

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

16 JUNE 2015

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CWM GARW BY RELOCATING THE SCHOOL

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw by relocating the school to a new school building on the existing Betws Primary School site - and to present to Cabinet the findings of the consultation in a detailed consultation report (see Appendix A).

2 Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The school modernisation programme supports many of the corporate priorities, in particular:
- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement

3 Background

- 3.1 On 3rd March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend; five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools:
- i. Commitment to high standards and excellence in provision.
 - ii. Equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend.
 - iii. Inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils.
 - iv. Community focussed schools, where the school actively engages with its local community.
 - v. Value for money.
- 3.2 The Policy and Planning Framework sets out 17 areas where these principles should be applied in practice.
- 3.3 The principles which are particularly relevant in the context of this proposal concern the size of primary schools (to ensure that “all Bridgend’s primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision”) and value for money, efficiency and effectiveness and the provision of local schools, planning new provision to reflect changes in the distribution of the population.
- 3.4 Welsh-medium primary school provision for the north east of the county borough is currently provided at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, which is located in

Pontycymer. This school is typical of a number of valley schools, being built on a hillside and with poor access for disabled pupils and visitors. It is not suitable for delivery of today's curriculum and its condition is graded 'Poor' (exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended) with an estimated £700,000 backlog of repairs and maintenance.

- 3.5 The current capacity of the school is 210 with 123 (4-11) on roll as of January 2015, resulting in 87 surplus places. The number on roll is projected to rise to 161 in 2022, which would mean that surplus places would be 49. It is the ambition of the Council to increase the numbers of parents choosing Welsh medium education for their children and this needs balancing with the number of surplus places being held. Whilst there are surplus places in this school and our other Welsh-medium provision in the north of the county borough, Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, we have a deficit of places in the south.
- 3.6 Mobile classroom units were installed at both Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr in December 2013 and Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger in 2014 to meet the immediate sufficiency issues, but a longer term solution is required and this proposal will reduce the pressure on Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr. The relocation of YGG Cwm Garw closer to the Valleys Gateway area would make the school more accessible, as it would be more centrally located. The school would allow for growth in demand for Welsh medium education and accommodate extra pupils coming from an enlarged catchment.
- 3.7 This relocation proposal would facilitate a change to the school's catchment area to encompass an area north of Bridgend town, which would reduce the pressure on places at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr in Bridgend, which is nearing its full capacity and will not be able to meet the expected needs of housing developments in the Bridgend and Valley Gateways areas in the near future. This balancing of Welsh-medium places across the county borough would also make YGG Cwm Garw a more viable size in terms of education provision and provide a school that is fit for purpose and more efficient in terms of operating costs.
- 3.8 This report outlines the responses to the consultation in respect of the proposed relocation and seeks approval to continue the process to the next stage.

4 Current situation

- 4.1 In order to progress the proposal, consultation was carried out between 25th April and 1st June 2015 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. A copy of the consultation document was also made available during this time on the Council's website:

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/services/consultation/hub/ygg-cwm-garw.aspx>

- 4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal to open the school on 1st April 2018.
- 4.3 Following receipt of advice from technical officers of the authority the construction programme for the proposed new build is such that the school would be ready for occupation on 1st September 2018, which is a change to the proposed opening date. The views of the school governing body have been sought with this regard

and we are awaiting a response, which will be reported verbally at the Cabinet meeting if received in time.

4.4 If approved by Cabinet, the next stage of the process is to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposals which would need to be published for a period of 28 days and any formal written objections would be invited during this time.

4.5 If there are no objections during the Public Notice period, then Cabinet can consider whether to determine to implement the proposal.

4.6 If there are objections at this Public Notice stage, an 'objections report' will be presented to Cabinet for consideration and subsequently published summarising the objections and the authority's response to those objections. Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of any objections. Cabinet could then accept, reject or modify the proposal.

4.7 Summary Responses to consultation

4.8 The attached consultation report (Appendix A) sets out in detail a summary of the issues raised by consultees and the authority's responses to these.

5 Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

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

6 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and has been further informed by responses to the consultation papers. The assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact on the duties of the Council towards protected groups (Appendix 2). The existing YGG Cwm Garw School is predominantly inaccessible to disabled pupils and visitors with mobility issues. It is anticipated, therefore, that accessibility of provision will be significantly improved upon occupation of the new build school on the current Betws site (since the new build would be designed with due regard to Building Regulations).

6.2 A Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation. (Appendix 3)

6.2 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation. (Appendix 4)

7 Financial Implications

7.1 The project is one part of the Garw Valley South scheme and the anticipated cost of the new school will be funded by the Council and Welsh Government under the 21st Century Schools Programme for which the Authority has received '*approval in principle*'. The project is included within the Council's capital programme as approved by Council in February 2012. The total approved budget for the Garw Valley Scheme is £10 million. The financial profile for the scheme has been revised and approved by Welsh Government to reflect the construction programme. The

total cost of the scheme will be reviewed in the context of the proposed changes outlined above.

- 7.2 Any additional revenue costs arising following the transfer to the new school site, such as non domestic rates, will be met from within the schools' delegated budget. However, it is anticipated that, by providing the two schools on one site, there should be opportunities to make efficiencies through shared facilities.
- 7.3 There are currently three buses transporting pupils to YGG Cwm Garw (one from the Nantymoel area, one from the Blackmill area and one from Betws/Llangeinor area). The current cost of this bus service is £63,000. A school bus service, with sufficient capacity to transport the required projected number of pupils to the Betws site would cost approximately £92,000 per academic year. Additionally, should there be a change in the school catchment area to incorporate the Valleys Gateway area and subsequently relieve pressure on YG Bro Ogwr, one additional bus would be required which is estimated to cost £20,000 per academic year. Therefore, total transport costs relating to this proposal could amount to an estimated £112,000, which is £49,000 more than current transport costs. This additional cost will be funded from existing budgets.

8 Recommendations

8.1 Cabinet is therefore recommended to:

- 1) consider the outcome of the consultation with all parties as detailed in the attached consultation report and appendices;
- 2) approve the consultation report for publication;
- 3) authorise the publication of a Public Notice on the proposal with a modified opening date of 1st September 2018.

Hard Copies of this report are available on request.

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Background documents

Council Report 13th September 2006: "LEARNING COMMUNITIES – SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – STRATEGY, PRINCIPLES, POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK"

Cabinet Report 12th December 2006: "LEARNING COMMUNITIES: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE" – SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROPOSALS"

Cabinet Report 2nd November 2010: "THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME SUBMISSION TO WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT"

Cabinet report 21st February 2012: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME REVISED BAND A SUBMISSION TO WELSH GOVERNMENT"

Cabinet Report 17th SEPTEMBER 2013: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: GARW VALLEY NURSERY PROVISION"

Cabinet Report 4th MARCH 2014: "SCHOOL MODERISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CWM GARW BY RELOCATING THE SCHOOL"

Cabinet Report 27th MAY 2014: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CWM GARW BY RELOCATING THE SCHOOL – DRAFT OBJECTIONS REPORT" – DECISION NOTICE

Bridgend County Borough Council Consultation Paper 8th September 2014: "PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CWM GARW IN THE FORM OF AN ENLARGEMENT"

Cabinet Report 14th NOVEMBER 2014: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CWM GARW IN THE FORM OF AN ENLARGEMENT"

Cabinet Report –Decision Notice 3rd February 2015: 'SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CWM GARW – OUTCOME OF PUBLIC NOTICE'

Cabinet Report 3rd March 2015: "PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT"

GARW VALLEY OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Cabinet Report 31st March 2015: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: GARW VALLEY SOUTH SCHEME (BETWS PRIMARY AND YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG CWM GARW)

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**CONSULTATION REPORT****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN****SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: Outcome of consultations on proposal to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw by relocating the school****1 Purpose of report**

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5 Summary Responses to consultation

- 5.1 Key points from the consultation exercises were as follows, with full details appended at the end of this report.

5.2 Pupil Consultation

BCBC representatives met with the School Council of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw 11th May 2015 and the School Council of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr on 15th May 2015 to discuss the proposal. Details of the meetings are included in this report at Appendix 1.

- 5.3 Subsequent to the question and answer sessions held at both schools pupils were asked to raise their hands if they thought the relocation of YGG Cwm Garw was a good idea; at both schools all pupils raised their hands bar one. The concern for both pupils related to travel distances. Namely, both children thought that relocating the school would impact on the travel distance for those pupils that currently live near the existing school.

