

Name of Committee:	Cabinet														
Date of Meeting:	04/03/2019														
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture														
Report Title:	Proposed reconfiguration of Primary Provision in the Western Vale														
Purpose of Report:	To advise Cabinet of the outcome of the statutory notice to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale and the process to be followed to allow a determination to be made.														
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture														
Responsible Officer:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills														
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	<p>Officers Consulted:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Lisa Lewis</td> <td>Operational Manager, Strategy and Resources</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jane O'Leary</td> <td>Operational Manager, 21st Century Schools</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Matthews</td> <td>Principal Strategic Planning Officer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carolyn Michael</td> <td>Operational Manager, Finance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carys Lord</td> <td>Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adrian Unsworth</td> <td>Operational Manager, Human Resources</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Victoria Davidson</td> <td>Operational Manager, Legal Services</td> </tr> </table> <p>Public consultation with all interested parties has been carried out, in accordance with legislation.</p> <p>The proposal was referred to the Council's Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) on 1 October 2018.</p> <p>Local Ward Members have been consulted.</p>	Lisa Lewis	Operational Manager, Strategy and Resources	Jane O'Leary	Operational Manager, 21st Century Schools	Mike Matthews	Principal Strategic Planning Officer	Carolyn Michael	Operational Manager, Finance	Carys Lord	Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer	Adrian Unsworth	Operational Manager, Human Resources	Victoria Davidson	Operational Manager, Legal Services
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Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by the Cabinet														

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Executive Summary:

- The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the statutory notice on the proposal to make regulated alterations to Llancarfan Primary School by:
- Moving Llancarfan Primary School to a new site in Rhoose on land north-west of the railway line (paragraph 2 Schedule 2 to 'the Act')
- Extending the age range of the school from 4 – 11 years to 3 -11 years (paragraph 5 Schedule 2 of 'the Act')
- Increasing the school capacity for pupils of statutory school age from 126 places to 210 places (paragraph 10 Schedule 2 of 'the Act')
- The Council received 102 objections by the closing date of 3 December 2018. These objections have been categorised under themes and outlined in the attached objection report for Cabinet to consider as part of the decision making process. This report can be found at Appendix A.
- Following the completion of the period of statutory notice, a decision is now required on whether to implement the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1** That Cabinet considers the findings of the objection report on the proposal.
- 1.2** That Cabinet refers the report to Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) for consideration.
- 1.3** Subject to consideration of the above and subject to the consideration by Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture), Cabinet approves implementation of the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale by:
 - Creating a new 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class for Llancarfan Primary School;
 - Transferring staff and pupils from the existing Llancarfan Primary School building into the new school building, and;
 - Changing the age range of Llancarfan Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 years.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1** To ensure the views of objectors are taken into account in the decision making process.
- 2.2** To consider the views of Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture).
- 2.3** Following the completion of a period of statutory notice, a decision is required on whether to implement the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale.

3. Background

- 3.1** A Cabinet report recommending that the Council consult on a proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale was presented to Cabinet on the 22 January 2018. Cabinet agreed at the meeting to undertake a consultation exercise on the proposal.
- 3.2** In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2013, a consultation exercise with prescribed consultees was undertaken between 5 March and 20 April 2018.
- 3.3** The consultation aimed at taking a holistic view of primary school provision in the Western Vale. The aim of the consultation was to inform and seek feedback from the community about the school re-organisation proposal to move the site of Llancarfan Primary School from Llancarfan to a newly constructed school building on land north of the railway line in Rhoose; increase the capacity of Llancarfan Primary School at the new site from 126 to 210 places; and alter the lowest age range of pupils at Llancarfan Primary School from 4 to 3, to consist of the addition of a new nursery class containing 48 part time places, and to seek feedback on this proposal.
- 3.4** The proposal was designed to address a number of challenges within the Western Vale, including a forecasted deficit of 90 pupil places by 2022/23 in Rhoose, a falling roll at Llancarfan Primary School, and providing a new school site reflective of 21st century standards with appropriate outdoor space and facilities to support learning and teaching.
- 3.5** Members of the community raised a number of concerns regarding the impact to their local areas, as well as raising additional questions about the proposal, while seeking to ensure their views were understood.
- 3.6** The Vale of Glamorgan 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.
- 3.7** As a result of feedback from the residents of the area, at the request of the Llancarfan Community Council, and to ensure the consultation document met statutory requirements, the Council considered it important to include greater detail in the consultation document and to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to consider this within a new consultation timeline.
- 3.8** The consultation documentation and associated Community Impact Assessment were redeveloped and a second consultation was held between 21 May and 9 July 2018 with prescribed consultees, in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2013.
- 3.9** Following consideration of the Consultation Report and referral to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration, Cabinet approved the recommendation to proceed to issue a statutory notice on the proposal (ref Cabinet Minute C441).

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- 3.10** A statutory notice was published on 5 November 2018. The statutory notice period of 28 days (including 20 school days), was closed on 3 December 2018. A copy of the notice is attached as at Appendix B.

4. Key Issues for Consideration

- 4.1** The Welsh Government issued a School Organisation Code in 2013 that came into effect on 1 October 2013. The Local Authority must “act in accordance with the Code” as determined by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
- 4.2** A second edition of the School Organisation Code was published in November 2018. However the second edition does not apply to this proposal as the consultation began prior to the introduction of the Code.
- 4.3** In line with the School Organisation Code (2013) requirements the statutory notice was published in English and Welsh on the Council's website and posted at the main entrances and in the area to be served by the proposed transferred school. The school was provided with hard copies of the notice to distribute to pupils, parents carers and guardians, governing body and staff members. Links to the notice were also sent via email.
- 4.4** On the day of the statutory notice being published, the following stakeholders received either a hard copy or were e-mailed a link to the Council's website together with an electronic copy of the document:
- Cardiff City Council, Bridgend County Borough Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council;
 - the Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area;
 - the Governing Body of the following schools;
 - Rhws Primary;
 - St Athan Primary;
 - Llanfair Primary;
 - St Nicholas Primary;
 - Whitmore High School;
 - Pencoedtre High School;
 - Llantwit Major Comprehensive;
 - Cowbridge Comprehensive School;
 - St Richard Gwyn;
 - Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg;
 - Stanwell;

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- St Cyres;
 - the Welsh Ministers;
 - Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area;
 - County Councillors representing the area;
 - Estyn;
 - the relevant teaching and trade unions representing staff;
 - Central South Consortium(Joint Education Service) - the relevant Regional Education consortium;
 - CSSIW South East;
 - the Council's Transportation Department;
 - the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales;
 - Llancarfan Community Council;
 - Passport to Play Rhws playgroup;
 - The Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)
 - Welsh Language Commissioner and RHAG.
- 4.5** All objections submitted during the notice period had to be made in writing or by email. By the end of the statutory notice period on 3 December 2018, the Council had received 102 objections.
- 4.6** Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the Council must publish a summary of the statutory objections and a response to those objections - the Objection Report. This is attached at Appendix C.
- 4.7** Under section 53 of School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, determination by the proposer must be made within 16 weeks (112 days) of the end of the objection period. The Council must therefore make a determination by 25th March 2019. Where the proposer fails to determine the proposal within the period of 16 weeks it is taken to have withdrawn the proposal and it is required to republish the proposals if it wishes to proceed.

Process

- 4.8** In determining the proposal the School Organisation Code 2013 states that decision makers:
- must consider whether there are any other related proposals;
 - must ensure that the statutory consultation has been conducted in accordance with the Code; <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/school-organisation-code/?lang=en>
 - must ensure that the proposal has been published in accordance with this Code and
 - the notice contains all the required information;

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- must consider the consultation document and consultation report;
 - must consider the objections and the objection report and any response to the notice supporting the proposals
- 4.9** The School Organisation Code clearly states that "where a local authority's proposals have received objections, and require determination under section 53 of the Act, the local authority must not approach the determination of these proposals with a closed mind. Objections must be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments in respect of the proposals and in light of the factors set out in section 1.3 - 1.6 of this code". The factors are as follows:
- Quality and standards in education.
 - Need for places and the impact and accessibility of schools.
 - Resourcing of education and other financial implications.
 - The three factors above are addressed further below.

Quality and standards in education

- 4.10** Members should place the interests of learners above all others. They should give paramount importance to the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of:
- Outcomes (standards and wellbeing);
 - Provision (learning experiences, teaching, care, support and guidance and learning environment); and
 - Leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management) at Llancarfan Primary School, paying particular attention to the impact of the proposals on vulnerable groups, including children with SEN.
- 4.11** Members should consider the ability of Llancarfan Primary School to deliver the full curriculum at each key stage of education (including the quality of curriculum delivery, and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is impacting on this).
- 4.12** In assessing the impact of proposals on quality and standards in education and how effectively the curriculum is being delivered, members should also consider any relevant advice from Estyn, refer to the most recent Estyn reports or other evidence derived from performance monitoring, and take into consideration any other available information on the school's effectiveness. Estyn's full assessment of the proposal is contained at Appendix D (i) and (ii).
- 4.13** In this case, the proposal has been identified as having the following effects:
- (a) An extended range of 3-11 with the inclusion of nursery school provision enhances the provision available to parents and offers fewer transitions for pupils.
 - (b) The school would be able to incorporate provision for 3 and 4 year olds in a high

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quality Early Years and Foundation Phase setting. A nursery would enable a seamless transition for nursery age children into the reception class of the school, and sustain pupil numbers for the future.

- (c) Single entry classes will improve overall pupil outcomes and reduce the complexities of catering to pupils of varying ages within the same class. Mixed classes are currently in use at Llancarfan Primary School.
- (d) Outdoor facilities incorporated into the new school site would enhance the offer available to pupils with a flat playground and playing field, as the current facilities are not fit for purpose.
- (e) The condition of Llancarfan Primary School is good, with a low level of investment required, but it does not meet 21st century school design requirements, including both outdoor and indoor facilities. The learning environment is a key element in supporting teachers and learners in achieving the aims of the national curriculum, the Digital Competency Framework, and both the Council's and Welsh Government's ambitions for 21st century learning technologies and pedagogy.
- (f) Estyn's response to the second consultation highlights that the Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposals, and that the proposals are likely to at least maintain the standard of educational provision in the area. Estyn also stated that the proposal would support continuity and progression in pupils' learning experiences from pre-school age to statutory school age, and that the addition of outdoor facilities is likely to enhance pupils' wellbeing through providing better opportunities to develop their physical skills and health. In addition, access to high-quality outdoor provision is a key principle of foundation stage pedagogy.
- (g) The proposal would provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential. It would see the establishment of a modern learning environment compliant with the Equalities Act 2010, enabling access for those with physical disabilities and better able to support those pupils with Additional Learning Needs.
- (h) Estyn has advised as part of their response to the consultation that "It is likely that extending the provision to include nursery would support continuity and progression in pupils' learning experiences from pre-school age to statutory school age. The addition of outdoor facilities is likely to enhance pupils' wellbeing through providing better opportunities to develop their physical skills and health. In addition, access to high-quality outdoor provision is a key principle of foundation phase pedagogy".
- (i) The proposal addresses the challenges associated with building bulletin regulations and required site space in establishing appropriate educational provision for additional pupil numbers emanating from Rhoose.
- (j) The proposal seeks to develop a long term solution which will sustain Llancarfan school in the future as well as meeting the projected increase in demand for school places in the area. It would equip the school to deliver the new curriculum

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and facilitate the schools implementation and embedding of the Digital Competence Framework.

- (k) The school has clear vision for school improvement and commitment to improving outcomes for all pupils. The proposal would support the schools leadership in continuing to be highly effective and consistent, developing approaches to support learners throughout the extended foundation phase.
- (l) The proposed new school building is 210 pupils with a 48 place nursery. This is defined as a medium sized school in the Estyn report "School Size and Educational Effectiveness" December 2013 where it is noted that "small schools face greater pressures in areas of leadership and management, staff development and curriculum planning". A larger school will be able to provide a wider curriculum provision and a greater range of extra-curricular opportunities for pupils.

Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

4.14 Members should have regard to whether the proposals ensure sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality to that currently in place at Llancarfan Primary School's present site, for existing and projected pupil numbers. Members should also have regard to the nature of journeys to school pursuant to the proposals, and resultant journey times for pupils, including ALN pupils. That includes whether primary school pupils will have one-way journeys in excess of 45 minutes.

4.15 In circumstances where an increase in capacity or age range is proposed, members should have regard to the evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places, with reference to the school's language category, designated religious character and gender intake. Members should also consider whether the proposals will improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010.

4.16 In this case, the proposals have been identified as having the following effects:

- (a) School places are limited within the Western vale and there is insufficient provision to meet forecasted demand in the Rhoose area. Provision for appropriate places is a key element of the proposal to transfer Llancarfan to a new site and increase capacity of the school to 210 places, with a 48 place nursery. The proposals would ensure that there was sustainable balance between supply and demand for primary school places within the Western Vale, and ensure that the Council met its statutory obligations with regard to school place planning.
- (b) A failure to increase provision in the area to meet the anticipated increase in demand would require 90 pupils to travel outside their local area to access a school with available space.
- (c) A new purpose-built site would address a number of issues which cannot be resolved on the current site given its constraints. That includes ensuring compliance with disability legislation, rectifying inadequate parking and improving health and safety. The new school site design will comply with current building

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regulations for disabled access, with parking and access into the school building as well as access throughout the school.

- (d) Journey times to the school will increase for a number of pupils. School transport would be provided in line with the Council's transport policy, which provides free home to school transport for primary age children who live 2 or more miles from their designated catchment area or nearest suitable school. It is anticipated that such provision would be made through 2 minibuses serving the catchment area. However, the need for this provision is to be assessed against a context where, if further school places were not available in Rhoose, 90 pupils would need to be transported outside the catchment area to schools with available space. Whilst some parents will no longer be able to walk their children to school, a school bus would be available for parents to utilise to facilitate the attendance of children at the school. Children would be able to travel together to school. There is a negative impact in terms of travel for those living in the current Llancarfan school catchment area and moving to the school site in Rhoose. Free school transport would be provided to those children living two or more miles to the school.
- (e) The Council has already received developer contributions for highway works and sustainable transport facilities in respect of the north-west development. Sustainable transport facilities include information, facilities, services or projects which provide or improve access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, motor cycles, taxis or car shares in the vicinity of the site and within the Rhoose ward boundary. This will include road safety measures in Rhoose.
- (f) Llancarfan Primary School is an English medium school, and the proposals do not seek to change this. Parental demand for Welsh medium primary education will continue to be provided through the catchment areas school Ysgol Dewi Sant. The Council has been very successful in increasing Welsh medium primary sector capacity within the Vale of Glamorgan under Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme.
- (g) The proposal being put forward is to build a new 210 place school building for Llancarfan Primary School, with the addition of a 48 part time nursery which would be located in Rhoose. It is proposed that all pupils, staff and governors from Llancarfan Primary School would be provided with a new school building. The building will be designed to improve accessibility and promote equality of opportunity for education for more pupils over an increased age range. It would provide the school with improved facilities which would enable them to promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with different protected characteristics. Specific consideration to feedback in relation to pupils with disabilities has been fed into the consultation document and in turn would be reflected in the design for the new building. There are no specific gender or religious issues associated with this proposal. The school is a community school and the aspect of the curriculum relating to religion and belief would not change as a result of this proposal. The school has 49% female pupils on roll and 51% male: that is the same percentage as the Vale-wide primary population. The proposal would have a neutral impact in terms of gender.

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Resourcing of education and other financial implications

- 4.17** Members should take into account the following factors relevant to the resourcing of education:
- (a) Whether the proposals will ensure a fairer and more equitable distribution of funding between mainstream schools within the Council's area. Proposals should not exacerbate uneven and unfair funding patterns, but should wherever possible contribute towards establishing a more equitable pattern of school funding.
 - (b) What effect the proposals will have on any surplus provision in the area.
 - (c) Whether proposals form part of the Council's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme, and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate through the removal of maintenance backlogs and school buildings which are inefficient or in poor condition.
 - (d) The recurrent costs of proposals over a period of at least 3 years and whether any necessary recurrent funding is available.
 - (e) Additional transport costs incurred as a result of proposals.
 - (f) The capital costs of proposals and whether the necessary capital funding is available.
 - (g) The scale of any projected net savings (taking into account school revenue, transport and capital costs).
 - (h) Whether schools affected would face budget deficits.
 - (i) Whether any savings in recurrent costs will be retained in the Council's local schools' budget.
- 4.18** In this case, the proposals have been identified as having the implications set out below.
- 4.19** It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school on a green field site, including the installation of utilities services and highways provision, will be £4.185M.
- 4.20** The Council is expected to receive £2.720M in WG Band B funding through the 21st Century Schools Programme. The balance will be funded through the Council's contribution outlined within the Capital Programme.
- 4.21** The scheme is wholly reliant on the build rate of the developers as the release of contribution is based on an estimated home occupation schedule.
- 4.22** Section 1.5 of the School Organisation Code (Wales) states that Local Authorities should look to recycle assets from any surplus school buildings and sites in their ownership into the overall improvement of their schools estate, rather than allocate those proceeds to projects outside the education portfolio, although these decisions ultimately rest with local authorities.

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- 4.23** As part of this proposal, any capital receipt yielded from the buildings or site of the existing school in Llancarfan would be retained within education, and would contribute to the costs of proposals which will promote effective management of school places as part of the Local Authority's 21st Century Schools capital investment scheme.
- 4.24** Beyond seeking a capital receipt from the land and buildings, there are currently no decisions regarding conditions of sale or planned use of land should the proposal be agreed and implemented.
- 4.25** This proposal is not aimed at establishing savings from its implementation. This proposal would however result in some savings for the school; the school currently pays for external use of sports facilities stemming from a lack of space on the schools' current site, which will no longer be required should the school's building and site be established meeting Welsh Government's Building Bulletin regulations. The school would receive additional revenue funding following the increase in pupil numbers, helping to sustain its viability should the proposal be implemented. Establishment of new community facilities as part of the school's new building would also provide the school with opportunities to generate additional income.
- 4.26** School transport would be provided in line with the Council's transport policy which provides free home to school transport for primary age children who live 2 miles or more from their designated catchment area or nearest suitable school. It is estimated that the cost of providing this transport would be in the region of £38,000 per annum that is likely to be two minibuses serving the catchment area. However, this is substantially less than the cost of transporting 90 pupils from Rhoose to access schools with available space. There could be additional transport implications from 2018/19, as children from the new development could be allocated a place at St Athan Primary School or an alternative school. This would be dependent on the number of school age children moving into the development requiring a local school place, as it is sometimes the case that school age children will continue to attend their current school rather than transferring to their local catchment school. However the location of the proposed new school buildings will make the school more accessible to the community in Rhoose, and have potential to reduce congestion at both school sites in Rhoose in the long term.
- 4.27** The staff at Llancarfan Primary School will continue to be employed to work at the school, on current terms and conditions with changes to staff contracts to reflect the change in the place of work.
- 4.28** These proposals form part of the 21st Century Schools programme. The establishment of a 3-11 year old phase primary school with nursery unit offers a more efficient and sustainable model to improve the delivery of education for the 21st Century, that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings.
- 4.29** The proposals will ensure that new buildings will meet modern building standards to reduce carbon emissions, meet BREEAM Excellence standards, and achieve the highest rating of A for the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).

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- 4.30** A minimum of 80% of services and material will be procured locally as part of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools programme.

Other general factors

- 4.31** Members should also take into account what impact the proposals will have on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds; and any equality issues, including those identified through the Equality Impact Assessment. A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment in this case is attached at Appendix E.

- 4.32** The findings of the Equality Impact Assessment are summarised below:

Age - Positive impact

- As the school on a new site would provide additional places for children of nursery school age then the proposal would provide a positive impact for children of that age bracket. There would also be a positive impact for all other primary age groups. The school would be able to provide sufficient places for primary school age children that would not be available without the new school building.
- However, it is noted that section 149, so far as relating to age, does not apply to the exercise of a function relating to the provision of education to pupils in schools (see paragraph 1 of Schedule 18 to the 2010 Act).

Disability - Positive impact

- There are no pupils with a disability which impacts on their mobility currently on roll at the school however the protected characteristics of children who will emanate from the new development in Rhoose are unknown at this stage.
- Based on the policies in place that would not change as a result of the move to a new school building, staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school and all people accessing the building will benefit from its accessible nature.
- The new school site design will comply with current building regulations for disabled access, with parking and access into the school building as well as access throughout the school. The current school site is not compliant with the Equalities Act 2010.

Gender reassignment, including gender identity – Positive impact

- Gender reassignment is not recorded for primary age pupils however individual pupils choosing to live other than at their birth gender are supported within Primary Schools.
- Under the proposal, staff would have access to improved, gender neutral facilities and would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act. Non-binary people, including staff, governors and members of the community accessing the facilities would benefit from the gender neutral adaptations to the school that have been identified above.
- None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their gender identity.

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Marriage and civil partnership – neutral impact

- None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their status in this regard. This information is not held at a directorate level for staff and governors however the proposal is designed to have a positive or neutral impact on those with protected characteristics accessing the new building. Pupils at the school are below the legal marriage age. Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the governing body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

Pregnancy and Maternity – neutral impact

- It is considered that there will not be a negative impact on pupils in this protected group as there is a minimal likelihood of pupils falling within this protected group due to the age range of the school. The provision of education for any pupil who were within this protected group would remain unaltered by the proposal.
- Staff who are currently on maternity leave or are pregnant at the point of the proposed transfer would be protected under the Equalities Act 2010.

Race – neutral impact

- The predominant ethnicity at Llancarfan Primary School is currently White – Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish British with 97% of children falling within this category. This is significantly higher than the average (90% White British) across the wider Vale primary school population.
- As the children will be transferring to the new school building, it is unlikely that the proposal will change the ethnic profile of the school although the characteristic of children emanating from the new development in Rhoose being built at this time is unknown at this stage.
- All staff, pupils and governors would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

Religion and belief – neutral impact

- Respect for all religious and non-religious beliefs would not change due to this proposal. This school is a community school and the aspect of the curriculum relating to religion and belief would not change as a result of this proposal.

Sex – neutral impact

- Children of both sexes would be treated and taught equally as they are currently should the proposal go ahead and the school moved to a new site. There would be no different methods of teaching or curricula for either sex.
- Pupils would continue to be supported to enable equal access to PE and where lessons are segregated by sex/gender they would be enabled to participate in the activity which corresponds to their gender identity if this is what they request. The aspect of the curriculum management relating to any identified gender based attainment gap would not change as a result of this proposal.

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Sexual orientation – neutral impact

- Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. Under Estyn's Framework for School Inspections, Llancarfan Primary School is required to focus on the needs of pupils and parents and will be evaluated on the extent to which schools provide an inclusive environment which meets the needs of all pupils irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. This would not change should the school move to a new site.
- Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

Welsh Language - neutral impact

- Parental demand for Welsh medium primary education will continue to be provided through the catchment area school Ysgol Dewi Sant.
- Llancarfan Primary School is an English medium school and this proposal does not seek to change this. The Council was very successful in increasing Welsh medium primary sector capacity within the Vale of Glamorgan under Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme. In order to build on this success, a key priority for Band B is to increase capacity in the Welsh medium secondary sector as well as consideration of further developments at primary level. In order to ensure that the Council actively addresses the Welsh Government target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050, the Council will be undertaking an active programme of addressing need with regard to Welsh and English medium education.
- Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.
- None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their status in this regard.
- There is no real risk of direct or indirect discrimination as the Council is pursuing a legitimate aim (improving the quality and efficiency of education in the Council's area) and the decision to publish the proposals to make regulated alterations is a proportionate means of achieving that aim.

4.33 A key driver to all school reorganisation proposals is to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in all phases and help to narrow the inequalities in achievement between advantaged and disadvantaged groups and individuals (including those from economically deprived backgrounds). These proposals have the potential to ensure that all children in the area, including those from economically deprived backgrounds, have access to a broad curriculum and are supported to achieve their full potential through the provision of inspirational learning environments which are built for purpose.

4.34 The new and refurbished buildings will be fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010. The newly constructed building will meet current building standards and

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will be better able to meet the needs of those with disabilities and/or Additional Learning Needs, including provision for better physical accessibility.

Specific factors to be taken into account for proposals to add or remove nursery classes

- 4.35** In accordance with paragraph 1.8 of the Code, Members should take into account the standard of nursery education and the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered, both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places; whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area; the levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character; the effect of the proposals on other institutions, including private and third sector providers; and the extent to which proposals will integrate early years education with childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach.
- 4.36** In this case, the proposal has been identified as having the following effects:
- (a) The proposal will address the need for nursery places in the area as a result of the increased demand from the new housing development in the area
 - (b) The Council believes this is a unique opportunity to not only move Llancarfan Primary School into a new 21st Century building but to also accommodate children from the housing development In Rhoose. Standards should at least be maintained, if not improve as a result of the proposal.
 - (c) The overall number of nursery places required will increase in the area by approximately 70 places taking into account of the new housing development planned. The Council expects the additional demand to be accommodated at both Rhws and Llancarfan Primary Schools.
 - (d) There is a private nursery provider in the Rhoose area that currently operates in tandem with nursery provision at Rhws Primary School. Additional provision in the area could potentially affect playgroup numbers in future as a result of parental preference.
 - (e) The proposals are consistent with an integrated approach, by providing for a single institution giving educational provision from the ages 3-11.

Objections

- 4.37** In accordance with the Act (2013), Cabinet are required to give full consideration to the objections received to the proposal. A number of key issues were raised during the objection period. These are contained in the Objection Report which details the objections received and the Council's responses to these concerns.
- 4.38** Following careful planning and considered management, there is no reason why the implementation of this proposal would not be able to at the very least maintain the current level of provision, however it is anticipated that this proposal would significantly enhance the learning environments for pupils, and therefore contribute to raising standards.

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- 4.39** The objections received are, in the main, reflective of comments received and responded to during the consultation period. These comments will be familiar as members have already read the consultation responses contained in the consultation report.
- 4.40** Members are reminded that an individual is able to resubmit their previous comments as an objection. Therefore members should ensure that these comments submitted as objections are reconsidered.
- 4.41** All objections received during the objection period have been made available in the Members room at The Vale of Glamorgan Council Offices, Holton Road, Barry together with the consultation report for further perusal.
- 4.42** Of the 102 responses, five themes referred to issues not raised previously and responded to in the consultation report. These have been addressed in the Objection Report as follows:
- Issue 7- Previous concerns not responded to satisfactorily/ ignored
Issue 8- travel distances incorrect
Issue 9 - Reimburse parents that funded school hall
Issue 11 - Abracadabra playgroup wasn't included in the consultation process
Issue 25 - Change in the intervention rate for Band B funding
- 4.43** This proposal will ensure that there is a sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places within the Western Vale, and ensures the Council meets its statutory obligations with regard to school place planning. The proposal aligns with both local and national education strategy and would provide a fit-for-purpose 21st century learning environment reflective of a new national curriculum and supporting Welsh Government's 'Education in Wales: Our national mission 2017-2021'.

5. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 5.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 ("the 2015 Act") requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 5.2** To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the 2015 Act puts in place seven well-being goals on the Council. The 2015 Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two, these being:
- A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities

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- A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh Language
- A globally responsible Wales

5.3 The 2015 Act imposes a duty on all public bodies in Wales to carry out “sustainable development”, defined as being, "The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals". The action that a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development includes setting and publishing well-being objectives, and taking all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet those objectives.

