

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS  
**Consultation Response  
Report**

**Consultation on the proposal to transform special education in the Vale by establishing a specialist resource base at Whitmore High School from September 2021.**

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## Background

This report presents the feedback received during the consultation, undertaken from **5 October 2020** to **20 November 2020**, in response to the Council's proposal to transform specialist education by establishing a specialist resource base at Whitmore High School from September 2021.

This report outlines the consultation process, provides an overview of responses to the consultation, and offers further details of the key issues and favourable comments raised by stakeholders.

Since developing the proposal, there has been an update in the terminology and so references to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) will be replaced with autism spectrum condition (ASC).

## Outline of the consultation process

The consultation processes followed Welsh Government guidelines, in compliance with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and in line with the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation processes gave prescribed consultees the opportunity to learn about the proposal and for the Council's Cabinet to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be taken into account before any decisions are made.

### Publication of the consultation

Formal consultations were conducted through a consultation document and response form distributed electronically to prescribed consultees and published on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website on the 5 October 2020. Consultees were also provided with an email link to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website. Hard copies of the consultation document were available upon request.

The publication of a consultation document is central to the consultation process for school reorganisation and is prescribed by Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation document outlined the proposal being considered, the rationale for the proposal and the details of the consultation exercise. The consultation document also incorporated an individual response form. Consultees were advised of the availability of an online version to complete.

### Consultation stakeholder engagement

Engagement for the consultation on the proposal was undertaken with prescribed consultees as contained within the School Organisation Code 2018.

The following groups were consulted:

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at WHS	Governing Body of WHS
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children WHS	Diocesan Directors of Education
Town and Community Councils	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)

Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Programme Board	Local Councillors
Assembly Members (AM's) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Welsh Language Commissioner
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Estyn	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Welsh Government Ministers	Trade Unions
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities
Council's Transportation Department	

Consultees were invited to complete a formal consultation response form which could be completed in hard copy or online via the Council's website at: [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/whitmorespecialistresourcebase](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/whitmorespecialistresourcebase)

Due to the ongoing implications of the Coronavirus, parent and community drop in sessions were not held to limit interaction between staff, parents and the wider community. However, open communication channels were maintained throughout the consultation by phone and email. The FAQs were also updated to reflect queries raised throughout the consultation period (Annex C).

A consultation session was undertaken by an independent body with several pupils from Whitmore High School to engage the pupils in the consultation process. A report on the outcome of this session can be found at Annex D.

### Consultation Questions

Consultees were asked for their opinion on the key question:

**Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education by establishing a specialist resource base at Whitmore High School from September 2021?**

Consultees were able to respond with Yes, No or No opinion either way.

Consultees were also offered the opportunity to comment further:

**"If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below."**

**"Any other comments?"**

## Consultation responses

The consultation responses received in writing between 5 October 2020 and 20 November 2020 are outlined below.

### Summary of responses

19 individual responses were received by the consultation closing date. All 19 of the

respondents (100%) were in favour of the proposal. Responses were received from a range of consultees, including parents, staff and local residents.

### Responses in detail

<b>Annex</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Annex A</b>	A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees and the response to those issues can be found at Annex A.
<b>Annex B</b>	A summary of the comments received in favour of the proposal can be found at Annex B.
<b>Annex C</b>	The frequently asked questions (FAQs) document has been updated to include the key questions raised during the engagement sessions (Annex C).
<b>Annex D</b>	A consultation session was undertaken with the representative pupils of Whitmore High School to engage the pupils in the consultation process. A report on the outcome of these sessions can be found at Annex D.
<b>Annex E</b>	A formal response was submitted by Estyn and can be found at Annex E.
<b>Annex F</b>	The consultation document was referred to the Learning & Culture Scrutiny Committee on 12 November 2020. The minutes of this meeting can be found at Annex F.
<b>Annex G</b>	A formal response was submitted by the governing body of Whitmore High School and can be found at Annex G.

## Conclusion

Following consideration of the responses received throughout the consultation period, the Council has revisited the proposal to determine the likely impact on quality and standards in education, the local community and travel arrangements.

### **Quality and standards in education**

This proposal would likely have a positive impact on the quality and standards in education. As noted by respondents, the proposed new SRB at WHS for ASC pupils would enable more pupils to access mainstream education who might otherwise be excluded.

