

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

14 JUNE 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION PROCESS

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

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

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

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

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

3. Background

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

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

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

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

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

4. Current situation/proposal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

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

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

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

Long-term

The proposal fulfils the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and will allow teaching and learning to take place in a building and site which is suited to the needs of the learners and staff.

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

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

8. Financial implications

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

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

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

9. Recommendations

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

Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

14 June 2022

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Background documents

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

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

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

1. Purpose of report

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

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

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

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

2.1 This school modernisation programme assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

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

3. Background

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

4. Consultation process

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

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

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

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

5. Summary of responses to consultation

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

5.2 Governing body consultation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.3 Bridgend Town Council consultation

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

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

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

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

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

5.4 **Staff consultation**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.5 Learners' consultation

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.6 Open consultation event – virtual meeting

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

5.7 Summary of written representations

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

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

5.9 **Summary of online survey responses**

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

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

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

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

7 **Impact Assessments**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Conclusion

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

Quality and standards

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

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

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

Transport

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

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

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

Community

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

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

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

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

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

9. Statutory process in determining proposals

9.1 The following table sets out the provisional timetable:

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

Hard Copies of this report are available on request.

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

APPENDIX 1



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

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

Apologies: 3 School Governors

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX 2



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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX 3



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX 4



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX 5



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

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

No attendees.

APPENDIX 6

Direct correspondence received:

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

Local authority response:

Good afternoon

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

Kind regards

Direct correspondence received:

Dear XX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

Local authority response:

Dear Cllr XX

Thank you for your email regarding the above.

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

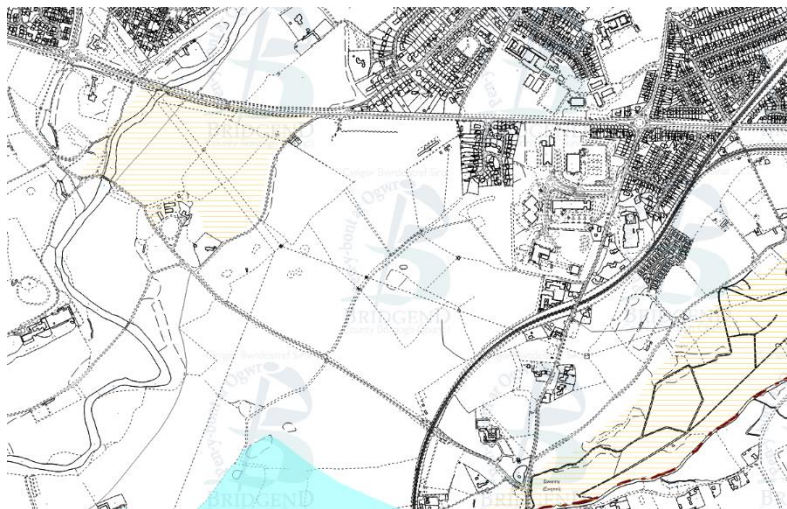
BCBC officers are aware of the potential issue of sink holes. Once the layout of the site has been decided and the location of the buildings 'fixed' probe hole investigations will be undertaken to determine if there are any issues below the building footprints that could lead to the forming of a sink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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Direct correspondence received:

Hi XX

Please see below as promised:

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

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

We currently provide the below services:

- Nursery provision
- After school Club provision

- Saturday Club
- Holiday Club

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Diolch / Many Thanks

Local authority response:

Dear XX

Thank you for your email regarding the Heronsbridge School consultation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX 7

(Snap Online Survey) Responses

Are you (please tick):

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

Do you support the proposal:

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

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

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

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

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

The proposal will mean building on a green field site

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

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

School should join the college

Where on island field? On a brown field site that could instead be restored for nature? What would happen to the old premises? Sold off for housing or used for something else? Would the pool close? The school is beautiful and has so much history and already has had a lot of the grounds developed on but is there a way to increase some of those buildings slightly so that the building and its history can be retained? The A48 is so busy as it is without adding more buildings/ more urban sprawl and more traffic and therefore more pollution

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

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

Protect Green Spaces. Protect Historic Places

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope that the old schoo building is preserved

Expand on existing site. Build on a brownfield site

It would be better to build on a brown field site

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

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

See above

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

Alternative site

Alternative site

Alternative site

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

Invest in upgrading the current building.

