

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OBJECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF A DECISION ON A STATUTORY NOTICE FOR A CHANGE TO THE SIXTH FORM PROVISION AT CARDINAL NEWMAN RC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL. THE DECISION ON THE STATUTORY NOTICE WILL BE MADE BY WELSH GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

1. Purpose of the Objection Report

This report is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, statutory document 006/2013. Its purpose is to:

- Inform the outcome of the publication of the Statutory Notice published for this proposal, published on April 30th 2019 for a period of a minimum of 28 days; and
- Include a summary of the statutory objections received and the Local Authority's response to them.
- Be submitted to Welsh Government Ministers within 35 days of the end of the objection period.

2. The Statutory Notice

The Statutory Notice to progress this proposal, which was published on April 30th 2019 is reproduced below:

Statutory Notice 1

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education Directorate, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon CF45 4UQ

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), having consulted such persons as required, proposes to make a regulated alteration to Cardinal Newman R.C. Comprehensive School, Dynea Road, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd, CF37 5DP so that the age range of the pupils it can admit is amended from 11-19 years to 11–16 years and that the Sixth Form provision be removed.

Post-16 students from Cardinal Newman R.C. Comprehensive School will have the option of attending another school's sixth form provision of their choice, or the local college, Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw, Heol y Coleg, Nantgarw CF15 7QY for their post-16 education. Pupils who wish to continue their post-16 education through the Catholic faith could choose to attend St David's Sixth Form College, Ty Gwyn Road, Penylan, Cardiff CF23 5QD.

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

It is proposed to implement the proposals on 1st September 2022.

The capacity of Cardinal Newman R.C. Comprehensive School after this proposal is implemented will be 900 pupil places. Some of the school buildings could be removed to reduce the surplus or the Archdiocese of Cardiff could use the space to develop or transfer primary school provision on the site. From September 2022 the proposed admission number for the school will be 180 for pupils age 11 (Year 7).

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Transport Policy. At present, RCTCBC provides free transport for pupils who attend their relevant Secondary school if they reside beyond 2 miles walking distance to that school. The relevant school is the catchment school or the nearest suitable school. This distance criterion is also applied to transport provision for post-16 students at present. RCTCBC will provide free transportation to the nearest provision that offers the chosen post-16 selection of courses for RCT-resident students, providing that they meet the initial qualifying distance criteria of residing more than 2 miles from that provision.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which this proposal is published, that is to say by May 31st 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to the Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 21st Century Schools, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4UQ, e-mail schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk.

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

RCTCBC will submit the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for determination.



Signed:

Gaynor Davies

Director of Education and Inclusion Services

For Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Date: April 30th 2019

Explanatory Note of the Proposals

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

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

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

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

3. Details of Objections Received

During the Statutory Notice period, a total of 367 objections were received by the closing date of May 31st 2019 for this specific Notice and consisted of 365 objections and 2 petitions. The objections received related to the proposal as detailed within the Consultation Document, and the subsequent Statutory Notice published on April 30th 2019.

- Statutory Notice: The alteration of the age range of pupils that may be admitted to Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School, from 11–19 years to 11–16 years, resulting in the removal of the sixth form provision.

The two petitions submitted had been organised by a group called 'Our Children First - Ein Plant Gyntaf'. There was no information provided on the petition to specify which Statutory Notice was being objected to so it is assumed that the petition was objecting to all four Statutory Notices published and so these have been registered as an objection for this specific Notice.

In addition, a number of objections received noted a generic objection to the Pontypridd school reorganisation proposals as a whole, and so these too have been registered as an objection against this specific Statutory Notice. These are included in the numbers below.

A website created by the ‘Our Children First - Ein Plant Gyntaf’ group provided a link so that objections to the Statutory Notice could be submitted directly to the Council’s ‘SchoolPlanning’ mailbox. The website included a prewritten objection template and visitors to the website simply had to enter their name, email address, and click submit to register an objection. None of the official consultation documentation was available on the website, nor any information included on the website advising where further information on the proposals or Statutory Notices could be found. The template provided objected to all five of the proposals and all four Statutory Notices. Out of the 367 objections received specifically for this proposal, 348 had been generated via this website. Copies of both the Welsh and English versions of this email are attached as an appendix. It should be noted for transparency purposes that where more than one objection had been submitted by the same person, with the same comments, with the same contact details, only one objection has been registered and is included in these figures.

<u>Statutory Notices</u>	<u>Objections via website</u>	<u>Petition</u>	<u>Additional Objections</u>	<u>Total</u>
1: The changes to sixth form provision	348	2	17	367

In accordance with the School Organisation Code a summary of the statutory objections related to this specific Statutory Notice, as referenced in Section 2 above, are included below.

4. Summary of the Objections and Responses

Objections detailed in the report reflect the language used in the submission. The table below reflects this.

Hysbysiad Statudol: Newid yr ystod oedran o ddisgyblion y mae modd eu derbyn i Ysgol Gyfun y Cardinal Newman Eglwys Gatholig Rhufain, o 11-19 oed i 11-16 oed, gan arwain at ddileu'r ddarpariaeth chweched dosbarth.
Statutory Notice: The alteration of the age range of pupils that may be admitted to Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School, from 11–19 years to 11–16 years, resulting in the removal of the sixth form provision.
I have concerns over the extent to which Rhondda Cynon Taff Council can hold Coleg Y Cymoedd, a likely beneficiary of these plans, to account for the service they provide.
Response: The relationship between the College and the Council is stronger than ever with opportunities for collaboration between both parties being developed in many new areas. The Chief Executive of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Education and Inclusion

Services are governors on the College Board. The Council will continue to ensure that they have an effective working relationship with Coleg Y Cymoedd. The college, schools and Local Authority are all accountable for the outcomes achieved by the learners in their care and are subject to inspection by Estyn.

We have deliberately chosen Cardinal Newman as the school we wish for our children to complete the WHOLE of their high school education. Cardinal Newman has shown consistently that an excellent level of education can be achieved with little financial investment/support. Cardinal Newman also has a very special ethos which will be very difficult or even impossible to instil elsewhere (as if that were not the case then other schools in the area would already be following the same principles). We also feel that these proposals are taking away the right for our children to fulfil their post-16 education at a school that has been classified as 'Green/Excellent'.

Response: The decision to propose the removal of the sixth form at Cardinal Newman is set out within the Consultation Document. The case for change is multi-faceted and is not based on the current education standards or results achieved by the school. The sixth form retention rates at the school are low which has had a detrimental impact upon the school budget, which is in a significant deficit. The school is not able to sustain a sixth form provision based on existing numbers.

The success of Cardinal Newman and the ethos that exists within the school community is not in any question. It is recognised that outcomes are good in this school, but retaining 6th form provision in this setting is not viable as it is heavily reliant on resources intended for learners in key stages 3 and 4. The financial challenges faced by the school due to the poor post-16 retention rates are such that the curriculum offer will have to be significantly reduced which will inevitably have a further negative impact on curriculum choice and pupil numbers. The proposals offer an option to attend St David's College, which is another good educational setting that offers strong pastoral support, a positive Catholic ethos and good outcomes for its learners.

We understand that an option to attend St David's college for existing Catholic pupils will be made available, however can it be guaranteed that sufficient capacity will exist? It is our belief that the college is already at capacity and therefore cannot see how this is a feasible option.

Response: The Principal of St David's College has confirmed that there will be sufficient capacity.

Even if space is guaranteed we understand that pupils will need to find their own way to Cardiff should a 'suitable' school be nearer?, Firstly I think it should be the parents who decide what is 'suitable'; and the logistics could possibly prevent our children going to the school we wish them to.

