



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17TH JUNE 2021

**21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE
EDUCATION PROVISION FOR
YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG LLYN-Y-FORWYN**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION
SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR
EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR MRS J ROSSER)**

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Services
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Century Schools and Transformation**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the outcome of the recent consultation in respect of proposals to:
- Carry out a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn-y-Forwyn (“YGG Llyn-y-Forwyn”), by way of transferring the school to a new building on a new site.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the information contained within the attached Consultation Report, which includes a summary of correspondence received during the consultation exercise, including the full response from Estyn, feedback received from the online survey, and notes of the meetings held.
- 2.2 Agree to progress the proposals to the next stage of the consultation process by issuing an appropriate Statutory Notice which will trigger the start of the Objection Period.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To progress the proposal in accordance with the process outlined in Welsh Government legislative guidance (the School Organisation Code 011/2008).

- 3.2 To increase capacity and improve the quality of the Welsh medium primary education provision available to learners in the Rhondda Fach area of Rhondda Cynon Taf by delivering a new Welsh medium primary school in the Rhondda Fach.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Members will recall that, at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28th January 2021, approval was given to begin a statutory process to formally consult on a proposal to improve and increase Welsh medium education provision in the Rhondda Fach by investing in a new school for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn-y-Forwyn.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 Equality and Community Impact Assessments were prepared in respect of this proposal and were published, and can still be viewed, on the Council's website together with the Consultation Document that outlines the proposal in detail. The link is below:
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Consultations/CurrentConsultations/ProposedalterationstoYsgolGynraddGymraegLlynForwynYGG LlynForwyn.aspx>
- 5.2 In summary, the outcome of Equality Impact Assessment identified positive and neutral impacts, and no negative impacts, upon the protected characteristics and so it was deemed that approval would be sought to continue to implement the proposal. It also confirmed that the Action Plan will continue to be reviewed throughout the duration of the project delivery period.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment was prepared in respect of this proposal and published, and can still be viewed, on the Council's website together with the Consultation Document that outlines the proposal in detail. The link is below:
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Consultations/CurrentConsultations/ProposedalterationstoYsgolGynraddGymraegLlynForwynYGG LlynForwyn.aspx>
- 6.2 In summary, the outcome of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment was that the proposal would encourage people to use Welsh at work; it would promote Welsh medium education or opportunities to study through the medium of Welsh; it would promote the status of Welsh or positive attitudes towards the language; and it would create opportunities to raise people's confidence to use Welsh or improve their

skills to use Welsh more often or in more situations. No negative impacts were identified.

7. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 The consultation process in respect of this proposal has been undertaken under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, which was introduced on 1st November 2018 which replaced the October 2013 version. These arrangements stipulate that a Consultation Report must be prepared prior to the publication of any Statutory Notices which will progress the proposal. It further states that Statutory Notices be published within 26 weeks of the end of the consultation period, which is 29th October 2021 in this instance.
- 7.2 The Consultation Report, prepared in respect of this proposal, is attached at Appendix 1 for your attention. It contains information in respect of meetings held to discuss the proposal, with copies of the notes taken at these meetings; it contains Estyn's full response to the proposal and the appropriate clarification to the response; it also contains a summary of the online survey responses received during the consultation period and where required the appropriate clarification to any issues raised.
- 7.3 It must be noted that there has been a fair response to this particular consultation process with 72 written responses received, all via the online survey that was available for the duration of the consultation period on the RCT website. Due to COVID restrictions meetings with the community could not be held, however meetings with the staff, governors and pupils were held virtually via Teams.
- 7.4 Out of the 72 responses received, 70 were in agreement with the proposal, 1 respondent was not and 1 respondent was unsure. Overall, the responses were overwhelmingly positive and in favour of the proposal to build a new school. To confirm, all of the comments and issues raised during this consultation process have been reviewed by Cabinet Members.

8. THE STATUTORY PROCESS

- 8.1 The Statutory Notice for this proposal will refer to:
- Carrying out a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn-y-Forwyn ("YGG Llyn-y-Forwyn"), by way of transferring the school to a new building on a new site.
- 8.2 If agreed, and subject to the matter not being called in for consideration by Scrutiny, the Statutory Notice will be published on 25th June 2021

and will allow for a 28 day period for objections, ending on 22nd July 2021.

- 8.3 If any objections are received during this period, in accordance with the aforementioned Code, an Objections Report will be prepared. This matter will then be reported to a future meeting of Cabinet, in September 2021, for Members to receive and consider the Objections Report and to make a final decision on this proposal.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 If the proposal proceeds, a significant capital investment will be required in the region of circa £8.5M to construct the new school. The funding package will continue to be developed alongside the consultation and decision making process.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1 Part 1 of the Education Act 1996 (“the 1996 Act”) imposes a number of general duties on all local authorities in Wales. The general duty in section 13 of the 1996 Act is to contribute (so far as the Council’s powers enable them to do so) towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by ensuring that efficient primary education and secondary education is available to meet the needs of the population of their area.
- 10.2 Section 13A(3) of the 1996 Act states that a local authority in Wales must ensure that their relevant education and training functions are exercised by the authority with a view to promoting high standards, and the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom the subsection applies, including those who are of compulsory school age or are below school age and are registered as pupils at schools maintained by the authority.
- 10.3 Section 14 of the 1996 Act requires the Council to secure sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education in the Council’s area. Schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide all pupils with an appropriate education.
- 10.4 Appropriate education means education which offers such variety of instruction and training as may be desirable in view of (a) the pupils’ different ages, abilities and aptitudes; and (b) the different periods for which they may be expected to remain at school, including practical instruction and training appropriate to their different needs.
- 10.5 Powers for councils to develop school organisation proposals are governed by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

and the Code 011/2018. (Local authorities must, when exercising functions under Part 3 of the 2013 Act, act in accordance with any relevant requirements contained in the Code and must have regard to any relevant guidelines contained in it. A copy of the Code is found here:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/schoolorganisation-code-second-edition.pdf>

11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

11.1 There are links to RCTCBC's Corporate Plan for the period between 2020 to 2024, specifically the priority:

Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper

- Ensuring we have good schools, so all children have access to a great education.

11.2 Due regard has been made to all seven well-being goals and the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of decisions, on communities to prevent consistent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

This proposal would contribute to achieving the wellbeing goals by:

- Improving sustainability of school buildings in the Council portfolio through a commitment to achieving a zero carbon building and constructing to BREEAM excellent.
- Providing additional school places to meet WG targets and to promote the Welsh language in the Community.
- Opening new community facilities that would create opportunities for local people to utilise.

This proposal would achieve the five ways of working by:

- Creating a new school environment that can deliver the new Curriculum for Wales.
- Provide first class learning facilities for pupils and the wider community and contribute towards a healthier Wales by providing additional outdoor sport facilities for pupils.
- Contributing towards a prosperous Wales by committing to opportunities for local tradespeople and to use local resources, wherever possible to build the new school.
- Engaging with the community on a thorough consultation with opportunities for all stakeholders in the Community to engage throughout the process.

11.3 The Equality Impact Assessment includes further detail on the contribution of the proposal to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act and this document formed an integral part of the consultation document.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 Members are asked to consider the contents of the attached Consultation Report, and to give officers approval to publish an appropriate Statutory Notice on 25th June 2021 to progress this proposal.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17TH JUNE 2021

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION
SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR
EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR MRS J ROSSER)**

Item:

Background Papers

The background papers included as appendices to the report are:

- **Consultation Report**

Officer to contact:

**Lisa Howell, Business and School Organisation Manager
01443 744062**

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS



CONSULTATION REPORT ON A PROPOSAL TO CARRY OUT A REGULATED ALTERATION AND TRANSFER YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG LLYN Y FORWYN TO A NEW BUILDING ON A NEW SITE

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION REPORT

Proposal: To carry out a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn-y-Forwyn (“YGG Llyn-y-Forwyn”), by way of transferring the school to a new building on a new site.

1. Purpose of the Consultation Report

This report is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code, statutory document 011/2018. Its purpose is to inform the outcome of the consultation held during the period 1st March 2021 and 30th April 2021 between all stakeholders and interested parties listed below.

2. Who did we consult with?

A copy of a consultation document, which fully outlined and explained our proposal, was sent to the following stakeholders. The document was also published on the Council website at www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations and was shared on social media.

- The Governing Body of YGG Llyn y Forwyn.
- Parents/carers, prospective parents/carers, and staff members of YGG Llyn y Forwyn.
- Pupils of YGG Llyn y Forwyn.
- Other Governing Bodies of neighbouring primary schools.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities.
- Welsh Ministers.
- Members of the Senedd for Rhondda, Cynon and Taf constituencies and regional Members of the Senedd for the area.
- Members of Parliament for the Rhondda, Cynon and Taf Constituencies.
- Estyn.
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- Central South Consortium Joint Education Services
- Police and Crime Commissioner for the area.
- Childcare providers. Mudiad Meithrin.
- Menter Iaith.
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.
- Children and Young People.
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.
- Welsh Language Commissioner.

3. The Proposal

The proposal is to carry out a regulated alteration to YGG Llyn y Forwyn by transferring the school to a newly constructed 21st Century Schools standard building to a new site known locally as the former 'Chubb Factory' site, Ferndale. The school will cater for children aged between 3 and 11 years of age who require Welsh medium education will have a proposed admissions number of 30 pupils per year group, and an overall pupil capacity of 210, including nursery.

Details of the proposal and the rationale behind it are fully outlined in the consultation document that was circulated to all the stakeholders listed overleaf which is attached as Appendix 1; this also includes the Community Impact Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment and the Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

4. The Consultation Process

All stakeholders identified in Section 2 overleaf were sent electronic copies of our consultation documentation, and those that requested paper copies received them. The following meetings were also convened:

School Affected	Group	Time/Date	Venue
YGG Llyn y Forwyn	Governing Body and Staff Meeting	Tuesday, 16 th March 2021, 15:45 – 17:15	Microsoft Teams
YGG Llyn y Forwyn	YGG Llyn y Forwyn School Council	Thursday, 22 nd April 2021, 13:30- 14:30	Microsoft Teams

Meetings were held virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions. Notes of the above meetings were taken and are attached as Appendix 2. These notes record questions raised, comments and statements made, with the responses provided where appropriate. The meeting with the pupils was conducted bilingually and so both Welsh and English versions of the notes are included.

To ensure the pupils of YGG Llyn y Forwyn understood the information within the proposal a young person's version of the consultation document was created and provided to the school to distribute to each pupil. Additionally, to further support and encourage pupil engagement, a video of the young person's consultation document was created and played during the consultation meeting. This was also subsequently sent to the school to enable it to be shared with the rest of the pupils.

To view the video click here:

Welsh - https://youtu.be/_5C-tB9ZSAU

English - <https://youtu.be/gtQwubOkCPY>

5. Summary of Consultation Responses

Responses to the matters raised at the meetings outlined above are, as indicated, summarised in the notes of the meetings attached as Appendix 2. In addition, 72 written responses were received via the online survey, this was available for the duration of the consultation phase. Out of the 72 written responses 70 were in favour of the proposals, 1 was against, and 1 was unsure.

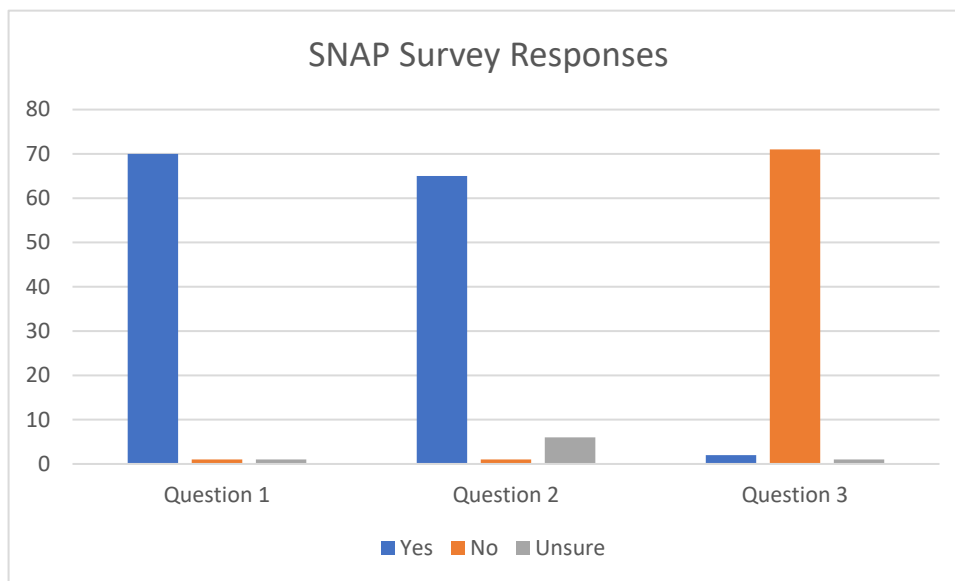
In accordance with the Code, a summary of the responses received are detailed in the table below and where issues have been raised, these have been responded to, where applicable, by means of clarification with supporting reasons.

The graph below highlights the overwhelmingly positive response received to the proposal as consulted upon. The questions asked were:

Question 1: Do you agree with the proposal?

Question 2: Do you think the proposal could (positively) impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language?

Question 3: Do you think the proposal in any way treats the Welsh Language LESS favourably than the English Language?



Summary of responses and issues raised

Question	Comments/Issues	Clarification if required
Q1. Do you agree with the proposal?	Fantastic opportunity for Children in the Rhondda Fach to be taught in a building fit for use.	
Q1. Do you agree with the proposal?	Mae adleoli Ysgol Llyn y Forwyn mewn adeilad newydd sbon yn gyffrous ac yn codi proffil argaeledd addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn y gymuned. Rhaid sicrhau marchnata dwys yn ogystal gan ddefnyddio'r theori pwtio yn argyhoeddiadol i sicrhau bod rhieni a gofalwyr	

	<p>yn deall fod addysg Gymraeg yn opsiwn realistig i'w plant.</p>	
<p>Q1. Do you agree with the proposal?</p>	<p>My understanding is that YGG LLyn Y Forwyn have class sizes well below the RCT average and the Rhondda average. Whereas YGG Llwynceilyn is bursting at the seams and is oversubscribed... and YG Cwm Rhondda is crumbling down around the heads of pupils. It seems lunacy to use funds to build a new school for less than 200 students when other schools in the area both serving a far greater number of Welsh Language learners are overlooked. Of course, I wish all schools could be upgraded. The Welsh Language schools in the Rhondda have been left for far too long. But putting money where it can make the biggest impact on the greatest number of pupils is surely the right way to move forward. A new school in Ferndale serving such a minority of students doesn't make any sense. Invest in YG Cwm Rhondda and they will all get to benefit anyway when they move up to comprehensive.</p>	<p>The rationale for the proposals are clearly stated within the consultation document. The comments provided do not directly relate to the proposals as consulted upon.</p> <p>However, to clarify, the Council, in accordance with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, will continue to invest in Welsh medium education throughout the County Borough promoting the Welsh Language and supporting the delivery of the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy, Cymraeg 2050.</p> <p>YGG Llwynceilyn is not oversubscribed and has received substantial investment through Band A of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme which improved and increased the capacity of the school, since this time investment has continued through the Council's School Modernisation Programme.</p> <p>The Council is undertaking feasibility studies to improve YG Cwm Rhondda in the future and this has been reported to the Council Cabinet previously and will be considered by Members at a later date following the completion of the study.</p>

<p>Q2. Do you think the proposal could (positively) impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language?</p>	<p>This new building will have a positive impact on the Welsh language. Many parents will see the benefits of sending their children to a new building with many opportunities including learning the Welsh language</p>	
<p>Q2. Do you think the proposal could (positively) impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language?</p>	<p>We believe this proposal will have a positive impact on opportunities for children, young people and the wider community to use and promote the Welsh language. The group is particularly pleased to note that the existing cylch meithrin that is on the current site will be moved alongside the school and will benefit from improved facilities. This will aid the promotion of welsh medium pre-school childcare in this area.</p>	
<p>Q2. Do you think the proposal could (positively) impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language?</p>	<p>No, it will suck funds away from areas of greater needs to promote the Welsh Language</p>	<p>As mentioned above, in accordance with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan RCT will continue to invest in Welsh medium education throughout the County Borough and support the delivery of the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy, Cymraeg 2050.</p>
<p>Q2. Do you think the proposal could (positively) impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language?</p>	<p>Bydd maes newydd yn galluogi staff a plant dysgu yn fwy effeithiol gan gwneud defnydd da o ardaloedd awyr agored.</p>	
<p>Q3. Do you think the proposal in any way treats the Welsh Language LESS favourably than the English Language?</p>	<p>No. This should allow the Welsh education to be more on par with what is currently provided for the English language</p>	

<p>Q3. Do you think the proposal in any way treats the Welsh Language LESS favourably than the English Language?</p>	<p>I believe this proposal will at long last bring the Welsh Language facilities in line with the English language facilities in the Rhondda Fach.</p>	
<p>Q3. Do you think the proposal in any way treats the Welsh Language LESS favourably than the English Language?</p>	<p>Not at all. The proposals show an increase in provision for Welsh Medium education.</p>	

The View of Estyn (Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales) of the Overall Merits of the Proposal.

In compliance with the School Standards and Organisation 2018 School Organisation Code the Estyn’s response to the consultation has been provided in full in Appendix 3. Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and have produced a response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal. **Overall, it is Estyn’s opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of educational provision in the area.**

Additionally, in accordance with the Code, the areas of the response that require clarification are documented in the table below.

Estyn’s Report	Clarification
<p>While the local authority provides a clear description of the proposal and a projected timetable for statutory procedures, it does not identify a timetable for implementation of the proposals, other than the implementation date will be no later than March 2024.</p>	<p>Further work on the project programme will be developed once a decision on the proposal has been made.</p> <p>The project programme will be communicated to key stakeholders as the design and construction element of the proposal progresses.</p>

<p>The proposal notes rightly that ‘some’ pupils will inevitably live further from the from the new school site, but does not consider how many, nor detail how the local authority will deal with the issue.</p>	<p>There are currently 55% of pupils accessing home to school transport. Based on current pupil postcodes, we anticipate that this figure will be consistent, albeit the pupils will live in different areas within the Rhondda Fach.</p> <p>Those 21 pupils currently attending the school from the Maerdy area will no longer qualify for free home to school transport as they will live within 1.5miles of the school. However, an additional 23 pupils living south in the Rhondda Fach valley will qualify as they will live further than 1.5 miles of the new school site.</p> <p>The Council operates a more generous home to school transport policy than is statutorily required, and transports children in primary schools 1.5 miles away from their home to the nearest school and 2 miles for secondary aged pupils. The Welsh Government Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 states younger children entitled to transport to their nearest primary school is 2 miles and secondary school provision is 3 miles .</p>
<p>While the proposal outlines at various points that the current school building and site require considerable work, the local authority does not explore well the option of making it good.</p>	<p>Visual inspections of the existing school site have been carried out and it is evident that the topography is not conducive with development of a new, fully compliant, 21st Century School.</p> <p>The challenging topography and limiting external areas was something that was picked up by Estyn in the latest school inspection.</p> <p>The condition rating of the current school building is a D which is deemed as ‘life expired’.</p>
<p>The proposer does not explore the reason for surplus spaces strongly, other than identifying that improved school buildings could potentially lead to additional pupils accessing Welsh Medium education locally.</p>	<p>The provision of additional school places will help deliver the targets in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and support the outcomes of Welsh Government’s Cymraeg 2050.</p>
<p>The proposal identifies the financial costs of the proposal and estimates the cost of the new build at £8.5 million. However, it is not clear whether this</p>	<p>The Council has wholly committed to invest in the construction of a new school; however, the detail of the funding package is still to be finalised.</p>

<p>funding is secure. The proposer does not explain what will happen if this funding is not available</p>	<p>This will be subject to further Cabinet and Council approval at the appropriate time.</p>
<p>The proposal considers, in small part, the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Education Needs, but does not provide sufficient information in this area.</p>	<p>The new school will have no negative impact on learners with ALN and will provide a fully inclusive and accessible learning environment for all learners, including vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Learners with ALN will require transitional support to assist their transition to the new and significantly improved learning environment.</p> <p>The LA has a statutory duty to keep ALN provision under constant review and if there is evidence of sufficient demand for specialist provision then due consideration will be given and appropriate action taken in accordance with the School Organisation Code.</p>
<p>The proposal does not consider what disruptive factors may be in this particular case, or how the local authority will minimise these for learners.</p>	<p>We anticipate no disruption to staff and learners as the new school will be built on a new site. This will allow the existing school to continue to operate as it currently does with no disruption.</p> <p>Once the new school is complete and transition into the new school can commence, these arrangements will be coordinated accordingly with full collaboration and communication with staff, governors, learners and parents/carers at the school.</p>

6. Assessment of Consultation

In view of the responses and comments received during the consultation period, a further assessment of the proposals, which are included within the consultation document, has been undertaken. The proposals have been revisited and the following matters have been reassessed:

- The likely impact of the proposals on the quality and standards of education;
- The likely impact on the community; and
- The likely effect of differing travelling arrangements.

After further consideration, the proposals remain to be deemed to be the most appropriate and as such no amendments to the proposal have been made.

7. Conclusion

No information that has been presented during the consultation period has been deemed to necessitate a change to the consultation document and so the information remains unchanged. As such it is considered that these proposals should be wholly implemented with no amendments.

The recommendation of this report is that a statutory notice be published, as consulted upon with no modifications, in order to progress this proposal.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Consultation Document

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS



CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO CARRY OUT A REGULATED ALTERATION AND TRANSFER YSGOL GYNRADD GYMRAEG LLYN Y FORWYN TO A NEW BUILDING ON A NEW SITE

This consultation document and appendices are also available on the 'Get Involved' page on the Council website

Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn y Gymraeg / This document is available in Welsh

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Introduction

The Council wishes to seek the views of stakeholders on the proposal to carry out a regulated alteration to:

- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn y Forwyn (YGG Llyn y Forwyn), by way of transferring the school to a brand new building on a new site. The new school building is proposed to be built on the land north side of Highfield, Ferndale, CF43 4AD, known locally as the former 'Chubb Factory'. It is proposed that the regulated alteration will take place by March 2024.

This proposal is made in accordance with the School Organisation Code – 2018 (011/2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code – 2018 refers to regulated alterations to a school, which includes:

- The transfer of any school to a new site or sites.

Who will we consult with?

We are seeking the views of the following stakeholders:

- The Governing Body of YGG Llyn y Forwyn.
- Parents/carers, prospective parents/carers where possible, and staff members of YGG Llyn y Forwyn.
- Pupils of YGG Llyn y Forwyn.
- Other Governing Bodies of neighbouring primary schools.
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities.
- Welsh Ministers.
- Members of the Senedd for the Rhondda, Cynon and Taf constituencies and regional Members of the Senedd for the area.
- Members of Parliament for the Rhondda, Cynon and Taf Constituencies.
- Estyn.
- Teaching and staff trade unions.
- Central South Consortium Joint Education Service.
- Police and Crime Commissioner for the area.
- Childcare providers.
- Mudiad Meithrin.
- Menter Iaith
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.
- Children and Young People's Partnership.
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.
- Welsh Language Commissioner.

What will the consultation process entail?

The consultation will start on Monday March 1st 2021 and will be completed at 5pm on Friday April 30th 2021. The feedback from the consultation will be collated and summarised, and a report presented to the Council's Cabinet in May 2021. This consultation report will be available for all persons to view on the Council's website and copies can be obtained on request from the address detailed on Page 4 of this document.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the report and will decide, based on the feedback, whether to proceed with the proposal, make changes to the proposal or not proceed with the proposal. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal.

If Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice is published providing a 28 day notice period for objections. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 requires that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections **must** be made in writing or by email, and sent to the Council within 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the outcome of the statutory notice at the next available Cabinet meeting and determine whether to implement the proposal.

If there are objections, the Council's Director of Education and Inclusion Services will publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and their response to them within 7 days of the day of the determination of the proposal. This report will also be available for all persons to view on the Council's website and copies can be obtained on request from the addresses detailed on Page 4 of this document.

If the Council's Cabinet approve the proposal, the proposal will be implemented in accordance with the date given in the statutory notice or any subsequently modified date. In the case of this proposal, the implementation date will be no later than March 2024 for the transfer of YGG Llyn y Forwyn to the new site.

What do you have to consider?

The remainder of the consultation document sets out the rationale for the proposed transfer of YGG Llyn y Forwyn to a new school on a new site. We would like you to consider the information contained within this document and to hear your views as to whether or not you support the proposal. A new school building to accommodate all children who require a place at YGG Llyn y Forwyn is proposed to be built on the site of the former Chubb factory.

How do you make your views known?

In order to comply with the Welsh Government's most recent Covid guidance, face-to-face meetings will not be arranged. However, virtual sessions with the staff and Governing Body at YGG Llyn y Forwyn will be organised.

A consultation questionnaire is attached on page 21 of this document, it is also available on the Council's website on the 'Get Involved' page.

The questionnaire also enables consultees to register their wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report once presented to the Council's Cabinet.

You are also welcome to put your views, comments and any questions you may have in writing to:

Director of Education and Inclusion Services
21st Century Schools
Ty Trevithick
Abercynon
CF45 4UQ

E-mail: schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk

All correspondence should be received no later than 5pm on Friday April 30th 2021.

Please note that responses to the consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal unless expressly requested. Objections can only be forwarded following the publication of the statutory notice.

The views of children and young people

The Council has acknowledged that the voice of young people is about involving them as active participants in the development, delivery, management and improvement of their educational and student experience.

Young people have a right to express their views in all matters affecting them and for their views to be heard and given due consideration in accordance with their age and maturity. As such, the 21st Century Schools Team will ensure that suitable arrangements are made to involve pupils as active participants throughout this consultation process, and if a decision is made to progress the proposal, throughout the implementation process.