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

Why would you build on island farm

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

Improvements to A48 to improve green transport and safety

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

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

Ensure that Hut 9 is retained and provided funding.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Any other comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please consider local residents thoughts and concerns !!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

Rationale for providing a new school

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

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

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

Size of school

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

Alternative site suggestions

Existing Heronsbridge School site

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

Bridgend College site

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

Island Farm

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

Future use of the Heronsbridge School site

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

The main school building has recently been listed by Cadw.

Highway

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

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

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

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

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

Ecology/green land

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stakeholder engagement

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

Pre-school provision

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

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

APPENDIX 8

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

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

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

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

Introduction

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

Summary / Conclusion

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

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

Description and benefits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Educational aspects of the proposal

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local authority responses/clarifications to summary issues raised:

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

Appendix 9 - Community Impact Assessment

Name of proposal:

Héronsbridge School

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

Who will make the decision?

Cabinet

Who has been involved in developing the proposal?

Corporate Director – Education and Family Support

Head of Education and Family Support

Schools Programme Manager – Education and Family Support

Group Managers – Education and Family Support Directorate

School Modernisation Strategic Programme Board

Technical officers of the local authority

Aims and objectives:

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

Key actions:

Statutory procedure to make regulated alterations to Heronsbridge School:

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

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

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

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

Expected date of decision: September 2022.

Scope/focus of the assessment:

Consideration given to:

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

Relevant data and/or research:

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

Findings

Community Use:

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

Swimming pool

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

Gym

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

Heron Hall

Rock Choir	- Wednesday	6.45pm – 9.00pm
Stagecoach	- Thursday	5.00pm – 8.00pm
Stagecoach	- Friday	5.00pm – 8.00pm
Stagecoach	- Saturday	9.30am – 5.30pm

3G Pitch

Hérons	- Monday	4.30pm – 5.30pm
Hérons	- Monday	7.30pm – 8.30pm
Penybont Football Club	- Monday	6.30pm – 7.30pm
Spanish Soccer	- Tuesday	4.30pm – 7.15pm
Ravencourt Football	- Wednesday	5.30pm – 6.30pm
Private hire	- Friday	6.45pm – 7.45pm
Private hire	- Sunday	5.30pm – 6.30pm

BCBC play – evenings

The school run extra-curricular after-school clubs:

Hérons Inclusive Community football club (current and former pupils of Heronsbridge School) – Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Disability football tournaments at weekends hosted by the Herons

Cookery club – one evening each week

Yoga club - one evening each week

Primary Policy:

- This proposal aligns with the March 2015 'Principles Document'.

Projections of school population and building condition:

- The school population projections
- Building condition in respect of the existing school are outlined below:

School	Quality of Accommodation
Heronsbridge School	Overall condition rating C (poor; exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended)

Impact on extended community

- The impact on community use is unlikely to be affected although there will be likely be a positive impact in terms of modern, accessible, purpose-built community facilities located in the proposed new school.

Impact on other schools

- It is not expected that the new school will have a significant impact on any other school. Heronsbridge School is the only provision of this nature for pupils with complex needs within BCBC, it will draw pupils from a much wider area and will not compete for pupils in nearby schools.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics?

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. There would be a positive impact given that the new school would be designed to be fully compliant with the Equalities Act 2010 which would support all learners, staff, visitors etc.

Consultation

Has there been specific consultation on this decision (if not, state why not and/or when this may happen):

Consultation period was from 4 April to 18 May 2022.

What were the results of the consultation?

Responses received primarily were in connection with concerns around:

- the proposed site;
- impact on the highway;
- ecological Issues;
- size of school;
- future use of the existing school site; and
- Y Bont.

Across the protected characteristics, what difference in views did analysis of the consultation reveal?

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics.

What conclusions have been drawn from the analysis on how the decision will affect people with different protected characteristics?

There would be a positive impact given that the new school would be designed to be fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010 which would support all learners, staff, visitors.

Assessment of impact on staff

Please give details of impact on staff, including staffing profile if/as appropriate:

The result of the proposal, should it go ahead, would mean that the staffing structure is likely to increase over a period of time. The staffing structure would align to the increased school population. The governing body would be responsible for the staffing structure which would be determined primarily by the educational needs of the school and the budget available.

Assessment of impact on wider community

Please give details of any impacts to the community as a whole:

The site for the proposed new school is approximately 1 mile away from the existing school site. It is therefore not anticipated that there will be a negative impact on the community. However, there are concerns regarding the impact on the highway. Mitigation measures have been identified and will be delivered, should the proposal go ahead.

Analysis of impact by protected characteristics

Please summarise the results of the analysis:

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics.

Assess the relevance and impact of the decision to people with different characteristics

Relevance = High/Low/None / Impact = High/Low/Neutral

Characteristic	Relevance	Impact
Age	High	High - positive
Disability	High	High - positive
Gender reassignment	High	High - positive
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral
Race	None	Neutral
Religion or belief	None	Neutral
Sex	None	Neutral
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral

Other socially excluded	None	Neutral
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Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures taken to mitigate against it:

It is not considered likely that the proposal will impact disproportionately on any protected characteristics. There will be a positive impact in respect of certain groups (that is, age, disability, and gender).

Please advise on the overall equality implications that should be taken into account in the final decision, considering relevance and impact:

The assessment concluded that the proposal is unlikely to impact disproportionately on any protected group.

Signed:

Schools Programme Manager, School Modernisation Team, Education and Family Support

Date:

25 May 2022

Appendix 10 - Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Proposal:	Heronsbridge School – proposed regulated alteration to increase the number of places to 300 places and locate at Island Farm
Department:	School Modernisation Team – Education and Family Support Directorate
Completing Officer:	Schools Programme Manager
Date:	21 March 2022
Brief Description:	The proposal is to increase the number of pupil places available at Heronsbridge School to 300 and relocate the school to the Island Farm site, Bridgend in a new fit-for-purpose school building.
Who does this proposal affect?	<p>Governing body, staff, learners, and parents/carers – Heronsbridge School</p> <p>The community users of the school.</p> <p>Potentially certain schools with observation and assessment classes.</p> <p>Stakeholder groups (for example, community users of the existing school)</p>
What are the aims of the policy and how do they relate to the Welsh language?	<p>Heronsbridge School is an English-medium community special school which is a regional centre that caters for the most vulnerable learners with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) at primary, secondary and post-16. The school has two three-bedroom residential houses for those learners requiring 39-week residential provision. However, the majority of are day-pupils.</p> <p>Located at Ewenny Road, Bridgend, the original school building dates back to 1929 and is of traditional stone construction. The teaching accommodation is spread over two floors, with pitched roofs and the main block has been extended a number of times. The overall condition of the school is grade C and the backlog maintenance costs (assessed in October 2020) is £1,248,200.00. Currently, there are 236 pupils on roll.</p> <p>The proposal is to make regulated alterations to increase the number of pupils for whom Heronsbridge School makes provision to 300 and to relocate the school to Island Farm,</p>

	<p>Bridgend, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.</p> <p>Currently all learners at Heronsbridge with significant additional learning and complex needs are taught through the medium of English, assisted sign language and additional visual and technological methods of communication support. Welsh is taught as part of Language, Literacy and Communication (that is, Area of Learning Experience). All children learn about their identify, and culture to prepare them as citizens of Wales.</p> <p>The school building will be a flexible and adaptable, modern learning environment. It will have large spaces (that is, for assemblies, PE, and dining). Internal and external areas will be suitably designed for school and community use. Outdoor spaces will be provided to support the full range of curriculum activities. Improved on-site visitor, staff and school transport parking will be provided. Built to Building Bulletin 104 area guidelines, the school would be fully accessible and compliant with all relevant Building Regulations.</p> <p>The school will be funded by Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and Bridgend County Borough Council’s capital resources. The proposed school would open for pupils in September 2025 on land at Island Farm, Bridgend.</p>												
<p>Who will benefit / could the policy affect Welsh language groups?</p>	<p>The communities within the vicinity of the school.</p> <p>There should be a positive impact on Welsh language groups as the new building will be accessible to the local community. This could involve Welsh for adult classes, meetings of Welsh language groups etc.</p>												
<p>Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s):</p>	<p>The Annual Population Survey for the year ending June 2021, reported that 17.8% of respondents living in the County Borough of Bridgend said they could speak Welsh, compared to the all-Wales percentage of 29.2% of respondents. This can be further broken down to the data contained in the table that follows:</p> <p>Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="512 1747 1437 1986"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Bridgend County Borough</th> <th>Wales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Can read Welsh:</td> <td>16.9%</td> <td>25.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Can write Welsh:</td> <td>15.9%</td> <td>23.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Can understand spoken Welsh:</td> <td>21.2%</td> <td>33.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Bridgend County Borough	Wales	Can read Welsh:	16.9%	25.9%	Can write Welsh:	15.9%	23.8%	Can understand spoken Welsh:	21.2%	33.7%
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales											
Can read Welsh:	16.9%	25.9%											
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Can understand spoken Welsh:	21.2%	33.7%											