5.4 Summary of on-line survey

Four people accessed the online survey of which two responded:

One respondent, a parent, provided the following comment:

'I strongly object to the proposal going ahead, if the proposal goes ahead my son will not attend that school ever !!! We live in bettws and I choose never to send him to that school so if proposal goes ahead you want have my child attending!!! Why don't you ask the parents of the pupils attending cwm garw if they would send the child on a bus to go to bettws school NO YOU WONT!!! WHY because you already know they were not attend that school.. Cwm garw is a fab school and should be kept where it is!!! Why can't you ask the parents before spending ridiculous amount of money on a school that's not feasible, also where are the kids going to play? You are building on playing ground field'

The other respondent, a local resident, commented:

'I am very much against the proposed move of Ysgol Cwm Garw to a new site in Bettws. The upper villages in the Garw valley already have many issues with accessing services and so to move a school which is central to the community would worsen this situation. Bettws, as a communities first and flying start area

receives much funding from different agencies to tackle issues in the area but Pontycymmer and Blaengarw receive no such funding even though they are areas of deprivation and suffer isolation. The public transport links between Pontycymmer and Bettws are very poor and so it would be very difficult for parents to travel to the school without access to a car. Improving the public transport between the two areas appears to be a costly option as it is very unlikely to be utilised well, as a few people will generally have a need to regularly travel between the two villages and incorporating Bettws on the regular bus route to Bridgend would considerably lengthen the journey time. The time it takes to travel from Blaengarw to Bridgend by bus is already too long so lengthening this further would negatively affect all the local people that use this means of transport on a day to day basis. Some of the streets immediately surrounding the school suffer particularly with issues of deprivation and so removing the school from this community and leaving a derelict, would only make this worse. There are enough empty buildings in Pontycymmer already. I attended Cwm Garw school myself and went on to go to Llanhari school for my secondary Welsh medium education. I had full intention of sending my children to Cwm Garw school but if the school moves to Bettws I won't be choosing this option but would rather send them to the local English school. I know a lot of ex-pupils feel the same. I would be so disappointed if this happened as I would love my children to attend a Welsh medium school. Being able to communicate in Welsh has no doubt helped me in my career in the NHS to date. But moving the school to Bettws would not be practical for me at all and I feel it's another example of where the heads of the valley areas are missing out to benefit those living closer to the M4 corridor.'

5.5 **Direct correspondence**

Two items of direct correspondence were received during the consultation period regarding the proposal. Responses were sent to the originators of items of correspondence thanking them for their submissions and stating that their comments would be taken into consideration in the report submitted to Cabinet.

5.6 The first piece of direct correspondence is detailed below:

'...I am a parent to one child currently at Cwm Garw and two children due to start this September as well as the following September. I'm out of the catchment area and still choose to send my children there. I think the school (teaching) is amazing. I just wanted to know if Sarn will be part of the catchment area after the move. Also, I've read about 1.5 and 1 form entry, but none of the parents I've spoken to seem to know what that means. With the April 2018 start, I would have 3 children at the school in reception, year 1 and year 2. Would they be on different sites and if so, for how long roughly?'

Authority's response:

The catchment boundary for the school has not yet been set and will be the subject of a separate consultation. We hope to seek approval to proceed to a public consultation on the catchment boundary in September when interested parties will have the opportunity to comment on the proposal thereafter.

The expression 'form entry' refers to the number of classes a school has per year group. So for example a one form entry school would have one class per year group and so on.

When the new school opens in 2018 the school will not operate on a split site basis, so all pupils will attend the new school in Bettws together.

- 5.7 The second piece of direct correspondence is from the Regional AM, Suzy Davies, and is detailed below (responses by the Local Authority are identified below in bold)

I would be grateful if the following observations could be taken into account in the above consultation.

The proposed new school will now be smaller than originally anticipated, following the outcome of the judicial review of the earlier consultation period.

However, a new school is an attractive prospect and the capacity is still for 315 f/t places, double the existing roll at the Pontycymmer site; this is intended to accommodate pupils from North Bridgend who would, on current catchment boundaries, attend YG Bro Ogwr.

The change in catchment area is planned in order to relieve pressure on YG Bro Ogwr, which is currently oversubscribed and likely to be subject to increased demand from development in Coity.

1. What recalculation of the number of f/t and nursery places was carried out following the judicial review and has the new catchment boundary been adjusted to accommodate the smaller school?

Work is currently ongoing to evaluate the growth the necessary school places for the catchments of both YGG Cwm Garw and YGG Bro Ogwr to ensure that any catchment changes reflect the demand for Welsh Medium provision in the area served by both schools. We hope to begin consultation in the 2015-16 academic year.

2. What direct engagement have you had with families in north Bridgend, who are likely to be changing catchment area, and what answers have you had about:

(a) whether they believe that attending school in Bettws will mean that their children will be receiving their WM education in a different community;

Although this specific question was not asked at part of the consultation specific views have been taken into account where they were provided.

(b) whether that will deter them from sending their children to Bettws in favour of a nearer EM school;

Parents have a right to express a preference for the school they feel is appropriate for their children. Moving the school to a new location, in particular if it's a different village, may affect a parent's decision for their child to attend their catchment school. The impact on community cohesion and identity has been highlighted in the Equalities Impact Assessment that accompanies the consultation report being reported to Cabinet on 16 June 2015. To support Welsh Medium education across the County Borough of Bridgend the proposed change to the LAs Learner Travel Policy proposes that pupils in Welsh Medium schools living 2 miles or further for primary schools and 3 miles or further for secondary schools would receive free transport regardless of whether the school is the nearest suitable school.

(c) whether sending their children to a different community for their WM education reduces their own prospect of using Welsh as adults in their own community; and **One of the potential benefits of siting the school adjacent to the Bettws Primary school on the same site would be the opportunity for greater integration between pupils in the same communities wishing to learn through the medium of Welsh with those wishing to learn through the medium of English.**

(d) whether the children are more likely to associate the use of Welsh just with their school rather than as a medium of everyday communication which has a place in their own community?

The LA and school would look for opportunities to ensure that there would not be any erosion of the Welsh language, especially at a community level. It is the ambition of the Council to increase the numbers of parents choosing Welsh medium education for their children. One of the benefits of locating the school in the gateway to the valleys area is to ensure that the area of demand for Welsh medium education is served by sufficient provision.

3. Do the replies to these questions reflect the responses to the same questions put to the families in the Garw Valley?

Beyond the formal consultation, the LA has not asked the specific questions you have outlined to consultees.

4. Do the replies reflect the existing experience and feelings of the families and children from the Ogmere Valley currently making the journey to the Pontycymmer site (a different community)? Relocating the school will clearly make their journey shorter, but will those families still consider their children receiving their education in Bettws to still be receiving their education outside their community?

RhAG have expressed concerns over the proposal impacting on the ability of the inhabitants of the Garw Valley to access WM education within their locality and they feel this would hinder any hope of language renewal in the valley.

Of the three responses received from the public all were generally negative about the proposal objecting to the proposal on the basis of:-

- **Distance to the new school from the valleys area and overall accessibility;**
- **Impact on community cohesion due to the loss of the school in the current community;**
- **The current school is a good school.**

5. If the school is relocated to Bettws, nearer Ogmere Valley residents, how many families will consider starting/moving their children into WM education who would not have done so while the provision was in Pontycymmer?

The current capacity of the school is 210 with 123 (age 4-11) on roll as of January 2015, resulting in 87 surplus places. The number on roll is projected to rise to 161 in 2022, which would mean that surplus places would be 49. It is the ambition of the Council to increase the numbers of parents choosing Welsh medium education for their children and this needs balancing with the number of surplus places being held. Whilst there are surplus places in this school and our other Welsh-medium provision in the north of the county borough, Ysgol Cynwyd Sant, we have a deficit of places in the south.

[I raise these points as **it is WG policy** for greater access to be available to WM early years and primary provision **within the children's community**. Do families believe that this relocation achieves this?)

6. Of the families in north Bridgend who expressed interest in the relocated school, (a) how many were aware of plans for a new-build EM school in Brynmenyn; and (b) how many sent their children to EM schools on the basis that YG Bro Ogwr was 'full'? (The WESP report states that all parents requiring WM education for their children were receiving it)

These specific questions were not asked at part of the consultation but views have been taken into account where they were provided.

7. The projected growth in demand for WM education is not impressive and anticipated to level off within two years. This should not be the limit of BCBC's ambition, especially in the Garw and Ogmore Valleys. **WG policy** is for demand to be created not just managed.

The Local Authority monitors and evaluates parental demand and availability of places within the Welsh-medium sector to ensure that all children who received Welsh-medium education during the early years are able to access Welsh-medium provision in the primary phase. In 2013 all pupils who requested Welsh-medium provision in the primary phase were able to access it.

Why hasn't Ti & Fi/Ysgol Feithrin provision meant higher, or more consistent, transfer across to WM primary provision and why hasn't the over-stimulated demand been mirrored in the North

(a) is it the location and number of the primary schools; or

(b) is it a failure in the promotion carried out by BCBC, (i) will leaders in the over-subscribed schools be looking for new pupils and (ii) should school leaders be the only major players in fulfilling the statutory duty to promote the Welsh language; this hardly conveys a whole-council ethos in support of WM education?

(c) If more targeted effort produces new demand in the north of the borough, what are your ideas for provision in the Garw and Ogmore Valleys? (You mention a longer view for the Porthcawl/Cynffig area)

Currently 8.72% of children aged 7 years are taught through the medium of Welsh in four Welsh-medium primary schools. All parents who require Welsh-medium education for their children aged 7 years are able to access this provision.

Projected numbers indicate an increase in the actual number and percentage of children aged 7 being taught through the medium of Welsh for the academic years 2014-15, and then a slight increase in the number but a levelling off in the percentage 2015-17

To address the imbalance in capacity the proposal to move YGG Cwm Garw further south would enable a better balance of pupil numbers across our four primary schools. YGG Cwm Garw currently has 87 surplus places and the current building is in poor condition (Grade C).

The proposed development would also allow for growth in demand for Welsh medium education and accommodate extra pupils coming from an enlarged catchment which will meet the anticipated demand from the new housing developments within the Valleys Gateway area of the County Borough. The re-drawing of catchment areas will assist in releasing places at YG Bro Ogwr

which is the catchment school for the new Parc Derwen development in Coity (1500 houses).

A long term solution is currently being looked into for the Porthcawl and Cynffig catchment area. There are possibilities of a starter unit in Porthcawl being developed. However, this is at the very start of the planning process, and will not be for another 2-3 years if this comes to fruition.

Work will continue to explore options to expand capacity in the west of the county where it is known that demand is rising. If the provision in the west of the county (i.e around the Porthcawl area close to where Ysgol y Ferch O'Sger is situated) is increased that will, in time, impact on the numbers of children coming through to be assessed through the medium of Welsh by Year 9.

The LA will continue to monitor the percentage of year 9 learners in Welsh-medium education and will also continue to undertake work to predict, with greater certainty, the demand for Welsh language education and plan accordingly, especially given the pressure on capacity in two of our Welsh-medium primary schools and surplus places in the other two.

8. In 2013, WG told BCBC that it was not appropriate to use the Cwm Garw footprint in order to increase WM places for those living in the town of Bridgend. How has BCBC overcome that view?

The Local Authority is currently looking at the potential of a establishing a WM starter class in the south of the County Borough and a project team has been authorised and has already commenced scoping and evaluating a range of options.

- 5.8 One item of direct correspondence was received from on RhAG on 3rd June, after the closing date for the consultation process. Unfortunately due to the strict timescales involved in preparation of the Cabinet and consultation reports we have not been able to respond directly to RhAG yet, but have nevertheless included their response in Appendix 1a, which includes both RhAG's comments and alongside it the Local Authority's responses to those comments. The Authority will respond directly to RhAG very shortly. Furthermore, a meeting has been arranged with the RhAG and the Director of Education and Transformation to discuss the issues raised in their response to the proposal.

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

Estyn response to the proposal to make regulated alterations to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, Bridgend County Borough Council. Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales have prepared this report. 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 that is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional

Consortium, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is that Bridgend County Borough Council make regulated alterations to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw by relocating the school to a new school building on the Betws Primary School site

Summary

The local authority's proposal is to improve the school premises at Ysgol Cwm Garw, in order to meet the DDA requirements for access for pupils with disability and to provide a better setting for teaching and learning to meet current curriculum needs. The local authority has graded the current condition of the school as '*poor*' and DDA compliance as '*Non Compliance, and cannot be made so without major expense if at all*', which means that there are major defects to the premises.

This is a Welsh medium school and currently has in the region of 87 (40%) surplus places. However, the local authority states that although there is a surplus here, there is a deficit of Welsh medium places in the south of the County Borough. The proposed relocation of this school into the Valleys Gateway Area is expected to reduce pressure for places upon another Welsh medium school, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, through a reconfiguration of current catchment areas for Welsh medium provision.

This proposal is consistent with the local authority's strategy for school re-organisation and is likely to improve access to Welsh medium education.

It is expected that this proposal will help increase the number of Welsh medium school places and is likely to benefit pupils at Ysgol Cwm Garw through the provision of more accessible premises, with a modern teaching and learning environment. It is Estyn's opinion that a move to a new school building is likely to at least maintain the quality of the outcomes and provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposal. This rationale includes addressing the issues of surplus places in Welsh medium primary education in the north of the county, and addressing over subscription in the south. It also includes addressing the declining standard of school buildings and the lack of disability access at Ysgol Cwm Garw, as well as meeting some of the demand for additional school places arising from housing developments in the Valleys Gateway Area.

The proposer clearly defines the expected benefits of the proposal. These appear to be reasonable and include the provision of modern learning facilities, and DDA compliant access for pupils with disabilities. The proposal also asserts reasonably that the establishment of a geographically more central school with a revised catchment area will reduce the pressure for places in the oversubscribed Welsh medium school.

The proposer has provided clear evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this proposal. These include redevelopment on the existing Ysgol Cwm Garw site as well as alternative locations for the new school. It has provided

good reasons as to why these have been discounted and why the preferred option is chosen.

The proposal also identifies the need for changes to the catchment for this school and for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr in Bridgend. The local authority states that Ysgol Bro Ogwr will not be able to meet the expected needs of housing developments in the Bridgend and Valley Gateways areas in the near future, and therefore a change of catchment for Ysgol Cwm Garw would reduce the pressure on places.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on learner travel arrangements. The new school will be sited approximately 4.7 miles from the existing school, which will require increased school transport provision. The local authority has costed the impact of the proposal on school transport, and has shown an increase of c£49K in transport costs.

The proposal identifies one disadvantage and seven potential risks. The single disadvantage arises from potential disruption to Betws Primary school arising from construction work taking place alongside it. The proposed control measures appear to be appropriate and are likely to manage the disruption. The seven risks identified are all theoretical with no substantial or likely risk identified. The proposed risk control measures all appear to be appropriate and are likely to manage the risks should they arise. The proposer has undertaken an equality impact assessment, and a community impact assessment, which appear to address the main issues.

Educational aspects of the proposal

- The proposer refers to the most recent Estyn inspection report for Ysgol Cwm Garw (October 2010) where standards at the school, along with leadership and management were judged to be excellent.
- The proposal clearly states that current performance for most Foundation Phase pupils is improving, but with weaker performance for more able pupils. The proposal also clearly states that current performance for key stage 2 pupils is declining, both at expected level and for pupils that are more able. However pupil outcomes generally compare well with schools with similar E-FSM levels.
- The proposal does not set out the support category for the school based on the national school categorisation system. However, the local authority has evaluated the school's leadership and has judged that the school is well led, is sufficiently self-critical to drive improvement, and teacher performance is good.

Local Authority Response

The school is currently in an amber support category.

- The proposer states that the 'environment for teaching and learning is very poor' but does not evidence what this means in practice.

Local Authority Response

The school was built in 1910 and has high repairs and maintenance requirements, with certain external spaces not conducive to outdoor activities

nor can the internal learning spaces be adapted easily to the requirements of learning fit for the 21st century, reducing the learning opportunities for pupils.

- It is Estyn's opinion that a move to a new school building is likely to at least maintain the quality of the outcomes and provision in the area.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation stage and has been further informed by responses to the consultation papers. The assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact on the duties of the Council towards protected groups. (Appendix 2)

The existing YGG Cwm Garw School is predominantly inaccessible to disabled pupils and visitors with mobility issues. It is anticipated, therefore, that accessibility of provision will be significantly improved upon occupation of the new build school on the current Betws site (since the new build would be designed with due regard to Building Regulations).

7.2 A Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation. (Appendix 3)

7.3 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation. (Appendix 4)

8 Financial Implications

8.1 The project is one part of the Garw Valley South scheme and the anticipated cost of the new school will be funded by the Council and Welsh Government under the 21st Century Schools Programme for which the Authority has received '*approval in principle*'. The project is included within the Council's capital programme as approved by Council in February 2012. The total approved budget for the Garw Valley Scheme is £10 million. The financial profile for the scheme has been revised and approved by Welsh Government to reflect the construction programme. The total cost of the scheme will be reviewed in the context of the proposed changes outlined above.

8.2 The Garw Valley South scheme is not linked to any MTFs budget proposal.

8.3 There are currently three buses transporting pupils to YGG Cwm Garw (one from the Nantymoel area one from the Blackmill area and one from Betws/Llangeinor area). The current cost of this bus service is £63,000. A school bus service, with sufficient capacity to transport the required projected number of pupils to the Betws site would cost approximately £92,000 per academic year. Additionally, should there be a change in the school catchment area to incorporate the Valleys Gateway area and subsequently relieve pressure on YG Bro Ogwr, one additional bus would be required which is estimated to cost £20,000 per academic year. Therefore, total transport costs relating to this proposal could amount to an estimated £112,000, which is £49,000 more than current transport costs. It has not yet been identified how this additional cost will be funded.

9 Statutory process in determining proposals

9.1 Provisional timetable:

Report to Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation (**16th June 2015**)

Publish Consultation Report on BCBC website, hard copies of the report will be available on request (**23rd June 2015**)

If agreed by the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council, a Public Notice will be published (**24th June 2015**) and there will be a period of 28 days in which to submit any objections to the proposal in writing

End of Public Notice period (**22nd July 2015**)

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 and subsequently published (**9th September 2015**)

Hard Copies of this report are available on request from:

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c/o Corporate Director – Education and Transformation
Children’s Directorate,
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YGG Cwm Garw Consultation
12 May 2015 , YGG Cwm Garw
In Attendance:
YGG Cwm Garw School Council Mr Webb Gaynor Thomas Sarah Lee

1	<p>An overview was given explaining that the previous proposal to develop a larger school on the Betws Site has been abandoned. This consultation was to request views and enable questioning on the proposal to develop a 210 + 45 Nursery school on the current Betws site. It was explained that a potential change to the Bro Ogwr catchment may be required but this is still under discussion by Children's Department and this will require a separate consultation. Questions were invited about the proposal and these are minuted below:</p>
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the English Medium school and Welsh Medium School be separate or in one building? The schools will be separate but on the 1 Betws Site. • Will Tynyrheol Primary be moving there as well? No, Tynyrheol Primary School will remain in Llangeinor. • Have we got the same amount for rooms as now? Yes, you will have the same size school in terms of pupil places but the spaces will be configured differently. You would have 1 hall. You will have a 'street' which is a large corridor that can be divided up into designated zones and all classrooms would be located off the 'street'. Nursery would have their own teaching space. • Will there be a special needs resource base? Betws School will have nurture space and a space for the hearing impaired. You will have the same number of spaces so potentially these rooms can be used for SEN but this is for the school to decide e.g. These could be used as withdrawal/ group rooms. • Will we have a nature reserve? Yes and green spaces • Will we be sharing anything with the other schools? Only the parking; bus drop off; and the nature reserve. All the rest will be in two separate buildings. • Where will parking be? At the front of the school, by the main road. • When will we move in? April 2018. • What will the colour of the school be? We will come and have a chat with you and develop mood boards to get your views on this during the design phase. • Will there be sport storage facilities? Yes, one off the hall for PE and an outdoor store for equipment. • Will there be changing rooms? Yes, 1 which will probably need to be timetabled • Will we have a chance for staff and children to go and see Pen-y-Fai again? Yes we can arrange that.

- **Will there be lifts?** No, the school is single story so everything is on 1 level. The school will be DDA compliant and have wheelchair access; a medical inspection room; and disabled toilets. If there is a difference in level then there may be a need for a platform lift.
- **Will classes be joined physically?** No, you will have access to another classroom via a cloakroom which the two classes will share. This will be suitable for two classes.
- **Can children from other schools join this school?** Potentially, but it would be for the Head and parents to decide as there could be language issues.

A child mentioned that this would be a positive because potentially some English children could learn Welsh.

- **Will there be bike storage?** Yes. Highways department are looking at all aspects of road safety.
- **What will happen to this school?** This is unknown at the moment. Cabinet will make a decision if they decide that this proposal should go ahead.
- **Will there be music storage?** Yes, the street or group rooms can include a music area.
- **What will happen with our furniture?** We have a budget that covers the build and some furnishing. Good furniture will be moved to the new site and any old furniture will be offered up to other schools on a first come, first served basis.
- **Will we have a church to sing in?** Not onsite but this is something that can be arranged by the school.
- **Will there be a computer room and library?** There would not be a designated computer/library room, but there will be a designated area in the 'street' and there will be computers in classrooms.
- **Will there be water fountains?** Yes, drinking water will be available
- **Are the schools very close?** The schools would be a distance apart and there are different levels on the site so at Betws and so one school would be set higher than the other. The school's pitch would be at a lower level to the school building.
- **What is the layout of the 'street'?** The designers would need to work with the school to agree a layout. The 'street' will form a long central corridor down the middle of the school and all the classrooms will come off this. Playgrounds will be directly accessible from the classrooms.
- **How big is the school in area?** Approximately 1500m²
- **Will there be a fence around the school?** Yes there would be a perimeter fence.

1.2	A show of hands was requested to see if they thought it was a good idea. 1 child thought not because a lot of children that live close to the current school will have to travel further. It was explained that there are currently no safe routes to Betws so it is likely that these children will qualify for free school transport.
YGG Cwm Garw Consultation	
15 May 2015 , Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr	
In Attendance:	
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr School Council Gaynor Thomas Sarah Lee	

1	<p>An overview was given explaining that the previous proposal to develop a larger school on the Betws Site has been abandoned. This consultation was to request views and enable questioning on the proposal to develop a 210 + 45 Nursery school on the current Betws site. It was explained that a potential change to the Bro Ogwr catchment may be required but this is still under discussion by Children's Department and this will require a separate consultation.</p> <p>Questions were invited about the proposal and these are minuted below:</p>
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be an English Medium School and Welsh Medium School on site? Yes, the schools will be separate but on the 1 Betws Site. The old Betws School will be demolished and YGG Cwm Garw built there. • Will the school be the same size as now? Yes both Betws and YGG Cwm Garw will remain the same size but YGG Cwm Garw currently have less pupils than they have room for so they may gain more pupils if the potential change to the YG Bro Ogwr catchment takes place. <p>Children's Directorate will review the catchments to meet the demand of the current development in Parc Derwen and any potential future developments in order to remove the pressure for places on Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr and in doing so reduce the surplus places in YGG Cwm Garw.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will happen to the current YGG Cwm Garw Building? A decision will be required from Cabinet. • Will the two schools share football pitches? No, they must have their own pitches. YGG Cwm Garw will have an all-weather pitch. • How big are the Pitches? 2500m² • When will catchments be decided? There will be a separate consultation process which will probably take place after this current process, approximately September time. • When the design process starts, do the school get a say? Yes. There is a standardised design for the school but the school inputs into the scheme. Consultation will take place not only on the design but also in respect of the colour schemes and designated areas in the street, furniture etc. • When will the school be open? April 2018 so the children will remain where they are until then, and they will then transfer over. • Which current year groups will get to experience the new school? Year 3's and younger but the older children can still help inform on the design and they will be invited

	back to see the school once it is complete.
1.2	A show of hands was requested to see if they thought it was a good idea. All were in agreement that it was good but one child raised the the potential issue that it may lead to transport issues for some children that live close to the current YGG Cwm Garw school.

Correspondence from RhAG

RhAG Pen-y-bont's comments to Bridgend County Borough Council on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw by relocating the school to a new school building on the Betws Primary School site.

CONSULTATION PAPER

21 April 2015

Background

RhAG would be grateful if BCBC could give consideration to the following comments as part of this consultation.

RhAG has consistently stated in a number of submissions that WM provision needs to be retained in the Garw Valley, a position which we adhere to in this submission.

i.e. comments submitted in response to the Council's draft WESP (February 2012):

"We foresee that the proposed reorganisation of schools in the Garw Valley area could have implications for WM provision in the north of the authority."

"We would urge that considerations such as location, travel times and distances are central factors in order to ensure that equality issues are addressed. In terms of WM provision, more often than not, the location of provision rather than actual buildings has a greater impact on demand for WM education." (February, 2012)

RhAG has consistently maintained the need to develop and expand Welsh-medium provision across the LA as a whole. We have pushed for the LA to develop new and additional provision as opposed to only reconfiguring current provision. Time after time we have emphasised that a key factor for the WM sector is the availability of local provision. Location and distances are key issues for parents – especially for families from more disadvantaged

Local Authority response

The proposed re-location site ie Bettws, is in the Garw valley. The LA accepts that it is in the lower part of the valley and the current school is in the upper part of the valley.

A long term solution to support the growth of Welsh medium education is currently being considered and a project is being led by Mark Jones (Head of YGG Llangynydd) to consider options around starter units in the central area of the borough, where demand for welsh medium provision is at its highest.

Work will continue to explore options to expand capacity in the west of the county where it is known that demand is rising. If the provision in the west of the county (i.e around the Porthcawl area close to where Ysgol y Ferch O'Sger is situated) is increased that will, in time, impact on the numbers of children coming through to be assessed through the medium of Welsh by Year 9.

The LA will undertake work to predict, with greater certainty, the demand for Welsh language education and plan accordingly,

<p>backgrounds without access to their own transport and these are factors which we have urged the LA to consider at all times.</p> <p>It is notable that the last Welsh-medium primary school established in the LA was in fact Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw in 1988, in stark contrast to neighbouring local authorities.</p>	<p><i>especially given the pressure on capacity in two of our Welsh-medium primary schools and surplus places in the other two.</i></p> <p><i>The LA has already begun preparatory work to undertake a new survey on the demand for Welsh Medium education in the county borough later in 2015.</i></p>
<p>The consultation process</p> <p>During this second consultation we note that the LA did not conduct meetings with parents, governors, staff and stakeholders as was arranged during the original consultation. As a result, parents feel that they have not been properly consulted, have not been equipped with the full facts behind the proposed changes or the consequences of those changes or been given an opportunity to air their views in relation to this new proposal.</p> <p>It is fair to say that was general support for the proposal of a larger school housed in a brand new modern building but this diluted proposal is now considered to be a very different proposition. Given this, the governing body of Ysgol Cwm Garw have confirmed to RhAG their objection to this new proposal</p> <p>Can the LA explain why the view was taken not to carry out what is generally considered as good practice in terms of consultation processes by consultation meetings and information sessions during this second consultation?</p> <p>This is clearly not the same proposal with a few modifications – it is a completely new and different proposal with new implications. RhAG must query that due process has not been carried out in relation to this new proposal.</p>	<p>Local Authority response</p> <p><i>The school and governing body confirmed that it did not require further direct consultation beyond that which was undertaken as part of the earlier proposal. A public consultation did take place and was available online on the Local Authority's website and advertised in line with the requirements of the School Organisational Code. There is no requirement in the Code to hold consultation meetings.</i></p>
<p>The proposal</p> <p>RhAG maintains its opposition to the relocation of Cwm Garw to Betws as was expressed as part of the original consultation held in 2013. Our opposition in regards to this revised proposal is even greater due to the proposal of a smaller school - 1 FE as opposed to 1.5 FE – which will mean less capacity and flexibility for increasing reasonable and convenient access to WM education in the area and within the LA as a</p>	<p>Local Authority response</p> <p><i>There is sufficient capacity in YGG Cwm Garw to support the re-profiling of WM education in the North of the County Borough. The current capacity of the school is 210 with 123 (age 4-11) on roll as of January 2015, resulting in 87 surplus places. The number on roll is projected</i></p>

<p>whole.</p> <p>We strongly disagree with a number of the suggested advantages mentioned in the consultation paper if the proposal went ahead: with particular reference to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Allow for growth in demand of Welsh Medium Education in the county borough. ➤ Reduced Pressure on Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr as a result of future housing developments in the Bridgend and Valley Gateways areas. ➤ Community provision could be incorporated into new school build <p>We will expand on our objection to these points in due course.</p>	<p><i>to rise to 161 in 2022, which would mean that surplus places would be 49. It is the ambition of the Council to increase the numbers of parents choosing Welsh medium education for their children but this needs balancing with the number of surplus places being held..</i></p>
<p>The original proposal put forward a plan for two new schools in Betws – one EM and one WM - which would share core services, e.g. central block, heating systems and a kitchen. Following the outcome of the judicial review of the previous consultation period and the fact that Tynyrheol is not now part of the overall reorganisation, we would suggest that this change in circumstance fundamentally changes the whole thinking behind the original submission for Welsh Government funding.</p> <p>We would argue that there is now no real justification or rationale to continue to include Betws and Cwm Garw as part of the same proposal.</p> <p>Parents and governors were given assurances that the outcome of the judicial review would not hinder or affect the Cwm Garw proposals, however this is clearly not the case. The fact that the original commitment cannot be honoured is an unfortunate development and tarnishes the whole proposal.</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>There are significant benefits to siting both schools on the Bettws site. It would:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ensure that our schools are fit for purpose to deliver a first class education to children and young people in the 21st Century;</i> • <i>provide opportunity for greater integration between pupils in the same communities wishing to learn through the medium of Welsh with those wishing to learn through the medium of English</i> • <i>be located in the best place to serve local communities;</i> • <i>reduce surplus places and achieve best value for money</i> • <i>allow opportunity to collaborate with other service providers to ensure every opportunity is taken to make schools an integral part of the life and learning of their communities</i> • <i>meet the demand for</i>

	<p><i>Welsh Medium education in the north east of the county borough and support the increasing demands in other parts of the county borough for Welsh Medium education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>improve educational provision and raise standards through having more curriculum opportunities opened up through provision of larger capacity schools</i> • <i>Provide opportunities for the English medium school to share the excellent practice in the teaching of Welsh language more effectively.</i>
<p>Furthermore RhAG understands that a land survey recently carried out on the proposed Betws site has revealed major issues which will require that a significant part of the designated budget must now be diverted from the actual build to groundworks. We must ask why such a fundamental issue was not highlighted beforehand? This raises serious questions in terms of the original business case put forward to WG and is a significant oversight on the part of the LA.</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>There is always the potential for additional groundworks to be required when taking forward investigative works for significant capital builds such as this. The extent of groundworks required to support the development of the site would not have been known in detail at the business case stage regardless of the proposal. However, the fact that the site is occupied by and existing English medium primary school provides some assurance of the ability of the site to support such a development. There is currently no significant risk to the design of the proposed schools as a result of any additional groundwork.</i></p>
<p>Could we ask what future plans the LA has in mind for Ffaldau and Blaen Garw schools within the next 5 years? We are aware that both buildings are also nearing the end of their lifespan and will either need significant investment or be rehoused in new-builds in the not too distant future.</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>The Local Authority currently have no to develop or change either school.</i></p>
<p>We are aware that there is a parcel of land in Blaengarw which might be deemed as a suitable</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>An evaluation has taken place in</i></p>

<p>site for a new school.</p> <p>Could we ask whether or not any work has been carried out to explore options which could offer a new-build for current EM and WM provision on this possible site, either with money from Band A or the next round of 21 Century Schools funding? This could be a way of ensuring 21st Century School standards of education but also retaining both EM and WM provision in the valley and offering true parity of local choice for parents.</p> <p>There is a general concern that this proposal is being driven forward by the fear of losing the 21st Century Schools funding which has already been agreed in principle. RhAG is concerned that this is not the right motivation and that pushing ahead with this proposal would on balance have a more adverse than positive effect both in the short and longer term.</p>	<p><i>respect of the three options immediately available to the Local Authority i.e., redevelop the site of the existing school, develop the existing Bettws Primary school site or develop the site at David Street Blaengarw. A range of criteria were used in this evaluation and this information has supported the identification of the Bettws Primary School site as the best option moving forward.</i></p>
<p>There is reference in the consultation document to new housing developments, but no actual detail about what new developments are planned for the area in line with the Authority's LDP.</p> <p>What work has been undertaken to assess how these additional new houses will impact demand for overall school places across the LA, with specific reference to demand for WM places, and in the South of the borough in particular, where there is already a shortage of WM places?</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>Housing development identified in the LDP and those the subject of planning application/permission are taken into account to inform the LA's detailed methodology to project demand for school places.</i></p>
<p>We would also ask the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What new housing developments are planned for areas nearby? Are there any planning gain opportunities which might become available? ii. Are there any school reorganisation plans proposed or likely to be proposed for those areas? 	<p>Local Authority response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>The areas zoned for residential development are identified in the Council's LDP. Any non-planned planning applications/windfall developments, are considered on their own merits at the point of submission. Opportunities for Section 106 agreements are considered in line with each application and on their own merits.</i> ii. <i>The Council will continuously review the provision of both Welsh medium and English medium education in the</i>

	<p><i>county borough and under the auspices of the Schools Task Group the LA is currently working with schools to develop a sustainable strategy for the provision of both English and Welsh medium education in Bridgend.</i></p>
<p>If so, what if any consideration has been given to this proposal in light of those developments? We would suggest therefore that this proposal is now not fit-for-purpose as it doesn't take into consideration the wider picture in terms of the likely increased demand for WM provision across the borough as a whole.</p> <p>It is pertinent to refer to the Council's own policy about 'community focused schools, where the school actively engages with its local community' as mentioned on pp.5-6 of the consultation document.</p> <p>Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Garw is already a community based school serving the local area and with a significant number of the children walking to school. It is right in the heart of the community and plays a pivotal role in the identity, culture and the language of not only the village but the surrounding areas. Its relocation would be a retrograde step and would cease this at once. This proposal would take away the ability of the inhabitants of the Garw Valley to access WM education within their locality and would hinder any hope of language renewal in the valley.</p> <p>In its last inspection ESTYN deemed the school as Excellent which reinforces the fact that educational standards at the school are of the highest level (October 2010)</p> <p>The LA's own projections confirm that the school is also growing with 162 (4-11) on roll as of September 2015 with this projected to rise to 177 in September 2019, which would mean that any surplus places would fall even further.</p> <p>The information below is taken from the original consultation document held between 19th November 2013 to 30th December 2013 which shows that numbers on roll have already</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>The proposed development would allow for growth in demand for Welsh medium education and accommodate extra pupils coming from an enlarged catchment which will meet the anticipated demand from the new housing developments within the Valleys Gateway area of the County Borough. The LA and school would look for opportunities to ensure that there would not be any erosion of the Welsh language, especially at a community level. It is the ambition of the Council to increase the numbers of parents choosing Welsh medium education for their children. One of the benefits of locating the school in the gateway to the valleys area is to ensure that the area of demand for Welsh medium education is served by sufficient provision. The most recent (2015) LA projections for the school indicate only a slow growth in pupil numbers to 2021 of 157 pupils age 4-11.</i></p>

increased from 2013 and a disparity in terms of projected growth, with current forecasts showing this happening sooner rather than later.

School	Sep-13			Sep-21 Projected		
	Capacity	NOR	+/-	Capacity	NOR 4-11	+/-
YGG Cwm Garw	223	139	84	223	174	49

This also throws into question the ability of any proposed new 1FE school to be able to cope in the longer term with any significant growth from other areas, be that through increasing the catchment area and/or any new housing developments.

These are certainly not arguments for relocating the school but rather for reinforcing and investing in the school's future at its current location.

In reference to the fact that the building has been graded as 'Poor', current educational standards and attainment are obviously not greatly hindered by the condition of the building itself. WM schools have more often or not been housed in large Victorian buildings which traditionally have generally been located in less accessible areas. The percentage of surplus places which consequently exists is then used either as a reason not to establish new provision or to relocate provision to a more central location. Both policies are to the detriment of the growth of WM provision. This unique context must be a consideration within any strategic forward-planning of school places.

Local Authority response

When considering a range of options for the provision of education within Bridgend and the sustainability of individual schools to support proposals under the 21st Century School Modernisation Programme, the repairs and maintenance of our school buildings is an important variable in that determination. Furthermore, older schools sites generally do not offer the opportunity for redevelopment, often posing difficulties in respect of available land, access arrangements and adaptability amongst others. This is the case with both Welsh Medium and English Medium schools and the LA therefore has to assimilate a range of information in order to make an informed judgement on suitable schemes in line with physical constraints to development and available budgets. Proposals need to be beneficial to the overall strategy for the provision of 21st Century schools, achievable and value for money.

<p>You will be aware that one of the Welsh Government's objectives in its Welsh-medium Education Strategy (WMES), is to 'encourage greater access to Welsh-medium early years and primary provision within the child's community.' (p.13). In its original draft WESP (2012) the Council included the intention to establish 'community based Welsh-medium schools in parts of the County Borough where Access is currently more constrained and in response to parental wishes.' However it appears that this aspiration has been dropped which is of great disappointment to RhAG. Catchment areas of current WM schools are far greater and their size disproportionate to those of EM schools in BCBC. This has implications on travel times and distances for pupils and parents alike and raises a number of equality issues. RhAG would urge the authority to implement this policy not only in regards to this proposal but also as a key strand in any future strategic planning.</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>The Local Authority considers that access to Welsh Medium provision in the County Borough is not currently balanced to the right areas as discussed earlier. Provision is limited in the south of the county borough and there is surplus capacity in the north. We will look at opportunities to expand provision in the south.</i></p>
<p>RhAG strongly believes that this proposal undermines a number of central planks underpinning the vision of BCBC's current WESP include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver the key principles of equality, choice and opportunity for all; • be consistent with the national aspirations set out in the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy (WMES) • ensure that Welsh-medium education is available to all children of pre-school age and above whose parents / carers wish them to receive their education through the medium of Welsh, and this within reasonable travelling distance from children's homes; <p>When considering the demand for Welsh-medium education, the Council needs to take into account the distances that children, at the tender age of five or even less, must travel to school. Past experience has shown time and time again, that where a Welsh-medium school has been established within a local community, demand has been overwhelming, and it is not long before it is full. Distance to school is a main factor for any parent making a choice of school. No one</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>There are currently three contracted bus services to the school:-</i></p> <p><i>B59 Bus BETTWS, Llangeinor, Pontyrhyl</i> <i>B60 Bus NANTYMOEL, Ogmore Vale, Lewistown, Pantyrwel</i> <i>B60A Bus BLACKMILL</i></p> <p><i>Significantly, there are more than twice as many pupils travelling on the Nantymoel service than on the Bettws and Blackmill services combined. As the school is proposed to be located in Bettws, the distances travelled by the vast majority of pupils receiving free transport will therefore be several miles less.</i></p>

<p>wants their child to have to travel long distances.</p> <p>Distance and travel times are currently the main factors hindering all BCBC parents from having true parity of choice for the language medium of their child's education and if this relocation goes ahead, the Garw Valley families would also be adversely affected.</p> <p>Currently perhaps one of the worst examples within the LA is Nantymoel, where children are expected to travel down the Ogmere Valley and the back up the Garw to Pontcymmer. Bettws is only slightly nearer, and would continue to involve the vast majority of its pupils being bussed to school, in addition to the bussing of most Garw Valley children.</p> <p>Travel distances for a number of children living at the furthest extremities of the Garw Valley would be a minimum 12 mile round trip per day, with some possibly travelling more.</p> <p>This proposal will mean that an increased number of children would have to travel increased distances to access WM education</p>	
<p>It also raises the question about other choices for parents in the Garw Valley. Three EM schools would remain including Blaengarw Primary School; Ffaldau Primary School and Pontcymmer Nursery School. Faced with no local WM choice it is concerning that parents would be faced with no other option than EM provision due to convenience, accessibility and practicality issues.</p> <p>If the LA were to push ahead with alterations to the Home to School Transport Policy, as was consulted upon earlier this year, this could also possibly exclude a number of families who will be caught out by any changes in current policy. The move to increase the threshold to 2 miles could have significant implications within this proposal, particularly for less well off families of those who don't possess their own transport.</p> <p>In areas which are more economically challenged, such as the Garw Valley, the availability of local provision is a fundamental consideration. Where families do not have access to their own transport the ability to access local provision is crucial. Furthermore, because</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>The proposal does not restrict choice, it brings Welsh medium education closer to the areas of greatest demand. To support access to Welsh Medium education across the County Borough of Bridgend.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed change to the LAs Learner Travel Policy proposes that pupils in Welsh Medium schools living 2 miles or further for primary schools and 3 miles or further for secondary schools would receive free transport regardless of whether the school is the nearest suitable school.</i></p>

<p>transport is not statutory in the pre-school sector, then the availability of localised provision is even greater. Linguistic progression is another key cornerstone of the WMES which could also be adversely impacted.</p>	
<p>The consultation paper makes reference to the relocation as ‘balancing’ the distribution ‘of Welsh-medium places across the county borough’ (p.2). We would strongly refute this suggestion as moving Cwm Garw would lead to the whole of the north east of the authority devoid of any local WM provision. New provision is what is needed, but this should not be at expense of current successful provision.</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>The location of the current school in the head of a linear valley which has restricted access does not support improved accessibility to Welsh medium education for where there is increasing demand. The proposed relocation of the school in the valleys gateway area aims to redress that imbalance.</i></p>
<p>The policy of centralisation cannot be pursued as a fair and equitable option for the development of WM provision within the authority at the expense of outer lying communities The consultation document makes reference to Community, Welsh Language and Equality Impact Assessments carried out as part of the consultation process.</p> <p>We would question the initial assessment which suggests that it is anticipated the move would have a positive effect in terms of the Welsh Language and would provide Welsh-medium education to a wider catchment area. The goal should be to decrease the already disproportionately bigger catchment areas which WM schools must contend with at present.</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>The local authority has recently initiated a work stream under the auspices of the aforementioned Schools Task Group to both develop a robust methodology in respect of the identification of catchment boundaries and to evaluate all catchment boundaries across the county borough in line with a range of factors, not least the variable patterns of demand.</i></p>
<p>We would also urge that a full equalities impact assessment is carried out as a matter of urgency before any preferred option is taken to statutory consultation.</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and will be reported to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation on 16 June 2015.</i></p>
<p>The increasing pressures on the capacity of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr has shown the need for additional WM places, however solutions to alleviate this situation must be based on plans for new provision in Bridgend itself (the Laleston / Bryntirion areas in particular) rather than the realignment of current catchment areas. We would argue that reconfiguration of catchment</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>In any proposal for a catchment change, protection for families would factor as an important consideration in respect of admissions to school. For example, as part of the decision to change the catchment areas</i></p>

<p>areas is merely a short-term measure and isn't a strategic solution to satisfy demand in the long-term. One significant problem which we foresee is that it will force families to send siblings to two different schools, which would be a negative unintended consequence.</p>	<p><i>of Maes yr Haul Primary and Trelales Primary Schools in September 2013, the Council agreed a transitional arrangement for those families with older siblings already attending Maes yr Haul Primary School. For families living in the affected area and with older children at the school the transitional arrangements afford them equal status to those parents living within the revised catchment area. Should the school be oversubscribed, parents living in the affected area would not be disadvantaged and their application for a place at Maes yr Haul Primary School would be treated as if they are resident within the catchment area.</i></p>
<p>As a member of the BCBC Welsh-medium Education Forum, we receive copies of Welsh Government correspondence which relate to the LA's WESP, and would refer in particular to point 8 of their response to the Council's draft WESP in April 2013:</p> <p>"To stimulate growth in the sector, we would ask the authority to give careful consideration to the establishment of a starter class in Porthcawl. Also, we would want the authority to show us their plans for increasing capacity in Ysgol Bro Ogwr. We do not think it is appropriate to use the Cwm Garw blueprint to increase capacity for Welsh-medium education places for those living in the town of Bridgend." (18 April 2013)</p> <p>Could we ask how BCBC has overcome this view in light of the current proposal?</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>The Local Authority is currently looking at the potential of establishing a WM starter class in the south of the County Borough and a project team has been authorised and has already commenced scoping and evaluating a range of options.</i></p>
<p>The School Standards Act (Wales) 2013 now places an expectation on LAs to create demand and not just cater for it. This is a fundamental shift in role which BCBC needs to recognise and proactively execute. The Welsh Government was explicit in its objection to this proposal being used to increase capacity in the Bridgend area and RhAG also fervently hopes that the Council will now rethink its intentions as part of a more balanced and progressive approach to the strategic planning of WM school places across</p>	<p>Local Authority response <i>The Head of service and deputy Leader met with representatives of RhAG on 9 June 2015 to discuss the issues raised. RhAG confirmed that following that meeting they were satisfied with the LA's responses to all the issues raised.</i></p>

the whole of the authority.

We hope that you will give your full consideration to the issues raised and would welcome the opportunity to further discuss our concerns.

We thank you for your submission.

Full Equality Impact Assessment

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed	Proposal to relocate YGG Cwm Garw (as a 1 form entry school i.e., 210 pupils plus 45 place nursery provision) to the existing Bettws Primary School site.
Date assessment completed	03/06/15

An initial EIA screening was completed in March 2015

The Council has previously proposed to relocate the Welsh medium primary provision of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Cwm Garw to the existing Bettws Primary School site. In May 2014 Cabinet determined to relocate the school to a new Welsh medium school on the site currently occupied by Bettws Primary School. The proposal was to co-locate YGG Cwm Garw with the new English medium primary school serving the south of the Garw Valley. In February 2015 Cabinet further determined that the relocated YGG Cwm Garw should be a 1.5 form entry. However, following the outcome of the Judicial Review that quashed Cabinet's decision to close Tynyrheol and Bettws Primary Schools, it has become necessary to reconsider the whole Garw Valley South scheme with the current proposal that the school be relocated to the Bettws school site as per the original proposal but just as a one form entry school.

At this stage you will need to re-visit your initial screening template to inform your discussions on consultation and refer to [guidance notes on completing a full EIA](#)

1. Consultation

		Action Points
Who do you need to consult with (which equality groups)?	Within each of the protected characteristic groups the council	The consultation tools and mechanisms to be used should

	<p>will need to consult with those parties identified within section 3.2 of the School Organisation Code 2013</p>	<p>include: Focussed Meetings, Public Meetings, a consultation document and associated questionnaire, publication of all information on the council's website.</p>
<p>How will you ensure your consultation is inclusive?</p>	<p>The Local Authority is mindful that as wide a range of consultation and engagement activities and tools as possible need to be deployed in order to reach as wide an audience of consultees as possible.</p> <p>Consultation and engagement must be maximised in order that public views and concerns are “heard and considered” by the council.</p> <p>Methods of consultation will include (where appropriate) bilingual (Welsh / English) materials, information produced in languages other than English and Welsh, and by request large print documents, easy read versions of information, provision of audio information and will include a mix</p>	

	of hard copy documents and provision of online forms and information. The council recognises that, key to the council's consultation and engagement strategy is the commitment to visiting the public and other consultees in their own locations / communities at times that are convenient to them.	
What consultation was carried out? Consider any consultation activity already carried out, which may not have been specifically about equality but may have information you can use	A full public consultation took place from the 21 April 2015 to the 1 June 2015. Consultation meetings with the school Council's of both YGG Cwm Garw and YG Bro Ogwr took place and are detailed in the following section.	

Record of consultation with people from equality groups

Group or persons consulted	Date, venue and number of people	Feedback, areas of concern raised	Action Points
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General meeting with the school council of YGG Cwm Garw	12 May 2015 YGG Cwm Garw Representatives of the school council attended.	General comments raised nothing specifically referenced in respect of equality groups	
General meeting with the school council of YG Bro Ogwr	15 May 2015 YG Bro Ogwr Representatives of the school council attended.	General comments raised nothing specifically referenced in respect of equality groups	n/a

2. Assessment of Impact

Based on the data you have analysed, and the results of consultation or research, consider what the potential impact will be upon people with protected characteristics (negative or positive). If you do identify any adverse impact you **must**:

- a) **Liaise with the Equalities Team who may seek legal advice as to whether, based on the evidence provided, an adverse impact is or is potentially discriminatory, and**
- b) **Identify steps to mitigate any adverse impact – these actions will need to be included in your action plan.**

There is unlikely to be any direct negative impact on any protected group other than a physical move of the school to a new location. The new school will be fully DDA compliant and will therefore have disabled facilities to support all disabled learners, staff and visitors. This is therefore considered to be a positive impact which will

ensure that all learners, including those with disabilities have access to a learning environment to support their needs.

The proposed school together with associated future catchment boundary changes will help ensure that pupils (and their families) with a desire to be taught in the medium of Welsh have good opportunity to do so particularly in the heart of the valleys area as the new location will be more accessible to where there is currently a large demand for Welsh medium education. However, there is potential when relocating schools which have been integral to their local communities for many decades and then moved, to cause some initial anxiety within the local community and for community cohesion to be impacted. Therefore, we would seek to ensure that the benefits of the development are effectively communicated to all stakeholders and they are also able to play their role in the development and rebranding of the new school on the Bettws site. The LA would seek to support the school in building positive relationships to mitigate any anxiety if forthcoming as outlined in the action plan below.

As the location of the new school in Bettws will be further away by approximately 4.5miles there is a potential for there to be an impact on families in the north of the valley, particular those who would now need to be transported by the LA to their new school in Bettws but conversely those in the valleys gateway area may lose their eligibility to free transport if there is no safe route to school, as they would be within the distance identified in the current or proposed future learner travel policy.

Gender	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate
Identify the impact/potential impact on women and men.	None envisaged as this will be a relocation of the current school to a new site.	None envisaged
Disability	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate

<p>Identify the impact/potential impact on disabled people (ensure consideration of a range of impairments, e.g. physical, sensory impairments, learning disabilities, long-term illness).</p>	<p>The existing YGG Cwm Garw School is predominantly inaccessible to disabled pupils and visitors with mobility issues. It is anticipated, therefore, that accessibility of provision will be significantly improved upon occupation of the new build school on the current Betws site as the school would be fully DDA compliant and will therefore have disabled facilities to support all disabled learners, staff and visitors. This is therefore seen as a positive impact.</p>	<p>None envisaged</p>
<p>Race</p>	<p>Impact or potential impact</p>	<p>Actions to mitigate</p>
<p>Identify the impact/potential impact of the service on Black and minority ethnic (BME) people.</p>	<p>None envisaged as this will be a relocation of the current school to a new site.</p>	<p>None envisaged</p>
<p>Religion and belief</p>	<p>Impact or potential impact</p>	<p>Actions to mitigate</p>
<p>Identify the impact/potential</p>	<p>None envisaged as this will be a</p>	<p>None envisaged</p>

impact of the service on people of different religious and faith groups.	relocation of the current school to a new site.	
Sexual Orientation	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate
Identify the impact/potential impact of the service on gay, lesbian and bisexual people.	None envisaged as this will be a relocation of the current school to a new site.	None envisaged
Age	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate
Identify the impact/potential impact of the service on older people and younger people.	Children in the school will be impacted more given this proposal relates to the relocation of the school to a different village. Additionally, pupils, parents, carers and guardians may feel affected by the loss of the identity of the current school once it is disposed of with concern that this might affect community cohesion. Nevertheless, the proposal will ensure that all learners, including those with disabilities have access	Reassurance of the positive benefits of the development have already taken place. Rebranding of the school will also take place with full pupil and community involvement.

	to a learning environment fit for the 21 st century to support their needs. Pupils from the local communities in the valleys area in particular will share the same school site with both English and Welsh medium education taking place on the Bettws site and this may therefore support greater community cohesion in the long term.	
Pregnancy & Maternity	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate
	None envisaged	None envisaged
Transgender	Impact or potential impact None envisaged	Actions to mitigate
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Impact or potential impact None envisaged	Actions to mitigate

It is essential that you now complete the action plan. Once your action plan is complete, please ensure that the actions are mainstreamed into the relevant Thematic Service Development Plan.

3. Action Plan

Action	Lead Person	Target for completion	Resources needed	Service Development plan for this action
Reassurance of the positive benefits that the development will have on pupils/parents. Rebranding of the school on the new Bettws site will also take place with full involvement of pupils.	Head teacher	Ongoing until school is proposed to open in 2018	Pupil and community participation	Communication with school.

Please outline the name of the independent person (someone other the person undertaking the EIA) countersigning this EIA below:

Nicola Echanis (Head of Strategy Partnerships and Commissioning)

Please outline how and when this EIA will be monitored in future and when a review will take place:

The EIA will be monitored via the 21st Century school programme and specifically via the project to develop the school i.e., via the Garw Valley (YGG Cwm Garw) Project Board who will review the EIA and ensure adequate monitoring and controls are in place.

Signed: R J Davies

Date: 03/06/2015

4. Publication of your results and feedback to consultation groups

It is important that the results of this impact assessment are published in a user friendly accessible format.

It is also important that you feedback to your consultation groups with the actions that you are taking to address their concerns and to mitigate against any potential adverse impact.

Please send completed EIA form to the [Equalities Team](#)

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

YGG Cwm Garw

Proposal to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, by relocating the school to a new school building on the Betws Primary School site

It is proposed to make a regulated alteration to YGG Cwm Garw in the form of relocating and building a Welsh-medium primary school on the current Betws Primary School site, which is a distance of 4.7 miles. This would create a school capacity of 210 pupils plus a nursery of 45 full time equivalent pupils. It would also allow for growth in demand for Welsh medium education and accommodate extra pupils coming from an enlarged catchment. The Published Admissions Number for the new school would be 30.

As the proposed relocated Welsh medium school would continue as is but in a different location and pupils at the school. Welsh would continue to be taught through the curriculum.

The authority will comply with its Welsh language policy by making sure that all signage used within the school sites are bilingual.

It is the ambition of the Council to increase the numbers of parents choosing Welsh medium education for their children. One of the benefits of locating the school in the gateway to the valleys area is to ensure that the area of demand for Welsh medium education is served by sufficient provision.

One of the potential benefits of siting the school adjacent to the Bettws Primary school on the same site would be the opportunity for greater integration between pupils in the same communities wishing to learn through the medium of Welsh with those wishing to learn through the medium of English. However, the LA and school would look for opportunities to ensure that there would not be any erosion of the Welsh language, especially at a community level. Moving the school to a new location, in particular if it's a different village, may affect a parent's decision for their child to attend their catchment school. The impact on community cohesion and identity has been highlighted in the Equalities Impact Assessment that accompanies the consultation report being reported to Cabinet on 16 June 2015.

Work is currently ongoing to evaluate the growth the necessary school places for the catchments of both YGG Cwm Garw and YGG Bro Ogwr to ensure that any catchment changes reflect the demand for Welsh Medium provision in the area served by both schools. We hope to begin consultation in the 2015-16 academic year.

Concerns are expected to be raised over the proposal potentially impacting on the ability of the inhabitants of the Garw Valley to access Welsh medium education within their locality and may hinder the sustainability of the Welsh language in the valley.

The Local Authority monitors and evaluates parental demand and availability of places within the Welsh-medium sector to ensure that all children who received Welsh-medium education during the early years are able to access Welsh-medium provision in the

primary phase. In 2013 all pupils who requested Welsh-medium provision in the primary phase were able to access it.

Currently 8.72% of children aged 7 years are taught through the medium of Welsh in four Welsh-medium primary schools. All parents who require Welsh-medium education for their children aged 7 years are able to access this provision.

Projected numbers indicate an increase in the actual number and percentage of children aged 7 being taught through the medium of Welsh for the academic years 2014-15, and then a slight increase in the number but a levelling off in the percentage 2015-17

To address the imbalance in capacity the proposal to move YGG Cwm Garw further south would enable a better balance of pupil numbers across our four primary schools.

The proposed development would also allow for growth in demand for Welsh medium education and accommodate extra pupils coming from an enlarged catchment which will meet the anticipated demand from the new housing developments within the Valleys Gateway area of the County Borough. The re-drawing of catchment areas will assist in releasing places at YG Bro Ogwr which is the catchment school for the new Parc Derwen development in Coity (1500 houses).

A long term solution is currently being looked into for the Porthcawl and Cynffig catchment area. There are possibilities of a starter unit in the south of the County Borough being developed. However, this is at the very start of the planning process, and will not be for another 2-3 years if this comes to fruition.

Work will continue to explore options to expand capacity in the west of the county where it is known that demand is rising.

G Thomas

5 June 2015

Community Impact Assessment

Name of proposal:

Proposal to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw by relocating the school to a new school building on the Betws Primary School site, creating a 1FE school plus 45 Nursery with effect from 1st April 2018.

Who will make the decision? :

Cabinet

Who has been involved in developing the proposal? :

Corporate Director – Education and Transformation
Head of Strategy Partnerships and Commissioning – Children's
Project Manager - Property Services

Aims and objectives:

Proposal to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw by relocating the school to a new school building on the Betws Primary School site, creating a 1FE school plus 45 Nursery with effect from 1st April 2018

Whilst we have surplus places in the north of the county borough for Welsh Medium Provision, there is a deficit of places in the south. There will be a subsequent separate exercise regarding a proposed catchment area change to encompass an area north of Bridgend town, which would reduce the pressure on places at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr in Bridgend, which is at capacity and will not be able to meet the expected needs of housing developments in the Bridgend and Valley Gateways areas in the near future.

Key actions:

- Statutory procedure to relocating the school to a new school building on Betws Primary school Site
- A separate exercise to consult on proposed catchment area changes - this will be undertaken at a later date.

Expected outcomes: YGG Cwm Garw relocates to the Betws Primary School site and opens as a 1FE school plus 45 place nursery in April 2018.

Who will be affected: Staff, governors, pupils, parents and the community

Approximately how many people will be affected: potentially in excess of 1000 people

Expected date of decision: September 2015

Scope/focus of the assessment: Consideration given to

- the existing use of the schools by the community;
- accessibility to pupils, staff, parents and the community;
- impact of moving a primary school
- impact on the school building
- impact on the extended community

Relevant data and/or research:

- information provided by YGG Cwm Garw and Meithin Play group in terms of community use of the existing school premises
- information provided by YGG Cwm Garw School in terms of after school clubs offered at each school
- 2015 BCBC report entitled 'Principles Document'
- pupil projections, capacity, building conditions

Findings:**Community Use:**

YGG Cwm Garw

- Breakfast club: 8-8:50 every day.
- Tuesday after school -Gobaigh Cymru 3:30-4:30
- Thursday after school- Football 3:30-4:30

Community Use

- Welsh Thursday – Welsh 9:30-11:30 every week.
- Every day - Meithin Play group 9:15-1:15. Registered 20 children but only have 15 attend.
- TRV (Welsh Mother and Toddler group) 1:15-2:45 every day

Primary Policy:

- This proposal aligns with the Council's 2015 Education Principles Document

Pupil projections, capacity, building condition:

- The pupil projections affecting primary schools in the Garw Valley (covering YGG Cwm Garw, Ysgol Bro Ogwr, Betws Primary, Blaengarw Primary and Ffaldau Primary) show a decrease – set to fall from 1154 (on role Jan 15) to 1145 (Jan 22).
- Building conditions in respect of YGG Cwm Garw and Betws Primary are category C (Poor -exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended)
- Accessibility of YGG Cwm Garw and Betws Primary are categorised as D (Inaccessible. Non Compliance with DDA and cannot be made so without major expense if at all).

Impact on extended community

- If changed, the catchment will impact the areas which are served by YGG Cwm Garw and potentially the Valleys Gateway area.
- Areas within the Garw Valley have very different communities in terms of character. All have strengths and offer positive support. However they are geographically spread out it would be of benefit for the catchment to be redrawn to allow the children and their families to access their school more easily.
- There will be a positive impact in terms of modern, accessible community facilities on the new site although as identified in the consultation there is also significant strength of feeling that moving the school would potentially have a detrimental impact on community cohesion and also potentially affect the character and identity of the communities. Furthermore, there is a concern that Welsh Medium education would be eroded in the north of the valleys area even though there is high demand in the south.

- A Cylch Meithrin currently operates from the existing YGG Cwm Garw site. The Authority would work with the provider to identify suitable alternative accommodation if necessary.

Impact on other schools

- It may well be that parents would prefer their children in the Blaengarw/Pontycymmer area, to go to the local English schools rather than their children traveling south to the proposed location of the Welsh Medium School.
- It may be that parents in the Valleys Gateway area will not welcome the proposed change in catchment, choosing for their children to be taught in an alternative school (possibly English medium), should the proposal go ahead. The impact on the Welsh language may therefore be impacted as a result.
- Transport links may be of concern to parents/community however, free school transport is provided to and from the site. The school may be able to put measures in place to deal with instances where pupils need collection at nonstandard times e.g. sickness.

How will the decision affect people with different protected characteristics? :

There would likely be a positive impact given that the new school would be fully DDA compliant and support all pupils, staff, visitors etc.

Consultation

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

Yes

What were the results of the consultation? :

See attached report

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

None

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

No differential impact anticipated.

Assessment of impact on staff

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

The proposal may have an impact on teaching and non-teaching staff. Determination of this is a matter for the governing body once they understand the needs of the individual schools and the budget available to them in order to determine the staffing structures required.

Assessment of impact on wider community

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

The community may not wish for the YGG Cwm Garw to be located on the Betws Primary School site due to potential increase of traffic in the local area and the potential impact on

the Welsh language if parents do not agree with the proposals. However, pupils will be provided with school transport and there will be designated areas within the site for parking.

Analysis of impact by protected characteristics

Please summarise the results of the analysis:

It is considered that the characteristics affected could be that of age and disability (anticipated positive impact)

Assess the relevance and impact of the decision to people with different characteristics Relevance = High/Low/None Impact = High/Low/Neutral

Characteristic	Relevance	Impact
Age	High	Low
Disability	High	Low
Gender reassignment	None	Neutral
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral
Race	None	Neutral
Religion or belief	None	Neutral
Sex	None	Neutral
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral
Other socially excluded groups (include health inequalities)	None	Neutral

Where any negative impact has been identified, please outline the measures taken to mitigate against it:

Subject to the outcome of consultation on this proposal and a further consultation on proposed catchment changes, the Authority will:

- Work with the governing body and school to support them in determining staffing structures.
- Encourage and support the school in the continued provision of community use of the school buildings.
- Ensure a smooth transition by working closely with the school.

Signed:

G Thomas

Date:

02/06/15