The Council will consult with pupils who attend YGG Llyn y Forwyn by producing a children and young people's version of the consultation document and consultation response form. In order to comply with Welsh Government's latest guidance on Covid-19, we will work collaboratively with YGG Llyn y Forwyn to facilitate a virtual meeting using video conferencing technology (Microsoft Teams/Zoom) to discuss the proposal with pupils at the school, and talk them through the child friendly version of the consultation document. Notes from this discussion will be included in the documentation forwarded to the Council's Cabinet for consideration once the consultation period has ended.

Community, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessments

As set out in the Welsh Government School Organisation Code 2018, it is a requirement to publish Community Impact, Welsh Language Impact and Equality Impact Assessments. These have been produced as an annex to this document and are also available on the Council's website.

Background to the proposal

YGG Llyn y Forwyn – Where we are now...

YGG Llyn y Forwyn is a Welsh medium community school located at Darran Terrace, Ferndale. The school site consists of a traditional stone Victorian School building. According to the condition survey of the school carried out by the Council in 2019, YGG Llyn y Forwyn is graded D for condition and C for suitability, where A is the highest and D is the lowest performing building respectively. It is acknowledged that this is the worst school in the Council's education portfolio in terms of condition and suitability.



The view of the existing school building from Darran Terrace.



The view of the tarmac yard servicing the infant block.

The site consists of two early 20th century dressed stone buildings, set within a sloping tarmac covered site with both properties extending over two storeys. A site condition survey undertaken by the Council in 2019 reported that the roof is now nearing the end of its natural life.

The site itself and both school buildings are not accessible and do not comply with the Equality Act 2010.

The survey also reported that both blocks show water ingress through the fabric of the building, which has resulted in damaged plasterwork and rotten timber with varying levels of water damage to all rooms in the school. The current figure for the backlog maintenance work that would be essential to make YGG Llyn y Forwyn safe, watertight and warm is over £1.01 million.

The site is enclosed on all sides by large retaining walls and a sloping topography. The school is in the centre of a residential area making access to the site challenging. There are no on-site car parking facilities for staff, and no on-site drop off for the home to school transport. The neighbouring streets are used to accommodate both provisions which can be challenging on occasions given the numbers of residents and private vehicles in the locality.

The topography of the site is challenging given the severely sloping outdoor, hard play areas of the site and as a result staff face regular challenges in the delivery of outdoor activities. To their credit they use the best of the facilities that are available to them locally, as they use the nearby park to deliver aspects of the curriculum and their after-school sports clubs. This situation, although adequate, is far from ideal.

The pupil numbers in YGG Llyn y Forwyn over the past four years are shown in the following table and are obtained from the statutory Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) which must be undertaken in January each year. The number of nursery age pupils for each year is shown separately, as required by the Welsh Government’s statutory School Organisation Code (2018).

YGG Llyn y Forwyn					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total statutory aged pupils	165	168	167	160	156
Nursery pupils	36	30	21	38	26

Over the next five years the pupil forecasts for YGG Llyn y Forwyn, which are calculated in accordance with guidance issued by Welsh Government, are as follows:

YGG Llyn y Forwyn								
	Capacity of the School	2020/2021 (Actual)	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	% surplus places in 2024/2025
Statutory aged pupils	197	156	150	155	151	148	144	26.9%

Nursery pupils	28	26	33	31	29	32	31	-10.7%
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What is the basis for this proposal?

It was acknowledged in the 2019 Estyn inspection report for YGG Llyn y Forwyn that ‘the school is a happy community’ where ‘pupils use the Welsh language with pride’. This very positive observation is something that will not change as the ethos of the school will be transferred to the new school building at the new site, with current staffing being maintained for pupils to continue to benefit from.

Due to its sloping, enclosed site and the limitations of the building, YGG Llyn y Forwyn cannot be physically developed from a technical perspective. The site, as a whole, is severely restricted and the age and construction of the buildings prevent the school from receiving any significant upgrades which would allow it to be deemed a 21st Century Schools’ provision.

The Council believes that this proposal represents the best opportunity to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future and provides a platform for further improvement through significant investment in permanent and fit for purpose facilities. This investment will create a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT provision, creative outdoor play areas and access to community facilities. The design will be focused on creating a flexible environment that fosters pupils’ personal growth in communication, collaboration, creativity and leadership skills.

Improved school buildings and improved school performance will potentially lead to additional pupils accessing Welsh Medium education locally, increasing the critical mass and providing more professional teaching opportunities for teachers. A new 21st Century school environment will have a positive impact on both pupil and staff wellbeing and will provide strengthened opportunities for developing a community focused school.

The existing school buildings at YGG Llyn y Forwyn require significant repairs and are no longer fit for purpose, with outstanding maintenance in excess of £1.01 million. The school also lacks any outdoor green space, which limits the breadth of curriculum that teaching staff can deliver outside. The benefits of outdoor learning in the early years is well documented as this can have positive health and wellbeing benefits and can also help to connect children to the environment. Learning outside the classroom can also be an effective tool for teaching and learning which has been proven to raise attainment and achievement, improve behaviour and enhance the engagement of all groups of pupils, including those who are hard to engage inside the classroom environment.

The proposal to carry out a regulated alteration to YGG Llyn y Forwyn is considered necessary due to the existing school building not being fit for purpose. It is the Council’s view that a new, purpose-built 21st Century School building will help the school to further cultivate a learning environment which nurtures and supports pupils, staff and the use of the Welsh language.

What alternative options have been considered?

Given the limitations of the existing school site, and the challenging topography of YGG Llyn y Forwyn's catchment area, the number of alternative options available for consideration are limited.

The land north side of Highfield, Ferndale, CF43 4AD, known locally as the former 'Chubb Factory,' was chosen as the preferred location for the school following an assessment of a number of sites all located within the catchment area of YGG Llyn y Forwyn. Each site was appraised initially on its ability to meet the following criteria:

- Have an adequate site area;
- Have satisfactory access which is capable of being improved;
- Is free from any visual incumbents;
- Close proximity to the current school;
- Is a viable development opportunity subject to a detailed feasibility study.

Following the site assessment, the site known locally as the former 'Chubb Factory' was ultimately chosen for a number of reasons including its size, the existing infrastructure, current access arrangements, and its proximity to the existing school.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018, further alternative options were also identified and consciously considered. Some of the benefits and disadvantages of each of the discounted options are listed in the table that follows:

Option	Benefits	Disadvantages
Retain the status quo.	<p>No capital investment required by the Council.</p> <p>No disruption to the pupils, parents/carers and staff.</p> <p>No impact on home to school transport.</p>	<p>Aspects of the school building have reached the end of their life and the building is now beyond economic repair.</p> <p>Not of a 21st Century schools standard with in adequate outdoor space. As such delivering the New Curriculum for Wales will be a challenge.</p> <p>Inaccessible site - not compliant with the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Backlog maintenance of £1.01m will remain.</p> <p>Parking issues will not be resolved.</p>

<p>Build a new school on the existing site.</p>	<p>No impact on pupils in terms of travel distances.</p> <p>No impact on home to school transport.</p>	<p>Significant capital investment required.</p> <p>Temporary classrooms will need to be utilised for the duration of the construction and given the site restrictions may need to be located elsewhere.</p> <p>The topography of the site restricts the ability to build a fully accessible school fit for the 21st Century.</p> <p>Site restrictions limit the ability to improve the outdoor areas.</p> <p>Parking issues will not be resolved due to location.</p>
<p>Create a 3 to 19 Welsh medium school on the site of an associated school of YGG Llyn y Forwyn.</p>	<p>Larger school departments will promote the sharing of skills and expertise.</p> <p>Greater opportunities for staff to move between key stages and further develop expertise.</p> <p>Reduce the anxiety caused by transition.</p> <p>Improve the range and quality of facilities and learning resources available to the benefit of all pupils.</p>	<p>Pupils will have a longer distance to travel to school.</p> <p>Home to school transport costs will increase.</p> <p>There will be Human Resources implications for staff.</p> <p>The topography of the associated school site severely restricts the ability to build a fully accessible school fit for the 21st Century.</p> <p>The traffic impact of additional school transport in the community is unsustainable and the existing site cannot support additional school transport.</p>

Benefits and Disadvantages, Risks and Mitigation Factors

Any proposals involving school reorganisation will inevitably cause some disruption and uncertainty, although experience shows that this can be kept to a minimum through meaningful engagement throughout the consultation process, and if a decision is made to progress with the proposal, during the implementation phase.

The benefits and disadvantages of the proposal are highlighted below, as is information as to how any identified risks can be managed by the Council and the school.