	<p>The data shows that there is a gap in the Welsh language skills of residents of Bridgend when compared to the whole of Wales.</p> <p>Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Bridgend County Borough</th> <th>Wales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Speak Welsh daily:</td> <td>6.3%</td> <td>15.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speak Welsh weekly:</td> <td>3.1%</td> <td>5.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use it less often or never:</td> <td>6.9%</td> <td>7.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The data indicates that in terms of the spoken language, the % of Bridgend residents when compared to the whole of Wales that use the Welsh language is significantly less.</p> <p>https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey-Welsh-Language</p>		Bridgend County Borough	Wales	Speak Welsh daily:	6.3%	15.2%	Speak Welsh weekly:	3.1%	5.2%	Use it less often or never:	6.9%	7.3%
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales											
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Use it less often or never:	6.9%	7.3%											
	<p>The data clearly shows that there is a variance in the Welsh language skills of Bridgend County Borough residents when compared with all-Wales data.</p> <p>Héronsbridge School is currently used for community activities during the week. The new school could be utilised by Welsh for adults' classes and community groups who wish to operate through the medium of Welsh.</p>												

Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Positive
Describe why it will have a positive impact on the Welsh language.	The proposal would have a positive impact on the use of the Welsh language. Although the existing school already has facilities that could be used by Welsh language groups, the new school could be more appealing to user groups as it will be fully accessible.

<p>What evidence do you have to support this view?</p>	<p>The facilities will provide an opportunity for Welsh language courses to be offered to parents/carers thereby increasing Welsh language opportunities and supports the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 agenda.</p>
<p>What action(s) can you take to better contribute to positive impacts?</p>	<p>Promotion of the Welsh language through early engagement activities with parents/carers.</p> <p>Signposting parents/carers to Welsh language classes/courses.</p> <p>Continued professional development of school staff and sharing of best practice.</p>
<p>Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.</p>	<p>Increase participation in the Welsh language by offering the opportunity to parents/carers and other members of the community to attend Welsh classes and/or other opportunities for community engagement through the medium of Welsh. In addition, they will be encouraged to signpost parents/carers to Welsh language classes.</p> <p>The school's facilities could be used for Welsh language activities that will increase participation.</p> <p>In addition, Welsh language courses are offered by Learn Welsh Glamorgan who deliver courses online and locally in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, and Rhondda Cynon Taff on behalf of the National Centre for Learning Welsh. They also offer a range of online taster courses that anyone can access and offer Sadwrn Siarad sessions periodically.</p>
<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The school could allow the use of facilities by the community for Welsh classes/activities delivered through Welsh, thereby promoting the Welsh language.</p> <p>The school will be designed with community use in mind. It will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010. There may be opportunities to run community activities during school hours.</p> <p>The school have had links with the Urdd and could further develop links with Welsh-medium sporting groups.</p> <p>Given its central location within Bridgend, the school will be very accessible to the immediate and wider community.</p> <p>The Council is committed to promoting the Welsh language, increasing the number of Welsh schools and number of learner places, as detailed in the WESP.</p>

Compliance with the Council's Welsh Language Standards.	Contractual arrangements and processes for the delivery of the project will be undertaken so that they are compliant with the Welsh Language Standards. All signage during and post-construction will be bi-lingual.
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Review – Consultation Comments	Date:
The assessment undertaken prior to the consultation stage remains valid.	25 May 2022

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reviewing
Should the proposal proceed, the project will be regularly reviewed during design, delivery, and post-occupation by the Project Manager – School Modernisation Team.

