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To: Parents, Carers and Guardians of children attending Ysgol Sant Baruc;  
Headteacher, Staff and Governing Body of Ysgol Sant Baruc; Prescribed Consultees.

Dear Consultee,

**Proposal to provide additional school places to meet the future demand for Welsh Medium education by expanding Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021.**

The Council consulted with prescribed consultees in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021.

In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018, a consultation exercise with prescribed consultees was undertaken between 8 January 2019 and 22 February 2019. The aim of the consultation was to inform prescribed consultees about the proposal to increase the number of Welsh medium school places in Barry by expanding Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places. Of the 261 responses, 232 were in favour of the proposal, 25 were opposed, and 4 offered no opinion either way.

On 01 April 2019, following consideration of the consultation report, Cabinet determined to progress the proposal through the publication of a statutory notice. The statutory notice was published on the Council's website on 29 April 2019 and was issued to prescribed consultees and posted at the main entrances of Ysgol Sant Baruc. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing or by email, and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice was published ("the objection period"). As the statutory notice was published on 29 April 2019, statutory objections had to be received by 27 May 2019. It was noted that no statutory objections were received during the statutory notice period.

**On 29 July 2019, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet approved the proposal to expand Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021.** As a result a new building for Ysgol Sant Baruc will be built on the Waterfront site with capacity for 420 pupils and the school will move in from 1 September 2021.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet were satisfied that the proposal will:

- Enable the school to further improve while catering for a greater pupil population.
- Ensure the Council is able to accommodate the future demand for Welsh medium education based on current trends.

- 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.
- The new building will meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellent standards and be built to an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) A rating.
- Support the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020.
- Contribute effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The reasons for the decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

### **Quality and Standards of Education**

Estyn commented in their response to the consultation exercise: "Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to maintain or improve current standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management...By accepting and implementing this proposal, pupils will be taught in a modern, good quality building that will be able to support the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils in the foundation phase and key stage 2."

The Council's clear ambition is that educational outcomes in the Vale of Glamorgan are the best in Wales and match those of the most successful authorities in England with similar socio-economic profiles. The proposal will help deliver that ambition.

The new school building and site will provide greater opportunities for curriculum development and pupil well-being. Pupils will have greater access to digital facilities and outdoor learning areas. Enhanced provision for students with special educational needs will be available at the school. In addition, access to canteen facilities onsite will enable pupils and staff to make the most of their lunch break.

During the transition stage following the determination, the Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption for the public around the Waterfront by working closely with the consortium.

The proposal will provide much needed investment in Ysgol Sant Baruc, and will help deliver the transformational change necessary for all students to achieve their full potential.

### **Need for places and the impact upon accessibility of schools**

The proposal will ensure that there is a sustainable balance between the supply and demand for primary school places across Barry for the long term. The proposal will increase places for Welsh medium education in the Barry area.

Estyn commented in their response to the consultation exercise: "The proposer has provided useful and thorough information that explains the rationale behind this proposal. The increasing trend for Welsh-medium education provision in the Barry area is causing difficulties, as there are not enough places to admit more pupils to Welsh-medium schools. In addition, Ysgol Sant Baruc's current building and grounds are not suitable and do not allow the space necessary to expand the current provision. Following a significant increase in dwellings being built in the Barry Waterfront area, this proposal incorporates a new and suitable building for Ysgol Sant Baruc in order to meet the need for Welsh-medium education in the area".

Under the proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of students to and from schools. Free school transport eligibility will remain unchanged as a result of this

proposal. The available safe walking routes to schools used for the assessment of free school transport will not alter as a result of this proposal albeit some students may no longer qualify for free school transport if they choose to apply for a school within 2 miles of their home address.

The proposed new building will have improved access for disabled pupils and other users.

### **Resourcing of education and other financial implications**

Funding is provided through the school funding formula which allocates the majority of funding for schools on the basis of pupil numbers.

This proposal will mean that significant capital investment will be made in establishing the new school and developing state of the art facilities. The estimated cost of the scheme is £7.417M. It is anticipated that part-funding would be provided by the Welsh Government under Band B of its 21st Century Schools Programme. The remainder of the capital funding would be contributed by the Council.

The estimated revenue cost of operating a new 420 place school is £1.43M. The revenue budget delegated for Ysgol Sant Baruc for 2018/19 is £760k. The £670k difference would be found from within the Individual Schools' Budget generated by the additional revenue from the increase in pupil numbers from the new housing developments.

### **Other general factors**

The Equality Impact Assessment identifies that there would be a positive impact on persons with the protected characteristics of age, disability and gender reassignment/ identity. The proposal would support the school to ensure that it has the improved facilities to promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with different protected characteristics.

There has been no perceived negative impact on the protected characteristics identified. Although it is acknowledged that some pupils may have longer to travel to school, there are currently no children with physical disabilities attending the school that impact on mobility. The existing site is not fully compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 due to site constraints. Successful implementation of the proposal would enable compliance by providing a fully accessible building with gender neutral facilities.

The Community impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

**Yours faithfully,**



Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills