot of work in the town as part of their personal development and we will discuss these suggestions with Cabinet. The funding for this would be revenue. XX asked XX to provide feedback to XX.</p>
XX: Why would governors support this proposal if the new Heronsbridge School does not have the same facilities, if not better, than the current school?	XX: This was echoed at the school staff meeting. We must follow the guidelines in Building Bulletin 104 (BB104). We will maximise everything that we can do, including the swimming pool. During consultation with the pupils, they were keen to take the orchard to the new site and to ensure we have a sustainable school. XX and the team have looked very carefully at providing a sustainable site. We may not

	<p>be able to move some of the trees, but we will look at ways to plant new trees. We will ensure that the learning experience and facilities provided will be as good as, if not better than what you currently have, in alignment with BB104.</p> <p>XX and XX have discussed allocating an area on the drawing to identify where an orchard can be located. We may also be able to relocate your eco-cabin to the new site. We will look at the options to enhance the provision and maximise the school site.</p>
<p>XX: This question relates to the procurement and tendering process. You need to ensure that the appointed contractor has experience of building special schools. The building materials and finishes need to be considered.</p>	<p>XX: We will procure a contractor via the SEWSCAP framework. This framework is managed by Cardiff City Council and consists of many large design and construction companies. During the tendering process, contractors will have to answer pre-qualifying questions and one of the questions would relate to their experience of delivering a special school. We will create a robust set of employer's requirements that will be articulated within the documents. This will ensure we procure a contractor with the relevant experience. Once a design and build contractor is appointed, we will hold a series of consultation and design sessions with the school. It is critical that we work with you as you are the experts in what you need for the school.</p> <p>XX: We are limited with the choice of contractors because we must use the SEWSCAP framework. All of the contractors on the lot have been involved with working on hospitals and social care schemes. We don't want Heronsbridge School to look institutional; the robustness of a hospital or health care facility is imbedded in the design. We could two-part the quality question to include a question asking if they haven't worked specifically on a special school, what health care facility or hospital they have worked on.</p>
<p>XX: We were led to believe we could have the school that we wanted. We want a bespoke building. It is important that the school staff are involved in the design because they know the children and their</p>	<p>XX: We keen on ensuring we get this right for pupils and staff. The staff are the experts, and we want it to work for them.</p>

<p>needs. We want to ensure the school caters for the diverse needs of the pupils and that it has all the facilities and spaces that a special school needs.</p>	<p>XX: You have our firm commitment that we will hold stakeholder engagement sessions in respect of the design. These will include meetings with staff, governors and pupils. These sessions will be led by the design and build contractor, once appointed. It is critical that everyone is involved and has an input. The design will be bespoke.</p>
<p>XX thanked the headteacher and school governors for their time and support and said that he is looking forward to progressing this project. XX requested that all comments relating to the consultation are received by 18 May 2022.</p>	
<p>XX has received a number of comments from parents who are interested in the new Heronsbridge School. The majority are asking “do you think we should have a new school”? I answer by saying that the current Heronsbridge School building has served Bridgend well. The building will stand the test of time, but it is not suitable, or fit-for-purpose for the pupils we have here right now. I want to take the values, ethos and culture that we have here to the new school. I want to take all the facilities to the new school. I want warm, dry, safe classrooms and big corridors where pupils can move around safely. I want larger, dignified toilet and changing areas. I want to ensure we get the best of everything. Heronsbridge is a multi-occupancy site and we can’t shut the gates, I want a safe place for our children with a perimeter fence for our children to explore the site safely. Change is scary, but this opportunity is exciting.</p>	

APPENDIX 2



Heronsbridge School Consultation with Bridgend Town Council Tuesday 17 May 2022 at 3:30pm

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Schools Programme Manager
Strategic Resources and Planning Officer
Principal Architectural Assistant
Headteacher, Heronsbridge School
Principal Educational Psychologist
Bridgend Town Council x 1 representative

The Corporate Director introduced the consultation session and the team introduced themselves. The Schools Programme Manager explained the nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal. The Principal Architectural Assistant provided an overview of the site layout and access points and explained that we are working to achieve Net Zero Carbon.

<u>Questions/Issues</u>	<u>Answer/Comments</u>
XX: You mentioned the school will benefit from natural lighting; what other eco-features will be included (heating, solar power).	<p>XX: The building will be designed in line with the long-term commitment towards carbon reduction and achieving Net Zero Carbon buildings. I would expect to see increased insulation to floors, walls, roofs and glazing and a significant number of solar panels, air source and ground source heat pumps. It's unlikely to have a gas supply. There will be an electricity supply to supplement the solar panels.</p> <p>XX: You say we are unlikely to have gas fired heating. How will this work to heat the water for a swimming pool?</p> <p>XX: It should be heated from the air/ground source heat pumps. I should imagine that you will have a combination of the two. The appointed mechanical contractor will be tasked to design it to comply with Net Zero Carbon buildings. Ground source heating brings ambient heat from the ground, similarly, air source draws cold air from outside and will take less energy to heat. The pool will require some power, they</p>

	could combine solar power with heat source.
<p>XX: The traffic outside the school on Ewenny Road is very busy, especially when the school taxis and minibuses have to queue. How will the access to the new school be dealt with; the roundabout is a bottleneck.</p> <p>XX: that would be great thank you.</p>	<p>XX shared the site plan to the screen and provided an overview of the access points. We have undertaken a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) relating to the proposal. The TIA has considered the highway network and you are correct, there is pressure on this roundabout. There is a proposal to make improvements to the roundabout by introducing an additional lane on the highway network. I can email you with the details of what they propose to improve, so that you have an understanding of how our highways colleagues can mitigate against the risks surrounding the roundabout.</p> <p>XX: You have raised two important points. We are expecting congestion and it is identified in the TIA, we will have to look at solutions. In addition, you raise a good point about learner transport. XX has been working to ensure the transport provision is appropriate for both the residents in the area and to minimise the impact of long journeys for our young people</p> <p>XX: Children travel from all over the county borough to Heronsbridge School and a very small number travel from outside the county. The number of minibuses and taxis that queue outside, including traffic from Oldcastle Primary School and Brynteg School, every morning and night causes gridlock. The highway infrastructure outside of the school was not built for the volume of traffic we experience now. We have a single lane, one-way system on the school site and we have to implement a “no vehicle movement lockdown” to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff. This all puts additional pressure on Ewenny Road. If the proposals go ahead at the new site, we will have a private road, (shared with a proposed tennis centre) and I imagine we will have an entrance and exit system with a large drop-off area. However, we know it will add pressure on the roundabout as you mentioned and BCBC Highways team will need to look at the solutions for that.</p>

<p>XX: I wanted to make an observation that Broadlands housing estate uses the small mini roundabout.</p> <p>XX: This project is very exciting!</p>	<p>XX read out a section of the Cabinet report detailing the highways observations regarding the TIA, which concluded that if the local authority undertakes the recommended improvements, issues won't be exacerbated by moving the school to Island Farm.</p> <p>XX: We think so too. When we spoke to the learners, they were genuinely excited, and they have lots of ideas for the new school. We really want this to be something special for education in Bridgend.</p>
<p>XX thanked everyone for their time, questions and observations. All comments and feedback must be received by 18 May 2022. The outcome of the process will be reported to Cabinet in June and a decision will be taken whether to proceed with a public notice.</p>	

APPENDIX 3



Heronsbridge School Consultation with School Staff Monday 25 April 2022 at 2:30pm

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Schools Programme Manager
Strategic Resources and Planning Officer
Principal Architectural Assistant
Group Manager, Learner Support
Headteacher, Heronsbridge School
Principal Educational Psychologist

The Headteacher introduced the consultation session and the team introduced themselves. The Corporate Director set out the purpose of the meeting. The Schools Programme Manager, School Modernisation, explained the nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal. The Principal Architectural Assistant provided an overview of the site layout and access points and explained that we are working to achieve Net Zero Carbon.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
<p>Will the new school be able to cope with future demand for places?</p> <p>XX added that a special school bigger than 300 places, could mean that the learners would not receive a bespoke personal feel to their education.</p>	<p>XX: Heronsbridge School and the local authority have worked very closely regarding the placement process. The team has tracked five and ten-year learner past and future projection figures. There is a static number of places that we need to fill. The challenge is that the number of available places depends on the number of school leavers. We will be incorporating a nursery provision which we haven't had at Heronsbridge for many years, and we are confident that a capacity of 300 is sustainable and we won't outgrow it.</p>
<p>We currently don't have enough additional facilities such as rebound therapy and hydrotherapy. Will these additional spaces be included in the new building?</p> <p>XX added that he has been involved in the process since inception and will continue to be an active participant throughout the</p>	<p>XX: The new building will be designed according to Building Bulletin 104 (BB104). Once a design and build contractor is appointed, we will hold a series of consultation and design sessions with the school. It is critical that we work with you as you are the experts in what you need for the school. For example, BB104 allocates library areas; the headteacher has explained that the school does not require as much library space and would prefer more rebound space. We will work closely with the school to ensure what you need is provided within the floor area allocated.</p>

<p>whole process. We will be heavily involved in decisions regarding how the spaces will be used. Heronsbridge is an excellent school. We know that the facilities we already have will be incorporated into the new school. The new school will be built within the constraints of BB104 and the available budget. It is important that we find a solution for the swimming pool, hydrotherapy pool and rebound rooms. We will work closely with the team during the design and build phase.</p>	
<p>How does the local authority accommodate out-of-authority learners?</p> <p>XX added that there are several learners who are looked after children under Rhondda Council, but they live in Bridgend County and they are classed as out-of-authority learners.</p>	<p>XX: We currently have approximately 13/14 out-of-authority learners.</p> <p>XX: In 2011 learner numbers were 221. Even though staff feel an increasing pressure to accept additional learners at Heronsbridge School, in terms of the growth in the last eleven years, numbers have grown by approximately 20. New admission criteria was introduced in 2013 and we made a decision then, that learners who already attended the school could continue to attend and we would maintain the commitment we made to other local authorities. It has been in the policy for many years that we do not have the capacity to offer places to learners living outside of Bridgend County.</p> <p>XX: There will always be exceptions, for example, there is a learner who lives in Bridgend and has attended Heronsbridge School for a number of years and due to circumstances out of their control, they moved out-of-authority. We decided as a local authority and school, that it is in the best interest of the learner to continue their education at Heronsbridge School. They are classed as out-of-authority; we work with their local authority to maintain continuity for the learner. We are approached from out of county requests, and we refuse as per the policy and we don't have the capacity</p>
<p>As the project develops and construction begins, will the views of staff be considered as the build progresses?</p>	<p>XX: Stakeholder engagement sessions would be held in respect of the design, and these will include meetings with staff, governors and learners. These sessions will be led by the design and build contractor</p>

	<p>once appointed. It is critical that everyone is involved and has an input.</p>
<p>Will there be an area designated for residential provision and if so, what will be the capacity?</p>	<p>XX: There will be two houses with four bedrooms as part of the school and in addition to this, there will be social services houses, four houses in total. We will make the houses feel homely rather than part of the school.</p> <p>XX added the aim is to make the houses feel like home, not like a block or a residential unit. We want them to look and feel like homes with doors, windows and gardens.</p>
<p>How does planning permission work, will it be purely for the Heronsbridge site, or will it form part of Island Farm?</p> <p>Do you foresee any objections / opposition to the plans?</p> <p>XX: We don't want the school to impact negatively on its neighbours, we have an opportunity to get the design right, from the start.</p>	<p>XX: When we apply for planning, it will be purely for the school, it won't be part of the wider proposal regarding housing in the area.</p> <p>XX: There is potential for opposition. We would need to work through this process.</p> <p>XX: The residents are free to object to the scheme if they so wish. Their objections would have to be valid planning objections. There are robust planning policies in place which the design and build contractor will have to comply with. There will be a planning consultant on the team who will check the planning policies and work with the designers.</p>
<p>What will happen to the current school site?</p>	<p>XX: No decision has been made as yet. The future use of the existing site would be subject to an options appraisal and a future Cabinet decision, subject to the successful outcome of the statutory process to relocate Heronsbridge School. Heronsbridge School is an important historical building and has been listed by Cadw, this means that the building will remain, but how it is used in the future is not known yet. We want to incorporate the history of your school in the new building, so we will look to incorporate features such as a clock into the design of the new school.</p>

<p>The infrastructure of the current transport drop-off and pick-up points is insufficient and there are issues with not enough parking spaces for staff.</p>	<p>XX: There are local authority guidelines for parking and drop-off areas, but -there are no guidelines for special schools. This will need to be further discussed with our highways team and planning officers.</p> <p>XX added that there will be better facilities at the new school, compared to what the school currently has.</p>
<p>What environmental features will be included during design and construction to future proof the school?</p>	<p>XX: This is an important part of new developments. The building will be designed in line with the long-term commitment towards carbon reduction and achieving Net Zero Carbon buildings and I expect the standards will increase by the time we reach construction stage of this project. The contractor will need to consider their carbon use during construction and will have to factor in lifetime carbon, for example selecting low carbon materials. We have to leave the site in a better bio-diverse condition. Island Farm has a number of ecology issues, but the school site has many opportunities to enhance and increase its ecology and biodiversity.</p>
<p>Will there be facilities to park bicycles?</p>	<p>XX: In addition to Net Zero Carbon standards, there is a requirement to deliver on the British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). These standards include cycling facilities, which will be included within the school.</p>
<p>I was involved in a new school build at Betws Primary School and I can assure everyone that the team does listen and does work well with the staff. Even though there are concerns about the new school, we should all be very excited about this opportunity.</p>	
<p>Will the history of Island Farm be included at the new build?</p>	<p>XX: I am not sure, possibly. We won't be touching the prisoner of war camp hut 9. XX and XX can discuss how to link this into the school.</p>
<p>We have a unique 100-year-old orchard at the school. Will we have this at the new school?</p>	<p>XX: The learners mentioned this at their consultation meeting. We assured them that we will allocate an area on the drawing to identify where an orchard can be located. We will speak with the contractor to check if</p>

	<p>we can relocate some of your trees to the new site, or whether we will have to plant new trees.</p> <p>XX: The contractor will provide new trees and hedges as part of the project. We will need to assess if the larger trees at the existing site can be relocated. A qualified arboricultural will need to check what is below the ground.</p>
<p>XX and XX thanked everyone for their time, their questions and observations.</p>	
<p>XX thanked everyone for their time and said that he is looking forward to progressing this project. The current building is aging and despite this, the school staff have achieved outstanding results. The efforts to support and care for learners and young people, especially over the last two years have been remarkable. We will repay you as a local authority by investing in your school to make it fit for the future. There will be a few hurdles during the project, but we are committed to doing the very best for you as staff and for the learners and we want you to be involved throughout the process; you are the experts and we will do our best to meet your needs.</p>	

APPENDIX 4



Heronsbridge School Consultation Meeting with school learners Monday 4 April 2022 at 2pm

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Schools Programme Manager
Strategic Resources and Planning Officer
Principal Architectural Assistant
Group Manager, Learner Support
Headteacher, Heronsbridge School
Head of Wellbeing, Heronsbridge School
Heronsbridge School learners (x8)

The Corporate Director introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting. The learners and the team introduced themselves. The Schools Programme Manager, School Modernisation, explained the nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
XX: Will there be a quiet road leading to the new school?	XX: The road will be quiet. The road will serve just two buildings; Heronsbridge School and a proposed tennis centre.
XX: How long will it take to build the school?	XX: It will take between eighteen and twenty months to build (one and a half years).
XX: Will there be a bigger hall for assembly?	XX: Hopefully the hall will be the same size as the hall you currently have. We need to comply with the floor area guidelines stipulated by Welsh Government. I can't confirm the size of the hall at this stage.
XX: Will there be CCTV?	XX: Yes, there will be CCTV at the school to ensure the school and community is protected.
XX: What will happen to the old school building?	XX: We can't answer that yet. The idea for this project needs to be considered and once we have feedback from everyone, Cabinet will decide whether this project can go ahead. As you may know, Heronsbridge School is an important historical building that is protected by Cadw, this means that the building will remain, but how it is used in the future is not known yet.
XX: Will the name of the school change?	XX: The headteacher and school governors will have that decision. XX: The school's name is well known and we are not looking to change the name of the school.

XX: How many students will there be at the new school?	XX: There will be three-hundred places at the new school.
XX: Will we have a bigger music room?	XX: We will look at creating a big music room for you.
XX: Will we have new relaxing rooms?	XX: We have lots of different rooms with different uses. A relaxing room is a quiet, or calm sensory room. XX: Yes, there will be new relaxing rooms.
XX: Will we have an orchard in our new school?	XX: Heronsbridge School is the only school to have an orchard in Bridgend. Some schools have a forest school outside. We will identify an area on the site plan where we can plant an orchard at the new school. XX: Parts of the orchard are a hundred years old. We have apple, pear, plum and cherry trees and we would like to see lots of fruit trees at the new site. XX: We will speak with the contractor to check if we can possibly relocate some of your trees. XX: We need blossom for our bees as we will be taking our beehives with us!
XX: Will there be a soft play area?	XX: Yes. We will create an inspiring soft play area with lots of colours and shapes and include a roadway for trikes. We will try to replicate what you already have.
XX: Will there be a swimming pool?	XX: Yes, the swimming pool will measure 8.5m x 10m. We will work with your headteacher to ensure we provide you with a suitable swimming pool.
XX: Will there be a hydrotherapy pool? XX: Will the hydrotherapy area be separate to the pool, or will they be as one?	XX: Our designers will include hydrotherapy as part of the swimming pool. XX: We must follow the guidance outlined in Welsh Governments Building Bulletin. We will work with the contractors and the school to ensure it will suit the needs of the school.
XX: Will we have a new “dym” pitch? (XX explained the “dym” pitch is the name for their 3G pitch).	XX: Yes, you will have a new “dym” pitch.
XX: Will the clock be coming with us?	XX: The school building is protected by Cadw and we may not be allowed to move the clock to a new school. However, we know how important the clock is to you and we will try to create a replica of the clock for your new school. We know that it chimes every fifteen minutes, so we will try to programme the new clock to do the same.

XX: Will we have rebound?	XX: Yes, you will have a rebound therapy room. Your headteacher wants us to include four rooms.
XX: Can we have more play equipment and balls?	XX: You can take all your current play equipment to the new school and in addition, we will have a budget to allow us to buy you new furniture and play equipment.
XX: We need safer places for the learners to play; bigger playgrounds and direct access from classrooms.	XX: Safety is paramount. The school will have security fencing and gates. XX: XX designs our schools. I would like to see what designs the learners can create for their school. I would like to set a competition for you all to design what you want your school to look like and for you to send us your ideas. We want to create the best school in Wales. XX/XX/XX will review your designs and we can award prizes for the best ideas.
XX: Will we have an art room?	XX: Yes, you will.
XX: Is there somewhere we can go for a walk? XX: We walk a daily mile around the school. Its very important to the learners.	XX: There will be a perimeter track within the fence line around the school for you to walk your daily mile.
XX: Are there new lights?	XX: There will be new lights inside and outside of your school, including the car park area.
XX: Will there be floodlights in the football field?	XX: Pitch flood lighting is not included in this scheme; however, we will include the infrastructure for floodlighting columns so that they can be included in the future.
XX: Will we have a new football field?	XX: You will have an all-weather pitch.
XX: Will we have a new assembly hall?	XX: Yes, you will have a new hall.
XX: Will we have a new kitchen garden?	XX: There will be lots of green open spaces. We can tell the contractors what you want, and they will include it at the new school. XX: We can develop an allotment area for you to grow your produce.
XX: Will we have a new yard outside?	XX: Yes, you will have a new yard.
XX: Will we have swings?	XX: We will need to speak with your headteacher to determine how many he wants and where to place them.
XX: Will we have a climbing wall? XX: We use the recreation centre at present. XX: The school can help to raise funds towards outdoor play and activity equipment.	XX: We can look at including one.
XX: Can we have more rugby balls?	XX: Yes.

XX: Will there be car valeting?	XX: Hopefully we will find an area to include car valeting. We will need to create a list to share with the contractor, of all the things that are important for you to take to the new school.
XX: We would like to invite the contractors to our school so that they can see how we work, meet the learners and see how happy they are. It is important to build a school that meet the needs of the children.	
XX: Will we have better PC's? XX: Connectivity at the school is patchy and we have some old equipment.	XX: You will have new PC's.
XX: Can we have more lifts?	XX: I know that you only have one lift at your school now and that it is very small. You will definitely have a minimum of two lifts at the new school and they will be the correct size. XX: Agreed that for the size of the building, there will be at least two lifts.
XX: Will we have an eco-cabin? XX: The eco-cabin opened in 2013 and cost £60k. Money was fund-raised over a period of ten years. It has water and power facilities. It provides an excellent outdoor learning space.	XX: We may be able to relocate your eco-cabin to the new site. We will look at the options for you. We will ask our structural engineer to check if it can be moved.
XX: Will we have a living skills room?	XX: Yes.
XX: Will we have a coffee shop? XX: A coffee shop is very important to our key stage 4 and post-16 learners. They undertake qualifications in food hygiene, hospitality, food preparation and health and safety. We need to keep the coffee shop and training kitchen.	XX: There may be space for a coffee shop. We will need to work with your headteacher and school staff during design stages of the project.
XX: Can we have bigger and better bathrooms?	XX: Yes, you can. We will provide better bathrooms, more teaching spaces, lifts, corridors and plenty of storage for you.
XX: thanked everyone for their contributions and excellent questions. XX will speak with the headteacher to organize the "design your school competition" and encouraged the group to send us their ideas. XX added that it can be a whole school competition.	

APPENDIX 5



Héronsbridge School Consultation Open Event Monday 25 April 2022 at 5pm

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Schools Programme Manager
Strategic Resources and Planning Officer
Principal Architectural Assistant
Group Manager, Learner Support
Headteacher, Heronsbridge School
Principal Educational Psychologist

No attendees.

APPENDIX 6

Direct correspondence received:

Please can you confirm where in the consultation document it explains what will happen to the building should the school relocate?

Local authority response:

Good afternoon

Page 21 of the consultation document explains that should the proposal to relocate Heronsbridge School go ahead, a future decision will be taken by cabinet in respect of the existing school site at Ewenny Road, Bridgend.

Kind regards

Direct correspondence received:

Dear XX

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Heronsbridge proposal to relocate the school to Island Farm.

My Council is in favour of the School provided the following concerns can be addressed. These concerns have been previously voiced in the consultation for the Tennis academy.

Sinkholes are in evidence on the site and appear with no apparent warning. The latest was on the site of the intended tennis academy, near the railway line and has since been filled in by the landowner. Would a structural survey detect any likelihood of this happening on the intended site for the school?

A Roman road is listed running through the site. This Council requires the presence of an Archeologist on-site in all stages of the excavation of the site due to the probability of Roman remains.

Important species of small mammals and bat populations are recorded on the site and a proper environmental survey would be required.

The listed area for reservation of gravel extraction is recorded on the site as seen in the last Local Development plan. If this has now been rescinded, Merthyr Mawr Community Council has not been informed. Consideration for this reservation should not be ignored.

The traffic on the A48 and the Ewenny Road all leading to the Ewenny roundabout during holiday periods and the peak time is already causing traffic congestion and air quality concerns. This Council would require a full traffic report which would also take into account the probable entry to the new location of the tennis academy.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal for the New Heronsbridge School.

Yours sincerely

Local authority response:

Dear Cllr XX

Thank you for your email regarding the above.

I wish to confirm that your observations will be detailed in the Consultation Report to Cabinet, together with the following local authority response:

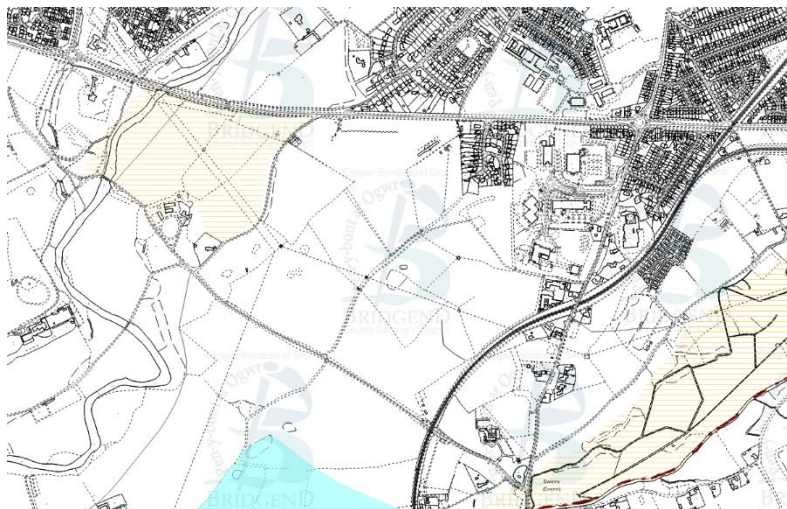
BCBC officers are aware of the potential issue of sink holes. Once the layout of the site has been decided and the location of the buildings 'fixed' probe hole investigations will be undertaken to determine if there are any issues below the building footprints that could lead to the forming of a sink hole.

To mitigate this, it is likely that a raft foundation solution would be utilised on the new buildings. Any drainage below the new buildings would be kept to a minimum to prevent leaks and drainage below the building footprint should ideally use jointless pipes, such as polypropylene and be encased in concrete reinforced to make it one with the main raft foundations. The design and build contractor would be informed of this requirement.

With regards to your comment in respect of a listed Roman road, the Council will consult with Glamorgan and Gwent Archaeological Trust and the Local Planning Authority regarding this matter and ensure that all conditions are adhered to.

I can confirm that a full ecological assessment will be undertaken on the site which would be subject to the school development.

In respect of the listed area for reservation of gravel extraction, I can confirm that the existing Local Development Plan (LDP) does not show any mineral safeguarding areas within the immediate vicinity of the site (see below):



Since the adoption of the LDP in 2013, the Mineral Resource Map of Wales has been produced and the extent of mineral safeguarding areas has been expanded

throughout the borough. This will be reflected in the Replacement LDP and more mineral safeguarding areas are shown on the Deposit Proposals Map which went out to public consultation in June – July 2021.

As part of the evidence base supporting the Replacement LDP, BCBC has prepared a rationale for allocating the site for development. This contains the following key points:

- There is an overriding need to provide education facilities and a site search sequence has shown there to be no other suitable sites
- There is an existing planning permission on the site
- The site's proximity to existing sensitive development (i.e. residential development) rules out any future commercial extraction of the mineral resources

The local authority has employed third party consultants (Redstart/Capita) to undertake a Transport Assessment (TA). It must be noted that whilst local authority Highway Development Control officers have not had an opportunity to assess the TA as no planning application is yet to be submitted, a Strategic Transportation Officer has undertaken an initial review of the TA.

In order to mitigate the impact of the relocation of the proposed school, the TA has recommended that a junction improvement is carried out at the Ewenny roundabout. In this case the TA has shown the introduction of an additional lane on the northern approach to the roundabout (on Ewenny Road) for left turn movements only. This high-level design has been incorporated within adopted highway extents.

The TA concludes that with this mitigation measure in-place, it may be determined that the proposed junction improvement mitigates the impact of the proposed development on the operation of the Ewenny roundabout to an acceptable standard.

Direct correspondence received:

Hi XX

Please see below as promised:

Y Bont is a specialist and unique child and family centre based in Bridgend, South Wales which provides a unique range of day services for children with disabilities, complex medical conditions, emerging Autism, Down syndrome, visual impairment, hearing impairment and their families. We offer help and advice to parents/carers and provide respite services 51 weeks a year, 6 days a week. Y Bont is a registered charity and opened its doors in 1997 after a group of families identified the need for an accessible and safe provision for disabled children in our area.

At Y Bont we believe that every child with a disability should be helped to fulfil their potential; we exist to help them do so. We have made it our mission to help children and their families in a range of ways through information, practical, social and emotional support.

We currently provide the below services:

- Nursery provision
- After school Club provision

- Saturday Club
- Holiday Club

In our nursery provision we currently support 25 children. 7 children with a confirmed diagnosis of Autism, 4 children awaiting a diagnosis of Autism, 2 children with Downs Syndrome, 11 children with a medical condition and 1 child with Global developmental delay. 6 of these children will be going to Heronsbridge in September 2022

We currently have 9 children from Heronsbridge that access our after school club provision. We have 42 registered children that use our holiday club and Saturday clubs, there are 19 children that attend Heronsbridge school who access this provision.

As Y Bont is currently situated in the grounds of Heronsbridge School, and has been for the last 25 years we have built up a very strong working relationship and act as a platform for many pre school age children before they move on to Heronsbridge. Our current services interlink with Heronsbridge school, with many of the children who attend there accessing our After school provision. The children are currently brought over on foot to Y Bont by the staff at Heronsbridge. With the planned move to Island Farm this would no longer be possible. This then raises concerns for the parents around access to our After school club provision. Within the consultation feedback we would like for it to be noted that Y Bont's After school Club provision is currently a service which strongly supports the children and families of Heronsbridge School, and with the move this service would not be as accessible for the children and families. Therefore, we would like to suggest that within the consultation and building plans there would be a provision for us to continue to run our established After school Club and be able to continue to support the children and families of Heronsbridge school with this additional wrap around service.

Every academic year, we work with the staff of Heronsbridge to support the children who currently attend Y Bont in their smooth transition over to Heronsbridge. Again, this is only made possible by being on the same grounds as Heronsbridge School. We understand that in the consultation for the new build there will be a 6 place nursery, which would be 6 children in the morning session and 6 children in the afternoon session, supporting a maximum of 12 nursery age children. In September 2021, for the ninth academic year, we supported the local authority education directorate by providing day care placements for 11 children that could not be offered a suitable school place due to capacity and placement issues. September 2020 we had a total of 12 children.

Y Bont advocate on behalf of the families to ensure that children received an education package consistent with their peers at school, including transport. Through this agreement with the local authority we are able to provide an appropriate environment for the children to learn and play, in preparation for further learning. This supports personal development and ensures that children are not left behind without the early intervention and level of individual attention needed at this key stage of their development.

We feel that Y Bont should be included in the consultation for tender for the nursery provision to continue to provide the feeder service to the school using our established and qualified staff members.

With Heronsbridge due to move to Island Farm this would not only leave Y Bont in the grounds alone but also leave us in a very concerning situation regarding our future, especially as we are a charity.

In summary of our notes we would like for Y Bont to be:

- Included in the consultation to have a suitable provision to continue our established After school Club provision to continue to support the families and children who already access and will access Y Bont in the near future.
- Y Bont to be included in the consultation for tender for the nursery provision, with extra capacity to allow us to support further children who would not be of education age and remain a stand alone nursery and charity. (6 week to 4 years old)

If you have any questions on the above, please let me know.

Diolch / Many Thanks

Local authority response:

Dear XX

Thank you for your email regarding the Heronsbridge School consultation.

It is acknowledged that some learners attending Heronsbridge School access the after-school club offered by Y Bont. Should a decision be taken to relocate the school to Island Farm, Bridgend, accessing the provision at Y Bont could present some logistical challenges. However, given the proximity of both sites, learners could be transported to the after-school club at Y Bont. Transport arrangements would need to be put in place, but this is not considered insurmountable.

Every year, non-maintained early years settings, registered with Estyn, support the local authority offering children with complex additional learning needs (ALN) specialist funding packages for their Nursery year. Y Bont is one of these settings.

This year, Y Bont is supporting seven specialist packages and other settings across the local authority are supporting 15. In the coming year, Y Bont will be supporting six specialist Early Years packages and other settings will support around 19. None of these other settings is co-located on the Heronsbridge School site. In addition, Heronsbridge School staff regularly visit settings and schools across Bridgend County to support the admissions and placement process into the school.

As part of the robust Early Years identification and assessment process, experienced professionals will identify a small group of Nursery children who will require ongoing multi-disciplinary, multi-sensory, specialist teaching intervention in a special school environment for their entire school experience. This is the cohort planned for the Nursery provision at Heronsbridge School. The local authority will still require the Nursery packages at settings across Bridgend, including Y Bont.

As with all Early Years settings, including Y Bont, there are no teachers on the staff. However, they are supported by the local authority's Foundation Phase Support Officer. Heronsbridge School's Nursery provision will offer specialist teaching staff.

To-date, Bridgend County Borough Council and Bridgend College have made no future decision in respect of the building which is occupied by Y Bont. A future Cabinet decision regarding the existing Heronsbridge School site will be taken in due course, subject to the outcome of the statutory process. I will ensure that you are kept informed of any progress in this regard.

APPENDIX 7

(Snap Online Survey) Responses

Are you (please tick):

Parent/guardian (25) 31%
Other interested party (please specify) (39) 48%
School staff (14) 17%
School governor (3) 4%
School pupil (-)

Do you support the proposal:

Yes (51) 63%
No (30) 37%

If you do not support the proposal – please state why:

I think the children need as little upheaval as possible and any changes can greatly affect their personalities

I want my son to continue at heronsbridge school and not be moved, with this new proposal he could be moved and I don't want that

School already on large site which can be utilised also new school would be on open green area.

The proposal will mean building on a green field site

A48 is already very busy. Island farm should be protected and made into a tourist attraction and we need the open spaces.

I think this is taking the children out of the area and sticking them at the edge of town. Currently they are taking out and about by their carers at the school. Love to see them.

School should join the college

Where on island field? On a brown field site that could instead be restored for nature? What would happen to the old premises? Sold off for housing or used for something else? Would the pool close? The school is beautiful and has so much history and already has had a lot of the grounds developed on but is there a way to increase some of those buildings slightly so that the building and its history can be retained? The a48 is so busy as it is without adding more buildings/ more urban sprawl and more traffic and therefore more pollution

Poor choice to move the school to the site should be protected against building upon , build Feb school elsewhere .

Island farm should be restored as a historic site it should be a listed area

Protect Green Spaces. Protect Historic Places

This is a fantastic building nearly 100 yrs old and destroying this building would be a travesty. Then building on Island farm would then mean you would be giving the consent to the

building of hundreds of houses as well as destroying so much habitat for a wide range of wildlife especially when you are trying to be greener.

Green spaces should not be built on when there is a more appropriate place.

As I feel the money should be spent expanding & updating the existing building and surroundings, with scope of using the old Bridgend college campus

The current infrastructure cannot cope with extra vehicles, coaches, taxis! The road is an accident hotspot already. Regularly grinds to a halt and traffic queues back to latest on roundabout at peak times!!

Current road network cannot cope let alone with the new housing proposed and Heronsbridge all for Island Farm!! 300 extra pupils means hundreds of extra vehicles on the road!! Current road networks overloaded. Dangerous on A48, numerous accidents and deaths already occurred!!

Inappropriate site due to location, traffic already horrendous and dangerous!!

The infrastructure on the A48 is not fit for purpose. Additional traffic will impact the local green spaces and communities. The loss of greenspace will have a detrimental impact on current and future environment, wellness for residents including children.

Why create something new? Why not invest in what you already have to enhance the facilities within the current premises

As a local resident I feel the site proposed is unsuitable. Close to the A48 already a busy road.

We will have another beautiful building vacant in Bridgend. Make this one fit for use.

I support a purpose built facility for Heronsbridge - but not in this location. If the college is moving, could the new Heronsbridge school be built there? The A48 and Island Farm is not a suitable location. We need to protect green spaces.

The roads around Island Farm are already dangerous due to the sheer volume of traffic already in the area. So much green space has already been lost, surely it would be better to make that area a nature reserve.

People familiar with Y Bont and other local schools, know the importance in the location being so central to Bridgend, a school with such good reputation to remain where it is, and not to be moved, many families like myself walk their son or daughter to school. And being so central to Bridgend makes it easier to access.

This is a big change for the children attending, who need routine and cannot adjust very well to change for them and their parents/families. This will be a huge issue for many students. It is easy for parents to get to and closer to their other children in other schools nearby. The road to Island Farm is ridiculously dangerous for people who don't drive to get to the school if it was located there especially with a disabled child. This is going to be challenging for parents who don't use the service of transport to get their child & don't drive. They rely on walking their child to school and this will make it completely unsafe for everyone including people who are driving on that busy road. Heronsbridge is a lovely school and the staff are fantastic, but this change also impacts Y Bont which is very important for families who have places for their disabled children and babies to go to. By this you are taking away their only chance in Bridgend away from them for a better start for their education life!!

It needs to be at a different location, not on one of historic significance like Island Farm

Traffic chaos, construction works disruption , yet more building on green/brown field sites in Bridgend -time to stop.

The proposals will increase travel distances for pupils/staff. The report simply brushes aside the possibility of specific local facilities where increased traveling by pupils is not required. Increasing travel distances must be difficult problem/stressful for pupils plus an ongoing cost that has not been considered. The total cost of £25m will easily provide improved local facilities. Considerable improvements/moneys have been spend on Heronbridge which will now be wasted investments. I would suggested that the existing congestion periods on the A48 will coincide with pupils arriving and leaving the facility. Its is indicated that an assessment has been made and major alteration at Ewenny Roundabout will accommodate this. However I find it difficult to envisage this is possible within the confines of the existing R/B. Does BCBC own the land and if not has the cost of the acquisition been considered in the estimates, and similarly has a whole life costing be undertaken on the project? You indicate that this is the best location for the facility for residents of BCBC, but simply looking at the proposed site shows that it is at the extreme south of the council, hardly suitable for pupil travel.

If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals presented please give details:

Car parking - please consider making this as user friendly as possible.