The new building and site at WHS has been designed to meet the needs of a wide range of pupils and would provide greater access to the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

The SRB would be managed by the headteacher and governing body of WHS. The area has been designed to accommodate up to 20 learners. It is proposed that the base is established with the opening of the new school building from September 2021.

Estyn's response noted that "this proposal is unlikely to have a detrimental impact upon learners, and that educational standards within the area are likely to be at least maintained."

### **Community impact**

A Community Impact Assessment was undertaken and published alongside the consultation document. The assessment concludes that the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community through increased community facilities. No comments were received regarding the Community Impact Assessment during the consultation period.

### **Travel arrangements**

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) pupils with specific travel requirements which cannot be met with reasonable adjustment on mainstream transport will have their eligibility determined by the ALN Team.

ALN pupils will be eligible for free transport if they are assessed as having severe and/ or complex difficulties and are attending a special school or specialist resource base as directed by the Complex Needs Team or a class in a mainstream school which is 2 miles or further (primary aged pupils) and 3 miles or further (secondary aged pupils) from the parental home address as measured by the shortest available walking route.

Consideration will be given for free school transport for ALN pupils living within the 2 and 3 mile limits on an individual basis, complying with Section 9 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, ensuring fairness and compliance with relevant equality legislation to ensure no unlawful discrimination between learners. This decision will be made in consultation with all relevant parties. If a pupil cannot walk to school (either with the support of an appropriate adult or independently depending on their age/ability) because of the nature of their additional learning

needs or disability, the council will provide free home to school transport even if the distance is less than the statutory limit. The decision on this will be made by the Passenger Transport Team in conjunction with schools and the Complex Needs Team. If possible and in conjunction with the agreement of the learner, parent/carer, the school and School Improvement and Inclusion Service, escort provision may be provided, instead of transport, to enable the pupil to get to school independently. This promotes sustainable modes of travel and encourages independent living as well as health and well-being.

Accommodation for SRB has been included as part of the new build currently under construction for Whitmore High School. The design for the new school was subject to a full planning application which was approved by the Planning Committee on 31 July 2019. The planning application included a full transport assessment and a travel plan. The new build will also include measures to encourage active travel, such as providing bike shelters.

## **Annex A - A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees and the Council's response**

The following summarises the key issues raised during the formal consultation period. The issues present an overview of responses and are not intended to be verbatim. All written responses have been made available to Cabinet Members.

### **Issue 1**

#### **Type of support available from the SRB at WHS**

Respondent queried whether the remit of the SRB at WHS could extend to pupils with behavioural and emotional support needs, in addition to supporting ASC pupils. Related to this, another respondent wanted to ensure pupils with dyslexia could access support as their needs can sometimes be overlooked within ALN provision.

#### **Council's response to the concerns raised:**

This proposal is to establish an SRB at WHS to provide additional support for pupils with ASC whilst ensuring they can access mainstream secondary education. All admissions to the SRB at WHS would be via the Local Authority Panel, in consultation with the Engagement Service and WHS.

Whilst this SRB at WHS would focus on ASC pupils, the new build school would improve the learning environment and increase facilities to support the wellbeing of all pupils; including by providing break out spaces for pastoral care and outdoor areas suitable for recreation or reflection. This would benefit pupils with minor additional behavioural and emotional needs.

The Council's ALN Strategy includes three key components:

- Establish a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing, which will replace Y Daith, the Council's pupil referral unit (PRU);
- Establish specialist resource bases in mainstream schools to ensure learners have access to mainstream education; and
- Increase capacity of Ysgol Y Deri, the Council's special school, to meet projected demand for special education.

Additional resource bases would be considered as and when the opportunity arises.

As part of the Council's ALN strategy, further ALN places are also being proposed through increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Deri (YYD), establishing an SRB at Gladstone Primary School, and establishing a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (CL&W) (replacing the Council's Pupil Referral Unit). The CL&W would operate from September 2021 and specifically cater for Key Stages 3 and 4 pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. Under the management of YYD, the SRB at Gladstone would continue the trauma informed approach to supporting pupils with complex SEMH needs, which has been trialled successfully at the primary level over the last two years. The expansion of YYD would also support some of our most vulnerable pupils with complex needs.



