

Appendix A: Community Impact Assessment

This Community Impact Assessment is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government's (WG's) School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018). It is to be read alongside the Consultation Document, the Welsh Language Impact Assessment and the Equality Impact Assessment as the information contained within all documents is related and the themes within them are cross-cutting.

SECTION 1 – PROPOSAL DETAILS	
Lead Officer:	Lisa Howell.
Service Director:	Andrea Richards.
Service Area:	Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services, 21 st Century Schools Team.
Date:	04.09.2024.
Proposal:	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) wishes to seek the views of stakeholders on the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium primary school for 3 to 11 year olds as part of the Llanilid housing development and the proposed change of language medium of Dolau Primary School from dual language to English medium.
Overview of the proposal:	<p>The proposal to establish a new Welsh medium primary school for 3 to 11 year olds as part of the Llanilid housing development and the proposed change of language medium of Dolau Primary School from dual language to English medium. It is proposed that the new Welsh medium primary school will open no later than the 2027 academic year with a capacity of 480 for statutory school (reception to year six) age pupils plus 60 for nursery age pupils, with Dolau Primary School becoming an English medium primary school at the same time with an increased capacity of 488 plus 63 nursery places.</p> <p>The proposal is made in accordance with the WG's <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u>. Section 2.1 of the WG's <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u> refers to elements of school organisation that require the publication of proposals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The opening of a maintained school.• To make a regulated alteration to a maintained school. <p>The new Welsh medium primary school will be built in accordance with <u>Building Bulletin 99 (BB99)</u> and will be fully accessible and compliant with the <u>Equality Act 2010</u>. The provision at the new Welsh medium primary school will consist of:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern, flexible learning environments for all pupils, a large hall/dining area, a multi-purpose learning resource area and fully accessible facilities. • Flexible spaces to allow delivery of the Areas of Learning and Experience in accordance with the Curriculum for Wales. • Internal and external areas for use by the local community. • Some additional space for additional learning needs (ALN) interventions. • Enhanced outdoor spaces to support the full range of curriculum activities. • Improved traffic management. <p>In addition, the new Welsh medium primary school will achieve net zero carbon in operation.</p>
Catchment changes:	There are no catchment changes proposed as a result of this consultation. The existing English medium catchment area for Dolau Primary school will remain, whilst the existing Welsh medium catchment area will be utilised for the new school. As such, it is anticipated that the proposed changes will not have an adverse impact upon the community in relation to catchment changes.
Outline where delivery of this proposal is affected by legislation or other drivers such as code of practice:	<p>Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals are governed by the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013</u>. • The WG's <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u>. <p>Council's must, when exercising functions under Part 3 of the <u>School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013</u>, act in accordance with any relevant requirements contained in the WG's <u>School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018)</u> and must have regard to any relevant guidelines contained in it.</p>
Consultation dates:	The consultation for the proposal will start on 9 th September 2024 and will be completed at 17:00 on 25 th October 2024. The Consultation Document has been circulated to all prescribed stakeholders. This Community Impact Assessment is an Appendix of the Consultation Document.
Community engagement:	Members of the community wishing to find out more about the proposal can attend a public drop in session where they can discuss the proposal with Officers from RCTCBC's Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services. This engagement event will be held at Dolau Primary School on Thursday October 10 th , 2024, between 15:00 to 18:00.
SECTION 2 – DATA	
Trend data:	PLASC data for 2024 indicates that there are 466 statutory school age pupils attending Dolau Primary

School, 311 being educated through the medium of English and 155 being educated through the medium of Welsh. The table that follows outlines the statutory school age pupil numbers at Dolau Primary School over the previous five academic years, split by language medium. The number of nursery age pupils for each academic year is shown separately, as required by the WG's School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018).

Pupil Numbers at Dolau Primary School Over the Previous Five Academic Years Split by English Medium and Welsh Medium (PLASC)					
Pupils	Academic Year				
	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
Statutory School Age Pupils (English Medium)	275	282	294	310	311
Statutory School Age Pupils (Welsh Medium)	163	164	166	151	155
Nursery Age Pupils (English Medium)	45	43	50	32	48
Nursery Age Pupils (Welsh Medium)	24	21	10	28	18
Total (English Medium)	320	325	344	342	359
Total (Welsh Medium)	187	185	176	179	173
Total (Combined)	507	510	520	521	532

The data demonstrates that between the academic years 2019/2020 and 2023/2024:

- The number of statutory school age pupils attending Dolau Primary School being educated through the medium of:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English increased by 13.1% (36) from 275 to 311.Welsh decreased by 4.9% (8) from 163 to 155. <ul style="list-style-type: none">The total number of pupils attending Dolau Primary School being educated through the medium of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">English increased by 10.9% (39) from 320 to 359.Welsh decreased by 7.5% (14) from 187 to 173.																																																																
Projection data:	<p>The table that follows outlines the projected pupil numbers at Dolau Primary School over the future five academic years. They are calculated in accordance with the guidance issued by the WG and are based on live birth data for the area.</p> <table><tr><th colspan="10">Projected Pupil Numbers at Dolau Primary School Over the Future Five Academic Years (PLASC)</th></tr><tr><th rowspan="3">Pupils</th><th rowspan="3">Capacity</th><th colspan="6">Academic Year</th><th colspan="2" rowspan="2">Surplus Capacity in 2028/2029</th></tr><tr><th>Actual</th><th colspan="5">Projections</th></tr><tr><th>2023 / 2024</th><th>2024 / 2025</th><th>2025 / 2026</th><th>2026 / 2027</th><th>2027 / 2028</th><th>2028 / 2029</th><th>Number</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Statutory School Age Pupils</td><td>441</td><td>466</td><td>466</td><td>469</td><td>461</td><td>458</td><td>451</td><td>-10</td><td>-2.3%</td></tr><tr><td>Nursery Age Pupils</td><td>N/A</td><td>66</td><td>57</td><td>62</td><td>60</td><td>53</td><td>47</td><td>N/A</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>504</td><td>532</td><td>523</td><td>531</td><td>521</td><td>511</td><td>498</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>The data demonstrates that by the academic year 2028/2029:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">There will be -2.3% (-10) statutory school age capacity at Dolau Primary School.	Projected Pupil Numbers at Dolau Primary School Over the Future Five Academic Years (PLASC)										Pupils	Capacity	Academic Year						Surplus Capacity in 2028/2029		Actual	Projections					2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	2027 / 2028	2028 / 2029	Number	%	Statutory School Age Pupils	441	466	466	469	461	458	451	-10	-2.3%	Nursery Age Pupils	N/A	66	57	62	60	53	47	N/A	N/A	Total	504	532	523	531	521	511	498		
Projected Pupil Numbers at Dolau Primary School Over the Future Five Academic Years (PLASC)																																																																	
Pupils	Capacity	Academic Year						Surplus Capacity in 2028/2029																																																									
		Actual	Projections																																																														
		2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026	2026 / 2027	2027 / 2028	2028 / 2029	Number	%																																																								
Statutory School Age Pupils	441	466	466	469	461	458	451	-10	-2.3%																																																								
Nursery Age Pupils	N/A	66	57	62	60	53	47	N/A	N/A																																																								
Total	504	532	523	531	521	511	498																																																										
Proportion of pupils from the catchment	<p>At present, 466 statutory school aged pupils attending Dolau Primary School, 79.4% (370) of which live within the catchment area.</p>																																																																

area that attend the school:	
Proportion of pupils from outside the catchment area that attend the school:	At present, 466 statutory school aged pupils attending Dolau Primary School, 20.6% (96) of which live out of the catchment area.
SECTION 3 – OTHER FACILITIES OR SERVICES THAT THE SCHOOL ACCOMMODATES	
Information about other facilities or services that the school accommodates	<p>Childcare</p> <p>The nearest Welsh medium childcare and early years settings is Cylch Meithrin Flourish Ysgol Dolau, which is situated on the school site of Dolau Primary School. The setting currently provides full day care through providing Welsh medium sessions in the mornings through a Cylch Meithrin, also offering Welsh medium Flying Start places, and dual language sessions in the afternoons. Ysgol Llanhari also have Cylch Meithrin Llanhari on their school site offering the choice of full-time nursery sessions or sessional care, Monday to Friday. In addition to this, Cylch Ti a Fi sessions are run every Friday morning. The proposed new Welsh medium school build will include a dedicated childcare facility to provide Welsh medium childcare and early years provision on the school site, supporting the continuum into Welsh medium primary education. Should this proposal go ahead, the current provider at Dolau Primary School will be encouraged to continue delivering dual language sessions at the school to provide children with the opportunity to learn through both Welsh and English from the earliest stages of their education.</p> <p>Should this proposal go ahead, the headteacher of the new Welsh medium primary school will be encouraged to promote the new Welsh medium early years setting on the school site to parents/carers in the area. In addition, Dolau Primary School will be encouraged to maintain the dual language provision currently being delivered at the school during the afternoons to provide the opportunity for children accessing the school to maintain some of the Welsh language provision which is currently being delivered.</p> <p>Breakfast Club</p> <p>Dolau Primary School runs a breakfast club. The breakfast club operating in Dolau Primary School is very popular with an average of 93* pupils receiving a breakfast every day. <i>*Figures based on actual data as of 15th March 2024.</i></p>

	<p>Should the proposal proceed, the breakfast club at Dolau Primary School will remain and the new Welsh medium primary school will also run a breakfast club.</p> <p>The provision of breakfast club is the responsibility of the individual school and whilst these provisions are considered to be important, it should be noted that pre-school activities are not a statutory requirement.</p> <p>As is the case across Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT), if any pupils travel to school via home to school transport, there will be no home to school transport available purely to access breakfast club, transport will be provided at the start and end of the normal school day only. However, if any pupil travelling to school via home to school transport requests a breakfast once they arrive at school then arrangements will be put in place to ensure that they receive one.</p> <p>Extra-curricular Activities Dolau Primary School runs many extra-curricular activities including rugby, cricket, hockey, netball and the Urdd Sports Club. In addition, various committees have been established at the school including a School Council, Eco Council, Digital Leaders at Dolau, Wellbeing Team, Dreigiau Dolau and Sports Council.</p> <p>Should the proposal proceed, extra-curricular activities at Dolau Primary School will remain and the new Welsh medium primary school will also run extra-curricular activities. Likewise, the committees at the school will remain and the new Welsh medium primary school will be encouraged and supported to establish the same.</p> <p>The provision of extra-curricular activities is the responsibility of the individual schools and whilst extra-curricular activities are important, it should be noted that they are not a statutory requirement.</p> <p>As is the case across RCT, there will be no home to school transport available purely to access extra-curricular activities. Home to school transport will be provided at the start and end of the normal school day only.</p> <p>Local Community and Third Party Use Dolau Primary School engages in multiple local community and third party activities.</p>
--	--

	Should the proposal proceed, the new Welsh medium primary school will be actively encouraged to replicate these arrangements. A dedicated area will be designed within the new Welsh medium primary school so that the local community and third parties will be allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day.
SECTION 4 – OTHER FACILITIES IN THE IMMEDIATE, LOCAL AND WIDER COMMUNITY	
Information about other facilities available in the immediate local or wider community	<p>See above.</p> <p>Pontyclun library is approximately 4.2 miles from Dolau Primary School.</p> <p>In the locality of Dolau Primary School there are a number of parks/play areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the north of Dolau Primary School there are two park/play areas off Wyndam Street and Harold Street. • To the rear of Dolau Primary School there is a park/play area located off Fford Dol-y-Coed. • To the east of Dolau Primary School there are two park/play areas located off Fford y Dolau and Park View. <p>Llantrisant Leisure Centre is approximately 4.2 miles from Dolau Primary School.</p> <p>In the locality of Dolau Primary School there are a number of sports facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the south-east of Dolau Primary School there is a football pitch located at Llanillid Open Cast. • To the north of Dolau Primary School there is a football pitch, Multi-Use Games Area and park/play area located at Brynna Recreation Ground. <p>Bryncae Community Hub is approximately 0.7 miles from Dolau Primary School. The community hub runs various activities including health and fitness classes for adults, children's martial arts classes, parents/carers and baby and toddler groups as well as numerous seasonal events throughout the year.</p>
SECTION 5 – TRANSPORT/ACTIVE TRAVEL	
Impact on health and wellbeing e.g. if	There is a statutory duty placed on all Council's 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

<p>pupils would be less able to walk or cycle to school:</p>	<p>applies to the catchment area English, Welsh, dual language or voluntary aided mainstream primary school, secondary school or special school/class as appropriate. The law relating to safe 'walking distance' is defined as two miles for pupils of statutory school age receiving primary education and three miles for pupils of statutory school age (year 7 to 11) receiving secondary education.</p> <p>RCTCBC has exercised the discretionary powers afforded to it under the provision of the <u>Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008</u> to make a more generous provision to pupils. Following a recent public consultation exercise initiated by RCTCBC's <u>Cabinet</u>, in relation to a proposed new Home to School Transport Policy for RCTCBC, the information set below is the relevant information in relation to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The eligibility criteria for walking distance for pupils of statutory school age receiving primary education at their nearest suitable school has been set at 1½ miles, instead of 2 miles as required by the <u>Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008</u>. • Free transport to their nearest suitable school, where places are available, is provided to pupils who meet the 1½ mile eligibility criteria from the start of Foundation Phase, rather than from the start of statutory school as required by the <u>Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008</u>. • 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. <p>Further information in relation to the RCTCBC's Home to School transport provision can be viewed and downloaded from RCTCBC's website via:</p> <p>https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Travel/SchoolandCollegeTransport/SchoolandCollegeTransport.aspx</p> <p>There is approximately 0.4 miles between Dolau Primary School and the site identified for the new Welsh medium primary school on the Llanilid housing development. Should the proposal proceed, there is a safe walking route for the pupils of Dolau Primary School to walk to the new Welsh medium primary school. Pupils who currently scoot or cycle to school will still be able to do so as the new school will be in close proximity to the current school. The new school will also have safe cycle storage facilities to further encourage active travel. RCTCBC will also link the schools with Sustrans to develop Active Travel School Plans to further encourage active/more sustainable methods of transport.</p>
---	--

<p>Information about any wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions:</p>	<p>See above.</p> <p>There is approximately 0.4 miles between Dolau Primary School and the site identified for the new Welsh medium primary school on the Llanilid housing development. Should the proposal proceed, there is a safe walking route for the pupils of Dolau Primary School to walk to the new Welsh medium primary school.</p> <p>In terms of public transport, there is a public transport service bus which runs regularly. However, the cost and operation of the public transport in the area is not within the remit of RCTCBC to manage.</p>
<p>SECTION 6 – IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING</p>	
<p>Information on the impact on health and wellbeing:</p>	<p>Pupils</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposed changes will not have a long term, adverse impact on pupils and it should be noted at this point in the statutory school organisation consultation process that RCTCBC considers the overall impact on pupils of the proposal is determined to be positive.</p> <p>The new facilities at the new school will create a modern, colourful, 21st Century teaching and learning environment. The new school building will be fit for purpose to deliver flexible teaching and learning areas to ensure successful delivery of the Curriculum for Wales. The new school site will deliver new outdoor play spaces, an outdoor classroom, a forest schools' area and a MUGA, and all areas will be fully accessible. These factors benefit the wellbeing of all pupils.</p> <p>Sustainability features of the new building, including solar power; rainwater harvesting, and sustainable drainage features also add to the health and wellbeing of pupils as well as contributing to their educational experience.</p> <p>Understandably, some pupils may initially be daunted at the prospect of moving to a new school on a new site. However, should the proposal proceed, there will be targeted support for all pupils from Dolau Primary School. Meaningful and positive transition is an integral part of ensuring that pupils settle into their new school setting with little disruption to their wellbeing and education. This is supported by providing effective pastoral and academic support and structured opportunities for pupils to become familiar with the new school environment and staff.</p>

Advice and support will be provided by RCTCBC to staff from Dolau Primary School to ensure that the transition process is as smooth and seamless as possible.

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 proceed with the proposal, during the implementation phase.

The table that follows outlines the benefits of the proposal:

Benefits
The new Welsh medium primary school will be built in accordance with <u>BB99</u> and will be fully accessible and compliant with the <u>Equality Act 2010</u> .
<p>The new Welsh medium school will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be built to BREEAM 'excellent' standards. • Achieve net Zero Carbon in operation. • Have an Energy Performance Certificate rating of A. • Have Electric Vehicle chargers on site, contributing to the delivery of RCTCBC's Tackling Climate Change Strategy: 2022 to 2025 – <u>Think Climate RCT</u>. <p>The proposal would also support the WG's <u>Delivery Plan for a Low Carbon Wales</u> and its 'Route Map' to decarbonise the public sector in Wales.</p> <p>A dedicated area will be designed within the new Welsh medium primary school so that the local community and third parties are allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day.</p> <p>The new Welsh medium primary school will be designed to comply with 'Secured by Design' standards, which ensure that the school boundary and buildings are fully secure and protected with CCTV. The site perimeter will be secure, deterring antisocial behaviour and preventing unauthorised individuals from accessing the site out of school hours.</p> <p>The new Welsh medium primary school will ensure the increased demand for primary school pupil places, as a result of the Llanilid housing development, will be met.</p>