It may be worth considering moving Y Bont to the new site, the venue provides wrap around care such as breakfast club and after school club, support offered at most primary school.

I hope that the old schoo building is preserved

Expand on existing site. Build on a brownfield site

It would be better to build on a brown field site

Find somewhere else. Stop building on every field that is empty. The current propsals need to be halted. Please utilise land that is already built on and isnt being used.

Clarification of proposed changes to the Ewenny roundabout to allow access. Queueing regularly occurs in the morning during term time on the road between Technology Drive & the roundabout.

N/A

Well you have the college as you are proposing to move it to the centre of Bridgend.

I would hugely encourage within the plans that a specialist post 19 college element is considered, could this be jointly funded with social care? Local day services aren't suitable and Weston House are not able to meet the needs of young people with higher levels of complexity, and day services aren't fit for 19 year olds

is there a way to increase some of those buildings slightly so that the building and its history can be retained? Is there a different site that can be used, for example some of the brown field warehouses on the industrial estate in Bridgend which can house the school and have good road links rather than encourage urban sprawl on a site that could be restored for nature? Also the a48 is an extremely busy road as it is without adding to the traffic by putting a 300 pupil school there! What's happening with the old Ford or Sony sites? Can these we used for an extension of the school?

Great idea, to increase numbers and to give this school better and future proof facilities. But I am concerned on the traffic for a48. Need alternative exits from new area and broadlands then i fully approve of it. Other wise will create a problem that people will resent.

We are in desperate need of a new school building, not only for space but also to allow more students to attend. This will give them the best individualised curriculum that they require.

Please consider access to the site for buses, parents, staff etc. and the increased traffic at Ewenny roundabout and adjoining roads. Currently there are multiple ways of reaching Heronsbridge however the new site can only be accessed from Ewenny Roundabout and Broadlands direction.

Revamp Heronsbridge school and save the building for future generations and safe Island farm wildlife.

If the school is to relocate it needs to have far more specialist facilities and on a larger scale than it already has. Consideration also needs to be given to parking for staff and traffic routes.

There is enough space on the current heronsbridge site to build and improve the school and parking for the buses. Also the college would be a better option if it did have to move.

See above

Alternative site possibly by the old Bridgend does site or the police social grounds

Alternative site

Alternative site

Alternative site

The space should not be developed. A new facility could be built on Bridgend College site.

Invest in upgrading the current building.

Support the initiative. Poor choice of alternative site given current infrastructure.

Why would you build on island farm

As above, consider another location for Heronsbridge. No one would deny children an education but consider their safety and the infrastructure around Bridgend that is already under strain.

Improvements to A48 to improve green transport and safety

Are there really no better sites in which a new school can be developed for Heronsbridge pupils ?

I think the number of pupils needs to be increased (to 350+), as the pupil numbers will likely have reached 300 by the time the new school is completed.

Ensure that Hut 9 is retained and provided funding.

The current building is no longer fit for purpose. Health staff working in the school base do not have access to the resources required to deliver clinics on site for children. They have a room that serves multiple roles and in the new build, the plan for a wellbeing area would

better meet the needs of both children and staff. I would only like to request that the proposal includes space for regular paediatric clinics where children can be hoisted (if needed) onto an examination couch. The room needs to be big enough for parents, the school nurse, the teacher and therapists to attend the clinic at the same time. Access to the CTM UHB network will also be required. To ensure that the space for the nurses based on site includes a room for reviewing children and a separate room for confidential working. Staff need to make confidential phone calls and join virtual meetings which is challenging at present. The wellbeing area should also include a room for consultations by visiting health professionals – as a minimum standard this would need to be a room with a couch, IT access, handwashing facilities and space to accommodate up to 5 professionals.

In my opinion the increase to 300 pupils is not enough, unless there is an opportunity to add future provision to the school. Bridgend is continually developing and building new houses which significantly impacts on our hospital and special school, with pupils not being able to access the correct educational provision.

Currently my son accesses the afterschool provision at Y Bont and the 2 operations have a good working relationship being close to each other. If Heronsbridge is to move which of course will benefit so many children how will the relationship with YBont be maintained for parents who rely on the afterschool club provision? What has been considered at this point in regards to this issue.

I support the moving of Heronsbridge School but none of the proposals in the LDP to build 847 houses on the Island Farm land

I only support the moving of the school in order to to accommodate children with ALN

How come the location is being changed? And what are the reasons for this?

Please think of all the families who are already had enough hardship and struggle to get their child in these schools and y bont. The ground has room to expand the school without having to relocate.

The overall plan sounds excellent, but not at that location. What about many of the unused industrial sites scattered throughout Bridgend, repurpose one of these sites.

I would like to see the current Bridgend College campus site used/repurposed/rebuilt for a new Heronsbridge school .this way they can still access the amazingly wonderful grounds they currently have, with the orchard and lodge, swimming pool. Traffic flow can continue as it is going in one way as the college currently is and out another way.it's such a huge site it would be a shame to see that have houses built on.

As indicated that a more smaller localised provision would be preferable to proving all the councils facility at one location to the extreme south of the area.

Any other comments:

This is very much needed. The school is ideal meant to offer small class sizes and the number of pupils have kept rising and the class rooms are very small.

The plan looks great. It will hugely benefit children like my son who require a lot of equipment.

Please build a new school clock Into the outside of the building in homage to the old building.

It's excellent to see the provision of 6 full time equivalent pre school as this provision is badly needed.

Any plans for the school to support more pupils should be welcomed

When bridgend college moved to the town centre use bridgend college.

Any increase in specialist provision should go ahead. This is a great proposal which will benefit the community hugely.

Don't shove these pupils out of the area keep them within the community.

Please consider a post 19 college for young people with complex needs at the new site, surely this saves BCBC on out of county placements. Or put it in place and tender the contract. There are interested parties, you'll see this when you tender it. Please consider this, parents will help you.

Please don't spread Bridgend any further and look at other brown field areas!

It needs to be moved to make room for more children also means it will be built for purpose

But I am concerned on the traffic for A48. Need alternative exits from new area and broadlands then I fully approve of it. Otherwise will create a problem that people will resent.

To best support learners, the new Heronsbridge site needs: Increased outdoor space to support outdoor learning (including more natural/wild green space to support Forest School). This space needs to be able to accommodate the four departments. An Eco lodge to support outdoor learning and link with Forest School. Increased bathroom facilities, including bathrooms that can accommodate one pupil, multiple staff members, a wheelchair/walking frame/standing frame, changing bed, hoist (if not permanent) and manoeuvrability. More lifts that are of sufficient size. Hydrotherapy pool. Swimming pool. Rebound space. Cookery areas to develop life and career/world of work skills. Changing rooms for pupils to change before/after PE and games. Secure site (grounds) to ensure safety of learners. Safe travel access to the community (being able to walk to specific locations, such as a shop to develop life and careers/world of work skills.) Wider corridors and doorways. Space to store wheelchairs/standing frames/walking frames when not in use. Storage space for resources (for example, clay, sand, tough tray etc.) Classrooms that are large enough to accommodate pupils and staff and will allow for movement and specific areas within the classroom (for example, a reading corner, maths/numeracy area, exploration area) to encourage independence. Classrooms that have natural light and are ready for learning. Designated space for sensory rooms (as needed according to each department). Parking for staff, parents and school buses.

The building needs to be functional not just look nice. It needs to have storage in classrooms, more toilet facilities with hoists. Hoists in classrooms. Specialist PMLD class as with lightening and ability to become darker. Hall and doorways need to be larger for wheelchairs and equipment. Also storage for physio and OT equipment for individual pupils. A hall large enough to fit all pupils and staff but also separate dining and physical education halls. Facilities for staff to have an adequate staff room. Larger hydro pool and same sized swimming pool as a minimum. Exciting

Please consider local residents thoughts and concerns !!

The staff and children are very much looking forward to a proposed build school that can suit the needs of all individuals as all children have a right to a better education and with this new proposal classrooms will be bigger, adapted, purpose built, more outside space and become a better learning environment. Staff welcome the change to meet the needs of the children.

Please ensure that there is adequate room in the classrooms, changing facilities and corridors for several large wheelchairs to be manoeuvred at once. Enough bathrooms with proper hoists and facilities. More than 1 tiny lift! Same, or better, facilities such as a swimming pool, hydro pool, rebound room, sports pitches, gym, outdoor gym, outdoor classroom, Forest School areas, sensory rooms, therapy rooms, wheelchair accessible walking route for the daily mile etc.

The council should not sell the current school or grounds for private redevelopment. But possibly reuse the school for additional needs or extra spaces for pupils.

The present site allows for pupils/students to access Bridgend town on foot to develop and consolidate social skills. The new site will make these opportunities less accessible as it will not be within walking distance. Also PARENTS/CARERS, many of whom do not have their own transport will have difficulty accessing the new site for meetings and other activities as it is along walk from Bridgend Bus Station and there is currently only one bus an hour near to the new site - (and taxis are not cheap). This may discourage some parents from visiting.

I would like the consultation to include proposals for the future use of the current school building and grounds and what, if any, impact this will have on Harwood House

I believe local opinion will be in favour of the siting of the new school, if it is not clouded by a decision to also build houses on that site.

There will be a need to increase nursing resources on site to meet the increase in pupils. Understanding this need is challenging as there is no defined safe staffing resource in special schools. There are also a number of changes to legislation including the implementation of the ALN and the SSN Framework and any workforce establishment needs to ensure that these are delivered.

There are concerns that moving the school even further away from Bridgend would greatly impact on the amount of time children travelling from the valleys would be spending on transport, especially for those with complex medical needs.

Island Farm is a SINC and I oppose any building on or near to it!

I do not support the Building of 847 houses on Island Farm or the redevelopment of the Bridgend College and Heronsbridge campuses for housing which the infrastructure in the area is unable to support. Island Farm is a SINC

The ground has room to expand the school without having to relocate.. Or up the staff so they can get more pupils in the school as the school itself is massive and no where is full enough to get more pupils which is around 8 a class...

I would also like to see the current/existing Heronsbridge school building retained as it is as part of historical interest but also repurposed into a centre for the community. Myself, I'm looking into setting something up for when our youngsters leave college and using parts of the current school would be amazing /big help for me. It could also be used as an arts centre for the community bringing various groups alongside each other, and community cafe (potentially part of my vision/dream) and being able to use existing features within. Could also be used for counselling/consulting rooms/creative groups and a venue hire for existing stagecoach groups, brownies,scouts, ballet, carers groups, local charity groups etc etc.

The actual report I've read does seem low on actual details therefore making it difficult to effectively comment on the proposals.

Local authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

Rationale for providing a new school

The proposed new school would be designed based on area guidelines for special schools (thereby providing improved standards of accommodation), would be fully accessible and all existing backlog maintenance costs would be eradicated. There are significant additional qualitative benefits associated with providing a new enlarged Heronsbridge School:

- Increased number of additional learning needs (ALN) places available.
- Reduction in the number of learners sent out-of-county (this practice is both expensive and imposes often significant travel times on pupils).
- Suitable and sufficient accommodation which meets the needs of the most vulnerable learners.
- Equalities Act 2010 compliant building.
- Increased number of residential places.
- The proposed site is approximately one mile from the existing school site and therefore it is not anticipated that there would be any significant impact on the transportation of pupils.

The existing school has a range of specialised facilities. However, there are significant issues with regard to the number and size of teaching and non-teaching spaces. Storage and circulation space is also problematic and given the needs of the learners (many of whom require walking aids or wheelchairs), this can cause issues in managing safe movement around the school. Personal hygiene and toilet facilities are also challenging. All of these issues would be addressed through the provision of a new school which would be designed specifically to meet the needs of learners.

Size of school

Officers have worked closely with the Headteacher in establishing the projected school population by looking at historic data and projecting the population forward. The projected capacity of 300 is considered sustainable. A 300-place school is considered the limit whereby the quality of teaching, intervention, management and governance is not lost. New admission criteria, introduced in 2013, has meant that the pupil numbers have remained relatively static and there is confidence in the pupil projections for the next five to ten years.

Alternative site suggestions

Existing Heronsbridge School site

Developing the proposed school on the existing Heronsbridge School site would be detrimental to the pupils' education and wellbeing, given their complex additional learning needs. A phased scheme with on-site demolition would cause significant disruption. There would be a protracted build programme, as works would need to be phased with a series of decant operations, which would present significant disruption.

Bridgend College site

Bridgend College has in very recent years decided to relocate from the Cowbridge Road campus. The timing of the relocation does not align to this proposal and the in-principal funding approval secured for the new school.

Island Farm

Due to its location and size, the Island Farm site in Bridgend was deemed to be the most suitable for the proposed school. The school development will have no impact on the Hut 9, former Prisoner of War Camp. There will be minimal impact on pupils and their education during the construction period as the school will be built on a separate site, which means that the existing school can continue to operate without interference.

Future use of the Heronsbridge School site

The future use of the existing Heronsbridge School site would be subject to an options appraisal and a future Cabinet decision, subject to the successful outcome of the statutory process in respect of the proposed regulated alterations.

The main school building has recently been listed by Cadw.

Highway

The proposed school would be located on the Island Farm site in Bridgend and would be accessed via Bridgend Science Park.

The local authority has commissioned a traffic assessment (TA) to consider the impact of the proposal on the local highway network.

The A48/B4265 Ewenny Road signalised roundabout has been referred to, as this junction is the most onerous with the biggest impact experienced as a result of the relocation of the school from the north to the south of the roundabout.

To mitigate the impact of the relocation of the proposed school, the TA has recommended that a junction improvement is carried out at the Ewenny roundabout. In this case the TA has shown the introduction of an additional lane on the northern approach to the roundabout (that is, on Ewenny Road) for left turn movements only. This high-level design can be incorporated within adopted highway extents.

The TA concludes that with this mitigation measure in-place, it may be determined that the proposed junction improvement mitigates the impact of the proposed development on the operation of the Ewenny roundabout to an acceptable standard.

Ecology/green land

The site area for the proposed school is agricultural and is not designated as green open space. In delivering a new school at this location, improvements will be made to biodiversity and ecological habitat.

Overall, the Island Farm area will require some ecology mitigation. However, the proposed school site will be impacted less so than the remainder of the site. The area is open land but with boundaries comprising of mature hedgerows. At this stage, any potential effect to the hedgerows would appear to be minimal but once detailed proposals are prepared any impact will be considered in more detail.

The project would require the expertise of a qualified ecologist who would undertake a written assessment of the site in terms of its ecological value to satisfy the British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method. The ecologist would also be tasked with providing written and drawn advice to

- deal with mitigating ecological impact;
- enhance site ecology; and
- consider the long-term impact on biodiversity.

Phase 1 extended habitat survey and specific species surveys would be provided by the ecologist.

The proposed school site is considered sufficiently distanced from the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

Stakeholder engagement

Officers will work closely with the school staff and the local health authority to ensure the areas/facilities required are provided within the floor area guidelines. A series of consultation and engagement sessions would be held, should the proposal go ahead.

Pre-school provision

Every year non-maintained early years settings, registered with Estyn, support the local authority offering children with complex additional learning needs (ALN) specialist funding packages for their Nursery year. Y Bont is one of these settings.

This year Y Bont is supporting seven specialist packages and other settings across the local authority are supporting 15. In the coming year, Y Bont will be supporting six specialist Early Years Packages and other settings will support around 19. None of these other settings is co-located on the Heronsbridge School site. In addition, Heronsbridge School staff regularly visit settings and schools across BCBC to support the admissions and placement process into the school. The local authority will still require the Nursery packages at settings across Bridgend, including Y Bont.

APPENDIX 8

Estyn response to the proposal by Bridgend County Borough Council to make regulated alterations to increase the number of pupils for whom Heronsbridge School makes provision to 300 and to relocate the school to Island Farm, Bridgend, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Introduction

The proposal is by Bridgend County Borough Council to make regulated alterations to increase the number of pupils for whom Heronsbridge School makes provision to 300, and to relocate the school to Island Farm, Bridgend, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

Summary / Conclusion

The proposer has clearly defined the benefits of increasing capacity at Heronsbridge as well as the significant impact of the planned new school build on pupils' standards, their well-being and attitudes to learning, teaching and learning experiences, care, support and guidance and leadership and guidance. The proposal offers children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN) the opportunity for specialist educational experiences in an appropriate setting within their county borough.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standard of education.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given clear rationale and clearly defines what the proposal means in practice and the expected benefits of the proposal.

The increase of numbers on roll would meet the growing need for places for pupils with ALN. This would also reduce the number of learners sent out of county which is both expensive and often imposes significant travel times on pupils. The proposer also states that the existing school is not fit-for-purpose. There are significant issues with the size of teaching and non-teaching spaces. Storage and circulation space is poor and given the needs of the learners this causes issues in managing safe movement around the school. The limitation and suitability of classrooms, outdoor learning, outdoor play, personal hygiene, and toileting cause issues which need to be addressed to safeguard the wellbeing of pupils and staff. The new school building

would appear be a facility fit for 21st century teaching and would provide suitable accommodation which could meet the needs of its pupils appropriately.

The proposer has also considered the expected benefits and disadvantages within the proposal when compared with the status quo. Maintaining the status quo would not realise

the opportunities of specialist provision within the county neither would it alleviate the current pressure to address demand for places for pupils with complex ALN. The proposer has provided appropriate evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to the current proposal and has given good reasons why these have been discounted. In addition, the proposer offers appropriate suggestions to manage any associated risks with the proposals.

The proposer has duly considered reasonable travelling distances for pupils likely to attend. The proposed site at Island Farm is approximately one mile from the existing school site and therefore it is anticipated that there would be very little, if any, impact on the transportation for the existing pupils. Free appropriate transport is provided to all pupils who attend specialist provision within Bridgend.

The proposer appears to have considered the extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. It notes that the school's facilities could be utilised for community use/adult classes through the Welsh language. In addition, the site is located centrally to encourage use by the immediate and wider community seeking an opportunity to engage in Welsh classes that could be offered. However, the proposal does not outline how Welsh medium teaching and learning experiences for pupils at the school would be fully equitable with that of English medium provision.

The proposer has identified the financial costs of the proposal. Currently, the total project cost for the provision of the new school is estimated to be £25m. The scheme will be funded by Welsh Government and BCBC capital resources. The Welsh Government intervention rate is 75% and the council is responsible for the remaining 25%.

The overall condition of the current school is grade C and the backlog maintenance costs (assessed in October 2020) is £1,248,200.00.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has considered suitably the impact of the proposal on the quality and standards in education. The proposer appropriately notes that Heronsbridge School was last inspected by Estyn in June 2014. The school was judged as excellent for both its current performance and for the school's prospects for improvement. The report highlights an effective setting, with strong leadership, providing good learning experiences and provision to all pupils. The proposer suggests that the implementation of this proposal will ensure that the school continues to build on its current strong practice. The proposer has also duly considered the local authority's view on the quality of leadership and management at the school.

The proposer has also duly considered information from the most recent Estyn reports for the schools likely to be affected. These schools have been considered as the new building at Heronsbridge would have the capacity to offer a multi-disciplinary nursery observation and assessment class. As a result, the proposal would reduce pressure on these classes within the local authority. It would also further enable the graduated response required by the ALN Act and would assist in determining the most appropriate school placement.

The proposal outlines the opportunity to deliver a sensory-rich curriculum with the provision of specially designed areas which will extend lesson delivery to pupils with

profound and multiple learning disability (PMLD) /specific learning difficulties (SLD) and Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASD) across the school. The school would also benefit from clear provision of facilities that impact on their 14-19 curriculum and provide vocational as well as educational teaching spaces.

The proposer has considered the impact of the proposals on vulnerable groups including children with ALN. There appears to be a positive impact from the new school building and provision on these groups.

The proposed remodelling of the school should ensure there is minimal disruption to pupils and provision.

Local authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

The School Support Team is content with the report provided by Her Majesty's Inspectorate, Estyn.

Appendix 9 - Community Impact Assessment

Name of proposal:

Héronsbridge School

- number of pupils increase to 300; and
- relocate the school to Island Farm, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet

Who has been involved in developing the proposal?

Corporate Director – Education and Family Support

Head of Education and Family Support

Schools Programme Manager – Education and Family Support

Group Managers – Education and Family Support Directorate

School Modernisation Strategic Programme Board

Technical officers of the local authority

Aims and objectives:

Proposal to make regulated alterations to increase the number of pupils for whom Heronsbridge School makes provision to 300 and to relocate the school to Island Farm, Bridgend, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025

Key actions:

Statutory procedure to make regulated alterations to Heronsbridge School:

- Increase the number of places for whom the school makes provision to 300; and
- Relocate the school to Island Farm Bridgend with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

Expected outcomes: A replacement new build Heronsbridge School for 300 pupils would open on the Island Farm site in Bridgend at the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

Who will be affected: Staff, governors, learners, parents and the wider community.

Approximately how many people will be affected: more than 1000 people.

Expected date of decision: September 2022.

Scope/focus of the assessment:

Consideration given to:

- the existing use of the school by the community
- accessibility to learners, staff, parents and the community
- impact of moving the school
- impact on the school building
- impact on the extended community

Relevant data and/or research:

- Out of hours use of school buildings
- 'Strategy, Principles, Policy and Planning Framework' which informs the approach for addressing strategic priorities within the County Borough and the subsequent 2015 'Principles Document'
- learner projections, and building condition

Findings

Community Use:

The school is used for the following community activities during the week:

Swimming pool

Buller and Packman Swim	– Monday	4.00pm – 8.30pm
Residency Swim	- Tuesday	
Stars of the Pool	- Thursday	4.30pm – 7.00pm
Water Babies	- Wednesday	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Water Babies	- Sunday	9.00am – 12 noon
Swimkidz	- Friday	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Swimkidz	- Saturday	8.30am – 4.00pm

Gym

Generations Se7ens	- Monday	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Penybont Football Club	- Monday	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Ballet	- Tuesday	5.00pm – 7.00pm and 7.00pm – 8.00pm
Stagecoach	- Thursday	5.00pm – 9.00pm
Stagecoach	- Friday	5.00pm – 8.00pm
Stagecoach	- Saturday	9.30am – 6.30pm
Ospreys ICC	- Sunday	10.00am – 11.40am

Heron Hall

Rock Choir	- Wednesday	6.45pm – 9.00pm
Stagecoach	- Thursday	5.00pm – 8.00pm
Stagecoach	- Friday	5.00pm – 8.00pm
Stagecoach	- Saturday	9.30am – 5.30pm

3G Pitch

Hérons	- Monday	4.30pm – 5.30pm
Hérons	- Monday	7.30pm – 8.30pm
Penybont Football Club	- Monday	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Spanish Soccer	- Tuesday	4.30pm – 7.15pm
Ravencourt Football	- Wednesday	5.30pm – 6.30pm
Private hire	- Friday	6.45pm – 7.45pm
Private hire	- Sunday	5.30pm – 6.30pm

BCBC play – evenings

The school run extra-curricular after-school clubs:

Hérons Inclusive Community football club (current and former pupils of Heronsbridge School) – Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Disability football tournaments at weekends hosted by the Herons

Cookery club – one evening each week

Yoga club - one evening each week

Primary Policy:

- This proposal aligns with the March 2015 'Principles Document'.

Projections of school population and building condition:

- The school population projections
- Building condition in respect of the existing school are outlined below:

School	Quality of Accommodation
Heronsbridge School	Overall condition rating C (poor; exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended)

Impact on extended community

- The impact on community use is unlikely to be affected although there will be likely be a positive impact in terms of modern, accessible, purpose-built community facilities located in the proposed new school.

Impact on other schools

- It is not expected that the new school will have a significant impact on any other school. Heronsbridge School is the only provision of this nature for pupils with complex needs within BCBC, it will draw pupils from a much wider area and will not compete for pupils in nearby schools.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics?

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. There would be a positive impact given that the new school would be designed to be fully compliant with the Equalities Act 2010 which would support all learners, staff, visitors etc.

Consultation

Has there been specific consultation on this decision (if not, state why not and/or when this may happen):

Consultation period was from 4 April to 18 May 2022.

What were the results of the consultation?

Responses received primarily were in connection with concerns around:

- the proposed site;
- impact on the highway;
- ecological Issues;
- size of school;
- future use of the existing school site; and
- Y Bont.

Across the protected characteristics, what difference in views did analysis of the consultation reveal?

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics.

What conclusions have been drawn from the analysis on how the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics?

There would be a positive impact given that the new school would be designed to be fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010 which would support all learners, staff, visitors.

Assessment of impact on staff

Please give details of impact on staff, including staffing profile if/as appropriate:

The result of the proposal, should it go ahead, would mean that the staffing structure is likely to increase over a period of time. The staffing structure would align to the increased school population. The governing body would be responsible for the staffing structure which would be determined primarily by the educational needs of the school and the budget available.

Assessment of impact on wider community

Please give details of any impacts to the community as a whole:

The site for the proposed new school is approximately 1 mile away from the existing school site. It is therefore not anticipated that there will be a negative impact on the community. However, there are concerns regarding the impact on the highway. Mitigation measures have been identified and will be delivered, should the proposal go ahead.

Analysis of impact by protected characteristics

Please summarise the results of the analysis:

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics.

Assess the relevance and impact of the decision to people with different characteristics

Relevance = High/Low/None / Impact = High/Low/Neutral

Characteristic	Relevance	Impact
Age	High	High - positive
Disability	High	High - positive
Gender reassignment	High	High - positive
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral
Race	None	Neutral
Religion or belief	None	Neutral
Sex	None	Neutral
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral

Other socially excluded	None	Neutral
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Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures taken to mitigate against it:

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. There will be a positive impact in respect of certain groups (that is, age, disability, and gender).

Please advise on the overall equality implications that should be taken into account in the final decision, considering relevance and impact:

The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group.

Signed:

Schools Programme Manager, School Modernisation Team, Education and Family Support

Date:

25 May 2022

Appendix 10 - Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Proposal:	Heronsbridge School – proposed regulated alteration to increase the number of places to 300 places and locate at Island Farm
Department:	School Modernisation Team – Education and Family Support Directorate
Completing Officer:	Schools Programme Manager
Date:	21 March 2022
Brief Description:	The proposal is to increase the number of pupil places available at Heronsbridge School to 300 and relocate the school to the Island Farm site, Bridgend in a new fit-for-purpose school building.
Who does this proposal affect?	<p>Governing body, staff, learners, and parents/carers – Heronsbridge School</p> <p>The community users of the school.</p> <p>Potentially certain schools with observation and assessment classes.</p> <p>Stakeholder groups (for example, community users of the existing school)</p>
What are the aims of the policy and how do they relate to the Welsh language?	<p>Heronsbridge School is an English-medium community special school which is a regional centre that caters for the most vulnerable learners with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) at primary, secondary and post-16. The school has two three-bedroom residential houses for those learners requiring 39-week residential provision. However, the majority of are day-pupils.</p> <p>Located at Ewenny Road, Bridgend, the original school building dates back to 1929 and is of traditional stone construction. The teaching accommodation is spread over two floors, with pitched roofs and the main block has been extended a number of times. The overall condition of the school is grade C and the backlog maintenance costs (assessed in October 2020) is £1,248,200.00. Currently, there are 236 pupils on roll.</p> <p>The proposal is to make regulated alterations to increase the number of pupils for whom Heronsbridge School makes provision to 300 and to relocate the school to Island Farm,</p>

	<p>Bridgend, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.</p> <p>Currently all learners at Heronsbridge with significant additional learning and complex needs are taught through the medium of English, assisted sign language and additional visual and technological methods of communication support. Welsh is taught as part of Language, Literacy and Communication (that is, Area of Learning Experience). All children learn about their identity, and culture to prepare them as citizens of Wales.</p> <p>The school building will be a flexible and adaptable, modern learning environment. It will have large spaces (that is, for assemblies, PE, and dining). Internal and external areas will be suitably designed for school and community use. Outdoor spaces will be provided to support the full range of curriculum activities. Improved on-site visitor, staff and school transport parking will be provided. Built to Building Bulletin 104 area guidelines, the school would be fully accessible and compliant with all relevant Building Regulations.</p> <p>The school will be funded by Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and Bridgend County Borough Council's capital resources. The proposed school would open for pupils in September 2025 on land at Island Farm, Bridgend.</p>												
<p>Who will benefit / could the policy affect Welsh language groups?</p>	<p>The communities within the vicinity of the school.</p> <p>There should be a positive impact on Welsh language groups as the new building will be accessible to the local community. This could involve Welsh for adult classes, meetings of Welsh language groups etc.</p>												
<p>Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s):</p>	<p>The Annual Population Survey for the year ending June 2021, reported that 17.8% of respondents living in the County Borough of Bridgend said they could speak Welsh, compared to the all-Wales percentage of 29.2% of respondents. This can be further broken down to the data contained in the table that follows:</p> <p>Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Bridgend County Borough</th> <th>Wales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Can read Welsh:</td> <td>16.9%</td> <td>25.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Can write Welsh:</td> <td>15.9%</td> <td>23.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Can understand spoken Welsh:</td> <td>21.2%</td> <td>33.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Bridgend County Borough	Wales	Can read Welsh:	16.9%	25.9%	Can write Welsh:	15.9%	23.8%	Can understand spoken Welsh:	21.2%	33.7%
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales											
Can read Welsh:	16.9%	25.9%											
Can write Welsh:	15.9%	23.8%											
Can understand spoken Welsh:	21.2%	33.7%											

	<p>The data shows that there is a gap in the Welsh language skills of residents of Bridgend when compared to the whole of Wales.</p> <p>Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Bridgend County Borough</th> <th>Wales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Speak Welsh daily:</td> <td>6.3%</td> <td>15.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speak Welsh weekly:</td> <td>3.1%</td> <td>5.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use it less often or never:</td> <td>6.9%</td> <td>7.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The data indicates that in terms of the spoken language, the % of Bridgend residents when compared to the whole of Wales that use the Welsh language is significantly less.</p> <p>https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey-Welsh-Language</p>		Bridgend County Borough	Wales	Speak Welsh daily:	6.3%	15.2%	Speak Welsh weekly:	3.1%	5.2%	Use it less often or never:	6.9%	7.3%
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales											
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Use it less often or never:	6.9%	7.3%											
	<p>The data clearly shows that there is a variance in the Welsh language skills of Bridgend County Borough residents when compared with all-Wales data.</p> <p>Héronsbridge School is currently used for community activities during the week. The new school could be utilised by Welsh for adults' classes and community groups who wish to operate through the medium of Welsh.</p>												

Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Positive
Describe why it will have a positive impact on the Welsh language.	The proposal would have a positive impact on the use of the Welsh language. Although the existing school already has facilities that could be used by Welsh language groups, the new school could be more appealing to user groups as it will be fully accessible.

<p>What evidence do you have to support this view?</p>	<p>The facilities will provide an opportunity for Welsh language courses to be offered to parents/carers thereby increasing Welsh language opportunities and supports the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 agenda.</p>
<p>What action(s) can you take to better contribute to positive impacts?</p>	<p>Promotion of the Welsh language through early engagement activities with parents/carers.</p> <p>Signposting parents/carers to Welsh language classes/courses.</p> <p>Continued professional development of school staff and sharing of best practice.</p>
<p>Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.</p>	<p>Increase participation in the Welsh language by offering the opportunity to parents/carers and other members of the community to attend Welsh classes and/or other opportunities for community engagement through the medium of Welsh. In addition, they will be encouraged to signpost parents/carers to Welsh language classes.</p> <p>The school's facilities could be used for Welsh language activities that will increase participation.</p> <p>In addition, Welsh language courses are offered by Learn Welsh Glamorgan who deliver courses online and locally in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, and Rhondda Cynon Taff on behalf of the National Centre for Learning Welsh. They also offer a range of online taster courses that anyone can access and offer Sadwrn Siarad sessions periodically.</p>
<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The school could allow the use of facilities by the community for Welsh classes/activities delivered through Welsh, thereby promoting the Welsh language.</p> <p>The school will be designed with community use in mind. It will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010. There may be opportunities to run community activities during school hours.</p> <p>The school have had links with the Urdd and could further develop links with Welsh-medium sporting groups.</p> <p>Given its central location within Bridgend, the school will be very accessible to the immediate and wider community.</p> <p>The Council is committed to promoting the Welsh language, increasing the number of Welsh schools and number of learner places, as detailed in the WESP.</p>

Compliance with the Council's Welsh Language Standards.	Contractual arrangements and processes for the delivery of the project will be undertaken so that they are compliant with the Welsh Language Standards. All signage during and post-construction will be bi-lingual.
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Review – Consultation Comments	Date:
The assessment undertaken prior to the consultation stage remains valid.	25 May 2022

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reviewing
Should the proposal proceed, the project will be regularly reviewed during design, delivery, and post-occupation by the Project Manager – School Modernisation Team.

Summary
<p>The proposal is to make regulated alterations to increase the number of pupils for whom Heronsbridge School makes provision to 300 and to relocate the school to Island Farm, Bridgend, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025. The proposal is considered to have a positive effect on the Welsh language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's facilities could be utilised for community use/adult classes through the Welsh language. • The site is located centrally to encourage use by the immediate and wider community seeking an opportunity to engage in Welsh classes/courses that could be offered. • The new school will be fully accessible.

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Form

This document is a multi-purpose tool ensuring the appropriate steps are taken to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty Equality Impact Assessment legislation and to demonstrate that we have shown due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage when taking strategic decisions under the Socio-economic Duty. It also ensures consideration of the Welsh Language Standards.

- **This assessment should be carried out during the formation stage of your policy or proposal. Any negative impact identified will support you to devise engagement strategies for further evidence gathering.**
- **If you are undertaking a full public consultation as part of your policy or proposal this form should be completed before the consultation begins and used as a tool to inform your consultation questions and engagement activities.**
- **All sections and all questions require a response and must not be left blank even if they are ‘not applicable’ or ‘subject to further consultation’.**

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Heronsbridge Special School
Brief description and aim of policy or proposal:	Proposal to increase the number of pupil places for Heronsbridge School to 300 and relocate to Island Farm
Who is responsible for delivery of the policy or proposal?	Director – Education and Family Support
Date EIA screening completed:	16/07/21
Does this policy or proposal relate to any other policies? (please state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Modernisation Programme • Flying Start Programme • Welsh Government Childcare Offer • Additional Learning Needs • Bridgend Public Services – Well-being Plan • Corporate Plan 2018-2022 • Medium Term Financial Strategy • Taking Wales Forward Strategy 2018-2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 • Education in Wales: Our national mission - action plan 2017-2021 • Bridgend County Borough Council - Local Development Plan (LDP) • Bridgend County Borough Council - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan • Cymraeg 2050 Welsh Language Strategy • Additional Learning Needs Education Tribunal Act (Wales) 2018
Who is affected by this policy (e.g. Staff, residents, disabled people, women only?)	Learners, parents and staff
Is the policy related to, influenced by, or affected by other policies or areas of work (internal or external)? <i>Note: Consider this in terms of statutory requirements, local policies, regional (partnership) decisions, national policies, welfare reforms.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Learning Needs Education Tribunal Act (Wales) 2018 • Bridgend Public Services – Well-being Plan • Corporate Plan 2018-2022 • Medium Term Financial Strategy • Flying Start Programme • Welsh Government Childcare Offer • Taking Wales Forward Strategy 2018-2021 • Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 • Education in Wales: Our national mission - action plan 2017-2021 • Bridgend County Borough Council - Local Development Plan (LDP) • Bridgend County Borough Council - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan • Cymraeg 2050 Welsh Language Strategy
If this is a review or amendment of an existing policy, has an EIA been carried out? Please include date of completion:	N/A
If an EIA exists, what new data has been collected since its completion?	N/A

Assessment of Impact
Protected characteristics

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people from different groups in different ways?

***Please note: If you identify a negative impact for any protected characteristics you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Gender	X			Building design will cater for gender neutral users
Disability	X			Building and site area will be fully compliant with the requirements Disabled Discrimination Act.
Race			X	
Religion and belief			X	
Sexual Orientation			X	
Age	X			Improved school environment for pupils
Pregnancy & Maternity			X	
Transgender			X	
Marriage and Civil partnership			X	

Socio-economic impact

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people or communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

***Please note: If you identify a negative socio-economic impact you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Socio-economic disadvantage	X			Improved facilities for pupils attending, living with socio-economic disadvantage. Potential for extra curricula provision, potentially enabling parents to seek

				employment or training
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Welsh Language

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact for persons to use the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?

***Please note: If you identify a negative impact for persons to use the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Will the policy or proposal impact on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language	x			Potential use of school for Welsh language community groups (for example, adult Welsh classes).
Will the policy or proposal treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language	x			Potential use of school for Welsh language community groups (for example, adult Welsh classes).

Public Sector Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty consists of a general equality duty and specific duties, which help authorities to meet the general duty.

The aim of the general equality duty is to integrate considerations of the advancement of equality into the day-to-day business of public authorities. In summary, those subject to the equality duty, must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't
- Foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't

How does this policy or proposal demonstrate you have given due regard to the general equality duty?

The scheme would be developed to ensure there is no negative impact on any protected group.

Procurement and partnerships

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires all public authorities to consider the needs of protected characteristics when designing and delivering public services, including where this is done in partnership with other organisations or through procurement of services. The Welsh Language Standards also require all public authorities to consider the effects of any policy decision, or change in service delivery, on the Welsh language, which includes any work done in partnership or by third parties. We must also ensure we consider the Socio-economic Duty when planning major procurement and commissioning decisions to consider how such arrangements can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.

Will this policy or proposal be carried out wholly or partly by contractors or partners?

Please place an X in the relevant box:	
Yes	X
No	

If yes what steps will you take to comply with the General Equality Duty, Welsh Language Legislation and the Socio-Economic Duty in regard to procurement and/or partnerships?

Steps taken to ensure compliance:	
General Equality Duty	Robust procurement and contract documentation includes due regard to this
Welsh Language legislation	Robust procurement and contract documentation includes due regard to this
Socio-economic duty	Robust procurement and contract documentation includes due regard to this

What have you decided to do?


Record of decision based on assessment of impact on protected characteristics, socioeconomic impact and Welsh Language. Please place an X in the relevant box.

If you identify negative impact on one, some or all protected characteristics, socioeconomic duty or Welsh Language you will MUST complete a full EIA.

Impact identified	Next steps:	Please place an X in the relevant box:
No negative impact identified	Screen out: carry on with the policy or proposal	X
One or more negative impact identified	Complete full EIA to gather more evidence on potential negative impacts	

Please explain the reasons for this decision. If you have 'screened out' you must include information and evidence to justify your decision.
It has been identified that the proposal is unlikely to negatively impact on any protected group. There have been positive impacts identified, including gender, age and disability as detailed. As there have been no negative impacts identified, it will not be necessary to undertake a full equalities impact assessment.

Approval:

Date EIA screening completed:	16/07/21
Approved by (Head of Service):	
Date of approval by HoS:	22/03/2022

If this screening has identified that a full EIA is needed, who will carry out the full EIA?	N/A
If this screening has identified that a full EIA is needed when will the Full EIA be completed by (Date):	N/A

When complete, this form must be retained by the service, a copy should also be sent to equalities@bridgend.gov.uk

The EIA screening should be referenced and summarised in the relevant cabinet report for this policy. Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the cabinet report and therefore available publicly on the website.

Appendix 12

List of stakeholders

- ▶ The Governing Body, parents, staff, carers, guardians, and learners of Heronsbridge School
- ▶ Other schools within the cluster/area
- ▶ Neighbouring authorities
- ▶ The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- ▶ Welsh Ministers
- ▶ Welsh Government
- ▶ Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Estyn
- ▶ Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is subject of the proposals
- ▶ Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
- ▶ South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- ▶ Town and Community Councils representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Independent or voluntary nursery providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin
- ▶ BCBC Childcare team/Children and Young People's Partnership and/or Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present
- ▶ Cabinet Members
- ▶ Corporate Management Board
- ▶ Ward Members
- ▶ BCBC Group Manager, Inclusion
- ▶ CAMHS, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
Primary Mental Health Team, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Speech and Language Therapy Service, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.

- ▶ Paediatricians, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Occupational Therapy (OT) NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Physiotherapy Service: NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Educational Psychologists. Educational Psychology Service, Bridgend County Borough Council.
- ▶ Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council
- ▶ SNAP Cymru
- ▶ Barnardo's Cymru
- ▶ Welsh Language Commissioner

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO OGWR OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the proposed enlargement of Ysgol Gymraeg (YG) Bro Ogwr;
- present the findings of the consultation in a detailed Consultation Report (**Appendix A**); and
- seek approval to publish the Consultation Report and progress the publication of a statutory notice as prescribed in the School Organisation Code 2018 (the Code).

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 for 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The Band B Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) was submitted to Welsh Government (WG) in July 2017. In October 2017 Cabinet was presented with a report detailing the outcome of the Band B review and gave approval to discontinue the original Band B schemes identified in the November 2010 Cabinet report and approved the SOP.

3.2 On 6 December 2017, the WG Department for Education gave 'approval in principle' for Bridgend's second wave of investment, which at that stage had an estimated programme envelope cost of £68.2m. Further costs were to be

determined, and these would be associated with additional infrastructure capacity.

- 3.3 In January 2018, Council approved in principle the financial commitment required for Band B of the School Modernisation Programme, subject to sufficient resources being identified and allocated to meet the match funding commitment.
- 3.4 In January 2020, Cabinet was presented with the outcome of the extensive options appraisal relating to each of the approved projects.
- 3.5 In July 2020, Ministerial approval was received in respect of the Strategic Outline Business Case.
- 3.6 Cabinet approval was received to progress an on-site feasibility at Brackla Hill in respect of the preferred education option for the Bridgend North East scheme (that is, 2.5-form-entry (FE) YG Bro Ogwr on the Brackla Hill site), the outcome of which was reported to Cabinet on 9 February 2021.
- 3.7 Having considered the technical complexities and potential costs associated with the development of the school at Brackla Hill, Cabinet determined to discount that site from any future consideration in respect of YG Bro Ogwr and gave approval for officers to consider alternative options for the replacement school.
- 3.8 Of the three alternative sites that were considered, the privately owned site at Ffordd Cadfan (considered previously as part of the options appraisal process and cost prohibitive at that time), was regarded as the most suitable for the replacement school in terms of its size, and geographical location within the catchment area.
- 3.9 The Council's Strategic Asset Management and Investment Manager revisited this option with the landowner who confirmed they were willing to sell the site.
- 3.10 A cost differential exercise in respect of developing a school at the formerly discounted Brackla Hill site compared with developing the land off Ffordd Cadfan was undertaken as a benchmark exercise, and it proved that progressing a scheme at the latter location would be more economical and cost effective.
- 3.11 WG approval was sought for the land acquisition at Ffordd Cadfan to be treated as an 'abnormal' in this particular instance, and approval sought for the land purchase to be funded through the Band B programme. This approach was accepted in principle by WG.
- 3.12 Officers were unable to confirm at what point these funds would be available and therefore Council approval was received in December 2020 to include the acquisition costs in the capital programme in order to secure the purchase initially.
- 3.13 In November 2021, Cabinet received a joint report from the Corporate Director, Education and Family Support and the Corporate Director, Communities, which

detailed the outcome of a feasibility study in respect of the land off Ffordd Cadfan and confirmed the site's suitability for development. At the same meeting, Cabinet approval was received to proceed with the acquisition of the site.

3.14 Ministerial approval of the WG Outline Business Case was received in November 2021.

3.15 On 18 January 2022, Cabinet approval was received to commence a statutory consultation process to make a regulated alteration to enlarge YG Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 FE school, with a 90-place full-time-equivalent nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan. The proposal would come into effect at the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Land off Ffordd Cadfan was acquired on 11 January 2022. As detailed within the December 2020 Council report and reiterated in the Cabinet report of 18 January 2022, it is important to note that should a proposal to relocate the school to that site not proceed, there would be limited financial risk based upon the likely future onward sales value.

4.2 In order to progress the proposed regulated alteration to YG Bro Ogwr in the form of an enlargement, consultation exercises were carried out between 7 February 2022 and 21 March 2022, in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council's website and prescribed consultees were advised of its availability and sent a link to the document. The document can be viewed via the following link:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/12775/ysgol-gymraeg-bro-ogwr-consultation-report.pdf>

4.3 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A summary of the issues raised by consultees and the local authority's responses are provided in the Consultation Report as detailed in Appendix A of this report. Cabinet will need to consider the Consultation Report and determine the preferred way forward.

4.4 Should Cabinet wish to proceed with the proposal, the next stage of the process is to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposal which would need to be published for a period of 28 days. Any formal written objections would be invited during this time.

4.5 If there are no objections during the public notice period, then the proposal can be implemented with Cabinet's approval. If there are objections at this public notice stage, an Objections Report will be published summarising the objections and the local authority's response to those objections and Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of any objections made. Cabinet could then accept, reject or modify the proposal.

4.6 The following timetable provides an indication of the likely timescales involved:

Activity	Dates
Consultation period.	7 February 2022 to 21 March 2022
Outcome of consultation reported to Cabinet.	14 June 2022
Subject to Cabinet approval, publish the approved Consultation Report on the BCBC website and inform prescribed stakeholders of its availability ('subject to the call-in period as outlined in Part 4 Rules of Procedure of the Council's constitution').	15 June 2022
If agreed by Cabinet, a statutory notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	30 June 2022
If there are no objections, Cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objection Report will be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request. Cabinet approval would also be sought to publish a decision letter in respect of the proposal. The decision letter has to be made available within 7 days from the date of the decision being taken. Therefore, the letter would be published 'subject to the call-in period'.	September 2022
Implement the proposal (that is, subject to the successful outcome of the activities detailed in this table).	September 2025

4.7 On 18 January 2022, Cabinet was advised that the proposed enlargement of YG Bro Ogwr was intrinsically linked to a potential alternative use of the residual YG Bro Ogwr school building for English-medium provision. In light of feedback received during the recent consultation process, officers will revisit the options appraisal and in due course recommend a way forward for the future use of the school (subject to the successful outcome of the statutory process in respect of this proposal).

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken which established that the proposal is unlikely to negatively impact on any protected group. There have been positive impacts identified, including Welsh language, gender and age. As there have been no negative impacts identified, it will not be necessary to undertake a full EIA .

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

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	Supports the statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and promote the Welsh language.
Prevention	The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient supply of school places, and this scheme will safeguard the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge in this regard.
Integration	Should the proposal proceed in the future, construction will be competitively tendered, via a mini competition through the South East and Mid Wales Collaborative Construction Framework (SEWSCAP3) or potential future iterations of the framework. This will potentially provide opportunities for local companies to engage with the main contractor for inclusion in their supply chain, via 'Meet the Buyer' events. This would support economic activity in the area. Community benefits will be maximised.
Collaboration	The local authority would work effectively with schools, Estyn and with the Central South Consortium, health, community councils and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building would meet the short-term and future needs of the users and the community, which it will serve.
Involvement	This scheme was subject to a long list of options, which included education and site. These were systematically evaluated and have been reduced from a long list to a short list to confirm the preferred option. Further work involves the engagement of all potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners which will include third sector organisations, during the consultation exercise. There would be a full public consultation process undertaken, according to the WG School Organisation Code, should Cabinet determine to proceed with the proposal.

It is considered that there will be a positive impact upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 In December 2018, Council approved a programme envelope of £71.3m, covering Band B new school builds of £68.2m and potential highways works of £3.1m (the cost of highway works will have to be met in full by the local authority, as there is no match funding from WG). Following subsequent amendments to the capital programme, the current position is that there are budgets of £49.504m for works and £3.4m for infrastructure within the capital programme, with the remaining schemes funded via the revenue funded Mutual Investment Model (MIM).
- 8.2 £12.6m has been allocated in the capital programme for this project and the WG intervention rate is 65%. The additional 15 FTE places for rising 3s would need to be funded from BCBC capital and would form part of the total project costs. Contractor inflation and the impact of COVID-19 and 'Brexit' will have a detrimental impact on the scheme costs. WG has recently issued revised cost standards to local authorities and the impact of these revisions, which not only address the price increases, but also cover decarbonisation and the commitment to deliver 'net zero carbon' schools, is in the process of being considered by officers. This impact will be reported in due course and will continue to be reviewed regularly throughout the course of the project. Any revenue implications resulting as a consequence of moving sites will not be known until the scheme is developed further. Any changes to the total cost of the scheme or council contributions will be reported back to Cabinet and Council as appropriate.
- 8.3 The cost of the feasibility study has been funded from the Band B revenue feasibility funding allocation.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
- note the outcome of the consultation with prescribed consultees, as detailed in the attached Consultation Report and appendices;
 - approve the publication of the Consultation Report (Appendix A); and
 - approve the publication of a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.

Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

14 June 2022

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Background documents

Equality Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment, Welsh Language
Impact Assessment

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO ENLARGE YSGOL GYMRAEG BRO OGWR TO A 2.5 FORM-ENTRY SCHOOL, WITH A 90-PLACE FULL-TIME-EQUIVALENT NURSERY PLUS AN 8-PLACE OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT CLASS ON LAND OFF FFORDD CADFAN, WITH EFFECT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE AUTUMN TERM 2025

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This public report is to inform of the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg (YG) Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 form-entry (FE) school, with a 90-place full-time-equivalent (FTE) nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan.

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

- 2.1 This school modernisation programme 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 for 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 In October 2021, Cabinet approval was given to commence a statutory consultation process to enlarge YG Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 FE school, with a 90-place FTE nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan and open with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.
- 3.2 This report outlines the responses to the consultation.

4. Consultation process

- 4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 7 February 2022 and 21 March 2022 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council's website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/12775/ysgol-gymraeg-bro-ogwr-consultation-report.pdf>

- 4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A list of stakeholders consulted can be seen at Appendix 13.

5. Summary of responses to consultation

- 5.1 Key points from the consultation exercise were as follows, with full details appended at the end of this report. The local authority held 6 'virtual' meetings with learners, staff, governors and Coity and Brackla Community Councils and members of the community. Local members actively engaged and supported the process. 4 representatives from BCBC attended all of the meetings. Welsh translation services were offered and provided when requested.

5.2 Governing body consultation

A virtual 'Zoom' call consultation meeting was held with representatives from YG Bro Ogwr on Monday 7 March 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions, responses and clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 1 of this consultation report.

School governors asked about the highways, access to the new site and what the plans are for a school drop-off and pick-up area. Officers explained that an open dialogue with the highways department is ongoing with regards to the drop-off and pick-up area. The local authority is planning to run a workshop to understand whether the mitigation measures in place at other schools in the county work effectively. Highways has commissioned and concluded a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) which has been reported to Cabinet as part of the feasibility. The TIA will be reviewed and the local authority will make sure it is providing any active travel infrastructure that is needed as part of this scheme. The local authority must satisfy highway requirements.

Access for school transport vehicles will be at the back of the school and access for parents, visitors and staff will be at the front of the school. Many learners who attend YG Bro Ogwr travel to school by bus as they are not eligible for school transport, as per the Home to School/College Transport policy. The school will need to develop a school travel plan in order to support a planning application.

Car parking provision was raised as a concern. Many staff travel from further afield and the lack of sufficient car parking spaces will have a significant impact on staff recruitment and retention. The Decarbonisation 2030 Strategy is pushing further towards sustainable travel also, as a developer, the local authority must comply with parking guidelines. These concerns will be relayed

to the Council's highways team and further discussions will be held to express this important aspect.

The school grounds will be secure. There will be 2m to 2.4m high safety fencing around the perimeter and in areas such as the yards, pitches and the bus bays (to prevent vehicle / pedestrian conflict). Entrance gates will be lockable. Footways and external spaces will be fully lit as part of the scheme. Unauthorised persons will not be able to access the school.

Pitch flood lighting is not included in this scheme. However, infrastructure for floodlighting columns will be included, so that they could be provided in the future. There will be a significant amount of green space, there are plans for a wetland and the Council will aim to improve the ecology and biodiversity across the site.

Officers were asked how the formula of a 2.5 FE school was reached. A set of options, costs and strategy was considered in order to maximise Welsh-medium education in the area. The option of a 2.5 FE school was deemed the preferred option. This proposal will be the largest school that we have in Bridgend. There are further plans to increase Welsh-medium provision in the area, as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

The WESP references a potential 3 to 18 secondary school. Concerns were raised whether there will be enough demand for two schools with the same age groups in such close proximity to each other. The development of a bilingual school is planned at the Parc Afon Ewenni site, which is a proposed new residential development. The Council need to have education provision to accommodate the proposed new housing development. The proposed Parc Afon Ewenni school would be a 2 FE school; 1 FE Welsh-medium and 1 FE English-medium. By creating Welsh-medium education places, the Council should attract learners to fill those places from the southeast area. The local authority is meeting the Welsh-medium secondary headteacher to consider the options available to centralise secondary education within the county.

5.3 Brackla Community Council consultation

A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with Brackla Community Council on 10 March 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 2 of this consultation report. Questions were raised concerning Welsh Government's Gymraeg 2050 agenda is to achieve 1 million Welsh speakers by 2025, community use, traffic assessments and plans for the existing YG Bro Ogwr school.

Council representatives explained that a 2.5 FE school was deemed the preferred option for the school and as mentioned above, forms part of a wider 10-year WESP to increase Welsh-medium education in Bridgend. The school will be designed to facilitate community use and will include two sports pitches, a community kitchen and cycling facilities with showers and changing rooms. A full TIA has been undertaken which will inform what opportunities can be created to link active travel routes with the wider area. In relation to the current YG Bro Ogwr, officers explained that there is potential to create a new English-medium school on the site, however, this is subject to the successful

outcome of the YG Bro Ogwr proposal and it will require a separate consultation process.

5.4 Coety Community Council consultation

A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with Coity Community Council on 10 March 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses / clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 3 of this consultation report. Questions were raised mainly concerning the highway, parking and drop-off areas, active travel routes, plans for the existing school and capacity of the new school.

Officers explained that there is ongoing dialogue with the Highways department. A workshop is planned to understand if the measures in place at other schools will work effectively at YG Bro Ogwr. Following the outcome of the workshop, the team can agree a way forward for the drop-off zone, whether it is to be located within the school grounds, or outside. The size of the school was determined by an options appraisal process undertaken by the local authority in order to maximise Welsh-medium education in the area and the design of the school site will allow for future expansion to accommodate additional demand for places. The potential plans to create an English-medium school on the existing site were discussed, along with the plans for work to be undertaken now to address the current backlog maintenance.

5.5 Staff consultation

A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with the staff of YG Bro Ogwr on 14 March 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 4 of this consultation report. Questions were raised mainly concerning increasing Welsh-medium education, recruitment and retention of staff, access to outdoor spaces, parking and drop-off areas.

Council representatives explained that a set of options was explored to maximise Welsh-medium provision in the area and further plans to increase Welsh-medium provision are detailed in the WESP. The design of the school is future proofed at an early stage to accommodate for growth. The school will have a learning plaza (street) and there will be at least two staircases for learners to access the yard. All Foundation Phase will have direct access outside from their classrooms. Officers work with the school to ensure the yard space works and will be consulting formally with staff in the future regarding design requirements, if approval for this scheme is received from Cabinet. With regards to parking spaces and drop-off areas, officers must follow planning policy set by Welsh Government. Officers noted the concerns raised and will hold a separate workshop with our highways team to discuss highways and parking as part of the design development.

5.6 Learners consultation

YG Bro Ogwr's School Council met virtually with BCBC representatives on Monday 7 March 2022 to discuss the proposal. The pupils were given a child friendly version of the consultation document prior to the meeting and asked about their views. Full details of the meeting discussions and

responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 5 of this consultation report.

The school's Eco-Council were interested in sustainable energy, recycling and water saving facilities and suggested the option for charging points for electric cars. The School Council asked what facilities would be at the new school and if they could bring legacy items from their current school to the new school. Council representatives explained that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient indoor and outdoor space would be provided including circulation space, sports pitches, games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas and habitat space. Should the proposal progress, further meetings would be arranged so that pupils can input into the design process.

A School Council vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal was generally a good or a bad idea was held at the end of the meeting. All 12 pupils present agreed that they felt it was a good idea.

5.7 Open consultation event – virtual Zoom call

A virtual 'Zoom' call consultation meeting was held on Tuesday 15 March 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions, responses and clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 6 of this consultation report.

Questions were raised in relation to there being no catchment areas for Welsh-medium schools in the county and whether the local authority are considering putting catchment areas in place. Council representatives explained that plans are being progressed to increase Welsh-medium education places within the county and that catchment areas are something that officers will consider going forward. Feedback from parents is welcomed to help inform decisions.

Concerns were raised regarding the proposal to replace the current site of YG Bro Ogwr with an English-medium school and the impact this will have on current English-medium schools in the area. Officers explained that further work is ongoing on a wider plan, including identifying the catchment area. This scheme is subject to a separate proposal and it will not proceed until the process for YG Bro Ogwr is concluded. Stakeholders will be fully engaged in the proposal. The school has a backlog maintenance of £750k and some immediate work will be undertaken to make improvements, as the school will be occupied until 2025.

There is an increasing need for additional capacity at YG Bro Ogwr. The Ffordd Cadfan site is large enough to accommodate a 2.5 FE school. The school will be designed to allow for a 4-classroom extension if needed in the future, taking the school to 3 FE. This project is the first phase of the wider plan to build more schools. This project is the first phase of a long-term plan to increase Welsh-medium education provision across the county borough as part of the Bridgend WESP. There are plans to increase provision in the south-east and central Bridgend area, which includes a proposal for a dual-stream school at Parc Afon Ewenni (1 FE Welsh-medium and 1 FE English-medium), a 1 FE school in Porthcawl and an all-through Welsh-medium school

to cater for ages 3 to 19 years, located centrally in Bridgend county. These plans will align to planned housing developments and available budget.

The local authority will work closely with the school to understand the impact of the additional number of learners and which year groups would need to expand. The nursery will have both part-time and full-time provision. There will be 75 FTE places for pupils aged 3 to 4 years and part-time provision will make-up the other fifteen FTE places (that is, thirty part-time in total). In addition, there will be an 8-place observation and assessment class for children with additional learning needs.

The team were asked why are the local authority are considering building a new school now. The school did not have enough capacity back in 1994 and now it is in a poor state of repair and is in need of investment. It was suggested that Maes Yr Haul Primary School in Broadlands should be a Welsh-medium school to provide equal coverage across the county. The local authority has built a Welsh-medium primary school (that is, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd in Bettws, which replaced Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw). The future ambition of the local authority is to create more Welsh-medium schools. Construction is underway for two Welsh-medium childcare settings at Bettws and Ogmere Valley. Welsh Government has given approval in principle to create a Welsh-medium seedling school in Porthcawl and there are plans to create provision in the southeast and centrally in Bridgend town, along with potential plans to relocate Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd to a more central location. The local authority's draft WESP (2022-2032) sets out our ambitions for the next 10 years and we are firmly committed to promoting and growing Welsh-medium education.

5.8 Summary of written representations

Five items of direct correspondence were received during the consultation period and one was received after the consultation period closed. This item was accepted as it was clearly sent during the consultation period, but the email address used was incorrect. See Appendix 7 of this consultation report for details and responses/clarifications.

- 5.9 Responses were sent to the originators of items of correspondence thanking them for their submissions and stating that their comments would be taken into consideration.

5.12 Summary of online survey responses

Overall, 50 respondents completed the online questionnaire. In respect of the question on whether they support the proposal, 31 responded 'Yes' and 15 responded 'No'. See Appendix 8 of this consultation report for details and the authority's responses/clarifications in respect of issues raised.

6. The view of Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales

- 6.1 Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal. See Appendix 9 of this consultation report for full details. Estyn's has concluded as follows:

“Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area.”

7 Impact Assessments

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group. Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the conclusion remains valid.
- 7.2 A Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. It concluded that it is anticipated this proposal would significantly improve teaching and learning opportunities and it is likely that the uptake of Welsh-medium education in the area will increase as a consequence of providing a sustainable community school, thereby supporting the local authority’s WESP targets, promoting the Welsh language and increasing the number of nursery learners transitioning to a Welsh-medium primary education. There should be a positive impact on Welsh language groups as the new building will be accessible to the local community. This could involve Welsh for adult classes and meetings of Welsh language groups.
- 7.3 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. The distance between the current YG Bro Ogwr and the new site at Ffordd Cadfan is 0.2 miles. It is therefore not anticipated to be significant potential for there to be negative impact on the community. There is a possibility that there may be a positive impact on community cohesion. Should the proposal proceed, pupils would be attending a new school building which will incorporate purpose-built community facilities. There is a requirement to work with our highways team to ensure compliance with Statutory Guidance, but also to ensure we provide sufficient car parking facilities, drop-off areas and highways links and the reduction of traffic congestion in the local area. It was highlighted in the consultation that staff recruitment and retainment highly depend upon these facilities.
- 7.4 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been considered in formulating the proposal (see Appendix 10).

8. Conclusion

Following the consultation process, the local authority has revisited the proposal to determine the likely impact on the promotion of the Welsh language, quality and standards in education, the community and the potential future use of the residual YG Bro Ogwr school.

Promotion of the Welsh language

The proposed enlargement to YG Bro Ogwr is planned for delivery during the first phase of the 10-year WESP (which sets out the local authority’s strategy

to promote and provide additional Welsh-medium education places in key geographical locations within the county borough).

The proposal significantly increases provision for early years pupils, which is considered essential in terms of the promotion of the Welsh language. In addition, the new school will include an 8-place observation and assessment class for Welsh-medium pupils with additional learning needs.

It is considered that this significant capital investment in primary Welsh-medium provision supports, stimulates and promotes a Welsh-medium education and the Welsh language.

The proposed 2.5 FE YG Bro Ogwr is appropriate; it addresses the demand for pupil places and promotes the Welsh language. BCBC's Major Projects Team has confirmed that the site will allow for future expansion, should additional demand for Welsh-medium places be required at this location.

Quality and standards

The proposal will deliver a Sustainable Communities for Learning school with a first class teaching and learning environment. The building and external spaces would be designed to meet the needs of school staff and pupils. Estyn's view is that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Community

A Community Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the consultation process and has subsequently been reviewed.

The proposed school would be situated on land off Ffordd Cadfan which is regarded as the most suitable location for the replacement school in terms of its size, proximity to the existing school and geographical position within the area, with good links to Bridgend town, the Valleys Gateway and Pencoed areas, thereby being suitable for community use.

The new school would be designed with community use in mind and include facilities that could be used by Welsh language groups, the Urdd and sport organisations.

Future use of the residual YG Bro Ogwr school

In light of feedback to this consultation, the local authority will revisit the options appraisal in respect of the existing YG Bro Ogwr school building/site.

9. Statutory process in determining proposals

9.1 The following table sets out the provisional timetable:

Activity	Date
Consultation period where the Council welcome your views and observations on the proposal*.	7 February 2022 to 21 March 2022
Draft Consultation Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	14 June 2022
Publish the approved Consultation Report on the BCBC website, hard copies available on request.	15 June 2022
If agreed by Cabinet, a statutory notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	30 June 2022
If there are no objections cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objections Report will be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request. Publication of the decision letter.	September 2022
Implementation.	September 2025

Hard Copies of this report are available on request.

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APPENDIX 1



**Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
Consultation Meeting
with School Governors
Monday 7 March 2022
5pm-7pm**

Present: BCBC staff x4
Headteacher x1
Welsh Language Translator x1
School Governors x12

The Schools Programme Manager introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal. The Principal Architectural Assistant provided an overview of the site layout and access points.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
<p>Access, highways and the drop-off zone is a concern.</p>	<p>There is ongoing dialogue with our highways department with regards to the drop-off areas. Officers will be running a workshop to understand whether the mitigation measures in place at other schools work effectively. Following the outcome of the workshop, the team can agree a way forward for the drop-off zone. Officers will work with the school in terms of the design.</p> <p>Access for school transport will be to the back of the school. This was felt to be the safest option. Access for parents, visitors and staff will be at the front entrance.</p> <p>Our highways team has commissioned and concluded a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) which has been reported to Cabinet. Consideration will be given to the TIA and the local authority will need to provide any active travel infrastructure that is needed in the area as part of this scheme.</p> <p>In order to ensure planning approval, we have to satisfy highway requirements.</p>
<p>We have mapped the postcodes for our learners and very few live within the walking distance to school. Many pupils travel to school by bus. We have an opportunity to</p>	<p>In order to support a planning application, the school will need to develop a school travel plan. Every school should have their own travel plan, we will work with the school</p>

<p>make this an excellent facility and it is important that we get it right. We don't want to see the retail area overflowing with traffic, making it unsafe for our learners. We have explored the option of a walking bus, but school transport provision is not under our control, and we are not prepared to engage in that at the moment, this is a BCBC responsibility.</p>	<p>to develop a school travel plan. The new school site will also need a travel plan in place.</p>
<p>The new location and the accessibility to the site is very positive and we are looking forward to having a new 21st century school. I am concerned about the timetable in relation to the planning application and the public notice. It does not allow for parents to be aware of access points etc.</p> <p>If we hope to open the new school in September 2025, what timetable are we working to once we have completed the 3 stages and tender process?</p>	<p>This process is separate to the planning process. The School Organisation Code is a separate statutory process which must be done in advance. The statutory notice can include an explanatory note detailing how we envisage the site to work, eg school transport access. There are 3 separate processes remaining: the School Organisation Code, planning approval and the Welsh Government full business case.</p> <p>Construction is eighteen months at present. The only thing that will change the timetable is if the ground conditions or highways works are more than we anticipate.</p>
<p>Does the assessment include the 62 new proposed homes by Shepherds Vets? The highway to the retail outlet is already considered as a bottleneck. We are concerned that if we cannot create a suitable drop-off area, the new school will not be popular with local residents. The new proposal halves the number of car parking spaces, you noted that it is the responsibility of the school governors to align staffing with increasing numbers of pupils. More pupils will mean more traffic. If we increase the number of parking spaces, it has been said that the planning approval will be refused. Welsh Government want to increase walking and cycling to school, which is commendable, but is concerning as staff budgets and recruitment is already difficult. Car parking is a concern as it will have an impact on staff recruitment and retention.</p> <p>Staff don't tend to live in the local area, and they have to travel from afar. Agency staff are asking for a higher premium to stop them taking jobs closer to home. We previously discussed that staff could use the drop-off zones to park their cars.</p>	<p>The proposal regarding the 62 new homes is at pre-application stage, and therefore those number are not included in the Transport Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Officers will hold a separate workshop to discuss highways and parking as part of the design development. Officers must comply with parking guidelines and will need to develop a strong case to present to our highways colleagues to explain the concerns regarding recruitment and retention. A school travel plan needs to be developed. It is important to gather information on current staffing issues and car parking and the collation of postcode data to help support this. The Decarbonisation 2030 Strategy is pushing further towards sustainable travel.</p>

<p>This is not going to be effective as they are on duty before school starts and after it closes; they can't constantly be outside moving their cars around to different parking areas.</p>	
<p>I understand we have to develop our travel plans and consider sustainable travel. The majority of our learners do not live within walking distance to school. If our school is relocating slightly down the road and we are not opening another Welsh-medium school, we cannot adopt a travel plan to include walking and cycling. This again will affect our staff recruitment and retention.</p>	<p>There is a long-term plan to increase Welsh-medium education provision across the county borough as part of WESP. Although this is the first project, there are plans to increase provision in the south-east and in the Bridgend area.</p>
<p>The proposed new Welsh-medium school is an exciting opportunity. I read an article regarding Welsh-medium school staff retention, which mentioned that of all teachers who qualified in 2010, 40% have left the profession by the current date. There are staffing issues across Wales. I have to travel an hour to get to work and it worries me if staff are faced with restricted parking and access. It will be difficult to attract and retain teachers to the school. We appreciate that we need to look after the environment, but it seems that it is in conflict with recruiting and retaining good members of staff.</p>	<p>XX In agreement with XX. We as a Welsh-medium school, represent Welsh-medium education. I am aware many people are against Welsh-medium education as a principle and if we don't get things right it won't help the cause if we create problems for local residents. I understand the need to protect the environment, but we need to have balance with the people living close to the school and their attitudes to Welsh-medium education.</p>
<p>Estyn visited the school in 2017 and they raised concern regarding site access and security. Is there fencing and gates to stop un-authorized access to the site?</p> <p>Will there be community access during out-of-hours use, will the whole school be accessible?</p>	<p>XX shared the site plan and explained the security boundary of the fencing and the location of the gates and access points. No person will be able to walk through the school. There will be safety fencing in areas, including the bus bays, to prevent vehicle / pedestrian conflict. There will be fencing in the yards and the pitches will also have their own fencing. The fence around the site will be between 2m to 2.4m high. The gates will be lockable.</p> <p>It will depend on what use you as a school want to offer to the community. It can be as flexible as you want. There are community facilities within the school, as well as the pitches. The school and grounds can be made as secure as you need.</p>
<p>We will be at our current school site until 2025 at least. The condition survey has identified work that needs to be undertaken. Are there plans to undertake any of this work now?</p>	<p>Corporate Landlord Department is currently looking at the condition survey and have plans to undertake work at the school. The team will contact the school to discuss.</p>

<p>Will the school car park be available to the community after hours?</p>	<p>Community use will be a school decision. If the school wants parking to be available for community use, the staff car park and the drop-off area could be utilised.</p>
<p>How did you come to the formula of a 2.5 FE school?</p>	<p>Officers considered a set of options to maximise Welsh-medium provision in the area. We don't currently have any school bigger than a 2.5 form entry school in Bridgend. This proposal will be the biggest school we have in Bridgend. A 3 FE school would be very large and considered too big. There are further plans to increase Welsh-medium provision in the area, as detailed in the WESP.</p>
<p>With regards to community access, what lighting will be provided for after hours?</p>	<p>Pitch flood lighting is not included in this scheme; however we will include the infrastructure for floodlighting so that they can be included in the future. Footways and external spaces will be fully lit as part of the scheme.</p>
<p>We've discussed the WESP and additional buildings in Bridgend and the southeast, is this for primary or secondary schools?</p>	<p>In terms of the WESP, there is a proposal for a dual-stream school at Parc Afon Ewenni (1 FE Welsh-medium and 1 FE English-medium), and the local authority is currently undertaking an options appraisal on a proposal for an all through Welsh-medium school to cater for ages 3 to 19 years, located centrally in Bridgend county.</p>
<p>We have many external grassed areas and I would love to see more included.</p>	<p>There is a significant amount of green space, it looks smaller on the drawing than what it is. We will discuss this further at design stage.</p>
<p>Do we have to include a pond on the site?</p>	<p>There are plans for a wetland and there is a need to include a Sustainable Urban Drainage Solution scheme. We will try to improve the ecology and biodiversity across the site.</p>
<p>Further to the discussion of considering a 3 form entry school. It was mentioned that there is no bigger school than 2.5 form entry in the county. What is the reason you are not considering a 3 form entry school?</p>	<p>Officers considered a number of options. Cost and the long-term strategy for Welsh-medium education provision in Bridgend were important factors. The option of a 2.5 form entry school was deemed the preferred option. XX added that we looked at multiple different options including costs, site size and fit. The local authority is keen to create more Welsh-medium schools in future bands of the programme. 2.5 FE is the largest school build in the current programme.</p>

<p>How many learners will be in each year group?</p> <p>Why not keep the current Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr as a 2 form entry and build a new 2.5 school in the south of the county? This will increase Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>Will the school in Porthcawl be a new school, or will Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr be moving to Porthcawl?</p>	<p>75 each year group and there's a 90-place nursery.</p> <p>There is significant investment for Welsh-medium education in this band of the programme. In addition to this, we have capital investment from Welsh Government. Bridgend is one of the biggest recipients of Welsh-medium childcare across all local authorities in Wales. There is an ambitious programme which is matched with Welsh Government funding. We are delighted to progress the Welsh-medium seedling school in Porthcawl and a Welsh-medium primary school in Porthcawl in Band C. The plan is to grow Welsh-medium secondary education and provide a school to cater for ages 3-19 years.</p> <p>There will be an early years seedling school and a new Welsh-medium primary school. Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr will remain at its current location.</p>
<p>Governors have not received any correspondence or communication regarding the First Ministers recent press release, an expression of interest for an additional double mobile classroom. Will our pupil admission number (PAN) expand in preparation for the new build?</p> <p>The press release was on St David's Day and the email arrived on the Friday.</p>	<p>Further work is required to determine the PAN and officers need to have a discussion with the headteacher. Following the announcement, an email was sent to the school. While the expression of interest has been approved, there is a business case process for Welsh Government, which will be submitted by 31 March. We are currently looking at options regarding potential location for the mobile on the school site.</p> <p>We apologise for the concerns raised by the governing body that we did not communicate effectively. The local authority was not expecting the announcement and were not given prior warning. Welsh Government has recognised our ambition to expand Welsh-medium education.</p>
<p>I have not seen plans for a bilingual school. I think the plan for a 3 to 19 secondary school is good. Will there be enough demand for 2 schools with the same age groups to be in close proximity to each other.</p>	<p>Officers are continuing to meet with the schools involved and to look at the options available to centralise secondary Welsh-medium education within the county.</p> <p>The development of a bilingual school is planned at the Parc Afon Ewenni site, which is a proposed new residential development. We need to have education provision to</p>

	<p>accommodate the proposed new housing development. It will be a 2 FE school; 1 FE Welsh-medium and 1 FE English-medium. If we create Welsh-medium education places, we should attract learners to fill those places from the southeast area.</p>
<p>There is no autism provision at foundation phase at Welsh-medium schools. Many parents believe that children with additional learning requirements cannot attend Welsh-medium schools.</p>	
<p>The more provision we create for Welsh-medium education, the more demand there will be for staff. Who do we liaise with to try to attract more Welsh teachers into the profession? We will be in competition with the Welsh schools in Porthcawl.</p>	<p>We are working with Welsh Government to increase the number of high-quality teachers across the board. We acknowledge this is challenging. We help supply teachers with additional travel costs. The local authority will consider the impact that parking facilities have when attracting and retaining staff. The Decarbonisation 2030 agenda is extremely important as is the Cymraeg 2050 agenda, we want them to flourish together. We will work creatively and collaboratively with the Welsh language groups.</p>
<p>I am very excited about the plans. There are ways around the issues with creative thinking and working together.</p>	

APPENDIX 2



**Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
Consultation Meeting
With Brackla Community Council
Thursday 10 March 2022
10am-11am**