Benefits			
A new 21 st Century standard school will deliver a significant improvement in the quality of the educational provision, having a significant positive impact upon the educational performance of the pupils and staff morale.			
The school will be designed to be energy efficient and will include renewable energy systems including photovoltaic panels and rainwater harvesting. The school will be built to BREEAM Excellent standards, contributing to both the Council's commitment to becoming a 'carbon free Council by 2050' and the Welsh Government's Climate Change Strategy.			
There will be significant traffic improvements with the inclusion of a dedicated staff car park and an on-site home to school transport drop-off area.			
The school will be designed to be a fully accessible and fully integrated community school. A dedicated area will be designed within the school itself so that the local community will be allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day.			
Improving and enhancing the physical aspect of the Welsh medium provision throughout the County Borough is a critical factor of the WESP in supporting the achievement of the target to increase the number of seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh. This proposal is another example of the Council's commitment to ensure that these targets are met.			
The external areas will allow staff, pupils and the community to experience a greater breadth of teaching and learning experiences.			
Given the proposed location of the new school, it is anticipated that there will be no additional transport costs.			
The proposed site is within the existing catchment area and so there will be limited disruption for pupils, staff and parents/carers.			
Disadvantages			
The capital cost of the new school will be significant.			
Some of the pupils and staff will inevitably live further from the new school site.			
Moving to a new school site could cause some anxiety for some pupils, staff, and parents/carers.			
Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Parents choose to send their children to another school	Low	Low	Engagement with parents/carers will continue throughout the consultation period, and if a decision is taken by Cabinet to implement the proposal, this engagement will continue.

YGG Llyn y Forwyn – Where we'd like to be...

It is being proposed that a new school building for YGG Llyn y Forwyn will be constructed on the site known locally as the former 'Chubb Factory' site, Ferndale. The school will be a replacement for the existing school building and will cater for children aged between 3 and 11 years of age who require Welsh medium education. It will have a proposed admissions number of 30 pupils per year group, and an overall pupil capacity of 210 (plus nursery).

The new school will be built in accordance with Building Bulletin 99 and will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

The accommodation will consist of:

- Modern, flexible learning environments for all pupils, a large hall/dining area, a multi-purpose learning resource area and fully accessible facilities.
- Internal and external areas for use by the local community.
- Some additional capacity and space for additional learning needs interventions.
- Enhanced outdoor spaces to support the full range of curriculum activities, including an outdoor classroom and a 'forest schools' area.
- Improved traffic management including on site bus drop off for pupils and on-site staff parking.



A multi-purpose learning resource area or 'heart space' at a 21st Century School delivered by the Council.



Typical junior classroom in a 21st Century School delivered by the Council.



Typical junior classroom in a 21st Century School delivered by the Council.

The school will be built in accordance with Building Bulletin 99 which requires new primary schools to include provision for team sports, including a playing field area suitable for team games for pupils aged 8 and over and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for sports such as basketball and netball. New schools are also required to include soft play areas, commonly made up of grassed space for pupils to sit and socialise, alongside hard surfaced playgrounds and sheltered space to complement the soft play areas around the school site. The new school will also include a habitat area which will act as a space for outdoor learning and provide a valuable teaching and learning resource.



External view of Cwmaman Primary School opened by The Council in 2018.



Example of MUGA servicing Tonyrefail Community School.



Example of outdoor learning area at Cwmaman Primary School.

There will be on-site provision for staff parking as well as an on-site dedicated drop-off area for the home to school transport vehicles.

A new Cylch Meithrin will also form a part of the new school site and will offer pre-school Cylch Meithrin sessions for 2 to 3 year olds. This provision is already operating at the existing school site, however, given the limitations on the space available numbers are relatively low. It is anticipated that being able to offer this provision in brand new facilities as part of the YGG Llyn y Forwyn site will encourage pupil numbers to grow. This will assist in ensuring a language continuum of Welsh medium provision for children from the age of two to eleven years, within one primary school site.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

All Local Authorities in Wales must produce a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The WESP is a long term language planning tool which sets the direction for the strategic planning, delivery and growth in Welsh medium and Welsh language education. Through the WESP, and effective strategic planning and investment, The Council aims to contribute significantly to achieving the vision of one million people in Wales being Welsh speakers by 2050 as set out in Cymraeg 2050. The Council's current WESP can be viewed and downloaded from the Council website via:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/WelshServices/Relateddocs/WelshinEducationStrategicPlan201720.pdf>

The new ten year WESP for the period between 2022 to 2032 is currently being written and will be subject to a statutory consultation process shortly. Included amongst the list of strategic developments, actions and outcomes the Council will undertake to help achieve the targets set out in the WESP are:

- New and improved school buildings with appropriate capacity levels to fully meet forecasted demand for Welsh medium provision in their catchment areas.

The proposal to transfer YGG Llyn y Forwyn to a new purpose built 21st Century standard school building with an increased capacity will contribute to RCT's goal of increasing the number of year one pupils accessing Welsh medium education. This proposal will expand the opportunities for pupils to pursue an education through the medium of Welsh and will have a positive impact upon Welsh language provision.

Admission Arrangements

There will be no changes to the catchment area for YGG Llyn y Forwyn. The school will cater for children aged between 3 to 11 years of age requiring Welsh medium primary education. It will have a proposed admissions number of 30 pupils per year group, and an overall pupil capacity of 210 (plus nursery).

In the case of oversubscription at any school, published admissions criteria are applied to all applications received for places, to determine which pupils are successful in obtaining the places available. These criteria, which are outlined in our school admission policy booklet entitled 'Starting School' and listed in priority order are:

- Category One – 'Looked after' children (children in public care) and previously 'looked after' children.
- Category Two – Children whose home is inside the school's catchment area and have an older sibling attending the school from the same address, who will continue to attend that school on the expected date of admission of the younger child.
- Category Three – Children whose home is inside the school's catchment area who do not have an older sibling attending the school.
- Category Four – Children whose home is outside the school's catchment area and have an older sibling attending the school from the same address, who will continue to attend that school on the expected date of admission of the younger child
- Category Five – Children whose home is outside the school's catchment area who do not have an older sibling attending the school.

The term 'home' in the categories above refers to the actual location of the residential dwelling in which the child lives.

Children will be admitted up to the Published Admission Number in the order of priority as outlined above. If, within any one of the priority categories listed, all of the applicants cannot be offered a place, preference will be given to children living nearest to the school. Distance will be measured using the shortest, safe walking route between the home address and the nearest open school gate. In areas where no safe walking route has been identified, the shortest driving route between the home address and the nearest open school gate will be used. This distance will be measured using the 'MapInfo System' only, measurements calculated by any other system will not be considered. The home address in instances where parents/carers have shared responsibility for children, will be the address to which Child Benefit is paid.

The likely impact of the proposal

The educational case for the proposal

This proposal forms a part of the Council's wider 21st Century Schools Investment Programme and contributes to the delivery of sustainable schools fit for the 21st Century and supports the better strategic management of the Council's education estate.

In addition to this objective, school organisational proposals should highlight the educational benefits that any change will offer, particularly in relation to overall improvements in standards, but also in terms of the social and emotional development of children, which would usually impact beneficially on their overall achievement and outcomes.

YGG Llyn y Forwyn was inspected by Estyn in January 2019 and the school's current performance in the five inspection areas was follows:

Inspection area	Judgement
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning	Good
Teaching and Learning Experiences	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good

Estyn also set out recommendations for the school to implement in order to build upon the progress made to date. Estyn's recommendations were as follows:

- R1** Ensure appropriate opportunities for pupils in the Foundation Phase to make choices in relation to their learning so that they develop as independent learners.
- R2** Improve pupils' information and communication technology skills.
- R3** Ensure that Key Stage 2 teachers provide a balanced curriculum and develop pupils' scientific knowledge and understanding, in particular.

It is the Council's view that the transfer of YGG Llyn y Forwyn to a new, purpose built school building fit for the 21st Century would help the school to make progress towards achieving these recommendations and have a major positive impact on all five Estyn inspection areas, as follows:

1. **Standards** – A new school building fit for the 21st Century would provide staff and pupils with enhanced teaching spaces, dedicated resource areas, stimulating learning environments, state-of-the-art information and communication technology equipment, all of which would support the school to raise standards, and achieve Estyn's recommendation of improving pupils' ICT skills.
2. **Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning** – The existing school site has extremely limited outdoor space, with no green areas. Transferring YGG Llyn y Forwyn to a new site would provide extensive outdoor space, including green space, for pupils to learn and play in. It is the

Council's view that pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning would benefit from a diverse and engaging outdoor space.