5.4 The 2015 Act sets out five ways of working needed for the Council to achieve the seven well-being goals, these being:

- The importance of balancing short –term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.
- Considering how the Council’s objectives impact upon each of the wellbeing goals listed above.
- The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the Council services.
- Acting in collaboration with other persons and organisations that could help the Council meet its wellbeing objectives.
- Acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.

5.5 This proposal has met the five ways of working by:

- Responding to the need to ensure that there is a well-managed balance of supply and demand of school places within the Western Vale as a result of planned housing developments. It is recognised that the changing demographics in the Vale of Glamorgan will significantly affect the demand for our services. Short term and long term need and the assessment of demographic increases is an important aspect of the Council’s strategic planning responsibilities.
- Developing schools that will have an environment reflective of national mission and evolving curriculum.
- Working towards ensuring that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. This ambition is achieved by ensuring that schools remain sustainable, reflects the needs of local communities and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.
- Committing to developing a school site that would work with Forest School Wales to ensure that there is sustainable Forest School provision supported by a national network that will nurture the development of projects, offer advice, provide resources, guide best practice and provide continuing professional development at the school.

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- Contributing towards a healthier Wales by supporting sustainable transport strategies. The Council has already received developer contributions for highway works and sustainable transport facilities in respect of the north-west housing development in Rhoose. Sustainable transport facilities include information, facilities, services or projects which provide or improve access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, motor cycles, taxis or car shares in the vicinity of the site and within the Rhoose ward boundary.
- Contributing towards a prosperous Wales by committing to working with Welsh Government on the 21st Century Schools Programme. The 21st Century Schools and Education Programme in the Vale of Glamorgan will drive greater social value while delivering on the Welsh Government's community benefits through its investment in education infrastructure and employment. Specifically, it will increase contributions to education, training and skills across the Vale and the region and commit to resourcing local tradespeople and resources wherever possible
- Delivering rigorous consultation. A full list of consultees was invited to respond, including young people and their families, community groups and professional bodies. The issues were fully considered including at an extraordinary Learning & Culture Scrutiny Committee. Some cabinet members including the Leader of the Council were present at this Scrutiny Committee in order to listen to concerns. There was also a high level of direct correspondence between Council and the public during the consultation period and beyond. All comments were available to all decision makers as part of the process for consideration.
- Ensuring that schools are of the right size, in the right places and serving the educational needs of their local communities as part of the school organisation process.

6. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 6.1** It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school on a green field site, including the installation of utilities services and highways provision, will be £4.185M.
- 6.2** The Council has received £349k from land south of the Railway Line, and £131k from land north-west of the Railway Line. A further £1.159M is due from the development at land north-west of the Railway Line upon the occupation of 100 dwellings which, dependent upon build rates, is anticipated by summer 2019. There will be a total of £1.639M in Section 106 contributions for educational facilities in Rhoose from these two developments, once the final instalment has been received.
- 6.3** The Council is expected to receive £2.720M in WG Band B funding through the 21st Century Schools Programme. The balance will be funded through the Council's contribution outlined within the Capital Programme.
- 6.4** The scheme is wholly reliant on the build rate of the developers as the release of contribution is based on an estimated home occupation schedule.

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- 6.5** Section 1.5 of the School Organisation Code (Wales) states that Local Authorities should look to recycle assets from any surplus school buildings and sites in their ownership into the overall improvement of their schools estate, rather than allocate those proceeds to projects outside the education portfolio, although these decisions ultimately rest with local authorities.
- 6.6** As part of this proposal, any capital receipt yielded from the buildings or site of the existing school in Llancarfan would be retained within education, and would contribute to the costs of proposals which will promote effective management of school places as part of the Local Authority's 21st Century Schools capital investment scheme.
- 6.7** Beyond seeking a capital receipt from the land and buildings, there are currently no decisions regarding conditions of sale or planned use of land should the proposal be agreed and implemented.
- 6.8** This proposal is not aimed at establishing savings from its implementation. This proposal would however result in some savings for the school; the school currently pays for external use of sports facilities stemming from a lack of space on the schools' current site, which will no longer be required should the school's building and site be established meeting Welsh Government's Building Bulletin regulations. The school would receive additional revenue funding following the increase in pupil numbers, helping to sustain its viability should the proposal be implemented. Establishment of new community facilities as part of the school's new building would also provide the school with opportunities to generate additional income.
- 6.9** School transport would be provided in line with the Council's transport policy which provides free home to school transport for primary age children who live 2 miles or more from their designated catchment area or nearest suitable school. It is estimated that the cost of providing this transport would be in the region of £38,000 per annum that is likely to be two minibuses serving the catchment area. However, this is substantially less than the cost of transporting 90 pupils from Rhose to access schools with available space.

Employment

- 6.10** The staff at Llancarfan Primary School will continue to be employed to work at the school, on current terms and conditions with changes to staff contracts to reflect the change in the place of work.

Legal (Including Equalities)

P (1) Education Act 1996: General Duties

- 6.11** Part 1 of the Education Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act") imposes a number of general duties on all local authorities in Wales. The general duty in section 13 of the 1996 Act is to contribute (so far as the Council's powers enable them to do so) towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by

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securing that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area.

6.12 Section 13A(3) of the 1996 Act states that a local authority in Wales must ensure that their relevant education functions and their relevant training functions are exercised by the authority with a view to promoting high standards, and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom the subsection applies, including those who are of compulsory school age or are below school age and are registered as pupils at schools maintained by the authority.

6.13 Section 14 of the 1996 Act then provides that the Council shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education and secondary education are available in the Council's area. Schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity for appropriate education. Appropriate education means education which offers such variety of instruction and training as may be desirable in view of (a) the pupils' different ages, abilities and aptitudes; and (b) the different periods for which they may be expected to remain at school, including practical instruction and training appropriate to their different needs.

(2) School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

6.14 Part 3 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ("the 2013 Act") is concerned with school organisation. The Welsh Ministers have issued the School Organisation Code ("the Code"). Local authorities must, when exercising functions under Part 3 of the 2013 Act, act in accordance with any relevant requirements contained in the Code, and must have regard to any relevant guidelines contained in it. A copy of the Code is found here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/1/contents/enacted>. The key provisions are summarised in (3) below.

6.15 Chapter 2 of Part 3 of the 2013 Act deals with school organisation proposals. An alteration which is a "regulated alteration" in relation to the type of school in question may be made to a maintained school only in accordance with Part 3 of the 2013 Act. The term "regulated alteration" is defined in Schedule 2 to the Act. The following changes are "regulated alterations":

- The transfer of a school to a new site is a regulated alteration (unless a main entrance of the school on its new site would be within one mile of a main entrance of the school on its current site) (see paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act).
- The alteration by a year or more of the lowest age of pupils for whom education is normally provided at the school is also a regulated alteration (see paragraph 5 of Schedule 2 to the Act); and
- The enlargement of the premises of the school which would increase the capacity of the school by at least 25% or 200 pupils as compared with the school's capacity on the appropriate date is also a regulated alteration (see paragraph 10 of Schedule 2 to the Act)

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- 6.16** Under section 42(1) (a) of the 2013 Act, a local authority has the power to make proposals to make a regulated alteration to a community school.
- 6.17** Section 48(2) of the 2013 Act provides that before publishing such proposals, a proposer (in this case, the Council) must consult on its proposals in accordance with the Code. The consultation document must be issued during the term time of the schools affected and consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days.
- 6.18** The proposer must publish a report on the consultation it has carried out in accordance with the Code. The consultation report must summarise each of the issues raised by consultees, responding to these by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons; and setting out Estyn's view (as provided in its consultation response) of the overall merits of the proposal.
- 6.19** If a local authority decides to proceed with a proposal to make regulated alterations to a maintained school, it must publish proposals to that effect in accordance with the Code (section 48(1)). The proposal must be published by way of statutory notice. Chapter 4 of the Code sets out specific requirements as to how statutory proposals must be published. Proposals must be published on a school day and the objection period must include 15 school days (in addition to the day on which it is published).
- 6.20** Section 49 of the 2013 Act makes provision for any person to object to proposals published under section 48 within the objection period of 28 days. The Council must then publish a summary of all objections made to the proposal and its response to those objections before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of the Council's determination.
- 6.21** The local authority proposer must then determine whether the proposals should be implemented. Where a local authority's proposals have received objections, and require determination, those objections will be carefully considered before a final determination is made. A further report to Cabinet will be prepared before any such determination is made. This determination must take place before the end of 16 weeks beginning with the end of the objection period.

(3) The Code

- 6.22** The Code contains the following elements:
- It imposes requirements in accordance with which relevant bodies (including all local authorities in Wales) must act. Where mandatory requirements are imposed by the Code or by the 2013 Act or another statute or statutory instrument, it is stated that the relevant bodies must comply with the particular provision. Where practices are prohibited, it is stated that the relevant bodies must not use this practice.
 - It includes statutory guidance to which the Council must have due regard and sets out the policy context, general principles and factors that should be taken into account by those bringing forward proposals to reconfigure school provision and by those responsible for determining proposals. Where guidance is given by the Code, it

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is stated that relevant bodies should follow this guidance unless they can demonstrate that they are justified in not doing so.

- Paragraph 1.1 of the Code sets out the key background principles and policies, which should be taken into account by the Council in developing school organisation proposals. These include:
 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - A living language: a language for living – Welsh Language Strategy 2012-2017
 - Welsh- medium Education Strategy;
 - One Wales: One planet, a new sustainable development scheme for Wales May 2009 or any successor strategy;
 - Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (issued February 2011 Information document number 95/2011), or any successor strategy;
 - Faith in Education.
 - In addition, when developing school organisation proposals, the local plans to which Council should have regard include the following:
 - Local plans for economic or housing development;
 - Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (made under part 4 of the 2013 Act);
 - Children and Young People’s Plans (or successor plans)
 - 21st Century Schools – Capital Investment Programme and the relevant wave of investment.
 - Finally, the Council should have regard to the following Welsh Government Guidance on related matters:
 - Learner Travel Operational Guidance. The guidance can be found on the Welsh Government website, Learner Travel, at
 - <https://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/allsectorpolicies/learner-travel/?lang=en>
 - Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales, Circular 09/2006. The circular can be found on the Welsh Government website, Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales, at <https://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/circulars/0906measuringcapacity/?lang=en>
- 6.23** Chapter 1 lists a number of factors which should be taken into account by relevant bodies, including the Council, when exercising their functions of preparing and publishing school organisation proposals or approving/determining them. These factors include:
- Quality and standards in education (looking at outcomes, provision, leadership and management) at the school which is the subject of the proposals, and at any other school or educational institution which is likely to be affected. The Code states that local authorities should place the interests of learners above all others. The Code states that relevant bodies should also consider the ability of the school which is the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education. This consideration should include the quality of curriculum delivery and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is

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impacting on this. In assessing the impact of proposals on quality and standards in education and how effectively the curriculum is being delivered, relevant bodies should consider any relevant advice from Estyn, refer to the most recent Estyn reports or other evidence derived from performance monitoring and take into consideration any other generally available information available on a school's effectiveness.

6.24 The need for places and the impact on accessibility of Schools:

- Local authorities must ensure that there are sufficient schools providing primary and secondary education for their area. Local authorities must ensure that they plan thoroughly and engage fully with relevant partners. Where an increase in capacity or age range expansion is proposed, a local authority must ensure that there is evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places, with reference to the school's language category, religious character and gender intake. The demand for additional provision of any type in an area should be assessed and evidenced. Local authorities must also consider whether proposals will improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010. Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals derive from the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 which was enacted on 1 October 2013.

Public Sector Equality Duty

6.25 The public sector equality duty (see section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) came into force in April 2011. Public authorities like the Council are required, in carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the equality needs set out under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 to:

- eliminate discrimination (both direct and indirect), harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.26 Direct discrimination occurs if, because of a protected characteristic, a local authority treats a person less favourably than it treats or would treat others.

6.27 Indirect discrimination occurs if a local authority applies to a person a provision, criterion or practice which is discriminatory in relation to a relevant protected characteristic of that person ("B"). A provision, criterion or practice is discriminatory if:

- The local authority applies, or would apply it, to persons with whom B does not share the characteristic;
- It puts, or would put, persons with whom B shares the characteristic at a particular disadvantage when compared with persons with whom B does not share it;
- It puts, or would put, B at that disadvantage, and

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- The local authority cannot show it to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
- 6.28** In short, indirect discrimination would arise if a local authority applied the same provision, criterion or practice to everyone, but it put those in a certain protected group at a “particular disadvantage” when compared with persons not in that group. Even if a “particular disadvantage” arises, indirect discrimination is not present if the provision, criterion or practice can be justified – i.e. if it is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. Members must pay due regard to any identified risk of such discrimination arising in respect of the decision before them. These matters are summarised in the Equality Impact Assessment appended to this report.
- 6.29** It is to be noted that section 149, so far as relating to age, does not apply to the exercise of a function relating to the provision of education to children in schools (see paragraph 1 of Schedule 18 to the 2010 Act).
- 6.30** Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity includes having due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people with a protected characteristic. Due regard must also be had to the need to take steps to meet the needs of such persons where those needs are different from those of persons who do not have that characteristic, and to encourage those who have a protected characteristic to participate in public life.
- 6.31** The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons include steps to take account of the persons’ disabilities.
- 6.32** Having due regard to “fostering good relations” involves having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 6.33** Complying with the PSED may involve treating some people better than others, so far as that is allowed by discrimination law.
- 6.34** The equality duty arises where the Council is deciding how to exercise its statutory powers and duties under the 1996 Act and the 2013 Act.
- 6.35** The Council’s duty under section 149 of the Equality Act is to have “due regard” to the matters set out in relation to equalities when considering and making decisions in relation to its statutory duties under those Acts. Accordingly due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality, and foster good relations must form an integral part of the decision-making process. Members must consider the effect that implementing a particular decision will have in relation to equality before making a decision. The Council must have an adequate evidence base for its decision making. This can be achieved by means including engagement with the public and interest groups, and by gathering details and statistics on those who use Llancarfan Primary School currently, and how the school is used. The potential equality impact of the proposals has been assessed in the appended Equality Impact Assessment, and a summary of the position has been set out in the section “Other general factors” above, starting at paragraph 4.32. A careful consideration of this assessment is one of the key ways in which Members can show “due regard” to the relevant matters.

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- 6.36** Where it is apparent from the analysis of the information that the proposals would have an adverse effect on equality then reasonable adjustments should be made to avoid that effect (mitigation).
- 6.37** Members should be aware that the duty is not to achieve the objectives or take the steps set out in s.149. Rather, the duty on public authorities is to bring these important objectives relating to discrimination into consideration when carrying out its public functions (which includes the functions relating to school reorganisations). “Due regard” means the regard that is appropriate in all the particular circumstances in which the authority is carrying out its functions. There must be a proper regard for the goals set out in s. 149. At the same time, Members must also pay regard to any countervailing factors, which it is proper and reasonable for them to consider. Improving the quality of education in the Council’s area, making schools more efficient, budgetary pressures and practical factors will often be important, which are addressed above in section 4 of this report. The weight of these countervailing factors in the decision-making process is a matter for Members in the first instance.
- 6.38** The duty covers the nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. However, section 149, so far as relating to age, does not apply to the exercise of a function relating to the provision of education to pupils in schools (see paragraph 1 of Schedule 18 to the 2010 Act).
- 6.39** The Council must also comply with the specific equality duties imposed by the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties)(Wales) Regulations 2011, SI 2011/1064 (“the Regulations”), particularly regulation 8 (imposing specific duties to make arrangements for assessing the impact of its policies/practise and monitoring of the same).

7. Background Papers

- 7.1** Individual objections to the statutory notice have been made available in the member's room.



DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS

Objection Report

On the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale by:

- 1. Creating a new 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class for Llancarfan Primary School in Rhoose.**
- 2. Transferring staff and pupils from the existing Llancarfan Primary School building into the new school building.**
- 3. Changing the age range of Llancarfan Primary School from 4-11 years to 3-11 years.**



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Background

The Council undertook two consultations exercises on the proposal from 5 March 2018 to 20 April 2018 and 21 May 2018 to 9 July 2018.

In March 2018, the Council launched a consultation aimed at taking a holistic view of primary school provision in the Western Vale. The aim of the consultation was to inform the community about the school re-organisation proposal being put forward under section 2.2 of the School Organisation Code and referred to as regulated alterations as follows:

- a) a regulated alteration to Llancarfan Primary School to move the site of the school from Llancarfan to a newly constructed school building on land north of the railway line in Rhoose;
- b) a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llancarfan Primary School at the new site from 126 to 210 places; and
- c) a regulated alteration to alter the lowest age range of pupils through the addition of a new nursery class containing 48 part time places.

During the consultation members of the community raised a number of concerns regarding the impact to their local areas, as well as raising additional questions about the proposal, while seeking to ensure their views were understood.

As a result of feedback the Council undertook a second consultation that commenced on the 21 May 2018. The Council considered it important to include greater detail in the consultation document and to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to consider this within a new consultation timeline.

The consultation exercises explained the Council's proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the rural vale.

The consultation process followed Welsh Government guidelines and was an opportunity for local people to learn about the proposal and for the Council to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be taken into account before decisions are made.

Consultation Report

A consultation report was published following the consultation exercise. The consultation report was considered by the Council's Cabinet on 17 September 2018 who agreed to the publication of the consultation report.

Statutory Notice

The recommendation to publish a statutory notice was presented to Cabinet on the 17 September and was referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration on the 1 October 2018. The publication of a statutory notice on the proposal was further considered by Cabinet on the 15

October 2018 who agreed to the publication of statutory notice on the proposal.

The statutory notice on the proposal was published on 5 November 2018 for a period of 28 days to allow for objections. The statutory notice period expired on 3 December 2018.

The notice was published on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website (www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) and posted at the main entrances of the school and in the area to be served by the proposed new location of the school. Copies of the notice were provided to the school for distribution to pupils, parents, carers and guardians, governors and staff members. All other organisations and consultees required under the School Organisation Code 2013 were either provided with a hard copy or e-mailed a link to the published notice on the council's website. All email recipients were provided with a copy of the letter and notice as an attachment to the email as well as a link to the notice on the website.

Where objections are received to the statutory notice, an objection report must be published summarising the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections.

Objections to the proposal

The authority received 102 individual objections by the statutory notice closing date. A summary of the key themes and issues raised by respondents and the response from the Vale of Glamorgan Council can be found at Annex A. A copy of the consultation report can be found at Annex B and the Community Impact Assessment at Annex C.

The objections received are, in the main, reflective of the comments received during the consultation period. These comments will be familiar as members have already read the consultation responses contained in the consultation report. Members are reminded that an individual is able to resubmit their previous comments as objections. Therefore, members should ensure that these comments submitted as objections are reconsidered.

All objections received during the objection period have been made available in the Members room at The Vale of Glamorgan Council Offices, Holton Road, Barry, together with the consultation report for further perusal.

Objection theme 1

Respondents consider that the proposal is a school closure that is being referred to as a migration or transfer. Some objectors considered it hypocritical to call it a school transfer, stating that it is a school closure.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 18, page 17.

The term migration was used in the first consultation exercise. In recognition of some confusion being expressed with regard to this term, the second consultation exercise better reflects the terminology set out in the School Organisation Code 2013 as a the regulated alteration of Llanccarfan Primary School, moving from the existing school site to a new site.

The Council is not proposing to close Llanccarfan Primary School. The proposal is to move the existing school to a new site with an improved school building and increased capacity, as well as an extended age range. A regulated alteration of a school falls under the School Organisation Code, statutory code document no: 006/2013. As a regulated alteration, this proposal would retain the existing school, its staff, pupils and governors. The name of the school would remain the same and all staff, governors and pupils would transfer to the new building.

Objection theme 2

Alternative proposals not considered. Respondents suggest that alternative options have not been considered and that Cabinet have failed to explore alternatives with the local community. They contended that the Council has not adequately investigated any alternatives and that further thought should be given to alternative actions.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 19, page 18, and issue 20, page 21.1

Alternatives to the proposal were considered and were included in greater detail in the second consultation document. These are outlined below.

Extending Llanccarfan Primary School

Llanccarfan Primary School would be expanded to a one form entry school with a 48 place nursery to accommodate the forecasted increase in pupil numbers within the Western Vale. This option would require expansion of the existing school on its existing site.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- The site is a constrained site and too small to expand to meet requirements. Building Bulletin 99 (adopted by the Welsh Government for the 21st Century schools programme) provides a formula for calculating minimum school site areas. For 126 children the required site area should be from 6736m² to 7540m². However the school site is smaller than the recommended site area at 3,700m². This compares to the recommended 10,000m² for a 210 place school.
- The confined site is also sloping on a significant proportion of the site which further limits the possibilities to expand the school on the current site or to provide sports pitches or external learning areas on the school site. A multi-storey building could be built on the site but this is not in keeping with the area and is highly unlikely to be supported by the planning department, or local residents.
- The school is on a small site, slightly offset by the use of the adjacent tennis club courts. The four separate buildings and small sloping site do not meet 21st Century School design guidance standards for primary schools which have been used for all new builds completed through the 21st Century Schools programme.
- The additional space would be required to accommodate increasing pupil numbers from the Rhoose area. Travel to the school would be difficult and would contribute to congested access through the village and lanes leading to Llancarfan.
- 21st Century Schools comprise a fully accessible (Equalities Act 2010) one or two storey building providing all the required educational functions within a single building set in grounds meeting current outdoor curriculum needs. It would not be possible to achieve this with the existing site constraints in Llancarfan. In order to secure 21st Century School funding from Welsh Government, it is a requirement that the 21st Century school building protocols be met.
- There is insufficient access and space on the existing site to maintain the existing school whilst building works for a new school were undertaken.

Extending Rhws Primary School

Rhoose Primary School would be expanded on its current site to include the addition of an 8 classroom extension and dining hall. This would require a further building to be built adjacent to the 2009 extension alongside the remodelling of existing class spaces and extension to the existing nursery facilities.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- The additional buildings will be built on existing playing fields leaving the site looking and feeling overcrowded;
- Design restrictions and delay could be caused by the grade 2 listing of the existing school building;
- Initial feasibility work has highlighted that because of the limited outside space available at the school, the site will be deemed too small as calculated by Building Bulletin 99 Briefing Framework for Primary Schools Projects. The Bulletin states that the area required for a 630 capacity primary school plus nursery is 28,650 m². The area of the Rhoose Primary School site is 14,600 m² and is therefore 14,050 m² short of the required space for a 630 place primary school. This would limit the design and site layout for any proposed extension;
- Under the Building Bulletin requirements, the Rhws Primary School site is currently too small for the current population of the school. A school with capacity for 375 children plus a nursery would require between 16,315 and 18,115 m². The current area at Rhws Primary is 14,648, currently falling below the minimum standard.
- By extending capacity at the school the current traffic congestion in the village will increase at key points during the day;
- There is no opportunity to address half form entry challenges at Llancarfan Primary School, or the projected fall in pupil numbers;
- Building on the existing site would cause disruption to learning for at least 9 months as not all of the work could be undertaken during school holidays. This could affect learning outcomes;
- The enlarged school would be too large causing a situation of surplus capacity in 2021 of 19%. Parents from the new developments may also choose to allow their children to remain at their existing schools. This would mean that not all of the predicted demand is realised in the short term which would increase the potential for surplus capacity in the school. When building or extending schools it is considered necessary to extend or build in multiples of 30 for a one, two and three form entry school of seven year groups, reception to year 6. This is a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery that better manages class organisation, school structure, curriculum planning, negates mixed age teaching and assists with managing statutory class size limits of 30 children.

Building a new school in Rhoose while making no changes to Llancarfan Primary School

A new 210 place school would be built on a 1 hectare site in the Rhoose Point development.

No change would be required to the current facilities or capacity at the existing Rhws Primary School, but work would be undertaken to address the issues highlighted in the 2014 condition survey.

It is anticipated that the new school would be federated with the current Rhoose Primary school. The federation would benefit from sharing a high quality Headteacher, leadership team and governing body, allowing for additional flexibility and resource sharing enabling additional cost savings. The schools would remain separate, maintaining their own individual budget allocations and would report results separately.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- Given current projected demand of 135 children, a new 210 place school would introduce significant surplus spaces, and would not represent effective management of school places or resources.
- There is no potential to address half form entry challenges at Llancarfan Primary School.
- The creation of a federation between the new and existing school will require excellent leadership. Further succession planning will need to be incorporated to ensure that this relationship is sustained into the medium and long term.
- Leadership will need to manage the two schools across sites which would introduce additional complexity.
- Additional revenue funding of approximately £725k would be required to operate a 210 place school. This would need to be found from within the current Individual Schools' Budget, thereby reducing the funding available for other schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Reduce Rhws Primary to 210 places, along with the addition of a new 210 place school in Rhws on the land north-west of the railway line, and leaving Llancarfan Primary School in Llancarfan.

The current capacity of Rhws primary is 375 places accommodated within 8 classrooms in the original school block, a two storey classroom block with four classrooms, a double classroom demountable and a separate nursery block. The current school number on roll is 374.

The capacity could be reduced to 315, one and half form entry school, by demolishing the demountable classroom building allowing this area to revert to a playground. The estimated cost would be in the region of £25k to remove the demountable.

When building or extending schools it is considered necessary to extend or build in multiples of 30 for a one, two and three form entry school of seven

year groups, reception to year 6. This is widely acknowledged to be a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery that better manages class organisation, school structure, curriculum planning, negates mixed age teaching and assists with managing statutory class size limits of 30 children.

A further reduction in capacity could be achieved through re-designating existing small or less suitable classrooms in the main building to reduce capacity to 210. These former classrooms could be used for a school library, IT suite, PPA room, SEN/group rooms or for peripatetic teaching e.g. music.

The capacity of the stand-alone nursery building would also need to be reduced to align with a new 1 form entry school. This could be achieved through re-designating areas at no cost.

The costs to re-designate classrooms would depend on the extent of the works carried out but could be up to £80k for sundry alterations to four classrooms if additional IT and power points are required along with new fixed and loose furniture and resources.

As a consequence of reducing the capacity, the school budget would also reduce and although staffing costs would be less. The building running and maintenance costs would not significantly reduce even if the demountable was removed.

Fundamentally, the demand for primary school places in the Rhoose area would not be met with insufficient primary school places to meet future demand. Based on current projections to include housing developments in Rhoose on land to the north west and land north-east of the railway line, there would be a requirement for 465 school places to meet demand over the next 5 year period. The model would only realise 420 school places to serve the area. There would be insufficient places to meet demand from new housing development in the area.

A reduction in school capacity would require the Council to follow a statutory process in terms of consultation and statutory proposals. It would be problematic to justify a proposal that does not meet demand for school places in an area, and it would not meet Welsh Government's criteria for 21st Century Schools funding.

Federation of the two schools would not be considered viable; the experienced Headteacher at Rhws Primary school has retired with a new, permanent Headteacher due to take up the role in January 2019. Federation requires an experienced Headteacher due to the complexities of associated with 2 or more schools on different sites.

The option would not make the Llancarfan transfer proposal achievable. The school is operating with a surplus capacity of 25 places (19.8%) that is set to increase to 28 places (22%) over the next five year period. The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to reducing the number of surplus places in schools in order to meet an agreed target put in place as a requirement of Welsh Government in order to ensure education is provided efficiently. Within the primary sector, this equates to an agreed target of no more than 10%.

A reduction in pupil numbers will have an adverse effect on the school being able to manage its budget. Reducing the number on roll to 210 would reduce the schools budget by £397,815 based on the AWPU (Age Weighted Pupil Unit). The school has a number of fixed costs totalling £267,515 which would not reduce with fewer pupils. These include headteacher, administration, caretaker, premises, service level agreements and external contracts. It is acknowledged that there would be a small reduction in energy costs as a result of removal of the demountable building.

The school receives an additional £48,677k on top of the £267,515k in fixed costs towards for premises and grounds which is based on pupil numbers. As above, the reduction in pupil numbers would reduce this element however the premises itself will not change. As a listed building, the school is also subject to additional maintenance.

A 210 place school averages fixed costs at £189,282k. This is £78,233 less expensive than the cost of running Rhws Primary 210 places, given the existing site.

In order to accommodate the need for pupil places, Rhws Primary could be reduced to 255 places, rather than 210. This would still yield a reduction in the schools budget by £289,320k.

The following table demonstrates the revenue implications based on the mainstream schools funding formula between the current proposal of transferring Llancafarn into a new 210 place school site in Rhws, and maintaining Rhws Primary School with its current capacity of 375 places, versus the option of maintaining Llancafarn Primary School, reducing the capacity of Rhws Primary School on its 25.

current site to 255 places and creating a new 210 place school in Rhws to accommodate forecasted demand: Current Proposal	Revenue Cost	Option Above	Revenue Cost
Rhws Primary (375)	£ 1,262,651	Llancafarn Primary	£ 544,631
New 210 School	£ 931,028	Rhws Primary (255)	£ 1,208,767
New 210 School		£ 931,028	
TOTAL	£ 2,193,679	TOTAL	£ 2,684,426
Difference		£ 490,747	

The table highlights that the option outlined above would increase revenue costs by £490,747 when compared to the current proposal of transferring

Llancarfan Primary into a larger site in Rhoose and maintaining Rhws Primary with its current capacity.

- A reduction from 374 pupils on roll to a new capacity of 255 children at Rhws Primary can only be achieved through a phased reduction in the admission number from the reception intake. The scale of the reduction would not be realised until approximately 2026 following appropriate consultation on the School Admissions Policy.
- The current admission number of Rhws Primary is 53. If the school were reduced to 255 places the admission number would become 36. An admission number of 36 makes it difficult to manage class organisation, school structure, curriculum planning, and would necessitate mixed age teaching when considering statutory class size limits of 30 children.
- New catchment areas would need to be drawn to divide the Rhws pupil population to correlate with the new capacities in both schools, or both schools share the catchment area, with prioritisation given to the new school for newcomers to the catchment area.

Maintaining the status quo

Llancarfan is comprised of a Victorian school building with a separate block built in 2000 and two separate demountable classroom blocks. The school is situated on a small school site with difficult access. The school has no nursery provision in place and has an admission number of 18 that requires mixed age teaching.

The school is situated in the village of Llancarfan providing a small school ethos. Children attend from a number of different areas of which 29% live within the school catchment area. The school has a catchment population of 55 pupils compared to a capacity for 126 children. The school is categorised as yellow in terms of the Welsh Government's National School Categorisation system. The school has a high revenue cost per child compared to the Vale average.

Maintaining the status quo is not considered to be a viable option. Based on current projections, by 2023 there is an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places in the Rhoose area. In addition, the number of children living in Llancarfan is decreasing which will further challenge the efficiency and sustainability of Llancarfan Primary School. By law, the Vale of Glamorgan Council is required to ensure adequate provision of school places within its borders to meet demand. Given the above this option is not considered to be a viable alternative.

The proposal and preferred option of a new building and location would allow for further development of a curriculum filled with rich experiences that challenge children, raise attainment and develop interpersonal relationships. This will support the development of nursery provision extending the school to deliver education to pupils aged 3 – 11, allowing all learners to achieve success.

Objection theme 3

Some respondents were concerned that the proposal takes away the rural ethos of the school and goes against the Welsh Assembly's Rural Education Plan. They contended that it is a small rural school and should stay that way. As an existing forest school, children will miss out should the proposal go ahead. Respondent felt that the recreational and /or extra-curricular facilities are not being appreciated e.g. the outdoor learning spaces, woodland streams etc.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this issue can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issues 39, page 41, and 44, page 45.

The Council fully appreciates that parents will have a multitude of factors they will wish to consider when applying for a school for their child. For parents wishing to access a rural school, there are other schools within rural locations that parents could choose to express a preference for such as Llangan, Llanfair, Pendoylan, Peterston-Super Ely, Llansannor, St David's, Wick & Marcross and St Brides C/W Primary School for example. Parents of course can express a preference for a particular school and over 90% of parents in the Vale of Glamorgan are successful in gaining a place at their first choice of school. However it can never be guaranteed that all children will receive an offer of a place at their first preference, even if they apply on time.

As part of the design process for new school buildings, all new school sites are provided with forest areas in order to ensure that the learning experience makes full use of the outdoors. The Council would work with Forest School Wales to ensure that there is sustainable Forest School provision supported by a national network that will nurture the development of projects, offer advice, provide resources, guide best practice and provide continuing professional development at the school. As at October 2018 Llancarfan Primary School confirmed that they did not meet the criteria of being a Forest School, however, staff were to attend an accredited training course. The location of a school is not a determining factor in establishing Forest School status.

There are a number of examples of modern schools that have highly effective outdoor areas that are used extremely well to benefit pupils' learning and education. Within the Vale, Ysgol Y Ddraig is the most recently built primary school and, within less than two years, the school's leaders and staff have developed highly effective outdoor learning areas.

The existing extra-curricular activities will be available at the transferred school. A larger school will be able to provide a wider curriculum provision and a greater range of extra-curricular opportunities for pupils. It is intended that all existing services for children, parents and the community would continue if the proposal were to go ahead.

Objection theme 4

Respondents queried pupil numbers, stating that predicted numbers are incorrect. They asserted that the Council has overestimated the demand for places from the new development.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this issue can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issues 6, page 8.

The Council's pupil projection methodology follows Audit Commission guidance and is based on the application of Catchment/Feeder school ratios and cohort survival rates (the relationship between the number of pupils in one cohort in one school year, and the same cohort in the following school year). Pupil projections are evidence based and also take account of current and historic school data, birth rates, planned housing developments and cross catchment movement. A 2013 Estyn Inspection of the Vale of Glamorgan's Services for Children and Young People reported "The authority has appropriate systems in place for forecasting pupil numbers and the requirements for school places using a suitable range of data".

In terms of housing developments, the projected number of pupils emanating from a development is calculated using a formula derived from census data of householders in the Vale of Glamorgan. The formula is contained within the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance for planning purposes. At nursery level this is calculated at 0.1 pupils per unit and at primary level 0.278 per unit. The developments of 350 houses would each yield 35 nursery and 97 primary age children. For the 700 units being built in total, the Council would expect around 70 nursery age children and 194 primary age children to be generated.

The pupil yield factor from housing developments in the Vale of Glamorgan is comparable to the methodology employed by other local authorities. The yield is dependent upon the demography of the Council area. The Council's methodology for calculating pupil yield from housing developments and pupil projections is consistent and the Council is satisfied that it reflects current conditions for school place planning purposes.

Objection theme 5

Respondents claimed that not all parents of pupils at Llancafán will choose to transfer their children to the new site. People will not move to the new school, and therefore the projections used are incorrect.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this issue can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 11, page 11.

The figures for the Llancafán Primary School on a new site in Rhose are based on the current pupil numbers for Llancafán Primary School. The Council acknowledges the survey undertaken to determine parents' wishes about moving to the school's new site. The survey can be viewed at annex G of the Consultation Report. However, whilst parents have the right to express parental preference and to change schools, there is no guarantee that those preferences can be met. The acceptance of an application to transfer to an alternative school is dependent upon the availability of school places at other schools. Whilst it is hoped that all pupils will continue to attend Llancafán Primary School following a move to a new site, it should be noted that availability of primary school places to facilitate a transfer to an alternative school is limited in the Western Vale.

Objection theme 6

Respondents claimed that communication on the consultation and proposals was not adequate, and that the proposal and consultation process flawed. Respondents felt that the Council failed in its duty of care to undertake proper consultation as per the Code.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 16, page 13.

The Council understands the concerns of parents, residents and pupils in terms of the first proposal being put forward by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The Council is satisfied that its duty of care under the School Organisation Code 2013 has been met, and in some instances exceeded. Although a Community Impact Assessment was not required, the Council did so in order to ensure that full consideration to the concerns of all consultees was given.

A number of concerns were raised during the first consultation exercise regarding the impact on the local area as well as raising additional questions about the proposal. A second consultation exercise was therefore undertaken to address concerns and to provide greater detail in the consultation document on the proposal providing stakeholders with an opportunity to consider this within a new consultation deadline. Some of the additional information addressed matters such as the future of the school building, an updated Community Impact Assessment, greater depth on the alternatives considered and adding clarity to the application of section 2.2 of the School Organisation Code (2013) as it relates to the regulated alteration of the school.

Estyn have been consulted on the proposal and have responded positively to the proposal indicating that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposal to create a new school building for Llancafán Primary School with the addition of 48 nursery places for pupils on a part-time basis, on a new site in Rhose.

The consultation process has been undertaken in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation Wales Act 2013 and compliance with the School Organisation Code 2013. Legal advice was sought in relation to the application of the School Organisation Code, with appropriate guidance from the Welsh Government where required.

The Council is satisfied that it has followed the statutory requirements laid out in the School Organisation Code for consultation on the proposal with all relevant stakeholders.

Whilst a high percentage of respondents to the consultation exercise were against the proposal, this does not detract from the main purpose of the proposal to ensure that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. This ambition is achieved by ensuring that schools remain sustainable, reflects the needs of local communities and are equipped with the best possible learning environments. The Council is confident that the proposal to move Llancafarn Primary School to a new site in Rhoose will support these aims.

Objection theme 7

Respondents reiterated that concerns raised had not been responded to satisfactorily and/or have been ignored.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

The consultation report provided a comprehensive response to the issues raised by consultees as part of the consultation process. Cabinet fully considered the report and agreed to the publication of a statutory notice on the proposal. Prior to agreeing to this, an additional level of consideration was provided by referring the proposal back to the Learning & Culture Scrutiny Committee for further debate. In order to ensure that all views were fully considered, some cabinet members including the Leader of the Council were present at this Scrutiny Committee in order to listen to their concerns directly. There was also a high level of direct correspondence between Council and the public during the consultation period and beyond, including opportunities for public questions at Full Council meetings and direct correspondence with members and officers. All comments were available to all decision makers as part of the process for consideration.

The Council believes that the consultation document provided sufficient reason and information to facilitate active engagement, consideration and response whilst complying fully with the School Organisation Code. Estyn commented that The Vale of Glamorgan Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposals to create a new school building for Llancafarn Primary School with the addition of 48 nursery places for pupils on a part-time basis, on a new site in Rhoose. It sets out the expected benefits and disadvantages of the proposal clearly. The local authority has considered provision for existing pupils in the current Llancafarn Primary School, its future pupils, as well as those in Rhws, Llanfair and St Nicholas Primary Schools. This is because the proposed realignment of existing catchment areas in Rhoose in order to accommodate the new school site, would affect pupils in

these schools. The local authority has taken appropriate account of educational standards, school surplus places, pupil travel arrangements, accessibility of provision, the quality and sustainability of school accommodation, financial investment and running costs.

Estyn further commented that the proposal has considered appropriately outcomes, provision and leadership at Llancaf Primary School. It has drawn on a suitable range of evidence to do this including a brief analysis of the school's performance data over the past 3 years

Objection theme 8

A respondent pointed out an error regarding travel distances. The route shown for Llanbethery does not show a route from Llanbethery but from the top of Pancross Hill in Llancaf.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

The two routes are outlined in the consultation report at issue 22, page 26 are for school transport purposes.

They indicate the suggested routes to be used for two minibuses serving the Llancaf and surrounding areas to the transferred school site in Rhose for school transport purposes. The distances for the suggested routes to the transferred site in Rhose are approximate measurements and any final routes and transport arrangements would be confirmed the term before these arrangements would take place.

Objection theme 9

Respondents felt that parents should be reimbursed for providing funding in support of the school (funding for the school hall).

Council's response to the concerns raised:

The school was awarded a WG grant under the class size reduction scheme some 18 years ago and wanted to use the funding to build a school hall. Additional support was provided by some parents and the wider community. Records at both the school and Council indicate that there are no signed agreements regarding funding or loans, and there is no evidence that any outstanding funds due to be reimbursed to parents. Any funds which may have been previously donated or invested into the school has been to the benefit of the pupils, and there are no statute of limitations in place in regard to repayment of any funding following a school reorganisation.

Objection theme 10

Respondents expressed concern that the Council is ignoring Welsh Government policy concerning rural schools. Respondents stated that Llancafán is a rural school and should be kept open.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 17, page 14.

The proposal is a regulated alteration of a school contained under section 2.2 of the School Organisation Code as follows and is not a school closure.

- a) a regulated alteration to Llancafán Primary School to move the site of the school from Llancafán to a newly constructed school building on land north of the railway line in Rhoose;
- b) a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llancafán Primary School at the new site from 126 to 210 places; and
- c) a regulated alteration to alter the lowest age range of pupils through the addition of a new nursery class containing 48 part time places.

The revised elements of the new Code that came into force on the 1 November 2018 in respect of the presumption against the closure of small rural schools does not apply to this proposal. Welsh Government have stated that where a proposer has commenced consultation before 1 November 2018 the proposal must be published and determined in accordance with the first edition of the Code to which this proposal applies.

Llancafán is one of 6 schools in the Vale's rural cluster of schools which has received funding from the Welsh Government for the past two years through the Small and Rural School Grant. The Amount of funding available to the Vale of Glamorgan from Welsh Government from this grant was £56,276 for 2018/19. The Council's bid on behalf of the rural cluster for this funding was successful, with each of the 6 school receiving £9,379 each.

Nevertheless, it is recognised that the removal of a school from its local community could have a similar impact as a school closure and this has therefore been considered in the Community Impact Assessment.

Whilst Llancafán has been included on a rural list, it would only be considered under this category if it were being considered for closure after the revised code came into force. This would not be the case for Llancafán Primary School under both the current and revised code as it is not being considered for closure.

Objection theme 11

Respondents indicated concern that Abracadabra playgroup wasn't included in the consultation process, and that the proposal would have a direct impact on its provision, and therefore the playgroup should have been consulted.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Abracadabra is located north east of Cowbridge, approximately 5.4 miles from Llancaiach and lies within the catchment area of Y Bont Faen Primary School in Cowbridge. The playgroup provides high quality childcare and education for under fives in Welsh St Donats. The playgroup is not within the catchment area for Llancaiach, and therefore does not identify it as being linked to the Llancaiach area. There are other playgroups that are in closer proximity to Llancaiach. No children living in the Llancaiach area attended the playgroup during the academic year 2017/18.

The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) were consulted on the proposal of which Abracadabra is a member of the partnership as a registered provider. The playgroup were therefore not excluded from consultation and there was no reason why they couldn't have provided an opinion on the proposal.

An independent nursery provider was consulted in Rhoose, who is not part of the EYDCP, as additional provision in the Rhoose area could potentially affect playgroup numbers in future as a result of parental preference, no other playgroups were considered to be directly affected by the proposal.

Objection theme 12

Respondents stated that a Community Impact Assessment (CIA) was absent from first consultation or missing vital points.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

A community impact assessment was undertaken as part of the first consultation exercise. A number of concerns were raised during the first consultation exercise regarding the impact on the local area as well as raising additional questions about the proposal. A second consultation exercise was therefore undertaken to address concerns and to provide greater detail in the consultation document on the proposal providing stakeholders with an opportunity to consider this within a new consultation deadline. Some of the additional information addressed matters such as the future of the school building, an updated Community Impact Assessment and reaffirming the regulated alteration of the school to a new site with greater detail on the alternatives that were considered.

In order to ensure feedback received regarding the impact this proposal would have on the community, a more robust Community Impact Assessment was developed in conjunction with the school and whereby meetings were also undertaken with local businesses. The Community Impact Assessment was

also revisited and further developed following the completion of the second consultation exercise.

The Councils duty of care is reflected within the Community Impact and Equality Impact Assessments although a Community Impact Assessment is not a statutory requirement for the proposal.

The Council is confident that the second consultation addressed many concerns raised in greater detail and provided some reassurance to the local community. A number of mitigating actions have been identified to limit the impact the proposal would have on the community.

Ref.	Mitigating Action	Desired Outcome
M1	Support the local community through the Council's Creative Rural Communities initiative. The Creative Rural Communities initiative has supported rural communities throughout the Vale of Glamorgan.	Creative rural Communities initiative supports business innovation to limit the impact this proposal will have on local businesses. The Creative Rural Communities initiative can also support the exploration of new ways of delivering services, facilities and activities that benefit the community.
M2	Provide the local community with information regarding the Council's Strong Communities Grant Fund.	The Strong Communities Grant Fund offers grants to Community Groups, the Voluntary Sector and Town and Community councils towards the cost of initiatives within the Vale of Glamorgan. The fund totals £672,000 over three years until March 2020. Organisations affected by the proposal would be able to apply for funding to support new initiatives to limit impact.
M3	Work with the school, governing body and PTA to support local organisations and the community.	Work with the school to support local organisations through signposting on the website and sending information to parents. The transferred school could continue the strong relationship with the Llancafarn community to limit the impact.
M4	Engagement with the school leadership, staff, governing body, parents, pupils and the community to develop plans for the new build.	Work closely with school leadership, staff, governing body, parents, pupils and the community to develop the plans for the new build to ensure the building meets their needs. This will ensure the new build forms part of the local and wider community by enhancing facilities available to the community. The engagement will also look to limit disruption due to increased traffic.

Objection theme 13

It is incorrect to assume that state of the art facilities will improve education. Respondents expressed a lack of evidence of improved educational standards.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 28, page 34 and also issue 40, page 41.

The consultation document set out the school's current targets for improvement and explains how the proposal would support the school to improve. Providing the appropriate resources and technologies to ensure we support learners to meet the objectives of the framework is an important consideration in developing our plans for new school buildings as part of our strategy for Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

The learning environment and infrastructure, including both indoor and outdoor facilities and learning space are key elements in supporting both teachers and learners. This is reflected in the aims of the national curriculum and Digital Competence Framework (DCF) and the Council's ambitions for 21st Century Schools with full access to 21st Century technologies. This is therefore part of a wider National strategy, and reflected in the National Mission. An additional benefit to this proposal is that the learning environment would require less time, creativity and intervention from staff to make it work. This would enable them to have a greater focus on achievement, attendance and pedagogy, in line with the targets listed above.

Additional responses were also provided at Issue 33, page 37 which provides extracts from an Audit Wales report published in May 2017 which also references the Salford University research "The Clever Classrooms Project".

Objection theme 14

Respondents felt that the current success of Llancarfan Primary School had been 'downplayed' during the course of the consultation.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 27, page 33.

Llancarfan Primary School has been evaluated as being able to benefit from additional support from the Central South Consortium, Local Authority and other schools.

The school has the following targets for improvement:

- Continue work on increasing the number of pupils achieving Level 5

- Implement strategies to ensure the performance of pupils at Level 5 is above the median and in line with performance in English and science.
- Improve attendance to move into a benchmark position above the median
- Continue to work with cluster schools on moving Good teaching to excellent
- Update its Self-Evaluation report in line with up-to-date standards
- Develop improved transition for Year 6 pupils
- Engage with NACE to further improve More Able and Talented practice across the school.

Under the national categorisation system for schools, all schools are placed in one of four support categories (green, yellow, amber or green) and one of 4 groups for ability to bring about improvement (A-D) with A being the highest for improvement capacity. The support category determines the level of support the school receives from the Central South Consortium. In 2017-18, Llancarfan was placed in a yellow support with the ability to bring about improvement judged as B, having previously been in an amber support category. In 2017-2018, 28 out of 56 schools in the Vale of Glamorgan were placed in a green support category. For further information about the categorisation scheme, please see Welsh Government's parents' guide to the National School Categorisation System:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150119-parents-guide-en.pdf>

This was discussed at the extraordinary Scrutiny Committee on 15 October 2018. An extract of these minutes is provided below for clarity.

“The Cabinet Member also wished to add that the aforementioned point of Llancarfan school being categorised as a yellow school was subjective and the Council was not in a position to confirm if, at all, this category would change if the school was to move. The Director of Learning and Skills, for clarification purposes, pointed out that the reference she had made to the school being categorised as yellow under Welsh Government's categorisation system was relevant in that it demonstrated that the school has room for improvement. She was of the view that the proposal would support the school to achieve the improvements set out in its School Improvement Plan”.

It is the Council's view that the proposal would support the school to achieve the improvements set out in its School Improvement Plan.

Objection theme 15

Respondents were concerned that it will be impossible for parents to access pre and post school clubs, and Children will therefore be denied access to an important part of education.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 50, page 48.

The report advises that after school provision could still operate and be available from the community hall. As school transport would be provided for children from the Llancafán, Llanbetherý and Llanccadle areas to the transferred school, it is possible on the return journey home that children could be dropped off at the community hall to continue with their after school club provision.

In addition, under issue 42, page 43 of the consultation report, the Council maintained its commitment to supporting our communities and would look to work closely with the organisations identified in the Community Impact Assessment to minimise any negative impact. The Governing Body of the school would also be encouraged to maintain these links with the community organisations where they positively support the ethos and management of the school.

In addition, reference to this matter can also be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 30 on page 36. It is acknowledged that the staff and pupils make full use of the resources they have available to them. The accommodation at Llancafán is challenging however and there are examples of the teachers experiencing difficulties in managing curriculum delivery. ICT concerns have been outlined in issue 27, another example relates to sport. Feedback was received during the recent consultation event with regard to the difficulties in teaching some team sports, such as cricket on a restricted tennis court. In addition, the constraints of the school site meant that during sports day, teachers had to place mattresses against the walls for health and safety reasons in order to prevent pupils from running into walls and injuring themselves during races. An additional benefit to this proposal is that the learning environment provided at a new school building would require less intervention from staff to make it work. This would enable them to have a greater focus on achievement, attendance and pedagogy.

Objection theme 16

Respondents stated that Estyn have no concerns regarding the buildings or site. Llancafán Primary School had received a good report from Estyn.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 29, page 35.

Estyn have a responsibility to report on their findings at a school. They are not required to recommend a move to new premises. They have however acknowledged in their response to this proposal that "the school does not meet the standards set out in the statutory framework for school buildings and design in Wales and routes through the village and lanes to access the school are congested." They also acknowledge that the "school site is restricted in size".

Estyn have been consulted on the proposal and have responded positively to the proposal indicating that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposal to create a new school building for Llancarfan Primary School with the addition of 48 nursery places for pupils on a part-time basis, on a new site in Rhoose.

Estyn further commented that the proposal has considered appropriately outcomes, provision and leadership at Llancarfan Primary School. It has drawn on a suitable range of evidence to do this including a brief analysis of the school's performance data over the past 3 years.

Objection theme 17

Respondents concerned that current school numbers are affected by the proposal and that prospective parents are choosing others schools/areas. Pupil numbers have dropped at the school as a result of the consultation.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 5, page 8.

The Council is projecting that surplus capacity will increase to 28 places (22%) over the next five year period. This does not into take account any impact of the proposed move of Llancarfan Primary School to the new site. There is a drop in the Llancarfan reception intake for September 2018 but this is not attributable to the proposal. The closing date for reception applications was the 8 January 2018 which was prior to the proposal being launched. A number of factors relating to the proposal, including local campaigns, are likely to have an impact on future pupil numbers and parental choice. This could result in some parents choosing alternative schools. In recognition of this the Council has offered funding protection to the Governing Body to sustain the school in the interim.

Objection theme 18

Respondents expressed concerns that that the proposal favours religious children/families over non-religious children/families and reduces freedom of choice for parents to send children to non-religious schools. Access to Cowbridge Comprehensive was cited as an example.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 4, page 7.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School has ten feeder primary schools serving the school of which four are Church in Wales Voluntary Aided schools who control their own admissions policy and admissions to the school. Therefore, parents not wishing to access a religious Cowbridge feeder for their child could apply to Y Bont Faen Primary School, Llanfair Primary School, Llangan Primary

School or Llancafán Primary School. All feeder schools are inclusive schools serving Cowbridge Comprehensive School with no considered bias toward religious beliefs. The denominational schools serve their local village and communities irrespective of faith and denomination. Parents have a choice for their children attending a Church in Wales primary school to either attend a denominational or a non-denominational secondary school.

Objection theme 19

Respondents expressed concern that as Llancafán Primary School has attracted young families to the village who have helped support essential community services and keep the community alive, the village demographic will negatively alter in terms of increased age and decrease the diversity of the population.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the Community Impact Assessment, page 17.

Feedback received as part of the consultation suggested that Llancafán village and the surrounding area would no longer be desirable to families due to the transfer of the school. This was considered, however, the Council noted that there are a number of strong communities across the Vale of Glamorgan that are not within walking distance of a school that are nonetheless highly desired by families. According to the 2011 census data, the population of Llandow, St Donats and Welsh St Donats has a similar mean age to Llancafán despite there being no primary school within the village.

Objection theme 20

Respondent requested help to support the community in maintaining this County Treasure. Historical value of the site as a County Treasure.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 49, page 48.

It has been acknowledged that the site is situated within the Llancafán Conservation Area and is identified in the Llancafán Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as a 'positive building' as it contributes to the character or appearance of the conservation area in a positive manner. The building has been identified and included in the Council's 'County Treasures' list. Any future planning proposals with regard to the school building would be subject to consideration of its status as a County Treasure alongside clear adherence to the policies and regulations in place with regard to buildings with this status.

Objection theme 21

Respondents expressed concern that parents will need to commute in the opposite direction, which may have an impact on their jobs or force relocation.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 1, page 5.

School transport would be put in place for children living in the Llancarfan and surrounding area provided in line with the Council's school transport policy. School transport arrangements would be available for parents from the Llancarfan and surrounding areas to access in order for their children to attend the relocated school in Rhoose. This would not mean that parents would need to commute any further from their current arrangements. Some parents may have less distance to travel that wasn't available to them previously.

It is not possible for the Council to develop proposals on school organisation based on the personal circumstances of parents such as work location. Free school transport is available for primary aged pupils from the September after they turn 4 who reside two or more miles away from their school.

Objection theme 22

Respondents expressed concern that the village will be negatively impacted in its future sustainability as prospective residents will choose other areas/schools.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issue 11, page 11.

This section acknowledged that the figures for the Llancarfan Primary School on a new site in Rhoose are based on the current pupil numbers for Llancarfan Primary School and that this can change. However, whilst parents have the right to express parental preference and to change schools, there is no guarantee that those preferences can be met. The acceptance of an application to transfer to an alternative school is dependent upon the availability of school places at other schools. Whilst it is hoped that all pupils will continue to attend Llancarfan Primary School following a move to a new site, it should be noted that availability of primary school places to facilitate a transfer to an alternative school is limited in the Western Vale.

This was also referenced in the Consultation report under issue 44, page 45 of the report where it was acknowledged that some parents have chosen to send their children to Llancarfan due to its small school ethos and size. The report also expressed concern relating to existing surplus capacity at the

school. “Over the last three years, an average of 4 children have been born in the Llancarfan Primary School catchment area each year compared to 18 places available at the reception intake. The school has a catchment area population of 55 primary age children set against a capacity of 126 places. Only 29 of the 55 primary aged children living in the catchment area attend the school”.

Additional responses were also provided in relation to this objection under Issue 39, page 41 of the Consultation Report which reiterated that there are many reasons why parents choose schools and that concerns relating to the loss of a rural ethos to Llancarfan School would be addressed in the design process. Specifically, all new school sites are provided with forest areas in order to ensure that the learning experience makes full use of the outdoors. The Council would work with Forest School Wales to ensure that there is sustainable Forest School provision supported by a national network that will nurture the development of projects, offer advice, provide resources, guide best practice and provide continuing professional development at the school.

Objection theme 23

Respondents expressed concern about the lack of infrastructure to meet the anticipated demands in Rhoose, and in general, and were concerned about traffic congestion in the area.

Council’s response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found in the consultation report on the proposal at issues 21, page 25, and issue 22, page 26.

The Council approved development in the Rhoose area as part of the Council’s Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026.

If the proposal were to be implemented, traffic and transport implications would be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works for the school. As part of the design process a transport management plan would be developed which will include input from highway officers. Onsite parking provision would be considered in the design of the new school.

If the proposal were approved, a planning application will be submitted for the build of a 210 place school on the new development. The highways department are a statutory consultee for planning applications who will provide detailed impartial comments on the proposal. This would include recommendations if improvements to the road network are required particularly as school transport would be provided to the school from the Llancarfan, Llancadle and Llanbethery area.

The Council has already received developer contributions for highway works and sustainable transport facilities in respect of the north-west development. Sustainable transport facilities include information, facilities, services or projects which provide or improve access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, motor cycles, taxis or car shares in the vicinity of the site and

within the Rhoose ward boundary. This will include road safety measures in Rhoose.

As part of a planning application a traffic impact assessment would be carried out to look at what improvements would need to be made to the existing road infrastructure.

Objection theme 24

Respondents expressed concern that funding from Welsh Government had not yet been received in full to fund the proposal and the change to the percentage of Local Authority funding.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found on pages 26 and 31 of the consultation document on the proposal.

In July 2017, the Council submitted its Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) to Welsh Government, identifying the projects included within the Band B programme.

On 10 November 2017, the Education Secretary Kirsty Williams announced that the Council's proposals met Welsh Government's investment objectives and subject to approval of the individual business cases, Welsh Government is committed to supporting all of the projects presented. This was confirmed in writing on 6 December 2017.

On 22 January 2018, Cabinet approved the proposed Band B phase of the 21st Century Schools Programme. Funding for the projects was based on an anticipated Welsh Government intervention rate of 50% funding for non-faith school schemes and 85% funding for Voluntary Aided faith school schemes.

On 21 November 2018 Welsh Government and WLGA issued a joint statement announcing a change to the Welsh Government intervention rate for the 21st Century Schools Programme. Welsh government funding for non-faith school schemes would increase from 50% to 65%. A new intervention rate was introduced for facilities for those pupils with additional learning needs and those in pupil referral units at 75% Welsh Government funding.

Should Cabinet approve the proposal, a Business Justification Case would be submitted to Welsh Government to secure the funding for the project. This approach is consistent with previous projects.

Objection theme 25

Respondents stated that the change in intervention rate for Band B funding, renders the information in the Consultation document as inaccurate. Financial assumptions including viability of alternatives should therefore be revisited in light of Band B intervention rate change.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

On 21 November 2018 Welsh Government and WLGA issued a joint statement announcing a change to the Welsh Government intervention rate for the 21st Century Schools Programme. Welsh government funding for non-faith school schemes would increase from 50% to 65%. Welsh Government confirmed that there would not be an increase in the overall funding envelope for each Local Authority. As there is to be no increase in the overall funding envelope, there was not need to revisit individual schemes.

On 7 January 2019 the Council's Cabinet considered the revised programme in light of this change. The total capital funding for the Primary Provision in Western Vale scheme will remain at £4.185m with £1.465m being funded by the Council and £2.720m being funded by Welsh Government.

Objection theme 26

Respondents expressed concern that the community and local businesses in Llancarfan will be negatively affected.

Council's response to the concerns raised:

Reference to this matter can be found within the final published Community Impact Assessment, pages 9 to 28.

The initial Community Impact Assessment was updated to reflect the responses received and was re-issued as part of the second consultation exercise. It has been acknowledged in the Community Impact Assessment that there would be some negative impact within the local community and on local businesses. Please refer to the [Community Impact Assessment](#) for further information relating to this matter.

The Council is committed to supporting our communities and would look to work closely with the organisations identified in the Community Impact Assessment to minimise any negative impact. The Council would continue to support the community of Llancarfan through its Creative Rural Communities initiative, which sees the Council supporting communities and enterprises to develop innovative projects and ideas that will create long term social and economic benefits. The Strong Communities Grant Fund offers grants to Community Groups, the Voluntary Sector and Town and Community Councils towards the cost of initiatives within the Vale of Glamorgan which help to support the Council's vision of "strong communities with a bright future". The grant fund totals £672,000 over three years until March 2020. The fund aims to:

- Improve the resilience of organisations/groups or their activities by funding activities which add value to their current work and reduce their reliance on grant funding in the future. Provide seed corn funding towards initiatives that can demonstrate longer term sustainability.
- Undertake consultation, feasibility, design and other specialist work to develop proposals for future activity and funding bids.

- Meet the capital costs of schemes by purchasing plant, machinery, equipment or other assets.
- Undertake work that would enable services to be provided, for example, through increased income generation potential.
- Open up Section 106 funding to specific communities where developments have taken place.

Funding for facilities and open space projects in specific areas will be announced when each round is opened for applications.

Support small scale and innovative projects.

This proposal is an education proposal which aims to address specific issues of school place capacity within the Western Vale. The School Organisation Code asserts that “the prime purpose of schools is the provision of education’. It is therefore not reasonable to expect schools and pupils to carry the wider burden of the impact on the community. Ultimately, economic and social factors are not educational issues and cannot be allowed to compromise the education of children. The Council would however continue to support the communities involved, if this proposal is to progress, in various ways to ensure that any identified negative impact is minimised.

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Consultation Report

Proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale

1. Background Information

1.1. Outline of the consultation

This report presents the feedback received during the two consultation periods undertaken from 5 March 2018 to April 2018 and 21 May 2018 to 9 July 2018 in response to the Council's proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale.

In March 2018, the Council launched a consultation aimed at taking a holistic view of primary school provision in the Western Vale. The aim of the consultation was to inform the community about the school re-organisation proposal being put forward under section 2.2 of the School Organisation Code and referred to as regulated alterations as follows:

- a) a regulated alteration to Llanccarfan Primary School to move the site of the school from Llanccarfan to a newly constructed school building on land north of the railway line in Rhoose;
- b) a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llanccarfan Primary School at the new site from 126 to 210 places; and
- c) a regulated alteration to alter the lowest age range of pupils through the addition of a new nursery class containing 48 part time places.

During the consultation members of the community raised a number of concerns regarding the impact to their local areas, as well as raising additional questions about the proposal, while seeking to ensure their views were understood.

As a result of feedback the Council undertook a second consultation that commenced on the 21 May 2018. The Council considered it important to include greater detail in the consultation document and to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to consider this within a new consultation timeline.

The feedback and views expressed in both consultations are considered in this consultation report. The Council welcomed any further or additional feedback from individuals or organisations on the additional information included in the second consultation before a decision is taken by the Council.

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

Formal consultations were conducted through a consultation document and response form distributed electronically to prescribed consultees and published on the Vale of Glamorgan website on the 5 March for the first consultation and 21 May 2018 for the second. Consultees were also provided with an email link to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website.

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 2013. The consultation documents 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.

2. Consultation

2.1. Publication of the consultation

The bilingual consultation documents were published on 5 March 2018 for the first consultation and 21 May 2018 for the second and distributed online, through social media, and on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website.

Consultees were provided with an electronic copy of the documents and an email link to the Vale of Glamorgan website.

2.2. Stakeholder engagement

Engagement for both consultations on the proposal was undertaken with prescribed consultees as contained within the School Organisation Code 2013.

The Council consulted with the following groups for both consultations:

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at Llancarfan Primary School	Governing Body of Llancarfan Primary School
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children attending Llancarfan Primary School	Llancarfan Community Council
Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Partnership	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)
Communities First Partnership	Local Councillors
Assembly Members (AM's)/ Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Welsh Language Commissioner
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Central South Consortium
Estyn	Trade Unions

Welsh Government Ministers	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Diocesan Directors of Education
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/westernvalereconfiguration

2.3. Consultation meetings and drop in sessions

Meetings for both consultations were held with the staff and governors at Llancarfan Primary School which were attended by Council officers. The main points of the consultation document were highlighted as well as an explanation of the statutory process.

Two drop in sessions for both consultations were held for all stakeholders in Llancarfan and Rhoose.

2.4. Consultation with children and young people

Consultation sessions for both consultations were undertaken with the School Council of Llancarfan Primary School to engage the pupils in the consultation process. A report on the outcomes of these sessions can be found at Annex D.

Consultation Summary

2.5. Consultation Questions

Consultees for both consultations were asked for their opinion on a key question:

- Do you support the proposal to provide a new school building with a new nursery unit for Llancarfan Primary School from September 2021?

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?

2.6. Results of the feedback from all stakeholders

The authority received 1136 individual responses by the consultation closing dates of the 20 April and 9 July 2018. Of the total 1136 individual responses received, 82 were in favour of the proposal, 1046 were opposed, 8 provided no opinion either way. The governing body of Llancarfan Primary School, Rhoose Primary School and Estyn formally responded.

It has been noted that not all consultees provided a response to each of the questions and that some forms were not fully completed. In these cases we have accepted the responses to the questions that they have chosen to answer.

Feedback from consultation meetings and drop in sessions are not included in this report as it was stated clearly in the consultation document that the Council would only accept responses using the official consultation response form. Consultees were advised of this at the drop in sessions.

2.7 Profile of respondents

The Council received a total of 1136 responses. The table below provides a breakdown of the responses:

	Total responses	Agree with proposal	Disagree with proposal	No opinion	Declaration of respondent from online response form	%
Online Survey	1049	82	961	6	Parent	28.5
					Pupil	5
					Governor	1.5
					Staff	2
					Local Resident	47
					Other	16
Written Correspondence	87	0	85	2		

The authority also received a petition, Save Llancafarn Primary School from Closure, signed by 1959 people.

Index of Annexes

Annex A	A summary of key themes and issues raised by statutory consultees to both consultations and the response to those issues from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
Annex B	A summary of comments received in favour of the proposal.
Annex C	Comments to frequently asked questions.
Annex D	Consultation undertaken with young people
Annex E	Responses from the governing body of Llancafarn and Rhws Primary Schools.
Annex F	Response from Estyn. In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013, a copy of the consultation document was sent to Estyn.
Annex G	Llancafarn Parent Survey, conducted and analysed by local residents
Annex H	Minutes from Llancafarn Primary School in relation to the consultation
Annex I	Minutes of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on the proposal

Consultation with statutory consultees

1. Feedback themes

The following summarises the key issues/concerns 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

School transport arrangements

Respondents expressed concerns about young children travelling on school transport up to 5 miles to the transferred school site and what form of transport would be provided. A respondent had also expressed concerns as not being able to walk children to school.

Council's response to the concerns raised

School transport would be provided in line with the Council's transport policy which provides free home to school transport for primary age children who live 2 miles or more from their designated catchment area or nearest suitable school. Free school transport is not provided for children attending a nursery unit at a school.

Any pupil attending Llanccarfan Primary School up to the move to the new site who lives 2 miles or more from the new school site would therefore be entitled to free school transport. Any pupils who no longer live 2 miles from the new Llanccarfan Primary School site as a result of the relocation would no longer be entitled to free school transport. The admission transition arrangements for existing pupils who would be on roll up to the move to the new site and siblings attending Llanccarfan in the future that were proposed as part of this consultation would be reflected in the provision of transport.

It is likely that two mini buses would serve the school, one from the Llanccarfan area and another serving Llancadle and Llanbethery although the exact arrangements would be determined by the school transport department. Escort provision is generally provided on 16 seater minibuses and above in order to supervise children on their journey to and from school. The Council currently operates a number of buses to primary schools across the Vale of Glamorgan travelling in excess of 5 miles to a school. It is not unusual for young primary age children aged four to eleven to be travelling on school transport. Risk assessments, safeguarding training and processes and health and safety procedures are firmly embedded in the delivery of the service. The number of children that are currently able to walk to the school is small due to the narrowness of the lanes and the low number of pupils living within walking distance. Only 17 pupils live within the village itself. More pupils would live within walking distance of the new school site due to its close proximity to the new housing developments in Rhoose. Pupils from Rhoose currently attending Llanccarfan Primary School also live within walking distance of the proposed school site.

Whilst some parents will no longer be able to walk their children to school, the availability of a school bus would enable parents to utilise school transport and for children to travel together.

Issue 2

Breakfast and after school/extra-curricular clubs

Respondents were concerned that no transport would be available for breakfast and after school/extra-curricular clubs, this will mean additional driving for Llancarfan residents or the children miss out on these clubs. Childcare arrangements and work arrangements affected.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council has a legal duty to provide school transport for primary age children living 2 miles or more from their designated catchment area or nearest suitable school in order to facilitate the attendance for statutory education purposes. Transport would not be provided to a nursery and for breakfast and after school requirements.

Children's attendance at breakfast, after school curricular clubs and after school clubs are decisions for parents as well as childcare arrangements. The Council understands the concerns; a number of parents are in similar positions across the Vale of Glamorgan whose children attend schools in excess of 5 miles from their home.

Wraparound care facilities would continue at the school and be available to parents of children attending the school.

Issue 3

Admission Arrangements

Respondents were concerned about the feeder school arrangements and catchment areas for the school with particular reference to feeder links to Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Concerns were expressed about future numbers for Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

Council's response to the concerns raised

All catchment and feeder arrangements in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review and a widespread review is scheduled to take place during the academic year 2018/19. Any proposed changes would be reflected in a future admission arrangements consultation. If as a result of this process, any changes to admission arrangements take place, the following transitional arrangements would apply.

The Council's intention is to honour the feeder arrangements and catchment area links to Cowbridge for Llancarfan Primary School pupils following the move to a new site, up until they leave the school. Siblings of pupils attending the school up to the move to a new site will also have a high priority for admission to Llancarfan Primary School once they reach school age.

The Council will put transitional admission arrangements in place for pupils on roll up to the move to the new school site. These transitional arrangements would not apply to any pupils joining the school after the new building is operational unless they have a sibling already on roll at the school during the year they join and that sibling was on roll on the date of move to a new site.

The Council proposes to maintain the feeder and catchment area link to Cowbridge Comprehensive School for pupils on roll at Llancarfan Primary School up to the date of the move to a new site, and their siblings. The Council is not proposing to change the catchment area for Cowbridge Comprehensive School as part of this proposal but is proposing to change the catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School, Llanfair, Rhws and St Nicholas CIW Primary Schools.

On its new site, Llancarfan Primary School would feed either Whitmore High School or Llantwit Major High school for all new entrants to the school after the date of the move to a new site, apart from sibling connections of children already at the school as part of transitional admission arrangements who would maintain feeder or sibling links to Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Issue 4

Religious feeder schools

Respondent expressed concerns that feeder school entry is biased towards religion and the proposal will reduce the number of non-religious feeder schools for Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Concerns were expressed that non faith choice is being removed.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Cowbridge Comprehensive School has ten feeder primary schools serving the school of which four are Church in Wales Voluntary Aided schools who control their own admissions policy and admissions to the school. These schools are inclusive schools, and will have their own oversubscription criteria which will incorporate a religious aspect to allocate places where there are more applications than places available, if it is required. A further two feeder schools are voluntary controlled Church in Wales schools for whom the Council is the admissions authority and the admissions criteria for entry in the event of oversubscription are the same as the other 4 non-denominational primary schools.

All feeder schools are inclusive schools serving Cowbridge Comprehensive School with no considered bias toward religious beliefs. The denominational schools serve their local village and communities irrespective of faith and denomination. Parents have a choice for their children attending a Church in Wales primary school to either attend a denominational or a non-denominational secondary school.

Issue 5

Drop in pupil numbers

Respondents expressed concerns about a potential drop in numbers over the next few years as a result of the proposal.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council believes this is a unique opportunity to not only move Llancafarn Primary School into a new 21st Century building but also accommodate children from the new housing development in Rhoose. Moving the school to a larger site, bigger building and with a new catchment area with sustainable numbers would enable the school to build on existing progress while catering for a greater school population. The proposal will ensure a sustainable balance between the supply and demand for school places for the long term.

The Council is projecting that surplus capacity will increase to 28 places (22%) over the next five year period. This does not take into account any impact of the proposed move of Llancafarn Primary School to the new site. There is a drop in the Llancafarn reception intake for September 2018 but this is not attributable to the proposal. The closing date for reception applications was the 8 January 2018 which was prior to the proposal being launched. Numbers could fall in the future as a result of the local campaign against the perceived closure of the school. This could result in some parents choosing alternative schools. In recognition of this the Council has offered funding protection to the Governing Body to sustain the school in the interim.

Issue 6

Pupil projections and housing yield

Respondents queried numbers requiring school places arising from the proposed housing developments and concerns that the formula used to determine pupil projections emanating from developments is excessive. No firm evidence to support the Council's pupil projections.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council's pupil projection methodology follows Audit Commission guidance and is based on the application of Catchment/Feeder school ratios and cohort survival rates (the relationship between the number of pupils in one cohort in one school year, and the same cohort in the following school year). Pupil projections are evidence based and also take account of current and historic school data, birth rates, planned housing developments and cross catchment movement. A 2013 Estyn Inspection of the Vale of Glamorgan's Services for Children and Young People reported "The authority has appropriate systems in place for forecasting pupil numbers and the requirements for school places using a suitable range of data".

In terms of housing developments, the projected number of pupils emanating from a development is calculated using a formula derived from census data of householders in the Vale of Glamorgan. The formula is contained within the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance for planning purposes. At nursery level this is calculated at 0.1 pupils per unit and at primary level 0.278 per unit. The developments of 350 houses would each yield 35 nursery and 97 primary age children. For the 700 units being built in total, the Council would expect around 70 nursery age children and 194 primary age children to be generated.

Residential units with a net gain of 10 or more dwellings are assessed to determine how many new pupils will be generated by a development. Studio apartments and one bedroom flats are excluded from any housing development calculations as is the case with the housing developments in Rhoose. The pupil yield factor from housing developments in the Vale of Glamorgan is comparable to the methodology employed by other local authorities. The yield dependent upon the demography of the Council area.

The Council's methodology for calculating pupil yield from housing developments and pupil projections is consistent and the Council is satisfied that it reflects current conditions for school place planning purposes. Periodical comparisons of actual pupil yield against estimated pupil yield have demonstrated that the pupil yield assumptions used by the Council are appropriate and recognise that some children may remain at their current schools.

For example, the Council's projections for pupil yield at Rhoose Point across nursery, primary and secondary sectors was 398. Compared against the actual pupil yield to date of 410, this represents a difference of only 3%.

Issue 7

Development north west

Respondents concerns that the north east development will not go ahead. Concerns that as the school would not be built until 2021, children from the North West development will already be in the system with the potential for surplus places at the new school.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council's pupil projections have taken into account the housing developments in Rhoose with an assumption that development in the north east will commence in 2020. It was considered to be more effective to plan for the non-confirmed housing development as part of the proposal, due to the length of time required to consult, agree and if approved build a new school, particularly with regard to the requirements put in place to access the necessary funding from Welsh Government.

If this proposal goes ahead, prior to the school being built, children emanating from the north west development may attend schools outside the area as a result of there being no available capacity within the Rhoose area. Parents would have an option to transfer to Llancafán Primary School when the new building is completed to enable attendance at a school closer to home.

Issue 8

Housing demand in the surrounding area.

Respondents felt that future housing development in the surrounding area at St Athan, Ministry of Defence personnel movement and Aston Martin moving into the area would facilitate demand at Llancafán. Developments in Sycamore Cross could also have an impact.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Any new development and movement into the St Athan area and subsequent demand for school places would be facilitated at St Athan Primary School. St Athan Primary School has the capacity to accommodate extra demand for school places in the area and any development of the school building required could be met through developer contributions to enable expansion of the school. Housing developments attract developer contributions to enable extra school capacity to be created in order to accommodate additional demand for school places.

The Sycamore Cross development is linked to St Nicholas CIW Primary School with development contributions available to expand the school where necessary to manage demand in the area at St Nicholas CIW Primary School. Children in the area would be linked to their local catchment area school, St Nicholas CIW Primary School.

Issue 9

Development in Llanccarfan

Respondents commented that Llanccarfan is having houses built close to the existing school.

Council's response to the concerns raised

An affordable housing pre application advice enquiry was received by the Council for around 10 qualifying units for pupil yield purposes but no official planning application has been received. The number of pupils yielded by such a proposed development of 1 nursery and 3 primary age pupils would not impact significantly on the number of pupils residing within Llanccarfan's catchment area.

Issue 10

Birth rates

A respondent felt the assumptions about birth rates in the area were incorrect.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Vale of Glamorgan Council regularly receives yearly extracts of birth data in the Vale of Glamorgan area from the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership. The birth data received is arranged into school catchment areas to support school place planning. The data provided to the Council shows that on average four children are born in the Llanccarfan catchment area each year. The following table shows the birth data in the Llanccarfan area for the three reception intakes September 2019 – 2021.

Llancarfan Primary School catchment area births

Academic year	No of births in academic year	Reception intake year for births
September 2014 - August 2015	3	September 2019
September 2015 - August 2016	2	September 2020
September 2016 - August 2017	6	September 2021

Issue 11

School transfer assumptions

Respondent concerns about the Council's assumption that parents will transfer their children to the new school site. It is contended that they will apply to other schools with a more rural setting. There is doubt about the number of pupils likely to move to the new site.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The figures for the Llancarfan Primary School on a new site in Rhoose are based on the current pupil numbers for Llancarfan Primary School. The Council acknowledges the survey undertaken to determine parents' wishes about moving to the school's new site. The survey can be viewed at annex G of this report. However, whilst parents have the right to express parental preference and to change schools, there is no guarantee that those preferences can be met. The acceptance of an application to transfer to an alternative school is dependent upon the availability of school places at other schools. Whilst it is hoped that all pupils will continue to attend Llancarfan Primary School following a move to a new site, it should be noted that availability of primary school places to facilitate a transfer to an alternative school is limited in the Western Vale.

Issue 12

Welsh medium provision

Respondent questioned whether Welsh medium provision had been considered in the strategy.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Welsh medium education is an important aspect of the Council's Strategic Outline Programme for Band B. The Council was very successful in increasing Welsh medium primary sector capacity within the Vale of Glamorgan under Band A of the 21st Century School's Programme. In order to build on this success, a key priority for Band B is to increase capacity in the Welsh medium secondary sector as well as consideration of further developments at primary level. In order to ensure that the Council actively addresses the Welsh Government target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050, the Council will be undertaking an active programme of addressing need with regard to Welsh and English medium education as part of its programme.

The impact on Welsh medium education in this area of the Western Vale has been considered in the development of this proposal. The number of Welsh medium children anticipated from the development is around 14 primary aged children with sufficient capacity at the catchment area school, Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, to accommodate demand.

Issue 13

Local Development Plan

Respondent stated that Llancarfan is identified in the Council's Local Development Plan requiring future expansion

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Education Facilities Paper background paper published as part of the Council's Local Development Plan in September 2013 was based on primary school projections up to 2017/18. Since 2014 the number on roll at Llancarfan has decreased from 116 to 101 children. There are no planned housing developments for the Llancarfan area that would increase pupil intake and require expansion of the school, The school could not be expanded on its current site.

Issue 14

Nursery Provision

Respondents had concerns about their being a requirement for 70 nursery places as a result of the development but only 48 being made available at the school. Respondent suggested that nursery provision could be established at Llancarfan Primary School.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The overall number of nursery places required will increase in the area by approximately 70 places taking into account the new housing developments planned.

The Council expects the additional demand to be accommodated at both Rhws Primary School and Llancarfan Primary School. There is available capacity at Rhws Primary School to accommodate an extra 22 nursery age children. It is not feasible to accommodate a nursery unit at Llancarfan Primary school due to site constraints. Even if an appropriate location could be found there is no funding available to provide a nursery unit in Llancarfan village.

Although some respondents have pointed out that a nursery could be accommodated at the village hall, this option would require modifications to the hall and outdoor space subject to Estyn and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) requirements and regulation. Nursery provision in the school hall would not provide for the full integration of children into the foundation phase and would not be a viable option due to the limitations of the building and its location in meeting the requirements of the Foundation Phase Framework.

Issue 15

Changes to catchment areas

Respondents expressed concern that new catchment areas will destroy the sense of community between the villages of Llancarfan, Llanbethery, Llancadle and Llanthrydd with pupils from each village going to different schools.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The majority of the existing catchment area of Llancarfan will be maintained within the school's new catchment area providing continuity for friendships and children attending the school. The only amendments are to the Tre Aubrey and Whitton areas that will be included in the Llanfair and St Nicholas school catchment areas. Currently 8 primary age children reside within these areas of which none attend Llancarfan Primary school.

Issue 16

Consultation matters

Respondents expressed concerns that the initial consultation presents a misleading case, that the consultation process is clearly flawed and biased, and the Council has failed to meet the requirements of School Organisation Code.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council understands the concerns of parents, residents and pupils in terms of the first proposal being put forward by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The Council is of the view that it has presented the case sufficiently to enable intelligent and responsible consideration.

A number of concerns were raised during the first consultation exercise regarding the impact on the local area as well as raising additional questions about the proposal. A second consultation exercise was therefore undertaken to address concerns and to provide greater detail in the consultation document on the proposal providing stakeholders with an opportunity to consider this within a new consultation deadline. Some of the additional information addressed matters such as the future of the school building, an updated Community Impact Assessment and reaffirming the regulated alteration of the school to a new site with greater detail on the alternatives that were considered. The Council is confident that the second consultation addressed many concerns raised in greater detail and provided some reassurance to the local community.

Estyn have been consulted on the proposal and have responded positively to the proposal indicating that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposal to create a new school building for Llancarfan Primary School with the addition of 48 nursery places for pupils on a part-time basis, on a new site in Rhoose. Estyn have also commented that the consultation document and proposal sets out the expected benefits and disadvantages of the proposal clearly.

Estyn comment further that :

“The local authority has taken appropriate account of educational standards, school surplus places, pupil travel arrangements, accessibility of provision, the quality and sustainability of school accommodation, financial investment and running costs. The proposal has considered appropriately outcomes, provision and leadership at Llancarfan Primary School. It has drawn on a suitable range of evidence to do this including a brief analysis of the school’s performance data over the past 3 years.”

A full assessment of the response to the proposal by Estyn is included at Annex F of this document.

The consultation process has been undertaken in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation Wales Act 2013 and compliance with the School Organisation Code 2013. Legal advice was sought from the Councils legal department in the preparation of the document together with appropriate guidance from the Welsh Government where required. The proposal as published relates to a regulated alteration, i.e. the move to a new site not within 1.609344 km (one mile) of any of a main entrance of the school on its current site – para 2.2 of the School Organisation Code July 2013. When undertaking the second consultation exercise, consultees were advised that views expressed to date would be considered in the final consultation report on the proposal.

The Council is satisfied that it has followed the statutory requirements laid out in the School Organisation Code for consultation on the proposal that included consultation with pupils. The consultation process has provided sufficient reason and information to enable intelligent consideration and response.

Issue 17

Presumption against closure of rural schools

Respondents questioned whether the Council was aware of rules being introduced by Kirsty Williams setting out a presumption against closure of rural schools. Respondents considered the proposal to be a school closure rather than moving the school to a new site.

Council’s response to the concerns raised

The proposal is a regulated alteration of a school contained under section 2.2 of the School Organisation Code as follows and is not a school closure.

- a) a regulated alteration to Llancarfan Primary School to move the site of the school from Llancarfan to a newly constructed school building on land north of the railway line in Rhoose;
- d) a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llancarfan Primary School at the new site from 126 to 210 places; and
- e) a regulated alteration to alter the lowest age range of pupils through the addition of a new nursery class containing 48 part time places.

The 2013 School Organisation Code is the current code in force. The Council has consulted upon the proposals in respect of Llancarfan under the arrangements under the current code in force.

The Welsh Government consulted on a revised School Organisation Code between June and September 2017. This consultation included the introduction of a presumption against the closure of rural schools and listed schools that were considered as rural for this purpose. The National Statistics Urban – Rural Classification has been used for the purpose of designating rural schools. The consultation proposed that as a minimum, schools situated in categories 3 & 4 (“village in sparsest context” and “other sparsest context”) of the detailed classifications of the Urban-Rural Classification below should be designated as rural for the purpose of presumption against closure of rural schools in the sparsest areas of Wales.

1. Large town in sparsest context
2. Small town in sparsest context
3. Village in sparsest context
4. Other (hamlet or dispersed) in sparsest context
5. Large town in less sparse context
6. Small town in less sparse context
7. Village in less sparse context
8. Other (hamlet or dispersed) in less sparse context

The Vale of Glamorgan had no schools included in the initial list of designated schools.

Following the consultation, Welsh Government proposed extending the designation of rural schools to include a further category of “Other (hamlet or dispersed) in less sparse context”, element 8 of the urban-rural classification above. As a result, Llancarfan Primary School was brought within the designation of “rural”. Welsh Government sought comments from Local Authorities on the proposal to include an additional category in May 2018.

The initial consultation document explained why the change was being undertaken:

“Local authorities and other proposers must comply with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and any mandatory elements within the School Organisation Code and must consider a range of factors when proposing substantial changes to schools, the prime consideration being the interests of learners.

There is currently no presumption in favour or against the closure of any type of school. The current Code recognises that the prime purpose of schools is the provision of education and any case for closure should be robust and in the best interests of education provision in the area. However, the current Code also recognises that in rural areas a school may also be the main focal point for community activity and its closure could have implications beyond the provision of

education, particularly if the school buildings are used as a place to provide services to the local community.

Closure of a rural school often means that children have to travel outside their local community to the next available school, while at the same time the community can lose the use of the school buildings and facilities. In some rural areas, a school may be one of only a few services still left in the community, functioning as a focal point for community activities. Closure could therefore have implications for the future sustainability of the whole community, far beyond the issue of provision of education.”

As this proposal is a regulated alteration of the school from its current site in Llancarfan to a new site in Rhoose and not a school closure, the above paragraphs of the Code do not apply.

The Code recognises that local authorities are responsible for ensuring that there are sufficient schools providing primary and secondary education for their area. Schools are regarded as sufficient if they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. In order to fulfil these duties, local authorities must ensure that they plan thoroughly for schools serving their areas. The Code also recognises that education must be the primary consideration. This is linked directly to a local authority’s duty to strive to raise standards of education.

It is these considerations which require local authorities to take into account wider factors such as the need to manage the school estate as efficiently and effectively as possible. This includes managing excessive numbers of surplus places which tie up resources unproductively – resources which are then unavailable for use in raising standards and quality of education for all pupils. This means that they must look to reduce excessive numbers of surplus places in schools that are significantly under-occupied. Although the Code encourages local authorities to manage surplus places, this does not necessarily mean closing schools. The Code encourages them to explore alternatives to closure including collaboration or federation, increasing community use of school buildings or co-location of local services within the school to offset costs.

The proposals set out in this consultation document seek to balance the legitimate wishes and concerns of rural communities and parents with the responsibilities of local authorities for the delivery of public services.

When considering whether closure is appropriate the current Code states that *special attention should be given to alternatives to closure* and when consulting on proposals the consultation document *must contain a description of any alternatives and the reasons why they have been discounted*.

“A presumption against the closure of rural schools does not mean that rural schools will never close. However, it does mean that the case for closure must be strong and not taken until all viable options to closure have been conscientiously considered, including federation”.

As stated above, the proposal is a regulated alteration for Llancarfan Primary School and is not a school closure under section 2.2 of the School Organisation Code 2013. The revised elements of the new Code in respect of the presumption against the closure of small rural schools will not apply to this proposal.

Nevertheless, it is recognised that the removal of a school from its local community could have a similar impact as a school closure and this has therefore been considered in the Community Impact Assessment.

It is anticipated that the revised Code will be laid in the Assembly in the week commencing 17 September 2018. The Code must be laid for 40 days, during which time the Assembly can resolve not to approve the Code. If the Code is laid on 17 September, the 40 days will end on 26 October 2018. If the Assembly resolves not to approve the Code, it could come into force as early as 1 November 2018. However, it is possible that these timings could slip. If any amendments to the Code come into force, they will have transitional provisions in place for Local Authorities to follow. The Council will comply of course with any mandatory requirements of any amended Code as and when they come into force.

The list of rural schools only applies for the purpose of a presumption against the closure of rural schools. Whilst Llancafarn has been included on the rural list, it would only be considered under this category if it were being closed after the revised code came into force. This would not be the case for Llancafarn Primary School under both the current and revised Code.

Issue 18

Labelling the proposal as a migration is misleading

Respondents feel that the proposal is plainly a closure of the primary school and that moving the school 5 miles away is nonsensical. It is felt that the proposed transfer is not in keeping with the School Organisation Code. The proposed school cannot be called Llancafarn as it isn't in Llancafarn.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The term migration was used in the first consultation exercise. In recognition of some confusion being expressed with regard to this term, the second consultation exercise reaffirms the regulated alteration of Llancafarn Primary School with a transfer from the existing school site to a new site.

The Council is not proposing to close Llancafarn Primary School. The proposal is to move the existing school to a new site with an improved school building and increased capacity, as well as an extended age range. A regulated alteration of a school site is referred to as a regulated alteration under the School Organisation Code, statutory code document no: 006/2013. This proposal retains the existing school, its staff, pupils and governors. The name of the school would remain the same unless the school governing body choose to request a change of name which must be approved by the Council's Cabinet.

Whilst the proposed new location is approximately 4.7 miles away in Rhose from the existing school building, this proposal is not unique to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. A neighbouring local authority has successfully moved schools to new sites up to four miles away previously.

Currently, 35% of children at the school live in the Rhose area. This proposal would provide a shorter distance for them to travel. A further 37% of pupils currently attending Llancafarn Primary School live in Barry, Llantwit, Cowbridge and

outside the Vale of Glamorgan already make their own travel arrangements and would do the same to the new site. The 29% of pupils living in Llancafán who would need to travel to the new site would receive free school transport provided by the Council to facilitate their attendance at the school.

Issue 19

Alternative options available

Respondents questioned as to what alternative options to the proposal were considered and whether these included federation. A respondent queried an alternative option which is considered below.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Alternatives to the proposal were considered and were included in greater detail in the second consultation document as follows.

Alternatives considered:

Extending Llancafán Primary School

Llancafán Primary School would be expanded to a one form entry school with a 48 place nursery to accommodate the forecasted increase in pupil numbers within the Western Vale. This option would require expansion of the existing school on its existing site.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- The site is a constrained site and too small to expand to meet requirements. Building Bulletin 99 (adopted by the Welsh Government for the 21st Century schools programme) provides a formula for calculating minimum school site areas. For 126 children the required site area should be from 6736m² to 7540m². However the school site is smaller than the recommended site area at 3,700m². This compares to the recommended 10,000m² for a 210 place school.
- The confined site is also sloping on a significant proportion of the site which further limits the possibilities to expand the school on the current site or to provide sports pitches or external learning areas on the school site. A multi-storey building could be built on the site but this is not in keeping with the area and is highly unlikely to be supported by the planning department, or local residents.
- The school is on a small site, slightly offset by the use of the adjacent tennis club courts. The four separate buildings and small sloping site do not meet 21st Century School design guidance standards for primary schools which have been used for all new builds completed through the 21st Century Schools programme.

- The additional space would be required to accommodate increasing pupil numbers from the Rhoose area. Travel to the school would be difficult and would contribute to congested access through the village and lanes leading to Llancarfan.
- 21st Century Schools comprise a fully accessible (Equalities Act 2010) one or two storey building providing all the required educational functions within a single building set in grounds meeting current outdoor curriculum needs. It would not be possible to achieve this with the existing site constraints in Llancarfan. In order to secure 21st Century School funding from Welsh Government, it is a requirement that the 21st Century school building protocols be met.
- There is insufficient access and space on the existing site to maintain the existing school whilst building works for a new school were undertaken.

Extending Rhws Primary School

Rhoose Primary School would be expanded on its current site to include the addition of an 8 classroom extension and dining hall. This would require a further building to be built adjacent to the 2009 extension alongside the remodelling of existing class spaces and extension to the existing nursery facilities.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- The additional buildings will be built on existing playing fields leaving the site looking and feeling overcrowded;
- Design restrictions and delay could be caused by the grade 2 listing of the existing school building;
- Initial feasibility work has highlighted that because of the limited outside space available at the school, the site will be deemed too small as calculated by Building Bulletin 99 Briefing Framework for Primary Schools Projects. The Bulletin states that the area required for a 630 capacity primary school plus nursery is 28,650 m². The area of the Rhoose Primary School site is 14,600 m² and is therefore 14,050 m² short of the required space for a 630 place primary school. This would limit the design and site layout for any proposed extension;
- Under the Building Bulletin requirements, the Rhws Primary School site is currently too small for the current population of the school. A school with capacity for 375 children plus a nursery would require between 16,315 and 18,115 m². The current area at Rhws Primary is 14,648, currently falling below the minimum standard.
- By extending capacity at the school the current traffic congestion in the village will increase at key points during the day;
- There is no opportunity to address half form entry challenges at Llancarfan Primary School, or the projected fall in pupil numbers;

- Building on the existing site would cause disruption to learning for at least 9 months as not all of the work could be undertaken during school holidays. This could affect learning outcomes;

The enlarged school would be too large causing a situation of surplus capacity in 2021 of 19%. Parents from the new developments may also choose to allow their children to remain at their existing schools. This would mean that not all of the predicted demand is realised in the short term which would increase the potential for surplus capacity in the school. When building or extending schools it is considered necessary to extend or build in multiples of 30 for a one, two and three form entry school of seven year groups, reception to year 6. This is a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery that better manages class organisation, school structure, curriculum planning, negates mixed age teaching and assists with managing statutory class size limits of 30 children.

Building a new school in Rhose while making no changes to Llancarfan Primary School

A new 210 place school would be built on a 1 hectare site in the Rhose Point development.

No change would be required to the current facilities or capacity at the existing Rhws Primary School, but work would be undertaken to address the issues highlighted in the 2014 condition survey.

It is anticipated that the new school would be federated with the current Rhose Primary school. The federation would benefit from sharing a high quality Headteacher, leadership team and governing body, allowing for additional flexibility and resource sharing enabling additional cost savings. The schools would remain separate, maintaining their own individual budget allocations and would report results separately.

This model was identified as not being the preferred option for the following reasons:

- Given current projected demand of 135 children, a new 210 place school would introduce significant surplus spaces, and would not represent effective management of school places or resources.
- There is no potential to address half form entry challenges at Llancarfan Primary School.
- The creation of a federation between the new and existing school will require excellent leadership. Further succession planning will need to be incorporated to ensure that this relationship is sustained into the medium and long term.
- Leadership will need to manage the two schools across sites which would introduce additional complexity.

- Additional revenue funding of approximately £725k would be required to operate a 210 place school. This would need to be found from within the current Individual Schools' Budget, thereby reducing the funding available for other schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Maintaining the status quo

Llancarfan is comprised of a Victorian school building with a separate block built in 2000 and two separate demountable classroom blocks. The school is situated on a small school site with difficult access. The school has no nursery provision in place and has an admission number of 18 that requires mixed age teaching.

The school is situated in the village of Llancarfan providing a small school ethos. Children attend from a number of different areas of which 29% live within the school catchment area. The school has a catchment population of 55 pupils compared to a capacity for 126 children. The school is categorised as yellow in terms of the Welsh Government's National School Categorisation system. The school has a high revenue cost per child compared to the Vale average.

Maintaining the status quo is not considered to be a viable option. Based on current projections, by 2023 there is an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places in the Rhoose area. In addition, the number of children living in Llancarfan is decreasing which will further challenge the efficiency and sustainability of Llancarfan Primary School. By law, the Vale of Glamorgan Council is required to ensure adequate provision of school places within its borders to meet demand. Given the above this option is not considered to be a viable alternative.

The proposal and preferred option of a new building and location would allow for further development of a curriculum filled with rich experiences that challenge children, raise attainment and develop interpersonal relationships. This will support the development of nursery provision extending the school to deliver education to pupils aged 3 – 11, allowing all learners to achieve success.

Issue 20

Division in Rhoose

A number of respondents in Rhoose are concerned about the potential impacts on the community of another school in the area. Respondents stated that the proposal will not benefit the whole of Rhoose and would split the community. The Council needs to consider the expansion of Rhws Primary School. Rhws Primary School will not see any S106 money.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council is under a statutory duty to manage the demand for school places in the Vale of Glamorgan area. The population of Rhoose is growing as a result of the development referred to in the consultation document. It is not a sustainable solution for there to be one English medium school serving a population of this size.

A school is therefore required in the Rhoose area in order to meet demand for school places emanating from the new housing developments in Rhoose. The

proposal also provides an opportunity to move Llancarfan Primary School to the location where around 35% of the children already in attendance currently reside.

S106 money is available to increase school places in an area such as expanding or building a new school. Section 106 money is not available for Rhws Primary School as it is unable to expand on its current site to accommodate the extra demand from the new housing development and for the following reasons:

- The additional buildings would be built on existing playing fields leaving the site looking and feeling overcrowded;
- Design restrictions and delay could be caused by the grade 2 listing of the existing School;
- Initial feasibility work has highlighted that because of the limited outside space available at the school, the site will be deemed too small as calculated by Building Bulletin 99 Briefing Framework for Primary Schools Projects. The Bulletin states that the area required for a 630 capacity primary school plus nursery is 28,650 m². The area of the Rhose Primary School site is 14,600 m² and is therefore 14,050 m² short of the required space for a 630 place primary school. This would limit the design and site layout for any proposed extension;
- All schools included within the 21st Century Schools Programme must meet Building Bulletin regulations. An extension of Rhws Primary on the existing site would not meet Building Bulletin 99 and would be ineligible for 50% Welsh Government funding;
- The cost of extending an operational school is significantly higher than building on a green field site. This is due to additional health and safety measures to ensure the safety of children, staff and parents, restrictions on delivery times and working hours and access restrictions. Building an extension could cost double per m² than a new build;
- Extending the school on the current site will increase the number of teaching and support staff at the school, this will necessitate additional car parking spaces that will reduce the area available for teaching and learning. This is included within the area guidelines of Building Bulletin 99;
- By extending capacity at the school the current traffic congestion in the village will increase at key points during the day;

A larger Rhws Primary School would be too large causing a situation of surplus capacity in 2021 of 19%. Parents from the new developments may also choose to allow their children to remain at their existing schools. This would mean that not all of the predicted demand is realised in the short term which would increase the potential for surplus capacity in the school.

The proposal is considered to benefit the community of Rhose. Around 90 places are required for Rhose residents living on the new development and together with the school on a new site would see around 60% of children attending the school living in the Rhose area. Both schools would continue to serve the community of Rhose.

The existing primary school, Rhws Primary School, would see continued investment in the school by the Council in line with its priority commitments and criteria for maintaining schools.

This is an opportunity for the schools to work together and to continue to serve the community. They would be encouraged to develop relationships together to ensure the community of Rhose is served well for the future, extending community involvement.

. As part of the consultation a respondent requested consideration of an option to reduce Rhws Primary School to 210 places, along with the addition of a new 210 place school in Rhws on the land north-west of the railway line, and leaving Llancarfan Primary School in Llancarfan.

The current capacity of Rhws primary is 375 places accommodated within 8 classrooms in the original school block, a two storey classroom block with four classrooms, a double classroom demountable and a separate nursery block. The current school number on roll is 374.

The capacity could be reduced to 315, one and half form entry school, by demolishing the demountable classroom building allowing this area to revert to a playground. The estimated cost would be in the region of £25k to remove the demountable.

When building or extending schools it is considered necessary to extend or build in multiples of 30 for a one, two and three form entry school of seven year groups, reception to year 6. This is widely acknowledged to be a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery that better manages class organisation, school structure, curriculum planning, negates mixed age teaching and assists with managing statutory class size limits of 30 children.

A further reduction in capacity could be achieved through re-designating existing small or less suitable classrooms in the main building to reduce capacity to 210. These former classrooms could be used for a school library, IT suite, PPA room, SEN/group rooms or for peripatetic teaching e.g. music.

The capacity of the stand-alone nursery building would also need to be reduced to align with a new 1 form entry school. This could be achieved through re-designating areas at no cost.

The costs to re-designate classrooms would depend on the extent of the works carried out but could be up to £80k for sundry alterations to four classrooms if additional IT and power points are required along with new fixed and loose furniture and resources.

As a consequence of reducing the capacity, the school budget would also reduce and although staffing costs would be less. The building running and maintenance costs would not significantly reduce even if the demountable was removed.

Fundamentally, the demand for primary school places in the Rhose area would not be met with insufficient primary school places to meet future demand. Based on current projections to include housing developments in Rhose on land to the north-

west and land north-east of the railway line, there would be a requirement for 465 school places to meet demand over the next 5 year period. The model would only realise 420 school places to serve the area. There would be insufficient places to meet demand from new housing development in the area.

A reduction in school capacity would require the Council to follow a statutory process in terms of consultation and statutory proposals. It would be problematic to justify a proposal that does not meet demand for school places in an area, and it would not meet Welsh Government's criteria for 21st Century Schools funding.

Federation of the two schools would not be considered viable; the experienced Headteacher at Rhws Primary school has retired with a new, permanent Headteacher due to take up the role in January 2019. Federation requires an experienced Headteacher due to the complexities of associated with 2 or more schools on different sites.

The option would not make the Llancarfan transfer proposal achievable. The school is operating with a surplus capacity of 25 places (19.8%) that is set to increase to 28 places (22%) over the next five year period. The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to reducing the number of surplus places in schools in order to meet an agreed target put in place as a requirement of Welsh Government in order to ensure education is provided efficiently. Within the primary sector, this equates to an agreed target of no more than 10%.

A reduction in pupil numbers will have an adverse effect on the school being able to manage its budget. Reducing the number on roll to 210 would reduce the schools budget by £397,815 based on the AWPU (Age Weighted Pupil Unit). The school has a number of fixed costs totalling £267,515 which would not reduce with fewer pupils. These include headteacher, administration, caretaker, premises, service level agreements and external contracts. It is acknowledged that there would be a small reduction in energy costs as a result of removal of the demountable building.

The school receives an additional £48,677k on top of the £267,515k in fixed costs towards for premises and grounds which is based on pupil numbers. As above, the reduction in pupil numbers would reduce this element however the premises itself will not change. As a listed building, the school is also subject to additional maintenance.

A 210 place school averages fixed costs at £189,282k. This is £78,233 less expensive than the cost of running Rhws Primary 210 places, given the existing site.

In order to accommodate the need for pupil places, Rhws Primary could be reduced to 255 places, rather than 210. This would still yield a reduction in the schools budget by £289,320k.

The following table demonstrates the revenue implications based on the mainstream schools funding formula between the current proposal of transferring Llancarfan into a new 210 place school site in Rhws, and maintaining Rhws Primary School with its current capacity of 375 places, versus the option of maintaining Llancarfan Primary School, reducing the capacity of Rhws Primary School on its

current site to 255 places and creating a new 210 place school in Rhoose to accommodate forecasted demand:

Current Proposal	Revenue Cost	Option Above	Revenue Cost
Rhws Primary (375)	£ 1,262,651	Llancarfan Primary	£ 544,631
New 210 School	£ 931,028	Rhws Primary (255)	£ 1,208,767
TOTAL	£ 2,193,679	New 210 School	£ 931,028
		TOTAL	£ 2,684,426
Difference	£ 490,747		

The table highlights that the option outlined above would increase revenue costs by £490,747 when compared to the current proposal of transferring Llancarfan Primary into a larger site in Rhoose and maintaining Rhws Primary with its current capacity.

- A reduction from 374 pupils on roll to a new capacity of 255 children at Rhws Primary can only be achieved through a phased reduction in the admission number from the reception intake. The scale of the reduction would not be realised until approximately 2026 following appropriate consultation on the School Admissions Policy.
- The current admission number of Rhws Primary is 53. If the school were reduced to 255 places the admission number would become 36. An admission number of 36 makes it difficult to manage class organisation, school structure, curriculum planning, and would necessitate mixed age teaching when considering statutory class size limits of 30 children.
- New catchment areas would need to be drawn to divide the Rhws pupil population to correlate with the new capacities in both schools, or both schools share the catchment area, with prioritisation given to the new school for newcomers to the catchment area.

Issue 21

Traffic Congestion in Rhoose

Respondents expressed concerns of increased traffic congestion in the Rhoose area.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council approved development in the Rhoose area as part of the Council's Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026.

If the proposal were to be implemented, traffic and transport implications would be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works for the school. As part of the design process a transport management plan would be developed which will include input

from highway officers. Onsite parking provision would be considered in the design of the new school.

If the proposal were approved, a planning application will be submitted for the build of a 210 place school on the new development. The highways department are a statutory consultee for planning applications who will provide detailed impartial comments on the proposal. This would include recommendations if improvements to the road network are required particularly as school transport would be provided to the school from the Llancarfan, Llancadle and Llanbethery area.

The Council has already received developer contributions for highway works and sustainable transport facilities in respect of the north-west development. Sustainable transport facilities include information, facilities, services or projects which provide or improve access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, motor cycles, taxis or car shares in the vicinity of the site and within the Rhoose ward boundary. This will include road safety measures in Rhoose.

As part of a planning application a traffic impact assessment would be carried out to look at what improvements would need to be made to the existing road infrastructure.

The new development and location of the proposed school is on the outskirts to the east of Rhoose whereas Rhws Primary School is located further to the middle of Rhoose on Fontygary Road. As the majority of children attending the school would reside within the Rhoose area and within walking distance of the school, it is anticipated that parents would consider walking their children to school. The school would develop a travel plan to mitigate travel by car.

The proposal would have a positive effect for Rhoose parents as some children attending Llancarfan Primary School who are currently being transported by parents would live within walking distance to the school's new site. Children living in Rhoose are within walking distance of the location of both Rhws Primary and the location proposed for the school's new site.

It is acknowledged that the move of Llancarfan Primary School to a new site would increase car traffic in the Rhoose area. However, the new road infrastructure surrounding the proposed site of the new school building is better equipped to handle the increased traffic than the narrow lanes surrounding Llancarfan.

Issue 22

Infrastructure

Respondents had concerns that more cars would be travelling to Rhoose. The village has a lack of infrastructure to support the increased traffic flow.

Council's response to the concerns raised

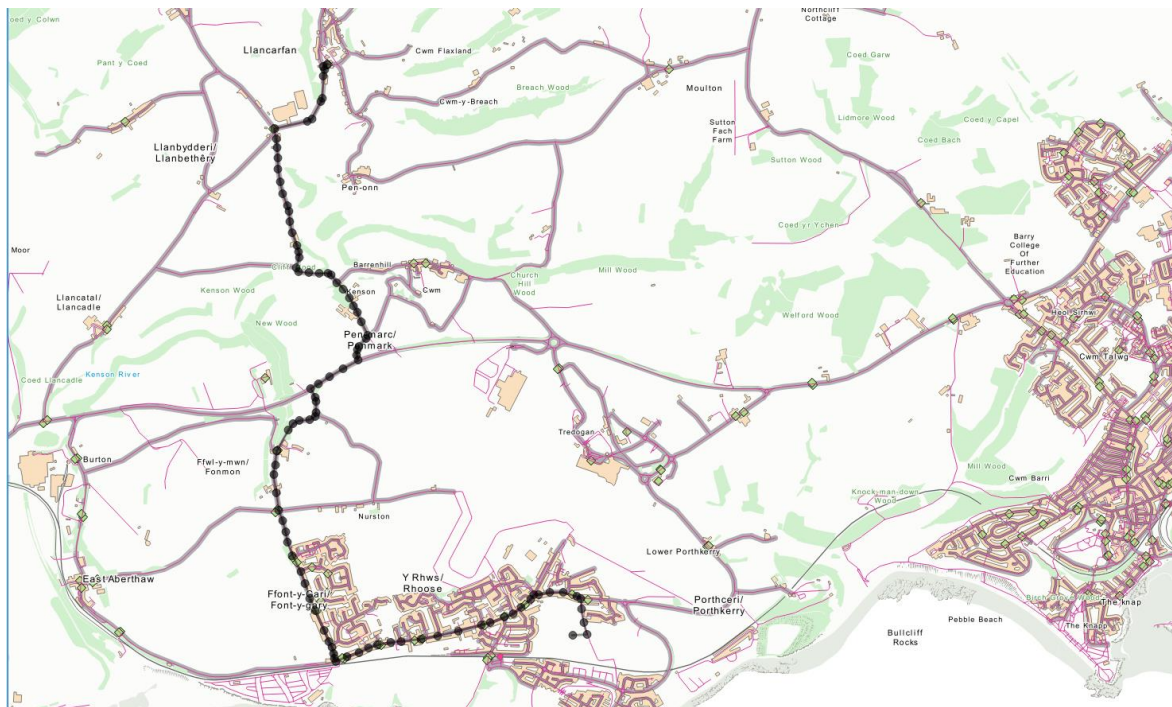
Traffic and transport implications would be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works for the school should the proposal be implemented.

Section 106 developer contributions will support developments to the road infrastructure to mitigate the negative transport impacts of developments as a result of approved planning developments. This is a matter that the planning department would have considered when approving housing developments.

School transport would be provided for children residing in the Llancafarn, Llanccadle and Llanbethery areas through the provision of two minibuses serving the areas to the school, parents from these areas would therefore not need to use their own transport to access the school in Rhoose. As 35% of pupils already attending Llancafarn Primary School live in the Rhoose area, parents would be less likely to use car travel and consider walking their children to school. Currently 36 children attend Llancafarn from outside the catchment area from Barry, Llantwit and Cowbridge and who are likely to continue to be transported by parents, this is considered to be of minimal impact to the area.

Suggested route maps have been included below:

Route from Llancafarn to proposed site:



The distance from Llancafarn to the proposed site is approximately 4.7 miles.

Route from Llanbethery to proposed site via Llancadle:



The distance from Llancaul to the proposed site is approximately 4.9 miles.

The Council has received developer contributions for highway works and sustainable transport facilities in respect of the north-west development.

Sustainable transport facilities include information, facilities, services or projects which provide or improve access for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, motor cycles, taxis or car shares in the vicinity of the site and within the Rhoose ward boundary. This will include road safety measures in Rhoose. These measures would support the road infrastructure in the Rhoose area.

Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements are all ways of assessing and mitigating the negative transport impacts of development in order to promote sustainable development. They are a requirement for all developments which potentially generate significant amounts of movements.

Issue 23

Expansion on current site

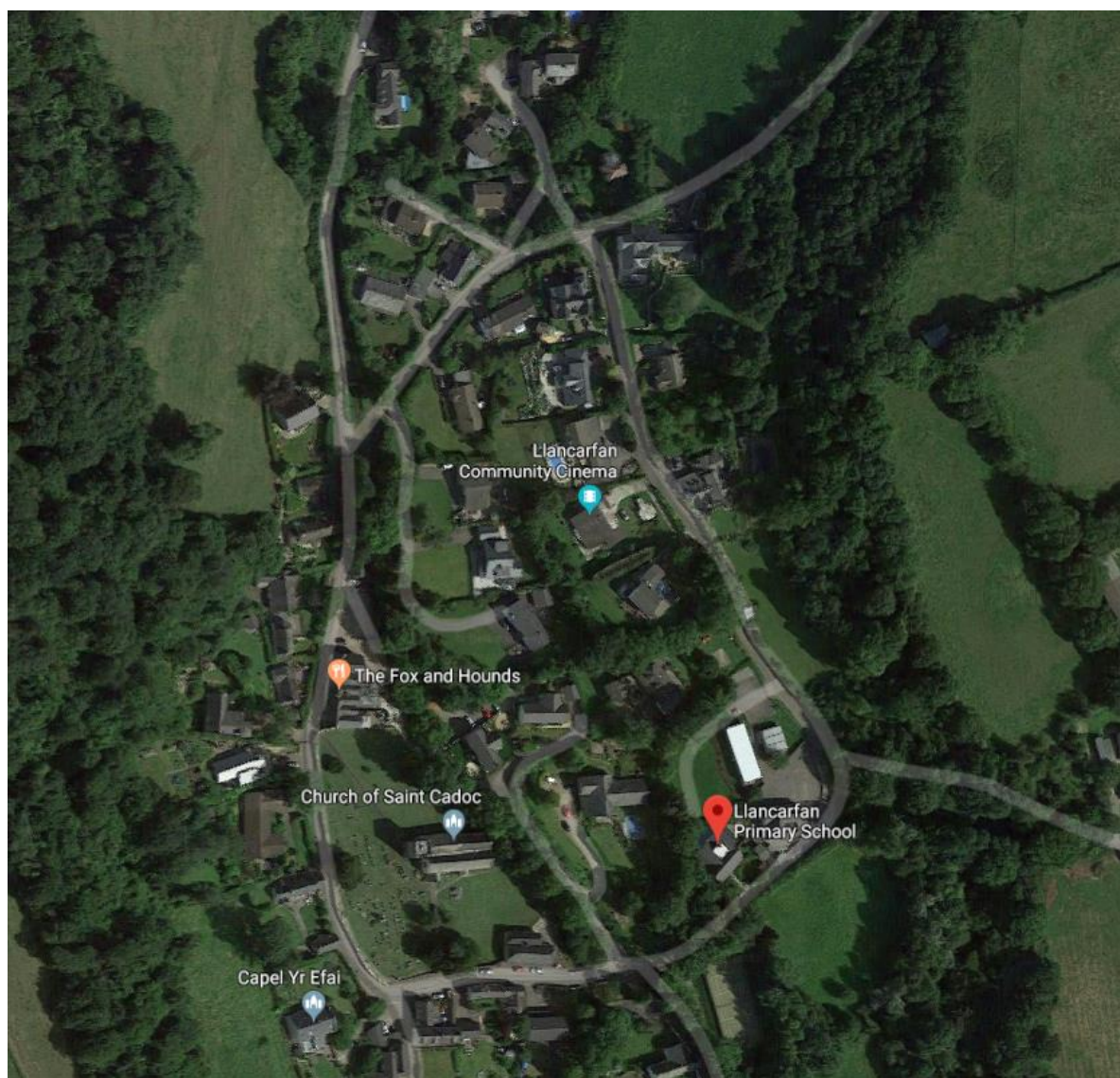
Respondents questioned why Llancaul can't expand on its current site. The consultation document states the building does not meet current building standards and suggests this is misleading, the school building is deemed good in the document.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Llancaul Primary School is comprised of an original Victorian school building containing two classrooms. The building has solid stone walls and a pitch slate covered roof. There are two separate demountable classroom blocks, one single and one double classroom, which are in good condition. In addition, there is a block

built in 2000 and extended in 2006 providing the hall, kitchens, a small classroom and staff accommodation.

The school is on a small site which is slightly offset by the use of the adjacent tennis club courts. The school does not meet current building standards and following consideration of the restricted size and location of the site, it is not possible to replace the school with a new build at its current location. An additional challenge relates to the difficult and congested access to the school through the village and the lanes leading to Llancarfan. The four separate buildings and small sloping site do not meet 21st Century Schools design guidance standards for primary schools which have been used for all new builds completed through the Council's 21st Century Schools programme. These schools comprise a fully accessible one or two storey building providing all the required educational functions within a single building set in grounds meeting current outdoor curriculum needs. An arial view of Llancarfan Village and the school grounds can be found below.



The school is not considered an option for expansion for the following reasons;

- The site is a constrained site and too small to expand to meet requirements. Building Bulletin 99 (adopted by the Welsh Government for the 21st Century schools programme) provides a formula for calculating minimum school site areas. For 126 children the required site area should be from 6736m² to 7540m². However the school site is smaller than the recommended site area at 3,700m². This compares to the recommended 10,000m² for a 210 place school.
- The confined site is also sloping on a significant proportion of the site which further limits the possibilities to expand the school on the current site or to provide sports pitches or external learning areas on the school site. A multi-storey building could be built on the site but this is not in keeping with the area and is highly unlikely to be supported by the planning department, or local residents.
- The school is on a small site, slightly offset by the use of the adjacent tennis club courts. The four separate buildings and small sloping site do not meet 21st Century School design guidance standards for primary schools which have been used for all new builds completed through the 21st Century Schools programme.
- 21st Century Schools comprise a fully accessible one or two storey building providing all the required educational functions within a single building set in grounds meeting current outdoor curriculum needs. It would not be possible to achieve this with the existing site constraints in Llancafán. In order to secure 21st Century School funding from Welsh Government, it is a requirement that the 21st Century school building protocols are met.
- There is insufficient access and space on the existing site to maintain the existing school whilst building works for a new school were undertaken.

Issue 24

21st Century Schools Standard

Respondents felt that many primary schools are similar to Llancafán in terms of not meeting 21st Century School Standard's.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a long-term strategic investment in educational estate throughout Wales. It is a unique collaboration between Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, colleges and dioceses.

Whilst Llancafán school building condition is good with a low level of investment required, it does not meet 21st Century school design requirements. Whilst other schools may also not meet 21st Century school standards, this proposal provides an opportunity to access funding to provide a new 21st Century school building for Llancafán Primary School. The Council is expected to receive Welsh Government

Band B match funding through the 21st Century School Programme for the proposal.

Issue 25

School Size

Respondents questioned whether a 210 place school was the minimum number for a WG 21st Century Grant Application. Respondent expressed concern that the proposal could have detrimental effect of change on a child and for children with additional learning needs. Smaller class sizes better support children with special educational needs. Small school benefits children.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council has not implied that a 210 place school was the minimum to be eligible for a WG grant application. The Council understands that projects are considered on their merits and they must demonstrate that they are strategic, affordable, deliverable and aligned with Government objectives providing value for money. In rural counties such as Powys, where communities are a significant distance from a suitable school, a smaller school could be considered to be viable.

The Council considers that a 210 place building is the minimum size from an efficiency and sustainability perspective. A 210 place building would accommodate the projected increase in pupil numbers from the new housing development in Rhoose in addition to the projected pupil numbers from Llancafán Primary School.

Smaller schools generally face greater pressures in areas of leadership and management, staff development and curriculum planning. The smaller the school the more challenging it is often for the teachers to match work to all pupils learning needs.

The Council believes that moving the school to larger accommodation with a new catchment with sustainable numbers would;

- Enable the school to further improve while catering for a greater pupil population.
- 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.
- Establish a nursery unit which offers a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery of education for the 21st Century that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings. 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.

- Develop the ethos and culture of the school in children from an earlier age, leading to effective interpersonal relationships and higher self-esteem.
- Provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years to promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.
- All curriculum planning and resourcing would build successfully on previous pupil knowledge and experience and engage interest.
- Support pupils to develop their ability to learn new skills and apply their subject knowledge more positively and creatively across a continuum of learning.
- Improve the already good arrangements for the care, support and guidance of pupils from an earlier age.
- Extend and develop partnerships with families from the earliest opportunity to strengthen home / school transition.

The identification and support for children with additional learning needs would continue in the school. As the Council is not proposing to close the school, the staff from Llancarfan Primary would be very aware of the individual needs of pupils and would be in a position to work closely with the Council at the design stage in order to ensure that the learning environment is supportive of all pupils, including those who benefit from a quieter learning environment

Design elements would be incorporated into the school such as a small room between a pair of classrooms which could be used for individual / small group learning or could be used as a breakout space should a pupil need to retreat from the classroom. The school would be designed to have flexible spaces which could be adapted by the use of furniture for specific activities, which would include quiet areas for individual learning. The whole building would be designed to comply with current building regulations for disabled access.

Any evidence that smaller class sizes have an impact on attainment is limited. The attainment of pupils with Additional Learning Needs is influenced by the quality of teaching and learning and support they receive related to their needs. This is not influenced by class size or school size. In some instances where children have very complex needs they may require small class placements with high levels of adult support, however, in such cases they would require a placement at one of the LAs specialist resource bases.

Issue 26

Inaccuracy in documents

A respondent questioned an omission in the second consultation document to a change to St Athan catchment boundary referenced in the Community Impact

Assessment. Updated figures for St Nicholas and Llanfair are different in the second consultation.

Council's response to the concerns raised

It was necessary to update all school data for the second consultation in order to ensure that the document contained the most up to date information. The data is an accurate reflection of the distribution of pupils living across the catchment areas of St Nicholas and Llanfair. There was an inaccuracy with regard to the data in the first document which explains the difference between the two figures. The data provided in the second consultation document is correct.

A minor cosmetic change is proposed to a small part of the north west boundary of Llancarfan Primary school catchment to support boundary changes to Llanfair catchment area to include St Athan. This area is not residential with no pupil population and is not a material consideration relevant to the proposal with no impact on pupil numbers at any school.

Issue 27

Yellow school already doing well

A respondent queried the Welsh Government categorisation of schools. Llancarfan is Yellow. This is evidence that the School is doing well (above Welsh average). They expressed that they felt it was hard to see how the education at the school can be improved.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Llancarfan Primary School has been evaluated as being able to benefit from additional support from the Central South Consortium, Local Authority and other schools.

The school has the following targets for improvement:

- Continue work on increasing the number of pupils achieving Level 5
- Implement strategies to ensure the performance of pupils at Level 5 is above the median and in line with performance in English and science.
- Improve attendance to move into a benchmark position above the median
- Continue to work with cluster schools on moving Good teaching to excellent
- Update its Self-Evaluation report in line with up-to-date standards
- Develop improved transition for Year 6 pupils
- Engage with NACE to further improve More Able and Talented practice across the school.

Under the national categorisation system for schools, all schools are placed in one of four support categories (green, yellow, amber or green) and one of 4 groups for ability to bring about improvement (A-D) with A being the highest for improvement capacity. The support category determines the level of support the school receives from the Central South Consortium. In 2017-18, Llancarfan was placed in a yellow

support with the ability to bring about improvement judged as B, having previously been in an amber support category. In 2017-2018, 28 out of 56 schools in the Vale of Glamorgan were placed in a green support category. For further information about the categorisation scheme, please see Welsh Government's parents' guide to the National School Categorisation System:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150119-parents-guide-en.pdf>

Issue 28

Poor justification for educational improvements

A respondent commented that the biggest impact on the educational attainment of children is the quality of teaching not the facilities, not Wi-Fi access. There is poor justification for educational improvements provided.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The quality of teaching is of course very important and it is worth noting that the staff have been very successful in ensuring the learning environment available to them is the best it can be in the circumstances. An additional benefit to this proposal is that the learning environment would require less time, creativity and intervention from staff to make it work. This would enable them to have a greater focus on achievement, attendance and pedagogy, in line with the targets listed above.

The learning environment and infrastructure, including both indoor and outdoor facilities and learning space are key elements in supporting both teachers and learners. This is reflected in the aims of the national curriculum and Digital Competence Framework (DCF) and the Council's ambitions for 21st Century Schools with full access to 21st Century technologies. Wi-Fi was a point of discussion at recent consultation events due to the poor record of connectivity at Llancarfan School to date. However, the Council's ambition to improve opportunities to develop digitally competent learners is not just about improving Wi-Fi access. The DCF was produced in order to ensure the development of digital literacy, competency and skills from an early age. "Digital Competence is the set of skills and knowledge and attitudes that enable the confident, creative and critical use of technologies and systems. It is essential for learners if they are to be informed, capable and have the potential to be successful in today's society." Classroom task ideas will need to "change and develop to reflect new technologies and the increasing experience and expertise within the digital learning field". From September 2018 schools are expected to:

- Have a clear vision for delivering digital competence in the classroom across the curriculum
- Have established staff responsibilities for embedding digital competence across the curriculum
- Review hardware and software requirements, and staff professional learning needs on an on-going basis
- Be mapping digital competence against department/ year of current curriculum

- Have planned for and be delivering staff professional development in respect of digital competence, working with regional consortia.

The DCF guidance June 2018 advises that “from January 2020, the new curriculum and assessment arrangements will be available. Digital expectations will be embedded in the new curriculum and settings and schools will be:

- comparing existing approaches to DCF implementation with the new curriculum
- embedding digital competence across the school curriculum
- sharing good practice within and outside the school
- engaging with the school council and pupil voice
- evaluating how the current approach to digital competence fits with the new curriculum.

From September 2022, settings and schools will be delivering digital competence on a cross-curricular basis. They will:

- have embedded digital competence across the school curriculum
- continue to adapt existing digital competence approaches to the new curriculum
- continue to review and refine their approach to digital competence.

Providing the appropriate resources and technologies to ensure we support learners to meet the objectives of the framework is therefore an important consideration in developing our plans for new school buildings as part of our strategy for Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Estyn Report and Standards

Issue 29

Respondent queried that nothing in the Estyn inspection report suggests a move to new premises is required or would be beneficial in meeting the areas identified for school improvement.

Council’s response to the concerns raised

Estyn have a responsibility to report on their findings at a school. They are not required to recommend a move to new premises. They have however acknowledged in their response to this proposal that “the school does not meet the standards set out in the statutory framework for school buildings and design in Wales and routes through the village and lanes to access the school are congested.” They also acknowledge that the “school site is restricted in size”.

Issue 30

Respondent query- the latest Estyn report highlights that pupils make good use of the wealth of outdoor areas. The report states that “the learning environment is varied and stimulating”, while the Council’s own inspection of the school estate described the current Llancarfan site as being in “Good Condition”.

Council’s response to the concerns raised

It is acknowledged that the staff and pupils make full use of the resources they have available to them. The accommodation at Llancarfan is challenging however and there are examples of the teachers experiencing difficulties in managing curriculum delivery. ICT concerns have been outlined in issue 27, another example relates to sport. Feedback was received during the recent consultation event with regard to the difficulties in teaching some team sports, such as Cricket on a restricted tennis court. In addition, the constraints of the school site meant that during sports day, teachers had to place mattresses against the walls for health and safety reasons in order to prevent pupils from running into walls and injuring themselves during races. An additional benefit to this proposal is that the learning environment provided at a new school building would require less intervention from staff to make it work. This would enable them to have a greater focus on achievement, attendance and pedagogy.

Issue 31

Respondent query- Moving to a new building is no guarantee that the quality of education standards will improve. A change risks unjustified damage to current good standards. A respondent commented that they would not want children’s education to be affected during the transitional period to a new build school.

Council’s response to the concerns raised

The Council has adopted an Optimum Build design model approach for the building of new schools across the Vale of Glamorgan. The quality of the environment where we learn has a very strong impact on the educational outcomes achieved by pupils at the school.

The optimised design approach puts the learning environment at the heart of the building whilst providing flexible solutions to classroom design and layout. The school design meets BREEAM Excellent requirements. The design of low carbon buildings minimises energy consumption through improved performance of the building envelope as well as maximising the use of natural day lighting and ventilation adding to the wider integration of a range of low and zero carbon technologies. The optimised design has the flexibility in design to create learning environments which not only supports and enhances learning experience and outcomes but is a cost effective solution to 21st Century school design.

Issue 32

There is evidence that when schools merge standards often stall or regress. The Council cannot therefore guarantee that progress and educational standards will improve in the new school.

Council's response to the concerns raised

There is some evidence to suggest that when two or more schools are amalgamated, there can be a dip in performance. This is not an aspect of this proposal. In the Vale of Glamorgan, our experience has been that when schools receive new buildings this has resulted in improved standards.

This proposal would support the school's leadership in continuing to be highly effective and consistent, developing approaches to support learners throughout the transition. This would include careful planning prior to and during the proposed transition period to avoid any risk of distraction that could impact on educational outcomes.

Issue 33

The Auditor General's report on the 21st Century Schools Programme (Autumn 2017) reported that "the evidence on the extent to which the Welsh Government is achieving the wider benefits it intended is less clear [...] the evidence on attainment is unclear. It is difficult to establish a causal link between school buildings and educational attainment. Achievements of school are due to the small school, community feel and links with the beautiful village.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Welsh Government launched their 21st Century Schools and Education Capital Programme in order to create "learning environments designed to improve the delivery of education in the 21st Century. This is a major, long term and strategic capital investment programme which they state is aimed to deliver:

- Learning environments in Wales that will enable the successful implementation of strategies for improvement and better education outcomes
- Greater economy and efficiency for learning environments through better use of resources
- A sustainable education system in Wales that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings.

The second wave of investment requires the Council to meet the following investment objectives:

- addressing growth in demand for Welsh medium education;
- reductions of surplus capacity and inefficiency in the system;
- expansion of schools in areas of increased demand for educational services;
- address condition of educational assets; and
- making assets available for community use where demand exists.

The statement from the auditor general referred to by respondents is made in his report on the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme published in May 2017, which can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/21st%20century%20school%20-%20English.pdf>

The relevant extract from the report is provided below:

The Link between school condition and improving educational attainment is not clear but future investment could learn from emerging research in Wales and elsewhere.

2.26 The Welsh Government stated at the outset that the Programme should lead to improved educational attainment. At this stage, it is too early to assess what impact, if any, the programme has had on attainment. Many factors influence learners' attainment, in particular the quality of school leadership and teaching. As a result, the causal relationship between the quality of buildings and learning outcomes has been difficult to establish. However, recent academic research by Salford University – The Clever Classrooms project – has begun to provide evidence of a correlation between the physical teaching environment (lighting, colours, display work and so on) and the pupils' academic progress. The researchers showed that a well-designed classroom can boost learning progress in primary school pupils by up to 16 % in a single year. This research can inform the design of new schools going forward. The Welsh Government's proposed approach to post-occupancy evaluation will provide more evidence of any link between the school design and attainment by linking data about the school to educational outcomes.

Clearly, the above observations are made in relation to the 21st Century Schools Programme rather than to individual Local Authority projects. The Vale of Glamorgan set post occupancy targets for the schemes it carried out under Band A of the programme and has monitored outcomes. The majority of targets were met for individual schemes although it is recognised that improved attainment is heavily dependent on effective leadership and the quality of teaching, it cannot be attributed solely to the school building.

The consultation document sets out the school's current targets for improvement and explains how the proposal would support the school to improve.

Issue 34

A respondent expressed concerned relating to the education environment at the proposed site due to noise and air pollution from Cardiff Airport.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Noise and air quality are matters that were considered in the process of determining the planning application for the residential development and the new school - Application reference 2014/00550/OUT. Despite the area not being within an area of special air quality or noise quality control, an air quality assessment was submitted with the planning application along with a noise and vibration assessment. These documents were considered during the course of the

application and the Council's Environmental Health (Pollution Control) section (now Shared Regulatory Services) did not raise an objection to the development having considered the findings of these reports. The application, relevant documents and the officer's report can be viewed on the Council's Planning register at: <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/Plastandard.aspx>

Issue 35

Nursery

Respondents noted that Llancafán does not have a nursery and this has not affected the education of its pupils. Estyn comments that 'nearly all pupils make good progress from their starting points', therefore suggesting that the fact that the pupils come from varied nurseries does not impact on their education.

Council's response to the concerns raised

This proposal will develop continuity and progression in children's learning from the age of three. A consistent approach to the planning and delivery of the foundation phase (nursery to year two) would be enhanced through the establishment of a nursery unit. The already well-developed holistic approach could be embedded from an earlier age.

Estyn have advised as part of their response to the consultation that "It is likely that extending the provision to include nursery would support continuity and progression in pupils' learning experiences from pre-school age to statutory school age. The addition of outdoor facilities is likely to enhance pupils' wellbeing through providing better opportunities to develop their physical skills and health. In addition, access to high-quality outdoor provision is a key principle of foundation phase pedagogy".

Issue 36

Increased size

A respondent commented that by increasing the number of children in a school, the Council hasn't given sufficient weight to the losses that will come with this bigger size. In a bigger school, these opportunities are spread over a greater number of children, so each individual will do less and will learn less.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The size of the proposed new school building is 210 pupils with a 48 place nursery. This is defined as a medium sized school in the Estyn report "School Size and Educational Effectiveness" December 2013 where it is noted that "small schools face greater pressures in areas of leadership and management, staff development and curriculum planning". A larger school will be able to provide a wider curriculum provision and a greater range of extra-curricular opportunities for pupils. From the Estyn report cited above, they recognised that performance at level 5 in KS2 is slightly better in larger schools than small schools; improving performance at level 5 is one of the school's key improvement priorities. In 2017-2018, there were 8

primary school inspections in the Vale. All 8 schools are classed as medium or large in size and excellent practice was identified in 6 out of the 8 schools.

Issue 37

Mixed age teaching

Mixed age teaching can have many benefits. Many children thrive from mixed year groups in Llancarfan Primary School. Pupils benefited from the smaller environment that a village school offers with smaller classes.

Council's response to the concerns raised

There is evidence of good performance and outcomes at Llancarfan which were referenced in the Consultation Report. However, it is acknowledged that mixed age range classes do bring challenges for teachers, particularly in smaller schools. Estyn have previously stated in their report, "School Size and Educational Effectiveness" (December 2013) that smaller schools "generally do not do so well as other schools in the areas of leadership and management, staff development and curriculum planning." They also concluded that "the smaller the school, the more challenging it often is for the teacher to match work to all pupils' learning needs." This is primarily as a result of mixed age range classes. By increasing the size of the school to a one form entry school with a published admission number of 30 per year group, the requirement for mixed age classes would be reduced as the school population grows.

Issue 38

The school is at the heart of the community.

Council's response to the concerns raised

It has been noted that some respondents felt that the school has strong links with the community. It is acknowledged that a small number of parents and local community members currently volunteer to support peer and individual reading sessions at the school and also volunteer to provide music classes. There was however no evidence of strong community links with the school in terms of community involvement and use of the schools facilities. Feedback received during the consultation has indicated that this may not continue due to the increased travel time between the school and the local community. The Council would encourage the school to maintain community links within the catchment area, including Llancarfan Village. A key aim of the 21st Century Schools Programme is to ensure school facilities are developed to meet the needs of the local community.

In terms of community use of the school premises, Llancarfan Primary School is available for use by the local community. However, the local community centre, which is separate to the school, is primarily used by the community with no community use of the school buildings being recorded by the School. The school has previously been used, in conjunction with the Village Hall, for the summer fete. It has been noted in the Community Impact Assessment that there would be a negative impact on the Community in 5 out of 8 areas. It should be noted however that the principle purpose of a school is to educate the pupils to the best standards

and it is not reasonable to expect schools and pupils to carry wider burden of the impact on the community. Ultimately, economic and social factors are not educational issues and cannot be allowed to compromise the education of children.

Issue 39

Small/ rural school ethos

Concern was expressed about the removal of choice for parents requiring a small rural school education. The benefits of a rural schooling are well documented. The pupils make good use of the wealth of outdoor areas (e.g. woodland, farmland, pond dipping etc.).

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council fully appreciates that parents will have a multitude of factors they will wish to consider when applying for a school for their child. For parents wishing to access a rural school, there are other schools within rural locations that parents could choose to express a preference for such as Llangan, Llanfair, Pendoylan, Peterston-Super Ely, Llansannor, St David's, Wick & Marcross and St Brides C/W Primary School for example. Parents of course can express a preference for a particular school and the Council is very proud of the fact that over 90% of parents are successful in gaining a place at their first choice of school. However it cannot be guaranteed that all children will receive an offer of a place at their first preference, even if they apply on time.

As part of the design process for new school buildings, all new school sites are provided with forest areas in order to ensure that the learning experience makes full use of the outdoors. The Council would work with Forest School Wales to ensure that there is sustainable Forest School provision supported by a national network that will nurture the development of projects, offer advice, provide resources, guide best practice and provide continuing professional development at the school.

There are a number of examples of modern schools that have highly effective outdoor areas that are used extremely well to benefit pupils' learning and education. Within the Vale, Ysgol Y Ddraig is the most recently built primary school and, within less than two years, the school's leaders and staff have developed highly effective outdoor learning areas.

New school building and improved educational outcomes

Issue 40

Reference was made to a speaker (Dr Chris Llewelyn) at the Welsh Assembly Public Accounts Committee saying that "it's difficult to establish a causal link between new schools and improved educational outcomes but....the more communities are involved in the life of a school in every way, then that does have a positive impact on outcomes." A respondent added that the Council are planning to ignore the robust evidence of educational attainment provided by community involvement by closing Llancarfan Primary School.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Public Accounts Committee referred to was held on 11 June 2018. The Committee having considered the report from the Auditor General on the 21st Century Schools Programme requested evidence from Local Government. Dr Chris Llewellyn (Director of Lifelong Learning Welsh Local Government Association) and Paula Ham (Director of Learning and Skills Vale of Glamorgan Council) attended to answer questions. The session can be viewed via the link below: <http://www.senedd.tv/Meeting/Archive/de75bb6c-6118-4114-81eb-73cbb43d4eb9?autostart=True>

A member of the Committee had asked a question about access for pupils and community access to schools. She specifically wanted to know what barriers there are to making schools accessible and how can 21st Century Schools overcome them. Paula Ham responded to this question.

A further question was directed at Dr Chris Llewellyn:

“Do you think the WLGA would welcome guidance from the Welsh Government about duties under the 2010 Equality Act to make buildings more accessible or do you think the situation is fine as it is”?