Present: BCBC staff x4
Headteacher x1
Members of Brackla Community Council x2

The Schools Programme Manager introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal. The Principal Architectural Assistant provided an overview of the site layout and access points. The school will be designed to achieve Net Zero Carbon.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
The pupil admission number (PAN) is 75. Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 agenda is to achieve 1 million Welsh speakers by 2025 and I imagine that the number of people seeking Welsh education will increase. Have you considered extra capacity for this potential increase and would the school require further expansion in future years?	<p>The option of a 2.5 FE school was deemed the preferred option for the location of the school. YG Bro Ogwr forms part of a wider 10-year WESP to increase Welsh-medium education in Bridgend. There is a proposal for a dual-stream school at Parc Afon Ewenni (1 FE Welsh-medium and 1 FE English-medium), and a proposal for an all through Welsh-medium school to cater for ages 3 to 18 years, located centrally in Bridgend.</p> <p>The design of the site allows for expansion of the school to accommodate additional demand for places in the future. There is space on site to build a two storey 4 classroom extension, if required in the future.</p>
Will the school have the capacity to facilitate an adult community class to increase opportunities to learn Welsh?	<p>The community use of the school is a decision for the governing body. There will be a hall with a community kitchen toward the front of the building. This will be set away from the classrooms to ensure security.</p> <p>The school has run adult classes, but it does currently lack space. This will be an opportunity that we will embrace at the new school, working with Menter Bro Ogwr.</p>
Will there be sports facilities available for community use during evenings and	<p>There will be 2 sports pitches at the school. The pitches will be protected with security</p>

<p>weekends and how can they access the facilities?</p> <p>As a community council we would like to continue to work with the school, to maintain an open dialogue and to facilitate community work.</p>	<p>fencing. The use of the pitches is a school decision. We hope that the community will benefit from them. There could be rental costs/income charged to help towards maintenance.</p> <p>Pitch flood lighting is not included in this scheme; however we will include the infrastructure for floodlighting so that it can be included in the future. Community Councils have contributed towards the cost of the floodlighting for past projects.</p> <p>To comply with the British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method, we will include cycling storage facilities with showers and changing rooms.</p>
<p>I understand a planning application has been granted for a new housing development close to the vets; what traffic assessments have been undertaken in the area?</p> <p>Will existing pavements and footways be improved as part of the wider school developments to help facilitate active travel to and from the school?</p>	<p>Redstart have undertaken a full traffic impact assessment (TIA) which will inform what improvements would be required in terms of active travel routes and the highway. We can provide you with further detail if required. The TIA will be considered by our highways team and they will ensure that any improvements suggested are taken forward as part of the planning application process. They have looked at the implications of the site itself and the wider area that the school serves.</p> <p>We will be looking to place an active travel route outside the school boundary which will link Brackla industrial estate to the roundabout. Our highways team can provide further information.</p>
<p>Is it envisaged that more learners from outside of Brackla and the local catchment area will attend this school?</p> <p>Will BCBC do more to encourage local residents of Brackla to consider choosing a Welsh-medium education at YG Bro Ogwr?</p>	<p>We cannot retain places for a particular area, the school must admit pupils as per the PAN. Traditionally YG Bro Ogwr has served the Valleys Gateway, Pencoed and Bridgend town areas and will continue to serve these areas of the county borough until further new schools are developed. A proposed new school in the southeast, would attract learners from the Pencoed and Coychurch areas, which will create more available spaces at YG Bro Ogwr to attract learners from more central areas.</p> <p>Approximately half of the learners attending YG Bro Ogwr, currently travel by school transport. About 80% of learners attend</p>

	<p>from outside of the Brackla area. Welsh-medium schools do not have a catchment area. However, school transport does have catchment areas and most of the learners who attend YG Bro Ogwr qualify for school transport. Currently there are seven large school buses and three minibuses on site daily. Directing school transport towards the back of the school will be ideal. I think that a new school may attract more learners from the local Brackla area.</p> <p>XX expressed that the school very much wants to work with the Community Council in terms of community use and is eager to seek advice and guidance relating to what has worked and not worked during other new school projects.</p>
<p>The community council welcomes an increase of biodiversity and ecology on the site. Members are very keen on improving and planting trees within Brackla.</p>	
<p>Sports pitches 4G or 3G?</p>	<p>The smaller pitch is called a grass carpet, which is usually used for 5-a-side football and hockey etc. The larger pitch will be 3G, to accommodate community use and training requirements. 4G pitches are usually used for competition grade sports matches.</p>
<p>In terms of the existing YG Bro Ogwr site, I read there is potential for a new English-medium school</p>	<p>There is potential to create a new English-medium school on the site, utilising the existing building. The school will be a smaller provision than it is at present. We will ensure that the space within the building complies with current Welsh Government guidelines. This potential project will be subject to the successful outcome of this scheme and it will require a separate consultation process.</p>

APPENDIX 3



Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr Consultation Meeting with Coity Community Council Thursday 10 March 2022 6:30pm-7pm

Present: BCBC staff x4
Headteacher x1
Members of Coity Community Council x7

Introductions were given. The Corporate Director, Education and Family Support welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Schools Programme Manager introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal. The Principal Architectural Assistant provided an overview of the site layout and access points. The school will be designed to achieve Net Zero Carbon.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
<p>There have been issues at the drop-off areas at Brynmenyn, Pencoed and Coety Primary Schools. Has more consideration been taken for the drop-off area at YG Bro Ogwr?</p> <p>I have been looking at this over the past year. Some parents will cause problems, but the major problems, especially at Brynmenyn and Coety, is they were built in areas where drop-off zones were not suitable. There is a Wellness Centre and a new development at Brynmenyn, there is not enough space at the site. It is not reasonable to just blame parents; Brynmenyn and Coety were serious failures in planning. A better strategy is needed for drop-off zones. This is about the safety of children, we don't want accidents and we don't want drop-offs to be in place and then</p>	<p>We are fully aware of the situation regarding the drop-off areas. The issues are arising from user behaviour. There is ongoing dialogue with our highways department and health and safety team. We will take into account lessons learnt from other schools and we will be running a workshop to understand whether the mitigation measures in place at other schools will work effectively at YG Bro Ogwr. Following the outcome of the workshop, the team can agree a way forward for the drop-off zone, whether that is to locate it within the school grounds, or outside.</p> <p>I can assure you this is being looked at. There has been extensive work undertaken by our health and safety colleagues, highways and education officers and the schools themselves. We have to ensure that what we provide will serve the purpose and primarily, learner safety is paramount. Location of the drop-off area is key and we will work with our planning and highways colleagues to ensure it is safe.</p>

<p>taken away later. Can we have assurances this will be looked at?</p>	
<p>I don't have confidence that lessons have been learnt from the situation at Brynmenyn and Pencoed. The situation at Coety arose first and I know that officers were warned about Coety and they assured us that lessons would be learnt and applied to Pencoed and Brynmenyn - they clearly were not, otherwise we wouldn't be in this situation. I am happy for you to respond to me later, if not now.</p>	<p>I understand your concerns. I was very familiar with the designs for Brynmenyn, Coety and Pencoed. These drop-off areas were designed at the request of our highways department. We have to work with our highways team to ensure that what we provide is fit-for-purpose. We have learnt lessons from all of these schemes. The drop-off at Pencoed does appear to be better in terms of design, rather than a long linear drop-off like Brynmenyn Primary School has. The drop-off area at Coety Primary School has never been opened. Lessons learnt will be fed through to this scheme at YG Bro Ogwr.</p>
<p>Children from Coity attend YG Bro Ogwr, residents are concerned that the current school is at capacity. Coety Primary School was built too small and parents, governors and staff at YG Bro Ogwr are concerned that you will make the same mistake again. A past performance doesn't necessarily dictate future performance, but you don't have a great track record. I'd like to understand why you decided on a 2.5 form entry school and not a 3 form entry school. You should be future proofing this school.</p>	<p>The size of the school was determined by an options appraisal process undertaken by the local authority in order to maximise Welsh-medium education in the area. The option of a 2.5 form entry school was deemed the preferred option for the location of the school. YG Bro Ogwr forms part of a wider 10-year WESP to increase Welsh-medium education in Bridgend. The design of the site allows for expansion of the school to accommodate additional demand for places in the future. There is create a further four additional classrooms. This would create a 3 FE school, if the demand for additional places arose in the future.</p>
<p>Existing informal footpath that runs from the Brackla Snooker Club, can the footpath be formalized and included?</p>	<p>The school grounds will be secure. There will be an active travel route around the perimeter of the school site and will link the industrial estate with the residential site.</p>
<p>What are the plans for the existing school? You say it is in urgent need of repair and that it is too small.</p>	<p>There is potential to create a new English-medium school on the site, utilising the existing building. This potential project will be subject to the successful outcome of this scheme and it will require a separate consultation process. The school has a backlog maintenance of £750k. YG Bro Ogwr will need to have some work undertaken now, as they will be occupying the building until 2025, we want to ensure any immediate repairs and maintenance are addressed.</p>
<p>Where would the children come from to fill a new English-medium school?</p>	<p>There are a number of new housing developments in the area and currently there is a significant demand for pupil</p>

<p>Therefore, you are saying you built Coety Primary School too small, and that residents will have to send their children to Brackla. The Home-to-School transport policy of a two mile walking rule will apply and all children from Coety will have to walk to Brackla, rather than be able to attend their closest school.</p> <p>That's Litchard catchment, not Coety</p> <p>I don't need the catchment areas thank you.</p>	<p>places. There will be a catchment review of the local area; they will come from the geographical area of Brackla and Coety's catchment.</p> <p>Some of Coety Primary School's existing catchment is located near the site. For example, the new developments by Shepherds Vets.</p> <p>That's a part of Coety Primary School's catchment area. If there are changes to the catchment areas, it will be subject to a consultation process. However, that cannot happen until this process concludes. If you would like me to share the catchment boundaries for the existing schools, I can.</p>
<p>The land identified in the turquoise colour is in Bridgend Council ownership. We have received pre-planning from Wales and West for a potential housing development in the area. Is this development a joint purchase and if the housing doesn't proceed, does this undermine the school development?</p>	<p>The purchase of the site has already been agreed. It is not dependent upon the housing development, which is located on land near Shepherds Vets. It is not the land identified in turquoise on the plan. I believe a pre-consultation process is being undertaken in terms of the housing.</p>
<p>The only brief observation I would make in relation to the drop-off points, is that it appears to me, Bridgend Council's highways department are not fit-for-purpose. Have you considered employing traffic management consultants for this school? It could alleviate future problems that could occur.</p>	<p>We will be engaging with our highway designers and they will inform our design plans. In advance of this, there is the consultation and a workshop with highways colleagues.</p>
<p>You refer to "drop-off points", I think it would be better to call them "pick-up points" as that is where the major problems are. Dropping learners off at school is a fairly quick process. Picking-up is considerably slower.</p>	<p>They are dual purpose for school drop-off and pick-up.</p>
<p>You said 90 children will attend the nursery, but only 75 will go into each class after nursery.</p>	<p>There is part-time and full-time provision for the nursery. There will be 75 full-time places for ages 3 to 4 years and part-time provision will make-up the other 15 (full-time -equivalent) places (30 part-time places in total).</p>

Thanked everyone for their contribution today. If there are any additional questions following this meeting, please send them through to the team.

APPENDIX 4



Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr Consultation Meeting with School Staff Monday 14 March 2022 5pm-6pm

Present: BCBC staff x4
Headteacher x1
Welsh Language Translator x1
School staff x19

The Schools Programme Manager introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal. The Principal Architectural Assistant provided an overview of the site layout and access points. The school will be designed to achieve Net Zero Carbon.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
You mentioned there will be an all-weather sports pitch, I assume it will be a 4G pitch. Will there be a separate netball pitch on at a different location, or the same area?	There will be 2 pitches, smaller grass carpet pitch, which is usually used for 5-a-side football and hockey etc and a larger 3G pitch, to accommodate community use and training requirements. 4G pitches are usually used for competition grade sports matches. I have identified two areas on the playground for netball and basketball courts.
You mentioned the building will be two-storeys; juniors on the first floor, infants and nursery on the ground floor – this is a very old curriculum style to follow. Year 3 comes under progression step 2 and should be with years 1 and 2. Have you taken this into consideration?	We have not started the design stages as yet. The design you see is taken from Pencoed Primary School, to ensure site fit for YG Bro Ogwr. When we start designing, we will be fully engaging and consulting with the school to ensure we can deliver on your needs as best we can.
How much green space we will have? There doesn't look to be much in the drawings.	There is a significant amount of green area space, it looks smaller on the drawing than what it is.
You mentioned Welsh Governments Cymraeg 2050 agenda and the new school is aimed at increasing the number of Welsh speakers in Bridgend county. You are only allowing for half a class in a brand new Welsh-medium school, it doesn't seem like a forward step given the Gymraeg 2050 drive.	Your current pupil admission number (PAN) is 54 and this will be increasing to 75. That is 21 additional places per year group, including a larger 90 place nursery provision (currently 55). YG Bro Ogwr forms part of a wider 10-year WESP to increase Welsh-medium education in Bridgend. There is a proposal for a dual-stream school at Parc Afon Ewenni (1 FE Welsh-medium and 1 FE English-medium), and a proposal for an all through Welsh-medium school to cater

<p>If the nursery PAN is 90, where do you envisage they will go at reception?</p>	<p>for ages 3 to 18 years, located centrally in Bridgend.</p> <p>There is part-time and full-time provision for the nursery. There will be 75 full-time places for ages 3 to 4 years and part-time provision will make-up the other 15 (full-time equivalent) places (30 in total).</p>
<p>There is a lack of storage space at our school, for equipment and within the classrooms. There are not enough plug / electricity points. We would like to work with you at design stage to get these things right.</p> <p>We would like to include a green screen area.</p>	<p>Referring to Band A projects: each classroom has their own dedicated storeroom, and each class will have a class-based kitchen, with kitchen cabinet storage. Outside of the classrooms, there will be curriculum stores and lots of room under the stairway for storage. If you can arrange a visit Pencoed Primary School, you can see what we have included there. Similarly the same will apply to electricity points.</p> <p>There will be space in the learning plaza area for a green screen and we will work with you to create a useable space.</p>
<p>Within the planning document, there is information saying there will not be enough parking spaces available for teaching staff?</p>	<p>We have to follow planning policy set by Welsh Government. We are aware that you have concerns regarding parking provision. We will need to hold a separate workshop with our highways team to discuss highways and parking as part of the design development.</p>
<p>XX would like to mirror the comments raised by XX relating to parking and XX relating to the curriculum.</p> <p>I do think that it's a shame you are not considering a 3 form entry school, however I do understand the reasons behind the decision.</p>	<p>As discussed above, it forms part of a wider plan and affordability.</p>
<p>I want to touch upon the parking facilities. We recruit from a wide area covering South Wales, the furthest being from Carmarthen. To travel such a great distance and not have parking facilities available is not acceptable. I understand planning policy, but this is an issue.</p>	<p>It is important that the authority recognises the issues that the school currently has and we want to ensure that they are resolved as we move forward.</p>
<p>Will the school be big enough? YG Bro Ogwr has had two extensions and has two double mobile classrooms.</p>	<p>We are building the school as 2.5 form entry, however the design of the site allows for expansion of the school to accommodate additional demand for places in the future. There is opportunity to build a 4-classroom extension. This would bring the school to 3 form entry. This project is part of the wider plan to build more schools locally Bridgend and the southeast.</p>

<p>XX extended thanks to everyone for their feedback. The key thing is to get the layout right and to ensure it works for the curriculum for Wales; the size of the indoor and outdoor areas, storage, electrical points and the playing fields. The issue of parking provision is being raised at every meeting and I have raised the concerns with our communities team. I am aware of the issues we have to recruit and retain Welsh-medium staff and we do not want issues of parking to become an impediment. Support staff are massively valued, and we can see the benefits of teachers and support staff having the same facilities available to them.</p>	<p>Future proofing the school is important and we want to work with you on the design of the school. We have received strong feedback from the WESP forum members regarding building more schools, rather than fewer bigger schools. We are committed to a future development in Porthcawl, the southeast and the centre of Bridgend. We want this to work, if you have any comments or ideas, please let us know.</p>
<p>Can you explain where the area for future expansion is?</p> <p>If the extension is built, where will the extra yard space come from?</p>	<p>The two-storey teaching block will be designed in a way that it can be extended if required. It will be identified as “yard space” on the drawings.</p> <p>The site is big enough to accommodate the yard space within its existing area. We will mark on the drawing “land for future development”. The design is future proofed at an early stage.</p>
<p>It’s really good that you want to work with us and to make the building work for the new curriculum in Wales. It can be a hindrance to have a 2.5 form entry school, it would be better to put the money towards another Welsh-medium school within Bridgend rather than put us at 2.5 form entry. If year 3 has to be upstairs, infant children would need to go upstairs to access the curriculum because they’ll count as a split year 2 and year 3 class.</p>	<p>The current class sizes at YG Bro Ogwr are too small and we need to put this right. We need to ensure classrooms are sized as per Measuring Capacity of Schools in Wales guidelines. You are using the building to the max, it really should be 1.5 form entry. There is a demand for places at the school that we need to meet. There is a longer term plan. We have to promote the Welsh language and we have to deliver on the WESP. Welsh Government want us to create Welsh-medium schools.</p>
<p>Will there be a walking path on the school grounds?</p>	<p>The school grounds will be secure. There will be an active travel route around the perimeter of the school site and will link the industrial estate with the residential site.</p>
<p>Why wasn’t a 3 form entry school considered from the start?</p>	<p>We undertook a set of options to maximise Welsh-medium provision in the area. We don’t currently have any school bigger than a 2.5 form entry school in Bridgend. This proposal will be the biggest school we have in Bridgend. A 3 form entry school would be very large and considered too big. There are further plans to increase Welsh-medium provision in the area, as detailed in the WESP.</p>

Will there be lifts to the upper floor and disability access?	The building will be fully compliant, including lifts and ramps.
We want you to raise questions and to share advice. If you see things that you believe will not work, we need to be informed. If there are any additional questions following this meeting, please send them through to the team.	

APPENDIX 5



**Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
Consultation Meeting
School Council
Tuesday 15 March 2022
2pm-3pm**

Present: BCBC staff x4
Headteacher x1
Welsh Language Translator x1
Members of the school council / learners x 12

The Headteacher of YG Bro Ogwr introduced the consultation session and welcomed the learners from the School Council. The Project Manager provided an overview of the learners consultation document and outlined the proposal. The Principal Architectural Assistant provided an overview of the site layout and access points and explained that we are working to achieve a Net Zero Carbon school.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
Will there be solar panels on the new school?	Yes the school will have solar panels. We will also provide energy to the school building with air source and ground source heat pumps. We will avoid the use of fossil fuels.
What are the plans for recycling facilities and water saving facilities?	We have to specify certain fixtures and fittings to save water within the school. For example, when you flush a toilet; the cistern will be a certain size to reduce the amount of water used. We are also investigating options to collect and harvest rainwater to reuse for flushing toilets.
Will there be charging points for electric cars?	There are ongoing discussions with our electrical engineer. There may be a possibility to include two, or three charging points. We will future proof the option, so that we can add charging points for electric cars, if required.
Will there be a new name for the school?	The name of the school is a matter for the school governing body to decide.
Will there be meeting rooms at the new school?	Yes, there will be meeting rooms and group rooms. There will be plenty of multi-purpose spaces within the school.
Can we take things with us that we have already created, such as the murals on the walls?	We will ask the school if there are any legacy items which you would like to transfer to the new school. If there are murals, our architect will look at the best way to incorporate that into the new school building. You may have legacy items such

	as a school bell, or a date stone and we will ensure that your important items are brought to the new school.
Will there be a wellbeing room or an Emotional Literacy Support Assistants room?	We will work with your headteacher and school staff to understand what specific rooms you require at your new school. We will also include you, the learners, to find out what you would like to include in the school.
How many halls will there be, and will there be a separate hall and gym?	There will be two halls, one large and one small. They can be used as one big space, or they can be separated by a sliding, folding wall.
Will there be toilets for every year group?	Yes, for every pair of classrooms, there will be toilet and cloak rooms facilities in between.
Will there be a wild area so that we can grow things and will there be a wooded area?	Yes, it's important to include a wild area to grow things and to encourage wildlife to live there. We will have to plant trees to create a wooded area.
Will the learners have lockers?	There will be some lockers. We have to satisfy a standard called BREEAM (that is the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method) and as part of this, we have to provide cycling facilities. This means we will have to provide a certain number of lockers, showers and changing facilities. It might be unlikely that every learner gets a locker, but we will work to fit in as many as we can.
Will there be an IT room?	There is a big area called the learning plaza on both the ground floor and first floor. This area can be used for ICT and libraries. There will also be ICT facilities within classrooms.
Will the audio system cover the whole school?	I will need to check this, but on the last school that we built, the audio system did cover the whole school. The main control panel was located in the reception office and there was a control panel in the hall. The learning plaza was covered with the audio, not the classrooms.
Will the wi-fi work outside?	I'm not sure if it will work outside of the building. There will be an outdoor learning space, so if we can extend the wi-fi outside, we will definitely look at doing this.
We have a lot of ICT equipment here, will we have the same at the new school?	Technology is always improving, so you will probably have even better equipment at the new school.
Will there be a climbing frame and monkey bars?	We will need to speak to your headteacher and consider any health and safety risks,

	but if we can include some larger play equipment as part of the build, we will incorporate them into the design.
Will the equipment be brand new?	Yes, the majority of equipment will be brand new. We will work with your headteacher to make a list of what items you want to bring to the new school, such as a piano, books and nursery items. There will be lots of new furniture, equipment and IT at the new school.
If there are any additional questions following this meeting, learners can still send them through to the team, via their headteacher, or class teacher.	
The group were asked for a show of hands if they think the new school is a good idea and all twelve learners agreed they think it's a good idea.	
Thanked everyone for their questions. The School Council will provide feedback to their friends.	
Xx thanked everyone for their contribution today.	

APPENDIX 6



**Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
Consultation Meeting
Open Event
Tuesday 15 March 2022
4pm-5pm**

Present: BCBC staff x4
Headteachers x2
Welsh Language Translator x1
Members of the public x5

The Corporate Director, Education and Family Support welcomed everyone to the meeting and team introduced themselves. The Schools Programme Manager introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal. The Principal Architectural Assistant provided an overview of the site layout and access points. The school will be designed to achieve Net Zero Carbon.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
<p>There are no catchment areas for Welsh-medium schools in the county. Are you considering putting catchment areas forward and if not, why not? Considering the disadvantage experienced in some areas of the county not being able to access Welsh-medium schools and the huge and growth of housing developments in areas such as Parc Derwen and Shepherds Vets area.</p>	<p>The Group Manager for Business Support is responsible for catchment areas. I can refer this query to him. We are looking to increase Welsh-medium provision in and around Bridgend and this is something we may need to consider.</p> <p>We are looking to significantly increase Welsh-medium places and this could be something that we need to look at for the new schools. We welcome feedback from parents.</p>
<p>When is the English-medium school proposed to replace Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr due to open? We are concerned of the impact it will have on Brackla Primary School.</p> <p>It is very exciting and I hope the proposal is successful. If it is successful, are you</p>	<p>We are working on developing the catchment area with the Group Manager for Business Support. When a catchment area has been identified, we will consult with all of the schools that may be affected by the new catchment area. It will possibly be a 1 FE school. Further work is being undertaken on the wider plans. The scheme will be subject to a separate proposal and we would not proceed with that until we conclude the process for YG Bro Ogwr. We will engage with all stakeholders regarding the proposal.</p>

<p>thinking that the English-medium school would open in Autumn 2025?</p>	<p>As soon as the Welsh school opens, ideally so would the English school. The school has a backlog maintenance of £750k. YG Bro Ogwr will need to have some work undertaken now, as they will be occupying the building until 2025, we want to ensure any immediate repairs and maintenance are addressed. We will have further discussions on whether the school will open incrementally.</p>
<p>Why not consider a fifth Welsh-medium school for growth in the area? The south-east of the county is under-serviced at the moment.</p>	<p>We need to address the over-crowding issue at YG Bro Ogwr and we need to increase places in this particular area. There is a long-term plan to increase Welsh-medium education provision across the county borough as part of the Bridgend WESP. Although this is the first phase, there are plans to increase provision in the south-east and the Bridgend area. There is a proposal for a dual-stream school at Parc Afon Ewenni (1 FE Welsh-medium and 1 FE English-medium), a 1 FE school in Porthcawl and an all through Welsh-medium school to cater for ages 3 to 18 years, located centrally in Bridgend county. We will be working on these plans to align to housing developments and budget.</p>
<p>The demand for places is here now. In the interim between now and when the school is built, a lot of people will miss out on Welsh-medium education because of the unavailability. Is there a short-term plan until YG Bro Ogwr is ready?</p>	<p>We have an intermediate plan. There is funding for the provision of temporary classrooms which we intend to install at YG Bro Ogwr. On St David's Day, the Minister announced the Welsh-medium capital grant funding, and we will submit a bid for this funding by 31 March.</p>
<p>Who are the classrooms aimed at and will the PAN be increased?</p>	<p>We will work with the school to understand the impact of the additional numbers and which year groups we would need to expand. There is a timeline associated with building works, we are hopefully targeting the autumn term. This will generate an additional 60 places.</p>
<p>The nursery PAN is 90 full-time equivalent places, but capacity at reception is 75, what happens to the other 15 places?</p>	<p>There is part-time and full-time provision for the nursery. There will be 75 full-time places for ages 3 to 4 years and part-time provision will make-up the other 15 (full-time equivalent) places (30 in total). In addition, there is an 8 place observation and assessment class for children with additional learning needs.</p>

<p>I live in Pencoed and I attended YGG Penybont, while in year 4 or 5, I was moved to YG Bro Ogwr. When it was built, the school had a porta-cabin as it didn't have enough capacity. Between 1994 and now, how have no new Welsh schools been built, there have been countless English schools built during this time. Why is it only now we are thinking of building a replacement school? The school in Broadlands should have been a Welsh school to provide equal coverage across the county. Why is the Welsh school in such dis-repair? I went there a few months back and thought 'where is all the investment?' I couldn't believe there was a porta-cabin around the back, why isn't the school big enough. I would save the money, fix the school and create another school further west.</p>	<p>We have built a Welsh school in Betws, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd, which replaced Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Garw. I can't comment if past newly built English-medium schools, should have been Welsh-medium. The future ambition of the local authority is to create more Welsh-medium schools. We have received Welsh Government approval in principle to create a Welsh-medium seedling school in Porthcawl. We have ambitions to create provision in the southeast and centrally in Bridgend town, along with potential plans to relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Llangynwyd to a more central location.</p> <p>The local authority's draft 2022-2032 WESP can be viewed via the following link: https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/11820/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan-2022-2032.docx</p> <p>It sets out our ambitions for the next 10 years. The policy is broken down into two separate parts. The WESP has determined that the best way forward is with more schools, but there is an urgent need to build bigger schools in certain areas. There has been significant consultation with Welsh Government. We are firmly committed to promoting and growing Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>If anyone would like a copy of the WESP, please email EDSU.</p> <p>We are taking forward two projects for Welsh-medium childcare settings; construction is underway at Bettws and Ogmere Valley. There will be one in Porthcawl and potentially one at the new YG Bro Ogwr, subject to Cabinet approval.</p>
<p>How have you evaluated that the size of the proposed site is sufficient, given that the census data in the document is ten years old. There has been no further consultation with the public to understand what the Welsh language demands are. You don't want to be placing a portacabin at the school within the next five to ten years to increase capacity.</p>	<p>The draft WESP was consulted on prior to Christmas and was reported to Cabinet in January. The site is large enough to accommodate a 2.5 form entry school, plus a four-classroom extension if needed in the future. This would bring the school to 3 form entry. This project is the first phase of the wider plan to build more schools locally in Bridgend and the southeast.</p>

<p>The opportunities that Bridgend Council are providing are welcomed. I am concerned there are huge pockets of the county missing out on Welsh-medium education in the short-term. Your efforts are concentrated in the west of the county and you are not giving enough focus on Welsh language provision in all areas of the county.</p> <p>Specifically, Pencoed and the east of the county is very much lacking. There are plans to develop 700 new houses in Pencoed. Pencoed Primary School is only three years old, why wasn't a Welsh-medium 1 form entry class considered as part of that build to enhance Welsh language in this area?</p>	<p>Can you confirm which area you are concerned about?</p> <p>There are plans for a 1 form entry Welsh-medium provision in the southeast and we will progress the scheme as soon as we can. We need to be mindful of the budget available to us, this is the first phase of our WESP. The southeast provision is detailed within the WESP. When the new Local Development Plan comes online, there will be further housing developments which will increase education provision and we will consider Welsh-medium requirements. We have been liaising with planners.</p>
<p>I take that back, the ceiling had leaks – I think why hasn't it been maintained. The nursery looks like it needs work, why haven't we put any money in to make it bigger or build more of them. Its frustrating seeing so many English-medium schools being built and the one Welsh school that I attended has not seen any investment since 1994. YG Bro Ogwr used to feed in to Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari, until Bridgend Council re-purposed Maesteg School into Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd. Bridgend didn't have a Welsh-medium secondary school before this. There should be more Welsh schools in Bridgend. Is it that nothing has been done and now we're at a point where you have to build a new school?</p>	<p>Referring to XX's comment. I would like to apologise that you think the school is in a poor condition. The portacabin is 25 years old. We have made a lot of improvements at the school both indoors and outdoors. We are constantly improving our school.</p> <p>I can assure you the local authority would have invested in the building out of the repairs and maintenance budget. I am sure you will appreciate that the repairs and maintenance budget held by the local authority and by individual schools are not sufficient to address all of the backlog maintenance that is required. Some schools have considerably more backlog maintenance. It is an issue across the county, not just in terms of YG Bro Ogwr. Their budget is stretched between many things from resources to staff. There is not enough funding for everything that we would like, and we have to prioritise projects.</p> <p>Thank you XX for retracting your comment and for apologising. We sense your</p>

	<p>passion for the Welsh language, and we all support you with that. YG Bro Ogwr is an excellent school, providing outstanding education. Its not the building that we want, we would like a better building, but I am grateful to you for retracting your comment.</p> <p>As a fellow headteacher, I would like to extend my support to XX. YG Bro Ogwr has changed many times over the years and I have visited many schools. The quality of education is very high and the leadership is excellent. The building may not be where we want, but funds are spent where they should be. We appreciate everything that you do for the children at YG Bro Ogwr.</p>
<p>Thanked everyone for their contribution today. We will look at the catchment areas and welcome your feedback when we explore this further. We are committed to our ambition plan for both Welsh-medium and English-medium education in the future. If there are any additional questions following this meeting, please send them through to the team.</p>	

APPENDIX 7

Direct correspondence received:

Just a quick comment from me. I'm not a local member so will leave it them to comment on the strategic planning aspects of the proposal but from a policy perspective, the expansion is a welcome development to accommodate the needs of Welsh language learners from Autumn 2025 onwards.

However, one immediate comment (to reflect the concerns of some of my constituents from whom the local authority has recently received appeals) is what is the local authority doing between now and 2025 to address the shortage of places and provide for those parents/carers in Pencoed who have a preference for their children to study in the Welsh language?

Local authority response:

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed enlargement of YG Bro Ogwr and in particular, the local authority's strategy to provide additional Welsh-medium places for those parents/carers in the Pencoed area who have a preference for their children to study the Welsh language.

As you will be aware, the consultation process is underway in respect of the proposed enlargement of YG Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 form-entry school, a 90-place nursery and an 8-place observation and assessment class which, if approved, will come into effect from September 2025. However, as the local authority is aware of the need to increase provision in the interim period in order to meet the demand for places, an expression of interest was submitted to Welsh Government for Welsh-medium capital grant funding for a double-mobile classroom to be installed at the school until the proposed enlargement of YG Bro Ogwr comes into effect.

The Minister has recently announced that Bridgend has been successful in terms of the expression of interest. The business justification case is being drafted for consideration by Welsh Government and local authority technical officers have already commenced work on this scheme so that it can be delivered as a matter of urgency, subject to Welsh Government funding approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Direct correspondence received:

My name is XX and i am currently an LSO at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr in my 32nd year of service . Following the online meeting i wish to pose some questions which i have had time to think about.

- 1 . Would there be adequate space in dining halls to accommodate all children at meal times?
- 2 . Adequate sports halls provision for infant and junior - considering age and physical development
3. Enough shaded areas on the yard ,especially in hot weather. Currently we are struggling!
4. Visitor parking
5. Front office security - currently school is far too open and accessible to visitors as our office is situated in the middle of the school. Parents ,children and visitors have to walk though play areas. SAFETY is PARAMOUNT !!!!

Thank you for your time

Local authority response:

Good afternoon XX,

Thank you for your email. We can assure you that all of the issues raised will be considered during the design and development stage and we will fully engage with the school throughout the process to seek your needs and ideas.

Please see below, a response to the questions you asked:

- 1 . Would there be adequate space in dining halls to accommodate all children at meal times?
 - Welsh Government are introducing an initiative for all primary school children to receive free school meals. Learners lunch breaks will probably be arranged over a number of sittings.
- 2 . Adequate sports halls provision for infant and junior - considering age and physical development
 - There will be a main hall and a smaller studio hall. During design stage, we will consult with the school to ascertain what equipment, apparatus etc that you want to be included.
3. Enough shaded areas on the yard ,especially in hot weather. Currently we are struggling!
 - We will provide sheltered spaces and/or canopies in the yard.
4. Visitor parking
 - Visitor parking will be provided in line with the Supplementary Planning Guidelines. Visitor parking will be located at the front of the school. We will

need to hold a separate workshop to discuss highways and parking as part of the design development.

5. Front office security - currently school is far too open and accessible to visitors as our office is situated in the middle of the school. Parents ,children and visitors have to walk though play areas. SAFETY is PARAMOUNT !!!!

- Safety is at the forefront of the design. There are many options to explore at design stage, including a key fob entrance, a comms system etc.

We will ensure that your comments are incorporated into the cabinet report.

Direct correspondence received:

This is the Mudiad Meithrin response to the proposal to make a regulated change to expand Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 form-entry (FE) school, with a 90-place full time equivalent nursery together with an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Cadfan Road, to take place from the beginning of the autumn term of 2025.

Mudiad Meithrin

Mudiad Meithrin was established in 1971 in order to maintain a rich landscape of play and learning experiences through the medium of Welsh for children from birth to school age.

As a volunteer movement that is passionate about encouraging and celebrating the use of the Welsh language, we have grown substantially over the years and continue to have a positive effect on the lives of children in Wales.

The passion, stimulation and care that is so much in evidence in our organization continues to inspire, encourage and nurture the youngest generations of Wales; generations that will thrive because of their sense of belonging, their confidence and pride in their abilities and their heritage.

Our vision as a movement is that every child in Wales ought to have the opportunity to play, learn and grow through the medium of Welsh.

Response to the Plan

Mudiad Meithrin supports plans which increase the number of Welsh-medium settings for children in every county across Wales, including Bridgend. We also support the intention to open an observation and assessment class for children with Additional Learning Needs. However, see comments and concerns:

1. We oppose the proposal to turn the current YGG Bro Ogwr setting ultimately into an English school. The effect of this would be entirely contrary to the Welsh Government target to see GROWTH in Welsh education in the county. We must have confidence in the work of promoting and facilitating to influence parents' choices concerning Welsh education as well as work together with partners to raise awareness of the advantages of Welsh medium care and education. We understand that the county has received finance from the Welsh Government to increase Bro Ogwr's capacity in the short term.

- Ultimately, if you continue with the idea of creating an English school, you are increasing the English medium capacity in the county!
2. It is disappointing the county does not see the value of community schools. We have encouraged the county (in response to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan) to consider the '15 minute communities' principles. How many English schools in Bridgend serve specific neighbourhoods? It is not acceptable that the county's response to the aim of seeing growth in Welsh education is to create huge schools or 'Super Schools'. The county must consider opening seedling schools to stimulate the demand and realize significant growth in response to the Welsh Government targets.
 3. Pencoed Area – opening the new school does not respond to the challenge that exists **now**, with parents facing sending their children a long way from their communities or choosing an English education for the sake of convenience. It is not acceptable for the county to wait until the opening of the new school as a response to the emergency. The county needs to consider different options that are timely and enable children to receive their education in Welsh. Please consider seedling schools and cabins.
 4. Catchment areas – there is a need to look at the catchment areas of Welsh medium schools. They are enormous and too great a challenge for parents in terms of transport and convenience.

Local authority response:

Growth of Welsh-medium education

This proposal to replace the current site of YG Bro Ogwr with an English-medium school is subject to a separate scheme which will not proceed until the process for YG Bro Ogwr is concluded.

There is an increasing need for additional capacity at YG Bro Ogwr. The Ffordd Cadfan site is large enough to accommodate a 2.5 form entry school. The school will be designed to allow for a four-classroom extension if needed in the future, taking the school to 3 form entry. This project is the first phase of a long-term plan to increase Welsh-medium education provision across the county borough as part of the Bridgend Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). There are plans to increase provision in the south-east and central Bridgend area, which includes a proposal for a dual-stream school at Parc Afon Ewenny (1 form entry Welsh-medium and 1 form entry English-medium), a 1 form entry school in Porthcawl and an all through Welsh-medium school to cater for ages 3 to 18 years, located centrally in Bridgend county. These plans will align to planned housing developments and available budget.

YG Bro Ogwr currently has a backlog maintenance of £750k. Some immediate work will be undertaken to make improvements, as the school will be fully occupied until 2025.

Community schools

Welsh Government has given approval in principle to create a Welsh-medium seedling school in Porthcawl and we have plans to create provision in the southeast and centrally in Bridgend town, along with potential plans to relocate Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd to a more central location. The local authority's draft 2022-

2032 WESP sets out our ambitions for the next ten years and we are firmly committed to promoting and growing Welsh-medium education.

The local authority's draft 2022-2032 WESP can be viewed via the following link: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/11820/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan-2022-2032.docx>

Pencoed area

The local authority is aware of the need to increase provision in the interim period in order to meet the demand for places. An expression of interest was submitted to Welsh Government for Welsh-medium capital grant funding for a double-mobile classroom to be installed at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr until the proposed enlargement of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr comes into effect.

The Minister has recently announced that Bridgend has been successful in terms of the expression of interest. The business justification case is being drafted for consideration by Welsh Government and local authority technical officers have already commenced work on this scheme so that it can be delivered as a matter of urgency, subject to Welsh Government funding approval.

Catchment areas

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr serves Bridgend town, Valleys Gateway and Pencoed areas. The proposed school would be situated on land off Ffordd Cadfan which is regarded as the most suitable location for the replacement school in terms of its size, geographical position within the areas it serves and proximity to the existing school.

There are no designated catchment areas for Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend county. However, approximately half of the learners attending Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr qualify for school transport catchment areas and travel to school by transport provision. Around 80% of learners attend from outside of Brackla area.

The council's plan is to increase Welsh-medium education places within the county and we will undertake a review of catchment areas. Further work is ongoing on a wider plan, including identifying the catchment area and the local authority would welcome feedback from parents to help inform decisions.

Direct correspondence received:

RhAG wishes to express its thanks for the opportunity to respond to this consultation conducted by Bridgend County Borough Council on the **Proposal to make a regulated change to expand Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr into a 2.5 form entry (FE) school, with a 90-place full time equivalent nursery together with an 8 place observation and assessment class on land off Cadfan Road, to take place from the beginning of the autumn term of 2025.**

Firstly, once again, we wish to note that we realize the amount of work involved in the reorganization of schools in the 21st Century. RhAG has cooperated in a positive manner over recent years with the county officers and has contributed ideas and strategies in order to ensure fairness for the development of Welsh education provision across the county. With the advent of the 10 year plans there is a genuine

opportunity once again to make a difference to the accessibility of Welsh Education in Bridgend County.

Our intention remains to offer challenge and support to the County in order to secure the strongest plans, so that the county's learners receive the best possible opportunities in terms of Welsh Education from the early years through to work.

- Of course, this plan is not a recent plan. And it is important to draw attention to the first beginnings of this plan as this has not been included in the consultation but is in our view worth including in order to note the effect this early action has had on the remainder of this plan.
- Our attention was drawn to a letter sent to the parents and carers of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr by the Chief Education Officer, on the 11th of February 2020. The letter explained the intentions of the Council for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr as part of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Plan Band B programme. We wish to ask on what logical and strategic basis was the decision made to send this letter at this time.
- The contents of the letter indicated an intention to consider further developments for Ysgol Bro Ogwr but we are of the opinion that communicating with parents and carers in this way, so early in the process, without a definite site identified and without an obvious intention either or opportunity to raise a question or respond to any questionnaire concerning the plan, was unwise and has raised the expectations of the school community and indeed the wider community. In the end, the site mentioned in the letter was not suitable after all – which raises serious questions about the checks carried out by the Council before sending the letter to parents and carers on the 11th of February 2020 in the first place.
- The other disappointing element in sending the letter at that time, so early in the process, was that Bridgend County Council commissioned Cefin Campbell to conduct research around the same time, to look at options for the development of Welsh education in the county, in readiness for the development of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- Members of the Bridgend Welsh Education Forum received a report from Cefin Campbell that indicated at the time that there was obvious support for keeping Ysgol Bro Ogwr on its current site and the development of a new Welsh medium primary school somewhere in the centre of Bridgend. These two schools could then provide for a growing population and an increasing demand for Welsh medium education which was a result of thorough marketing of the advantages of bilingualism and active promotion by the local authority through the activity of the promotion sub-group.
- And therefore, the county did not wait to hear the findings of this important report before setting about planning the next steps and making them public.
- It is very difficult for us as an organization to oppose any development in Welsh education. But in this context, it is essential to consider a proposal to move and expand Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr as part of the offer of the whole County in the face of increasing numbers. The members of the Welsh Education Forum, and

RhAG amongst them, have noted the need to expand the provision, not move it from Ysgol Bro Ogwr's present site.

- What happens when a plan such as this receives public attention is that it is also a direct and indirect promotional instrument, which is a good thing, of course. But we have seen that the County has not been able to respond adequately to the increasing demand since 2020 and this is a great cause of concern for us and we must have swift answers for September 2022.
- You note, on page 6: "Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr catchment area includes the districts of Bridgend town, Valleys Gateway and Pencoed". This is a constant topic of conversation between ourselves and county officers who say there are no catchment areas for Welsh education. Why state this therefore in a consultation document? It is misleading to the public and skews the understanding of the public. Some pupils from the Pencoed area have been refused entry to the school on the basis of distance since 2020 and the number of pupils from the Bracla area who have failed to get a place at the school this year has risen to 3.
- On page 7 it says that Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr's condition had been graded C in 2019 and that the school had a maintenance backlog of £750,700. What will be the purpose of the site following the move of Bro Ogwr if that is the intention? Some members of the Welsh Education Forum have informed us that an English medium school will come on to the site. How will this align with the aims of Bridgend County to increase the percentage of pupils in Welsh education over the next 5 to 10 years? It would be good to see the data.
- While the proposed new school will increase the current school's capacity, the numbers of applications to the school have increased already over the last two years. A way to respond to this increase is needed as soon as possible so that we may make the most of this increase. Otherwise, failure to satisfy the demand for Welsh education poses a serious risk of losing learners and losing momentum and community credibility.
- The Bridgend County Welsh Education Forum has not had the opportunity to express its view on this plan as the plan has been drawn up. This is disappointing as the forum has extensive expertise that could have informed the officers about these possible effects to be included in this consultation.
- A number of counties across Wales by now include feedback from members of the Welsh Education Forum in any planning work. When proposals for substantial developments in local schools occur that could impact Welsh education, input from the Welsh Education Forum can be valuable, particularly to ensure that any plan is resilient in terms of the Welsh language. To have had the opportunity to contribute feedback to this plan in order to include a strong element of assistance with the work of promoting Welsh education in the area, would have been beneficial while the planning was taking place rather than at the end of the process.
- On page 9 the document notes that the nursery provision does not satisfy the demand at present. This is an issue that RhAG has raised with the county very recently, but has not hitherto received any details how the demand will be met

in the short term. There are 3 years to go before 2005 and therefore what will happen to these new learners in this area in the meantime? What are the interim plans?

- On page 14 it notes:

“It is envisaged that the number who take advantage of a Welsh medium education in the area will increase as a result of the proposal, and thus support the authority’s CSCA targets, promote the Welsh language and increase the number of non-maintained nursery children who transfer to Welsh medium primary education.”

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan requires local authorities to stimulate the demand that is to increase provision. We agree this will increase the provision, but it is not sufficient in this area. The Council also has a responsibility, under this plan to be promoting **Welsh education** specifically and we are keen to assist the County in doing this as soon as possible. If there is no capacity to expand in the short term it is very difficult to promote provision that is not available.

- Is it possible to explain why the current finance for each learner in Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr is £505 less than the average finance for other Primary school learners in the County?

Annex B – Welsh Language Impact Assessment

- It is necessary to point out that communities that are wider than Coety and Bracla are affected by this plan and that learners come from other areas as well and therefore the impact assessment should reflect the actual community of the school.
- Thank you for acknowledging that this plan affects our parents in this area. It would have been good to see mitigating steps to assist parents as they fail to get places for their children between 2022 and 2025.
- While the risk assessment has identified a number of positive steps, the plan has not recognized the following risks:
 - 1 What will happen to the site following the departure of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr? Is there an intention to establish an English school on the site? If so, will parents be likely to stay on the site for the sake of convenience? How will the increase in the English offer affect the percentage of the County’s Welsh education?
 - 2 The risk to residents of geographical areas who face the possibility of being unable to get a place in Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr needs to be recognized. It is important to ensure local education for learners. The use of transport policy to do this is not acceptable as it avoids planning in new geographical areas. Pencoed is an example of such an area but has not been identified as a risk in this plan.

Substantial housing developments are being planned in this area and therefore has the county considered two Welsh schools? Would exchanging a school building nearer to the communities of Coety and Pencoed to be made a Welsh school be a means of developing Welsh education in this area? Welsh education has to be a core

part of the Bridgend County education offer if the county is genuinely serious about contributing to the million. This is the opportunity!

We therefore ask Bridgend Council to rethink the plan carefully, taking our comments and those of other stakeholders of the Welsh Education Forum into consideration.

We shall be ready to discuss our response with the officers and councillors of Bridgend County Borough Council at any convenient time as usual.

Local authority response:

Thank you for your observation regarding the above proposal. I have set out the local authority's response to each of your concerns below.

The letter of 11 February 2020 was sent to parents/carers of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to inform them that the local authority had received Cabinet approval to undertake a feasibility study on land at Brackla Hill. Feasibility studies, by their very nature, require a number of surveys/assessments to be undertaken on candidate sites.

In order to understand the developability of the site, it was necessary to undertake a site investigation which included bore hole drilling and trial pits. This work is noisy and consequently, it was considered appropriate to notify the adjacent school (that is, Archdeacon John Lewis Church in Wales Primary School) and the local residents, as they could have been impacted by the survey work.

The letter to parents/carers clearly indicated that its purpose was to inform them of the feasibility work and in no way gave a future commitment to developing a scheme at this location. The primary reason for sharing this information at this time was that there was a requirement to undertake a transport assessment, which meant that surveyors would be visible at schools within the area and on the highway network undertaking traffic counts. Therefore, in order to ensure that inappropriate expectations were not raised in relation to the development at Brackla Hill, the letter was carefully framed to emphasise this was purely feasibility work. Clearly, the letter had to be sent prior to the surveys taking place.

As already explained, a feasibility study is not a plan or a policy and its purpose is to determine whether a site can be developed. Many sites can be subject to feasibility studies and the completion of a study does not necessarily result in a scheme being proposed for a particular site, as there may be issues in developing which can only be established once the outcome of the study is known. This was articulated within the letter in order not to raise expectation.

As you will be aware, being a named consultee in Cefin Campbell's report yourself, the report offered three options in relation to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr:

Option 1

There is clear support for retaining Ysgol Bro Ogwr on its present site and develop a new Welsh-medium primary school somewhere in the centre of Bridgend. These two schools would then be able to cater for a growing population and an increased

demand for Welsh-medium education brought about by rigorous marketing around the benefits of bilingualism and by active promotion by the local authority.

Option 2

As above but instead of establishing a Welsh-medium primary school in the town centre, that the education authority considers establishing a 3 to 19 age school which would allow for the growth of secondary Welsh-medium education in the Bridgend area. With the target growth in the next ten years being an additional 170 pupils per school year receiving Welsh-medium education there is a strong case for centralising the provision in Bridgend, as the strong feeling is that the current location of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd is prohibitive for many pupils living in the south or east of the local authority area.

The new Welsh-medium secondary school could also include a language immersion centre which would enable latecomers into Welsh-medium education to become fully immersed in the language. In addition it could house a Welsh language centre which could provide office space for a number of Welsh language organisations like the Urdd, Menter Iaith, Mudiad Meithrin, and Welsh for Adults. By including a multi-purpose language hub as part of the school, it would allow the local authority and language organisations to collaborate on the provision of out-of-school activities in the Welsh language which would provide young people with social opportunities to use the language, thus increasing their fluency and confidence.

Option 3

Based on a commitment to establish a new Welsh-medium primary school or 3 to 19 age school in the centre of Bridgend, there would then be an option to close Ysgol Bro Ogwr on condition that a new Welsh-medium primary school is opened in the wider vicinity, possibly around the Brackla/Coity area.

As you will be aware, the local authority has considered the findings of the report and is progressing Options 2 and 3 in the proposed 10-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The proposal in respect of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, is as per Cefin Campbell's Option 3 above. The strategic approach for this proposal has been considered in respect of the existing and future provision for the whole county borough.

As a publicly accessible consultation document, the language used tries to ensure that the wider public understands the broad thrust of the proposal. Although it is acknowledged there are currently no 'catchment boundaries' for Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend, it is considered important that the public (particularly parents/carers) understand the context of the proposal. Catchment areas are generally understood within the wider perspective of school admissions as a 'geographic areas served by a particular school'. Therefore, to change the language to for example, 'the nearest suitable Welsh-medium school serving the wider community of Pencoed' would potentially mean that some members of the public would not understand the proposal as they would not be familiar with that alternative language and might not possibly respond.

The future use of the site will be determined in due course following a review of the options appraisal in respect of the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr site. The local

authority has set out the strategy for increasing the percentage of pupils in Welsh education within the WESP.

The local authority has submitted an expression of interest for Welsh-medium capital grant funding to Welsh Government, which has been approved in principle, for a double mobile classroom to be installed at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to address the immediate demand for places, including nursery provision.

The entire purpose of the consultation is to solicit views as widely as possible regarding the proposal. Therefore, the Welsh in Education Forum, Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg and other stakeholders are all welcome to respond to the consultation process. The delegated budgets of all schools (English and Welsh-medium) are formula funded. The delegated budget formula accounts for a great many variables (for example, floor area, pupil numbers, grounds areas and so on). Consequently, the funding received at each school is dependent on that school's unique circumstances.

Should this proposal be taken forward, and as previously detailed, the local authority will be reviewing an options appraisal regarding the future use of the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr. The policy is to provide choice for parents in terms of preferred schools.

The proposed strategy regarding the future provision of Welsh-medium education is set out in the draft WESP which is currently being considered by Welsh Government. Additional Welsh-medium primary provision is planned for this area and will be delivered as part of a future band of the School Modernisation Programme, as detailed in the draft WESP.

Direct correspondence received after the consultation period closed, but accepted as the original email address was input incorrectly, but was sent during the consultation period.

YES I support the proposal

Comments:

I fully support the proposal outlined in the Pro-Forma and feel the new location is ideal for the proposed new school. The plans represent an excellent opportunity to provide a first class school facility and opportunity to promote Welsh Medium Education.

However, as a School Governor, local Community Councillor and resident of Brackla I have major concerns over the proposed parking arrangements for our new school. In the original Brackla Hill proposal there was car parking for at least 60 staff members and 30 spaces presumably for drop-off use .

Whilst not detailed in the consultation document the plan shared with the School Governors and Head Teacher clearly showed just 30 parking spaces for staff. Whilst I acknowledge the Welsh Governments aspirations to encourage more people to walk and cycle everywhere and a Zero Carbon target by 2030 pragmatically these goals if applied too stringently will have a significant impact upon our new school in my opinion.

Our existing staff numbers and consequential demand for parking already exceeds the proposed new allocation. On the positive side there appears to be sufficient bays for coach access and given that they will access the site from the Industrial Estate is also a plus that perhaps could have been shared in the Consultation document.

Recruiting suitably qualified and experienced Welsh speaking teachers is an ongoing challenge especially when demand from other Welsh Speaking schools are factored in. Without adequate on-site parking attracting these individuals will prove extremely difficult, time-consuming and where Agency Staff are used for back-fill - £ costly on our tight budget. This will have an impact on WESP if not handled correctly from the outset.

Drop-off points are already very contentious with examples of major dissatisfaction in both BrynMenyn and Pencoed as I respond to this consultation. This is not good PR from so many fronts so far as any school let alone a New Welsh Medium school is concerned and the size of the site and experience learned from the foregoing should be used to make this right.

When you meet with the Highways Department to discuss the Transport Impact Assessment I feel the potential impact of the proposed 62 Affordable Homes and possible Retail unit at the Ridgeway location should also be factored into the final proposed parking for the school given the collective impact this is going to have. Not forgetting that when we vacate our existing school site an English medium replacement school will be adding to this traffic flow which is already the subject of congestion and bottlenecks.

Local authority response:

We will hold a separate workshop with our highways and health and safety teams to discuss the traffic impact on the highway, car parking provision and drop-off areas as part of the design development and to understand whether the mitigation measures in place at other schools in the county work effectively.

Our highways team has commissioned and concluded a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) which has been reported to Cabinet. The TIA will be reviewed and we will make sure we are providing any active travel infrastructure that is needed as part of this scheme. In order to ensure we receive planning approval for the project, we must satisfy highway terms and requirements and we must comply with Supplementary Planning Guidelines set by Welsh Government.

We will need to develop a strong case to present to our highways colleagues to explain the concerns regarding staff recruitment and retention. We will work with the school to develop a school travel plan, gather information on current staffing issues and car parking and the collation of postcode data.

Direct correspondence received:

Thank you for the presentation last night.

There was a blue area mentioned in the presentation and we are looking for land to use as a second allotment garden site and I've been asked to make initial enquiries on whether this is something that you'd consider.

Local authority response:

We note your request and will consider this in due course, subject to the successful outcome of the statutory consultation process.

APPENDIX 8

(Snap Online Survey) Responses

Are you (please tick):

Parent/guardian (29) 63%
Other interested party (please specify) (11) 24%
School staff (4) 9%
School governor (2) 4%
School pupil (-)

Do you support the proposal:

No (15) 33%
Yes (31) 67%

If you do not support the proposal – please state why:

No provision for all the extra traffic this causes. Not safe for children.

The school physically has no time for children with additional needs if they class your child as a issue they will just get rid or them instead of supporting so with the current senior staff at the school it would be a waste of money to put the additional space in a new school

There are schools in much greater need of updated premises. These are constantly overlooked as they are not first language Welsh schools. There are very few green areas left in Bridgend. There should be regeneration of brown spaces rather than development of green space.

Parking and traffic issue potential for residents. This needs to be solved as traffic coming up from the dual carriageway and down to the dual carriageway will be backed up and block entrance to estate. As currently happens outside school gates. If this was solved, i would support the application.

If you do not support the proposal – please state why:

Having successfully led the campaign to Save the open green spaces in Brackla from development at Brackla Hill, I still stand by a major part of our campaign which was backed by over 8,000 residents in that Brackla already has more than its fair share of schools and therefore this build should not take place in the Brackla area. The school, as previously highlighted, will serve pupils from all across the County of Bridgend, and not just Brackla, so the school does not need to be built in one of the most densely populated areas of Bridgend at all. A far better solution, as also confirmed and supported by former First Minister Carwyn Jones, would be to incorporate this school development within the plans for the new housing and development at Waterton as it would be central and more easily accessible for people travelling from all across the borough of Bridgend. The road access would

already be in place, and it would avoid using a space which is home to protected wildlife species.

It is another Welsh medium school that is needed, not a new building for the current school, particularly one that offers space for only half a class each year.

You don't need a new larger school.

As a parent living in the area, I object to the proposal to turn the current site of Ysgol Bro Ogwr into an English school ultimately as this runs contrary to the Welsh Government target of seeing an increase in Welsh education and to produce a million speakers by 2050. There are great challenges already in the county in terms of areas such as Braclla and Pencoed that have affected families who have not been able to get a place. Although a new Welsh School would offer more places, these would fill up quickly. In my opinion, it is necessary to look at the catchment areas of Welsh medium schools in Bridgend County. They are enormous and too much of a challenge for parents in terms of transport and convenience. The language needs to be normalised within communities.

Welsh education needs to be expanded in the Bridgend area but this is not the answer. Moving Bro Ogwr to a slightly larger school within a stone's throw of the current site does not offer sufficient growth. Neither does it offer local children a choice of schools to receive a Welsh education. As a parent of two children in the school, I am happy with the building, the location and the size of the school. There are schools in a much worse condition than Bro Ogwr and I do not feel that adding half a stream and mixed classes would be beneficial.

I do not support this proposal because I am happy with the school as it is.

Because our school is well established and does not need to be re-located.

More Welsh medium schools are needed across the county. It is not good enough to change sites all the time. This is what has happened with Ysgol Calon y Cymoedd - it is not a new school but a change of site.

More Welsh medium schools need to be opened in the county in order to ensure the council reaches the 2050 Welsh targets – the plan under consideration here is just relocation.

Comment/suggestions/requests/questions:

If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals presented please give details:

If there is room for 90 in the nursery, but only 75 through the remainder of the school where is the other half of the nursery class to go? It is necessary to ensure places for the 90 that are in the nursery class.

Although I support the application, there is still the need of a school nearer to the Pencoed district. This is not going to be large enough for the area. Welsh education needs to be developed further in the area.

If there is going to be room for 90 pupils in the nursery (3 classes) and then about 75 in each other year (2.5 classes), where are the 15 children supposed to go after leaving the nursery?! It is very unfair to expect these children to leave and start again in another school after they have settled and made friends and formed important relationships. I am aware that a similar situation has arisen this year much to the shame of the school and the council.

It is disgraceful that Welsh education is being denied to the county's young pupils after they have attended the nursery. It would be cruel to do the same thing to future pupils.

What will be the feeding/catchment area of the school be?

Comment/suggestions/requests/questions:

If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals presented please give details:

Go bigger if possible.

Amazing news ,especially for us parents in Pencoed. Pencoed is desperate for Welsh provision. A new Welsh comp in the east of the county should be planned asap!

As a fluent welsh speaker, I think it is a great idea to allow the space for more children to learn through the medium of Welsh. Which i then believe will have a positive impact on the future ofBridgend.

Get qualified staff in to the new project once completed if it goes ahead to benefit the pupils pupils with additional needs have zero support as the current staff don't know how to deal with them

Clarify if the new schools sports facilities / green spaces will be open to the public?

Brilliant, about time we had a new welsh school, to.I keep the language alive!

Drop of zone for parents/parking areas for parents to be included in the plans to avoid parking issues for residents and back up of traffic to feeder roads.

This proposal Makes sense due to all the new housing in the area and also people moving from outside the area to Bridgend, great to support the Welsh language and history it has brought, the school is needed, shame they couldn't fit a decent doctor surgery around that area to house the extra people !

Bridgend needs another school and not another half a class!!

As highlighted above, this development should (and must) be incorporated as part of the planned development at Waterton.

A 3-stream school where mixed age classes will not be needed or a school in addition to Ysgol Bro Ogwr.

Only half a class more space will be provided in the new building, not much opportunity to increase the numbers. Also, planning a school for mixed age classes is not wise, - the ideal is a one age class in order to offer our pupils the best learning opportunities.

I agree with the new building and expanding on Welsh education, it is much needed in this county and long overdue. However, I feel that a 3 form entry would be better. A new school attracts a huge amount of families to the area and I feel that a lot of children will want to go to the school. Increasing the existing school by half a class is not enough spaces. The plan also stated that there is a 90 capacity nursery, are 15 children not going to have a place in reception? What is the plan to address this? Mixed classes can also be more difficult for teachers and children.

I support the building of a new, bigger Welsh primary in Bridgend. It is long overdue in the county. However I do have reservations about the 2.5 form entry. I don't feel that a 2.5 form entry is a sufficient expansion on an already 2 form entry. I feel that it should be a 3 form entry, to match the 90 place nursery capacity. 90 places in nursery would equate to 3 classes of 30. What is the council's plan on transitioning from nursery to statutory education? I would like to know whether 15 pupils will be turned away from Reception class as there is no capacity for them? The Welsh government also supports smaller classes, would it not be better to have 3 smaller classes than larger 2.5 classes. I also feel strongly that 2 halls are needed in the school. There is currently a hall and a studio in the current building which is in constant use. I feel strongly that the 2 is needed in order to support and implement the new curriculum. Sufficient parking for all staff is also a priority. Thank you for your time.

You need another school further away, perhaps the school in broadlands near the Tesco express should be converted to Welsh medium. You need to make Welsh medium education more desirable by having more Welsh medium schools that are within walking distance for many parents in the county. We don't need any more English schools, please stop building them.

Comment/suggestions/requests/questions:

If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals presented please give details:

While expanding the school is a great idea for the surrounding communities and the Welsh language there are two things that spring to mind. Firstly, I have two children who already attend the school and my worry is this may cause more disruption to their education. They have already missed so much due to COVID. We need to make sure that this doesn't happen otherwise they will be at further disadvantage compared to other children their age. Secondly, given the recent media coverage of parking problems at primary schools in Bridgend will there be a consideration given for a reasonable amount of parking.

A 2 and a half form entry is never big enough. BCBC need to think ahead. There are a few mums on Coity with newborns. This year Bro Ogwr didn't have enough room so why only half a form.

Keep Ysgol Bro Ogwr as it is. Open a new Welsh school in Bridgend where there will be room for the pupils of Pencoed and growth.

A very good option would be to create a lifelong school in Bridgend in the near future that would be a better location for a Comprehensive school than Llangynwyd in terms of travel for the majority of the area's pupils and in terms of attracting and retaining staff, particularly with the price of petrol! This will at last offer the first new primary Welsh school for decades in the county!

Provide this opportunity somewhere else in the Borough so that other children can have the opportunity to attend Welsh Medium Education

I think it's appalling that you wish to expand this school and re-locate to another site. Offer this opportunity by opening a new Welsh school is what you need to do.

Many of Bridgend County's children still have to travel on the bus or by car to school. This is not fair – compared to peers that attend English schools, most often within walking distance of their homes.

Any other comments:

There is need to ensure room now as well, not wait until 2025. Last year's nursery pupils have not found a place in the reception class, and only 27 children in the class. Disgraceful!!

What is happening in the area in the meantime? Will there be sufficient places for the area's Welsh pupils in years 22/23 23/24 24/25?

It must be ensured that EVERY child in the nursery gets a place in the reception class. It is shameful of Bridgend Council to create an entirely unacceptable and painful situation for families this year. Disgraceful and unfair and entirely contrary to the government's objectives.

What are BCBC's plans to ensure adequate provision for the present until they are able to open the new school? I am concerned that BCBC is ignoring the demand for Welsh education in the area and is very narrow in its vision for Welsh education. Building a 2.5 stream school is great, but this should be open already and at the forefront of our local council's thinking as they plan building works and new homes.

Nice to see Welsh language getting a new school and investment for once!

Was just wondering If any improvements were going to be made to the existing bro Ogwr school before opening as an English medium school

Sad that there is no other plans for shops/gp/dental etc as Brackla currently cannot manage with increase in housing without infrastructure support for residents

Hopefully it will all go ahead.

There needs to be consideration towards parking and traffic flow in the area so it doesn't affect the local residents.

Any other comments:

It is necessary to show that as a county we respond beforehand, planning ahead for the future, responding to the Welsh Government's target. Have the same 4 schools existed in Bridgend since the 70s/80s? Where is Bridgend Council in terms of making decisions? Welsh education is growing in the Vale of Glamorgan and in Cardiff. There is need of preparation, not move Bro Ogwr and replace it with an English school!! Keep Bro Ogwr and build another Welsh school in the town or towards Pencoed!!!

The voices of 8,000 local residents cannot be ignored, and although our campaign was to prevent our last remaining open green spaces in Brackla, it also highlighted the Brackla community would not welcome this development in their already overcrowded community due to the impact on additional traffic and air pollution, so this development must be sited in a far more suitable and central location to serve the entire Bridgend community rather than just adding to the issues with traffic and pollution and over development of the Brackla area already.

There is insufficient parking. While I understand the attempt to encourage the workforce to share vehicles or travel on public transport, there is no consideration of the fact that a Welsh school workforce is different from those of English schools; teaching staff and support staff travel a long way from various areas to reach the site

Thank you for your time

There is a need for additional placements for Welsh primary education in Bridgend.

I am living in pencoed, please tell me why there are no Welsh medium schools near here?

Ysgol Saint Baruc in Barry is having a Mew build which doubles the size of the school. We need another school in Bridgend not just to meet the demand but to attract more into Bilingual education. It's a National trend and Bridgend are so far behind other Counties in the South East. We need a School in Bridgend Town, A school in Porthcawl, A school in Pencoed as well as the schools we already have. Nothing has changed since the 80's. Get with it. Get a move on. Be proactive!!!! There are pupils in Ysgol Iola Morgannwg that should be in Bro Ogwr. Parents don't like Big Classes!!!! Another school not half a class!!!

Is Ysgol Bro Ogwr being moved so that the present school becomes empty and available to be a new English school? How are we to see growth in Welsh education when more new English schools are being opened and only half a Welsh stream? More Welsh language primary schools are needed in the area – far more children would choose a Welsh education if there were schools near to them. It is necessary to have a positive attitude towards the Welsh language and be ambitious in our plans in Bridgend. Adding 90 places is not one of these unfortunately.

When will we see an additional Welsh school? There are only 4 in the County Borough. When will we have equal rights for the use and growth of our language? Open more schools please.

Local authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

Growth of Welsh-medium education

The local authority's draft 2022-2032 WESP sets out our ambitions for the next 10 years and we are firmly committed to promoting and growing Welsh-medium education.

This is the first phase of the programme. There are plans to increase Welsh-medium provision in the south-east and the Bridgend town area. There is a proposal for a dual-stream school at Parc Afon Ewenni (1 FE Welsh-medium and 1 FE English-medium), a 1 FE school in Porthcawl and an all through Welsh-medium school to cater for ages 3 to 18 years, located centrally in Bridgend county. We will be working on these plans to align to housing developments and available budget. Bridgend is one of the biggest recipients of Welsh-medium childcare funding across all local authorities in Wales.

School size / capacity

The current Pupil Admission Number (PAN) is 54 and the new school would have a PAN of 75, thereby creating additional opportunities for more learners to access a Welsh-medium education. The existing capacity of 378 would increase to 525 for learners aged 4-11 under this proposal.

There is an increasing need for additional capacity at YG Bro Ogwr. The option of a 2.5 form entry school was deemed the preferred option for the location of the proposed site at Ffordd Cadfan. A set of options, costs and strategy was established to maximise Welsh-medium education in the area. This proposal will be the largest school that we have in Bridgend.

Nursery provision

The current demand for nursery places outweighs the capacity of the school. The nursery will have both part-time and full-time provision and would increase from 55 to 90 full-time equivalent places. There will be seventy-five full-time places for learners aged 3 to 4 years and part-time provision will make-up the other fifteen full-time equivalent places (thirty in total).

Additional learning needs provision

The proposal would have a positive impact on additional learning needs provision. The proposal includes a dedicated 8-place observation and assessment class which would increase the provision for children through the medium of Welsh, who require a period of observation and assessment in order to meet their individual needs.

Future expansion

The design of the site allows for expansion to build a first floor and second floor extension, to create four additional classrooms to accommodate additional demand for places in the future if needed. This would increase the school to 3 form entry.

Catchment areas

YG Bro Ogwr serves Bridgend town, Valleys Gateway and Pencoed areas. The proposed school would be situated on land off Ffordd Cadfan which is regarded as the most suitable location for the replacement school in terms of its size, geographical position within the areas it serves and proximity to the existing school.

There are no designated catchment areas for Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend county. However, approximately half of the learners attending Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr qualify for school transport catchment areas and travel to school by transport provision. Around 80% of learners attend from outside of Brackla area.

The council's plan is to increase Welsh-medium education places within the county and we will undertake a review of catchment areas. We welcome feedback from parents to help inform decisions.

Parking, traffic concerns, school drop-off

We will hold a separate workshop with our highways and health and safety teams to discuss the traffic impact on the highway, car parking provision and drop-off areas as part of the design development and to understand whether the mitigation measures in place at other schools in the county work effectively.

Our highways team has commissioned and concluded a Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) which has been reported to Cabinet. The TIA will be reviewed and we will make sure we are providing any active travel infrastructure that is needed as part of this scheme. In order to ensure we receive planning approval for the project, we must satisfy highway requirements and we must comply with Supplementary Planning Guidelines set by Welsh Government.

Existing YG Bro Ogwr

YG Bro Ogwr's building condition is grade C and has a backlog maintenance of £750,700. Some immediate work will be undertaken to make improvements as the school will be fully occupied until 2025.

The local authority is aware of the need to increase provision in the interim period of this project in order to meet the demand for places. An expression of interest was submitted to Welsh Government for Welsh-medium capital grant funding for a double-mobile classroom to be installed at the school until the proposed enlargement of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr comes into effect.

Future plans for an English-medium school at the current YG Bro Ogwr site

The creation of an English-medium school at the existing YG Bro Ogwr site would be subject to a separate statutory consultation process which would be only taken forward if the proposal in respect of the enlargement of YG Bro Ogwr at Ffordd Cadfan proceeds.

Officers will explore the impact this proposal would have on current English-medium schools in the area. Further work is ongoing on a wider plan, including identifying the catchment area.

Sports facilities/green spaces and community use

The school will be designed to facilitate community use. The community use of the school is a decision for the governing body.

There will be two sports pitches; a smaller grass carpet pitch, which is usually used for 5-a-side football and hockey etc and a larger 3G pitch to accommodate community use and training requirements. Two areas have been identified on the plan to accommodate a netball and basketball court. The pitches will be protected with security fencing.

Pitch flood lighting is not included in this scheme, however we will include the infrastructure for floodlighting columns so that they can be included in the future. Community Councils have contributed towards the cost of the floodlighting for past projects.

There will be a hall with a community kitchen toward the front of the building. This will be set away from the classrooms to ensure security.

The school has run adult classes, but it does currently lack space. The new school will provide an opportunity that we will embrace at the new school, working with Menter Bro Ogwr.

To comply with the British Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method, a small provision will be included to accommodate cycling to school facilities with showers and changing rooms.

There will be a significant amount of green space included at the school site. There are plans for a wetland and we will aim to improve the ecology and biodiversity across the site. This will be discussed further during the design stage.

APPENDIX 9

Estyn's response to the proposal by Bridgend County Borough Council to make a regulated alteration to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 form-entry (FE) school, with a 90-place full time equivalent nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

The proposal is to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to increase the number of Welsh-medium places and transfer the school to a new building on a new site.

Summary/Conclusion

Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The local authority has set out a clear rationale for its proposal. It outlines strongly the many advantages of building a new school including identifying that the current building's condition was graded as category C in 2019. In 2019, the reported figure for essential backlog maintenance work was £750,700.

The local authority provides a clear description of the proposal and outlines a provisional timetable for statutory procedures. However, it does not identify a timetable for implementation of the proposals, other than the implementation date of September 2025 for the transfer to the new site.

The proposer identifies clearly and fairly the expected benefits and disadvantages of the new proposal. It notes rightly that there will be an increase in Welsh-medium provision for the Bridgend Northeast area, and that the current demand for nursery places outweighs the capacity of the school. The local authority identifies that increased nursery provision may have a slight impact on the other local day nursery, but as this nursery is an English-medium provision, the impact should not be significant.

The local authority has suitably identified risks associated with the proposal and has identified appropriate counter measures to these risks. The local authority sets out three suitable alternatives to its proposal and provides valid reasons as to why they have discounted them.

The proposer has considered, in part, the impact of the changes on learner travel arrangements. It notes that the distance between the current Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr site and the proposed Ffordd Cadfan site is 0.2 miles. The local authority considers fairly that those currently living in the vicinity of the present site could still walk to the new school. The proposal also outlines that free transport will be provided for primary aged pupils if they live 2 miles or more from the school and full-time nursery learners will be eligible for free transport if they live 1.5 miles or more.

The proposal projects a small drop in roll at the school, with the need for around 366 pupil spaces by January 2026. At the same time, the new build will increase the capacity of the school from 378 to 525 places and to increase nursery provision from 55 to 90 full time places. The local authority has considered appropriately the potential impact of housing developments on projected numbers. They have also identified that improved school buildings could potentially lead to additional pupils accessing Welsh-medium education locally.

The proposal takes good account of the impact of the proposals on Welsh medium provision within the local authority and the extent to which the proposal supports the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). It identifies that improving and enhancing the physical aspect of the Welsh medium provision throughout the authority is an important element of the WESP. The proposal to transfer Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a new 21st century standard school building with an increased capacity will contribute to the authority's goal of increasing the number of pupils accessing Welsh medium education.

The proposal estimates the cost of the new build will be £12.6 million which will be funded by the Welsh Government and the local authority.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer considers appropriately the educational aspects of the proposal. It identifies in useful detail the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection and the school's recommendations for improvement.

The local authority considers appropriately the impact of the proposals on the quality and standards in education, including pupil standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning, teaching and learning experiences, care support and guidance and leadership and management. For example, the proposal identifies fairly that a move to a school that is purposely built around the needs for teaching and learning should greatly improve the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and at key stage 2. It further notes that a better learning environment will also have a positive impact on support and guidance by providing areas suitable for small group teaching for pupils who start to fall behind in their learning.

The proposal considers, to some extent, the impact of the proposal on additional learning needs provision but does not provide sufficient information in this area. It does note that in the new school there will be provision for an 8-place observation

and assessment class. In terms of accessibility, the new school will be designed to be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act which will support all learners, staff, and visitors.

The local authority notes that school reorganisation proposals inevitably cause some disruption and uncertainty. It identifies that experience shows that this can be kept to a minimum by working closely with the head teacher, governors and staff and planning the programme around the needs of the school. Nevertheless, the proposal does not consider the potential specific disruptive factors may be in the context of this new build, or how the local authority will minimise these for learners.

Local authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

The local authority, based on previous successful experience of school reorganisation, is confident that while proposals will cause some disruption these will be handled professionally and in a way that mitigates risks to pupil learning. The local authority operates a comprehensive risk management process in which group managers from all areas from within the local authority (including school leaders) meet regularly to discuss any emerging issues and then subsequently work through appropriate solutions. For example, considering how the curriculum might need to be adapted to operate in a new environment or how the running of the school day might need adapting. As in previous projects where schools move to a new building, there will be regular communications with pupils and parents to provide updates and support the transition, thus removing any uncertainties. Learner voice activities will be an integral part of this work.

Appendix 10 - Community Impact Assessment

Name of proposal:

Proposal to make a regulated alteration to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 form-entry (FE) school, with a 90-place full time equivalent nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet

Who has been involved in developing the proposal?

Corporate Director – Education and Family Support
Head of Education and Family Support
Schools Programme Manager – Education and Family Support
Group Managers – Education and Family Support Directorate
School Modernisation Strategic Programme Board
Project Manager – School Modernisation
Technical officers of the local authority

Aims and objectives:

Proposal to make a regulated alteration to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 form-entry (FE) school, with a 90-place full time equivalent nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025

Key actions:

Statutory procedure to make a regulated alteration to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr

Expected outcomes: Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr will be constructed on the Ffordd Cadfan site, providing a 2.5 form-entry (FE) school (525 places), plus a nursery of 90 full-time equivalent nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class, with effect from September 2025.

Who will be affected: Staff, governors, learners, parents and wider the community.

Approximately how many people will be affected: potentially more than 1000 people.

Expected date of decision: July 2022.

Scope/focus of the assessment:

Consideration given to:

- the existing use of the schools by the community

- accessibility to learners, staff, parents and the community
- impact of moving a primary school
- impact on the school building
- impact on the extended community

Relevant data and/or research:

- Out of hours use of school buildings
- ‘Strategy, Principles, Policy and Planning Framework’ which informs the approach for addressing strategic priorities within the County Borough and the subsequent 2015 ‘Principles Document’
- learner projections, capacity and building conditions

Findings

Community use:

- The school is not used for community activities during the week.
- Organisations such as Menter Bro Ogwr and the Urdd run holiday clubs during some of the school holidays.
- The school operates a free breakfast club and Menter Bro Ogwr run an after-school club for learners.
- The school run extra-curricular after-school clubs Monday to Thursday.

Primary policy:

- This proposal aligns with the March 2015 ‘Principles Document’.

Learner projections, capacity, building condition:

- The learner projections affecting primary schools in the cluster show that the learner population is increasing for certain areas within the cluster.
- Building conditions in respect of the existing buildings are outlined below:

School	Quality of Accommodation
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr	Overall condition rating C (poor; exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended)

Impact on extended community

There will likely be a positive impact in terms of modern, accessible, purpose-built community facilities located in the proposed new school.

Impact on other schools

- It is not expected that the new school will have a significant impact on any other school in terms of reducing pupil numbers. As this is a Welsh-medium primary school, it will draw pupils from a much wider catchment area and is unlikely to compete for pupils in nearby schools. Therefore, the number of

pupils who may move from English-medium schools to this new school is likely to be very small.

- Although the rates of retention and transition to the Welsh-medium secondary school are already good at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, it is anticipated that the new school may have a positive effect in assisting in these areas and that will be beneficial to the Welsh-medium secondary school as well as assisting with the local authority's commitment to help increase the numbers of learners in Welsh-medium education (in line with Welsh Government policy and the WESP). Added to this, any improvement in one Welsh-medium school is likely to be beneficial to the Welsh-medium cluster of schools in general as the schools work closely to share good practice.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics?

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. If anything, there would potentially be a positive impact given that the new school would be designed to be fully DDA compliant which would support all learners, staff, visitors etc.

Consultation

Has there been specific consultation on this decision (if not, state why not and/or when this may happen):

Consultation commenced on 7 February 2022 and closed on 21 March 2022.

What were the results of the consultation?

The impact of this proposal has been considered and updated. The new school would be designed with community use in mind and will include facilities that could be used by Welsh language groups, the Urdd and sport organisations.

Across the protected characteristics, what difference in views did analysis of the consultation reveal?

The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group. The proposed school would be situated on land off Ffordd Cadfan which is regarded as the most suitable location for the replacement school in terms of its size, proximity to the existing school and geographical position within the area, with good links to Bridgend town, the Valleys Gateway and Pencoed areas, thereby being suitable for community use.

What conclusions have been drawn from the analysis on how the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics?

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. If anything, there would potentially be a positive impact given that the new school would be designed to be fully compliant in terms of the Equalities Act 2010, which would support all learners, staff, visitors and users of the school building.

Assessment of impact on staff

Please give details of impact on staff, including staffing profile if/as appropriate:

The result of the proposal, should it go ahead, would mean that the staffing structure is likely to increase over a period of time. The staffing structure would align to the increased school population. The governing body would be responsible for the staffing structure which would be determined primarily by the educational needs of the school and the budget available.

Assessment of impact on wider community

Please give details of any impacts to the community as a whole:

The site for the proposed new school is less than 0.2 miles away from the current school site. It is therefore not anticipated to be significant potential for there to be negative impact on the community.

However, there is a possibility that there may be a positive impact on community cohesion as should the proposal go forward, learners would be attending a larger new school building which will incorporate purpose-built community facilities.

Analysis of impact by protected characteristics

Please summarise the results of the analysis:

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics.

Assess the relevance and impact of the decision to people with different characteristics

Relevance = High/Low/None / Impact = High/Low/Neutral

Characteristic	Relevance	Impact
Age	High	Low
Disability	None	Neutral
Gender reassignment	None	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral
Race	None	Neutral
Religion or belief	None	Neutral
Sex	None	Neutral
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups (include health inequalities)	None	Neutral

Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures taken to mitigate against it:

No negative impact has been identified.

Please advise on the overall equality implications that should be taken into account in the final decision, considering relevance and impact:

The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group.

Signed:

Project Manager, School Modernisation Team, Education and Family Support

Date:

17 May 2022

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr

Proposal:	Proposed enlargement of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
Department:	School Modernisation Team – Education and Family Support Directorate
Completing Officer:	Schools Programme Manager
Date:	2 February 2022
Brief Description:	The proposal is to relocate and enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a new school building which is sized for 2.5 forms of entry, with 90 full-time-equivalent nursery places and an 8-place assessment and observation class.
Who does this proposal affect?	<p>Governing body, staff, learners and parents/carers - Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr.</p> <p>Pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) requiring Welsh-medium specialist provision, their parents/carers and the wider additional learning needs community.</p> <p>The communities of Coity and Brackla.</p> <p>Other Welsh-medium schools within Bridgend County Borough (ie primary and secondary).</p> <p>Schools within the Valley's Gateway, Bridgend and Pencoed areas of the county borough.</p> <p>Stakeholder groups (eg Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHaG) Mudiad Meithrin, Welsh in Education Forum)</p>
What are the aims of the policy and how do they relate to the Welsh language?	<p>Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr is a Welsh-medium community primary school at Princess Way, Brackla, Bridgend. It was built in 1994 and is located on 2.7 acres of land. The school has been extended since its original build and includes two temporary mobile classrooms to the rear. The current pupil admission number (PAN) is 54. Certain areas of the school are overcrowded and the building condition is graded C.</p> <p>The proposal aims to relocate the school to a new 21st Century school building which is fit-for-purpose on the Ffordd Cadfan site which is located 0.2 miles from the existing school site. The new school would have a PAN of 75, thereby creating additional opportunities for more learners to access a Welsh-medium education. The existing capacity of 378 would increase to 525 for learners aged 4-11 under this proposal.</p> <p>Currently Welsh-medium learners with significant additional learning needs are supported by a specialist peripatetic team.</p>

	<p>In line with the requirements of Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (ALNET) 2018, all local authorities must provide bilingual ALN provision. As the aim is to increase the number of Welsh-medium learners, a dedicated Welsh-medium assessment and observation class to support learners with ALN is proposed.</p> <p>The school building will be a flexible and adaptable, modern learning environment. It will have a large hall and studio (ie for assemblies, PE and dining) and a multi-purpose learning plaza/’street’. Internal and external areas will be suitably designed for school and community use. Outdoor spaces will be provided to support the full range of curriculum activities. Improved on-site visitor, staff and school transport parking will be provided. The proposal will also include a review of safe routes to school, and if required, an investment in improvements to highway infrastructure.</p> <p>The school will be funded by Welsh Government’s Sustainable Learning Communities Programme and Bridgend County Borough Council’s capital resources. The proposed school would open for pupils in September 2025 on land off Ffordd Cadfan in Brackla, Bridgend.</p> <p>Built to Building Bulletin 99, the school would be fully accessible and compliant with all relevant Building Regulations.</p>
<p>Who will benefit / could the policy affect Welsh language groups?</p>	<p>Learners at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr. Welsh-medium learners with significant additional learning needs. Parents/carers of pupils attending Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr. Staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr. The communities within the vicinity of the school.</p> <p>There should be a positive impact on Welsh language groups as the new building will be accessible to the local community. This could involve Welsh for adult classes, meetings of Welsh language groups etc.</p>
<p>Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s):</p>	<p>The 2011 Census indicated that of the 134,545 residents living in the County Borough of Bridgend, 9.7% (13,103) were able to speak Welsh, whilst the remaining 90.3% (121,442) were not able to speak Welsh. This can be compared to the all-Wales figures that showed of the 2,955,841 residents living Wales, 19.0% (562,016) were able to speak Welsh, whilst the remaining 81.0% (2,393,825) were not able to speak Welsh.</p> <p>The table that follows illustrates the Welsh language skills of residents living in the Bridgend County Borough compared to the all Wales figure, and is obtained from the 2011 Census: https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Census-Welsh-Language/welshspeakers-by-localauthority-gender-detailedagegroups-2011census</p>

	Bridgend	All Wales
Can speak, read and write Welsh	7.3	14.6%
Can speak and read but cannot write Welsh	0.9%	1.5%
Can speak but cannot read or write Welsh	1.5%	2.7%
Can understand spoken Welsh only	4.1%	5.3%
Other combination of skills	3.6%	2.5%
No skills	82.7%	73.3%
Total	100%	100%

The data demonstrates that in the Bridgend County Borough, the Welsh language skills of residents are below the All-Wales Welsh language skills level.

The Annual Population Survey for the year ending June 2021, reported that 17.8% of respondents living in the County Borough of Bridgend said they could speak Welsh, compared to the all-Wales percentage of 29.2% of respondents. This can be further broken down to the data contained in the table that follows.

Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)		
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales
Can read Welsh	16.9%	25.9%
Can write Welsh	15.9%	23.8%
Can understand spoken Welsh	21.2%	33.7%

The data shows that there is a gap in the Welsh language skills of residents of Bridgend when compared to the whole of Wales.

Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)		
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales
Speak Welsh daily	6.3%	15.2%
Speak Welsh weekly	3.1%	5.2%

	Use it less often or never	6.9%	7.3%
	<p>The data indicates that in terms of the spoken language, the % of Bridgend residents when compared to the whole of Wales that use the Welsh language is significantly less.</p> <p>The data clearly shows that there is a variance in the Welsh language skills of Bridgend County Borough residents when compared with all-Wales data.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this proposal would significantly improve teaching and learning opportunities and it is likely that uptake of Welsh-medium education in the area will increase as a consequence of provision of a 21st Century school building, thereby supporting the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) targets, promoting the Welsh language and increasing the number of nursery learners transitioning to a Welsh-medium primary education.</p> <p>Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr is not currently used for community activities during the week. However, organisations such as Menter Bro Ogwr and the Urdd run holiday clubs at the school during some of the school holiday periods. The school operates a free breakfast club and Menter Bro Ogwr run an after-school club for learners. Extra-curricular after school clubs are offered during the week from Monday to Thursday.</p> <p>Menter Bro Ogwr have previously run Welsh for adults for parents and the school is currently looking to set-up a Parents and Toddler group.</p> <p>Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr is categorised as a "green" school with excellent standards achieved at the end of foundation phase and Key Stage 2. No current data or figures for this is available as national data has not been collected for two years.</p>		
<p>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?</p>	<p>Positive</p>		

<p>Describe why it will have a positive impact on the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The proposal would have a positive impact on the use of the Welsh language as more pupil places would be available for learners seeking a Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>The facilities will provide an opportunity for Welsh language courses to be offered to parents/carers.</p> <p>The proposed school would provide an opportunity for learners seeking a Welsh-medium education to transition from an English-medium school.</p> <p>The excellent Welsh-medium education provided by Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr would be further enhanced with the provision of new fit-for-purpose facilities.</p> <p>Increasing Welsh-medium places supports the local authority's WESP and Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 agenda.</p>
<p>What evidence do you have to support this view?</p>	<p>Currently, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr has 378 places for learners aged 4- 11 and 55 nursery places. The school is regularly over-subscribed. The new school will be sized for 525 places for learners aged 4- 11, with 90 full-time- equivalent nursery places. In addition, there will be an 8-place assessment and observation class.</p>
<p>What action(s) can you take to better contribute to positive impacts?</p>	<p>Promotion of the Welsh language through early engagement activities with parents/carers.</p> <p>Signposting parents/carers to Welsh language classes/courses by the school.</p> <p>The local authority currently does not have a Welsh-language immersion centre. However, funding is provided to support learners when transitioning from English-medium to Welsh-medium schools. This opportunity could be promoted.</p> <p>Continued professional development of school staff and sharing of best practice.</p> <p>Development of a high quality Ti a Fi session within Brackla which will offer parents the opportunity to experience the many benefits of Welsh-medium early years experiences for their child and themselves.</p>
<p>Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.</p>	<p>Increase participation in the Welsh language by offering the opportunity to parents/carers and other members of the community to attend Welsh classes and/or other opportunities for community engagement through the medium of Welsh. In addition, they will be encouraged to signpost parents/carers to Welsh language classes.</p> <p>The school's facilities could be used for Welsh language activities that will increase participation. There is an</p>

	<p>opportunity to create a partnership with agencies including 'Welsh for Adults', 'Menter Bro Ogwr' (Bro Ogwr Welsh Language Initiative) and Bridgend College for members of the community to learn Welsh and undertake activities through the medium of Welsh. In addition, Welsh language courses are offered by Learn Welsh Glamorgan who deliver courses online and locally in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf on behalf of the National Centre for Learning Welsh. They also offer a range of online taster courses that anyone can access and offer Sadwrn Siarad sessions periodically.</p> <p>Activities through the medium of Welsh are primarily offered by Menter Bro Ogwr although Bridgend Learning Partnership also aims to offer learning activities where they are able to, and where activities prove viable in terms of numbers.</p> <p>Learners will have an opportunity to undertake extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh.</p>
Opportunities to promote the Welsh language.	<p>The school could allow the use of facilities by the community for Welsh classes/activities delivered through Welsh, thereby promoting the Welsh language.</p> <p>The school will be designed with community use in mind. It will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equalities Act 2010. There may be opportunities to run community activities during school hours.</p> <p>The school has links with the Urdd and could further develop links with Welsh-medium sporting groups.</p> <p>Given its central location within Bridgend, the school will be very accessible to the immediate and wider community.</p> <p>The Council is committed to promoting the Welsh language, increasing the number of Welsh schools and number of learner places, as detailed in the WESP.</p>
Compliance with the Council's Welsh Language Standards.	<p>Contractual arrangements and processes for the delivery of the project will be undertaken so that they are compliant with the Welsh Language Standards. Consultation meetings will be bi-lingual and the contractor will be advised of this requirement and requested to also adopt this approach in terms of delivering any stakeholder engagements sessions. All signage during and post-construction will be bi-lingual.</p>

Review – Consultation Comments	Date:
The data shows that there is a gap in the Welsh language skills of residents of Bridgend when compared to the whole of Wales. Proposals such as this significantly improve the learning environment and the opportunities available for our learners. The	17 May 2022

headteacher of the new school will be encouraged and supported to consider using these facilities to increase participation in the Welsh language by offering the opportunity to parents/carers and other members of the community to attend Welsh classes and/or other opportunities for community engagement through the medium of Welsh.	
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Monitoring, Evaluation and Reviewing

Should the proposal proceed, the project will be regularly reviewed during the course of design, delivery, and post-occupation by the Project Manager – School Modernisation Team.

Summary

The proposal is to provide Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr with a new purpose built 21st Century school on a site at Ffordd Cadfan, Brackla, Bridgend. The new school will be 2.5 form entry (ie 525 learner places) for learners aged 4-11, with 90 full-time-equivalent nursery places plus an 8-place observation and assessment class. The school would open in September 2025.

The proposal is considered to have a positive effect on the Welsh language:

- Additional learner Welsh-medium places will be provided.
- The school will be designed to delivery the New Curriculum for Wales.
- The school’s facilities could be utilised for community use/adult classes through the Welsh language.
- The site is located centrally to encourage use by the immediate and wider community seeking an opportunity to engage in Welsh classes/courses that could be offered.
- The school will be fully accessible.
- Transitional opportunities from English to a Welsh-medium could be offered.
- The excellent Welsh-medium education received by learners who attend Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr would continue and be further enhanced by the provision of new facilities.

Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Form

This document is a multi-purpose tool ensuring the appropriate steps are taken to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty Equality Impact Assessment legislation and to demonstrate that we have shown due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage when taking strategic decisions under the Socio-economic Duty. It also ensures consideration of the Welsh Language Standards.

- **This assessment should be carried out during the formation stage of your policy or proposal. Any negative impact identified will support you to devise engagement strategies for further evidence gathering.**
- **If you are undertaking a full public consultation as part of your policy or proposal this form should be completed before the consultation begins and used as a tool to inform your consultation questions and engagement activities.**
- **All sections and all questions require a response and must not be left blank even if they are ‘not applicable’ or ‘subject to further consultation’.**

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Bridgend North East – Ysgol Gymraeg (YG) Bro Ogwr replacement
Brief description and aim of policy or proposal:	Proposal to make a regulated alteration to enlarge Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a 2.5 form-entry (FE) school, with a 90-place full time equivalent nursery plus an 8-place observation and assessment class on land off Ffordd Cadfan, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025
Who is responsible for delivery of the policy or proposal?	Director – Education and Family Support
Date EIA screening completed:	10/06/21

<p>Does this policy or proposal relate to any other policies? (please state)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Modernisation Programme • Flying Start Programme • Welsh Government Childcare Offer • Infant Class Sizes • Additional Learning Needs • Bridgend Public Services – Well-being Plan • Corporate Plan 2018-2022 • Medium Term Financial Strategy • Taking Wales Forward Strategy 2018-2021 • Wellbeing and Future Generations Act 2015 • Education in Wales: Our national mission - action plan 2017-2021 • Bridgend County Borough Council - Local Development Plan (LDP) • Bridgend County Borough Council - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan • Cymraeg 2050 Welsh Language Strategy
<p>Who is affected by this policy (e.g. Staff, residents, disabled people, women only?)</p>	<p>Learners, parents and staff</p>
<p>Is the policy related to, influenced by, or affected by other policies or areas of work (internal or external)? <i>Note: Consider this in terms of statutory requirements, local policies, regional (partnership) decisions, national policies, welfare reforms.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flying Start Programme • Welsh Government Childcare Offer • Infant Class Sizes • Additional Learning Needs • Bridgend Public Services – Well-being Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan 2018-2022 • Medium Term Financial Strategy • Taking Wales Forward Strategy 2018-2021 • Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 • Education in Wales: Our national mission - action plan 2017-2021 • Bridgend County Borough Council - Local Development Plan (LDP) • Bridgend County Borough Council - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan • Cymraeg 2050 Welsh Language Strategy
If this is a review or amendment of an existing policy, has an EIA been carried out? Please include date of completion:	N/A
If an EIA exists, what new data has been collected since its completion?	N/A

Assessment of Impact

Protected characteristics

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people from different groups in different ways?

***Please note: If you identify a negative impact for any protected characteristics you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Gender	X			Building design will cater for gender neutral users
Disability			X	
Race			X	
Religion and belief			X	

Sexual Orientation			X	
Age	X			Ensure improved school environment for learners
Pregnancy & Maternity			X	
Transgender			X	
Marriage and Civil partnership			X	

Socio-economic impact

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people or communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

***Please note: If you identify a negative socio-economic impact you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Socio-economic disadvantage	X			Improved facilities for learners attending, living with socio-economic disadvantage. Potential for wrap around provision, potentially enabling parents to seek employment or training

Welsh Language

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact for persons to use the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?

***Please note: If you identify a negative impact for persons to use the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Will the policy or proposal impact on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language	X			There will be an increase in availability of Welsh-medium primary school places with the enlargement of YG Bro Ogwr, as part of the proposal. Potential use of

				school for Welsh language community groups, eg Ti a Fi, adult Welsh classes
Will the policy or proposal treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language	X			There will be an increase in availability of Welsh-medium primary school places with the enlargement of YG Bro Ogwr, as part of the proposal. Potential use of school for Welsh language community groups, eg Ti a Fi, adult Welsh classes

Public Sector Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty consists of a general equality duty and specific duties, which help authorities to meet the general duty.

The aim of the general equality duty is to integrate considerations of the advancement of equality into the day-to-day business of public authorities. In summary, those subject to the equality duty, must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't
- Foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't

How does this policy or proposal demonstrate you have given due regard to the general equality duty?

The scheme would be developed to ensure there is no negative impact on any protected group.

Procurement and partnerships

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires all public authorities to consider the needs of protected characteristics when designing and delivering public services, including where this is done in partnership with other organisations or through procurement of services. The Welsh Language Standards also require all public authorities to consider the effects of any policy decision, or change in service delivery, on the Welsh language, which includes any work done in partnership or by third parties. We must also ensure we consider the Socio-economic Duty when planning major procurement and commissioning decisions to consider how such arrangements can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.

Will this policy or proposal be carried out wholly or partly by contractors or partners?

	Please place an X in the relevant box:
Yes	X (partly)
No	

If yes what steps will you take to comply with the General Equality Duty, Welsh Language Legislation and the Socio-Economic Duty in regard to procurement and/or partnerships?

	Steps taken to ensure compliance:
General Equality Duty	Robust procurement and contract documentation includes due regard to this
Welsh Language legislation	Robust procurement and contract documentation includes due regard to this
Socio-economic duty	Robust procurement and contract documentation includes due regard to this

What have you decided to do?

Record of decision based on assessment of impact on protected characteristics, socioeconomic impact and Welsh Language. Please place an X in the relevant box.

If you identify negative impact on one, some or all protected characteristics, socioeconomic duty or Welsh Language you will MUST complete a full EIA.

Impact identified	Next steps:	Please place an X in the relevant box:
No negative impact identified	Screen out: carry on with the policy or proposal	X
One or more negative impact identified	Complete full EIA to gather more evidence on potential negative impacts	

Please explain the reasons for this decision. If you have ‘screened out’ you must include information and evidence to justify your decision.

It has been identified that the proposal is unlikely to negatively impact on any protected group. There have been positive impacts identified, including Welsh language, gender and age as detailed in the table above. As there have been no

negative impacts identified, it will not be necessary to undertake a full equalities impact assessment.

Approval:

Date EIA screening completed:	10/06/21
Approved by (Head of Service):	
Date of approval by HoS:	

If this screening has identified that a full EIA is needed, who will carry out the full EIA?	N/A
If this screening has identified that a full EIA is needed when will the Full EIA be completed by (Date):	N/A

Appendix 13

List of stakeholders

- ▶ The Governing Body, parents, staff, carers, guardians and learners of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr
- ▶ Other schools within the cluster/area
- ▶ Neighbouring authorities
- ▶ The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- ▶ Welsh Ministers
- ▶ Welsh Government
- ▶ Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Estyn
- ▶ Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is subject of the proposals
- ▶ Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
- ▶ South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- ▶ Town and Community Councils representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Independent or voluntary nursery providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin
- ▶ BCBC Childcare team/Children and Young People's Partnership and/or Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present
- ▶ Cabinet Members
- ▶ Corporate Management Board
- ▶ Ward Members
- ▶ BCBC Group Manager, Inclusion
- ▶ CAMHS, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
Primary Mental Health Team, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Speech and Language Therapy Service, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.

- ▶ Paediatricians, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Occupational Therapy (OT) NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Physiotherapy Service: NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Educational Psychologists. Educational Psychology Service, Bridgend County Borough Council.
- ▶ Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council
- ▶ SNAP Cymru
- ▶ Barnardo's Cymru
- ▶ Welsh Language Commissioner

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION TO OPEN PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) ESTABLISHING A LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC) FOR PUPILS WITH MODERATE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (MLD) AT YSGOL CYNWYD SANT

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to

- inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation to open provision for pupils with ALN establishing a LRC for pupils with MLD at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant;
- to present the findings of the consultation in a detailed consultation report (Appendix A); and to
- seek approval to progress to the publication of a statutory notice as prescribed in the School Organisation Code.

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 focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 Local authorities across the United Kingdom are experiencing a rise in the demand for services for children and young people with ALN and the cost to support this challenging budget. Anecdotal evidence from many local authorities suggests that not only are these needs becoming more numerous by volume, but also in their complexity.

3.2 This is putting pressure on all local authorities to meet and resource these needs, and this will only be exacerbated by the additional pressures that have been caused by COVID-19. In this context, many local authorities are reviewing their current

provision to respond to changes in demand and to make services fit for purpose in terms of addressing the current and future needs of children and young people with ALN.

- 3.3 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has taken a proactive approach to this by commissioning an additional learning needs strategic planning provision review in 2020.
- 3.4 An Additional Learning Needs Strategic Planning Provision Review Board has been established. One of the areas which has been identified for additional provision is at Key Stage 2 for children with MLD who attend Welsh-medium provision. There is an identified need to open a LRC for children with MLD who attend Welsh-medium.
- 3.5 Building works are planned for on an unused building at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, this would afford the accommodation required for the MLD LRC.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 6 January 2022 and 17 February 2022 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council's website:

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/g4137/Public%20reports%20pack%2014th-Dec-2021%2014.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10&LLL=0>

- 4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A summary of the issues raised by consultees and the local authority's responses are provided in the Consultation Report as detailed at **Appendix A** of this report. Cabinet will need to consider the Consultation Report and determine the preferred way forward.
- 4.3 Should Cabinet wish to proceed with the proposal, the next stage of the process is to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposals which would need to be published for a period of 28 days and any formal written objections would be invited during this time.
- 4.4 If there are no objections during the public notice period then the proposal can be implemented with Cabinet's approval. If there are objections at this public notice stage, an Objections Report will be published summarising the objections and the Authority's response to those objections. Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of objections. Cabinet could then accept, reject or modify the proposal. The following timetable provides an indication of the likely timescales involved:

Activity	Date
Consultation period where we welcome your views and observations on the proposal*.	6 January 2022-17 February 2022
	14 June 2022

Activity	Date
Draft Consultation Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	
Subject to Cabinet approval, publish the approved Consultation Report on the BCBC website, hard copies available on request ('subject to the call-in period as outlined in Part 4 Rules of Procedure of the Council's constitution').	15 June 2022
If agreed by the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council, a statutory notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	June 2022
If there are no objections Cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objections Report will be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request.	September 2022
Publication of the decision letter . The decision letter has to be made available within 7 days from the date of the decision being taken. Therefore, the letter would be published 'subject to the call-in period'.	September 2022
Implementation (that is, subject to the successful outcome of the activities detailed in this table).	Autumn Term 2022

**Hard copies of this report are available on request.*

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and has been further informed by responses to the consultation papers. The assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact on any protected group. As there have been no negative impacts identified, it will not be necessary to undertake a full EIA.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long term Affords pupils with a diagnosis of MLD a place in a school as near to their home as possible. Provides additional places required to meet the needs of an increase in diagnosis of pupils with MLD.

Prevention Provision of locally based LRC's enables pupils to be educated as part of the graduated response as stipulated in the ALN Code of Practice and ultimately preventing being placed out-of-authority.

Integration The MLD LRC is key in ensuring that pupils with a diagnosis of MLD have access to mainstream education experiences with their peers and also have the opportunity to reintegrate into mainstream where appropriate. There are also efficiencies related to this proposal as the cost of an out-of-authority place far outweighs the cost of opening an LRC locally.

Collaboration There is excellent collaboration between the local authority with schools that have LRC's. The Learner Support Service provides on-going support, advice and guidance to all schools.

Involvement A range of key stakeholders are involved with a pupil placed in an MLD LRC ensuring that the individual needs of the pupil are met.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The funding for the LRC would be allocated through the mainstream school's delegated budget, via the school's funding formula allocation, and using a combination of a class allocation and the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) element.

8.2 Funding levels would be derived from notional current staffing needs and are based on the salary of a teacher. One-off funding for the set-up costs would be £10k.

8.3 As part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2022, a budget pressure of £60k was approved for an additional primary school MLD LRC/class to cater for Key Stage 2 children accessing education through the medium of Welsh. This budget will be used to fund the LRC, including the set-up costs, at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant should the proposal go ahead.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached consultation report (Appendix A) and appendices;
- approve the consultation report (Appendix A) for publication; and

- authorise the publication of a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.

Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey
Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

14 June 2022

Contact officer: Michelle Hatcher
Group Manager (Learner Support)
Telephone: (01656) 815258
Email: michelle.hatcher@bridgend.gov.uk
Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents:

None

APPENDIX A

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION TO OPEN PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) ESTABLISHING A LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC) FOR PUPILS WITH MODERATE LEARNING DIFFICULTES (MLD) AT YSGOL CYNWYD SANT

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This public report is to inform of the outcome of the consultation to open provision for pupils with ALN establishing a LRC for pupils with MLD at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

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

- 2.1 This proposal 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 for 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 In December 2021, Cabinet approval was given to commence a statutory consultation process to open provision for pupils with ALN establishing a LRC for pupils with MLD at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

- 3.2 This report outlines the responses to the consultation.

4. Consultation process

- 4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 6 January 2022 and 17 February 2022 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council's website:

- 4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A list of stakeholders consulted can be seen at Appendix 11.

5. Summary of responses to consultation

- 5.1 Key points from the consultation exercise were as follows, with full details appended at the end of this report. The local authority held four stakeholder consultation meetings virtually with school council, staff, governors and parents at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

Learners consultation

- 5.2 Ysgol Cynwyd Sant's school council met virtually with BCBC Council representatives on 7 February 2022 to discuss the proposal. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 1 of this consultation report.
- 5.3 The main questions the children had related to the staffing for the class, where the location of the classroom would be, what facilities they would have and what the timings of the school day would be for the class. Questions were also asked about whether the children would stay in their class all day, what ages would be in the class and what transport would be available. Pupils thought it was a good idea.
- 5.4 Council representatives explained the staffing for the class, where they could possibly play, eat lunch, access toilets and what the timings of the school day would be for the class. In addition, Council representatives reassured children about what lessons the children could go out of the class, the ages in the class and what their transport arrangements would be.

Staff consultation

- 5.5 A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with the Ysgol Cynwyd Sant staff on 7 February 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 2 of this Consultation Report.
- 5.6 Questions were raised mainly concerning staffing for the LRC, individual development plans (IDPs), entry criteria. Staff also asked about covering for staff absence in the LRC, workload for the additional learning needs coordinator (ALNCo), the timetable for the class and how it would work within the school for children.
- 5.7 Council representatives explained the recruitment, staffing and the IDP process. The function of the LRC was also explained.

Governing body consultation

- 5.8 A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with representatives from Ysgol Cynwyd Sant governors on 7 February 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and

responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 3 of this Consultation Report. Questions were raised mainly concerning any building work planned for a new school and the LRC at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd. Governors stated that having the LRC at the school would be a good thing for the community and that they were happy that Ysgol Cynwyd Sant had been selected.

- 5.9 Council representatives explained that Cabinet had given approval to consult on the proposal of opening a MLD LRC at the school and the current situation in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

Parents consultation

- 5.10 A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with parents at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant on 7 February 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 4 of this Consultation Report.
- 5.11 Questions were raised mainly concerning staffing, pupil numbers, criteria, location of the LRC and integration with school.
- 5.12 Council representatives clarified the staffing, pupil numbers and criteria. The location was also explained and how reintegration into the main school would work.

Summary of written representations

- 5.13 One item of direct correspondence was received during the consultation period. See Appendix 5 of this Consultation Report for details and responses/clarifications.
- 5.14 A response was sent to the originator of the item of correspondence thanking them for their submissions and stating that their comments would be taken into consideration.

6. The view of Estyn, her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales

- 6.1 Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal. See Appendix 6 of this Consultation Report for full details. Estyn has concluded as follows:

"Based on most recent intelligence Estyn has no reservations about BCBC establishing a new Welsh-medium learning resource class provision for learners with MLD at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant. Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area."

7 Impact assessments

- 7.1 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. There will be an additional member of staff required for the MLD LRC as with the other MLD LRCs in the local authority. Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the assessment has been updated and the conclusion remains valid (see Appendix 7 of this Consultation Report).

- 7.2 A Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage (see Appendix 8 of this consultation report). It concluded that there would be no significant impact on the Welsh language provision currently experienced by learners at the school and that Welsh would continue to be taught through the curriculum as presently.
- 7.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage (see Appendix 9 of this Consultation Report). The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group. Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the conclusion remains valid.
- 7.4 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been considered in formulating the proposal (see Appendix 10).

8 Financial implications

- 8.1 The funding for the LRC would be allocated through the mainstream school's delegated budget, via the school's funding formula allocation, and using a combination of a class allocation and the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) element.
- 8.2 Funding levels would be derived from notional current staffing needs and are based on the salary of a teacher and two support staff. One-off funding for the set-up costs would be £10k.
- 8.3 As part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2022, a budget pressure of £60k was approved for an additional primary school MLD LRC class to cater for Key Stage 2 children accessing education through the medium of Welsh. This budget will be used to fund the LRC, including the set-up costs, at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant should the proposal go ahead.

9. Statutory process in determining proposals

The following table sets out the provisional timetable:

Activity	Date
Consultation period where we welcome your views and observations on the proposal*.	6 January 2022- 17 February 2022
Draft Consultation Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	14 June 2022
Subject to Cabinet approval, publish the approved Consultation Report on the BCBC website, hard copies available on request ('subject to the call-in period as outlined in Part 4 Rules of Procedure of the Council's constitution' .	15 June 2022

Activity	Date
If agreed by the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council, a statutory notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	June 2022
If there are no objections Cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objections Report will be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request.	September 2022
Publication of the decision letter . The decision letter has to be made available within 7 days from the date of the decision being taken. Therefore, the letter would be published ‘subject to the call-in period’.	September 2022
Implementation (that is, subject to the successful outcome of the activities detailed in this table).	Autumn Term 2022

**Hard copies of this report are available on request.*

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APPENDIX 1



Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Consultation Meeting – School Council 17 January 2022 14:45-15:15

Present: BCBC Staff -2
Head teacher-1
Learners- 6

The Group Manager Learner Support introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal

<u>Questions/Issues</u>	<u>Answer/Comments</u>
Who will the teacher be?	There will be an advertisement for a teacher who will have special skills for the class. The local authority will work with the school to appoint a member of staff to the class.
Where will they play?	It will depend on the construction work, there could possibly be a fence. Health and Safety is important.
Where will they eat their lunch?	Depends where that fits with the class. It will be worked out and for what's best for the children.
Would children be staying in the class all day?	The class will be part of the school timetable. They will come out for example for Physical Education (PE), use the planting area, woodland, library.
Would the children be able to see friends?	Yes we would encourage that.
Will they have their RE lesson in the classroom?	Yes but maybe mixed up. The children would be invited to the Dathlu assembly.
Will they have their own toilet?	Yes, they will have a kitchen and sink area also. Everything will be new. Doors will open up onto the yard.
What ages will be in the class?	Year 3 to 6.
Will they have their own transport?	Yes there will be transport.
Will they be the same time at school as us all?	Yes the children will be part of Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.
Will Years 1 and 2 have their support?	Support wouldn't change for those pupils.
How many staff?	One teacher, could have other adults depending on the needs of the children.

Where will they eat their packed lunch/dinner?	Possibly in the classroom but all children will be part of Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.
What about the provision in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd?	This is still being worked out, some are trialing mainstream and some come out of class for specific help.

APPENDIX 2



<p>Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Consultation Meeting – staff 7 February 2022 15:40-16:25</p>
--

Present: BCBC Staff-2
 Teachers-3

The Group Manager Learner Support introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

<u>Questions/Issues</u>	<u>Answer/Comments</u>
<p>What will the staffing be?</p> <p>The location of the building is a concern for support.</p>	<p>One teacher, this is equitable with the other MLD LRCs in Bridgend. Support will be looked at with the children individually. We are reviewing the MLD LRCs as part of the ALN Strategic Provision Planning Review.</p>
<p>What about individual development plans (IDPs)?</p>	<p>Any new child should come into the LRC with an IDP. It will be the mandated years first. A person centred planning (PCP) meeting will be part of the transition. Local authority staff will support.</p>
<p>How many pupils?</p>	<p>There will be a maximum of 15. The panel will be held in March 2022 and the data will be clearer, will look at the situation as a whole. If children have behavioural needs, the graduated response from the communication and relationships team (CART) should be followed.</p>
<p>Will the class be separate?</p>	<p>There will be a timetable but children will join whole school for things such as assemblies and PE. As the children settle the integration will depend upon the children's individual needs.</p>
<p>Will the class be used in the school's data?</p>	<p>B squared is used in the LRCs, this will be looked at with school management.</p>
<p>Will the LRC have an impact upon the workload of the ALNCo?</p>	<p>The class teacher will have an important role to play in her own right.</p>
<p>Will there be reverse integration?</p>	<p>The school will draw on the expertise of having the LRC in the school.</p>

APPENDIX 3



**Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Consultation Meeting
with
School Governing Body
7 February 2022
16:30-17:00**

Present: BCBC Staff -2
Staff- 2
School Governors -2

The Group Manager Learner Support introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting and explained the nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

<u>Questions/Issues</u>	<u>Answer/Comments</u>
What about the building work and any new plans for Ysgol Cynwyd Sant?	Cabinet has given approval to consult on opening a LRC at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, as a local authority we need to address current needs.
What about the LRC in Llangynwyd?	There is an ASD LRC in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd. The plan for what the secondary model for MLD will look like is yet to be decided. Support is currently in place.

