

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS
Community Impact Assessment

Consultation on the proposal to transform special education in the Vale by:

- **Increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Deri to accommodate an additional 150 pupils; and**
- **Constructing a new school building on the preferred site located in Cosmeston, Penarth for September 2023 which would operate as an additional site under the management of Ysgol Y Deri.**



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Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. In order to achieve this ambition it is essential that we ensure schools remain sustainable, reflect the needs of our local communities, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

The Council is committed to ensuring that consultations are meaningful, relevant and appropriate for the communities that are involved, and the Council has a duty of care to ensure that proposals are clear, transparent, and reflective of those affected. This is a vision that can only be realised by working in partnership with schools, governors, parents and the wider communities we all serve.

The proposal is to transform specialist education by;

- Increasing the capacity of YYD to accommodate an additional 150 pupils; and
- Constructing a new building on the preferred site located in Cosmeston, Penarth for September 2023, which would operate as an additional site under the management of YYD.

This proposal is considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018) and the Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Management Committees etc.) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

National Context

The key statutory guidance for local authorities in developing statutory proposals for changes for school organisation is in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. When considering proposals the Council must consider the impact on the local community, particularly in rural areas and in areas designated for communities' first programmes or successor programmes.

Local Policy Context

Echoing national policy outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-25 to achieving a vision of – **'Working together for a brighter future'**.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of 'supporting learning, employment and sustainable economic growth' raising overall

standards of achievement by modernising education in the Vale to ensure children and young people receive a first class education.

We believe that in order to achieve this it is important that we support teaching and learning outcomes by providing modern and fit for purpose buildings that meet the needs of modern day education. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience to make sure that children and young people have the best opportunities available to them and that they are able to reach their full potential.

Current Challenges

The proposal would address a number of challenges and would:

- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- Makes provision within the Vale for larger numbers of our pupils with complex ALN.
- It is recognised that YYD is the organisation with the experience and skills to implement the ALN strategy most effectively within and across the LA. As such, an expansion of YYD will mean that some of our most vulnerable learners receive the most effective support and nurture provision as key components of their education.
- Access to YYD's wider network of buildings will provide greater scope for provision to be made for those learners who suffer from acute anxiety and mental health issues.
- Reduced reliance on costly out of county provision.

Community Profile

There are currently 8 schools in the area surrounding YYD in Penarth:

School name	Type	Language	Age range	Capacity*	Distance from YYD (miles)
Cogan Primary	Community	English	3 – 11	210	1.0
Evenlode Primary	Community	English	3 – 11	420	1.8
Llandough Primary	Community	English	3 – 11	210	1.0

St Cyres Comprehensive	Community	English	11 – 19	1,050	0.0
St Josephs Primary	Community	English	3 – 11	210	0.6
Stanwell Comprehensive	Community	English	11 – 19	1,495	1.7
Victoria Primary	Community	English	3 – 11	420	1.5
Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth	Community	Welsh	3 – 11	420	0.3

*statutory school age – i.e. does not include nursery or sixth-form.

Ysgol Y Deri is located within the Cornerswell ward in Penarth.

Penarth is a wealthy seaside town and retains extensive Victorian and Edwardian architecture in many traditional parts of the town.

The Cornerswell ward has a population of 5,366 (Office of National Statistics, 2019).

The data below for the Cornerswell 3 ward, in which YYD is located, is from the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#).

Vale of Glamorgan Constituency Area	LSOA Code	Overall Wales Rank (of 1909)		Employment Rank (of 1909)		Access to Services Rank (of 1909)	
		Rank	% (Least / Most Deprived)	Rank	% (LD / MD)	Rank	% (LD / MD)
Cornerswell 3	W01001077	1202	50% LD	1211	50% LD	864	30-50% MD

As the table above shows, the Cornerswell 3 ward mainly has low levels of deprivation. Overall it is within 50% least deprived wards within Wales. However, it is within 30-50% most deprived for access to services.

Additional Learning Needs

The main driver for this proposal is to meet increased demand for specialist educational provision within the Vale to best meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners.

The numbers of children and young people requiring a placement at YYD has continued to increase and at a faster pace than previously predicted. As a result, £11m has been allocated as part of the Council 21st Century Schools Programme to increase the capacity of the school.

The proposal would mean specialist educational provision at YYD would be increased to accommodate an additional 150 pupils. In order to accommodate this increased capacity, a new school building would be constructed on a new site, which would operate under the management of YYD. The Council has identified a preferred site which is located next to the proposed 'Land at Upper

Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock' development which has been allocated as part of the Council's adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-26. This area provides sufficient space to construct the proposed new school building and is approximately 3 miles from the existing YYD site. The new school building would primarily accommodate primary-ages pupils. However, the school would operate a need-based approach to determine the split of pupils across the two sites. This would reduce the need to duplicate all facilities currently available at YYD.

Impact Assessment

This section of the Community Impact Assessment assesses the potential impact this proposal could have on the local community. The information analysed in this process represents a snapshot of the current situation. The impact assessment is an evolving document that will continue to be developed throughout the statutory process. Feedback received during the consultation period will be used to further inform the Community Impact Assessment, which will be presented to Cabinet as part of the Consultation Report.

Eight key measures have been identified:

Ref.	Measure
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises
CI5	Impact on local businesses
CI6	Impact on local employment
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure
CI8	Transport arrangements

The eight measures were assessed to identify any negative or positive impacts on the local community, and a score was applied ranging from -3 to +3 based on the balance of the evidence available.

