

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
Education Directorate, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon CF45 4UQ

Notice is given in accordance with sections 41 and 43 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), having consulted such persons as required, propose to:

1. Discontinue the following schools currently maintained by RCTCBC:
  - Pontypridd High School, Albion Community Campus, Cilfynydd, Pontypridd CF37 4SF
  - Cilfynydd Primary School, Ann Street, Cilfynydd, Pontypridd CF37 4EN
  
2. Establish a new English Medium Community 'all-through' School, to be maintained by RCTCBC at Albion Community Campus, Cilfynydd, on the site of Pontypridd High School, for boys and girls aged 3-16 years.

RCTCBC undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on the Council's website at <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Consultations/SchoolConsultations/SchoolsConsultations.aspx>

It is proposed to implement the proposals on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

RCTCBC will be the admissions authority for the new 'all through' community school and the admission arrangements will make no provision for pupil banding.

It is proposed that pupils currently attending the two schools listed above should transfer to the new Pontypridd 'all-through' School, on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022, subject to parental preference. This school is proposed to be an English Medium Community 'all-through' School (3-16) with a proposed total capacity of 1,200 pupils. Building adaptations and other modifications will be undertaken prior to this date to ensure the accommodation is suitable for the pupils of the age ranges indicated.

The proposed capacity of the Primary Department of the new 'all-through' School shall be 210 pupils, including nursery. The admission number is proposed to be 26 for pupils age 4 (Reception Class). The proposed capacity of the Secondary Department shall be 990 pupils and the admission number is proposed to be 172 for pupils age 11 (Year 7) so that the secondary department will in effect be able to accommodate 198 pupils per year group.

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Transport Policy. At present, the Council provides free transport for pupils who attend their relevant Primary, Infant or Junior School, if they reside beyond 1 ½ miles walking distance to that school; this distance is 2 miles for pupils attending Secondary schools. The relevant school is the catchment school or the nearest school.

Within a period of 28 days after the publication of these proposals, that is to say by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to the Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4UQ, e-mail [schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk).

RCTCBC will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.



Signed:  
Gaynor Davies  
Director of Education and Inclusion Services  
For Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council  
Date: April 30<sup>th</sup> 2019

### **Explanatory Note of the Proposals**

RCTCBC has recently undertaken a comprehensive consultation exercise in respect of the proposed reorganisation of school provision in the Pontypridd area of the County Borough as part of its proposals under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.

RCTCBC's Cabinet have agreed to publish the following statutory notices:-

- The alteration of the age range of pupils that may be admitted to Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School, from 11–19 years to 11–16 years, resulting in the removal of the sixth form provision;
- The closure of Pontypridd High School and Cilfynydd Primary School and the creation of a new 3 – 16 'all through' School on the site of the current Pontypridd High School. There will be no sixth form provision at this school;
- The closure of Hawthorn High School and Hawthorn Primary School and the creation of a new 3 – 16 'all through' School on the site of the current Hawthorn High and Hawthorn Primary Schools, with the Local Authority designated ALN specialist class located in Hawthorn High School, as well as the current pupils receiving education through the medium of English at Heol Y Celyn Primary School transferring to the new school. There will be no sixth form provision at this school;
- The closure of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton and Heol Y Celyn Primary School and the opening of a new Welsh Medium Community Primary School on the site of the current Heol Y Celyn Primary School.

To reduce any disruption to learners, prior to September 2022, the Council will ensure that the Year 12 students, who will be most affected by the change will be undertaking programmes of study that will be continued in their new Sixth Form.

From September 2022 for the purposes of primary education provision (3-11) the catchment area of the New Pontypridd 'all-through' School will be the existing catchment area of Cilfynydd Primary School.

From September 2022 for the purposes of secondary education provision (11-16) the Graig area of Pontypridd that is currently in the catchment area of Maesycoed Primary School and Hawthorn High School will be added to the catchment area of the new 3-16 school on the site of the Pontypridd 'all-through' school. This change formed part of the consultation.

From September 2022 for the purposes of secondary education provision (11-16) the catchment area of Coedpenmaen Primary School that is currently in the catchment area of Hawthorn High School will be added to the catchment area of the new 3-16 school on the site of the Pontypridd 'all-through' school. This change formed part of the consultation.

The catchment areas of both Pontypridd and Hawthorn High Schools for post-16 provision will be amended to place these areas in the sixth form catchment area of Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School, Beddau. The post -16 facilities of Bryncelynnog will be improved and upgraded. This change formed part of the consultation. Pupils may attend Coleg y Cymoedd, or another school Sixth Form centre of their choice, but free transportation will only be provided to either Bryncelynnog, or Coleg y Cymoedd or the nearest centre that offers the selection of subject choices that they choose, providing that they reside more than 2 miles from this provision.