Summary
<p>The proposal is to make regulated alterations to increase the number of pupils for whom Heronsbridge School makes provision to 300 and to relocate the school to Island Farm, Bridgend, with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025. The proposal is considered to have a positive effect on the Welsh language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's facilities could be utilised for community use/adult classes through the Welsh language. • The site is located centrally to encourage use by the immediate and wider community seeking an opportunity to engage in Welsh classes/courses that could be offered. • The new school will be fully accessible.

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Form

This document is a multi-purpose tool ensuring the appropriate steps are taken to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty Equality Impact Assessment legislation and to demonstrate that we have shown due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage when taking strategic decisions under the Socio-economic Duty. It also ensures consideration of the Welsh Language Standards.

- **This assessment should be carried out during the formation stage of your policy or proposal. Any negative impact identified will support you to devise engagement strategies for further evidence gathering.**
- **If you are undertaking a full public consultation as part of your policy or proposal this form should be completed before the consultation begins and used as a tool to inform your consultation questions and engagement activities.**
- **All sections and all questions require a response and must not be left blank even if they are ‘not applicable’ or ‘subject to further consultation’.**

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Heronsbridge Special School
Brief description and aim of policy or proposal:	Proposal to increase the number of pupil places for Heronsbridge School to 300 and relocate to Island Farm
Who is responsible for delivery of the policy or proposal?	Director – Education and Family Support
Date EIA screening completed:	16/07/21
Does this policy or proposal relate to any other policies? (please state)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Modernisation Programme • Flying Start Programme • Welsh Government Childcare Offer • Additional Learning Needs • Bridgend Public Services – Well-being Plan • Corporate Plan 2018-2022 • Medium Term Financial Strategy • Taking Wales Forward Strategy 2018-2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 • Education in Wales: Our national mission - action plan 2017-2021 • Bridgend County Borough Council - Local Development Plan (LDP) • Bridgend County Borough Council - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan • Cymraeg 2050 Welsh Language Strategy • Additional Learning Needs Education Tribunal Act (Wales) 2018
Who is affected by this policy (e.g. Staff, residents, disabled people, women only?)	Learners, parents and staff
Is the policy related to, influenced by, or affected by other policies or areas of work (internal or external)? <i>Note: Consider this in terms of statutory requirements, local policies, regional (partnership) decisions, national policies, welfare reforms.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Learning Needs Education Tribunal Act (Wales) 2018 • Bridgend Public Services – Well-being Plan • Corporate Plan 2018-2022 • Medium Term Financial Strategy • Flying Start Programme • Welsh Government Childcare Offer • Taking Wales Forward Strategy 2018-2021 • Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 • Education in Wales: Our national mission - action plan 2017-2021 • Bridgend County Borough Council - Local Development Plan (LDP) • Bridgend County Borough Council - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan • Cymraeg 2050 Welsh Language Strategy
If this is a review or amendment of an existing policy, has an EIA been carried out? Please include date of completion:	N/A
If an EIA exists, what new data has been collected since its completion?	N/A

Assessment of Impact
Protected characteristics

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people from different groups in different ways?

***Please note: If you identify a negative impact for any protected characteristics you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Gender	X			Building design will cater for gender neutral users
Disability	X			Building and site area will be fully compliant with the requirements Disabled Discrimination Act.
Race			X	
Religion and belief			X	
Sexual Orientation			X	
Age	X			Improved school environment for pupils
Pregnancy & Maternity			X	
Transgender			X	
Marriage and Civil partnership			X	

Socio-economic impact

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact on people or communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

***Please note: If you identify a negative socio-economic impact you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Socio-economic disadvantage	X			Improved facilities for pupils attending, living with socio-economic disadvantage. Potential for extra curricula provision, potentially enabling parents to seek

				employment or training
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Welsh Language

Is it possible that any aspect of the policy or proposal will have a positive or negative impact for persons to use the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?

***Please note: If you identify a negative impact for persons to use the Welsh language and in treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language you will need to undertake further evidence gathering to complete a full EIA.**

	Please place an X in the relevant box			Explanation of impact
	Positive impact(s)	Negative impact(s)	No impact	
Will the policy or proposal impact on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language	x			Potential use of school for Welsh language community groups (for example, adult Welsh classes).
Will the policy or proposal treat the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language	x			Potential use of school for Welsh language community groups (for example, adult Welsh classes).

Public Sector Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty consists of a general equality duty and specific duties, which help authorities to meet the general duty.

The aim of the general equality duty is to integrate considerations of the advancement of equality into the day-to-day business of public authorities. In summary, those subject to the equality duty, must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't
- Foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't

How does this policy or proposal demonstrate you have given due regard to the general equality duty?

The scheme would be developed to ensure there is no negative impact on any protected group.

Procurement and partnerships

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requires all public authorities to consider the needs of protected characteristics when designing and delivering public services, including where this is done in partnership with other organisations or through procurement of services. The Welsh Language Standards also require all public authorities to consider the effects of any policy decision, or change in service delivery, on the Welsh language, which includes any work done in partnership or by third parties. We must also ensure we consider the Socio-economic Duty when planning major procurement and commissioning decisions to consider how such arrangements can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage.

Will this policy or proposal be carried out wholly or partly by contractors or partners?

Please place an X in the relevant box:	
Yes	X
No	

If yes what steps will you take to comply with the General Equality Duty, Welsh Language Legislation and the Socio-Economic Duty in regard to procurement and/or partnerships?

Steps taken to ensure compliance:	
General Equality Duty	Robust procurement and contract documentation includes due regard to this
Welsh Language legislation	Robust procurement and contract documentation includes due regard to this
Socio-economic duty	Robust procurement and contract documentation includes due regard to this

What have you decided to do?


Record of decision based on assessment of impact on protected characteristics, socioeconomic impact and Welsh Language. Please place an X in the relevant box.

If you identify negative impact on one, some or all protected characteristics, socioeconomic duty or Welsh Language you will MUST complete a full EIA.

Impact identified	Next steps:	Please place an X in the relevant box:
No negative impact identified	Screen out: carry on with the policy or proposal	X
One or more negative impact identified	Complete full EIA to gather more evidence on potential negative impacts	

Please explain the reasons for this decision. If you have 'screened out' you must include information and evidence to justify your decision.
It has been identified that the proposal is unlikely to negatively impact on any protected group. There have been positive impacts identified, including gender, age and disability as detailed. As there have been no negative impacts identified, it will not be necessary to undertake a full equalities impact assessment.

Approval:

Date EIA screening completed:	16/07/21
Approved by (Head of Service):	
Date of approval by HoS:	22/03/2022

If this screening has identified that a full EIA is needed, who will carry out the full EIA?	N/A
If this screening has identified that a full EIA is needed when will the Full EIA be completed by (Date):	N/A

When complete, this form must be retained by the service, a copy should also be sent to equalities@bridgend.gov.uk

The EIA screening should be referenced and summarised in the relevant cabinet report for this policy. Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the cabinet report and therefore available publicly on the website.

Appendix 12

List of stakeholders

- ▶ The Governing Body, parents, staff, carers, guardians, and learners of Heronsbridge School
- ▶ Other schools within the cluster/area
- ▶ Neighbouring authorities
- ▶ The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- ▶ Welsh Ministers
- ▶ Welsh Government
- ▶ Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Estyn
- ▶ Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is subject of the proposals
- ▶ Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
- ▶ South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- ▶ Town and Community Councils representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals
- ▶ Independent or voluntary nursery providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin
- ▶ BCBC Childcare team/Children and Young People's Partnership and/or Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present
- ▶ Cabinet Members
- ▶ Corporate Management Board
- ▶ Ward Members
- ▶ BCBC Group Manager, Inclusion
- ▶ CAMHS, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
Primary Mental Health Team, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Speech and Language Therapy Service, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.

- ▶ Paediatricians, NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Occupational Therapy (OT) NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Physiotherapy Service: NHS Wales, Cwm Taff, Local Health Board.
- ▶ Educational Psychologists. Educational Psychology Service, Bridgend County Borough Council.
- ▶ Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council
- ▶ SNAP Cymru
- ▶ Barnardo's Cymru
- ▶ Welsh Language Commissioner