3. **Teaching and Learning Experiences** – A fit for purpose school building would ensure that staff are able to provide a balanced curriculum at all key stages in line with the new Curriculum for Wales – 2022, particularly in the areas of physical education, Science and ICT, which would support the school in achieving its third Estyn recommendation. A 21st Century learning environment will also provide pupils with greater flexibility and therefore greater choice in their learning experience, supporting the school in making progress towards recommendation one.
4. **Care, Support and Guidance** – A new 21st Century School building will enable the school to build upon the good working practices and initiatives that YGG Llyn y Forwyn already have in place. Providing a significantly improved external environment and the provision of green spaces will provide opportunities to further develop extra-curricular activities to encourage healthy lifestyles for the school community. A fully accessible building and the provision of flexible spaces will allow the school to extend its good practice to allow further engagement with families. The new building will allow the school to nurture and grow this aspect of its ethos exponentially.
5. **Leadership and Management** – A purpose built school building would allow the already effective leadership team at YGG Llyn y Forwyn to focus more on working towards Estyn's recommendations. It would remove the burden of time consuming and expensive maintenance issues present in the existing school building, which would allow staff to focus on delivering the best teaching and learning and outcomes for their pupils.

In addition, the new school, which would be built to 21st Century school standards would have a positive impact on the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase and each Key Stage of education. There would be no limitations in this regard.

What is the likely impact of the proposals on pupils?

It is anticipated that the proposed changes will not adversely impact upon pupils. Numerous benefits can be realised – the principal change will be an improvement in the quality of the educational setting, and this should have a significant impact on educational performance of the pupils.

The catchment area of the primary school will not change, i.e., it will continue to be the same as the current catchment area of YGG Llyn y Forwyn. A number of the Lower Super Output Areas within the catchment area are amongst the most deprived in Wales according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 Report.

The Council's policy regarding home to school transport provision will continue to apply. The difference in time taken to travel to the new school site will be negligible as it is in close proximity to the existing school. Some pupils may have a slightly longer journey to school but many will have a shorter one. Overall, we consider the impact on pupil travel arrangements to be neutral.

The Welsh Government and the Council has adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which is expressed in seven core aims that all children and young people:

1. Have a flying start in life.
2. Have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities.
3. Enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation.

4. Have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.
5. Are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised.
6. Have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing.
7. Are not disadvantaged by poverty.

The Council considers that this proposal benefits the pupils attending YGG Llyn y Forwyn in accordance with the seven core aims set out above.

Further information relating to the likely impact of the proposals on pupils, including how the proposal contributes to all seven goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 and an assessment of the proposal on the five ways of working, can be found in the Equality Impact Assessment which is at Appendix B.

What is the likely impact of the proposal on staff?

In making the proposed change, most things will not change for the staff at all. The school, including all staff will be relocating en masse, so there are no Human Resource implications as a result of implementing these proposals. Indeed, the expectation is that the proposed change will impact upon staff positively.

The principal change will be an improvement in the quality of the educational setting and the working environment and as a result we anticipate that this will have a significant impact on staff morale, well-being and retention.

Financial implications of the proposal

YGG Llyn y Forwyn is not currently operating within a deficit budget and there is no evidence that these proposals will affect this positive financial position. In addition, no increase in home to school transport costs are projected.

There is an expectation that while some savings will be identified given that the new school will be maintenance free and more importantly more energy efficient, which is in stark contrast to the poor condition of the existing school building, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in the rates payable for the new school building. It is not possible to be precise about future revenue costs, as much would depend upon the future decisions of the Governing Body, however the projection is that any increase in costs and any savings realised will negate the other with there being a neutral overall budgetary impact. What is certain is that this proposal will remove a significant backlog maintenance figure in excess of £1.01 million and eliminate day-to-day costs associated with the failing buildings.

This proposal will deliver a newly constructed school for YGG Llyn y Forwyn at an estimated capital cost of £8.5 million. This capital element of the proposal will be funded by the Council's Capital Investment Programme. Project costs will be developed alongside the consultation process and approvals sought in line with the Council's decision-making procedures.

Home to School Transport Provision

There is a statutory duty placed upon all Local Authorities in Wales to provide pupils with free transport to their nearest suitable school if they reside beyond safe 'walking distance' to that school. The term suitable school applies to the catchment area English, Welsh, dual language or

voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate. The law relating to safe 'walking distance' is defined as two miles for pupils of compulsory school age receiving primary education and three miles for pupils of compulsory school age receiving secondary education.

The Council has exercised the discretionary powers afforded to it under the provisions of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 to make a more generous provision to pupils. The relevant information in relation to YGG Llyn y Forwyn is set out below:

- The eligibility criterion for walking distance for pupils receiving compulsory primary education at their nearest suitable school has been set at 1½ miles, instead of 2 miles as required by the Measure.
- Free transport to their nearest suitable school, where places are available, is provided to pupils who meet the 1½ mile eligibility criterion from the start of Foundation Phase (the start of the school term after their third birthday), rather than from the start of compulsory education (the start of the school term after their fifth birthday) as required by the Measure.
- The term suitable school applies to the catchment area English, Welsh, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate.

The full information in relation to the Council's Home to School transport provision viewed and downloaded from the Council website via:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/SchoolandCollegeTransport/SchoolandCollegeTransport.aspx>

Land and buildings information

If the proposals outlined in this document are implemented, the existing school site will become redundant. As this is an initial consultation process, no decisions have yet been made in respect of the future of these sites and buildings. This issue will be managed in accordance with the agreed Council Policy on Surplus Land and Buildings.

Consultation Response Pro-forma

In order to comply with its legal duty under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, and help the Council reach a decision on the proposal below, it would be very helpful if you could answer the following questions. Please note, any personal information given by you will not be shared and only used to provide you with feedback, should you request it. Any comments that could identify you will be anonymised in the consultation report produced. Completed questionnaires should be returned to:

Director of Education and Inclusion Services
21st Century Schools Team
Ty Trevithick
Abercynon
CF45 4UQ

Or

Email: schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk

The Proposal

To relocate YGG Llyn y Forwyn from its existing site to a newly constructed school building to be built on the land North Side of Highfield, Ferndale, CF43 4AD, known locally as the former 'Chubb Factory'.

Do you agree with proposal 1? Yes No Not sure

Please let us know the reasons for your choice

● Do you think the proposal could impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language (Positive or Negative)?

● Do you think the proposal in any way it treats the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language?

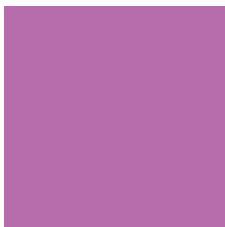
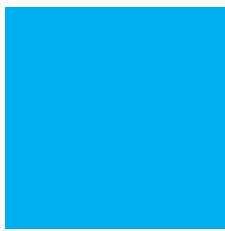
● How positive effects on the Welsh Language could be increased, or negative effects be decreased?

The Council is committed to keeping your personal information safe and secure and keeping you informed about how we use your information. To learn about how your privacy is protected and how and why we use your personal information to provide you with services, please visit our Consultation privacy notice:

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/DataProtectionandFreedomofInformation/DataProtection/serviceprivacynotices/ChiefExecutives/ConsultationPrivacyNotice.aspx>

And

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/DataProtectionandFreedomofInformation/DataProtection/DataProtection.aspx>



Appendix 2

Notes from meeting held with the Governing Body and Staff Members of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn y Forwyn.

Tuesday 16th March 2021, 15:45

Meeting to discuss the proposed regulated alteration of the relocation of YGG Llyn-y-Forwyn to a new build on a new site

RCT officers present

Gaynor Davies (GD) – Director of Education and Inclusion Services

Andrea Richards (AR) - Temporary Service Director 21st Century Schools and Transformation

Lisa Howell (LH) – Business and School Organisation Manager

Sophie Nicholls (SN) – 21st Century Schools Officer

Laura Britton (LB) - 21st Century Schools Graduate Officer

Notes

Formal introductions were given by GD.

GD welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the proposed changes as detailed within the Consultation Document. Which is to:

Carry out a regulated alteration to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn y Forwyn (YGG Llyn y Forwyn), by way of transferring the school to a brand new building on a new site.

The new school building is proposed to be built on the land north side of Highfield, Ferndale, CF43 4AD, known locally as the former 'Chubb Factory'.

It is proposed that the regulated alteration will take place by March 2024.

GD also made clear the difference between the consultation and objection periods and confirmed the timescales of the consultation process in accordance with the School Organisation Code.

GD opened the floor to the staff and governors for questions.

Comment: *It is pleasing that the importance of Welsh medium education was recognised and that this recognition was being reflected in the investment. It is a shame to leave the old school but that the move to a new building is an exciting prospect for everyone.*

Response: GD agreed, stating that building condition surveys play a part in guiding the 21st Century School programme. However, in addition to this, there is a commitment to increase Welsh speakers across the county and it is important for Welsh language development that children are introduced to the language in the early years.

Question: *What is meant by wider community benefits from the investment, and is this in relation to the school facilities being hired out?*

Response: Gaynor Davies stated that as a part of the 21st Century Schools investment the Council encourages use of the school facilities by the wider community.