Response: Free transport will be provided for those who meet RCT's Home to School Transport criteria. Pupils who do not live in RCT will have to contact their own Council's School Transport Department for further information on criteria and eligibility. Parental choice is at the heart of the School Admissions Code and should a faith education be deemed as 'suitable' then Free Transport will be provided in accordance with the above.

Cardinal Newman has been discriminated against as a faith school as they are the only school not to receive funding with the sixth form closure.

Response: Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School is a voluntary aided school and is governed and managed by the Roman Catholic Church. It is the responsibility of the Roman Catholic Diocese to apply to Welsh Government for capital funding to improve the quality of the buildings. However, despite this, RCTCBC has made significant investments into the school to ensure that the buildings are suitably maintained.

Welsh Government has a capital funding allocation available at favourable terms for church schools, where 85% of the capital investment requirements are met by Welsh Government. The Council is supporting the Diocese to develop a business case to secure 21st Century Schools funding for investment in this school and will work in partnership with them to present a strong case for improvement.

It discriminates against people of faith and these children are being treated unfairly by making them travel to Cardiff to complete their education.

In relation to Cardinal Newman it is unacceptable that this administration should choose to be so dismissive of the further education needs of the students there – it borders on flippant to suggest that they should just go to Cardiff if they wish to continue being educated in a faith school. Surely there is a duty of care, or at the very least some sense of responsibility that extends beyond this.

Pupils who travel from Merthyr Tydfil and other areas will also be stopped from their right to follow an education that confirms with their religious beliefs. You are not just taking away this education from local children but from a much wider community as it is the only catholic school covering a very large catchment area.

The closure of Cardinal Newman’s sixth form will have a detrimental effect on the Catholic community. Many will choose not to send their children there for secondary school, this could be seen as trying to remove Catholic faith schools from RCT.

Response: School Organisation and School Admissions are administered through Statutory Codes and are requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The Council has ensured that all of our procedures are in line with these Codes and that due diligence has been undertaken so that no pupil is unfairly disadvantaged or discriminated against. This consultation has been carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code and the Diocese has been fully consulted with throughout this process.

The Local Authority has every confidence that Cardinal Newman will continue to attract high numbers of learners for key stages 3 and 4 as it is a good school. Despite drawing learners from other County Boroughs, the retention rates for post-16 are still low in comparison and has contributed in a provision that is not sustainable or financially viable. A new approach to post-16 education is now needed which offers choice for learners.

To note, the January 2019 PLASC records only 3 pupils from Merthyr Tydfil attending the sixth form in Cardinal Newman.

Cardinal Newman’s school meeting was after the initial consultation. It was not the wishes of the Archdiocese to close and parents’ wishes and concerns where not considered.

Response: This is not the case. The meetings held at Cardinal Newman with pupils, staff and governors, were held on November 22nd 2018; and in addition, the open evening at the school was held on January 15th 2019. The consultation period ended on January 31st 2019. No formal response from the Diocesan was received in relation to the proposals during the consultation period; and no objection to the Statutory Notice has been received from the Diocesan.

The consultation document fails to recognise that attempts have been made by Cardinal Newman to move their sixth form to Coleg y Cymoedd, but then had to restart their own sixth form due to problems. We would ask the Council to examine this in further detail, and learn lessons from this experience.

Similarly to above in relation to Cardinal Newman, representations have also been made to us in relation to the fact that different consortium models with Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw have been initiated and then abandoned, with the individual schools choosing to return to teaching their own pupils, following doubts having been raised about student support.

Response: The decision to end the collaboration between Cardinal Newman and Coleg Y Cymoedd for post-16 education was a decision taken by the Diocese. Any suggestions that this decision was made as a result of any problems or lack of support for pupils at the college is speculation. The main issue was that the provision in the college was provided by teachers employed by three different organisations. Coleg Y Cymoedd now employ all its teachers and is responsible for the day to day management of the workforce which has seen a significant improvement in the quality of teaching and learning, as evidenced by the College’s A-Level results in 2018.

