

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

6 APRIL 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON BRIDGEND WEST SCHOOLS' MODERNISATION PROPOSAL

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the Bridgend West schools' modernisation proposal;
- 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 public notice as prescribed in the School Organisation Code.

2. Connection to corporate wellbeing 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 On 3 March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend. Five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools. These are:

- commitment to high standards and excellence in provision;
- equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend;
- inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils;
- community-focused schools, where the school actively engages with its local community; and

- value for money.

3.2 The Learning Communities – Schools of the Future - Policy and Planning Framework sets out 17 areas where these principles should be applied in practice.

The principles which are particularly relevant in the context of Band B are:

- the size of primary schools (to ensure that “all Bridgend’s primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision”); and
- value for money, efficiency and effectiveness (“narrowing the gap between the most and the least expensive provision currently”).

3.3 As Cabinet will be aware, the Band B Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) was submitted to Welsh Government (WG) in July 2017, for which Cabinet approval was subsequently sought in October 2017. Cabinet was presented with a report detailing the outcome of the Band B review and the revised SOP submission and gave approval to discontinue the original Band B schemes identified in the November 2010 Cabinet report, and approved the following Band B schemes:

- Bridgend North East (primary);
- Bridgend South East (primary) - subsequently substituted by Mynydd Cynffig Primary School in June 2020;
- Bridgend West – Welsh-medium (primary);
- Bridgend West – English-medium (primary); and
- Bridgend Special School.

3.4 In its meeting of 21 January 2020 Cabinet gave approval for the Bridgend West schemes to be taken forward via the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) funding arrangements. The preferred way forward for the Bridgend West scheme were:

- preferred education options of provision of a new-build, two-form entry English-medium school on 'a' site - suitable for Afon y Felin and Corneli Primary Schools combined); and
- provision of a new-build, two form entry Welsh-medium school on ‘a’ site - suitable for an enlarged Ysgol Y Ferch O’r Sgêr.

3.5 The preferred sites for the new schools were determined by Cabinet as the Valleys to Coast (V2C) owned Marlas Estate site and the existing Ysgol Y Ferch O’r Sgêr/Cornelly Integrated Children’s Centre/Corneli Primary School site.

3.6 In its meeting of 19 January 2021 Cabinet gave permission to formally consult on the Bridgend West proposal.

3.7 This report outlines the responses to the consultation and seeks approval to continue the progress to the next stage.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 25 January 2021 and 7 March 2021 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://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/consultations/closed-consultations/bridgend-west-primary-schools-consultation/>

- 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*.	25 January 2021 to 7 March 2021
Draft Consultation Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation.	6 April 2021
Publish Approved Consultation Report on the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) website, hard copies available on request.	12 April 2021
If agreed by the Cabinet of BCBC, 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.	26 April 2021
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.	9 June 2021
Implementation.	1 September 2023 (English-

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality impact assessment

6.1 An equality impact assessment 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 anticipated on the duties of the Council towards protected groups.

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	Councils have a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient supply of school places, and these schemes will safeguards the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge in this regard.
Integration	Providing sufficient places ensures that the curriculum can be delivered and meets social, environmental and cultural objectives.
Collaboration	The local authority works effectively with schools, Estyn and with the Central South Consortium (CSC), health, 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.
Involvement	This area of 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.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The costs of the consultation will be met from existing budgets.

8.2 If the proposal does go ahead and is implemented, then the cost of the new schools will be funded via an annual charge to the revenue budget, over a 25-year period,

which will need to be built into the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) as a budget pressure. Early estimates are that this could be in the region of £500k per annum, but this will be determined as the scheme progresses. The cost is based on a Welsh Government intervention rate for MIM schemes of 81%, with the authority funding 19% of the annual costs, plus 35% of any up-front capital investment for ICT and furniture and equipment. Provision for these costs is already built into the capital programme.

- 8.3 The running costs of the new school would be met from within the delegated schools' budget, as is currently the case. It is too early to say whether there will be efficiency savings or additional costs from the proposed new school, and future reports to Cabinet will outline the financial implications, as they are known, in more detail.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Cabinet is therefore recommended to:

- note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached consultation report and appendices;
- approve the consultation report for publication;
- authorise the publication of a public notice on the proposal; and
- approve the implementation of the proposal, should there be no objections at the end of the public notice period.

Lindsay Harvey

CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

April 2021

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Background documents

Cabinet Report (1 September 2015): "STRATEGIC REVIEW INTO THE DEVELOPMENT AND RATIONALISATION OF THE CURRICULUM AND ESTATE PROVISION OF PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND POST-16 EDUCATION"

Cabinet Report (3 October 2017): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B (2019-2024)"

Cabinet Report (30 January 2018): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B"

Council Report (31 January 2018): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B"

Cabinet Report (20 November 2018): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B"

Cabinet Report (19 December 2018): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B"

Council Report (20 December 2018): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B"

Cabinet Report (19 March 2019): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B"

Council Report (20 March 2019): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B"

Cabinet Report (21 July 2020): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME BAND B, MUTUAL INVESTMENT MODEL WELSH EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP - STRATEGIC PARTNERING AGREEMENT"

Cabinet Report (19 January 2021): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BRDIGEND WEST – PERMISSION TO CONSULT ON STATUTORY PROPOSAL"

APPENDIX A

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON THE BRIDGEND WEST SCHOOLS' MODERNISATION PROPOSAL

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This public report is to inform of the outcome of the consultation on the Bridgend West Schools Modernisation proposal.

2. Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The school modernisation programme supports many of the corporate priorities and in particular:

- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement

3. Background

- 13.1 On 3 March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend. Five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools. These are:

- commitment to high standards and excellence in provision;
- equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend;
- inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils;
- community-focused schools, where the school actively engages with its local community; and
- value for money.

- 3.2 The Policy and Planning Framework sets out 17 areas where these principles should be applied in practice.

The principles which are particularly relevant in the context of Band B are:

- the size of primary schools (to ensure that “all Bridgend’s primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision”); and
- value for money, efficiency and effectiveness (“narrowing the gap between the most and the least expensive provision currently”).

- 3.3 Cabinet in their meeting on 21 January 2020 gave approval for the Bridgend West proposal to be taken forward via the Mutual Investment Model funding arrangements. The preferred way forward for the Bridgend West scheme being:

- preferred education options of provision of a new-build, two form entry English-medium school on 'a' site - suitable for Afon y Felin and Corneli Primary Schools combined) and;
- provision of a new-build, two form entry Welsh-medium school on 'a' site - suitable for an enlarged Ysgol Y Ferch O'r 'Sgêr

3.4 The preferred sites for the new schools were determined by Cabinet as Valleys to Coast (V2C) owned Marlas Estate site and the existing Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr/Cornelly Integrated Children's Centre/Cornelly Primary School site.

3.5 Cabinet in their meeting of 19 January 2021 gave permission to formally consult on the Bridgend West proposal.

3.6 This report outlines the responses to the consultation.

4. Current situation

4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation exercises were carried out between 25 January 2021 and 7 March 2021 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://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/consultations/closed-consultations/bridgend-west-primary-schools-consultation/>

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. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold open stakeholder consultation meetings (the authority would ordinarily hold such meetings in addition to consulting via its corporate website). It was, however possible to 'virtually' meet with pupils, staff and governors in order to consult with them.

5.2 Pupil consultation

The Corneli Primary School Council met virtually with BCBC Council representatives on 11 February 2021 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 1 of this consultation report.

5.3 The main concerns for Corneli Primary pupils related to what facilities the new school would have and how large classes would be. Council representatives explained that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient outdoor space would be provided including circulation space, sports pitches

(possibly astro-turf), games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas and habitat space. Should the proposal progress, further pupil meetings would be arranged so that pupils can input into the design process. Council representatives also explained that the proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes overall ie two forms per year group, but the individual classrooms would not be of a bigger capacity (there would just be more of them). 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 10 pupils present agreed that they felt it was a good idea.

- 5.4 The Afon Y Felin Primary School Council met virtually with BCBC Council representatives on 11 February 2021 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 2 of this consultation report.
- 5.5 The main concerns for Afon Y Felin Primary School pupils related to moving from a small school to a larger one, what facilities the new school would have and whether they would have new teachers. Council representatives explained that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient space would be provided including circulation space, sports pitches, games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas and habitat spaces. Council representatives explained that it is likely that all the existing teachers (from both Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) would transfer to the new schools, so pupils would not necessarily have new teachers. Although the proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie two forms per year group, the individual classes would not be bigger capacity (there would just be more of them). The authority would wish to maintain the current small school 'ethos' in the new school. However, if people still have concerns, they should respond to the consultation stating such. 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 six pupils present agreed that at this stage, they felt it was too early to know whether the proposal was a good or bad idea.
- 5.6 The Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr School Council met virtually with BCBC Council representatives on 11 February 2021 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 3 of this consultation report.
- 5.7 The main concerns for Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr pupils related to traffic and access, use of a forest area and provision of larger play areas. Council representatives explained that entrances and drop off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be safe and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport). Although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, it is likely that a forest/habitat area will be included in the design as would sports pitches, games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas. The Council representative stated that should the proposal progress, he will come back to the school council at detailed design stage (as he would wish to involve pupils in 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 three pupils present agreed that they felt it was a good idea.

5.8 Staff and Governing body consultation

A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with the Corneli Primary School staff and Governing Body representatives on 1 March 2021. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 4 of this consultation report. Questions were raised mainly concerning the potential staff employment impacts of the proposal. Council representatives explained that the shadow Governing Body of the school would have the responsibility of setting the staffing structure. Once the consultation process has concluded and a determination made whether to progress the proposal we would begin to consult with the schools on the structure as soon as possible. BCBC Human Resources will provide support if anybody has any anxieties about the proposed change.

- 5.9 A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with the Afon Y Felin Primary School staff and Governing Body representatives on 1 March 2021. Questions were raised mainly concerning the potential staff employment impacts of the proposal, when the school would be designed and the impact of moving from a small school to a larger one. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 5 of this consultation report. Council representatives explained that while staffing is ultimately a governing body decision, the authority would not wish to see changes as it is felt that maintaining 'familiar faces' would be of benefit to the pupils. A 'match-and-slot' exercise would be used to appoint from the existing staff pool to the new school positions (with applications invited from the existing staff pool for any entirely new or novel posts). Should Cabinet determine to progress the proposal subsequent to consultation conclusion, it is anticipated that the Stage 1 MIM submission would take place in June 2021 and design would begin after that. Council representatives stated that increased opportunities presented by a new, larger school would be tremendous. The local authority would seek to transfer the existing small school 'ethos' to the new school.

- 5.10 A 'virtual' consultation meeting was held with the Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr staff and Governing Body representatives on 25 February 2021. Questions were raised mainly concerning the possibility of a deficit budget, school design and the lack of Welsh-medium catchment maps on the BCBC website. Full details of the meeting discussions and responses/clarifications given are detailed in Appendix 6 of this consultation report. Council representatives explained that the authority would endeavour to support the school during transition as the new build progresses. Architects for the school design will not be appointed until after the consultation process has concluded and consequently we do not yet have a design. Council representatives explained that BCBC is looking at posting geographical area maps for Welsh-medium schools on the corporate website as a matter of priority.

5.11 Summary of written representations

One item of direct correspondence and a completed pro forma response was received during the consultation period. See Appendix 7 of this consultation report for details and responses/clarifications.

- 5.12 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 in any report submitted to Cabinet.

5.13 Summary of online survey responses

Overall, 46 respondents completed the online questionnaire. In respect of the question on whether they support the proposal, 21 responded 'Yes' and 25 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 Summary/Conclusion is as follows:

"The proposal by Bridgend County Borough Council is to discontinue Corneli Primary School and Afon y Felin Primary School and open a new school with effect from 1 September 2023. They also propose to enlarge Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr with effect from 2 September 2024. The council lays out a clear rationale for its proposal. It involves eradicating around £1.5m maintenance backlog between the three schools, which it considers to be in poor condition, exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended. The proposal also addresses the need for Welsh medium places and of promoting the growth of the Welsh language.

The proposer has consulted widely, including with children and young people, parents/carers, school staff, a wide range of interested parties and members of the public. Estyn is of the opinion that the current proposal is likely to at least maintain the education provision for pupils in the area."

7 Impact Assessment

- 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 the anticipated uptake of Welsh-medium education in the area will increase as a consequence of the proposal, thereby supporting the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) targets, promoting the Welsh language and increasing the numbers of non-maintained nursery children transitioning to Welsh-medium primary school. Having reviewed responses to the consultation, the conclusion remains valid.
- 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. It concluded that the sites for the proposed new schools are less than 0.3 miles away from the current school sites. There 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 should the proposal go forward, as learners would be attending larger new school buildings which will incorporate purpose built community facilities. 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 costs of the consultation will be met from existing resources.
- 8.2 If the proposal does go ahead and is implemented, then the cost of the new schools will be funded via an annual charge to the revenue budget, over a 25 year period, which will need to be built into the MTFS as a budget pressure. Early estimates are that this could be in the region of £500k per annum, but this will be determined as the scheme progresses. The cost is based on a Welsh Government intervention rate for MIM schemes of 81%, with the authority funding 19% of the annual costs, plus 35% of any up-front capital investment for ICT and furniture and equipment.
- 8.3 The running costs of the new school would be met from within the Delegated Schools' Budget as is currently the case. It is too early to say whether there will be efficiency savings or additional costs from the proposed new school, and future reports to Cabinet will outline the financial implications, as they are known, in more detail.

9. Statutory process in determining proposals

- The following table sets out the provisional timetable:

Activity	Date
Publish Approved Consultation Report on BCBC website, hard copies available on request.	12 April 2021
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.	26 April 2021
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.	9 June 2021
Implementation.	1 September 2023 (English-medium) 2 September 2024 (Ysgol Y

10. Recommendations

10.1 Cabinet is therefore recommended to:

- note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached consultation report and appendices;
- approve the consultation report for publication;
- authorise the publication of a public notice on the proposal; and
- approve the implementation of the proposal, should there be no objections at the end of the public notice period.

Hard Copies of this report are available on request.

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Appendix 1

Bridgend West – School Council Consultation Corneli Primary School TEAMS meeting 11 February 2021

Attendees: CL (Project Manager), XX, XX, XX, XX (Teachers)

School Council: XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX

1.	Introduction
1.1	<p>A ‘child friendly’ summary of the consultation had been distributed to pupils prior to the meeting. CL presented the summary document on screen and then an overview was given by CL explaining the reasons for undertaking the consultation:</p> <p>The local authority (LA) is responsible for planning school places and ensuring that there are enough places to accommodate all children in the county borough. A proposal has been put forward to ensure that there is enough school access in the Bridgend West area by building two brand new schools.</p> <p>The proposal outlines how a new English-medium school (to replace Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) could be established at Plas Morlais by entering into an agreement with the current site owner. The proposal also outlines how Ysgol Y Ferch O’r Sgêr could use part of the current site occupied by Corneli Primary School to build a new larger school and increase its size to become a two-form entry school Welsh-medium school with a 60-place Welsh-medium nursery.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation meeting is to get the views of pupils. All views are welcomed up to the 7 March 2021. If the decision is made to proceed with the proposal then a public notice will be issued and the public are given time to object.</p>
2.	Views and questions provided by the pupils
2.1	<p>XX asked whether the proposed new school sites would be large enough. CL stated that yes, the proposed sites would be large enough (a ‘test-fit’ planning exercise has been carried out to ensure this).</p>
2.2	<p>XX asked if pupils would be able to use an allotment area. CL stated that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, it is likely that a forest/habitat/allotment area could be included in the design. CL stated that he will come back to the school council at detailed design stage (as he would wish to involve pupils in the design process). CL explained that on previous projects schools have transferred plants and trees across from their old sites to the new.</p>

2.3	XX questioned whether the proposed new school will have more pupils in the classrooms. CL stated that no, there would not be more pupils in the classrooms. The proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie two forms per year group, but the individual classrooms would not be bigger of capacity (there would just be more of them).
2.4	XX asked whether new IT equipment would be provided in the new school. CL stated that there would be a budget allocated for new IT equipment.
2.5	XX asked whether there would be a sports hall in the proposed new school. CL stated that yes, there would in fact likely be two.
2.6	XX asked how many yards would be provided at the new school. CL stated that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient outdoor space would be provided including circulation space, sports pitches (possibly astro-turf), games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas and habitat space.
2.7	XX asked whether Corneli United would be able to use the school astro-turf if it were provided in the new school. CL stated that yes, with the school's permission, they could.
2.8	XX stated that she would like to see the following things provided at the proposed new school: large playground, climbing frame, recycling bins, water fountains and an outside wildlife area.
2.9	XX asked when the new school would be ready for pupils if the proposal goes ahead. CL stated that it is currently anticipated that the new building would be ready for occupation in September 2023.
3	Proposal Vote
3.1	CL requested a vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal was generally a good or a bad idea. All 10 pupils present agreed that it was a good idea.
3.2	CL advised that if anyone had any questions or comments or suggestions after this consultation meeting, then the consultation pro-forma can be completed but the deadline for questions and comments submission is 7 March 2021.

Appendix 2

Bridgend West – School Council Consultation Afon Y Felin Primary School TEAMS meeting 11 February 2021

Attendees: CL (Project Manager), XX (Teacher)

School Council: XX, XX, XX, XX, XX, XX

1.	Introduction
1.1	<p>A 'child friendly' summary of the consultation had been distributed to pupils prior to the meeting. CL presented the summary document on screen and then an overview was given by CL explaining the reasons for undertaking the consultation:</p> <p>The LA is responsible for planning school places and ensuring that there are enough places to accommodate all children in the County Borough. A proposal has been put forward to ensure that there is enough school access in the Bridgend West area by building two brand new schools.</p> <p>The proposal outlines how a new English-medium school (to replace Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) could be established at Plas Morlais by entering into an agreement with the current site owner. The proposal also outlines how Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr could use part of the current site occupied by Corneli Primary to build a new larger school and increase its size to become a two-form entry school Welsh-medium school with a 60-place Welsh-medium nursery.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation meeting is to get the views of pupils. All views are welcomed up to the 7 March 2021. If the decision is made to proceed with the proposal then a Public Notice will be issued and the public are given time to object.</p>
2.	Views and questions provided by the pupils
2.1	<p>XX asked if the proposed new school would have a better playground than the existing school has. CL stated that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, sufficient outdoor space would be provided including circulation space, sports pitches (possibly astro-turf), games courts, soft play areas, hard play (yard) areas and habitat space. CL stated that should the proposal be taken forward, further meetings with the school council would be arranged so that pupils can input into the design process.</p>
2.2	<p>XX stated that her school isn't as old as Corneli Primary. CL explained that all three of the schools involved in the proposal are relatively old and in need of substantial spending on backlog maintenance.</p>

2.3	XX asked what happens if pupils feel they don't want to move. CL explained that they should respond to the consultation explaining that fact (the purpose of the consultation is to listen to people's views on the proposal).
2.4	XX asked when the proposed new schools would be ready. CL explained that it is currently anticipated that the English-medium school would be complete in September 2023 and the Welsh-medium school would be complete in September 2024.
2.5	XX queried whether there will be a basketball, rugby, football and netball club. CL explained that the proposed new schools would have sports pitches and games courts that could be used by clubs for such activities.
2.6	XX asked when the old Afon Y Felin Primary School building would be knocked down. CL explained that if the proposal was progressed, the old school would be demolished sometime after the new school became available (so some time after September 2023).
2.7	XX asked whether the old school site land would be used for house building. CL stated that this was likely.
2.8	XX asked if the pupils would have new teachers. CL stated that it is likely that all the existing teachers (from both Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) would transfer to the new schools, so pupils would not necessarily have new teachers.
2.9	XX asked how big the proposed new English-medium school would be. CL explained that it would be two forms of entry (two classes per year group). This would add up to a total of 420 pupils plus nursery. The proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie 2 forms per year group, but the individual classrooms would not be of bigger capacity (there would just be more of them).
2.10	XX stated that her mum had chosen to send her to Afon Y Felin because it is a small school. CL explained that the authority would wish to maintain the current small school 'ethos' in the new school. However, if people still have concerns, they should respond to the consultation stating such.
2.11	XX asked whether the proposed new school would look like Nant Gwyn. CL explained that it would likely look like the recently built Pencoed Primary School. CL stated that if the proposal is progressed, and lockdown restrictions allow, he would arrange a visit for pupils to see the new Pencoed Primary School building. Pupils could then see the things there that they like and have input into the design process for their new school.
2.12	XX asked when the next school council meeting on the proposal would take place. CL stated that it would likely be as soon as possible after the consultation process has concluded and BCBC has determined whether to progress the proposal (so late June 2021).

3	Proposal Vote
3.1	CL requested a vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal was generally a good or a bad idea. All six pupils present agreed that they were unsure at this stage whether the proposal is a good idea or not.
3.2	CL advised that if anyone had any questions or comments or suggestions after this consultation meeting, then the consultation pro-forma can be completed but the deadline for questions and comments submission is 7 March 2021.

Appendix 3

Bridgend West – School Council Consultation Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr TEAMS meeting 11 February 2021

Attendees: C L (Project Manager), XX, XX, XX (Teachers),

School Council: XX, XX, XX

1.	Introduction
1.1	<p>A 'child friendly' summary of the consultation had been distributed to pupils prior to the meeting. CL presented the summary document on screen and then an overview was given by CL explaining the reasons for undertaking the consultation:</p> <p>The LA is responsible for planning school places and ensuring that there are enough places to accommodate all children in the County Borough. A proposal has been put forward to ensure that there is enough school access in the Bridgend West area by building two brand new schools.</p> <p>The proposal outlines how a new English-medium school (to replace Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) could be established at Plas Morlais by entering into an agreement with the current site owner. The proposal also outlines how Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr could use part of the current site occupied by Corneli Primary to build a new larger school and increase its size to become a two-form entry school Welsh-medium school with a 60-place Welsh-medium nursery.</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation meeting is to get the views of pupils. All views are welcomed up to the 7 March 2021. If the decision is made to proceed with the proposal then a Public Notice will be issued and the public are given time to object.</p>
2.	Views and questions provided by the pupils
2.1	<p>XX asked whether the proposed new school would have an area for playing football larger than the school currently has so that more people can play. CL stated that yes, the proposed new larger school would have larger outdoor play areas.</p>
2.2	<p>XX asked if pupils would be able to use a forest area. CL stated that although detailed design has not yet been undertaken, it is likely that a forest/habitat area will be included in the design. CL stated that he will come back to the school council at detailed design stage (as he would wish to involve pupils in</p>

	the design process).
2.3	XX questioned whether the proposed new school will have an art room. CL stated that detailed design has not yet been undertaken. However, CL stated that he will come back to the school council at detailed design stage (as he would wish to involve pupils in the design process) and if pupils request a dedicated art room, he will forward the request to the architects.
2.4	XX stated that there would be worries over traffic and asked where the school access would be. CL stated that entrances and drop off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be safe and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport).
2.6	XX stated that he felt it was a good idea to have a new school because the existing school building is falling apart and yards are sinking.
3	Proposal Vote
3.1	CL requested a vote as to whether the pupils felt that the proposal was generally a good or a bad idea. All three pupils present agreed that it was a good idea.
3.2	CL advised that if anyone had any questions or comments or suggestions after this consultation meeting, then the consultation pro-forma can be completed but the deadline for questions and comments submission is 7 March 2021.

Appendix 4



Bridgend West TEAMS Consultation Meeting with Corneli Primary School Governing Body and Staff 1 March 2021

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Advisor, Human Resources
School Programme Manager
Project Manager
Head teacher
Members of school staff
Members of the governing body

Lindsay Harvey introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

Questions/Issues

It would be good to get together with Afon Y Felin Primary School at the earliest opportunity in order to get to know them.

At what point would the staff structure be sorted?

It is agreed that the school is not in a good condition and staff have had to work very hard to achieve the school's excellent standards.

Answer/Comments

Visiting has obviously been restricted at the moment due to COVID, but we will arrange visits as soon as is practicable. Recently completed 'Band A' schools such as Pencoe Primary School, Brynmenyn Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd have been transformational and visits would be most beneficial.

Once the consultation process has concluded and a determination made whether to progress the scheme we would begin to consult with the schools on the structure asap.

Human Resources will provide support if anybody has any anxieties about the proposed change. You can send any questions you may have directly to Human Resources if you wish.

Corneli have done a remarkable job with an old building.

Please feel free to contact us directly if you need any further clarifications.

Appendix 5



Bridgend West TEAMS Consultation Meeting with Afon Y Felin Primary School Governing Body and Staff 1 March 2021

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Advisor, Human Resources
School Programme Manager
Project Manager
Head teacher
Members of school staff
Members of the governing body

Lindsay Harvey 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 happens if the build programme is delayed?

The effective date detailed in the consultation can be modified if needs be. Although the shadow governing body would be constituted once consultation is over and would work on new staff structures, the new structure would not come into effect until the effective date. Construction is ongoing now (ie during lockdown) so hopefully COVID will not delay things.

The school has great staff and there are concerns about positions.

Central South Consortium and BCBC think that Afon Y Felin is an excellent school. We don't want to affect that. A larger school and larger budgets would hopefully mean more staff opportunities.

We would consult on structure in the future but we are not anticipating any redundancies.

Would Learning Support Officer contracts remain as they are?

It would be for the governing body to ultimately determine but we would hope not to see any changes.

We want to maintain 'familiar faces' for the pupils in order to minimize any impact of the proposal on them.

Current contracts with Afon Y Felin would cease and new contracts entered into with

Yes.

the new school?

Would staff have to apply for jobs in the new school?

The school council meeting was very good, one comment that struck me was related to the fact that some parents chose the school because it was small.

The existing school has many awards. What happens to these if the proposal progresses?

There is a Flying start 'pod' on the existing Afon Y Felin site.

Afon Y Felin Primary School is highly regarded in the community and we would like to feel this can continue, we would like to see collaboration between the affected schools prior to closures.

Afon y Felin Primary School's excellent standards didn't come through in the consultation document.

When will we be able to see the design? I

While staffing is ultimately a governing body decision, the local authority would not wish to see changes as it is felt that maintaining 'familiar faces' would be of benefit to the pupils. A 'match-and-slot' exercise would be used to appoint from the existing staff pool to the new school positions (with applications invited from the existing staff pool for any entirely new or novel posts).

Increased opportunities presented by a new, larger school would be tremendous. We would seek to transfer the existing small school 'ethos' into the new school.

We transfer legacy items to the new site, so trophies etc could be transferred and displayed at the new site. We will investigate the possibility of transferring/maintaining any existing accreditations and get back to you.

Both newly created school buildings would have purpose built integrated community facilities. It is envisioned at this stage that the existing Flying Start provision at Afon y Felin Primary would transfer to the Integrated Childrens Centre building if the proposal is progressed. We will think in more detail about how to alleviate any issues regarding the transfer of 'pod' facilities (eg by transferring legacy items) if the proposal progresses.

Corneli Primary School staff have said precisely the same thing. We would arrange collaboration meetings between the schools should the proposal progress. Additionally, we have lessons learned from our Band A Headteacher group. We would bring you together with them in order to share their experiences and knowledge of moving to a new school. We would also arrange for you to visit some of our Band A schools as soon as we are allowed.

The School Organisation Code state that we must use the latest Estyn inspection report in the document. BCBC are aware of the existing good standards at the school.

The scheme is a revenue funded Mutual

would like to have input into it.

Investment Model (MIM) scheme and as such, detailed design plans will not be worked up by WEPCo (ie the joint venture company established between a Private Sector Delivery Partner and a subsidiary of the Development Bank of Wales) until after the Stage 1 MIM submission has been made to Welsh Government. Should Cabinet determine to progress the proposal subsequent to consultation conclusion, it is anticipated that the Stage 1 submission would take place in June 2021.

Consequently, school detailed designs do not exist at this stage. The only plans that currently exist are red-line boundary and phasing plans used by Welsh Government's project managers to 'test-fit' the Building Bulletin recommended areas for schools against the land available on the sites. Schools will be asked to input into design at the appropriate time.

Would the Meithrin at the Integrated Children's Centre continue?

Yes.

What are the arrangements for parking and drop-off?

Entrances and drop-off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport).

If you have any further questions, please feel free to complete the consultation pro forma or contact officers directly.

Appendix 6



Bridgend West TEAMS Consultation Meeting with Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger Governing Body and Staff 25 February 2021

Present: Corporate Director, Education and Family Support
Senior Advisor, Human Resources
School Programme Manager
Project Manager
Head teacher
Members of school staff
Members of the governing body

Lindsay Harvey introduced the consultation session and set out the purpose of the meeting, nature and process of the consultation and outlined the proposal.

Questions/Issues

Not having anticipated catchment for Welsh-medium schools on the BCBC website can be problematic.

Can we help the authority with publicising this scheme if the proposal is progressed?

The council will be opening a shiny new English-medium building before the new Welsh-medium building under the proposal. The need for phasing at the sites is understood, but why has the council chosen Corneli rather than Porthcawl?

Why is there no Learning Resource Class proposed for the new Welsh-medium school?

Marketing of the new Welsh-medium school will be crucial if it progresses.

Answer/Comments

BCBC is looking at setting up catchment maps on the corporate website as a matter of priority.

Yes.

A detailed Options Appraisal exercise determined the proposed sites as preferred. Essentially, there is a lack of suitable land in Porthcawl.

Corneli Primary School already has one existing and future demand for it has been confirmed with BCBC Learner Support. Welsh-medium additional learning needs provision for the area is funded to schools and support takes place in existing intervention rooms and therefore no additional LRC is currently required at Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger.

Noted.

Do we know the 'aspect' of the new building?	Not at present. We have not yet reached detailed design stage. When detailed design stage is reached, we will try to work with you and accommodate your wishes if possible within the site constraints.
Shouldn't we inform the architects of our wishes asap?	Architects for the school design will not be appointed until after the consultation process has concluded. We will engage with them at the earliest opportunity.
It is important to have the children's voice.	Agreed. That is why we have already met with the respective school councils to discuss the proposal and have explained to them that we will have further meetings with them, should the scheme progress, in order for them to be involved in the design process.
Concerned about the possibility of deficit budget. Will the school be supported through transition?	We will endeavor to support as the new build progresses.
What is in it for the community?	Very significant investment. We maximize community use. The scheme would provide multi-use pitches, purpose built community rooms and facilities and community accessible wi-fi. It is hoped that inviting the community into the school in this way will benefit the community and also attract people to the new school.
We are all really excited. What happens if the 'English-medium' side say no?	The proposal as it stands is for two Mutual Investment Model new builds. One relies on the other. The scheme would not be able to be progressed as a single new build school.
Estyn would comment on safeguarding issues so we need to be robust in terms of fencing and segregation.	The site would be designed in such a way to be totally secure utilising fenced boundaries and 'lock-down' control of areas.
Would the school benefit financially from the community use of facilities?	Yes. The local authority pays an annual charge for hard facilities management. Any revenues would come back to the school.

Appendix 7

Pro forma response form received (Local Authority's response is included in bold text):

What to consider?

You are invited to consider the proposal and submit your views as to whether or not you support it.

Questions

Name (Initials):

L

Class:

Oren

School:

Corneli Primary

Do you support the proposal: ☒ Yes/No

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

Comment/suggestions/requests/questions:

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

We have 2 yards now, will we have four yards when the two schools join?
How big will the yards be?
How many classrooms will there be?

Response:

A detailed design for the new school has not been produced at this stage –as we are currently still just consulting on the ‘idea’ of providing new schools (the consultation process should be complete in June). If, following consultation, the council decides to progress the scheme – the detailed design would then start. All our new schools are designed to meet Building Bulletin guidelines (Building Bulletin 99 applies to Primary Schools). The key purpose of the building bulletin document is to set out simple, realistic, non-statutory area guidelines for primary school buildings. Since detailed design has not yet started, I can only comment at this stage on what the design would be likely to include in terms of classrooms and play space. This would be:

Pitches 8400 m2
Soft play (INFORMAL & SOCIAL) 2260 m2
Hard Play (INFORMAL & SOCIAL) 1030 m2
Habitat area 620 m2
Games courts (hard surfaced) 1440 m2
2 Nursery Classrooms
2 Reception Classrooms
4 Infants Classrooms
8 Junior Classrooms
Learning Resource Base
1 Specialist Practical Classroom (Food/Science/Art)
Large 'Street' with integrated local resource areas (e.g. Library)

Any other comments/questions:

Will there be activities to play on the yards...basketball and football courts?

Response:

Yes. If the scheme progresses to detailed design stage – we would arrange further meetings with pupils to input into the design of the new school (e.g. sports line markings etc. that pupils would like for the games courts/yards).

Direct correspondence received (Local Authority's response is included in bold text):

Dear Sir,

I apologise for the private email, I was unable to respond on the iPad, the only device I have.

My name is . I am currently on the Governing Body of Afon y Felin Primary School, having served as a parent governor from 2006 until 2019.

My own children no longer attend school.

I am unsure whether the considered scheme is a benefit to Cornelly or not, but I would like to express my viewpoint.

In 2004 my mother took my elder daughter to the three local schools, Afon y Felin, (previously my last choice) was the only school to welcome my mother and daughter in. I quickly overcame my prejudice, and supported the school anyway I could. I have raised funds, served on the governing body, worked there temporarily, volunteered and wrote the school news for local press for many year, so I am quite attached to this school. Also over the years it has been a great source of pride that many children, unable to settle in other schools, not only are willing to attend our school, but also flourish.

I am afraid that the many qualities we have, would be lost in a larger school. Every teacher knows every pupil, as well as knowing who the siblings and other relatives are. I feel we succeed in many areas larger schools can't. At one point we even had two brothers travelling to school by bus from Barry, the older child cried and cried when he had to leave at the end of Year Six. This is not an isolated case, we have had a lot of success with vulnerable children over the years.

My main concern, and I'm sure you will agree, is the safety of the children. A footpath was built connecting the newer estate with Afon y Felin, in order to provide a safe route to school. It is widely used, with many parents allowing children to walk to and home from school alone because it is a safe route. My husband and I have put a lot of thought into the safety aspect if the new school went ahead as planned. The children only have two options once they reach the end of the footpath, to cross the road on an adverse camber, a very dangerous place indeed, or to cross on the junction of Meadow Street and Heol y Parc. It is a spot where many accidents and near misses have occurred over the years, even one child being caused an injury is one too many. I am very concerned about this viewpoint, car drivers use our estate as a rally course frequently, please, if this modernisation goes ahead, consider this safety access at great length before making a final decision.

I apologise if you have catered for this in the consultation document. I haven't had time to read it all due to family circumstances.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Local Authority Response:

The local authority does not feel that moving from a smaller school to a larger school would have a negative impact on education standards or would result in a large school with less personalised experience for pupils (where teachers were

unable to get to know the children and families) or reduced pastoral care. It is likely that all the existing teachers (from both Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) would transfer to the new schools, so pupils would not likely have new teachers. Although the proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie two forms per year group, the individual classes would not be any bigger capacity than they are presently (there would just be more of them). The authority would seek to maintain the current small school 'ethos' in the new school and would arrange close collaboration between the staff of the existing schools far in advance of transfer in order to achieve this.

The proposed new schools would be built in full compliance with Building Regulations and would be built to Building Bulletin (Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects – which specifically references safety and security) design standards. Entrances and drop off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be safe and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport). Any necessary transport network improvements (including crossing points, footpaths, cycle-ways) identified by the Transport Assessment would form part of the proposed new build scheme.

Appendix 8

Bridgend West Consultation (Snap Online Survey) Responses:

Are you (please tick):

Parent/guardian (36) 78%

School staff (6) 13%

Other interested party (please specify) (3) 7%

School governor (1) 2%

School pupil (-)

Do you support the proposal:

No (25) 54%

Yes (21) 46%

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

As a parent, I put my children into afon-y-felin because it was a nice small school, everyone knows one another and we are able to voice our opinions to all the teachers and head teacher of afon-y-felin without getting over looked. Cornelly primary is a bigger school and this is why I did not put my children there. We love afon-y-felin and it just wouldn't be the same without it. My children are thriving there and I wouldn't want them to be disrupted.

The school would become too large- a less personalised experience for all children attending!

I think these "super schools" are a disgrace! My children will now have to look for another school out of catchment. I do not want my children in a huge class room. I picked afon-y-felin as it's a lovely little school with no more than 20 per class as my husband is a teacher he tells me how over 20 kids they get lost in the class and you cant teach properly over this with 30+ a class children who struggle like I did as a child get lost and dont get the help and attention needed. I went to a big primary trimmans and brynteg and I struggled all through school for this reason so knew I wanted small schools for my children as my son is like myself and already not finding school easy at all. This will pull him from a school he loves and take him away from friends and teschers he loves also. You are turning children's world and education upside down at a time when they have had enough disruption in the past year to there education that will effect them for life. This is a disgraceful proposition and to take away a fantastic school like afon-y-felin one of the last schools like it in bridgend with an amazing headmistress and team. It would be the biggest loss to our community in north cornelly nobody wants or is asking for a super school they are all happy with the way they are!! Dont fix what isnt broke. Leave the schools and our children alone.

I do not think only having one large school which is not central to the whole area would benefit the area or the pupils especially with a proposed nursery of 60 my eldest child currently gose ti Afon y Felin primary which is the smaller of the two schools that you want

to join together i chose to put him in Afon y Felin because it is a small school and all the pupils and staff know everyone the children get the attention they need and it also give the personal touch between staff ,pupils and parents i want my Daughter to gi to Afon y Felin as well because my son has done really well there academically and has close bonds with friends and staff but if the two schools are merged into one big school I think all that will be lost and pupils will suffer and I will be looking for a small school out of the area for my Daughter to attend which is the last thing I want to do but I do agree with making the Welsh school Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr bigger.

We chose this school as it is small and it supports the needs of the child more than a larger school would.

It seems to be the plans for all schools in Wales proposed for these mergers. Kenfig hill and vale of Glamorgan. Children are happy at the schools they attend and teachers they have. Afon Y felin has improved with help of Mrs Williams and worked hard to develop into a green school whilst Cornelli has seemed to relax their standard to what they were. Increasing school sizes will see more bullied and staff cuts. The pandemic has been a large enough transition for children without the propsoal for time building these projects and parking for local parents as quite unsafe now without the merge of these schools. Money wasted when things such as ports cabins have been used at other schools for extra classrooms.

Afon y felin is a small school which is why I chose it. My children and myself would not attend larger school.

I chose afon y felin simply because it was such a small school. Friends and family recommended the school because of the support the children receive. The teachers have time for 1:1 support. My daughters development has come on great since attending and I believe by joining the schools this support would be minimised greatly. The children and their education has been affected enough over the last year due to the pandemic the last thing the children need after settling down again into education is to be moved. The children have formed a bond with each teacher regardless of what year their in which I think it's great. All teachers know the children even though they don't teach them yet. It works very well. We don't not want this interrupted

I think it's silly when there's already 3 schools in close proximity

I went to that primary school as a child, my son now attends and I've felt nothing but ease with that school, there was a choice of 3 before I signed him to Afon y felin & I feel I chose the best one. I would be devistated to see Afon y felin go, especially due to the current situations as to why i chose not to send my son two the other stated schools, for personal reasons. I haven't also declined to be moved from my property when I could've really benefited just due to wanted to keep myson in Afon y felin.

I do not think a 'mega school' will help our children

I chose a small school for my child's education, not a large school I didn't want to send my children to a school where teachers were unable to get to know the child and family. The current school (afon y felin) have such wonderful nature facilities, beautiful green space, for the children to enjoy. This clearly is a monetary decision swapping land for land so V2C

can build houses instead of children having beautiful green space. There has recently been an owl lodging on school grounds which has sparked the children's interest in nature, swapping sites and building on this land will ensure that local children will have very minimal interaction with nature. Placing a new school on the proposed site is just so disappointing, such a awful, bleak and quite frankly depressing view for the children. Currently children from local estates can walk safely to Afon-Y-Felin with minimal to no roads to cross, by building the new school it will increase traffic as many parents will then chose to drive not walk, increase pollution and there will be an accident as currently people drive around with very little thought to others. Most roads are used as rat runs in Cornelly. This clearly is just a money making scheme for BCBC at the expense of our children's education and local area, BCBC should be ashamed of themselves.

I would like yo keep my daughter in the school she's in now which is perfect the way it is

I like Afon y Felin Primary as it is as a small school. Also the children have had enough upheaval with their education because of the virus and being closed!

I personally believe this decision is a very wrong one. I had the choice between 2 schools in my area -

afon y felin came out on top and my gosh, have they done a fantastic job with my kids. They have come on leaps and bounds, the teachers are amazing, and I chose that particular school as it's a small school. That's a main reason I did send mine there over Cornelly. Also, I don't think the site of Plas Morlais is a good choice either. It's not private, another reason I chose afon y felin is its well away from houses and covered by trees, and I don't see how your going to fit a bit school in an area so small. The views are going to be shocking for the children and there's houses over looking the school - you never know whose watching do you. I certainly won't feel comfortable sending my children to a school there and sure as hell would not let them attend it, I would move to another area like Margam.

I think during a pandemic the money could be better spend elsewhere like starting the work on the Dr's surgery in north Cornelly

I like afon y felin the way it it's

I do not support the proposal. I have several reasons. Firstly I do not feel that the majority of children that live in the area and attend Corneli Primary and Afon Y Felin have been taken into consideration adequately with this proposal. The site that has been proposed is not a sufficiently large enough plot to allow adequate playing facilities and I believe that they will share this with the new proposed Welsh Medium School at their site. This means that the children in the combined school will have to go to the different site for activities. The site which holds Corneli Primary presently is a much larger plot and more central for all the estates in North Cornelly. I feel that they are being sidelined for the Welsh Medium School which has a small number of children from Cornelly attending and a lot are bussed into the area. There are also a lot of new houses planned I believe for Greenfield Terrace and the present Afon Y Felin site. North Cornelly has been inundated with houses and is now the size of a small town rather than a village with no infrastructure. There is a doctor's surgery that is not fit for purpose, one pharmacy that is currently struggling and no dentists. Cornelly deserves a decent

school but a Welsh Medium school that has children from all over the county could be rehoused anywhere. Also as a resident of Greenfield Terrace I would have concerns about the amount privacy

and disturbance issues from having a larger school built on the site. I would imagine that residents from the area around the proposed new school on Marlas Estate would prefer their gardens extended so that their children could play safely in their gardens. There is also the issue of increased traffic around the proposed site. It appears that the council is more concerned with housing and overpopulation than children's welfare.

I disagree with some of the reasons put forward in the consultation document, particularly those referring to the condition of the school building at Afon Y Felin. I also believe the site of Afon Y Felin would be a better choice for the new school.

i believe it will interfere with the quiet of the near by streets. it will be able to see into near by houses. the volume of traffic in the surrounding area will increase and cause chaos. parking will be an issue for the small streets near by as parents will use these to park to get access to the school.

School has green status and we want to keep it as a small school. Mainly because my child has severe allergies and is more risk to having his EpiPens with a larger number of children. having my child in AYF primary reduces the risk instead of having more children to attend to. Leave it how we are!

Because I chose afon y felin for my daughter to attend purely because it was a smaller school with smaller classes allowing for teachers to give students more attention. Also my daughter is going through a hard enough time at the moment without making her change school possibly having new teachers and new friends to get used to, I am hoping if enough people oppose the plan then it will not go ahead, I myself also suffer with mental health and I do not cope with change very well due to the nature of my condition so I would have a lot of hurdles to overcome if this school went ahead as planned, I have made good relationships with the staff at afon y felin and I feel comfortable with their support, it would be a shame for me to lose all this and have to start the process again when it took me nearly 2 years to get to this stage.

Because I picked my child to go to afon y felin as there is family members in cornelly school which I have to keep away from and can't be anywhere near them and won't be fair on my child

Does gen i ddim barn y naill ffordd neu'r llall ar y cynlluniau o ran y sector Saesneg. Er fy mod i'n

gefnogol iawn i'r egwyddor o hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg yng ngorllewin y sir, ni allaf gefnogi'r

cynlluniau arfaethedig. Ar hyn o bryd mae lleoeddd ar gael yn Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr, felly mae yna le

iddi ehangu a chynyddu'r ddarpariaeth leol yn barod. A dweud y gwir mae'r nifer yn yr ysgol wedi cwmpo dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae'r cyngor yn gywir i nodi bod cyflwr truenus yr adeiladau presennol yn debygol o fod yn ffactor sy'n achosi i drigolion beidio ag eisiau anfon eu plant yno. Fodd bynnag, ffactor arall yw pellter a thrafnidiaeth. Mae'r ysgol yn gwasanaethu ardal enfawr â mwyafrif ei

phoblogaeth yn byw ym Mhorthcawl, cryn bellter o safle'r ysgol. Mae ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr wedi'i lleoli'n dda i wasanaethu ardla y Pîl / Cynffig; fodd bynnag, o Borthcawl y gellid tybio y bydd mwyafrif y tyfiant disgwyledig yn dod. Mae Porthcawl yn dref ag iddi

boblogaeth o 20,000 ac debyg mae hi yw un o'r trefi mwyaf yng Nghymru heb unrhyw ddarpariaeth cynradd Cymraeg yn lleol. Er mwyn cael addysg yn y Gymraeg mae'n rhaid i blant deithio i Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr ar fysiau. Mae arolygon barn mynych ym mhob man o Gymru wedi awgrymu bod rhieni'n bodlon iawn anfon eu plant i addysg Gymraeg os yw'r ddarpariaeth yr un mor agos â'r ddarpariaeth amgen. Digon rhesymegol felly yw disgwyl y byddai ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd ym Mhorthcawl yn hybu tyfiant llawer yn fwy nag ehangu Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr. Os am gynyddu'r lleodd mewn addysg Gymraeg yn yr ardal felly, a gwneud hynny mewn ffordd y byddai'n hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg, onid y ffordd amlwg o wneud hynny fyddai darpariaeth newydd yn ardal Porthcawl, yn hytrach nag ehangu ysgol nad yw'n agos at fod yn llawn ar hyn o bryd? Yn sicr, mae angen adnewyddu cyfleusterau Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr. Ond petai'r cyngor yn dyblu ei faint byddai hynny'n gwthio yn ôl unrhyw benderfyniad i gynnig darpariaeth leol ym Mhorthcawl, yn enwedig (fel sy'n debygol iawn o ddigwydd) pe bai'n cymryd blynyddoedd lawer i Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr gyrraedd ei llawn maint. Mae perygl y byddai hyn'n "cloi" y sefyllfa presenol, a llesteirio tyfiant addysg gymraeg ym Mhorthcawl, am ddegawd neu ragor. Mae'r cyngor yn nodi y byddai agor ysgol newydd yn ddrud oherwydd dim ond niferoedd bychain byddai'n ei mynychu i ddechrau. Fodd bynnag mae'r model o agor ysgolion cwbl newydd ar y model "seedling" wedi gweithio dro ar ôl tro mewn ardaloedd megis y Barri a Chasnewydd. Ond anhebyg y byddai'r cyngor yn gallu cyfiawnhau hynny wedi cynyddu'r ddarpariaeth yn Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr i'r fath raddau a'r cynlluniau arfaethedig.

Afon y Felin Primary has been an excellent school and has a lot to do with the community

The school with the dedicated staff and governing body having worked cohesively as a team to move the school from Red to Green have developed a school which has good/excellent standards. The school has grown in size annually and is now looked upon as a very respected school both within the community and beyond including CSC. Everyone connected to school including parents/guardians and pupils are very proud of the achievements that have been made. Significant sums of money have always been made available to be used to both improve and enhance the learners experience and improvements to the buildings. Currently many of the learners/families from the Flying Start choose the school due to the strong transition arrangements. The school has a strong status for the development of Welsh as a second language. The outlook and position of the school provides a super outdoor learning environment for pupils to develop their health and wellbeing. Many of our parents choose the school for the community based ethos that a small school can provide. All cycle routes have been developed to the school to provide safe access. The concern is; Would the new build on the site proposed be the best solution for the community?

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

Only concern is children's safety with regards to parking etc. Will there be safe and ample room for drop offs etc.

Think they will give children in the area a better opportunity going forward

Mae angen adeilad newydd sbon ar Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr, un sy'n addas ar gyfer addysgu yn yr 21ain ganrif.

I support this proposal as it includes expansion of the welsh language education provision in the area.

Leave the schools as they are!!

Leave Afon y Felin primary and Corneli primary as two separate schools but maybe updated the existing buildings for them etc as for the Welsh school find a larger area for that to go and still go ahead with the plans to make it a larger school as it is the only Welsh school in the area

Maybe an Early Years/ Foundation Stage Observational Class/es for pupils too.

Stop trying to merge schools and allow children, teachers and parents to remain where they are and what children they can help with a smaller classroom.

My interests lie solely in the welsh medium educational provision. I feel strongly that the proposals have addressed many problems that YFOS have faced over the last few years and provided solutions, eg, clearing the backlog of maintenance deficit, delivering a 21st century building suitable for modern teaching standards and improving the physical appearance of the site to increase uptake in admissions. There is one aspect that has not been addressed in my opinion, that is the site locality. YFOS would be ideally situated on more of a neutral site to attract more prospects from West Bridgend , eg Porthcawl. The current location is off putting to some , a neutral site would increase the uptake of welsh medium education significantly .

Huge step forward for Cornelly, as a teacher, as a parent and a local resident I know myself and my family are really pleased with the development. I was wondering about entrances and traffic? Would there be more than one entrance? When will plans be available?

I am glad to see the local schools being improved, my daughter has sen needs so seeing that a provision for this will be available in a more local school is great. Also her brother already attends cornelly primary so would be nice to have both children in one school.

Keep Corneli Primary where it is and have the use of 'Marlas infants' again which is currently the welsh school. It will be big enough then to merge the two schools. Then move the Welsh school to Afon y felins old ground.

Add foundation phase learning resource Centre so that there is a continuum of specilaist provision within the cynffig cluster, right through to secondary.

Maybe even putting the 2 schools together and leaving Afon y felin out of the move as I think the school could maybe just benefits some upgrades rather than demolish Afon y felin

If modernisation is the key driving force for this then modernise the current school, look at the beautiful land, put temporary classrooms up whilst modernising the current school. The school is in such a beautiful spot with so many benefits to the children, don't waste that

land on social housing, there is enough all ready in Cornelly. If the Welsh school needs a new building place that on the plans morlais site. Instead of merging two schools increasing pollution and traffic in the area.

Leave the school as it is but some money for air conditioning would be good and sports teams.

I think you should leave the schools as they are. At the end of the day, it's all down to money. Why don't you just spend it to modernise the schools we have and Build a small unit for children who need extra support for their education as at the moment I know is not available in Cornelly due to funding. Children are being sent to different schools miles away to get the support they need, and that's not really fair on them is it. Also, we are in the middle of a pandemic, what about the new surgery the council have been keen to build for years and still haven't been done yet? The money can be spent elsewhere. I don't pay my council tax every month and not have a say where it goes.

Spend the money on starting the work on the Dr's in north Cornelly instead

Has the viability of the 2 English medium schools being combined as the new school on the current Corneli Primary site been seriously considered from a vehicular access point of view ?

Either a site looked for Welsh Medium School elsewhere or both new schools sited on the present Corneli Primary/Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger as it is a huge site and surely both can be accommodated there.

Locating the new school on the Afon Y Felin site.

leave the schools as they are or use existing sites and build upon them

Why cant they upgrade afon y felin school and extend the school they av just build a castle in the grounds for the children and that would be waste of money

Mwy doeth o lawer byddai ail-adeiladu Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr fel ysgol 1FE ynllle 2FE, tra'n ymrwymo l sefydlu ysgol Gynradd newydd yn ardal Porthcawl.

The place were you intend to put the new school is not very well situated for the parents for parking to drop and pick children up. Q. If you are intending giving V2C the land that afon y Felin is on and we have more houses wouldn't that affect other resources in the area?

Afon-y-Felin has proved itself to be a school of excellence a flagship to the authority in so many ways, by closing it and removing its name in favour of a new build and name would mean that all the hard work that has been taken to achieve this will be lost. I agree that a new 21st Century building for education in this area is very appealing for the community therefore would the local authority consider expanding our school on our site as a better alternative?

Any other comments:

Stop trying to build more houses on land that is our beloved school and heart of our and our children's community

Many parents have moved their children from Corneli to Afon y Felin because of various reasons e.g. bullying or needs not being met because it's a big school already so I don't think many parents will be on board with plans to merge the two schools because of the reasons they took them out of a big school and put them in a smaller school

Think it's beyond how this can be discussed during pandemic and so many children already missing on basic education.

I am happy that most needs have been addressed with the proposals. An aggressive marketing campaign for the new Welsh Medium facility, targeting West Bridgend will be essential. e.g. billboards, local media platforms and events.

A fantastic step forward for the local community, I am so pleased that my children will have access to these brand new facilities. As a local resident I see it as a huge positive for the community.

I'm very concerned about the leadership and management of Ysgol ferch or sger currently and would hope that with an expanded school, much work would be done in school improvement. I would hope that a new head and senior leadership team would be identified otherwise I fear that a bigger school will just add to the pressures that the staff currently face.

I would not move my son into the "new build school" he would have to be taking to Kenfig Hill as I've avoided it for certain reasons

I just don't think it's the right place or the right thing to do at all. Children don't like change, they've barely been in school the past year, and to uproot them again when they're all settled back in when they finally do to then move them to a super school with new teachers etc is going to be such a hard transition for them and one I know my own children will struggle with.

What guarantees can mainscale teaching staff be given regarding transfer of job responsibilities and signing of new contracts of employment? Similarly what Learning Support Officer structures do you envisage being practical and appropriate? Will there be appropriate and adequate library and digital resources for all pupils? Is a separate P.E sports hall viable instead of being cramped into a timetable with the school canteen? Will space be available on site for staff to work on site during noncontact teaching periods? Can staffroom space be of a more appropriate size with suitable kitchen facilities? Can toilet facilities for staff be of an appropriate number? Please ensure that window openings are not so high that if you are only 5 ft 2 in tall you need to stand on a table to reach them!

Fans for use in warm weather in class are a necessity alongside roller blinds that don't constantly break. All classes should have the same standard of SMART Board. Likewise with regards to display boards usually ridiculously high for a short person to reach. Hygienic storage is a must for pupil lunchboxes in addition to suitable cloakroom space. If sinks are in classrooms again need to be of a good quality / standard. A communal water cooler - not keen on this with current hygiene regulations - what about classroom hydration stations? Will changing room facilities for PE be available? Finally an absolute must is the need to securely fence off staff parking areas

so that pupils and parents do not use them as shortcuts when staff are entering and exiting the school site responsibly

I feel having the opportunity to choose a smaller school is very important and that many parents in Afon Y Felin have made the choice of the school because of this. I myself, as a parent, chose a small school for my own children for better pastoral care and a 'family' ethos and value the opportunities a smaller school environment can provide.

new site will also disturb the many rats that are there and will cause them to seek shelter else where causing further rat infestations in our homes

Dydy'r ddogfen ymgynghori ddim yn dangos bod y cyngor wedi rhoi llawer o ystyriaeth i'r syniad o sefydlu ysgol newydd ym mhorthcawl.

Local Authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

Safety/security, parking, traffic concerns

The local authority rejects the concerns raised in the consultation responses regarding safety, security and traffic/pollution on the grounds that the proposed new schools would be built in full compliance with Building Regulations and would be built to Building Bulletin (Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects, which specifically references safety and security) design standards. Entrances and drop-off points would be determined at detailed design stage, and would be safe and would be informed by a full Transport Assessment (Transport Assessments consider the impact of the development on all transport modes, set out proposals to minimise the impact of the development on the transport network and promote measures to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly transport). Any necessary transport network improvements (including crossing points, footpaths, cycleways) identified by the Transport Assessment would form part of the proposed new build scheme.

Small school moving to a larger school concerns

The local authority does not accept the view that moving from a smaller school to a larger school would have a negative impact on education standards or would result in a large school with less personalised experience for pupils (where teachers were unable to get to know the children and families) or reduced pastoral care. It is likely that all the existing teachers (from both Corneli Primary School and Afon Y Felin Primary School) would transfer to the new schools, so pupils would not likely have new teachers. Although the proposed new schools would have a greater number of classes ie two forms per year group, the individual classes would not be any bigger capacity than they are presently (there would just be more of them). The authority would seek to maintain the current small school 'ethos' in the new school and would support the management of all affected schools and arrange close collaboration between the staff of the existing schools far in advance of transfer in order to achieve this.

Site size/facilities concerns

The local authority does not accept the concerns raised in the consultation responses in relation to the size of proposed sites being insufficient. Site 'test-fit' analysis undertaken by Welsh Government appointed project managers has demonstrated that the sites are large

enough to accommodate the proposed new 21st century schools. Building Bulletin (Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects) recommended areas for new primary schools (including all types of space in primary schools eg teaching areas, circulation space, sports pitches, games courts, soft play areas, hard play areas and habitat space) were compared to the land available on the sites to ensure that they are of sufficient size. Design of the proposed new schools would be in accordance with Building Bulletin design standards (and will take full account of eg aspect, fencing, planting, safety and security, privacy, environmental issues, energy, ventilation, acoustics and lighting). The proposed continuation (in the proposed new English-medium school) of the existing Corneli Primary School additional learning need resource centre has been determined by an analysis of need and consultation with BCBC's Inclusion Service. There is deemed to be insufficient demand for any further specialist provision.

Timing concerns

The local authority does not accept the criticism stated in the consultation responses in relation to the timing of the consultation. The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure the required number of suitable pupil places in its area. The overall timescales involved in undertaking the necessary consultations in relation to school reorganisations, securing the necessary Welsh Government approvals, securing the necessary funding and designing and building new schools mean that in order to ensure the required number of suitable pupil places for when they become needed consultation had to be undertaken between January and March 2021. It was, nonetheless, unfortunate that the pandemic coincided with the consultation period.

Condition of the school building at Afon Y Felin

The local authority rejects the disagreement expressed in the consultation responses regarding the condition of the school building at Afon Y Felin. The backlog maintenance figure of £525,450 was provided by professional surveyors appointed by BCBC's Corporate Landlord Department and the school's currently condition is graded category C+ (poor - exhibiting major defects and/ or not operating as intended).

Rat infestations

The local authority does not accept the contention made that development of the proposed sites will cause rat infestations in homes. If the proposal was progressed, the sites would be subject to geological surveys, ecological surveys, drainage surveys and mitigation measures would be put into place in line with survey recommendations. Typically, unidentified underground redundant pipes are a major cause of rat infestations. The drainage surveys required for development of the sites would identify existing underground pipes and problematic redundant pipes would be removed.

Area housebuilding

The local authority rejects the views expressed in the consultation responses that the proposal is 'a money making exercise' and is driven by a desire to build more houses in the area. The proposal is, as outlined in the consultation document, driven entirely by the need to provide suitable and sufficient pupil places. The proposed land swap with Valleys to Coast Housing will not generate any income for the authority (it is purely a means to secure the site required for the school development). Any future proposals for housebuilding that Valleys to Coast Housing may put forward for the Afon Y Felin Primary School site would be subject to the necessary planning approvals (which would consider, amongst other things, impacts on local infrastructure).

Alternate options

A number of alternate options have been put forward in the consultation responses (eg leave the schools as they are, locate the Welsh-medium school in Porthcawl, leave Afon y Felin Primary School and Corneli Primary School as two separate schools but update the existing buildings, spend to modernise the schools we have, leave Afon y Felin Primary School out of the move and just upgrade). As explained in the consultation document, all three existing schools involved in the proposal are nearing the end of their design life, are in poor condition (exhibiting major defects and/ or not operating as intended) and have very significant backlog maintenance requirements. The existing buildings, in addition to being in poor condition, were not designed to 21st century school standards and do not lend themselves to adaptation to such.

As stated in the consultation document, the option of leaving the existing schools as they are was discounted principally because this option is not sustainable, does not meet the strategy and aims of the authority and would disadvantage future generations of learners by not addressing the need for 21st century pupil places. It could potentially lead to a shortage in education places due to the anticipated future growth in housing in the area. Schools are currently in very poor condition and do not have appropriate facilities to maximally meet modern curriculum need. Any option variation which involves leaving a particular school out of the proposal would obviously disadvantage the pupils of that school for the reasons outlined above. Realistically, the only sites in the area large enough to accommodate the proposed schools (other than North Cornelly Playing Fields, which the authority would not wish to use due to the extensive community use) are the existing Corneli Primary School site and the Valleys to Coast owned land.

BCBC Cabinet committed in January 2020 to the principle of providing a new Welsh-medium school in Porthcawl. Should the Bridgend West proposal progress, it would not be at the expense of future Welsh-medium provision in Porthcawl. The Bridgend West scheme as proposed is intended to meet the demand for pupil places that would be created by potential future housing in the immediate area, to promote the Welsh language and to increase the numbers of non-maintained nursery children transitioning to Welsh-medium primary education. An entirely separate 'Porthcawl' area review has been undertaken and a future scheme for new Welsh-medium school in Porthcawl is being developed.

Legacy items of furniture and equipment from the existing schools identified by the schools as needed would be transferred to the new schools should the proposal go ahead. Consequently, funding recently spent on play castles etc should in no way be regarded as wasted.

The options for the Bridgend West area presented in the consultation document were the culmination of an analysis of education options and site options by BCBC educationalists and technical officers. The options were set out in the authority's Strategic Outline Business Case submitted to Welsh Government, which has been approved. The consultation responses have been considered and the authority wishes to publish the proposal as consulted on.

Appendix 9

Estyn's response to the proposal by Bridgend County Borough Council to discontinue Corneli Primary School and Afon y Felin Primary School and establish a new school with effect from 1 September 2023 and to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr in the form of an enlargement with effect from 2 September 2024.

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 and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Summary/ Conclusion

The proposal by Bridgend County Borough Council is to discontinue Corneli Primary School and Afon y Felin Primary School and open a new school with effect from 1 September 2023. They also propose to enlarge Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr with effect from 2 September 2024.

The council lays out a clear rationale for its proposal. It involves eradicating around £1.5m maintenance backlog between the three schools, which it considers to be in poor condition, exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended. The proposal also addresses the need for Welsh medium places and of promoting the growth of the Welsh language.

The proposer has consulted widely, including with children and young people, parents/carers, school staff, a wide range of interested parties and members of the public. Estyn is of the opinion that the current proposal is likely to at least maintain the education provision for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

Bridgend County Borough Council has laid out the benefits to this proposal clearly. The proposal will eradicate a large maintenance backlog, while opening a new 2 form entry primary school with 60 place nursery and 15 place Additional Learning Needs resource centre. It will also increase the capacity for Welsh-medium education in the area. The council has considered one potential disadvantage to the scheme and has a solution that should negate this. However, the proposal does not detail clearly enough the possible impact on the Flying Start provision on the Afon Y Felin site, or how the council will address this.

The proposal identifies three risks to the project, namely, objections to the proposal, costs exceeding available budget and unknown costs of infrastructure works. The counter measures for these risks involve effective communication and early commission of transport assessment to inform budget for highway works. These measures lack detail of how the project will proceed if the risks are realised.

It is not clear from the proposal how the phased development of the new, enlarged Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr will work. However, it is reasonable to assume that such a major project taking place on-site will inevitably cause disruption to learners, and it should be made clear how the disruption will be minimised.

The council have considered suitable alternatives, including maintaining the status quo. The grounds for discounting the alternatives are reasonable, such as a site being too small for expansion, the poor quality of existing buildings preventing expansion and alternatives not addressing the WESP or Cymraeg 2050 commitments.

The proposed sites for the new schools are less than 0.3 miles away from the current school sites, and it is therefore reasonable to expect that this should not affect learner travel arrangements, including journeys to alternative provision, and journey times for pupils with SEN.

The council realises that increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr will increase surplus places at the school. However, they have considered suitably the authority's local development plan when determining the long-term strategy for education in the area. They believe a 2 form-entry, Welsh-medium school is appropriate for the Bridgend West area (in light of the demand for pupil places that would be created by potential future housing, the need to promote the Welsh language and to increase the numbers of non-maintained nursery children transitioning to Welsh-medium primary education). The council have considered the extent to which this proposal supports the target of the WESP and it is reasonable to assume that uptake of Welsh-medium education in the area will increase as a consequence of the proposal.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The council has taken into account the standards, provision and leadership and management in all three schools involved in the proposal. They state that standards in all three primary schools have improved since their last inspections with most pupils making good or better progress across the school, including pupils with additional learning needs. All schools have broadly similar areas for improvement linked to literacy, the development of curriculum for Wales and wellbeing. It is fair to assume that a larger community would not impact on those areas of priority.

The county states that the quality of teaching in Corneli Primary, Afon-y-Felin Primary and Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr is good or better. Even though all schools are deemed by the local authority to make the best of their environments, it is fair to assume that it is likely that experiences for learners would improve with a modern, purpose-built facility as proposed. While the proposal considers leadership and management in the schools, it does not do so strongly enough. The proposer's main consideration is the last categorisation of the schools, which took place in September 2019.

The new school that will replace Corneli Primary and Afon-y-Felin Primary is yet to be established and as such, has no governing body. This means that the staffing structure for the school is yet to be established, and that no staff have been appointed to any posts. There is also a need for one less headteacher. All this poses an inherent risk that is not addressed strongly in the proposal.

Local Authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

Leadership and management considerations for the schools form an integral part of the planning for this proposal. If the proposal is approved, due process and HR guidelines will be observed to secure a strong governing body (GB) for the school. Current governing bodies will work alongside a shadow governing body until the new school is opened, at which point the shadow GB will assume the full powers of a GB.

The position of headteacher, will be ring-fenced for one of the current substantive headteachers, to ensure continuity.

Appendix 10

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

Project Description (key aims): Proposal to discontinue Corneli Primary School and Afon y Felin Primary School and create a ‘new’ school with effect from September 2023 and to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Y Ferch O’r Sgêr in the form of an enlargement with effect from September 2024.	
Section 1	Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.
Long-term (The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)	1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future? The scheme has been identified through a collaborative strategic approach with officers from key departments of the Council. A strategic group considered current and projected data including capacity of schools, housing, building condition etc. This project has been established on a geographical/need basis on the basis of a long list of options, to identify this preferred option. In considering this option, the team gave consideration to the long-term needs of the local authority’s statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and promote the Welsh language.
Prevention (How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)	2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse? Provision of places at schools is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure there is a sufficient supply and there is suitable accommodation to deliver the curriculum effectively. The schemes have been identified to ensure that pupil places can be delivered in the future and to prevent pupils not being able to obtain a pupil place. Certain schemes will also ensure that the Council aids on the Welsh Government commitment of Cymraeg 2050. Councils have a statutory duty to ensure there are a sufficient supply of school places, and these schemes will safeguards the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge in this regard.
Integration (Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of	3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together? Providing sufficient places ensures that the curriculum can be delivered and meets the social, environmental and cultural objectives of pupils and the community the schools will serve. Schemes will promote inclusion. Community use of facilities will be explored and where appropriate will be incorporated into design. Construction will be competitively tendered by Welsh Government/WEPCo and Community benefits will be maximised.

other public bodies)	
Collaboration (Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives)	4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives? The local authority works effectively with schools, Estyn, Central South Consortium (CSC), health, 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 developing the scheme will ensure that the building design is sustainable and energy efficient. In evaluating the list of options available, consideration will be given to how best make the schemes work effectively in order to maximise the use of resource and capitalise on the expenditure ensuring the schemes meet the needs of current and future generations.
Involvement (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)	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? Schemes are subject to a long list of options, which include education and site. These are systematically evaluated and result in further development and refining. Work involves the engagement of all potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners which will include 3 rd sector organisations. The proposal is subject to statutory consultation under the School Organisation Code.

Section 2	Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use Appendix 1 to help you).		
Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?	
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>Construction companies will be appointed by Welsh Government/WEPCo and therefore will have to adhere to sustainability strategies developed for construction and meet targets for recycling. They are also expected to provide community benefits on each project. This could include providing apprenticeships, employment and work experience plus employment opportunities as appropriate.</p>	<p>We would maximise the benefits by ensuring that certain key aspects are detailed within the construction contract.</p>	
<p>A resilient Wales 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>Schemes will be developed to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the environment.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>Improved facilities for pupils, staff and the wider community encourages physical and mental well-being.</p>	<p>Ensuring the building is designed to current regulations.</p>	

<p>A more equal Wales 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>Schemes will be fully inclusive in terms of their design and promote opportunities for all pupils to learn, develop and reach their full potential.</p>	<p>Ensure the building design is fully inclusive and meets the needs of the pupils and communities they serve.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<p>We will engender good relations with the communities that the schools will serve, working closely with them to promote opportunities to engage throughout the course of the project and thereafter.</p>	<p>Improved facilities for schools presents opportunities for increased community use.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	<p>Welsh language will be promoted by the Council in Band B, thereby supporting the aim of Cymraeg 2050. Schemes will be designed to promote opportunities for participation.</p>	<p>Schools would better deliver the full curriculum which would include Welsh, its culture, heritage and sport. Community use of facilities would help inform the design ensuring the facilities are accessible.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<p>It is likely that certain materials specified may be sourced outside of Wales, thereby supporting the global economy.</p>	<p>In order to minimise any negative impact, we would seek to ensure that the majority of materials are available from Welsh suppliers.</p>

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	Ensure improved school environment for pupils
Gender reassignment:	No	No	N/A
Marriage or civil partnership:	No	No	N/A
Pregnancy or maternity:	No	No	N/A
Race:	No	No	N/A
Religion or Belief:	No	No	N/A
Race:	No	No	N/A
Sex:	No	No	N/A
Welsh Language:	Yes	No	Potentially additional Welsh-medium places available in schools, which will help in the promotion of the Welsh-language

Section 4 Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive Members and/or Chief Officers	
Cabinet	
Compiling Officers Name:	Project Manager
Compiling Officers Job Title:	Schools Project Manager
Date completed:	11 th December 2020 (updated 14 March 2021)

Appendix 11

List of stakeholders

- ▶ The Governing Body, parents, staff, carers, guardians and pupils of Afon y Felin Primary, Corneli Primary and Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr
- ▶ 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 support staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is subject to 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