Dr Chris Llewellyn's response:

“I would have to reflect on that. In terms of community use, at the outset there was ambition within the programme because of the scale of the investment for many communities. A £5 million primary school or a £20 million secondary school is the biggest they will get in their community and you will want to squeeze as much value as possible from that investment and to try to combine as many pots of investment as effectively as possible. In the Auditor General's report, it is mentioned that it is difficult to establish a causal link between new schools and educational outcomes but there is evidence to show that the more that a community is involved in the life of a school in every way then that does have a positive impact on outcomes”.

Dr Llewellyn's comment refers to community use of schools. The Community Impact Assessment found that community use of the school is very limited (2 occasions a year). Although there are a small number of volunteers who help out at the school, community access and involvement is under developed.

Issue 41

School will lose the support of volunteers from the village and surrounding areas

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Governing Body and senior leadership of the school would be encouraged to maintain these links with the community and organisations where they positively support the ethos and management of the school. Volunteers will still be able to support the school on its new site and would be encouraged to do so. The school has stated that with the exception of the Governing Body, there are very few volunteers who work within the school.

Issue 42

The impact of the loss of school use of local facilities and events (duck race, village show etc.) was raised by many respondents. It was felt by some that the proposal would have an adverse impact on businesses, clubs and societies, including the church.

Council's response to the concerns raised

It has been acknowledged in the Community Impact Assessment that there would be some negative impact within the community and local businesses. Please refer to the Community Impact Assessment for further information relating to this matter.

The Council is committed to supporting our communities and would look to work closely with the organisations identified in the Community Impact Assessment to minimise any negative impact. The Governing Body of the school would also be encouraged to maintain these links with the community organisations where they positively support the ethos and management of the school. Llancafarn Primary School on its new site would be free to choose to continue the strong relationship with the Llancafarn community to limit the impact. There are 8 governors at Llancafarn Primary School who live within Llancafarn village. This will assist in links to the community being maintained.

In order to mitigate any negative impacts, the Council would also work closely with the school and members of the community to support local businesses and events including, where appropriate, signposting through the school's website. The Council would continue to support the community of Llancafarn through its Creative Rural Communities initiative, which sees the Council supporting communities and enterprises to develop innovative projects and ideas that will create long term social and economic benefits

The Strong Communities Grant Fund offers grants to Community Groups, the Voluntary Sector and Town and Community Councils towards the cost of initiatives within the Vale of Glamorgan which help to support the Council's vision of "strong communities with a bright future". The grant fund totals £672,000 over three years until March 2020. The fund aims to:

- Improve the resilience of organisations/groups or their activities by funding activities which add value to their current work and reduce their reliance on grant funding in the future.
- Provide seed corn funding towards initiatives that can demonstrate longer term sustainability.
- Undertake consultation, feasibility, design and other specialist work to develop proposals for future activity and funding bids.
- Meet the capital costs of schemes by purchasing plant, machinery, equipment or other assets.
- Undertake work that would enable services to be provided, for example, through increased income generation potential.

- Open up Section 106 funding to specific communities where developments have taken place. Funding for facilities and open space projects in specific areas will be announced when each round is opened for applications.
- Support small scale and innovative projects.

This proposal is an education proposal which aims to address specific issues of school place capacity within the Western Vale. The principle purpose of a school is to educate the pupils to the best standards and it is not reasonable to expect schools and pupils to carry the wider burden of the impact on the community. Ultimately, economic and social factors are not educational issues and cannot be allowed to compromise the education of children. The Council would however continue to support the communities involved, if this proposal is to progress, in various ways to ensure that any identified negative impact is minimised.

Strength of community feeling

Issue 43

The Council is ignoring the depth of feeling and strength of community ties to the village school.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council fully understands the depth of feeling experienced by the community as a result of this proposal.

The Council has given due consideration to the impact on the community which is reflected in the Council's Community Impact Assessment and particularly in the context of educational provision in the area.

The primary function is the education of children to the best standards possible, providing school buildings that meet 21st century school standards. The proposal offers a more efficient and sustainable model to improve the delivery of education for the 21st Century.

The Council has offered a variety of opportunities for interested parties to engage as part of the consultation process in order to seek feedback on this proposal. The feedback provided to date has been incredibly valuable, has been carefully considered and is summarised in this report and the Community and Equality Impact Assessment. All feedback from individuals or organisations on the additional information will be considered before a decision is taken by the Cabinet.

The Vale of Glamorgan 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 recent consultation exercise examining primary provision in the Western Vale has been valuable and important in informing the next steps.

School ethos and size

Issue 44

The small school ethos and size has attracted families to the area.

Council's response to the concerns raised

It is acknowledged that some parents have chosen to send their children to Llancafarn due to its small school ethos and size. However, the challenges of surplus capacity are a very real concern. Over the last three years, an average of 4 children have been born in the Llancafarn Primary School catchment area each year compared to 18 places available at the reception intake. The school has a catchment area population of 55 primary age children set against a capacity of 126 places. Only 29 of the 55 primary aged children living in the catchment area attend the school. The school is operating with a surplus capacity of 25 places (19.8%) that is set to increase to 28 places (22%) over the next five year period. This proposal was made in order to address these capacity concerns but also to maintain the existing pupil, staff and governors, thereby retaining the existing values and ethos of the school.

House prices

Issue 45

The proposed move would have a detrimental effect on house prices.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council is not aware of any evidence that this would be the case.

The attraction of a rural location for some people is due to a multitude of factors. Feedback received as part of the consultation suggests that Llancafarn would no longer be desirable to families due to the new school site. However, the Council notes that there are a number of strong communities across the Vale of Glamorgan that are not within walking distance of a school that are highly desired by families and other residents. According to the 2011 census data, the population of Llandow, St Donats and Welsh St Donats has a similar mean age to Llancafarn despite there being no primary school within the village.

Council Services/ Council Tax

Issue 46

Removal of another service in the area (already pay high council tax)

Council's response to the concerns raised

The provision of primary education will remain available to all residents; there is no withdrawal of this service. Llancafarn Primary School will remain the catchment school for Llancafarn village. As the community do not utilise the school building, the loss of the school as a community facility would have a negligible impact.

Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

Issue 47

A respondent felt that the Council had failed to consider the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The extent to which the respondent believes the proposal is not in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 is unclear. The Act sets out a framework of seven goals to develop and protect the social, economic, developmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales and five ways of working to achieve sustainable development.

The way in which the Council's well-being objectives contribute to the well-being goals for Wales is set out in the Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020. Four wellbeing goals provide the framework for the Council's programme of activity. The School Reorganisation and Investment Programme falls within the wellbeing outcome: An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale – All Vale of Glamorgan Citizens have opportunities to achieve their full potential. Two objectives sit under this outcome: Raising overall standards of achievement and valuing culture and diversity. The school modernisation programme is identified in the Plan as one of 9 key actions contributing to raising overall standards of achievement.

How the proposal reflects the 5 key ways of working:

Ways of Working	Commentary
Long term	<p>The proposal seeks to develop a long term solution which will sustain Llancafarn school in the future as well as meet the projected increase in demand for school places in the area.</p> <p>It would equip the school to deliver the new curriculum and facilitate the school's implementation and embedding of the Digital Competence Framework.</p>
Prevention	<p>The proposal supports wider national policy aims of early years intervention including using the school to provide community facilities for families. The proposal is to provide a school building which can deliver the modern curriculum and support attainment thereby preparing pupils for life.</p>
Integration	<p>The proposal seeks to integrate the school building programme with the demand for school places and with wider educational needs. The opportunities</p>

	<p>associated with community activity and additional lifelong learning stemming from new facilities and a built-for-purpose design offer greater integration with learning opportunities for a wider audience.</p>
<p>Collaboration</p>	<p>The 21st Century Schools Programme is a collaboration between Welsh Government and Councils in which both parties provide 50% of the funding for the scheme. The design of the school building and site is done in collaboration with the school and governing body. A programme of collaboration between the developers and pupils in terms of planning, progress and learning opportunities during the development and building phases has been successful in other programmes and would be replicated under this proposal. Community use of the new facilities would be a factor for development and collaboration with community groups to understand demand and need would be an integral part of the development phase.</p>
<p>Involvement</p>	<p>Should the proposal be approved, design and implementation of the scheme would be carried out in consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders. The Governing Body, staff and pupils will have considerable input in line with our practice on all schemes delivered to date. The community will be engaged in terms of identifying unmet community needs which could potentially be met through the new school building.</p>

Extra funding for repairs

Issue 48

Welsh Government has released extra funding for repairs so the upkeep of the school is not coming from the Council.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Welsh Government awarded a one off revenue grant directly to schools in the 2017/18 financial year to support the costs of maintaining school premises. The total grant awarded to Vale of Glamorgan Schools was £610,807, of which £5,238 was allocated directly to Llancafán Primary School. There has been no indication from Welsh Government that this funding will be made available in future years.

The responsibility for school repairs and maintenance is outlined in section 11 of The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Fair Funding Scheme for Financing Schools. Generally, where schools are not Voluntary Aided, the Council is responsible for works of a capital nature which is in line with the CIPFA code of Practice on Council accounting. However, as identified in the Fair Funding Scheme, it is the governing body that is responsible to fund the revenue costs of repairs and maintenance from the schools delegated budget share

A full list of the categories of work which Governing Bodies can expect to finance from school's delegated budgets is identified in Appendix 4 of The Fair Funding Scheme.

Issue 49

County Treasure

Respondent commented that the original school building is recognised as a positive building and a County Treasure. There is no reason to close it.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The proposal is a transfer of a school to a new site and is not a school closure.

Llancafán Primary School is situated within the Llancafán Conservation Area and is identified in the Llancafán Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as a 'positive building' as it contributes to the character or appearance of the conservation area in a positive manner. The building has been identified and included in the Council's 'County Treasures' list.

As such any development proposal relating to the site would need to be considered in terms of the policies in place, for example the requirement to "preserve and where appropriate enhance the architectural and/or historic qualities of buildings, or conservation areas, including locally listed buildings."

Any future planning proposals with regard to the school building would be subject to consideration of its status as a County Treasure alongside clear adherence to the policies and regulations in place with regard to buildings with this status.

Issue 50

Community hall and after school club provision

Respondent concerned for the community hall in respect of after school club provision.

After school provision could still operate and be available from the community hall. As school transport would be provided for children from the Llancarfan, Llanbetherry and Llancadle areas to the transferred school, it is possible on the return journey home that children could be dropped off at the community hall to continue with their after school club provision.

This section provides comments raised during the formal consultation period by those in favour of the proposal. The issues present an overview of responses and are not intended to be verbatim. All Written responses have been made available to cabinet members.

Consultation comments received from first exercise undertaken

- Rhws Primary is bursting at the seams. A new school in Rhoose would be perfect for us.
- Please ensure Rhoose School receives the updated facilities it needs.
- It would be fantastic for the children and staff.. everything purpose built.. flat playground and playing field. Better roads and designated parking areas. Modern but still relatively small. Only twice the size of the current Llancarfan school with regards to pupil numbers.
- The current schools future development is limited. There is little ability to expand on the current site whilst it is a beautiful little school it's not fit for the future , the sports facilities are not fit for purpose and limited going forward into high school
- It's a step in the right direction and believe that the new school will benefit the pupils both academically and physically with the new surroundings and equipment.
- Financially it makes sense. It also keeps the 106 money within Rhoose where it is meant to be spent and for the benefit of the new house residents.
- Rhoose needs another school desperately. It makes total financial sense.
- Rhoose needs a second school.
- Rhoose is a growing community and another school is required.
- I am supportive in principle of the improvements that will be made to the education of the children of Llancarfan and the consequential impact on children residing in Rhoose
- Most of the children in Llancarfan are from Rhoose, this will provide a better teaching facility for all at a lower cost per child.
- With all the developments in Rhoose the current school will not cope with the demand of new residents.

- A school environment that is fit for 21st century education is what we all aspire to for our children. Adding a nursery is sensible and honouring the Cowbridge comp. link for existing school pupils only seems fair.
- Old school is not fit for purpose a new school is needed.
- The current cost per pupil at Llancarfan and gradual reduction in intake are taking Llancarfan PS to the point where it will soon become economically not viable to continue without further budgetary reductions reducing the overall support and quality of education at this fantastic school. A move will maintain a fairly close school in terms of family and familiarity with a relatively small capacity and better facilities for sports etc. with the prospect of longer term stability and quality of operation for pupils and staff alike. The school will be able to operate at one class one year group, which leads to better cohesion for the classes which are currently split.
- It would create a school of a more efficient size, in a new building which meets modern requirements and located closer to the population which it serves. Fundamentally Llancarfan village does not have a population large enough to sustain a primary school. The budget for schools in the Vale is already stretched and ratepayers need school provision to be rationalised where necessary. Continued access to Cowbridge Secondary school seems a key consideration for parents but measures to protect the position of existing pupils seem sufficient to deal with this issue. Overall this seems like an excellent proposal which will be of benefit to the pupils of the school and will have some beneficial effects for neighbouring schools which will have enlarged catchments.
- Job security for all staff currently employed at Llancarfan school primarily. Gain better outdoor facilities. Less disruption for parent parking. Provision for nursery.
- The new building offers a sustainable way forward that safeguards the jobs for the current hard-working dedicated staff against a dwindling school attendance from the area and a high cost per pupil. The newer premises will offer a more cohesive school where single entry classes will improve overall pupil outcomes. The sporting facilities will allow a safer playing and sporting environment, without reliance on local tennis courts where hitting games are problematic due to ball loss and restricted playing area. There is also problematic parking for parents and this has been an ongoing area of friction with elements of the village. The introduction of a nursery unit will increase what Llancarfan is able to offer the local population and help develop a smooth induction from starting school age instead of competing for pupils from the foundation phase, when many are already settled.
- This will secure the staff jobs and ensure the pupils all stay together.
- Job security • Greater outdoor learning environment • Straight year group classes.

- New building and expanding excellence in standards already established by staff in existing school.
- Rhoose needs a new school. It will also join the villages together.
- As a Governor with a long-standing involvement at the school, I fully appreciate that the school is an integral part of the community in Llancarfan and the migration will undoubtedly have an impact on the village. The small rural environment it offers has enabled us to achieve high standards with a caring nurturing ethos. However, the falling numbers on role are a cause for concern with the subsequent impact on our budget and sustainability. With good financial planning and a reduction in the established members of staff, as a school we have been able to successfully balance the budget. However, the projected continued fall in role will put a substantial strain on the budget and will result in a reduction in staff numbers which will have a detrimental effect on the standards achieved at the school. Migration as a whole school would enable us to maintain our current staff and continue the caring nurturing ethos of the school to be “the best we can be”
- Offering a nursery class will improve the school's standing, providing opportunity for pre-school children to attend the primary school and boost numbers! School children will benefit from a 21st century school and facilities.

Consultation Comments received from second exercise undertaken

- The children would benefit from the new building. Better access and facilities. Also better roads for the school run.
- Llancarfan building now too small Not enough parking Poor disabled access.
- Something needs to happen. Not everyone will be pleased but the volume of children approaching school age in Rhoose will become a critical problem for our children's learning if another school isn't built. Difficult decisions need to be made
- The proposed site for the new school is on the new housing development that we are moving to later this year. We have a 2 year old daughter so this will be very convenient for us when she is of school age.
- Current buildings are inadequate.
- Rhoose is forever growing and a new school is much needed.
- Rhoose needs extra capacity.
- If you keep building all these new housing estates in Rhoose, we need more facilities, a school included, Rhws Primary can't take any more when taking into account the volume of residents.

- This will benefit Rhoose massively and will give the pupils new state of the art equipment and facilities.
- More nursery places are needed, and a new building will benefit the children.
- I support a new school in Rhoose due to the expanded population of Rhoose.
- The school is the heart of the community and keeping it open will attract more people to come to the primary school in the future. It's vital to the surrounding areas as it's a school that brings people together from different areas and backgrounds to help round children for the future.
- I don't see an alternative. The Taylor Wimpey development will generate more families and therefore children in the area and they will all need schools. I seriously doubt the current school in Rhoose can cope with this increase. I really worry about the traffic impact however and predict the new development with the school will be a nightmare in the school run times. Possibly requiring traffic lights onto Rhoose road from the new development. Not a good thing!
- More than happy with new proposal. For something proposed to actually be followed through would be nice. Schools, golf course, pubs, shops.
- Population is increasing, new facilities would be beneficial.
- Both my children received a wonderful education at the small village school of Llancarfan with all the opportunities that a small school can bring. However, as a long-standing Governor at the school and recognising the changes to the curriculum, pressures on budgets and a falling role, particularly from those children in the catchment area, the school in its existing form may be unsustainable. I feel that to preserve the stability, culture and ethos of the school it would be beneficial to move to the new site. The teaching staff could continue their excellent work building on the opportunity the 21st Century school building would bring. There would be less disruption to the education of the children that the continual falling numbers, potential loss of staff would bring.
- In a perfect world I would love nothing more than this wonderful village school to stay open to allow children to continue to receive a fabulous and unique education experience but I realise the falling numbers of pupils attending LPS will unfortunately lead to inevitable viability issues and ultimate closure of the school anyway. As a result of what I believe the future for LPS to be I am in favour of the school migrating to Rhoose. I find it difficult to argue the point that children will benefit from a better education in a new school in Rhoose as the education and experience children have at LPS is excellent but I have no doubt children will benefit from improved facilities such as a flat area to play outdoor sports and more indoor space. The ethos of the school, the excellent teaching practice and the passion and commitment to education from the staff will no doubt continue and be

professionally transferred to a new school building and I hope that parents and the community will embrace the opportunity for children to receive a new and different educational experience along with the staff they know and respect rather than see LPS close and children be disbanded around the Vale to other schools that can accommodate them.

- To provide the extra new build, with a nursery, would be excellent as it would enhance the fantastic start primary school pupils already enjoy, but with this new facility it will provide younger children, from 3, that great start.
- It would be excellent to have 3-11 age range.

This section provides comments to frequently asked question in relation to the proposal.

Are you planning to close Llancafarn Primary School?

We are not proposing to close Llancafarn Primary School. This proposal is a regulated alteration of Llancafarn Primary School to move it to a new site together with an increase in the capacity of the school and age range. These elements are referred to as regulated alterations under the School Organisation Code, statutory Code document no: 006/2013 that require publication. The proposal seeks to move the existing school into a new, larger school building in line with Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. The proposal is not a closure of Llancafarn Primary School. The proposed new school building for Llancafarn Primary School would also be able to accommodate an increase in demand for pupil places in the Western Vale, primarily from new developments in the Rhoose area. Existing staff, governors and pupils at Llancafarn Primary School would move into the new building.

Can you build a new school in Llancafarn?

There are a number of inherent limitations associated with the existing Victorian school building itself and the land upon which it sits, that would prevent a new build. Llancafarn has a small catchment population compared to its overall capacity to accommodate children. The existing Rhws Primary School is approaching maximum capacity, and over one third of children attending Llancafarn come from the Rhoose area. Only 29% of the pupil population at Llancafarn come from within the Llancafarn catchment area. 71% come from outside the catchment area.

How would Rhws Primary School cope with having another primary school in the area?

This proposal provides a unique opportunity to not only move Llancafarn Primary School into a new 21st century school building but also accommodate children from the new housing development in Rhoose. The existing Primary School in Rhoose is nearing its maximum capacity and will be unable to accommodate these children. Rhws Primary School is approximately a mile away from the proposed location of the new school site. There are no plans as part of this proposal for an amalgamation with Rhws Primary.

What commitment for existing children at Llancafarn Primary School will be honoured?

It will be proposed as part of the consultation for the new school building and as part of consultations on future admission arrangements that transitional arrangements will apply to existing Llancafarn Primary School pupils and their siblings up to the move to a new site. The Council's intention is to honour the feeder arrangements and catchment area links to Cowbridge for existing Llancafarn Primary School pupils up to the move to a new site and until they leave the school. Siblings of pupils attending the school up to the move to a new site will also have a

high priority for admission to Llancafarn Primary School once they reach school age. This will be part of the oversubscription criteria in place.

Would the same rights apply to pupils admitted to the school between a decision being taken to move Llancafarn Primary to the new school building and the actual transfer?

Subject to the outcome of statutory consultation, the intention would be to honour the existing feeder school arrangements for pupils on roll on the date of the move to a new site and their siblings. Children on transfer and their siblings will automatically retain the feeder links to Cowbridge currently operating for entry to the school as is the case now. With the exception of siblings, any pupils joining Llancafarn Primary School after the move to the new site would be subject to the agreed admission arrangements in place at that time. Siblings being admitted after the move to the new site who are affected by the change in catchment areas would have a high priority for admission under the council's admission arrangements policy.

Would pupils from the current Llancafarn Catchment area still retain rights to admission to Cowbridge Comprehensive or would the Cowbridge Comprehensive Catchment Area be changed to exclude the catchment area of the school in its new site?

Catchment areas are traditional boundaries that are put in place to ensure that local schools service their community. This consultation does not propose a change to the catchment area for Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Any change to the catchment area for Cowbridge Comprehensive School would only take place after a review of catchment areas and the required consultation. Parents will of course always have the ability to specify their preference.

Will there be a new Headteacher?

All staff would maintain their positions at Llancafarn Primary School and move to the new site.

What would the admission arrangements be?

As this consultation does not propose the closure of Llancafarn Primary School, all children will stay at Llancafarn Primary School and move to the new building automatically. Applications for a school place after the move to the new site from siblings of pupils on roll at the school on the date of admission would be considered a high priority. The Council's admission criteria would reflect this by establishing transitional arrangements for children with siblings who are affected by the change in catchment areas to ensure that if requested by parents both siblings can attend Llancafarn Primary School wherever possible providing they are on roll at the same time.

Will the school have a new name?

We are proposing to provide Llancafarn Primary School with a new, larger, vastly improved building, extending the age range of the school. Llancafarn Primary

School will not be closing therefore there would be no need for the school to change its name, ethos or identity, only its location.

Will the policies of the school change to reflect the new site and the nursery age children?

This will be a decision of the governing body and the Headteacher of the school. The school will need to consider reviewing its policies following the move to the new building and the establishment of a nursery unit to ensure that all children in the school are covered by the school's policies.

When would staff and pupils transfer to the new school building?

The proposal is that the new school will open in September 2021.

Consultation with young children

Consultation on behalf of Vale of Glamorgan Council on the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale re. Llancarfan Primary School.

Discussion undertaken with Llancarfan Primary School's School Council with Teaching Assistant in attendance (28 March 2018)

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 Llancarfan Primary School should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal'.
- A consultation workshop was arranged with the school council of Llancarfan Primary School to gather their views about the proposal.
- The information gathered from this session 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 methodology was incorporated so that all pupils were allowed an opportunity to discuss, share and voice their own ideas.
- It started with a discussion on the meaning of consultation and why it was important to talk to pupils.
- Further discussion continued on what made a good discussion/consultation and ground-rules were established to ensure that this process would be successful.
- The main aspects of the consultation were explained to them, including the background and timetable to ensure that they were up to speed with the relevant information.
- The pupils were divided into 2 groups to discuss and form their own opinions on the strengths and possible weaknesses of the proposal.
- The groups then merged to share their findings, incorporating the rules of engagement as agreed at the beginning of the session.
- The pupils were given an insight into the advantages and disadvantages listed in the Consultation document.
- A vote was taken at the end of the session to sum up responses.

Pupils' responses

What makes a good discussion?

- Co-operation
- Be kind
- Stand up for yourself
- Courage
- Sensible
- No fear
- Respect others
- Got to listen
- Don't be shouty or interrupt
- Contribute
- Listen to opinions – give everyone a chance to speak
- Patience
- Have good ideas
- Never stop trying
- Meet in the middle

Benefits of the proposed plan

- The new school will have better facilities
- The school will be bigger
- New place, new things
- The school may be closer
- Class sizes will be bigger
- New pupils from different areas
- More parking space
- More people would live here
- Local businesses get more money
- More facilities, children, sporting areas, parking, safer
- Less traffic, complaints
- Bigger classrooms
- Don't have to combine years – we get our own class
- Better education for group work
- You can make new friends
- More space
- The school may be closer
- Better education
- New teachers – will they be soft?
- House prices & taxes might go down [there was no further clarification on these comments when probed a little further]

Possible pitfalls of the proposed plan

- Everyone will miss the school – it has been here for ages
- It will probably get knocked down if they move and it's a very old building
- It might not be named Llancarfan School; school name might change
- It's a great school
- No litter picks or duck race events when people get together
- Missing close atmosphere/relationship/community

- Get busier
- Worried because people might not want to live here
- Less business for local pubs/shops
- People living in local area will have to drive to school
- Does it make sense to call it Llancarfan
- Keep 'Cerys' place where it is'; take care of Cerys' place
- Could be arguments with two Rhoose schools
- Catchment area might change (i.e. for Cowbridge Comprehensive School)
- It will be a lot harder to get to; might have to travel further
- Need a road
- Dangerous car fumes – not good for children
- Traffic

Workshop Vote:

A continuum was arranged for them to place themselves on the Yes, No or Not sure part of the continuum. The result was:

Yes:	3
Unsure:	2
No:	6

Additional Comments from Llancarfan Pupils in years 5 & 6:

'I think the school shouldn't move because it will bring traffic and lots of noise into the village'

'I am against the school moving because next year's Reception that start won't want to come because they know they'll be leaving in 2 years'

'My opinion is that it would benefit the school because having more space and better facilities would encourage children and improve their social skills by talking to new pupils'

'I think it's a bad idea because I feel emotionally attached because of previous generations going to this school'

'I am against the school leaving because the school has been in Llancarfan for a long time, since 1879 I think, and it would be a shame to see it more'

'I think the school should not move to Rhoose because I live in the village and I won't get to know new people who move in'

'I am against the school relocating to Rhoose because we have memories at this school. Also, I don't want the school to move as it causes hassle for people who have to move and, depending on when the school is moving, my brother will be affected by the move'

'My opinion is that it is a good idea because it will have better facilities and I have a little sister so I want what's best for her'

'My opinion of the school moving is that it is a good idea because there will be less traffic congestion and there will be more open space'

'My opinion is that the school should move because the land could be used for something better and there would be more land'

'I don't think Llancafarn School should be knocked down because there are crowds of kids that will want to be in this school'

'I am for the school moving because there will be a new school for little ones and new facilities'

'I think that Llancafarn School moving to Rhose is bad because of the pollution'

'I think that it is a bad idea because of its effect on Llancafarn'

'I think it is not a good idea because I think there is no point because it's fine how it is'

Class Vote:

2 – for moving the school

9 – against moving the school

10 - Abstaining

**Consultation (2nd) on behalf of Vale of Glamorgan Council
On the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale re.
Llancarfan Primary School**

**Discussion undertaken with Llancarfan Primary School's School Council with
Teaching Assistant in attendance (15 June 2018)**

Background and Aim

- As with the initial consultation. 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, to make their views known about this proposal.
- A consultation workshop was arranged with the school council for 15th June to discuss the proposal and obtain their views on it.
- The information gathered from this session is gathered in this report.