Feedback received from learners in the College and the Estyn Inspection suggest that student support services are good.

Many students and parents have contacted us to raise concerns about the plans to remove the sixth form from Pontypridd High School, Hawthorn High School and Cardinal Newman and base all at Bryncelynog High School. Given that Bryncelynog is already partnered with Y Pant for sixth form provision, many are questioning how merging five sixth forms will work in practice.

Response: Bryncelynog Comprehensive does currently collaborate successfully with Y Pant for a number of subjects in a consortia arrangement. However, the current proposals do not suggest the merger of five sixth forms. Y Pant do not form a part of these proposals.

The sixth form pupil retention rates at the four schools that are included within the proposals are low, as are the post-16 pupil projections. However, cumulatively they will provide the numbers needed to deliver a sustainable and viable sixth form, both

educationally and financially, providing greater options for students by enabling a greater breadth of subject choice. Through the planned investment the proposal will offer learners a more diverse curriculum and enhanced opportunities in a 21st Century School environment.

Though the status quo is not sustainable, this public consultation could have been an opportunity to have a frank discussion over a series of different options for post-16 education in Pontypridd, instead it was focused around just one option, which the Cabinet adopted, without exploring a range of alternatives.

Response: No proposals have been adopted. The decision by Cabinet was to progress with the School Organisation Code statutory protocol and publish the Statutory Notices and commence the Objection Period.

The criteria for the school organisation review, the educational case, and the benefits for all proposals put forward for consideration were included within the Consultation Document, as were alternative options for all proposals.

Estyn's response in this regard is *'The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to improvement in educational provision and the effective and efficient use of resources. They also explain clearly how the proposal fits with the local authority's broader plan for the review of school provision as part of its 21st Century Schools programme. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the local area.'*

Issues relating to the unviability of 6th Form provision in this area have been the focus of discussions with the headteachers concerned for many years. Despite numerous discussions and attempts of collaboration, difficulties persist and radical changes are now needed.

The proposals offer an opportunity to significantly invest in the development of a post 16 centre of excellence in Bryncelynnog School. The decision to select this school is based on a number of factors including the outcome data, budget position and retention rates. The school is a green school and is considered to be best placed to deliver on these exciting proposals for change.

I am concerned that local children will not get the same opportunities to attend a 6th form in their own school as children in other areas do. Making children travel a longer distance will put some children especially poorer children at a disadvantage.

I would have thought that reducing the number of young people who are NEET would be high on the agenda of RCT. How is reducing the number of providers offering courses going to improve the situation? There are growing number of young people suffering with anxiety and mental health difficulties. Many of these would opt out of education if they are forced to attend a different educational provider than one that they know well and feel comfortable in.

Response: Data on the number of pupils that choose to stay in Hawthorn High School, Pontypridd High School and Cardinal Newman for their sixth form provision is very low. Over 60% of all pupils in all three schools, many of whom were eligible for free school

meals, chose not to return to sixth form in September 2018 and opted to pursue post 16 education in settings other than schools,

The proposals are aimed at offering choice to learners and creating schools of a sustainable size for their catchment area by removing surplus capacity and providing educational and financial stability. This investment will improve school facilities and enhance opportunities.

The NEETS data for post-16 learners in RCT is favourable with the vast majority of learners are opting to go into further education, training and employment. Nevertheless, the majority of school leavers are not choosing to attend their local sixth form provision in the greater Pontypridd area. There is a need to improve this offer so that more learners opt to pursue 6th form study in school settings. The proposals under consideration provide an exciting opportunity to improve and extend the local offer within a 21st Century School environment, offering choice to learners and the most appropriate pathway for their needs. It is recognised that mental health issues are an increasing challenge for our young people. Finding the right course and educational pathway is critical for engaging our most vulnerable learners. Larger school settings often provide enhanced opportunities for pastoral support and more specialist roles, due to the economies of scale that are afforded in larger settings. The proposals offer an opportunity to significantly invest in the future of our young people by creating new 21st Century learning environments, and greater curricular opportunities for learners with a wide range of needs and abilities.

There is a failure to follow the School Organisational Code.

Response: Our consultation has been conducted in accordance with Welsh Government legislation, which is outlined in their statutory code document 006/2013, the School Organisation Code.

We appreciate that the current situation of the sixth forms needs to change, but we don't understand why there can't be a sixth form in a town the size of Pontypridd, which would allow the children in the three schools to attend.

There is a University in Treforest but no sixth form in the immediate vicinity for the children to attend.

Response: Coleg Y Cymoedd is based on Treforest Industrial Estate within the catchment area of Hawthorn High School. It offers a wide range of A-Level and vocational courses. Data clearly indicates that retention rates for post-16 education in schools in the Greater Pontypridd areas are relatively poor and there are insufficient numbers to justify retaining post-16 provision in the locality. Data suggests that the majority of learners are opting to attend further education, training or other opportunities. Cumulative data suggests that a viable provision could be established by removing the post 16 provisions in the identified schools and establishing a centre of excellence in Bryncelynnog School. It is likely that a significant number of learners from Cardinal Newman will seek post-16 education in a faith setting.

Mae diffyg cydraddoldeb o ran mynediad a gwariant ar addysg ôl-16.

There is a lack of equality of access and expenditure on post 16 education.

Sixth form pupils attract more money per head, and that without this, and the pupils themselves, job cuts would be required, possibly leaving the schools with too few high quality staff to teach GCSE's as well, to the detriment of all, as many teachers do not wish to be restricted to purely teaching up to GCSE level only.

Ymateb: Mae mynediad i addysg ôl-16 ar gael ar hyn o bryd, a bydd yn parhau i fod ar gael, i bawb sydd am barhau ar y llwybr dysgu yma.

Mae cyllid ôl-16 yn cael ei ddyrannu'n deg rhwng pob ysgol gan ddibynnu ar nifer y disgyblion ar y gofrestr yn y mis Hydref ar ôl dechrau'r flwyddyn ariannol a dechrau'r rhaglen astudio. Mae ymgodiad amddifadedd ychwanegol yn cael ei ddyrannu yn ôl y plant sy'n byw yn yr ardaloedd cynnyrch ehangach haen is. Dylid nodi bod Addysg Ôl-16 yn cael ei hariannu'n uniongyrchol gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn seiliedig ar nifer y disgyblion a'r rhaglenni astudio. Mae hyn yn sicrhau ecwiti. Dylid nodi bod modd i ysgolion pob oed ddarparu cyfleoedd dysgu a gyrfa proffesiynol ardderchog i staff a chyfleoedd o ran dysgu ar draws y cyfnodau yn yr ystod 3-16 oed. Fel arall, fyddai'r cyfleoedd yma ddim ar gael mewn ysgol gynradd neu ysgol uwchradd. Bydd cyfleoedd i ddysgu ôl-16 mewn nifer o ysgolion uwchradd a safleoedd 3-19 oed yn Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Mae pwysau anochel ar gyllidebau sy'n gysylltiedig â chyfraddau isel o ran cadw disgyblion y chweched dosbarth a dosbarthiadau â nifer isel o ddisgyblion. Rhaid rheoli diffygion cyllidebau ysgolion trwy weithredu cynlluniau adfer diffygion sydd, o bosibl, â goblygiadau ar lefelau staff a chynaliadwyedd pynciau sy'n llai poblogaidd. Mae'n anochel felly nad yw grwpiau dysgu bychain yn gynaliadwy yn y tymor canolig ac mae angen gweithredu'n gyflym ym mhob ysgol lle mae yna ddiffyg ariannol.

Response: Access to post-16 education is currently, and will remain available to all who wish to continue on this learning pathway.

Post-16 funding is allocated equitably across all the schools dependant on the number of pupils on roll in the October preceding the start of the financial year and the programme of study being undertaken. An additional deprivation uplift is also allocated which is weighted to those children who live in the lower super output areas. It should also be noted that Post-16 Education is funded directly by Welsh Government based on the number of pupils and the programmes of study being undertaken. This ensures equity. It should be noted that all through schools can provide excellent professional learning and career opportunities for staff and opportunities for cross phase teaching across the 3-16 age range that wouldn't generally exist within a primary or secondary school settings. There will continue to be opportunities for post-16 teaching within a significant number of secondary schools and 3-19 settings in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

There are inescapable budget pressures associated with low retention rates in sixth forms and small class sizes. Budget deficits in the schools have to be managed through implementation of deficit recovery plans, which potentially have implications for staffing levels and the sustainability of less popular subjects. Inevitably, small teaching groups are

not sustainable in the medium term and swift action is necessary in all the schools where deficit budgets are evident.

Mae yna ddiffyg archwiliad o'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb a faint fydd am gymryd llefydd oherwydd problemau trafndiaeth.

There is a lack of examination of the impact on equality and take up of places because of transport.

Ymateb: Fydd dim effaith ar gydraddoldeb o ganlyniad i gludiant ysgol neu fel arall. Mae Polisi Cludiant o'r Cartref i'r Ysgol hael RhCT yn rhagori ar rwymedigaethau statudol Llywodraeth Cymru. Cadarnhawyd y bydd disgyblion sy'n byw yn nalgylchoedd y Ddraenen Wen ac Ysgol Uwchradd Pontypridd yn gymwys am gludiant am ddim i Ysgol Gyfun Bryncelynnog os ydyn nhw am barhau â'u haddysg ôl-16 mewn ysgol. Mae gan yr Uned Cludiant Ysgol feini prawf clir a manwl sy'n sicrhau cysondeb o ran gwneud penderfyniadau.

Response: There will be no impact upon equality as a result of school transport or otherwise. RCT's Home to School Transport Policy significantly exceeds the Welsh Government's statutory obligations and it has been confirmed that all learners who reside within the catchment areas for both Hawthorn and Pontypridd High School will qualify for free transport to Bryncelynnog should they wish to continue their post-16 education in school. The School Transport Unit has clearly set and well defined criteria that ensures consistency in decision making.

ATODIAD A / APPENDIX A

Sent: 27 May 2019 11:22
To: Schoolplanning
Subject: Rydw i yn gwrthwynebu penderfyniad Cyngor RhCT i barhau gyda'r cynlluniau Ysgolion 21 Ganrif ym Mhontypridd

Rydw i yn gwrthwynebu penderfyniad Cyngor RhCT i barhau gyda'r cynlluniau Ysgolion 21 Ganrif ym Mhontypridd am y rhesymau canlynol:

Cynnig 1 - Dileu'r ddarpariaeth chweched dosbarth o ysgolion uwchradd Y Ddraenen Wen, Ysgol Uwchradd Pontypridd ac Ysgol Gyfun y Cardinal Newman Eglwys Gatholig Rhufain: Mae yna ddiffyg archwilio opisynau eraill o fewn y cynnig. Mae diffyg cydraddoldeb o ran mynediad a gwariant ar addysg ôl-16. Mae yna ddiffyg archwiliad O'r effaith ar wdraddoldeb a faint fydd am gymryd llefydd oherwydd problemau trafndiaeth ac mae diffyg ystyriaeth wedi ei roi i broblemau llygredd a thramg ychwanegol:

Cynigion 2 a 3 — Creu ysgol newydd Pob Oed 3-16 ar wfer y Ddraenen Wen a Phontypridd: Mae yna ddiffyg manylion yn yr arbedion ariannol sy'n cael ei wnnig. Mae diffyg prawf O'r manteision yn nhermau canlyniadau addygsol. Mae diffyg tystiolaeth i ddangos bod newidiadau tebyg wedi bod yn llwyddiannus:

Cynnig 4- Pont Siôn Norton a Heol y Celyn: Rwy'n gwrthwynebu fod plant mor ifanc â thair oed yn cael eu bysio hyd at chwe milltir i ffwrdd o'u cymunedau er mwyn gallu cael mynediad i addysg Gymraeg. Rwy'n gwrthwynebu i 5 neu 6 0 fysics ychwanegol orfod teithio drwy dref Pontypridd ar yr amser prysuraf o ran tramg. Onid ydym mewn cyfnod o Arwfwng Amwlcheddol? Rwy'n gwrthwynebu bod Heol y Celyn wedi ei ddewis fel y sane addas ar gyfer cymunedau dalgylch traddodiadol Pont Siôn Norton. Rwy'n gwrthwynebu bod rhwystrau ymarferol wedi ei rhoi mewn lle sy'n golygu bod ein cymunedau tlotaf yn cael eu hamddifadu o ddarpariaeth addysg Gymraeg:

Cynnig 5 - y newid i ardaloedd dalgylch: Roedd yno ddiffyg gallu i gynnig sylwadau ac atebion synwryol ar y cynigion unigol. Mae'r cyd-ddibyniaeth o ran y cynigion wedi eu hereithio gan y penderfyniad i beidio newid dalgylch ardal Gwauncelyn:

Mae ymateb Estyn i'r cynigion yn dweud yn barhaus "nad ydyw'n asesu yn briodol effaith y newidiadau ar ddisgyblion wdag AAA":

Mae methiant i ystyried y cynnydd mewn tramg o ganlyniad i'r holl gynigion gan gynnwys ystyriaeth o lwybrau y bysys:

Mae yna ddiffyg asesiad o effaith y llygredd ar blant a phobl ifanc:

Mae yna ddiffyg ystyriaeth O'r cysylltiad sydd rhwng ysgolion lleol a'u cymunedau lleol:

Mae yna fethiant i ddilyn y Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion:

Mae'r methiant llwyr i barchu barn y rhai a ymatebodd i'r ymwngghoriad yn parhau:

Sent: 27 May 2019 12:35

To: Schoolplanning

Subject: Objection to the 21st Century Schools plans for Pontypridd

I object to RCT's decision to move forward with the 21st Century Schools reorganisation in Pontypridd for the following reasons:

Proposal 1 - Removal of the Sixth forms of Hawthorn High, Pontypridd High and Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive: There is a lack of examination of other options within the proposal. There is a lack of equality of access and expenditure on post 16 education. There is a lack of examination of the impact on equality and take up of places because of transport issues and, there is a lack of consideration of additional pollution and transport congestion:

Proposals 2 and 3 - Creation of new 3-16 schools for Hawthorn and Pontypridd: There is a lack of detail on the financial savings provided by the proposal. There is a lack of proof of benefit in terms of educational outcomes. There is a lack of evidence to show that similar changes have been successful:

Proposal 4- PontSionNorton and Heol y Celyn: I object to children as young as three being bussed up to 6 miles away from their communities to access Welsh medium education. I object to 5 or 6 extra busses going through Pontypridd town at the busiest times of day. Are we not in a Climate Emergency? I object to Heol y Celyn being chosen as an appropriate school site for the traditional Pont Siôn Norton catchment communities. I object to logistical barriers being put in place resulting in the poorest communities having their Welsh medium education effectively withdrawn:

Proposal 5 - amendment of catchment areas: There was a lack of proper ability to comment on individual proposals. The interdependence of proposals is affected by the decision not to change the Gwauncelyn catchment area:

Estyn's response to the proposals continuously state that it "does not evaluate suitably the impact of the changes on pupils with SEN":

There is a failure to consider the increased traffic as a result of all proposals including consideration of bus routes:

There is a lack of assessment of impact of pollution on children and young people:

There is a lack of consideration of the links of local schools with local communities:

There is a failure to follow the School Organisational Code:

There continues to be a complete failure to respect the views of those who responded to the consultation: