

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	20 June 2023
Report Title:	School Modernisation: Porthcawl Welsh-medium Seedling School – Outcome of Consultation
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT
Responsible Officer:	CHRIS LEWIS PROJECT MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules
Executive Summary:	Report on the outcome of the recent consultation in respect of School Modernisation proposal: Porthcawl Welsh-medium Seedling School

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the Porthcawl Welsh-medium Seedling School proposal; and
- seek approval to continue to progress a scheme to establish a Welsh-medium seedling school and childcare provision for the Porthcawl area on land at the Porthcawl Primary School site.

2. Background

2.1 Following a desktop appraisal of options for developing a Welsh-medium seedling school with co-located childcare in the Porthcawl area, a report was submitted to Cabinet in September 2021, and approval was received to submit an expression of interest to Welsh Government in respect of a second tranche of Welsh-medium capital grant funding.

2.2 Welsh Government subsequently approved the expression of interest and on 16 November 2022, Council gave permission for a capital budget for this scheme's design and survey costs (up to tender stage) to be included in the Council's capital programme (on the assumption that costs will be fully recovered once Welsh Government has approved the Business Justification Case).

- 2.3 The proposed seedling school is a 'starter class' with 30 full-time-equivalent Nursery places, and 30 Reception places. It is proposed that the seedling provision will be operated and governed by Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr, and pupils would transition to that school at Year 1 to conclude their primary education, that is until a Welsh-medium primary school is established in Porthcawl. On 21 January 2020, Cabinet gave 'approval in principle' to the development of a new Welsh-medium school to serve the Porthcawl area as part of a future band of the school modernisation programme, to be aligned to the development of the Porthcawl Regeneration scheme.
- 2.4 The proposed childcare provision is for 16 full-time (that is, 32 part-time) childcare places, together with 6 places for 0 to 2 provision offering full care from potentially birth to four years, with afterschool and holiday provision to offer full wrap-around care via the medium of Welsh. It is at this stage envisaged that the childcare will be operated by a private provider.
- 2.5 There is no requirement to consult on the proposal under the School Organisation Code, since this proposal does not fall within any of the elements of school reorganisation that require the publication of proposals under the statutory process.
- 2.6 Notwithstanding the fact that there is no statutory requirement to consult on the proposal, the Education and Family Support Directorate wished to undertake a (non-code) public consultation by means of the 'Consultations' section of the Council's website, to obtain stakeholder views. Consequently, in December 2022, Cabinet gave permission to consult on the proposal to establish a Welsh-medium seedling school and childcare provision for the Porthcawl area on land at the Porthcawl Primary School site.
- 2.7 The consultation exercise ran from 28 February 2023 to 11 April 2023. Views were sought from stakeholders as detailed below:
- governors, staff, parents/carers, and pupils of the directly affected schools (that is, Porthcawl Primary School and Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr);
 - ward members;
 - the Welsh in Education Forum members;
 - the public (consultation on Council website):
 - <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/consultations/closed-consultations/porthcawl-welsh-medium-seedling-school-consultation/> ;
 - local childcare providers; and
 - Porthcawl Town Council.

3. Current situation/proposal

- 3.1 Responses received in respect of the consultation process are detailed below:

Pupil Consultation

- 3.2 On 28 March 2023, Porthcawl Primary School's School Council met virtually with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) representatives 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. Following discussion, the School Council submitted a consensus proforma response which is detailed at Appendix 1 of this report. The pupil responses were positive (the pupils stated that they support the proposal), with salient points made regarding the close proximity of the proposed Welsh-medium seedling school; 'It will be good to collaborate with the seedling school and be involved in our school's development of the Welsh language.'

- 3.3 Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr's School Council met virtually with BCBC representatives on 21 March 2023 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. Following discussion, the School Council submitted a consensus proforma response which is detailed at Appendix 2 of this report. The pupil responses were positive (the pupils stated that they support the proposal). A concern was raised regarding a potential negative impact, 'Worried that children in the Welsh school will speak English on the yard' but the pupils also highlighted a large number of positive impacts of the proposal; 'It would raise awareness of Welsh education and opportunities in Porthcawl area. Perhaps some parents would learn Welsh. The Welsh seedling children could help the English children with their Welsh and we could do shows together and things like the Eisteddfod.'