These proposals are subject to separate consultations but, if approved, would provide a holistic approach to ALN within the Vale, to meet the needs of pupils requiring a wide range of additional support.

## **Issue 2**

### **Query whether there would be appropriate resources available to implement the proposal and how transition would limit disruption to staff and pupils**

#### **Council's response to the concerns raised:**

##### Financial resources

The capital cost for the new build works at WHS is £30,504,000. The project is jointly funded by the Council and Welsh Government, through the 21st Century Schools Programme. Welsh Government have approved the Council's full business case for £22,622,000 funding. The remaining £7,882,000 is included within the Council's capital programme.

The new build is currently under construction and the building is due to be completed for September 2021.

Additional revenue funding would be required to fund the provision. A phased approach would be adopted with provision for 10 pupils from September 2021 which would increase to 20 pupils from September 2022.

The Council would provide additional transition funding as part of the 2021/22 budget to appoint the leader of the provision ahead of opening.

It would be necessary to employ a lead teacher for the base from April 2021 in order to ensure that effective planning is undertaken prior to opening. From September 2021 additional funding would be allocated to fund learning support assistants (LSAs) which would be required to provide direct support to learners. From September 2022 additional funding would be allocated to fund an additional teacher and LSAs in line with the increase in pupils.

The school would also receive pupil-led funding as part of the schools funding formula which would be based on the number of pupils on roll.

A cost pressure has been submitted for £176k in 2021/22 and an additional £108k in 2022/23. Implementation of the proposal would be dependent on the required revenue funding being available.

##### Human resources and learner needs

Should the proposal be approved, the Council would establish a project team to support the project. The project team would include the Head of Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing, representatives from the Council's 21st Century Schools Team, and representatives from WHS.

The project team would be responsible for developing a project plan to deliver the proposal by September 2021, when the new WHS building would be completed. The project plan would need to consider:

- Development of the provision;
- Development of the staffing structure;
- Identifying any training needs;
- Managing admission to the SRB from September 2021; and
- Identifying the appropriate resources to deliver the provision.

The Council would fully support the staff and governing body to ensure the successful implementation of the proposal. This approach was successfully adopted to deliver mixed-sex secondary education in Barry as part of the Transforming Secondary Education in Barry project.

The base would be managed by the headteacher and governing body of WHS. The area has been designed to accommodate up to 20 learners. It is proposed that the base is established with the opening of the new school building from September 2021.

In their consultation sessions, pupils noted that “There needs to be a conversation with mainstream classes about the unit and to create an ‘ethos’ of acceptance/tolerance”. A key role of the SRB would be to support the implementation of school-wide policies and procedures to strengthen support available to all pupils at WHS. During the transition the Council would work with the staff and governing body to ensure appropriate measures are put in place to establish a culture of understanding and collaboration between mainstream pupils and those with an ASC diagnosis attending the base. School-wide training needs would be identified during the transition phase and would be included as part of the school’s training and development programme.

Additional staff would be recruited by the school to support learners within the base, which would include the appointment of a lead teacher to manage the provision. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trade unions where necessary.

### **Issue 3**

#### **Query how the proposal will support the Welsh in education strategic plan (WESP) and meet the needs of Welsh speaking pupils who have ASC.**

As noted in the consultation document, although WHS teaches predominantly through the medium of English, the high standards achieved in Welsh language contribute to the Council’s commitment to encouraging bilingual speakers.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg provides Welsh-medium secondary education in the Vale. Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg was inspected by Estyn in March 2019 and the report stated: “Arrangements for pupils with additional learning needs are excellent. The provision map is comprehensive, and individual education plans ensure that the school provides tailored assistance to support these pupils through a wide range of interventions. The school monitors the effect of support for pupils with additional learning needs closely and ensures that this provision is adapted to the needs of these pupils.”

YYD, the Council's special school also provides support for pupils with ASC in mainstream schools through a Welsh speaking specialist teacher. This ensures that pupils with ASC in Welsh medium education receive appropriate support. If additional individual support is required, Welsh medium provision is delivered through the appointment of bilingual LSAs.

## **Annex B - A summary of comments received in favour of the proposal.**

This section provides the key themes raised during the formal consultation period by those in favour of the proposal. The following presents an overview of responses and are not exhaustive or intended to be verbatim. All written responses have been made available to Cabinet Members.

### **Comment 1**

#### **Agree with increasing specialist support available for ALN pupils within a mainstream secondary school setting.**

Respondents agreed specialist educational provision needs to be increased within the Vale. Responses also noted the benefits of having provision available within a mainstream secondary school setting as this enables a blend of accessing mainstream learning and additional support.

Estyn noted that this provision would help to reduce demand upon Ysgol Y Deri.

Respondents felt that this is an inclusive approach to specialist education, beneficial for pupils to break down potential social and educational barriers. This was also noted as a positive by pupils in their consultation sessions.

It is also beneficial for educational professionals to develop their skills and understanding of a range of pupil needs.

Overall, respondents welcomed this kind of provision.

## **Annex C - Frequently asked questions.**

This section provides updated frequently asked questions in relation to the proposal.

### ***What is the intended timescale of development?***

The new school building at WHS is due to be completed for September 2021.

### ***How would pupils be allocated a place at the SRB?***

The Council would allocate pupils to the SRB in conjunction with the leadership of WHS. This would be based on an assessment of the individual needs of the pupils.

### ***Who would manage and support learners attending the SRB?***

WHS would receive additional funding for the SRB to ensure the appropriate support is available. The school would appoint a leader to manage the SRB with additional staff appointed to support individual learners. The purpose of the SRB is to provide additional support to pupils to ensure they can access mainstream education.

## **Annex D - Consultation undertaken with young people.**

### **Consultation on the proposal to transform special education in the Vale by establishing a specialist resource base at Whitmore High School (WHS) from September 2021**

#### **Background and Aim**

- In their Consultation document on the above proposal the Vale of Glamorgan Council note the importance of making suitable arrangements to consult with pupils and where possible those pupils likely to attend the school. The Council firmly believes that the pupils of WHS should be given the opportunity to 'make their views known about this proposal'.
- 2 consultation workshops were arranged with groups of students on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to gather their views about the proposal.
- The information gathered from the sessions will be included in the final consultation report. The full report will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet for consideration following the consultation period.

#### **Methodology**

- An interactive workshop which gave pupils an opportunity to discuss and share ideas together.
- It started with a discussion on the meaning of consultation and why it was important to talk to pupils
- Agreement was reached on what made a good discussion/consultation
- The consultation document was then explained to them
- The pupils were divided into 2 sub-groups to share and note their own ideas. The groups then merged to have further discussion on these ideas, based on the rules of engagement as agreed at the beginning of the session.
- Following the feedback, it was explained to pupils that their comments would be fed into a report on this session and that it would be presented to the council as part of the evidence gathered on this consultation.

#### **WHS - Workshops**

**The 2 workshops included 8 pupils in each (a balance of male and female); workshop 1 included 8 Year 10 students; workshop 2 included 8 Year 9 students)**

#### **Pupils' responses:**

**What makes a good discussion?**

- People need to speak
- Need to hear the bad and good points
- Listening to others
- Hear different opinions
- Need to be quiet while others are speaking
- Express your ideas
- Be kind to other people's opinions

### **Advantages of the proposed plan**

- More opportunities [to those pupils] of being a part of a normal school
- Provides support for those learners
- More recognition for every pupil
- It helps the needs of specific children
- Takes pressure off mainstream classes and Ysgol Y Deri (YYD)
- Small groups
- Good atmosphere to feel safe
- Routines that help pupils of this nature
- Gives pupils more freedom
- It will calm pupils down
- They [pupils] know there is a place of comfort in the school
- It will avoid interruptions in lessons [for others]
- Specialist teachers that understand their needs [will be on hand]
- Helps them [in the future] be integrated into society
- Extra support
- Greater focus on their needs
- [Pupils] feel normality because they're with people of the same needs
- Takes pressure off YYD
- Fits in with other pupils
- If pupils are in a group of people with similar needs, they feel like they're being treated the same
- Those pupils need to be treated the same as others and need to be given opportunities to develop
- Just because you're autistic doesn't mean that you're stupid so they need to be educated and have support in an area like this

### **Possible disadvantages of the proposed plan**

- It might isolate people
- Needs to be a balance between mainstream and resource base so they don't become too isolated
- Needs to be enough staff there to deal with the group
- Only 20 places – will it be enough?
- Will it lead to the labelling of some pupils?
- It could make them feel different to the other students in school
- They all might have different types of autism so they might clash

### **General Comments/Questions:**

- Need to make sure that learners are being put in the right place
- There needs to be a conversation with mainstream classes about the unit and to create an 'ethos' of acceptance/tolerance

- There needs to be communication amongst pupils (so that we get to know what they do)
- At times these pupils get more rewards than they deserve – people without autism are not recognised for doing good things
- Rules don't apply to them at certain times [which can lead to a sense of unfairness]

### **Observations**

- Both schools warmly welcomed me into their schools whilst respecting Covid-19 regulations and guidance.
- Pupils' responses were mature and considered.
- All pupils participated fully in both the group and team discussions.

**09.xi.20**

**gj**



## **Annex E – Response from Estyn**

### **Estyn response to the proposal to establish a specialist resource base (SRB) at Whitmore high school**

#### **Introduction**

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.

#### **Summary/ Conclusion**

This is a proposal by the Vale of Glamorgan council. The proposal is to establish a specialist resource base at Whitmore high school that would focus on pupils with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD).

It is Estyn's view that this proposal is unlikely to have a detrimental impact upon learners, and that educational standards within the area are likely to be at least maintained.

#### **Description and benefits**

The council has set out clearly its reasons for the proposal. It is to meet the increased demand for specialist education provision within the Vale of Glamorgan and to reduce the demand for places at Ysgol Y Deri (YYD), the council's special school.

The council has listed the potential benefits of the proposal. These include the provision of targeted support for pupils with ASD within a mainstream secondary school and to make provision for larger numbers of these pupils. In addition, the council has identified one potential disadvantage which is the disruption to the management of staff and resources during the implementation phase of the proposal. These appear to be valid and reasonable, however the council has not outlined clearly how it intends to mitigate against the one potential disadvantage identified.

The council has identified an appropriate risk which is that the SRB could become full to capacity very early on. The council intends to monitor this and expand short term provision as needed.

The council identified two alternative options that they considered. These were to continue with the status quo or to establish SRB provision at another secondary school. The reasons for these options being discounted appear to be fair and appropriate. The council has outlined suitable travel arrangements for pupils who attend the SRB. This includes providing free transport for pupils with ALN based on an assessment of their individual needs.

The council has appropriately determined that placing the specialist resource base within a mainstream secondary school would provide additional support for pupils with ASD whilst ensuring they can access mainstream secondary education. This is likely to reduce the demand for places at YYD.

The council makes reference to its Welsh in education strategic plan (WESP), however it is not clear enough how this proposal directly contributes to the plan. In addition, the proposal makes no reference to how this proposal will meet the needs of Welsh speaking pupils who have ASD.

The proposer has appropriately included a community impact assessment which concluded that the proposal would have a positive or neutral effect on the eight key measures identified by the local authority. This seems to be a reasonable conclusion.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

Estyn has not yet inspected Whitmore high school. It was previously inspected in March 2013 under its previous incarnation as Barry comprehensive school.

The council has made suitable reference to the likely impact of the proposal on standards and leadership and management. It asserts that the SRB would ensure pupils with ASD have access to mainstream secondary education. In addition, the base would provide a safe environment for pupils to utilise during lunch and break times. The school is currently managed by an Executive Headteacher and a Head of School. The school intends to recruit a manager to have responsibility for the SRB.

There appears to be no commentary with regards to how the council intends to minimise any potential disruption to learners as a result of the proposal.

## **Annex F - Minutes of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on the proposal**

### **LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The recording of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee meeting (12<sup>th</sup> November 2020) is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YoIAi15Rpo&feature=youtu.be>

188 Proposal to Establish a Specialist Resource Base at Whitmore High School from September 2021 (DLS)

The 21st Century Schools Project Manager presented the report, which advised Committee of the Council's proposal to establish a specialist resource base to support learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Whitmore High School from September 2021, and to receive Committee's feedback to form part of a consultation report which would in turn be considered by Cabinet following the completion of the consultation exercise.

The Officer advised that on 5th October, 2020 the Director of Learning and Skills launched the consultation on the above proposal. The consultation document, which was contained with its appendices at Appendix A to the report, had been issued to prescribed consultees as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Officer continued by highlighting that the proposed resource base would be available to pupils who spent the majority of their time in mainstream education but could use the base for support, pre-teaching of lessons and as a safe space if required. A suitable space for the resource base had been identified on the ground floor of the new build for Whitmore High School (should the proposal be endorsed), with additional funding having been requested from Welsh Government to assist with Additional Learning Needs, and the Officer advised that the proposed space had therefore already been funded by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.

As yet, there had not been a considerable response to the proposal with 11 responses having been received to date, however the Officer noted that all responses received had been in favour of the proposal and as such there were no areas of concern to further elaborate upon as part of the report. Committee were advised that the governing body of Whitmore High School had submitted a formal response to the consultation indicating that they were in favour of the proposal and had been supportive when meeting with the Officer some days previously. A formal response from Estyn had also been received which indicated that the proposal would at least maintain standards within the school and therefore no issues were raised.

The Head of Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing provided some more information regarding the nature of the pupils who would be accessing the resource base, and a video created by the National Autism Team, 'What is Autism?', was played to Committee which explored the many facets of ASD through the words of young people with autism.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, with permission to speak, wished to credit the Head of Service and his team for having championed this proposal and the ambition that every child in the Vale of Glamorgan should have an educational setting appropriate to their needs. The Cabinet Member continued by highlighting the importance of supporting young people with autism so that they could remain in mainstream education while also experiencing a specialist supportive environment when needed.

The Vice-Chairman wished to express that this was very much a welcome development and she was pleased that there was recognition of the different aspects of the autism spectrum. The Vice-Chairman referred to a family member's first-hand experience of an unsupportive educational environment as a learner with ASD, and reiterated that it was welcome for the Council to be looking to support those who were outside of the mainstream and to be addressing the needs of this smaller group of pupils.

Following consideration of the report it was subsequently

#### RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T Committee note the consultation document and the relevant appendices on the proposal to establish a specialist resource base at Whitmore High School from September 2021.
- (2) T H A T Committee endorse the proposal and their feedback be considered by Cabinet as part of the consultation report which will be developed following the completion of the consultation exercise.

#### Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To ensure that Committee is consulted on the proposal.
- (2) To ensure feedback received from Committee is considered by Cabinet as part of the consultation report.

## Annex G – Response from the governing body of Whitmore High School



Ysgol Uwchradd **Whitmore** High School  
Port Road West, Y Barr/S Barry, Bro Morgannwg/Vale of Glamorgan CF62 8ZJ  
Ffôn/Telephone: (01446) 411411 E-bost/Email: WhitmoreHigh@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Your Full Name: **Antonia Forte**

Postcode: **CF62 7NH**

**Chair of Governing Body at Whitmore High School**

This response is made on behalf of the **Governing Body at Whitmore High School**

1. Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education by establishing a specialist resource base at Whitmore High School from September 2021?

**Yes**

Please explain why: **In February 2019, following extensive research, including a field trip to a similar base at another school, the Governing Body of WHS discussed the proposal to establish a specialist resource base in the new building planned as part of the 21s Century Schools Project. The proposal was supported unanimously. We have considered the details in this recent consultation paper and wish to reiterate that support.**

2. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

**Whilst the funding and management outlined in the consultation remain broadly in line with those discussed last year, we have had the opportunity to consider further detail provided by the Vale's team. Our continued and enthusiastic support for this base is dependent on:**

- **Our understanding that there is a commitment to ongoing and adequate revenue funding;**
- **That management control will rest with Whitmore High School;**
- **That there is adequate lead in time to ensure that the base is operational at the same time as the new building is opened. In particular we understand that sufficient funding will be available to appoint the operational lead officer as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**
- **That the students admitted to the base will have learning needs that are appropriate to the level of support provided – that their needs will be no greater or lesser than the base can provide;**
- **That the number of students the base can support is no more than twenty, and that any increase in this number will need to take consideration of the overall admissions' demand for places at Whitmore High, and the resulting pressure on space and facilities.**

3. Any other comments?

**In the unlikely event that the above caveats cannot be met in the future, the GB reserves the right to revisit our support for the base.**