Measure Score	Measure Assessment
-3	Large deterioration
-2	Moderate deterioration
-1	Slight deterioration
0	No overall change
1	Slight Improvement
2	Moderate Improvement
3	Large Improvement

Impacts upon the Local Community

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	3	<p>The number of children and young people requiring a placement at Ysgol Y Deri (YYD) has continued to increase and at a faster pace than originally predicted. YYD was originally built for 205 pupils but as of January 2020, 276 pupils were on roll. As a result, £11m has been allocated as part of Band B of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme to provide an expansion.</p> <p>Therefore, this proposal would result in a more efficient supply and demand for ALN school places within the Vale.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	2	<p>It is proposed that any community services currently provided by YYD would continue and these could be expanded upon within the new facility.</p> <p>Examples of services YYD provide which would be continued and potentially expanded upon are detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Lunch – older pupils put on a lunch for 100 members of the local community • Simon Jones – Senior Health Living Officer (Disability Sports) – organises sporting events with groups coming in to offer one off PE style sessions (basketball wheelchair, soccer previously) and organises community sporting events. • Physios provide treatment for community children on a regular basis during term times and school holidays. • Training has been held in YYD for health professionals on weekends and during school holidays • Whizzkids wheelchair club held in school during the summer holidays • Playscheme in holiday time

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janet Dailey (local resident and former teacher) – story telling and sensory stories across departments • Bocs Bwyd – project where pupils are working on building sites in Barry and serving/cooking food and drink
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	1	<p>The proposed site for YYD expansion is within a new housing development near Cosmeston.</p> <p>The proposed site for the new school building is in close proximity to Cosmeston Country Park and the Medieval Village. The park would provide a great resource for staff and pupils to enhance wellbeing and attitudes to learning. The site is also close to the sea.</p> <p>YYD currently makes use of the following community facilities and this would (at least) continue under the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cogan leisure centre – regular swimming sessions • Dinas Powys Library • White Water Rafting Centre • Cosmeston – walking groups • Pedal Power – Cardiff Bay • Cardiff City Football Club • Zone Play • Penarth Library • Local parks • Visits to supermarkets and Ikea • Council Dogs Home to walk dogs • Cinema visits • Garden Centre visits • Horse riding-Cardiff Riding School

CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	1	<p>A key element of the 21st Century Schools Programme is the provision of community facilities. The proposal would include the creation of new state of art facilities which could be hired out by the community; such as sports pitches and meeting rooms.</p> <p>There is a potential for community access to facilities to be increased, such as meeting rooms. This will be up to the school to manage with safeguarding requirements.</p> <p>YYD currently hires out the following facilities for the community and this would (at least) continue under the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool is used by community groups • Hall used for community groups • Grounds used by local sports groups • Opened playground up to our parents at weekends. • Links with South Wales Classic Car Club who have used our grounds for events.
CI5	Impact on local businesses	1	<p>There is a potential for visits from local businesses to be increased. This will be up to the school to manage with safeguarding requirements.</p> <p>YYD is currently visited by the following local businesses and services and this would (at least) continue under the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police visits to the school to do talks about safety etc. • Fire Brigade visits to school • Design to Smile – community dentist and toothbrushing programme visiting school regularly
CI6	Impact on local employment	1	<p>This proposal may lead to an increase in specialist employment opportunities at the YYD expansion.</p>

CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	-1	<p>There may be a minor impact upon traffic in the area surrounding the new school site along Cog Road. However, there would also be a reduction in travel to out-of-county provision. Therefore, overall this may have a minor negative impact upon local transport infrastructure.</p> <p>A full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process for the new school building. This would assess the impact on the local infrastructure and include a swept path analysis to ensure compliance with current legislation on accessibility for all emergency services. This would also include assessment of safe walking routes. The transport assessment would be used as part of the design process to mitigate against any negative impacts identified.</p> <p>There is scope through the design and build process to improve connecting pathways to enhance the safety and enjoyment of the routes. Designs would be subject to the formal planning process which includes a statutory consultation with local residents.</p>
CI8	Transport arrangements	-1	<p>The Council has a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school. In accordance with 'The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008'.</p> <p>ALN pupils are 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.</p> <p>School transport is currently provided to 229 pupils at YYD. In total, there are 45 vehicles serving the existing site which can be broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 vehicles provide transport for more than 10 pupils; • 5 vehicles provide transport for between 6 and 10 pupils; and

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 35 vehicles provide transport for 5 pupils or less. <p>There may be a minor increase upon transport arrangements for pupils to the new site. However, there may also be a reduction in transport arrangements to out-of-county provision. Therefore, overall this may have a minor negative impact upon transport arrangements.</p> <p>A transport assessment would also determine the requirement for on-site drop-off and pick-up facilities to accommodate school transport arrangements. It would also be used to inform the required number of car parking spaces to accommodate staff.</p> <p>If the proposal were to progress, active travel would be an important consideration within the site design to support the realisation of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. As part of the soft landings provision, the 21st Century Schools team and contractors would work with the school to develop an updated travel plan which would support measures to increase active travel to school.</p>
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Scoring Summary

Ref.	Local Community
CI1	3
CI2	2
CI3	1
CI4	1
CI5	1
CI6	1
CI7	-1
CI8	-1
Average Score	0.875

Conclusions

The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a negative impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

The proposal would enable the expansion of YYD to provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential. The proposal would increase the level of community access and interaction through the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the complex needs of pupils.

Transport implications would need to be carefully considered during the design of the new school to limit the impact of the increase pupils traveling to the site.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal would better meet the needs of the community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.