3.4 Summary of written representations

One item of direct correspondence was received during the consultation period from Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG). The correspondence was generally supportive of the proposal, but expressed concerns regarding transition and admission arrangements and the timeline for delivering a new permanent Welsh-medium school for Porthcawl:

'We agree with the proposal to open a seedling school under the leadership of Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger in Porthcawl provided that parents, carers and the community in general are given clear assurance about the timeline for delivering a new permanent Welsh-medium school for Porthcawl as well as a comprehensive transition and promotion plan for the North Cornelly and Porthcawl area explaining what kind of Welsh-medium provision will be available on both sites.'

See Appendix 3 of this report for details and responses/clarifications.

3.5 Summary of online survey responses

Overall, 69 respondents completed the online questionnaire. In respect of the question on whether they support the proposal, 33 responded 'Yes' and 35 responded 'No'. See Appendix 4 of this report for details.

- 3.6 BCBC Major Projects Team has recently revisited the original indicative programme for the proposed scheme, and it is currently anticipated that the opening date will now be September 2025 (the original indicative programme intended that the new provision would be effective from January 2025).

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 An initial Equalities 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.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

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

The assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	Supports the statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places and promote the Welsh language.
Prevention	Councils have a statutory duty to ensure there is a sufficient supply of school places, and these schemes will safeguard the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge in this regard.
Integration	Providing sufficient places ensures that the curriculum can be delivered and meets social, environmental, and cultural objectives.
Collaboration	The local authority works effectively with schools, Estyn and with the Central South Consortium, health, community councils and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building meets the short-term and future needs of the users and the community which it will serve.
Involvement	This area of work involves the engagement of potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, community, internal and external partners which will include third sector organisations.

It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 In recognition of the importance of decarbonisation to help protect and sustain the environment over the long term and in line with our climate change ambitions the scheme will be targeting Net Zero Carbon.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 The scheme will be developed with a recognition that there is a duty under BCBC Safeguarding Policy to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children, young people, and adults at risk of abuse or neglect and to ensure that effective practices are in place throughout the Council and its commissioned services.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 Council approval has been received for a capital budget for the proposed seedling school's design and survey costs up to tender stage, as detailed in the capital programme. This assumes that costs will be fully recovered once Welsh Government has approved the Business Justification Case, which can only be submitted for consideration once construction costs are known.
- 8.2 The Council already has £550k Welsh Government approval for the childcare capital element of the proposal from the Welsh-medium childcare grant.
- 8.3 The Welsh Government funding streams for Welsh-medium capital grant and Welsh-medium childcare grant are exclusively for capital expenditure (that is, there is no Welsh Government revenue funding). The delegated school budget for Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr would be adjusted, through the funding formula, to account for the seedling provision. Running costs would be met from the school's delegated budget. All capital costs (including a proposed all-weather pitch which forms part of the scheme in order to compensate for the loss of grass field area resulting from the building development) would be met from the capital grant allocated, dependent on whether grant funding proves sufficient based on tender return prices.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- notes the outcome of the consultation on the Porthcawl Welsh-medium Seedling School proposal; and
 - gives approval to continue the progress the scheme to establish a Welsh-medium seedling school and childcare provision for the Porthcawl area on land at the Porthcawl Primary School site.

Background documents None

Appendix 1

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

Questions

Name (Initials):

School Council

Class:

School:

Porthcawl Primary School

Do you support the proposal:

Yes, No

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

Comment/suggestions/requests/questions:

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

We have a good understanding of the proposals and have discussed them with Christopher.

Any other comments/questions:

Pupils are looking forward to using the all-weather pitch. It will be a good for our community to have the seedling school. It will meet the demand for pupil places in Porthcawl and promote the Welsh language. There will be strong links with PPS and the new school.

We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals would have on the Welsh language; specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be?

How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

We see the school as having a positive impact on the development of the Welsh language. We believe that the school will improve provision for the Welsh language. We can link for Eisteddfod's etc. It will be good to collaborate with the seedling school and be involved in our school's development of the Welsh language.

Please also explain how you believe the proposals could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language and ensure there are no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.

If you have any further questions regarding this proposal, or would like your views known, please contact:

Education and Family Support Directorate
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB.

Appendix 2

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

Questions

Name (Initials):

Pwyllgor Llais y Disgybl / Pupils' Voice Committee

Class:

Year 3-6

School:

Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr

Do you support the proposal:

Yes/No

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

Comment/suggestions/requests/questions:

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

Building a bigger school for children of all primary ages (up to year 6) in Porthcawl instead of just a small one with 2 classes.
Building the new school for Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr straight away because it's like a tin shed with weeds growing through ceiling and walls.

Any other comments/questions:

Why is the new Welsh school next door to an English school?
Will there be a proper Welsh school in Porthcawl for bigger children?
Do you have to live in Porthcawl to go to seedling school?
Will we lose our teachers in Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr because of the new school?

We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals would have on the Welsh language; specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be?

How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

It would mean children in Porthcawl can go to a Welsh school when they are little.
There may be after school clubs and holiday clubs in Welsh.
Worried that children in the Welsh school will speak English on the yard.

Please also explain how you believe the proposals could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language and ensure there are no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.

It would raise awareness of Welsh education and opportunities in Porthcawl area.

Perhaps some parents would learn Welsh.

The Welsh seedling children could help the English children with their Welsh and we could do shows together and things like the Eisteddfod.

If you have any further questions regarding this proposal, or would like your views known, please contact:

Education and Family Support Directorate
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB.



Ymateb RhAG Egin
Ysgol Porthcawl_Ebr

Response from Parents for Welsh Medium Education to Bridgend County Borough Council's consultation on the Proposal for Welsh-medium seedling school and childcare in the Porthcawl area

1. Parents for Welsh Medium Education (RhAG) would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation by Bridgend County Borough on the **Proposal for Welsh-medium seedling school and childcare in the Porthcawl area**

2. A system of planning Welsh-medium education through the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans must be a core part of every Local Authority's plan for education provision. Since September 2022, Bridgend County Borough Council has been implementing a new scheme agreed by the Welsh Government.

Increasing opportunities for learners to be able to acquire the Welsh language so that they can use it easily is the basis of the Welsh Government's ambition of creating a million speakers and the Government's own Welsh-medium education planning document states "*Cymraeg 2050 is clear that Welsh-medium immersion - which is where the medium of teaching and learning is delivered wholly or predominantly through the medium of Welsh - is the most reliable model for creating Welsh speakers with the skills and confidence to use the language comfortably in their everyday lives.*"

(Page 3 <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/guidance-welsh-in-education-strategic-plan.pdf>)

2. We wish to note that we appreciate the scale of the work involved in the reorganisation of schools for the 21st Century. RhAG has collaborated positively with county officials over the years, and over recent months in particular, and has been contributing ideas and strategies to ensure fairness in the development of Welsh-medium education provision across the county.
3. The development of the 10-year plans has, once again, presented a real opportunity to make a difference to the accessibility of Welsh-medium education in Bridgend County and expanding this provision to an area such as Porthcawl is an excellent opportunity to drive demand and expand provision to a new area. Although families in Porthcawl have traditionally sent their children to Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger, we have known there has been a hidden demand in this town for decades. Bringing the provision to the town therefore means that Welsh-medium education and the best opportunity to acquire both languages will be complete, and the provision will be available from an early age, closer to the town's families and will be a far more accessible option than was available before.

- We only need to look at the chart below to see how few opportunities exist in the county for pupils to be able to choose Welsh-medium education easily and conveniently.

Siart 1: Nifer yr ysgolion a gynhelir, yn ôl awdurdod lleol a chyfrwng, 2022 (a)

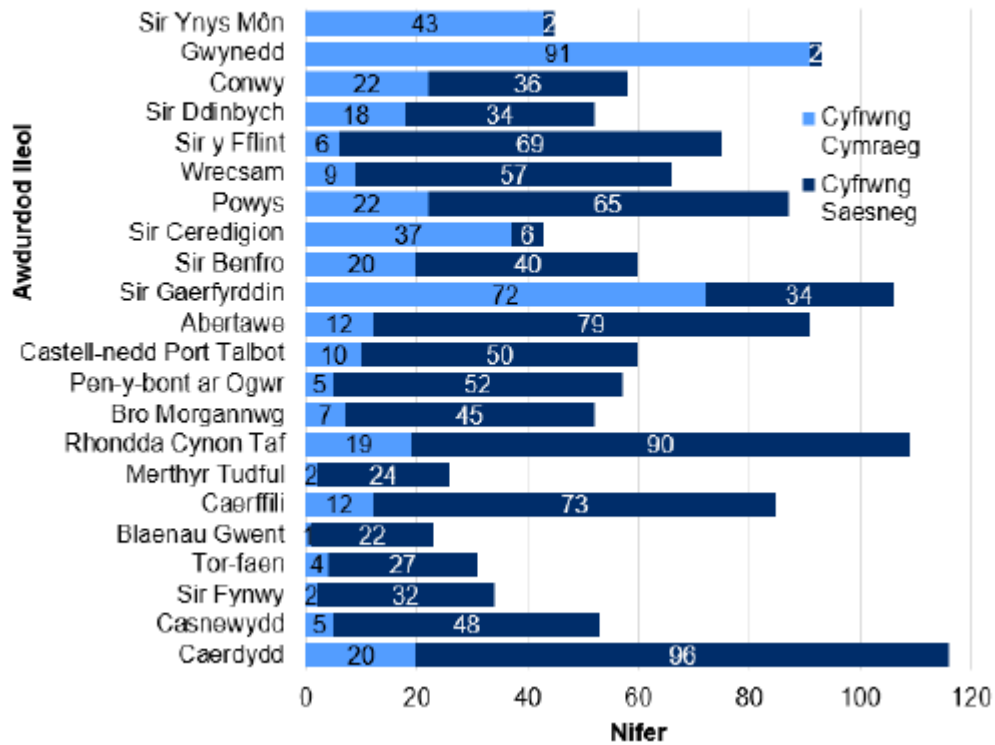


Chart 1: Number of maintained schools, by local authority and medium, 2022 (a)
 vertical axis - **Local authority**
 horizontal axis – **Number**

Cyfrwng Cymraeg - **Welsh medium**
 Cyfrwng Saesneg - **English medium**

Source: School Census 2022
 (a)Primary, middle ac secondary schools (excluding nursery and special schools)

6. We fully agree with the points made in 1.5 and 1.6 of the consultation document with regard to delivering childcare and early years provision on the same site. There is increasing evidence to show that continuous provision from one phase to the next, accessible on the same site, is key to ensuring robust educational and linguistic progression for learners. It also establishes a positive pattern for the remaining key phases as the learners transition from one phase to the next.

7. We realise however that there are challenges with ensuring a bilingual workforce in the care sector and we note that the local authority must ensure it develops clear childcare workforce pathways within the county structures, as part of the strategic planning of WESP outcome 7 and, indeed, in the wider work of the region, to meet this growing need. The

county needs to look more closely at promoting and facilitating opportunities to develop level 2, 3 and 5 qualification pathways within the field of childcare - locally and regionally - so that there are specific projects taking place to strengthen the cycle and provide a local, competent care workforce - which would of course mean that they would also be strong linguistic role models.

8. We support, in principle, the establishment of the seedling school as set out in 3.1 and are grateful to Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger for taking responsibility for the first years but are concerned that there are no plans to establish a permanent site for the seedling school.

Authority response: The Porthcawl site is the permanent site for the 'seedling school'.

9. It is necessary to clearly recognise the risks of providing Welsh-medium education only until the end of the reception class on the Porthcawl site.

9.1 The risk of children transitioning to English-medium schools in Porthcawl: How will the county ensure that pupils transition from the outset to Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger?

9.2 The risk that children will be unable to secure a place at Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger in year 1 despite having a place in the seedling school: In 8.4, you note the school's admission arrangements. How will parents apply for a place in the seedling school? The information is not clear enough. As Porthcawl pupils live further from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger, how will the application process for the whole school take place? If there are 30 places in Porthcawl will that reduce the numbers on the North Cornelly site? Or will Porthcawl learners who live furthest from school be disadvantaged by the criterion regarding the closest distance to the school? This needs to be clear.

9.3 The risk of failing to make progress regarding outcome 2 during the first 5 years: As Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger is to increase to 2 streams (60 places) following the remodelling of the site, how will the increase noted in outcome 2 be achieved in the seedling school? There will be no additional capacity in the new seedling school, from what we understand and, therefore, where will the outcome 2 increase be achieved in addition to the 30 additional places? The best way to achieve the increase is to declare a firm intention and a timeline to ensure there is a permanent site for the seedling school in Porthcawl. The 5-year plan states quite clearly the intention to "Establish school provision in Porthcawl by 2024" but this is in addition to the provision at Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger and it is currently too vague.

Authority response: The risks of providing Welsh-medium education only until the end of the reception class on the Porthcawl site are recognised. The Porthcawl site is the permanent site for the proposed 'Seedling School' and Welsh-medium childcare provision. The term 'Seedling School' has been defined in this instance, as explained in the consultation document, as a 'starter class' for 30 full-time equivalent nursery pupils plus 30 full-time equivalent Reception pupils) with co-located Welsh-medium childcare to serve the Porthcawl area (to be located in a new building on the Porthcawl Primary School site). This proposed provision on the Porthcawl Primary School site is not to be confused with the future intention to develop a new Welsh-medium primary school for the Porthcawl area (outlined in section 3 of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment which was published as part of the consultation exercise):

'Stage 3 - Strengthening the proposal

It should be noted that longer term, there will be increased choice available in respect of Welsh-medium primary school provision in the area, as in 2020, Cabinet gave approval in principle to the development of a new Welsh-medium school to serve the Porthcawl area as part of a future band of the School Modernisation Programme. The intention is that the

future new Welsh-medium school scheme would be aligned to the development of the Porthcawl Regeneration scheme (the school would be developed as the Regeneration scheme is 'built-out').

The legislative framework in Wales regarding school admissions requires the local authority to allow for parental choice. Furthermore, school admission legislation states that the local authority must not suggest that parents should express a preference for any particular school.

Applications will be in line with current admission arrangements and in particular, current over-subscription criteria. Parents/carers are required to apply for places at Nursery and Reception. There is currently no requirement for a parent/carer to apply for a school place for Year 1 and it is not envisaged that the local authority's admission policy and arrangements will need to change to accommodate this. Therefore, pupils will automatically transition from the seedling school to Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr for Year 1. The PAN for the proposed seedling school and Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr would be carefully managed on an annual basis to ensure that sufficient places are available to meet demand, using likely surplus capacity within the older year groups to help sustain potential increases in the younger year groups. Furthermore, the local authority's current generous school transport policy offer will ensure that all pupils requesting a Welsh-medium school place will be offered one.

10. We have referred a number of times to the additional intense work required to promote Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger as it expands on its site as well. But we must be careful that the seedling school in Porthcawl is not seen to be a permanent feeder nursery school. 'Seedling schools' are so called as they should grow continually in their community until they are fully grown but it is not clear enough yet that this is the intention for the Porthcawl community. Confidence must be developed in the community.

See response to point 9 above.

11. We remain concerned that the county does not realise that it needs to transform the education provision as a whole in order to contribute to the Welsh Government's target of creating a million Welsh speakers. Two English-medium schools have seen their Pupil Access Number (PAN) increase recently, and this reduces the percentage of pupils who receive Welsh-medium education. The county should adopt a policy of expanding Welsh-medium education only from now on so that we see a real change in the growth of Welsh-medium education in the county. The county has been transparent in consulting on this change although this was not a requirement but has chosen not to consult on changes to increase Ysgol Caerau numbers recently. Transparency is needed on every scheme surely.

Authority response: The School Organisation Code generally determines the consultation arrangements for regulated alterations in respect of defined categories of schools. However, the creation of the 'seedling' provision proposed does not align with any of the School Organisation Code elements of school reorganisation that require the publication of proposals. Consequently, it was decided to undertake a non-Code consultation in this particular instance in order to solicit views (due to 'uniqueness' the proposal not aligning to any Code category). Ysgol Caerau did however align to a Code category and a consultation was not required (per the Code). The council could not, under existing

legislation, adopt a policy of expanding Welsh-medium education only from now on. School organisation proposal would have to be consulted upon under the Code and Cabinet would legally be compelled to 'conscientiously take into account' the product of the consultation, in which consultees views are sought as to their favoured way forward in respect of any proposal put forward.

12. We note that the Welsh Language Impact Assessment has not been thorough enough and has not set out in sufficient detail the risks or any mitigation measures needed if pupils transition to English-medium education in year 1, thereby breaking the progression that has already been established. The sentence in the last box on page 14 of document v1.3 is utterly disparaging and concerns us deeply. It appears that the author has not endeavoured to find any mitigation measures, although there are several. We have drawn the county's attention to the lack of detail in this step of the process before and were promised it would improve but this has not happened. Note:

"There are ways to promote and increase the use of the Welsh language."

The county has a promotion sub-group that would have been able to offer several suggestions on this area of the document. The author should make the most of the resources available within the existing structures of the Welsh Education Forum.

The county must produce a comprehensive mitigation plan to rectify this immediately.

Authority response: As outlined in the Welsh Language Impact Assessment which was published as part of the consultation exercise:

'It should be noted that longer term, there will be increased choice available in respect of Welsh-medium primary school provision in the area, as in 2020, Cabinet gave approval in principle to the development of a new one-form-entry Welsh-medium school to serve the Porthcawl area as part of a future band of the School Modernisation Programme.

The intention is that the future new one-form-entry Welsh-medium school scheme would be aligned to the development of the Porthcawl Regeneration scheme (the school would be developed as the Regeneration scheme is 'built-out').

There is a risk that in the interim some parents will choose to send their children to the nearby English-medium school following their Welsh-medium 'seedling' Reception year. However, given that Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr is scheduled to have a brand new, enlarged 21st century school building in 2024 and that it is also planned to provide a future new one-form-entry Welsh-medium school in the area, the risk is likely to be small.'

At this this formative stage of the proposal, the risk has initially been assessed as very small. Nonetheless, Section 3 of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment goes on to highlight that 'There are ways to promote and increase the use of Welsh language.' The fact that promotion can serve to mitigate the assessed small risk is explicitly highlighted Welsh Language Impact Assessment – and should the proposal progress beyond the consultation stage, the promotion sub-group would be involved in promoting the scheme.

13. There are no financial details regarding changes to Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr's budget to ensure that the school has the financial resources to develop the new provision. From the recent experience of other counties where seedling schools will open in the next couple of years, it has been essential to provide lead schools with adequate resources to demonstrate to the whole community that the new provision is properly and fully funded. The opening of a seedling school is quite an addition to the usual responsibilities of a

school and that should be properly recognised, especially during a period of financial austerity for all schools. Doing more with the same is an unreasonable demand on a school.

Authority response: The delegated school budget for Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr would be adjusted, through the funding formula, to account for the seedling provision. Running costs would be met from the School's delegated Budget. All capital costs (including proposed all-weather pitch) would be met from the capital grants allocated).

14.The proposal also fails to recognise the potential impact of pupils from this area in particular who will transition to Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd and the county fails in its responsibility to strengthen the targets of outcome 4 of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

15.It would also have been useful to include information on a late immersion scheme as part of the consultation to show that there is also an alternative pathway for families.

16.What promotional work has taken place on sharing information about Welsh-medium education in this area? What is the county's communications policy on promoting Welsh-medium education?

Authority response: Promotional work which has taken place on sharing information about Welsh-medium education in this area is as follows:

The Local Authority's Welsh Promotional Strategy (2021-2026) is committed to raising the profiles of Welsh-medium education and has produced a pamphlet on the benefits of being bi-lingual. The strategy also supports and promotes the work of the WEF to deliver targets within the WESP.

- 15th May : Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus – this provides schools with a framework to promote the Welsh language and a Welsh ethos across all areas of the school. Schools are able to achieve either bronze, silver, or gold awards for their efforts in following the framework;*
- 11th May: expansion and relocation of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to a brand-new site to ensure learners benefit from the choice of high-quality Welsh Medium education;*
- Regularly promoting the “why choose Welsh-medium education booklet” on all platforms including Gov.delivery, staff messages and Social media;*
- We retweet anything that's relevant from the Welsh medium schools;*
- Link shared on the Take a peek at the positive experiences of Welsh-medium childcare and education...A collection of videos capturing the lives of families and individuals who live, work, and raise their children in South-East Wales are available to view. Access the videos and have insight into the positive experiences of Welsh-medium Childcare and education here. We are awaiting an update on the video platform in order to add to the website.*

17.What will happen to the site after the school moves to the permanent site? It would be good to see it remain as a Welsh-medium provision.

Authority response: The Porthcawl site is the permanent site. Any future school changes regarding organisation in the area would be subject to future Cabinet decision.

18. We agree with the proposal to open a seedling school under the leadership of Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger in Porthcawl provided that parents, carers and the community in general are given clear assurance about the timeline for delivering a new permanent Welsh-medium school for Porthcawl as well as a comprehensive transition and promotion plan for the North Cornelly and Porthcawl area explaining what kind of Welsh-medium provision will be available on both sites.

19. The Council and the Welsh Government announced a new land development on March 31 which will provide a location for a number of new developments including a school. Depending on when this land will be available for development, this would be the perfect location for a school if it will be available during the next 5 years, or a second Welsh-medium school could even be developed.

[https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/new-welsh-government-land-deal-unlocks-ambitious-future-for-porthcawl/ /](https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/new-welsh-government-land-deal-unlocks-ambitious-future-for-porthcawl/)

Authority response: This is the Porthcawl Regeneration Scheme land already mentioned in the consultation document. The future school organization proposals for the area would be subject to options appraisals processes to inform decision making.

20. Clarity is also needed regarding the application process for the seedling school. The viability of the seedling school will be highly dependent on this process. If 60 applications were to come from children who live closer than Porthcawl families, what impact will this have on the seedling school? This is not clear in the consultation document.

As always, we are prepared to discuss our response with Bridgend County Borough Council officers and councillors at any convenient time.

Authority response: See response to point 9 above.

Elin Maher
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Appendix 4



Porthcawl WM
Seeding School - Su



Summary report -
Welsh responses.pdf

Survey response summary: There were 17 responses in Welsh and 52 in English (69 in total).

The full survey responses are included in the 'pdf' documents above. A summary table is included below:

<i>Welsh response</i>	<i>English translation</i>
<p>Effeithiau cadarnhaol Darparu hygyrchedd lleol i Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn ardal Porthcawl Mwy o gyfleoedd cyflogaeth i unigolion weithio drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn ardal Porthcawl</p> <p>Effeithiau negyddol Mae perygl y bydd rhieni yn dewis anfon eu plant i'r ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg cyfagos yn dilyn eu blwyddyn derbyn yr 'egin' ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg. Gall hyn gael ei liniaru trwy i rieni dderbyn gwybodaeth am leoliad yr Ysgol Addysg Gymraeg yn ardal Porthcawl yn ogystal â phryd y bydd yn agor. Nid oes unrhyw fanylion ariannol am y gyllideb sy'n mynd i gael ei darparu i Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr er mwyn sicrhau bod yr ysgol yn cael yr adnoddau ariannol i sicrhau'r ddarpariaeth newydd. Gellir lliniaru hyn drwy gadarnhau'r</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>December 2022 to 13 April 2023</p> <hr/> <p>manylion i'r ysgol fel y gellir cynllunio i'n paratoi ar gyfer 2025.</p>	<p>Positive effects. Providing accessible, local Welsh-medium education within the Porthcawl area. More employment opportunities for people to work through the medium of Welsh in the Porthcawl area. Negative effects. There is a risk that parents will choose to send their children to the nearby English medium school following the foundation year in the Welsh medium 'seedling' school. This could be alleviated by giving information to parents about the location of the Welsh-medium school in the Porthcawl area, as well as when it will open. There are no financial details with regards to the budget given to Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr in order to make sure that the school receives the financial resources to ensure the new provision. This could be alleviated by confirming the details for the school so as planning and preparations for 2025 could begin.</p>

<p>Effeithiau cadarnhaol Sicrhau bod y galw am Addysg Gymraeg o'r diwedd yn cael ei ddarparu yn ardal Porthcawl. Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg Hygyrch i deuluoedd lle nad oes angen iddynt ddibynnu ar gludiant i Gorneli. Cynnydd mewn cyfleoedd swyddi trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn ardal Porthcawl. Effeithiau negyddol Mae recriwtio i swyddi yn heriol, mae angen cynllun clir ar sut y gall y sir gynyddu'r gweithlu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg gyda chymwysterau priodol. Mae'r ddarpariaeth yma ar gael i flwyddyn 1 bydd angen wedyn i'r plant fynd i ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sgêr. Tra bod yr opsiwn ar gael ar gyfer Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg, fe all fod yn fwy apelgar ar yr adeg yma i rieni anfon eu plentyn i addysg cyfrwng Saesneg gan fod yr ysgol ar yr un safle. Cadarnhewch ble a phryd y bydd yr Ysgol Cyfrwng Cymraeg ar agor yn ardal Porthcawl a fydd yn hysbysu rhieni ac yn darparu llwybr addysgiadol clir trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg i'w plentyn. Mae'n hen bryd i'r Cyngor ehangu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn y Fwrdeistref. Bydd gweithredu polisi i ganolbwyntio ymdrechion ar addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn unig yn gweld newid gwirioneddol yn nhwf addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y Sir. Mae gennym ni 4 Ysgol Gynradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn y Fwrdeistref, yn erbyn faint o ysgolion cynradd Saesneg?</p>	<p>Positive effects. Ensuring that the demand for Welsh education is provided in the Porthcawl area at last. Welsh medium education that is accessible for families whereby they do not need to depend on transport to Cornelly. An increase in Welsh-medium opportunities in the Porthcawl area. Negative effects. Recruiting for jobs is challenging, a clear plan is needed on how the county can increase the workforce through the medium of Welsh with appropriate qualifications. This provision is available up to year 1, but then the children will need to attend Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr. Although there is an option for Welsh-medium education, at this time it may be more appealing for parents to send their child to English medium education as the school is on the same site. Confirm where and when the Welsh medium school will be in the Porthcawl area which will inform parents and provide a clear Welsh-medium education pathway for their child. It's time for the Council to expand Welsh-medium education within the Borough. Implementing a policy to concentrate solely on Welsh medium education efforts will see a real change in the expansion of Welsh-medium education within the County. We have 4 English-medium primary schools in the Borough, compared to how many English primary schools?</p>
<p>Bydd y Saesneg yn parhau i gael ei drin yn fwy ffafriol ym Mhorthcawl gan y cyngor am na fydd mwy nag un dosbarth Cymraeg yno. Ar ôl y flwyddyn gyntaf fe fydd pobl yn anfon eu plant at yr ysgol gynradd lleol gan na fyddent eisiau i'w plant bach deithio'n bell.</p>	<p>The English language will still be treated more favourably in Porthcawl by the council as there will not be more than one Welsh class there. After the first year, people will be sending their children to the local primary school as they will not want their children travelling far.</p>