		The proposal will provide more English medium places in the area that are required as a result of the Llanilid housing development.	
		The proposal will be in very close proximity to the existing Dolau Primary School site, with the potential for shared external play areas.	
		The close proximity of the new school will minimise potential transitional difficulties in moving from one school site to another.	
		There will be some continuity in the well established relationships that exist between families and school staff.	
		There will be recruitment opportunities in both schools and greater scope for staff progression and professional development.	
		The new Welsh medium primary school will have a positive impact on young people of all ages. As a result of the proposal, RCTCBC is expected to improve Welsh medium and Welsh language education and increase the number of pupils in Welsh medium education.	
		The new Welsh medium primary school will support RCTCBC' S ambitious WESP targets and the growth of Welsh education.	
		The new Welsh medium school will support Welsh Government's strategy Cymraeg 2050 – a million Welsh speakers.	
		Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding has been secured to contribute to this proposal.	
		Parents/Carers	

	<p>A dedicated area will be designed within the new Welsh medium primary school so that the local community and third parties will be allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Should the proposal proceed, current pupils and parents/carers could benefit from this.</p> <p>Local Community</p> <p>Local community and third party use of the new Welsh medium primary school will be actively encouraged. A dedicated area will be designed within the new Welsh medium primary school so that the local community and third parties will be allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day. Should the proposal proceed, current pupils and parents/carers could benefit from this. The outdoor sports areas will also be available for use out of hours by the local community and the new school will be supported to establish links with the now wider local community groups to ensure that the wider community will also benefit from this positive investment.</p> <p>The wider community and population at large will also get a wider long-term benefit associated with the new school being net zero carbon in operation.</p>
SECTION 7– COMMUNITY SAFETY	
<p>Information on wider community safety issues:</p>	<p>Should the proposal proceed, the impact of the proposal on community safety is believed to be positive. The new Welsh medium primary school will be designed to comply with ‘Secured by Design’ standards, which ensure that the school boundary and buildings are fully secure and protected with CCTV. The site perimeter will be secure, deterring antisocial behaviour and preventing unauthorised individuals from accessing the site out of school hours.</p> <p>A dedicated area will be designed within the new Welsh medium primary school so that the local community and third parties will be allowed to safely utilise the facilities at the school, both during and after the school day.</p> <p>The existing relationships that Dolau Primary School has with the South Wales Police and the Police Community Support Officer will continue and will also extend to include the new Welsh medium primary school.</p>
SECTION 8 – SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY IMPACT	
<p>To confirm, RCTCBC considers the overall community impact of the proposal to be positive.</p>	

The inclusion of community facilities within the new school building, internally and externally, will ensure delivery of significantly improved opportunities for community engagement compared to the current arrangements available in the locality.

The new school will be designed to be a fully accessible school, increasing opportunities for the whole community to access the new facilities, to strengthen relationships and fully integrate the new school into the community as is currently the case for the existing 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. These facilities would also be available for those pupils currently attending Dolau Primary School if the proposal is successful.

The new 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 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 also includes a forest schools' area which acts as a space for outdoor learning and provides a valuable teaching and learning resource to deliver the Curriculum for Wales.

SECTION 9 – AUTHORISATIONS

Lead Officer:	Lisa Howell.													
Position	21 st Century Schools Business and School Organisation Manager.													
Date:	04.09.2024.													
Recommendations:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Recommendations</td> <td rowspan="5"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recommendation</td> <td>Cross Relevant Recommendation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is implemented with no amendments.</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the community.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Recommendations			Recommendation	Cross Relevant Recommendation	Is implemented with no amendments.	X	Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined.		Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the community.	
Recommendations														
Recommendation	Cross Relevant Recommendation													
Is implemented with no amendments.	X													
Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined.														
Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the community.														
Head of Service/Director:	Andrea Richards.													
Position:	Service Director – 21 st Century Schools and Transformation.													
Date:	04.09.2024.													
Please submit this Community Impact Assessment with and SLT/Cabinet Reports.														
SECTION 10 – ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING AND REVIEW														

Monitoring and Review:	The Community Impact Assessment will be reviewed on completion of the consultation process.
SECTION 11 – UPDATES TO COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF CONSULTATION	
Date:	
Update:	