AR stated that the design will include facilities which the communities can access such as sports facilities and IT facilities. These designs will take into account safeguarding issues, and areas will be segregated ensuring that the children and the community are protected.

Question: *Will there will be a new access to the new school through the industrial estate?*

Response: GD stated that a Traffic Impact Assessment will be undertaken which will need to reflect the needs of the school and the community, so at this time the detail is unknown.

AR stated that the Traffic Impact Assessments will form a part of the planning application process and as such all consultees will be involved in this process and will be given opportunities to comment.

LH commented that the assessments will look beyond the site and will include the wider area, this ensures that any changes not only benefit the school but also the wider community. This includes possibly introducing measures such as traffic calming and speed restrictions to ensure a safe route and access to the new school site.

Comment: *There has been speculation that the residents who live adjacent to the new site had raised concerns over changes to traffic.*

Response: GD reiterated that the Council welcome any comments both positive and negative as all views are presented to Cabinet. She encouraged governors and members of the community to fill out the online questionnaire so that views can be captured.

Headteacher (Petra Davies) confirmed that the questionnaire has been circulated to staff and parents for everyone to complete.

AR made attendees aware that if staff have any issues regarding the proposal that they wish to discuss the team will provide contact details of an officer from HR who can assist.

GD concluded the meeting and stated that the Council are able to offer advice and guide staff through this consultation process, and stressed the importance of taking this opportunity to have their say.

Thanks were extended to all participants.

Meeting closed at 16:25.

**Nodiadau o'r cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd gyda disgyblion Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg
Llyn y Forwyn.**

Dydd Iau 22ain Ebrill 2021, 13:30

**Cyfarfod i drafod y newid rheoledig arfaethedig i adleoli YGG Llyn y Forwyn i
adeilad newydd ar safle newydd**

Swyddogion RhCT yn bresennol

Gaynor Davies (GD) - Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Addysg a Chynhwysiant

Andrea Richards (AR) - Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Dros Dro Ysgolion a Thrawsnewid yr
21ain Ganrif

Lisa Howell (LH) - Rheolwr Trefniadaeth Busnes ac Ysgol

Sophie Nicholls (SN) - Swyddog Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif

Laura Britton (LB) - Swyddog Graddedig Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif

Nodiadau

Cyflwynodd GD y tîm o swyddogion y Cyngor ac eglurodd pwrpas y cyfarfod i'r disgyblion. Aeth GD ymlaen i egluro manylion y cynnig mewn modd cyfeillgar i blant er mwyn sicrhau ymgysylltiad a dealltwriaeth disgyblion. Nododd GD nad oedd penderfyniad ffurfiol wedi'i wneud eto ac mai pwrpas y cyfarfod oedd darganfod beth oedd barn y disgyblion am y newidiadau arfaethedig.

Yna chwaraewyd fersiwn Cymraeg o'r fideo ymgynghori i'r disgyblion.

Cadarnhaodd yr holl ddisgyblion eu bod wedi cael eu rhoi a'u bod wedi darllen copi o ddogfen ymgynghori'r person ifanc.

Gofynnodd GD i'r disgyblion am eu cwestiynau

Cwestiwn: Dywedodd disgybl yr hoffent gael ardal amlsynhwyrdd yn yr ysgol newydd i bobl ei defnyddio. Roeddent am weld fidgets a goleuadau a phethau i gadw pobl yn ddigynnwrf.

Ymateb: Diolchodd GD i'r disgybl a nododd fod hwn yn syniad hyfryd.

Cwestiwn: Dywedodd disgybl ei fod eisiau ardal chwaraeon newydd gan nad yw ei iard bresennol yn wastad a dim ond cylchoedd a nodau sydd ganddyn nhw.

Ymateb: Nododd AR fod gan rai o Ysgolion newydd yr 21ain Ganrif ardaloedd awyr agored mawr o'r enw MUGA's, Ardaloedd Gêm Aml-ddefnydd, y gellir eu defnyddio ar gyfer llawer o chwaraeon gan gynnwys pêl-rwyd, pêl-fasged a phêl-droed. Dywedodd AR fod y Cyngor yn bendant yn bwriadu adeiladu iard wastad ar safle'r ysgol newydd gyda rhai ardaloedd glaswelltlog i'r disgyblion eu defnyddio.

Cwestiwn: Gofynnodd disgybl a allai gael glaswellt ffug.

Ymateb: Nododd LH fod tîm Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif yn edrych ar lawr bob safle i sefydlu beth yw'r opsiwn gorau i'r ysgol honno, os a yw hynny'n ffug neu'n laswellt go iawn. Dywedodd LH, os bydd y cynnig yn mynd yn ei flaen, bydd y tîm yn dod yn ôl at y disgyblion ac yn cael trafodaethau pellach ynghylch yr hyn yr hoffent ei gael yn eu hysgol newydd.

Sylw: Dywedodd disgybl ei fod eisiau cyfrifiaduron newydd.

Ymateb: Ymatebodd SN gan nodi bod pob ysgol newydd yn cael byrddau gwyn rhyngweithiol newydd sbon i staff a disgyblion eu defnyddio yn ystod gwersi. Bydd y Cyngor yn sicrhau bod gan athrawon gyfrifiaduron newydd i ddysgu eu gwersi a bydd gan ddisgyblion gyfrifiaduron newydd i'w defnyddio yn eu gwersi.

Sylw: Dywedodd disgybl ei fod eisiau cwrt pêl-fasged.

Ymateb: Dywedodd LH, os ydy'r cynnig yn llwyddiannus, bydd y tîm yn gofyn pa farciau chwaraeon y mae'r disgyblion eu heisiau yn ardal MUGA y soniwyd amdani o'r blaen. Os ydyn nhw eisiau pêl-fasged yna gallwn ni sicrhau bod ganddyn nhw marciau bêl-fasged.

Dywedodd GD y bydd disgyblion ym mlwyddyn pump a chwech yn colli'r ysgol newydd os aiff y cynnig ymlaen. Fodd bynnag, bydd mynediad cymunedol i'r ardaloedd awyr agored felly byddent yn gallu defnyddio'r iardiau newydd hyn hyd yn oed pan nad ydyn nhw'n ddisgyblion mwyach.

Cwestiwn: Gofynnodd disgybl a fyddai ardal LEGO yn yr ysgol newydd.

Ymateb: Nododd GD y byddai'r ysgol newydd yn darparu llawer o le i ddisgyblion a staff greu gwahanol gorneli dysgu i weddu i anghenion unigol. Gallai un o'r corneli dysgu fod yn LEGO os mai dyna oedd y staff a'r disgyblion ei eisiau.

Cwestiwn: Gofynnodd disgybl a fyddai llyfrgell.

Ymateb: Nododd LB y byddai llyfrgell yn yr ysgol newydd.

Sylw: Dywedodd disgybl yr hoffent i'r ysgol newydd gael iard gyda llawer o goed i ddarparu ocsigen ac ardal i blannu llysiau.

Ymateb: Nododd AR fod y Cyngor eisiau helpu i leihau faint o garbon sydd yn yr atmosffer felly byddai plannu llawer o goed i amsugno'r carbon yn syniad gwych. Dywedodd AR, os yw'r cynigion yn symud ymlaen, byddai'r disgyblion yn gallu helpu i ddylunio'r ardal awyr agored.

Cwestiwn: Gofynnodd disgybl a fyddai'r holl athrawon yn YGG Llyn y Forwyn yn symud i'r ysgol newydd.

Ymateb: Cadarnhaodd GD y bydd yr holl ddisgyblion a bydd yr holl athrawon ac aelodau staff yn gallu symud i'r ysgol newydd pe byddent am wneud hynny gan bod y cynnig hwn yn adleoliad ac nid yn gau ysgol.

Cwestiwn: Gofynnodd disgybl a fyddent yn gallu cadw'r un wisg ar y safle newydd.

Ymateb: Dywedodd GD mae'r staff, y llywodraethwyr a'r disgyblion oedd yn gyfrifol am y dewis hwn.

Dywedodd AR y byddent yn cael cyfle i newid y bathodyn pe byddent am wneud hynny, ond yr ysgol sydd i benderfynu.

Dyweddodd Petra Davies (Pennaeth) fod rhieni a disgyblion wedi gofyn am gael gwisg ysgol gyda thei a chrys, ond mai hwn fyddai'r unig newid posib. Dywedodd Petra Davies fod bathodyn YGG Llyn y Forwyn yn dynodi chwedl leol ac yr hoffent cadw hynny i gadw hanes yr ysgol yn fyw. Hefyd, nododd fod cefnogaeth rhieni a chefnogaeth gymunedol ynglŷn â'r cynnig hwn wedi bod yn fendigedig.

Cwestiwn: Gofynnodd disgybl a fydd posteri ac arwyddion ar gyfer gwahanol ardaloedd yn yr ysgol newydd.

Ymateb: Cadarnhaodd GD y bydd y Cyngor yn sicrhau bod pob ardal wedi'i chyfeirio'n glir ac yn gywir.

Diolchodd Gaynor Davies i bawb am y cyfraniadau rhyfeddol ac am rannu eu barn mor agored a gonest.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 14:30.

Notes from meeting held with school pupils of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn y Forwyn.

Thursday 22nd April 2021, 13:30

Meeting to discuss the proposed regulated relocation of YGG Llyn-y-Forwyn to a new build on a new site

RCT officers present

Gaynor Davies (GD) – Director of Education and Inclusion Services

Andrea Richards (AR) - Temporary Service Director 21st Century Schools and Transformation

Lisa Howell (LH) – Business and School Organisation Manager

Sophie Nicholls (SN) – 21st Century Schools Officer

Laura Britton (LB) - 21st Century Schools Graduate Officer

Notes

GD introduced the team of council officers and explained the purpose of the meeting to the pupils. GD went on to explain the details of the proposal in a child friendly manner to ensure pupil engagement and understanding. GD stated that no formal decision had been made yet and that the purpose of the meeting was to find out what the pupils thought of the proposed changes.

The Welsh medium version of the consultation video was then played to the pupils.

All the pupils confirmed they were given and had read a copy of the young person's consultation document.

GD opened the floor to the pupils for questions

Question: A pupil stated that they would like a multi-sensory area in the new school for people to use. They wanted there to be fidgets and lights and things to keep people calm.

Response: GD thanked the pupil and stated that this was a lovely idea, and one that they would reflect on.

Question: A pupil stated that they wanted a new sports area as their current yard isn't flat and they only have hoops and goals.

Response: AR stated that some of the new 21st Century Schools have large outdoor areas called MUGAs, Multi Use Game Areas, which can be used for lots of sports including netball, basketball and football. AR stated that the council definitely plans to build a flat yard on the new school site with some grassed areas for the pupils to use.

Question: A pupil asked if they could have fake grass.

Response: LH stated that the 21st Century Schools team look at the ground at every site to establish what the best option is for that school, whether that be fake or real grass. LH stated that if the proposal proceeds the team will come back to the pupils and have further discussions as to what they would like to have in their new school.

Comment: A pupil stated that they wanted new computers.

Response: SN responded stating that all new schools are supplied with brand new interactive white boards for staff and pupils to use during lessons. The council will ensure that teachers have new computers to teach their lessons and pupils will have new computers to use in their lessons.

Comment: A pupil stated that they wanted a basketball court.

Response: LH stated that if they proposal proceeds the team will ask what sports markings the pupils want on the previously talked about MUGA area. If they want basketball then we can make sure they have basketball.

GD stated that pupils in year five and six will potentially miss out on the benefits of a new school if they proposal goes ahead. However, there will be community access to the outdoor areas so they would be able to use these new yard spaces even when they are no longer pupils.

Question: A pupil asked if there would be a LEGO area at the new school.

Response: GD stated that the new school would provide lots of room for pupils and staff to create different learning corners to suit individual needs. One of the learning corners could be LEGO if that is what the staff and pupils wanted.

Question: A pupil asked if there would be a library.

Response: LB stated that there would be a library in the new school.

Comment: A pupil stated that they would like the new school to have a yard with lots of trees to provide oxygen, and an area to plant vegetables.

Response: AR stated that the council wants to help reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere so planting lots of trees to absorb the carbon would be a great idea. AR stated that if the proposals are to proceed the pupils would be able to help design the outdoor area.

Question: A pupil asked if all the teachers at YGG Llyn y Forwyn would be moving to the new school.

Response: GD confirmed that all the pupils that all teachers and members of staff will be able to move to the new school if they wanted to at this proposal is a relocation and not a closure.

Question: A pupil asked if they would be able to keep the same uniform at the new site.

Response: GD advised that this choice was up to the staff, governors and pupils.

AR stated that they would have the opportunity to change the badge if they wanted to but that this decision is up to the school.

Petra Davies, Headteacher, stated that the YGG Llyn y Forwyn badge signifies a local fable and that they would like to keep the history of the school alive. Additionally, she stated that

the community support, and support from the parents regarding this proposal, has been wonderful.

Question: A pupil asked if there will be posters and signs for different areas in the new school.

Response: GD confirmed that the Council will ensure that each area is signposted clearly and correctly.

Gaynor Davies thanked everyone for the wonderful contributions and for sharing their opinions so openly and honestly.

Meeting closed at 14:30.

Appendix 3

Estyn's response to the proposal to carry out a regulated alteration and transfer Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn y Forwyn to a new building on a new site

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

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

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

The proposal is to carry out a regulated alteration, and transfer Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn y Forwyn to a new building on a new site.

Summary/ Conclusion

Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The local authority has set out a clear rationale for its proposal. It outlines strongly the many advantages of building a new school while identifying that the current building's condition is at the lowest level, the roof is nearing the end of its natural life, and the school buildings are not accessible and do not comply with the Equality Act 2010. The current figure for the backlog maintenance work that would be essential to make the school safe, watertight and warm is over £1.01 million.

While the local authority provides a clear description of the proposal and a projected timetable for statutory procedures, it does not identify a timetable for implementation of the proposals, other than the implementation date will be no later than March 2024 for the transfer to the new site.

In the main, the proposer identifies clearly and fairly the expected benefits and disadvantages when compared with the status quo and how they will manage any risk. It notes rightly that 'some' pupils will inevitably live further from the new school site, but does not consider how many, nor detail how the local authority will deal with this issue. The local authority does point out that it considers the difference in time taken to travel to the new school site will be negligible as it is in close proximity to the existing school, but does not identify how far from the current school they propose to site the new building.

The local authority sets out three suitable alternatives to its proposal and gives acceptable reasons as to why they have discounted them. However, while the proposal outlines at various points that the current school building and site require considerable work, the local authority does not explore well the option of making it good.

The proposer has considered, in part, the impact of the changes on learner travel arrangements. The proposal sets out that the local authority has exercised discretionary powers afforded to it under the provisions of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 to make a more generous provision to pupils. The eligibility criterion for walking distance for pupils at their nearest suitable school has been set at 1.5 miles, instead of 2 miles as required by the measure. This is provided to pupils who meet the 1.5 mile eligibility criterion from the start of the foundation phase.

The proposal projects a small drop in roll at the school over the next few years, with the need for around 144 pupil spaces by 2025. At the same time, the new build would cater for 210 pupils, plus a nursery. The proposer does not explore the reason for surplus spaces strongly, other than identifying that improved school buildings could potentially lead to additional pupils accessing Welsh Medium education locally.

The proposal takes good account of the impact of the proposals on Welsh medium provision within the local authority and the extent to which the proposal supports the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). It identifies that improving and enhancing the physical aspect of the Welsh medium provision throughout the authority is a critical factor of the WESP. The proposal to transfer Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn y Forwyn to a new 21st century standard school building with an increased capacity will contribute to the authority's goal of increasing the number of pupils accessing Welsh medium education and expand the opportunities for pupils to pursue an education through the medium of Welsh.

The proposal identifies the financial costs of the proposal and estimates the cost of the new build at £8.5 million. However, it is not clear whether this funding is secure. The proposal identifies only that project costs will be developed alongside the consultation process and approvals sought in line with the Council's decision-making procedures. The proposer does not explain what will happen if this funding is not available.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer considers well the educational aspects of the proposal. It identifies in useful detail the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection and the school's recommendations for improvement. It considers usefully how the move to the new site will help to address these recommendations.

The local authority considers appropriately the impact of the proposals on the quality and standards in education, including pupil standards, wellbeing, teaching and learning experiences, care support and guidance and leadership and management. For example, the proposal identifies that transferring to a new site would provide extensive outdoor space, including green space, for pupils to learn and play. It assumes fairly that pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning would benefit from a diverse and engaging outdoor space. It further notes that a fit-for-purpose school building would help ensure that staff are able to provide a balanced curriculum, in line with the new Curriculum for Wales. A better learning environment will also provide pupils with greater flexibility and therefore greater choice in their learning experiences.

The proposer identifies fairly that if the proposal comes about it is likely to have a positive impact in ensuring the delivery of the full curriculum at the school. For example, the proposal notes that the move to a new site would provide extensive outdoor space, including green space, for pupils to learn and play.

The proposal considers, in small part, the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs, but does not provide sufficient information

in this area. It does note that in the new school there will be 'some additional capacity and space for additional needs intervention'. In terms of accessibility, the new building will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality's Act 2010.

The local authority notes that school reorganisation proposals inevitably cause some disruption and uncertainty. It identifies that experience shows that this can be kept to a minimum through meaningful engagement throughout the consultation process. Nevertheless, the proposal does not consider what these disruptive factors may be in this particular case, or how the local authority will minimise these for learners.