APPENDIX 4



Ysgol Cynwyd Sant Consultation Meeting with Parents 7 February 2022 17:00-17:30

Present: BCBC staff -2
Staff-2
Chair of governors-1
Parents- 1

The Group Manager Learner Support introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting and explained the nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
How many children will be in the LRC?	A maximum of 15 pupils from across the local authority.
Will this be based on need?	Yes.
Is there a panel?	Yes. The next panel will be held in March 2022. Numbers will be looked at, it will be needs led, possibility to reverse into mainstream.
Will the provision be full-time?	Yes but could access mainstream for some things based on individual need.
Will there be recruitment for teaching?	Yes this will be advertised, good opportunity.
Where will the classroom be based? Where the meithrin is?	Yes.
Is the building work on track?	Yes, it is currently out to tender, it is anticipated to be completed on time.
Will there be integration with the school?	The class is part of the school, part of Ysgol Cynwyd Sant. The children will join the Dathlu assemblies for example. It is important that the children feel part of the school.

APPENDIX 5

Direct correspondence received:

I'm all for the proposal. I think keep the children in their schools where they can receive additional help and remain with their friends. My only question is, does a child have to be diagnosed with a learning disability, or do the school put forward children who they see are struggling? My child is currently having speech and language in the school, which I'm more than happy with the results, but I see him lacking skills in other areas.

Local Authority Response:

Thank you for your email, your views will be included in our report to Cabinet.

APPENDIX 6

Estyn's response to Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) review of additional learning needs (ALN) provision in 2020

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales. Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Summary/Conclusion

This consultation is as a result of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) review of additional learning needs (ALN) provision in 2020. This identified the need to develop provision for learners with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) at key stage 2 in a Welsh-medium primary school. It is proposed to establish provision for a maximum of 15 pupils at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant to meet the needs of learners with a diagnosis of MLD from September 2022. This proposal, however, contains several errors or contradictions which require amending for clarity.

This proposal seeks to achieve a more equitable provision to better meet the current and future additional learning needs of pupils, across the council and is welcomed. As a result of opening a learning resource class (LRC) for MLD pupils through the medium of Welsh in BCBC, the proposers believe that pupils will be able to continue their education through their chosen language as near to their home as is possible. The proposers also believe that this provision will support learners to transition to the newly opened Welsh-medium secondary LRC if required. Estyn is aware of similar proposals across the county relating to ALN, and we feel it would be of benefit to include a framework to support the implementation and ongoing quality assurance support. Based on most recent intelligence Estyn has no reservations about BCBC establishing a new Welsh-medium learning resource class provision for learners with MLD at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant. Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposal states very clearly that the number of children and young people requiring support for their additional learning needs has been increasing and demand is predicted to increase further over the coming years. BCBC has commissioned an additional learning needs review in 2020. They have established an Additional Learning Needs Strategic Planning Provision Review Board and have identified the needs to open key stage 2, Welsh-medium provision for MLD. The proposal gives appropriate attention to the current capacity at the school and how the local authority is unable to meet the future demands for school places for pupils with MLD through the medium of Welsh.

The proposer does not define a learning resource class, however, refers to “specialist learning facilities within the school”. They also refer to the LRC being key to ensuring that pupils with MLD have access to mainstream education experiences with their peers and, where possible, an opportunity to integrate into mainstream. It is unclear from the definition the extent to which pupils, where appropriate, can access, with appropriate support where necessary, lessons alongside pupils that do not attend the learning resource class. The proposal would be strengthened by including a definition of an LRC and more references to inclusion and how this differs from integration.

The proposal implies that the opening of an MLD LRC would prevent pupils being placed out of authority. The proposal would be further strengthened by inclusion of more data relating to out of authority provision and the impact of the new MLD LRC on this.

The proposal appears to provide effective opportunities for stakeholders, organisations, and members of the public to respond.

The proposal outlines that Ysgol Cynwyd Sant is rated C for condition. This means that the school is operational, but major repair or replacement is needed in the short to medium term (generally three years). The proposal does not identify clearly what the impact of the condition of the building will have on the school’s ability to provide an appropriate space for the provision.

The LRC would support the development of specialist teaching provision within the mainstream school. It is unclear what BCBC are referring to by the term specialist teaching provision. Also, the proposal does not provide more specific detail and how the provision is suitable for the needs of the identified group of pupils.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out on his proposal, however the screening form in Appendix states that a full assessment will be undertaken. Page 41 incorrectly states that an EIA has been carried out. Page 43 states that capacity would be created within the provision for a maximum of eight pupils which is different to that in the proposal. The EIA screening does not expect the proposal to lead to discrimination of adverse effects against any group of people. The proposal states that it will enable those with learning difficulties (disability being a protected characteristic) to be taught in a Welsh-medium mainstream school facility. The proposers believe that this could potentially create relationships between pupils that are categorised as having ALN and pupils from mainstream teaching at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant thereby removing divisions between pupils .

The proposal is for Ysgol Cynwyd Sant to establish a 15-place provision for pupils with moderate learning difficulties through the medium of Welsh. The proposal indicates that the provision is to be accommodated within the existing school and there is no planned building associated with the proposal. The proposal doesn’t provide any further information on the facilities and merely states that they will be ‘appropriate’. The proposal would be strengthened if the location of the LRC and how it is proposed to be adapted to provide specialist learning facilities within the school. In addition, Appendix G (Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment) incorrectly states that the LRC is proposed to be in a newly built school, which Ysgol Cynwyd Sant is not.

Appendix E of the proposal provides a clear indication of the five-year projection of pupil population for Ysgol Cynwyd Sant. This projection shows overall pupil numbers decreasing over this five-year period. The proposal is that LRC admissions would be decided upon

through an Admissions panel which would assess the needs of the pupil. The proposal would benefit from more information around the current demand within BCBC for Welsh-medium MLD places.

The proposal considers suitable alternatives including using alternative schools for the LRC or supporting the pupils in mainstream education. The proposal outlines the possible benefits, disadvantages, and risks, appropriately. The proposers state that the likely consequence of these alternatives would be that the pupils' needs with MLD would not be met in the most appropriate way.

The proposals consider the travel implications for pupils, but only state that the proposal would have no impact on the current travel arrangements as transport would be available for pupils eligible for a place in the LRC. The proposer states that consideration would be given to the 'appropriate' mode of transport for those MLD pupils accessing the LRC, but no details are given. The proposal does not address the additional travelling time that pupils from outside the normal school catchment may have.

The overall proposal considers well the need for MLD learners to be educated in the Welsh language. It considers appropriately the implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 which would support the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). It appears that there would be a positive impact on the Welsh language provision for these pupils. The proposers reference the lack of Welsh Language provision for pupils with additional learning needs and this proposal would make steps to address this shortfall. The proposal also highlights that there is a strong Welsh ethos and identity within Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

The proposal appropriately considers the financial costs of the learning resource class and states that funding would be allocated through the mainstream's school's delegated budget. A budget pressure of £60k has been approved for the provision of an MLD class to cater for Key Stage 2 children accessing education through the medium of Welsh. This budget will be used to fund the LRC, including the set-up costs. There is no further breakdown of expected costs, but we assume that the cost of a full-time specialist teacher will be a significant proportion of this allocation. It would be beneficial to know more information about future funding of this resource. For example, whether the budget allocation for pupils admitted to the LRC will be greater than those in the mainstream school due to their additional learning needs and the need for additional support and resources.

Educational aspects of the proposal

In considering the impact of the proposal on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership and management, the Local Authority provided a summary of relevant observations from the most recent Estyn inspection and the regional consortium's categorisation outcome for the school.

Estyn inspected Ysgol Cynwyd Sant in 2016 and judged overall that the school's current performance was good and prospects for improvement were excellent. In our 2016 report we noted that nearly all teachers make effective use of a variety of rich teaching methods which ensured that most pupils achieved well and developed their independent learning skills successfully. The quality of teaching was effective across the school, with teachers having a sound understanding of the next steps for improving pupils' skills successfully.

We noted that the leadership of the school was excellent, with leaders and staff having a clear vision, high standards and expectations, and a strong emphasis on pupil voice.

Ysgol Cynwyd Sant were also mentioned in the Estyn thematic report, "Improving Teaching" in 2018. The report commented that the school is a pioneer school and is working with the Welsh Government and other schools on developments relating to the curriculum and professional learning. Ysgol Cynwyd Sant was reported to be supporting other schools in the consortium by providing training and opportunities to observe and share good practice.

In the most recent school categorisation in January 2020, Ysgol Cynwyd Sant was categorised as a green school (a highly effective school which is well run, has a strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement).

The proposer asserts that establishing a LRC in the school would provide appropriate high quality school places for learners who with a diagnosis of MLD. This would afford pupils with MLD the opportunity to continue their education through the medium of Welsh in a specialist provision within BCBC. The proposal is not expected to have any negative impact on the quality of standards of education at the school.

The proposer states that there will be an additional member of specialist staff employed to work within the provision and to provide MLD specialist expertise to mainstream classes . However, no detail is provided on the level or type of qualifications required and there is no explanation of how a full-time teacher in the LRC will also be able to support the mainstream school. The proposal would be further strengthened by more information relating to the staffing of the resource. It is unclear whether the specialist teacher would have the support of a teaching assistant and what training would be provided for the staff who may be teaching learners in the mainstream classes. Consideration is needed on how teacher absence and planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time will be effectively supported within the class to ensure vital consistency for the learners. The proposal also states that The LRC will increase the expertise amongst the staff of Ysgol Cynwyd Sant to accommodate the needs of other children who are known to demonstrate MLD traits in the absence of a formal diagnosis. It should be noted that the local authority has statutory duties around these learners under the Equality Act (2010). An absence of a formal diagnosis does not remove the statutory duty to make appropriate provision. The proposal would be further strengthened by discussing these traits and how the school will meet the needs of the learners within the mainstream provision.

Local authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

In response to the questions raised by Estyn about providing clarity with regards to the LRC and the link with placing it in a mainstream school. The Consultation Report has been strengthened by providing clarity and the purpose of establishing a LRC within a mainstream school.

With reference to establishing local provision and preventing out-of-authority placements. Where possible, the local authority is committed to providing a range of local provision in order to prevent possibly placing children and young people to be educated out-of-authority and future proofing provision as far as is possible.

Estyn raised the question of the impact of the condition of the building will have on the school's ability to provide an appropriate space for the provision and also sought clarity

about what the building would be. In response the local authority is able to clarify that adaptations to an existing building is being undertaken which previously housed the meithrin at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

In response to Estyn's questions raised in relation to the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment, both of these documents have been amended following consultation.

If the proposal is accepted the MLD LRC would be almost fully populated within its first year of opening. Transport and support for the children will be discussed on an individual basis as part of a person centred planning (PCP) meeting.

In respect of financing the MLD LRC, a full explanation is contained within the finance section of the report.

A recruitment process will be followed, with a job description and person specification written as has been done for other staffing in the English-medium MLD LRCs. This will be done in partnership with the school.

The local authority agrees that it has statutory duties around these learners under the Equality Act 2010. Following consultation the report has been updated.

APPENDIX 7

Community Impact Assessment

This has been updated following the consultation.

Name of proposal:

Proposal to establish a LRC at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant for a maximum of fifteen pupils with MLD in autumn term 2022.

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet

Who has been involved in developing the proposal?

Corporate Director of Education and Family Support

Group Manager Learner Support

Aims and objectives: The MLD provision at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

Key actions: Statutory procedure to establish a LRC at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant for a maximum of fifteen pupils with MLD in autumn term 2022.

Expected outcomes: To establish a LRC for pupils with MLD with proposed implementation autumn term 2022.

Who will be affected: Staff, governors, pupils, parents and the community.

Approximately how many people will be affected: There are minimal people affected by this proposal. There will be an additional member of staff, namely a specialist teacher.

Expected date of decision: September 2022.

Scope/focus of the assessment: Consideration given to:

- Current quality and standards in education
- School priority targets (in the statement of action)
- Current provision of additional learning needs (ALN)
- Relationship of school with stakeholders.
- Potential impact of introducing the proposal on pupils and staff.
- Potential impact on the community.
- Potential impact on protected characteristics (outlined in the EIA).

Relevant data and/or research:

- The following table provides a five-year projection of pupil population for Ysgol Cynwyd Sant which is a Welsh-medium primary school with an age range of 4 to 11.

• Blwyd dyn /Year	N1	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Cyfa nsw m/ Total	Cyfansw m/ Total
	Oed / Age 2 - 3	Oed / Age 3 - 4	Oed / Age 4 - 5	Oed / Age 5 - 6	Oed / Age 6 - 7	Oed / Age 7 - 8	Oed / Age 8 - 9	Oed / Age 9 - 10	Oed / Age 10 - 11		
				95%	96%	96%	100%	99%	99%	2-11	4-11
2021	0	31	44	32	22	37	37	41	41	285	254
2022	1	34	43	42	31	21	37	37	41	287	252
2023	1	34	38	41	40	29	21	37	36	277	242
2024	1	34	41	36	39	39	29	21	36	276	241
2025	1	34	41	39	35	38	39	29	21	277	242
2026	1	34	41	39	35	38	39	29	21	277	242

- Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has taken a proactive approach to this by commissioning an additional learning needs strategic planning provision review in 2020.
- An Additional Learning Needs Strategic Planning Provision Review Board has been established. One of the areas which has been identified for additional provision is at Key Stage 2 in a Welsh-medium Primary School for children with MLD.

Findings:

- The projected level of enrolment has no expected level of significant fluctuation that would impact the proposal (table regarding future projected level of enrolment provided in 'relevant data' section above).

Inclusion of children and young people

- This proposal follows the additional learning needs and educational tribunal Act (Wales) 2018.

Impact on extended community

- There is no significant negative impact on the community.

Impact on other schools

- There is no impact upon other schools as this will provide additional resource for pupils with additional learning needs through the medium of Welsh.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics?

- The ratio is one teacher to fifteen pupils for a MLD LRC. All other MLD LRC's work to this ratio. Those pupils in Welsh-medium primary education with a diagnosis of MLD will be able to transition to the Welsh-medium secondary school.

Consultation

Has there been specific consultation on this decision (if not, state why not and/or when this may happen):

Consultation was undertaken between 6 January 2022 and 17 February 2022.

What were the results of the consultation?

The impact of this proposal has been considered and updated.

Across the protected characteristics, what difference in views did analysis of the consultation reveal?

The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group.

What conclusions have been drawn from the analysis on how the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics?

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics.

Assessment of impact on staff

There is no impact upon the reduction of staffing. Additional staffing will be required, an additional specialist teacher will be required.

Assessment of impact on wider community

There is no significant negative impact on the wider community.

Analysis of impact by protected characteristics

Please summarise the results of the analysis:

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics.

Assess the relevance and impact of the decision to people with different characteristics Relevance = High/Low/None Impact = High/Low/Neutral.

Characteristic	Relevance	Impact
Age	High	Low
Disability	High	Low
Gender reassignment	None	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral
Race	None	Neutral
Religion or belief	None	Neutral

Sex	None	Neutral
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups (include health inequalities)	None	Neutral

Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures taken to mitigate against it:

No negative impact has been identified.

- There are no current risks associated with this proposal.
- The LRC will increase the expertise amongst the staff of Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

Please advise on the overall equality implications that should be considered in the final decision, considering relevance and impact:

The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group.

Signed:

M Hatcher
Date: 08.05.22

APPENDIX 8

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Ysgol Cynwyd Sant

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is the local authority's strategy which sets out the way in which it aims to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language within the county borough.

The local authority is committed to taking forward plans to strategically grow the Welsh language and with effective strategic planning and significant investment, aims to significantly contribute to achieving Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050' vision of one million Welsh speakers across Wales.

The local authority's current WESP can be viewed via the following link:

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s14163/171219%2010%20WESP%20Appendix.pdf?LLL=0>

A statutory consultation on the new ten-year WESP for the period from 2022 to 2032 has recently concluded and the plan has been submitted to Welsh Government for consideration.

This proposal is to open a MLD LRC for a maximum of fifteen pupils at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant which would come into effect autumn term 2022.

As the proposed school would continue to provide education through the medium of Welsh, Welsh would continue to be taught, as presently, through the curriculum. There are many aspects to Ysgol Cynwyd Sant which helps create a positive attitude and increases the ability of learners in using the language. Using the Welsh language across key stages offers learners the opportunity to become fully bilingual and aligns with the Curriculum for Wales – 2022. It is therefore considered unlikely that this proposal would have a significant impact on the Welsh language provision currently experienced by learners of the school.

Welsh language courses are offered by Learn Welsh Glamorgan who delivers courses online and locally in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf on behalf of the National Centre for Learning Welsh. They also offer a range of online taster courses that anyone can access and offer Sadwrn Siarad sessions periodically. Activities through the medium of Welsh are primarily offered by Menter Bro Ogwr although Bridgend Learning Partnership also aims to offer learning activities where they are able to and where activities prove viable in terms of numbers.

It is important to recognise that the increase in places for a MLD LRC at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant is to ensure that those children who have MLD are able to continue their education through the medium of Welsh. Consequently, negative effects on Welsh-medium education in the area is not anticipated should the proposal be taken forward.

Current linguistic profile

The 2011 Census indicated that of the 134,545 residents living in the County Borough of Bridgend, 9.7% (13,103) were able to speak Welsh, whilst the remaining 90.3% (121,442) were not able to speak Welsh. This can be compared to the all-Wales figures that showed of the 2,955,841 residents living Wales, 19.0% (562,016) were able to speak Welsh, whilst the remaining 81.0% (2,393,825) were not able to speak Welsh.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Census-Welsh-Language/welshspeakers-by-localauthority-gender-detailedagegroups-2011census>

The Annual Population Survey for the year ending June 2021, reported that 17.8% of respondents living in the County Borough of Bridgend said they could speak Welsh, compared to the all Wales percentage of 29.2% of respondents. This can be further broken down to the data contained in the table that follows.

Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)		
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales
Can read Welsh	16.9%	25.9%
Can write Welsh	15.9%	23.8%
Can understand spoken Welsh	21.2%	33.7%

Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)		
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales
Speak Welsh daily	6.3%	15.2%
Speak Welsh weekly	3.1%	5.2%
Use it less often or never	6.9%	7.3%

The data shows that there is a gap in the Welsh language skills of residents of Bridgend when compared to the whole of Wales. Proposals such as this significantly improve the learning environment and the opportunities available for our learners.

The Council recognises the importance of immersion in the Welsh language for learners who wish to transition from English to Welsh-medium education, to further encourage the uptake of Welsh-medium education. There is an intention from the local authority of developing immersion provision which has been identified in the draft WESP 2022-2032.

Other relevant data or research

Bridgend County Borough Council has four Welsh-medium primary schools for learners age 3-11 and one secondary provision for learners age 11 to 18.

Demand and projections are regularly monitored across all schools as part of the school organisation planning process. This ensures that all schools have sufficient accommodation to meet demand. The process also identifies opportunities to promote and grow the Welsh language. This data has been used to inform the local authority's WESP.

Group Manager Learner Support

9 May 2022

APPENDIX 9

Equality impact assessment (EIA) screening form

Please refer to the guidance notes when completing this form.

Proposal being screened

Proposal to establish a LRC at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant for a maximum of fifteen pupils with MLD in autumn term 2022.

Brief description of the proposal

The proposal is for a maximum of fifteen pupils with MLD to access the LRC in autumn term 2022. Consultees will include staff, governors, pupils and parents of the school, members of the local community and any other interested parties.

Does this policy relate to any other policies?

Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act 2018.

What is the aim or purpose of the policy?

The Council supports the principles that, when possible, children should be educated within a mainstream school environment and as near to their home as possible.

Who is affected by this policy (e.g., staff, residents, disabled people, women only?)

Pupils with ALN, parents, existing staff members in Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.

Who is responsible for delivery of the policy?

Corporate Director Education and Family Support.

Is this a review of an existing policy?

No.

If this is a review or amendment of an existing policy, has anything changed since it was last reviewed?

No.

Has an EIA previously been carried out on this policy?

No.

Screening questions

1. Is this policy an important or 'large scale' function, and/or is it likely the policy will impact upon a large number of staff, residents and/or contractors

Yes.

2. Is it possible that any aspect of the policy will impact on people from different groups in different ways? (See *guidance for list of 'protected characteristics' to consider*) No for the following reasons:-

- There would be growth for pupils with a diagnosis of MLD through the medium of Welsh.
- Capacity would be created for a maximum of fifteen pupils.

Characteristic	Yes	No	Unknown	Explanation of impact
Age	X			The impact is positive. There will be growth for pupils with MLD to access support.
Disability	X			This impact is positive. There will be growth for pupils with MLD.
Gender reassignment		X		Gender reassignment is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Pregnancy and maternity		X		Pregnancy and maternity is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Race		X		Race is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Religion/belief		X		Religion and belief are not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Sex		X		Sex is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Sexual orientation		X		Sexual orientation is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.

Civil Partnerships and Marriage		x		Civil partnerships and marriage are not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
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3. What is the risk that any aspect of the policy could in fact lead to discrimination or adverse effects against any group of people? (See guidance for list of protected characteristics?)

There is no risk for pupils diagnosed with MLD and who are educated through the medium of Welsh as there would be a MLD LRC in the proposed school.

What action has been taken to mitigate this risk?

Please expand on your answer:

4. Could any aspect of the policy help BCBC to meet the main public sector duties? Bear in mind that the duty covers 9 protected characteristics.

Duty	YES	NO	Unknown
Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Act		x	
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	x		
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	x		

Please set out fully your reasoning for the answers given to question 4 including an awareness of how your decisions are justified.

The policy enables those children with a diagnosis of MLD to be taught in a Welsh-medium mainstream ALN school facility. This could potentially create relationships between the children in mainstream teaching with the children in the MLD LRC with them joining for example, PE classes and Dathlu assemblies thereby removing divisions between pupils.

5. Could any aspect of this “policy” assist Bridgend County Borough Council with its compliance with the Welsh Language Standards and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 which are to consider: -

- The proposal is to grow ALN provision in Welsh-medium primary education.

- The proposal offers those pupils with MLD to be educated in a LRC within a mainstream environment.

6. Are you aware of any evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and/or priorities in relation to this policy?

Yes No Unknown
 No.

If 'yes', please expand:

7. Is this policy likely to impact on Community Cohesion?

No – there will be minimal change to the community as pupils with MLD will be able to attend a LRC in a mainstream school.

Conclusions

8. What level of EIA priority would you give to this policy?

Impact identified	Next steps:	Please place an X in the relevant box:
No negative impact identified	Screen out: carry on with the policy or proposal	X
One or more negative impact identified	Complete full EIA to gather more evidence on potential negative impacts	
Please explain the reasons for this decision. If you have 'screened out' you must include information and evidence to justify your decision.		
It has been identified that the proposal is unlikely to negatively impact on any protected group. There have been positive impacts identified. As there have been no negative impacts identified, it will not be necessary to undertake a full equalities impact assessment.		

9. Will the timescale for EIA be affected by any other influence e.g. Committee deadline, external deadline, part of a wider review process?

Activity	Date
Consultation period where we welcome your views and observations on the proposal*.	6 January 2022- 17 February 2022
Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	14 June 2022
Publish Consultation Report on BCBC website, hard copies available on request.	15 June 2022
If agreed by the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council, a Public Notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	June 2022
End of Public Notice period. If there are no objections Cabinet can immediately decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objections Report will be published and forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination.	September 2022
Potential implementation.	Autumn Term 2022

10. Who will carry out the full EIA?

N/A

EIA screening completed by: Michelle Hatcher

Date: 08.05.22

APPENDIX 10

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Description (key aims): <p>Proposal to establish a LRC for a maximum of fifteen pupils with MLD at Ysgol Cynwyd Sant.</p>	
Section 1 Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.	
Long-term	1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?
<p>(The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)</p>	<p>There is a need for a MLD LRC which will then afford the pupils the opportunity to be educated in a mainstream school.</p> <p>There will be a graduated intake into the LRC to ensure that there is provision in BCBC. Additional places are required to meet the demand of the increase in the diagnosis of pupils with MLD through the medium of Welsh.</p>
Prevention	2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?
<p>(How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)</p>	<p>The opening of the MLD LRC will result in increased resource at primary level as part of the graduated response as stated in the ALN Code of Practice.</p> <p>Ultimately pupils will be prevented from being placed out-of-authority.</p>
Integration	3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?
<p>(Considering how the public body's well-</p>	<p>A MLD LRC is key in ensuring that pupils with a diagnosis of MLD have access to mainstream education experiences with</p>

<p>being objectives may impact upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)</p>	<p>their peers and also have an opportunity to integrate into mainstream where possible.</p>
<p>Collaboration</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>4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</p> <p>Excellent collaboration between the local authority with schools who have LRCs. The Learner Support Service provides on-going support; advice and guidance to all schools.</p>
<p>Involvement</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>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?</p> <p>A range of stakeholders are involved with a pupil placed in a MLD LRC ensuring that the individual needs of the pupil are met.</p>
<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).</p>	

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>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>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 MLD LRC affords the opportunity for pupils with a diagnosis of MLD to gain necessary skills at an early stage.</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>
<p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>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 MLD LRC is proposed to open in an adapted building on a current school site.</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>

<p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>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 individual needs of the pupils are met within the MLD LRC.</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>
<p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>	<p>The individual needs of the pupils are met within the MLD LRC</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<p>The opening of the MLD LRC in a mainstream school affords the community to be better connected.</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p> <p>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>	<p>The MLD LRC in a mainstream school affords the pupils to be part of the community experiencing these things.</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales</p> <p>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural</p>	<p>The MLD LRC affords the opportunity for pupils to thrive locally and beyond.</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>

well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.		
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Section 3 Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts			
Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age:	Yes	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Gender reassignment:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Marriage or civil partnership:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Pregnancy or maternity:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Race:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Religion or Belief:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Sex:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored

Welsh Language:	Yes	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
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Section 4 Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive Members and/or Chief Officers	
Compiling Officers Name:	Michelle Hatcher
Compiling Officers Job Title:	Group Manager Learner Support
Date completed:	08 May 2022

APPENDIX 11

List of stakeholders

- ▶ The Governing Body, parents, staff, carers, guardians and learners of Ysgol Cynwyd Sant
- ▶ Other primary schools within Bridgend County Borough Council
- ▶ Secondary Schools, Special Schools and The Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Bridgend County Borough Council
- ▶ Neighbouring authorities
- ▶ The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- ▶ Welsh Ministers
- ▶ Welsh Government
- ▶ Constituency and Regional Members of the Senedd (MS) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Estyn
- ▶ Welsh Language Commissioner
- ▶ Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is subject of the proposals
- ▶ Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
- ▶ South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- ▶ National Secular Society
- ▶ Town and Community Councils representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Regional Transport Consortium (SEWTA)
- ▶ Communities First Partnership
- ▶ National Health Service (NHS)
- ▶ Independent or voluntary nursery providers serving the area

- ▶ BCBC Childcare team/Children and Young People's Partnership and/or Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present
- ▶ Cabinet Members
- ▶ Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ▶ Bridgend Youth Council
- ▶ Corporate Management Board
- ▶ Ward Members
- ▶ BCBC Group Manager Learner Support
- ▶ ALN Managers Learner Support

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION TO OPEN PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) ESTABLISHING A LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC) FOR PUPILS WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) AT TREMAINS PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to

- inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation to open provision for pupils with ALN establishing a LRC for pupils with ASD at Tremains Primary School;
- present the findings of the consultation in a detailed Consultation Report (**Appendix A**); and to
- seek approval to progress to the publication of a statutory notice as prescribed in the School Organisation Code.

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 focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for 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 to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 Local authorities across the United Kingdom are experiencing a rise in the demand for services for children and young people with ALN and the cost to support this is often exceeding budget. Anecdotal evidence from many local authorities suggests that not only are these needs becoming more numerous by volume, but also in their complexity.

3.2 This is putting pressure on all local authorities to meet and resource these needs, and this will only be exacerbated by the additional pressures that have been caused

by COVID-19. In this context, many local authorities are reviewing their current provision to respond to changes in demand and to make services fit for purpose in terms of addressing the current and future needs of children and young people with ALN.

- 3.3 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has taken a proactive approach to this by commissioning an additional learning needs strategic planning provision review.
- 3.4 An Additional Learning Needs Strategic Planning Provision Review Board has been established. One of the areas which has been identified for additional provision is at Key Stage 2 for children with ASD. There is an identified need to open an additional LRC for children with ASD.
- 3.5 Adaptation works to Tremains Primary School has begun, this would afford the space required to open an ASD LRC.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 6 January 2022 and 17 February 2022 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council’s website:

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/g4137/Public%20reports%20pack%2014th-Dec-2021%2014.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10&LLL=0>

- 4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A summary of the issues raised by consultees and the local authority’s responses are provided in the Consultation Report as detailed in **Appendix A** of this report. Cabinet will need to consider the Consultation Report and determine the preferred way forward.
- 4.3 Should Cabinet wish to proceed with the proposal, the next stage of the process is to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposals which would need to be published for a period of 28 days and any formal written objections would be invited during this time.
- 4.4 If there are no objections during the public notice period then the proposal can be implemented with Cabinet’s approval.

If there are objections at this public notice stage, an Objections Report will be published summarising the objections and the Authority’s response to those objections. Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of objections. Cabinet could then accept, reject or modify the proposal. The following timetable provides an indication of the likely timescales involved:

Activity	Date
Consultation period where we welcome your views and observations on the proposal*.	6 January 2022-17 February 2022

Activity	Date
Draft Consultation report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	14 June 2022
Subject to Cabinet approval, publish the approved Consultation Report on the BCBC website, hard copies available on request ('subject to the call-in period as outlined in Part 4 Rules of Procedure of the Council's constitution').	15 June 2022
If agreed by Cabinet, a statutory notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	June 2022
If there are no objections Cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objections Report will be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request.	September 2022
Publication of the decision letter . The decision letter has to be made available within 7 days from the date of the decision being taken. Therefore, the letter would be published 'subject to the call-in period'.	September 2022
Implementation (that is, subject to the successful outcome of the activities detailed in this table).	Autumn Term 2022

**Hard copies of this report are available on request*

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and has been further informed by responses to the consultation papers. The assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact on any protected group. As there have been no negative impacts identified, it will not be necessary to undertake a full EIA.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long term	Affords pupils with a diagnosis of ASD a place in a school as near to their home as possible. Provides additional places required to meet the needs of an increase in diagnosis of pupils with ASD.
Prevention	Provision of locally based LRC's enables pupils to be educated as part of the graduated response as stipulated in the ALN Code of Practice and ultimately preventing being placed out-of-authority.
Integration	The ASD LRC is key in ensuring that pupils with a diagnosis of ASD have access to mainstream education experiences with their peers and also have the opportunity to reintegrate into mainstream where appropriate. There are also efficiencies related to this proposal as the cost of an out-of-authority place far outweighs the cost of opening an LRC locally.
Collaboration	There is excellent collaboration between the local authority with schools that have LRC's. The Learner Support Service provides on-going support, advice and guidance to all schools.
Involvement	A range of key stakeholders are involved with a pupil placed in an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) LRC ensuring that the individual needs of the pupil are met.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The funding for the LRC would be allocated through the mainstream school's delegated budget, via the school's funding formula allocation, and using a combination of a class allocation and the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) element.
- 8.2 Funding levels would be derived from notional current staffing needs and are based on the salary of a teacher and two support staff. One-off funding for the set-up costs would be £10k.
- 8.3 As part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2022, a budget pressure of £82k was approved for an additional primary school ASD LRC/class to cater for Key Stage 2 children. This budget will be used to fund the LRC, including the set-up costs, at Tremains Primary School should the proposal go ahead.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
- note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached Consultation Report (**Appendix A**) and appendices;
 - approve the Consultation Report (**Appendix A**) for publication; and
 - authorise the publication of a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.

Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey
Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

14 June 2022

Contact officer: Michelle Hatcher
Group Manager Learner Support

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Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents:

None

APPENDIX A

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION TO OPEN PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) ESTABLISHING A LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (LRC) FOR PUPILS WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) AT TREMAINS PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This public report is to inform of the outcome of the consultation to open provision for pupils with ALN establishing a LRC for pupils with ASD at Tremains Primary School.

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

- 2.1 This proposal 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 for 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 In December 2021, Cabinet approval was given to commence a statutory consultation process to open provision for pupils with ALN establishing a LRC for pupils with ASD at Tremains Primary School.
- 3.2 This report outlines the responses to the consultation.

4. Consultation process

- 4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 6 January 2022 and 17 February 2022 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. A copy of the consultation document was made available during this time on the Council's website:

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/g4137/Public%20reports%20pack%2014th-Dec-2021%2014.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10&LLL=0>

4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. A list of stakeholders consulted can be seen at Appendix 11.

5. Summary of responses to consultation

5.1 Key points from the consultation exercise were as follows, with full details appended at the end of this report. The local authority held four stakeholder consultation meetings virtually with school council, staff, governors and parents at Tremains Primary School.

5.2 Learners consultation

Tremains Primary School's school council met virtually with BCBC Council representatives on 17 January 2022 to discuss the proposal. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 1 of this Consultation Report.

The main concerns for the children related to the location of the classroom, where the children would play, what staffing would be in the class, how many children would be in the class, health and safety and resources. Council representatives explained the location of the classroom, healthy and safety requirements and the resources required. Council representatives also reassured the children that the new children would feel welcome.

5.3 Staff consultation

A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with the Tremains Primary School staff. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 2 of this Consultation Report.

Questions were raised mainly concerning staffing for the LRC and entry criteria. Staff stated that the LRC would be an asset to the school. Council representatives explained the recruitment process and staffing requirements.

5.4 Governing body consultation

A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with representatives from Tremains Primary governors on 17 January 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 3 of this Consultation Report. Questions were raised mainly concerning the building works, staffing and engagement with parents.

Council representatives explained that the building works are going to plan and offered a meeting with the leadership of the school to discuss the timescales of the building work. It was explained that recruitment for the staffing would be done in partnership with the school and that a consultation meeting was being held with parents the same day as the governing body consultation.

5.5 Parents consultation

A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with parents at Tremains Primary School on 17 January 2022. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 4 of this Consultation Report.

Questions were raised mainly concerning criteria and staffing ratio. Council representatives explained the criteria and that the staffing ratio would be 3:8 which is a teacher and two learning support officers (LSOs) to 8 children.

5.6 Summary of written representations

One item of direct correspondence was received during the consultation period. See Appendix 5 of this Consultation Report for details and responses/clarifications.

A response was sent to the originator of the item of correspondence thanking them for their submissions and stating that their comments would be taken into consideration.

6. The view of Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales

6.1 Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal. See Appendix 6 of this Consultation Report for full details. Estyn has concluded as follows:

“It is Estyn’s view that this proposal is likely to have a positive impact on the standard of education provision in the area. The council has provided a clear rationale for the proposal.”

7 Impact Assessments

7.1 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and was published as part of the consultation document. It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. There will be additional staff required for the ASD LRC as with the other ASD LRCs - a specialist teacher and two learning support officers (LSOs). Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the assessment has been updated and the conclusion remains valid (see Appendix 7 of this consultation report).

7.2 A Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage (see Appendix 8 of this consultation report). It concluded that there would be no significant impact on the Welsh language provision currently experienced by learners at the school and that Welsh would continue to be taught through the curriculum as presently.

7.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage (see Appendix 9 of this consultation report). The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group. Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the conclusion remains valid.

7.4 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been considered in formulating the proposal (see Appendix 10).

8 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The funding for the LRC would be allocated through the mainstream school's delegated budget, via the school's funding formula allocation, and using a combination of a class allocation and the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) element.
- 8.2 Funding levels would be derived from notional current staffing needs and are based on the salary of a teacher and two support staff. One-off funding for the set-up costs would be £10k.
- 8.3 As part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2021-2022, a budget pressure of £82k was approved for an additional primary school ASD LRC/class to cater for Key Stage 2 children. This budget will be used to fund the LRC, including the set-up costs, at Tremains Primary School should the proposal go ahead.

9. Statutory process in determining proposals

The following table sets out the provisional timetable:

Activity	Date
Consultation period where we welcome your views and observations on the proposal*.	6 January 2022- 17 February 2022
Draft Consultation Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	14 June 2022
Subject to Cabinet approval, publish the approved Consultation Report on the BCBC website, hard copies available on request ('subject to the call-in period as outlined in Part 4 Rules of Procedure of the Council's constitution').	15 June 2022
If agreed by Cabinet, a statutory notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	June 2022
If there are no objections Cabinet can decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objections Report will be forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination. The approved report will then be published on the BCBC website and hard copies of the report will be made available upon request.	September 2022
Publication of the decision letter. The decision letter has to be made available within 7 days from the date of the decision being taken. Therefore, the letter would be published 'subject to the call-in period'.	September 2022
	Autumn Term 2022

Activity	Date
Implementation (that is, subject to the successful outcome of the activities detailed in this table).	

**Hard Copies of this report are available on request.*

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APPENDIX 1



**Tremains Primary School Consultation
Meeting – School Council
17 January 2022
14:15-14:45**

Present: BCBC Staff -2
Head teacher-1
Learners- 17

The Group Manager Learner Support introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal

<u>Questions/Issues</u>	<u>Answer/Comments</u>
Where would the new classroom be?	The location was described and how the existing space would be altered.
What would the classroom look like?	The different areas typically in a communication and resource education (CARE) LRC were described - work area, sensory area, play area for example. It was explained that the door in the current space will be bricked up and there will be one entry/ exit. There will be windows put in and the local authority has advised the school of where these need to be.
Where would the pupils play?	Within the Year2/3 outdoor playground area. Some pupils would access their mainstream year group play area.
What if more than eight children came to the class?	The local authority has a panel so they always know who and how many pupils are coming to a CARE LRC. The local authority sometimes asks classes to take nine pupils but extra help is provided.
Where will the toilets be for CARE LRC pupils?	The pupils will access Year 5/6 toilets.
Will there be enough resources for example, sand?	The local authority will make sure that there's enough money to buy what the class needs.
Will the pupils have the same books as us?	The class will have mixed year groups and ability range and some pupils could be

	using the same books as their friends in mainstream.
Where will the cloakroom be?	This will be decided but we hope there will be space within the classroom.
Where will the sinks be?	At the bottom of the current room.
Where and when will the pupils have their lunch?	Some pupils may need separate lunch and break times/ arrangements as they may feel overwhelmed. Other pupils will access the same lunch hall and breaktimes as mainstream pupils.
How many teachers will be in the class	One teacher.
How will the new teachers know to make the radiators safe for pupils?	We will make sure that all staff are aware of health and safety guidelines.
Will the pupils in the CARE LRC do the same topic work as their year group?	This will be decided. Examples were given of other CARE LRC's where they follow the same topic and ones in which they follow their own agreed topic.
Are we going to help the new pupils?	Yes, we will all welcome the new pupils and help them however we can.

APPENDIX 2



<p>Tremains Primary School Consultation Meeting – staff 17 January 2022 15:30-16:15</p>
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Present: BCBC Staff-2
Teachers-18

The Group Manager Learner Support introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

Questions/Issues	Answer/Comments
What is the entry criteria?	An NHS diagnosis is a fundamental requirement for entry along with a criteria checklist. Reverse integration was explained and how it works.
What is the placement process for allocation of places?	An overview was given of the annual specialist placement application process held every year in November with subsequent panels commencing in December and March.
There is a need for future planning so that there is capacity for pupils within Tremains Obs at the moment who may need CARE LRC in the next few years.	It was agreed that this is an important exercise which needs to start as soon as the consultation process ends.
It is an exciting opportunity for the school.	All agreed.
Staffing was clarified- one teacher, two support staff. The local authority would be looking to recruit as soon as possible to provide relevant training.	
Staff expressed difficulties in previous years where pupils have had to transition to other schools. They noted there has been very positive feedback overall from staff in bases and mainstream in the school.	
Staff said that it would be an asset to the school and a huge positive for the children and parents' wellbeing.	

APPENDIX 3



**Tremains Primary School Consultation
Meeting with
School Governing Body
17 January 2022
16:30-17:30**

Present: BCBC Staff -2
Headteacher
School Governors -3

The Group Manager Learner Support introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting and explained the nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

<u>Questions/Issues</u>	<u>Answer/Comments</u>
Are there assurances from the LA that the building work needed will take place?	Costings have been provided and outlined work needed. A meeting will be convened with school leaders to make sure building work agreed will not negatively impact existing learners.
Concerns were highlighted about raising expectations of parents in that their child would automatically access CARE LRC as a Tremains pupil.	It was clarified that there is a placement application process and criteria that must be met. One of these being an NHS diagnosis of ASD.
Enquiries were made about staffing and an opportunity for upskilling of existing staff	Each CARE LRC has a link specialist teacher who will support, identify training opportunities and meet them wherever possible.
Can local authority meet timescales?	Consultation dates will be met. The local authority are confident that we can meet agreed timescales.
It was commented that building work hasn't commenced as yet. Stressed the importance of staff having an adequate staff room at the school and building work should not impact on this.	
How are we reaching parents during the consultation process?	The consultation is live on BCBC website and has been shared with all relevant stakeholders.

Communication from school to parents regarding consultation has been very good.	
Speech and language locum input to all CARE LRCs. Local authority has good liaison with Designated Educational Clinical Lead Officer (DECLO) and would formally inform health colleagues if provision was secured.	
Recruitment will be done in partnership with the school.	

APPENDIX 4



**Tremains Primary School Consultation
Meeting with Parents
17 January 2022
17:30-18:00**

Present: BCBC staff -2
Headteacher
Parents- 2

The Group Manager Learner Support introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting and explained the nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

<u>Questions/Issues</u>	<u>Answer/Comments</u>
Is a diagnosis of ASD required?	Yes, along with other criteria.
Criteria was queried.	An overview of the criteria checklist was given.
The need for future planning to ensure continuity of provision for existing Tremains pupils was mentioned.	
What is the staffing ratio?	The ratio is 3:8. One teacher and two LSOs to 8 pupils.
Specialist application process was described.	

APPENDIX 5

Direct correspondence received:

I wish to register my wholehearted support for the proposed new Key Stage 2 LRB for students with ASD at Tremains Primary School. It is much needed and will enhance the education and lives of the students placed there, their parents, other pupils in the school and the wider school community. Integration of the pupils of the new class with the mainstream pupils will be beneficial to all. I can see no possible disadvantages to opening the new class.

My daughter is five years old and she is autistic. She is currently in Year 1 in one of the Observation Classes at Tremains and I have been worrying about finding a suitable provision for her when she reaches the end of Year 2 in her current Class because without the new class, she would have to change to a new school. We are happy with Tremains and it would be absolutely ideal for her to stay at the school in the specialist ASD provision for Key Stage 2 so we hope very much the proposed new class goes ahead.

Local Authority Response:

Thank you for your email, your views will be included in our report to Cabinet.

APPENDIX 6

Estyn's response to proposal to establish provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) at Tremains Primary School

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales. Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Summary/ Conclusion

The proposal is by Bridgend County Borough Council. It is to establish a learning resource class (LRC) for a maximum of eight pupils with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) at Tremains Primary School. If successful, the proposal would come into effect on 1 September 2022.

It is Estyn's view that this proposal is likely to have a positive impact on the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and Benefits

The council has provided a clear rationale for the proposal. The council has experienced a rise in the demand for provision for children with additional learning needs. The council has completed a strategic review and has identified the need for a Key Stage 2 LRC for children with ASD within the Brynteg cluster. The proposal would allow pupils to access specialist expertise and facilities within a mainstream setting close to their homes. The proposal would allow pupils who are currently in the established observation and assessment class to be considered for a place in the LRC without the need to move schools.

The proposal includes an appropriate timetable outlining key dates from the consultation phase to the proposed implementation date.

The proposal highlights suitably two key benefits, those being to increase the resource available within the local authority to meet the demand for places for pupils with ASD and to establish an ASD provision at primary level. The proposal does not identify any foreseen disadvantages. The proposal does consider alternatives to the proposal however, there is no detailed analysis of these alternatives which allows the reader to fully understand why they have been discounted.

The council does not appear to have identified any risks associated with the proposal. The proposal does not require any major building work however, there

appears to be a need for adaptations to be made to existing accommodation on the Tremains Primary School site. The proposal does include sufficient information about the adaptations needed and whether these adaptations to the building will meet the specific needs of ASD pupils, for example sensory needs. The proposal states that the current school buildings are operational but major repair or replacement is needed in the short to medium term (three years).

The council appears to have allocated the funds needed for the initial set-up costs. The proposal is not clear enough regarding the actual costs and funding arrangements, referring to a one-off set-up cost of £10,000 and a budget allocation of £82,000. The proposal would benefit from more detailed information on funding arrangements for the provision, for example whether the budget allocation for pupils admitted to the LRC will be greater than those in the mainstream school due to their additional learning needs and the need for additional support and resources.

Learner travel has been explored appropriately and the proposal recognises the need to consider the most appropriate modes of transport for children with ASD who would be accessing the provision.

The proposal appears to have no significant impact on any surplus places in the local authority. The proposal usefully includes projected numbers from Tremains Primary School and the other primary schools within the cluster. Other primary schools in the cluster appear to be growing while there remains a small number of surplus places in Tremains Primary School.

The council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) includes an objective to increase Welsh-medium provision for pupils with additional learning needs. The proposal makes no reference to how it will impact on this WESP objective. A full Equality Impact Assessment has not yet been carried out on this proposal however, the initial impact screening assessment suggests that the proposal will not have a negative impact on any groups of people with protected characteristics.

The proposal appears to provide effective opportunities for stakeholders, organisations and members of the public to respond. This includes meeting with the school council, staff, parents and governors who might be directly affected.

Educational aspects of the proposal

Current performance and prospects for improvement at Tremains Primary school were judged as adequate by Estyn at the time of the last inspection in 2016. The school was subsequently removed from Estyn follow up inspections in 2018 after appropriate improvements in the inspection recommendations. This proposal makes no specific reference, nor does it consider, Estyn's report. The proposal's main evidence for the current performance of the school is the 2019/20 Central South Consortium National Categorisation Report. This report is very positive and places the school in the green support category.

The proposal gives due consideration to the potential impact on the quality of outcomes and provision. The report suggests that there is likely to be no impact on

outcomes, provision or leadership and management at the school and states that the quality of leadership is excellent. However, the proposal does not appear to have considered the impact of the increase in teaching staff and the introduction of a specialist facility on the leadership and management at the school.

The proposal appears to ensure that children with ASD will be able to access the full primary school curriculum. The proposal states the benefit of basing the provision in a mainstream setting, allowing pupils to access an appropriate mix of specialist and mainstream provision.

The proposal considers appropriately current standards at the school and how it compares with similar schools and Wales averages. The proposal states that pupils with additional learning needs make good or better progress across the school.

The proposal recommends a suitable increase in the number of teaching and support staff, providing the necessary expertise to the LRC which could also benefit mainstream classes. It is not made clear in the proposal how these additional staff members will be recruited. The proposal makes no reference to any ongoing training whole school staff may need to develop an understanding and responding appropriately to the needs of children with ASD. There is also likely to be a need to develop this understanding of ASD with mainstream pupils.

Estyn is aware of similar proposals across the county relating to ALN, and we feel it would be of benefit to include a framework to support the implementation and ongoing quality assurance support.

Local Authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

In response to the question raised by Estyn as to why the alternatives were discounted, the ASD LRCs in those schools are at capacity which is why a need has arisen to open an additional ASD LRC to increase capacity.

The budget allocation for pupils admitted to the LRC will be a combination of a class allocation and the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) element funding that all pupils receive.

With reference to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) a Welsh Language Assessment is in Appendix 8 of this report.

An Equality Impact Assessment is in Appendix 9 of this report. This proposal will not have a negative impact on any groups of people with protected characteristics.

The leadership team already oversee the LRCs at Tremains Primary School. The additional line-management responsibility would be a teacher and two LSOs. These staff will be recruited in partnership with the school and the local authority.

The local authority is committed to the ongoing awareness raising and training for all staff in relation to ASD. A member of the ALN senior leadership team of the local authority has specific responsibility for the monitoring and quality assurance of ASD LRCs.

APPENDIX 7

Community Impact Assessment

This has been updated following the consultation.

Name of proposal:

Proposal to establish a LRC at Tremains Primary School for a maximum of eight pupils with ASD from 1 September 2022.

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet

Who has been involved in developing the proposal?

Corporate Director of Education and Family Support

Group Manager Learner Support

Aims and objectives: The ASD provision at Tremains Primary School.

Key actions: Statutory procedure to establish a LRC at Tremains Primary School for a maximum of eight pupils with ASD in autumn term 2022.

Expected outcomes: To establish a LRC for pupils with ASD with proposed implementation autumn term 2022.

Who will be affected: Staff, governors, pupils, parents and the community?

Approximately how many people will be affected: There are minimal people affected by this proposal. There will be an additional staff, a specialist teacher and two LSOs.

Expected date of decision: September 2022.

Scope/focus of the assessment: Consideration given to:

- Current quality and standards in education
- School priority targets (in the statement of action)
- Current provision of additional learning needs (ALN)
- Relationship of school with stakeholders.
- Potential impact of introducing the proposal on pupils and staff.
- Potential impact on the community.

- Potential impact on protected characteristics (outlined in the EIA).

Relevant data and/or research:

- The following table provides a five-year projection of pupil population for Tremains Primary School.

Blwyddyn /Year	N1	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Cyfanswm /Total	Cyfanswm /Total
	Oed / Age 2 - 3	Oed / Age 3 - 4	Oed / Age 4 - 5	Oed / Age 5 - 6	Oed / Age 6 - 7	Oed / Age 7 - 8	Oed / Age 8 - 9	Oed / Age 9 - 10	Oed / Age 10 - 11		
				98%	98%	93%	97%	96%	98%	2-11	4-11
2021	12	54	70	58	39	58	63	62	58	474	408
2022	11	56	54	69	57	36	56	60	61	460	393
2023	10	59	56	53	67	53	35	54	59	446	377
2024	10	59	59	55	52	63	51	34	53	436	367
2025	10	59	59	58	54	48	61	49	33	431	362
2026	10	59	59	58	57	50	47	58	48	446	377

- Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has taken a proactive approach to this by commissioning an additional learning needs strategic planning provision review in 2020.
- An Additional Learning Needs Strategic Planning Provision Review Board has been established. One of the areas which has been identified for additional provision is at Key Stage 2 for children with ASD. There is an identified need to open an additional LRC for children with ASD.

Findings:

- The projected level of enrolment has no expected level of significant fluctuation that would impact the proposal (table regarding future projected level of enrolment provided in 'relevant data' section above).

Inclusion of children and young people

- This proposal follows the additional learning needs and educational tribunal Act (Wales) 2018.

Impact on extended community

- There is no significant negative impact on the community.

Impact on other schools

- There is no impact upon other schools as the ASD LRC's within the alternative schools are at capacity.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics?

There will be additional staff required for the ASD LRC as with the other ASD LRCs. A specialist teacher and two learning support officers (LSOs).

Consultation

Has there been specific consultation on this decision (if not, state why not and/or when this may happen):

Consultation was undertaken between 6 January 2022 and 17 February 2022.

What were the results of the consultation?

The impact of this proposal has been considered and updated.

Across the protected characteristics, what difference in views did analysis of the consultation reveal?

The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group.

What conclusions have been drawn from the analysis on how the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics?

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics.

Assessment of impact on staff

There is no impact upon the reduction of staffing. Additional staffing will be required, one specialist teacher and two learning support assistants (LSOs).

Assessment of impact on wider community

There is no significant negative impact on the wider community.

Analysis of impact by protected characteristics

Please summarise the results of the analysis:

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics.

Assess the relevance and impact of the decision to people with different characteristics Relevance = High/Low/None Impact = High/Low/Neutral.

Characteristic	Relevance	Impact
Age	High	Low
Disability	High	Low
Gender reassignment	None	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral

Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral
Race	None	Neutral
Religion or belief	None	Neutral
Sex	None	Neutral
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups (include health inequalities)	None	Neutral

Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures taken to mitigate against it:

No negative impact has been identified.

- There are no current risks associated with this proposal.
- The LRC will increase the expertise amongst the staff of Tremains Primary School to accommodate the needs of other pupils who are known to demonstrate ASD traits in the absence of a formal diagnosis.

Please advise on the overall equality implications that should be considered in the final decision, considering relevance and impact:

The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group.

Signed:

M Hatcher
Date: 08.05.22

APPENDIX 8

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Tremains Primary School

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is the local authority's strategy which sets out the way in which it aims to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language within the county borough.

The local authority is committed to taking forward plans to strategically grow the Welsh language and with effective strategic planning and significant investment, aims to significantly contribute to achieving Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050' vision of one million Welsh speakers across Wales.

The local authority's current WESP can be viewed via the following link:

<https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s14163/171219%2010%20WESP%20Appendix.pdf?LLL=0>

A statutory consultation on the new ten-year WESP for the period from 2022 to 2032 has recently concluded and the plan has been submitted to Welsh Government for consideration.

This proposal is to open an ASD LRC for eight pupils at Tremains Primary School which would come into effect autumn term 2022.

As the proposed school would continue to provide education through the medium of English, Welsh would continue to be taught, as presently, through the curriculum. Tremains Primary School currently uses the Welsh language wherever possible promoting the informal use of Welsh amongst learners and employing programmes such as 'Seren yr Wythnos', 'Helpwr Heddiw' and 'Cryw Cymraeg'. This helps create a positive attitude and increases the ability of learners in using the language. There is a commitment to achieving the 'Cymraeg Campus' Language Charter, a framework to promote and increase the use of Welsh across the school. Using the Welsh language across key stages offers learners the opportunity to become fully bilingual and aligns with the Curriculum for Wales – 2022. It is therefore considered unlikely that this proposal would have a significant impact on the Welsh language provision currently experienced by learners of the school.

Welsh language courses are offered by Learn Welsh Glamorgan who delivers courses online and locally in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf on behalf of the National Centre for Learning Welsh. They also offer a range of online taster courses that anyone can access and offer Sadwrn Siarad sessions periodically. Activities through the medium of Welsh are primarily offered by Menter Bro Ogwr although Bridgend Learning Partnership also aims to offer learning activities where they are able to and where activities prove viable in terms of numbers.

It is important to recognise that the increase in places for an ASD LRC at Tremains Primary School is predominantly to address capacity issues in the English-medium ASD

LRCs. Consequently, negative effects on Welsh-medium education in the area is not anticipated should the proposal be taken forward.

There is an ASD LRC located at a Welsh-medium primary school and an ASD LRC located at the Welsh-medium secondary school. There is capacity within these provisions.

Current linguistic profile

The 2011 Census indicated that of the 134,545 residents living in the County Borough of Bridgend, 9.7% (13,103) were able to speak Welsh, whilst the remaining 90.3% (121,442) were not able to speak Welsh. This can be compared to the all-Wales figures that showed of the 2,955,841 residents living Wales, 19.0% (562,016) were able to speak Welsh, whilst the remaining 81.0% (2,393,825) were not able to speak Welsh.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Census-Welsh-Language/welshspeakers-by-localauthority-gender-detailedagegroups-2011census>

The Annual Population Survey for the year ending June 2021, reported that 17.8% of respondents living in the County Borough of Bridgend said they could speak Welsh, compared to the all-Wales percentage of 29.2% of respondents. This can be further broken down to the data contained in the table that follows.

Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)		
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales
Can read Welsh	16.9%	25.9%
Can write Welsh	15.9%	23.8%
Can understand spoken Welsh	21.2%	33.7%

Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)		
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales
Speak Welsh daily	6.3%	15.2%
Speak Welsh weekly	3.1%	5.2%
Use it less often or never	6.9%	7.3%

The data shows that there is a gap in the Welsh language skills of residents of Bridgend when compared to the whole of Wales. Proposals such as this significantly improve the learning environment and the opportunities available for our learners.

The Council recognises the importance of immersion in the Welsh language for learners who wish to transition from English to Welsh-medium education, to further encourage the uptake of Welsh-medium education. There is an intention of developing immersion provision which has been identified in the draft WESP 2022-2032.

Other relevant data or research

Bridgend County Borough Council has four Welsh-medium primary schools for learners aged 3 to 11 and one secondary provision for learners aged 11 to 18.

Demand and projections are regularly monitored across all schools as part of the school organisation planning process. This ensures that all schools have sufficient accommodation to meet demand. The process also identifies opportunities to promote and grow the Welsh language. This data has been used to inform the local authority's WESP.

Group Manager Learner Support

9 May 2022

APPENDIX 9

Equality impact assessment (EIA) screening form

Please refer to the guidance notes when completing this form.

Proposal being screened

Proposal to establish a LRC at Tremains Primary School for a maximum of eight pupils with ASD from 1 September 2022.

Brief description of the proposal

The proposal is for a maximum of eight pupils with ASD to access the LRC in autumn term 2022. Consultees will include staff, governors, pupils and parents of the school, members of the local community and any other interested parties.

Does this policy relate to any other policies?

Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act 2018.

What is the aim or purpose of the policy?

The Council supports the principles that, when possible, children should be educated within a mainstream school environment and as near to their home as possible.

Who is affected by this policy (e.g., staff, residents, disabled people, women only?)

Pupils with ALN, parents, existing staff members in Tremains Primary School.

Who is responsible for delivery of the policy?

Corporate Director Education and Family Support.

Is this a review of an existing policy?

No.

If this is a review or amendment of an existing policy, has anything changed since it was last reviewed?

No.

Has an EIA previously been carried out on this policy?

No.

Screening questions

1. Is this policy an important or 'large scale' function, and/or is it likely the policy will impact upon a large number of staff, residents and/or contractors

Yes.

2. Is it possible that any aspect of the policy will impact on people from different groups in different ways? (See guidance for list of 'protected characteristics' to consider) No for the following reasons:-

- There would be growth for pupils with a diagnosis of ASD.
- Capacity would be created for a maximum of eight pupils.

Characteristic	Yes	No	Unknown	Explanation of impact
Age	X			The impact is positive. There will be growth for pupils with ASD to access support.
Disability	X			This impact is positive. There will be growth for pupils with ASD.
Gender reassignment		X		Gender reassignment is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Pregnancy and maternity		X		Pregnancy and maternity is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Race		X		Race is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Religion/belief		X		Religion and belief are not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Sex		X		Sex is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
Sexual orientation		X		Sexual orientation is not expected to be impacted by this proposal.

Civil Partnerships and Marriage		x		Civil partnerships and marriage are not expected to be impacted by this proposal.
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3. What is the risk that any aspect of the policy could in fact lead to discrimination or adverse effects against any group of people? (See guidance for list of protected characteristics?)

There is no risk for pupils diagnosed with ASD as there would be growth of provision in this area.

What action has been taken to mitigate this risk?

Please expand on your answer:

4. Could any aspect of the policy help BCBC to meet the main public sector duties? Bear in mind that the duty covers 9 protected characteristics.

Duty	YES	NO	Unknown
Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Act		X	
Advance equality of opportunity between persons who a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	X		
Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it	X		

Please set out fully your reasoning for the answers given to question 4 including an awareness of how your decisions are justified.

The policy enables those with a diagnosis of ASD (disability being a protected characteristic) to be taught in an English-medium mainstream school facility which could potentially create relationships between pupils that are categorised as having additional learning needs and pupils from mainstream teaching at Tremains Primary School thereby removing divisions between pupils.

5. Could any aspect of this “policy” assist Bridgend County Borough Council with its compliance with the Welsh Language Standards and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 which are to consider: -

- The proposal is to grow ALN provision.
- The proposal offers those pupils with ASD to be educated in mainstream.

6. Are you aware of any evidence that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and/or priorities in relation to this policy?

Yes No Unknown

No.

If 'yes', please expand:

7. Is this policy likely to impact on Community Cohesion?

No – there will be minimal change to the community as pupils with ASD will be able to attend a mainstream school.

Conclusions

8. What level of EIA priority would you give to this policy?

Impact identified	Next steps:	Please place an X in the relevant box:
No negative impact identified	Screen out: carry on with the policy or proposal	X
One or more negative impact identified	Complete full EIA to gather more evidence on potential negative impacts	
Please explain the reasons for this decision. If you have 'screened out' you must include information and evidence to justify your decision.		
It has been identified that the proposal is unlikely to negatively impact on any protected group. There have been positive impacts identified, age and disability as detailed in the table above. As there have been no negative impacts identified, it will not be necessary to undertake a full equalities impact assessment.		

9. Will the timescale for EIA be affected by any other influence e.g. Committee deadline, external deadline, part of a wider review process?

Activity	Date
Consultation period where we welcome your views and observations on the proposal*.	6 January 2022- 17 February 2022
Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	14 June 2022
Publish Consultation Report on BCBC website, hard copies available on request.	15 June 2022
If agreed by the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council, a Public Notice will be published and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing.	June 2022
End of Public Notice period. If there are no objections Cabinet can immediately decide whether to proceed or not. If there are any objections, an Objections Report will be published and forwarded to Cabinet for their consideration and subsequent determination.	September 2022
Potential implementation.	Autumn Term 2022

10. Who will carry out the full EIA?

N/A

EIA screening completed by: Michelle Hatcher

Date: 08.05.22

APPENDIX 10

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Description (key aims): <p>Proposal to establish a LRC for a maximum of eight pupils with ASD at Tremains Primary School.</p>	
Section 1 Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.	
Long-term	1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?
<p>(The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)</p>	<p>There is a need for an ASD LRC which will then afford the pupils the opportunity to be educated in a mainstream school.</p> <p>There will be a graduated intake into the LRC to ensure that there is provision in BCBC. Additional places are required to meet the demand of the increase in the diagnosis of pupils with ASD.</p>
Prevention	2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?
<p>(How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)</p>	<p>The opening of the ASD LRC will result in increased resource at primary level as part of the graduated response as stated in the ALN Code of Practice.</p> <p>Ultimately pupils will be prevented from being placed out-of-authority.</p>
Integration	3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?
<p>(Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact</p>	<p>An ASD LRC is key in ensuring that pupils with a diagnosis of having access to mainstream education experiences with their peers and also have an opportunity to integrate into mainstream where possible.</p>

<p>upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)</p>		
<p>Collaboration</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>4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</p>	
<p>Involvement</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>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?</p>	
<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).</p>		
<p>Description of the Well-being goals</p>	<p>How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities</p>	<p>Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our</p>

	under the national well-being goals?	communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>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 ASD LRC affords the opportunity for pupils with a diagnosis of ASD to gain necessary skills at an early stage.</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>
<p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>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 ASD LRC is proposed to open in the school with adaptations being made to existing accommodation.</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>
<p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours</p>	<p>The individual needs of the pupils are met within the ASD LRC.</p>	<p>The impact on local communities will be monitored</p>

that benefit future health are understood.		
<p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).</p>	The individual needs of the pupils are met within the ASD LRC	The impact on local communities will be monitored
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	The opening of the ASD LRC in a mainstream school affords the community to be better connected.	The impact on local communities will be monitored
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p> <p>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 ASD LRC in a mainstream school affords the pupils to be part of the community experiencing these things.	The impact on local communities will be monitored
<p>A globally responsible Wales</p> <p>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 ASD LRC affords the opportunity for pupils to thrive locally and beyond.	The impact on local communities will be monitored

Section 3 Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts

Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age:	Yes	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Gender reassignment:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Marriage or civil partnership:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Pregnancy or maternity:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Race:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Religion or Belief:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Sex:	No	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored
Welsh Language:	Yes	No	The development of the LRC will be monitored

Section 4 Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive Members and/or Chief Officers

Compiling Officers Name:	Michelle Hatcher
Compiling Officers Job Title:	Group Manager Learner Support
Date completed:	8 May 2022

APPENDIX 11

List of stakeholders

- ▶ The Governing Body, parents, staff, carers, guardians and learners of Tremains Primary School
- ▶ Other primary schools within Bridgend County Borough Council
- ▶ Secondary Schools, Special Schools and The Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Bridgend County Borough Council
- ▶ Neighbouring authorities
- ▶ The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- ▶ Welsh Ministers
- ▶ Welsh Government
- ▶ Constituency and Regional Members of the Senedd (MS) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Estyn
- ▶ Welsh Language Commissioner
- ▶ Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is subject of the proposals
- ▶ Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
- ▶ South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- ▶ National Secular Society
- ▶ Town and Community Councils representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Regional Transport Consortium (SEWTA)
- ▶ Communities First Partnership
- ▶ National Health Service (NHS)
- ▶ Independent or voluntary nursery providers serving the area

- ▶ BCBC Childcare team/Children and Young People's Partnership and/or Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present
- ▶ Cabinet Members
- ▶ Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- ▶ Bridgend Youth Council
- ▶ Corporate Management Board
- ▶ Ward Members
- ▶ BCBC Group Manager Learner Support
- ▶ ALN Managers Learner Support

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

PROPOSED DATES FOR MEETINGS OF CABINET, CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES AND CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose for approval, the programme of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting for the municipal year 2022 – 2023.

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**:-
1. **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 for all people in the county borough.
 2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy 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.
 3. **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 approval of the programme of meetings of Council, Cabinet and their Committees is required in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The proposed programme of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting for 2022 - 2023 is set out below. It should be noted that the date of the Budget Cabinet meeting could be subject to change, depending on the timeline of the Welsh Government Local Government Settlement.

Cabinet

14 Jun 22	17 Jan 23
19 Jul 22	7 Feb 23
13 Sep 22	21 Feb (Budget)
18 Oct 22	14 Mar 23
15 Nov 22	11 Apr 23
13 Dec 22	

Cabinet Committee Equalities

25 Jul 22
23 Nov 22
20 Mar 23

Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting

27 Jul 22
12 Oct 22
12 Jan 23
19 Apr 23

- 4.2 Subject to the Programme of meeting dates being approved, the meetings will be placed in Members and Officers electronic calendars.
- 4.3 Under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, the Council is required to undertake a survey of the timings of all Committee meetings as soon as possible in a new term of office. This has taken place with Members' feedback on this currently being collated. Therefore, whilst the dates of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings are shown above, the timings of these (other than today's meeting of Cabinet), will be added following the outcome of the survey.
- 5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**
- 5.1 There will be no direct effect on the policy framework, but the approval of the programme of meetings of Cabinet, Council and their Committees for the municipal year, is required in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 6. Equality Act 2010 implications**
- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.
- 7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications**
- 7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve

the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term - The approval of a Programme of meetings for 2022-23, will assist in the planning of the business of the Cabinet in both the short-term and in the long-term.
- Prevention - The early drafting of the Programme of meetings for 2023-24, allows for the advance planning of the business of Cabinet and its Committees.
- Integration - The report supports all the well-being objectives.
- Collaboration - Liaison has taken place with Cabinet, the Corporate Management Board and key officers on the proposed programme of all Committee meetings.
- Involvement - Advance public notice of the Programme of meetings will ensure that the public and stakeholders can engage in Cabinet and their Committee meetings. Agendas and minutes of all public meetings will be available, including in the Welsh language in compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

9. Recommendation:

9.1 Cabinet is recommended:

To approve the Programme of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Equalities and Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting, as outlined in paragraph 4.1 of this report.

K Watson
Monitoring Officer
June 2022

Contact Officer: Mark Anthony Galvin
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Telephone: (01656) 643148

E-mail: Cabinet_Committee@bridgend.gov.uk

Address: Legal and Regulatory Services,
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend.

Background documents: None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES & JOINT COMMITTEES

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's approval for the appointment of Members to joint committees and the nomination of Members to outside bodies. A list of the joint committees and outside bodies concerned is appended to this report at **Appendix 1**.

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**:-

1. **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 focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy 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.
3. **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.

- 2.2 The Authority's continuing partnership, working with a wide range of organisations within the County Borough, contributes to the achievement of the corporate well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 Outside bodies are external organisations and partnerships which have requested that the Council appoint a representative to them. Outside bodies have separate governance structures to the Council. Appointments to outside bodies can be an important mechanism within the County Borough for: community leadership, partnership and joint working and knowledge and information sharing. The appointment of County Borough Councillors to serve on outside bodies is intended to be a mutually beneficial act for both the Council and the bodies listed. The implications associated with the appointments are considered to be positive.

3.2 A review was undertaken in 2021 of the appointments of Councillors on various outside bodies and joint committees to ensure relevance and appropriateness of membership. With regard to making appointments, the Cabinet should first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder either by reference to the constitution of the outside body concerned or in the light of any other circumstances as Cabinet may determine.

3.3 Consultation was undertaken with external organisations as part of the review process for outside bodies as appropriate. Officers were also consulted regarding future / on-going representation on the committees/bodies listed. Feedback has been fed into the proposals for Member representation on outside bodies for the 2022/23 municipal year as listed at **Appendix 1**.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 It is proposed that Members be appointed for a term of one year except where earlier revocation of appointment is appropriate.

4.2 It is proposed that where Cabinet nominates on the basis of a Member's role within the Authority the appointment be attached to the role and not to the individual Member, e.g. Scrutiny Chair, Cabinet Member.

4.3 All appointments are made with the assumption that appointees represent Bridgend County Borough Council. Should any appointee cease to be a Bridgend County Borough Councillor, they will cease to represent this Authority and are expected to relinquish their appointments as necessary.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There will be no effect on the policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equalities Act 2010 Implications

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

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

7.1 The following is a summary of the implications to show how the 5 ways of working have been used to formulate the recommendation:

- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the long term planning of the business of the Council by the continuation of effective relationships with other organisations.
- Prevention - Continued and relevant representation supports the Council by enhancing its current and future relationships.
- Integration - The report supports all the well-being objectives.

- Collaboration - This report supports partnership working with other organisations both locally and regionally.
- Involvement - This report will maintain a relationship with other organisations through effective partnership working.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with these appointments.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to: -

Appoint the requisite number of Members to the joint committees and other outside bodies as listed in **Appendix 1**.

K Watson

CHIEF OFFICER- LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES

8th June 2022

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Background documents

None.

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JOINT COMMITTEES -CABINET

Page 363

SERIAL	ORGANISATION	REQUIRED REPRESENTATION	CURRENT/PROPOSED REPRESENTATION
a.	Coychurch Crematorium Joint Committee	One Cabinet Member and five other County Borough Councillors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet Member – Communities 2. Councillor Paul Davies 3. Councillor Simon Griffiths 4. Councillor Eugene Caparros 5. TBC 6. TBC
b.	Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee	One Cabinet Member and one other County Borough Councillor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet Member – Education 2. TBC
c.	Capita Glamorgan Ltd. Joint Venture Committee	Two Cabinet Members and three other County Borough Councillors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet Member – Communities 2. Deputy Leader 3. Chairperson – Scrutiny Subject Committee 3 4. Councillor – Cllr Richard Granville 5. Councillor – TBC
d.	Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee	Cabinet Member – Education, and Regeneration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet Member – Education
e.	Margam Crematorium Joint Committee	Two County Borough Councillors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TBC 2. TBC
f.	Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee	One Cabinet Member and one other County Borough Councillor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet Member – Wellbeing and Future Generations 2. Councillor Maxine Lewis

OUTSIDE BODIES -CABINET

Page 364 SERIAL	ORGANISATION	REQUIRED REPRESENTATION	PROPOSED REPRESENTATION
1.	Adoption Panel	1 Member	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help
2.	South Wales Aggregates Working Party	1 Member	Cabinet Member - Communities
3.	The Alliance (formerly Coalfields Communities Campaign)	2 Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet Member – Communities 2. Cabinet Member – Regeneration
4.	Bridgend Care Partnership	4 Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leader 2. Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member – Wellbeing and Future Generations 3. Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help
5.	Bridgend Care and Repair	2 Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr M Kearn 2. Cllr Amanda Williams
6.	Bridgend & Maesteg Citizens Advice Bureau	2 Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr PA Davies 2. Cabinet Member – Wellbeing and Future Generations
7.	Awen Cultural Trust	2 Members (cross party)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TBC 2. TBC
8.	Bridgend County Tourism Destination Management Group	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration
9.	Bridgend Public Service Board	1 Member (plus 1 substitute)	Leader Deputy Leader
10.	Bridgend Town Hall Trust	4 Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TBC 2. TBC 3. TBC 4. TBC
11.	Bridgend Youth Justice Management Board	3 Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help 2 Cabinet Member – Education
12.	Cardiff International Airport Consultative Committee	2 Members	Cabinet Member – Communities Cabinet Member – Regeneration
13.	C.L.A.W. (Consortium of Local Authorities in Wales)	1 (or 2) Member(s) (Most Councils have 1)	Cabinet Member – Resources
14.	Coity Wallia Board of Conservators	2 Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TBC 2. TBC

SERIAL	ORGANISATION	REQUIRED REPRESENTATION	PROPOSED REPRESENTATION
15.	Community Safety Partnership	One Member	Cllr Neelo Farr
16.	Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Council	3 Members	1.Councillor Amanda Williams 2. 3.
17.	Cwm Taf Regional Partnership Board	Leader and two other members	1 Leader 2 Deputy Leader Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help 3 Cabinet Member for Future Generations and Wellbeing
18.	Fostering Panel	1 Member	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help
19.	Four Counties Youth Music Steering Group	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Education
20.	Glamorgan Heritage Coast Advisory Panel	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration
21.	Local Access Forum	1 Member	Councillor R Granville
22.	PATROL - Adjudication Joint Committee	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Communities
23.	Joint Council For Wales	1 Members	Cabinet Member for Resources
24.	Coastal Partnership	1 Member	Cabinet Member – Regeneration
25.	SACRE	5 Members	1. Cabinet Member – Education and Regeneration 2. TBC 3. TBC 4. TBC 5. TBC

SERIAL	ORGANISATION	REQUIRED REPRESENTATION	PROPOSED REPRESENTATION
26.	South Wales Fire Service	2 Members	TBC TBC
27.	South West Wales Regional Waste Management Committee	2 Members	Cabinet Member Communities Councillor G Thomas
28.	South West Wales Regional Waste Plan Forum	1 Member	Deputy Leader
29.	Swansea/Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group	2 Members	1. Cabinet Member – Communities 2. TBC 3.
30.	Swansea Bay Port Health Authority	2 Members	1. Cabinet Member – Future Generations and Wellbeing 2. TBC
31.	Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association	1 Member	
32.	University of Swansea Court of Governors	1 Member	Cllr Blundell
32.	South Wales Valuation Tribunal - Appointments Committee	2 Members	TBC TBC
33.	WLGA Council	3 Members (two substitutions)	Leader Deputy Leader (One substitution for above from same political group) TBC (One substitution for above from same political group) Voting – En Bloc
34.	WLGA Executive Board	1 Member	Leader

By virtue of paragraph(s) 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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