Methodology

- An interactive methodology was incorporated again, so that the school council representatives were allowed an opportunity to discuss share and voice their own ideas.
- We re-established pupils names and hobbies and went on to a Quiz section which aimed to recap on the meaning of consultation, who was being consulted on this occasion, what the subject matter was and why it was important to have pupils' view on such matters.
- We then proceeded to get everyone's views on what made a good discussion/consultation in order to establish some ground-rules to ensure that the process would be successful.
- The main aspects of the consultation were explained to them, including the background and timetable to ensure that they were up to speed with the relevant information. This included reference to the advantages and disadvantages listed in the Consultation document, the FAQs as well as reference to the Community Impact Assessment document.
- The pupils were divided into 2 groups to discuss and form their own opinions on the strengths and possible weaknesses of the proposal.
- The groups then merged to share their findings, incorporating the ground-rules as agreed at the beginning of the session.
- Pupils voted at the end of the session to sum up responses.

Pupils' responses

What makes a good discussion?

- Co-operate
- Sensible
- Listening
- Listen to everyone's opinions
- Have good suggestions
- Say your opinion
- Consider everyone's views
- Include everyone
- Think of ideas
- Have good questions

Reasons given as advantages of the proposed plan

- Better education
- The new school will have better facilities
- More classrooms
- Bigger classrooms
- More tech
- More space
- Earn more money from the school fayre
- More 'up to date' things
- Make new friends
- Flatter land
- Have new teachers
- More after-school activities, clubs etc.
- More opportunities to do a range of activities

Reasons for being against the proposed plan

- Won't have small school privileges e.g. duck race
- No point
- It should stay here as it's been here for a long time
- Don't like the new plan
- No adventure trail
- People prefer a small school
- No small school atmosphere in the new school
- Generations of family members have been to the current school

Quotations from pupils:

'I want newer things, bigger, one-aged classes. It will be easier'

'From the pictures that I have seen of the new school it looks like it will not pan out'

'The school shouldn't move because the school has been here for years and it would be a shame to close it'

'I think it's a good idea, we'll have better education and more space. Everything's new'

'We should not close the school because I like it here'

'No, I just don't think we should move'

'My friend has had 6 generations of her family come here'

'I like small schools'

'I think it's a great idea for many reasons, flatter land, more space, better facilities. Also, new friends and a generally better atmosphere of still a small school'

Workshop Vote:

After discussion of both sides of the argument a final vote was taken on the subject. The result was:

Agree with the proposal: 5 (although one of the 5 kept changing his mind from 'agree' to 'unsure' to 'disagree')

Unsure with proposal: 1

Disagree with proposal: 6

Governing Body Response

Governing Body of Llancafarn Primary School

First Consultation Response

Hayley Hughes Vice Chair of The Governing Body of Llancafarn Primary School

Not in Favour

The proposal starts with: “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 the local community and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.” During the Consultation discussions with the Governing Body the VoG representatives outlined that the primary concern are education standards, falling admissions and surplus places and housing development projections. In our opinion all arguments are spurious: Education standards - Firstly we would like to state that Llancafarn Primary School standards of education and achievement are above the Welsh average and already provide innovative, creative learning environments which challenge and support children as evidenced by their results and Estyn report. There is no guarantee that the quality of education standards will improve with the proposed relocation. The current Estyn report judges the school’s performance and prospects for improvement as Good which means that it has many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. In addition, the Staff and GB have worked tirelessly to secure a move from amber to yellow in Wales’ school colour coded tables. Quality staffing has the greatest impact on education standards, and the school demonstrates a continuous effort and focus in this area with numerous projects such as “good to excellent” and commitment to CPD with a dynamic training programme. Moving to a larger school would not guarantee an improvement in standards. The opposite can be argued, there are more pupils to deal with, and potentially a less personal touch which can be detrimental to learning. The VOG representatives also quoted the research conducted by Salford University into Clever Classrooms, attempting to use this to show that Llancafarn primary school is a below standard learning environment. The report clearly shows that clever classrooms can exist in a school of any age or design and that Llancafarn Primary school already meets many of the criteria and the others can easily be met. We note that the preference of Vale of Glamorgan Council appears to be for schools to be that all schools should conform to the 210 place model in order to qualify under the 21st Century Schools initiative. However, making all schools conform to this model is to the detriment of parental choice for those parents who wish to send their children to a smaller, village-type school. That 70% of Llancafarn Primary school pupils come from outside catchment is evidence of its’ popularity with parents, they are happy to travel at their sometimes significant cost to bring their children to the school of their choice which provides the standard of education and small nurturing village school environment they want for their children. Migrating to a larger soulless building will remove parental choice. Admissions - We note that the basis for your projections for future pupil numbers is not explained. We are therefore not in a position to dispute

the specific projections, but it appears to us that they do not take into account housing development within reasonable travelling distance from Llancarfan, but outside Rhoose, nor the employment expansion of Aston Martin in St Athan, nor the possible relocation of a military unit from Brecon to St Athan - any or all of which could potentially increase pupil numbers at Llancarfan. The council seem to have taken only short term projections that there are currently (end March) 7 intake and 19 moving on into secondary education. We are all aware that this intake number increases towards the end of the academic year, last year it was 17 and it is likely that this number will increase considerably in the next few months and ongoing years with marketing effort. We are deeply concerned about the news that the admissions have dropped from 7 to 4 since notification of the proposal to relocate the school and would like to scrutinise these applications. We have received feedback from parents and are deeply concerned with comments that the Admissions Officer made about the school being a second choice for parents through the consultation process and have little confidence in the admissions process and integrity of the data as a result and would like to see all applications to Llancarfan school. There are surplus places at Llancarfan school currently, running at 16% which is below the Welsh Government's position on what is considered significant (25%). We believe that the school will be able to gain from the various developments in the coming years. Housing development projections - It will take a number of years to build the second phase in Rhoose and uptake of house purchases is directly linked to a number of macro economic factors which, with the best will in the world are unable to be projected accurately. This means that the new school may well be in surplus. What happens then? We have also received feedback from parents that several Llancarfan pupils will not migrate with the staff, is it reasonable to ask young children to travel 5 miles to school in a minibus?

We would like to suggest that as an alternative the council revisits the potential extension of the existing school at Rhoose, as governors are aware that there is the ability to extend Rhoose further and that plans have been drawn up.

As you will be aware there is a groundswell of community feeling against the proposals. The community impact document has not considered the impact on the community and is, we understand the subject of deep scrutiny by the community council. It has not considered the many community links that make the school unique. These links include the Church with which the school has a special relationship contributing to the children's education; links with the Fox and Hounds pub, the Village hall, Tennis club, community council, community cinema and Llancarfan society. The proposal splits the existing community of Llanbetherry, Llancadle, Llancarfan and Moulton into different primary/then secondary schools and we do not feel that the impact of important pre-school friendships and support networks for parents have been considered. Another point to note is that the way that the consultation was announced and has been implemented has unfortunately resulted in the creation of unrest between Staff, Governors and the Community. The Council's statement implied that the situation was predetermined, and the manner in which it was announced undermined the ability of the school and Governing Body to manage the situation, with an immediate detrimental effect for staff, pupils and parents. Clearly the staff are scared to lose their jobs and life security and have remained quiet on the matter and with the depth of feeling and strength of character in the community this is a big problem, especially against the backdrop of the threat of closure in 2012 when the staff came out fighting. This has implications for the future now, whatever the outcome. Please note that staff

members of the governing body abstained in the decision of the GB to oppose the council's proposals at this point.

Second Consultation Response

Jill Davies Chair of Governing Body of Llancafarn Primary School

Not in favour

We are pleased that the Council has considered the impact of splitting the existing community of Llanbethery, Llancadle, Llancafarn and Moulton into different primary/then secondary schools and has changed the proposal to reflect this. We do not feel that there has been any other substantial change to the proposal and our original response is still valid and we would like that to be considered in conjunction to this response.

Please note that staff members of the governing body along with Gordon Kemp abstained in the decision of the GB to oppose the council's proposals at this point.

Governing Body of Rhws Primary School

First Consultation Response

Matthew Lloyd – Chair of Governing Body

Not in favour

The Governing Body of Rhws Primary does not support the proposal in its entirety as we do not feel the proposal fully addresses Primary provision across the whole local area, particularly a lack of any form of investment in the built fabric of Rhws Primary school. The proposal for the new school is financially supported by funding from three areas, including the Welsh Government, The Vale of Glamorgan Council and Section 106 monies resulting from the new housing development in Rhoose. To the best of our knowledge Rhws Primary has never benefitted from any section 106 money, including from the original Rhoose Point development, neither will it benefit from any section 106 money from the new development. It is our contention that section 106 money should be made available to both Rhws Primary to improve its many building issues which include but not limited to, • Leaking roof • Draughty windows • Inefficient and difficult to control heating • Poorly designed sprinkler systems • Poorly designed lift • Rotting wooden window frames • Rusting and broken guttering • Unsuitable classroom sizes • Not fit for purpose canteen area And also any new school that is required to be built to satisfy educational capacity within the village. It is not fully known, but the GB understands the above remedial work to put right the above named issue could cost approximately upwards of £500,000 – a figure which could be met through allocation of the section 106 money generated from the new housing developments. The Rhws Primary governing body also contends that the report to cabinet does not explore in enough detail the following areas: 1. The potentially negative social impact that moving to a two school village from an historic position of just one, will have on the villages residents, both adult and children alike. Should a new school be built, the GB would ask that the authority produces a proposal for consideration which incorporates options for either amalgamation or federation. We believe that this approach is

viable given the local context. This approach would remove potential future contention around catchment for primary provision within Rhoose and would provide a formal means of alignment between the schools at a strategic level. 2. Extending Rhws Primary school itself so that the additional capacity can be met within the one site. When the new build extension to Rhws Primary school was developed, architects plans were drawn up with a view to being able to extend further in the future. We do not believe this has been explored in enough detail and would like to see additional work carried out including the drawing up of new fully costed plans to this end. The Rhws Primary school site is large and has potential to be able to meet some of the additional capacity requirements. The Governing body of Rhws Primary School supports the Llancarfan community, and asks that the council makes further efforts to address its concerns about the impact that losing a small rural school will have upon the social and community context with its own village. On this point we assert that the community impact assessment that has been undertaken as part of the initial proposal process is lacking in depth and scope and should be widened – and importantly to seek much more actively engagement at a community level within both the villages of Rhoose and Llancarfan.

The council should consider strongly: - IF a new school is built in Rhoose, it is inconceivable that the new school should be named Llancarfan Primary School. An alternative, produced in consultation with local residents should be sought - Allocating some of the section 106 money generated within Rhoose, to Rhws Primary in order to address the poor state of condition the building is currently in - Extending and widening the scope of the community impact assessment to include much more local community engagement. This should concentrate particularly on the impact that losing its own local school will have on the village of Llancarfan, but also the impact that a new two school state will have on the village of Rhoose - Consider amalgamation and federation of a two school system, should a new school be built in Rhoose - Alternative options to fulfil the additional capacity requirements such as extending Rhws Primary should be investigated in greater detail

This submission was made in the knowledge of and with the full consent of the Governing Body of Rhws Primary School. Matthew Lloyd Chairman, Rhws Primary Governing Body.

Estyn response to the first consultation exercise

Estyn response to the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale (Vale of Glamorgan)

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors for 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 from Estyn's own databases and from Welsh Government.

Summary/ Conclusion

The proposal is to:

- reconfigure primary provision in the Vale of Glamorgan by creating a new primary school building on a new site for up to 210 pupils and a nursery class for up to 48 pupils on a part-time basis
- migrate all pupils and staff from Llancafán Primary School to the new school site, and
- Extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years.

This is likely to at least maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposals to create a new school building for Llancafán Primary School with the addition of 48 nursery places for pupils on a part-time basis, on a new site in Rhoose. It sets out the expected benefits and disadvantages of the proposal clearly. The local authority has considered provision for existing pupils in the current Llancafán Primary School, its future pupils, as well as those in Rhws, Llanfair and St Nicholas Primary Schools. This is because the proposed realignment of existing catchment areas in Rhoose in order to accommodate the new school site, would affect pupils in these schools. The local authority has taken appropriate account of educational standards, school surplus places, pupil travel arrangements, accessibility of provision, the quality and sustainability of school accommodation, financial investment and running costs.

The proposal establishes that Llancarfan Primary School is a relatively small school with an admission number of 18. Its current catchment area population of 55 children is less than half the school capacity of 126 places. There are 106 pupils on roll currently, of which only around a third live in the school catchment area. The remaining 75 pupils live outside the school catchment area and 36 of these pupils live in the Rhws Primary School catchment area. Currently, Rhws Primary School is nearly at maximum capacity.

The proposal sets out clearly that there is a need to address the level of surplus places at Llancarfan Primary School in light of current and projected pupil numbers, in order to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the school. In addition, the local authority has considered the north-west and north-east housing development in Rhoose and has projected an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places by 2023 as a result of the planned housing developments in the Rhws Primary School catchment area.

The local authority has considered carefully the condition of the school buildings, facilities and access to Llancarfan Primary School, which include a Victorian school building where pupils are taught in two classrooms and three separate demountable blocks on a small site. A condition survey in 2014, established that a low level of investment is required to ensure that the standard of the building provision is maintained. However, the school does not meet the standards set out in the statutory framework for school buildings and design in Wales and routes through the village and lanes to access the school are congested. Furthermore, the potential for further development opportunities at Rhws Primary School to accommodate the anticipated increase in pupil numbers in its catchment area, are limited. The school is a grade 2 listed building and the school site is restricted in size.

The Council provides a clear rationale for how it will address these issues through migrating all pupils and staff from the current Llancarfan Primary School site to a new primary school building in Rhoose, and redefining the catchment areas within the Western Vale region. The local authority has considered suitable alternatives and given good reasons as to why it has discounted these.

The proposal has considered the impact of the new provision on other schools in the local area and has shown how it would redistribute the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School amongst Rhws, Llanfair, St Athan and St Nicholas Primary Schools and define the new catchment area of the new Llancarfan Primary School site. It anticipates that these revisions will increase pupil numbers for the other schools. However, the projected pupil numbers provided for two of the schools (St Nicholas and St Athan) decrease over time.

The proposal presents clearly the local authority's plan for transferring pupils, staff and governors to the new school site in September 2021, including how the local authority will 'honour' the feeder arrangements and catchment area links to

Cowbridge Comprehensive School for existing Llancafán Primary School pupils on roll.

The plan has considered appropriately the impact on learner travel arrangements, in terms of pupils' eligibility to access free school transport for pupils of statutory school age under existing local authority policy. It recognises that some pupils who live closer to the current school site will have further to travel. The proposed admission transition arrangements take suitable account of supporting pupils with siblings who would be affected by the change in catchment areas. The council states that it is considering traffic implications as part of the Transport Assessment required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works. It has considered that there is no impact as a result of this proposal on the available safe walking routes for pupils to access the school, as part of its Community Impact Assessment. It is likely that the proposal will at least maintain the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities

The proposal is likely to have no adverse impact on pupils from different groups, including those pupils with additional learning needs or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, however, the local authority has not included an Equality Impact Assessment. It plans to do this after the consultation.

The proposal will not negatively affect Welsh medium primary education, as the local authority will continue provide this through the catchment area school, Ysgol Dewi Sant. The proposal does not seek to change the status of Llancafán Primary School as an English medium school.

The local authority's proposal to extend the age range of Llancafán Primary School to include nursery provision is based upon a strong principle of establishing and supporting continuity and progression in children's learning from age 3 and to support stability of numbers in the school. However, the proposal does not set out whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area, or that the local authority has considered the effect of the proposal on numbers of nursery pupils in other schools, or on non-maintained settings that provide education for children before compulsory school age.

The legal aspects of the proposal have been considered and operate within the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The plan confirms that proposed procedures are in line with legislative requirements.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal has considered appropriately outcomes, provision and leadership at Llancafán Primary School. In general, it has drawn on a suitable range of evidence to do this. However, the proposal does not contain an analysis of the school's performance data.

The proposal identifies that Estyn judged the school's current performance and prospects for improvement as 'good' when it inspected the school in 2014. Leadership, including the role of governors, was judged as good. The proposal does not make clear whether the current leaders were in post at the time of the last inspection, but indicates that there have been staffing changes:

'Significant changes in staff have been well managed and the school has a permanent Deputy and 3 Class Teachers.' (p.19)

The school has been placed in a yellow category of support in the latest Welsh Government categorisation of schools, with standards grade 2 and improvement capacity B.

There are a very few inconsistencies in the proposer's broad description of the school's recent outcomes against its targets:

'The school has set challenging whole school targets and **nearly all** 2016-17 outcomes in the Foundation Phase and Key stage met or exceeded the targets set' (p.18)

'Targets reflect high expectations for the achievement of all pupils and **these are met consistently.**'

The school's current target for improvement in teaching appears to suggest that the quality of teaching, judged to be adequate at the time of the last inspection, has improved.

The proposal suggests that the new provision is not likely to impact negatively on the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum across the foundation phase and key stage 2, and maintain current standards. It is likely that extending the provision to include nursery would support continuity and progression in pupils' learning experiences from pre-school age to statutory school age. The addition of outdoor facilities is likely to enhance pupils' wellbeing through providing better opportunities to develop their physical skills and health. In addition, access to high-quality outdoor provision is a key principle of foundation phase pedagogy.

Risk Assessment

The local authority identifies that 50% funding under Band B of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme is subject to approval of the business case. The remaining funding is dependent upon completion of the housing development and capital funding from the local authority. The local authority does not include any measures to manage these risks in the proposal.

Estyn response to the second consultation exercise

Estyn response to the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale (Vale of Glamorgan)

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors for 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 from Estyn's own databases and from Welsh Government.

Summary/ Conclusion

Following comments made by members of the local community to the initial document, the local authority has produced a revised consultation document including responses to many questions. The revised document contains more detail and includes a new consultation timeline.

The proposal is to:

- reconfigure primary provision in the Vale of Glamorgan by creating a new primary school building on a new site for up to 210 pupils and a nursery class for up to 48 pupils on a part-time basis
- migrate all pupils and staff from Llancafán Primary School to the new school site, and
- extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years.

This is likely to at least maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposals to create a new school building for Llancafán Primary School with the addition of 48 nursery places for pupils on a part-time basis, on a new site in Rhoose. It sets out the expected benefits and disadvantages of the proposal clearly. The local authority has considered provision for existing pupils in the current Llancafán Primary School, its future pupils, as well as those in Rhws, Llanfair and St Nicholas Primary Schools. This is because the proposed realignment of existing catchment areas in Rhoose in order to accommodate the new school site, would affect pupils in these schools. The local authority has taken appropriate account of educational standards, school surplus places, pupil travel arrangements, accessibility of provision, the quality and sustainability of school accommodation, financial investment and running costs.

The proposal establishes that Llancarfan Primary School is a relatively small school with an admission number of 18. Its current catchment area population of 55 children is less than half the school capacity of 126 places. There are 106 pupils on roll currently, of which only around a third live in the school catchment area. The remaining 75 pupils live outside the school catchment area and 36 of these pupils live in the Rhws Primary School catchment area. Currently, Rhws Primary School is nearly at maximum capacity.

The proposal sets out clearly that there is a need to address the level of surplus places at Llancarfan Primary School in light of current and projected pupil numbers, in order to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the school. In addition, the local authority has considered the north-west and north-east housing development in Rhoose and has projected an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places by 2023 as a result of the planned housing developments in the Rhws Primary School catchment area.

The local authority has considered carefully the condition of the school buildings, facilities and access to Llancarfan Primary School, which include a Victorian school building where pupils are taught in two classrooms and three separate demountable blocks on a small site. A condition survey in 2014, established that a low level of investment is required to ensure that the standard of the building provision is maintained. However, the school does not meet the standards set out in the statutory framework for school buildings and design in Wales and routes through the village and lanes to access the school are congested. Furthermore, the potential for further development opportunities at Rhws Primary School to accommodate the anticipated increase in pupil numbers in its catchment area, are limited. The school is a grade 2 listed building and the school site is restricted in size.

The council provides a clear rationale for how it will address these issues through migrating all pupils and staff from the current Llancarfan Primary School site to a new primary school building in Rhoose, and redefining the catchment areas within the Western Vale region. The local authority has considered suitable alternatives and given good reasons as to why it has discounted these.

The proposal has considered the impact of the new provision on other schools in the local area and has shown how it would redistribute the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School amongst Rhws, Llanfair, St Athan and St Nicholas Primary Schools and define the new catchment area of the new Llancarfan Primary School site. It anticipates that these revisions will increase pupil numbers for the other schools and includes increased projected pupil numbers for Rhws Primary over the next 5 years.

The proposal presents clearly the local authority's plan for pupils, staff and governors of Llancarfan Primary School following a move to the new school site in September 2021, including how the local authority will 'honour' the feeder arrangements and catchment area links to Cowbridge Comprehensive School for existing Llancarfan Primary School pupils on roll.

The plan has considered appropriately the impact on learner travel arrangements, in terms of pupils' eligibility to access free school transport for pupils of statutory

school age under existing local authority policy. It recognises that some pupils who live closer to the current school site will have further to travel. The proposed admission transition arrangements take suitable account of supporting pupils with siblings who would be affected by the change in catchment areas. The council states that it is considering traffic implications as part of the Transport Assessment required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works. It has considered that there is no impact as a result of this proposal on the available safe walking routes for pupils to access the school, as part of its Community Impact Assessment. It is likely that the proposal will at least maintain the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities

The proposal is likely to have no adverse impact on pupils from different groups, including those pupils with additional learning needs or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. However, the local authority has not included an Equality Impact Assessment. It plans to do this after the consultation.

The proposal will not negatively affect Welsh medium primary education, as the local authority will continue provide this through the catchment area school, Ysgol Dewi Sant. The proposal does not seek to change the status of Llancarfan Primary School as an English medium school.

The local authority's proposal to extend the age range of Llancarfan Primary School to include nursery provision is based upon a strong principle of establishing and supporting continuity and progression in children's learning from age 3 and to support stability of numbers in the school. The plan states that there is a need for increased nursery provision in the area as is currently no provision in the immediate area and that the closest non-maintained registered providers are located at St Athan West Camp and in the Welsh St Donats area. The local authority predicts that the overall number of nursery places required will increase in the area by approximately 70 places to take account of the new housing developments planned. The Council expect the additional demand to be accommodated at both Rhws Primary School and Llancarfan Primary School.

The legal aspects of the proposal have been considered and operate within the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The plan confirms that proposed procedures are in line with legislative requirements.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal has considered appropriately outcomes, provision and leadership at Llancarfan Primary School. It has drawn on a suitable range of evidence to do this including a brief analysis of the school's performance data over the past 3 years.

The proposal identifies that Estyn judged the school's current performance and prospects for improvement as 'good' when it inspected the school in 2014. Leadership, including the role of governors, was judged as good. The proposal does not make clear whether the current leaders were in post at the time of the last inspection, but indicates that there have been staffing changes. However, the regional consortium judge that the school is very well led by the headteacher and deputy head teacher

The school has been placed in a yellow category of support in the latest Welsh Government categorisation of schools, with standards grade 2 and improvement capacity B.

There are a very few inconsistencies in the proposer's broad description of the school's recent outcomes against its targets:

The school has set challenging whole school targets and **nearly all** 2016-17 outcomes in the Foundation Phase and Key stage met or exceeded the targets set'. 'Targets reflect high expectations for the achievement of all pupils and **these are met consistently**.'

The regional consortium report that teaching at the school is consistently good with elements of excellence indicating that the quality of teaching, judged to be adequate at the time of the last inspection, has improved significantly.

The proposal suggests that the new provision is not likely to impact negatively on the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum across the foundation phase and key stage 2, and maintain current standards. It is likely that extending the provision to include nursery would support continuity and progression in pupils' learning experiences from pre-school age to statutory school age. The addition of outdoor facilities is likely to enhance pupils' wellbeing through providing better opportunities to develop their physical skills and health. In addition, access to high-quality outdoor provision is a key principle of foundation phase pedagogy.

Risk Assessment

The local authority identifies that 50% funding under Band B of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme is subject to approval of the business case. The remaining funding is dependent upon completion of the housing development and capital funding from the local authority. The local authority judges this as a limited risk as some instalments for homes have already been received and the development of the land is well underway.

Llancarfan Parent Survey Summary

Residents in Llancarfan conducted their own survey, which was returned to the Council as part of the consultation process.

With regards to the survey, the respondent stated:

Every effort was made to ensure the survey was robust and unbiased. It was completed anonymously, and only parents who were sent a link via email could respond. The survey was sent to 75 families, which we are confident represents most, if not all, of the current pupils on roll at the school. As a further step to ensure we were in contact with all parents, posts on social media encouraged anyone who did not receive the link to supply their email address in order to take part.

A total of 43 completed surveys were submitted, a highly credible response rate of 57%. The pattern of responses by school catchment area broadly reflects the make-up of the school and was by no means skewed heavily in favour of one area or another. 42% of responses came from families in the Llancarfan catchment, 21% from Rhws catchment and the remainder from other areas (37%).

Just as importantly, 29 responses (two thirds of the sample) were from parents who will be directly affected by the proposal, either because they have a child in Reception, or Years 1 to 3 at the school, or a younger child due to start school in or after September 2021.

Llancarfan Primary School Parents Survey

Llancarfan Primary School's small size and village location are key to its appeal and ethos

The **small school size** (mentioned by 93% of parents) and **rural setting** (79%) were by far the most common reasons given by parents for choosing Llancarfan Primary. These factors **ranked higher** than the quality of education provided by the school (65%) and the feeder link to Cowbridge Comprehensive (65%).

The school has positive appeal to parents (and not just those located conveniently nearby)

Almost every parent who responded to the survey had made a **positive choice** for their child to attend Llancarfan. Only one family selected Llancarfan because their first choice school was unavailable, and **seven out of ten parents** (70%) chose Llancarfan for reasons other than its convenience.

Very few parents would choose to send their child to the new school proposed by the council

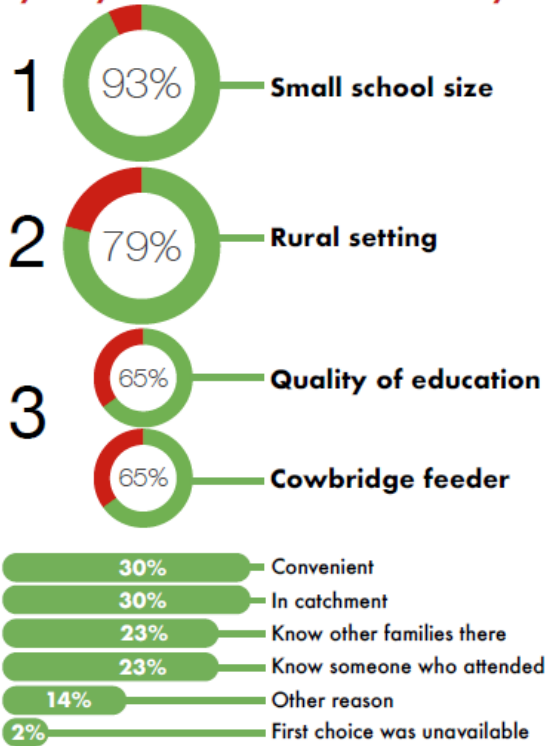
The 210 place school in Rhoose proposed by the council has very little appeal for parents of children currently at Llancarfan Primary. Only five parents (12% of the sample) said they would choose the new school, while **88% said they would consider another option**.

Online survey hosted on SurveyMonkey between 1 June and 18 June 2018.
Analysis based on 43 responses out of 75 families contacted, a response rate of 57%.

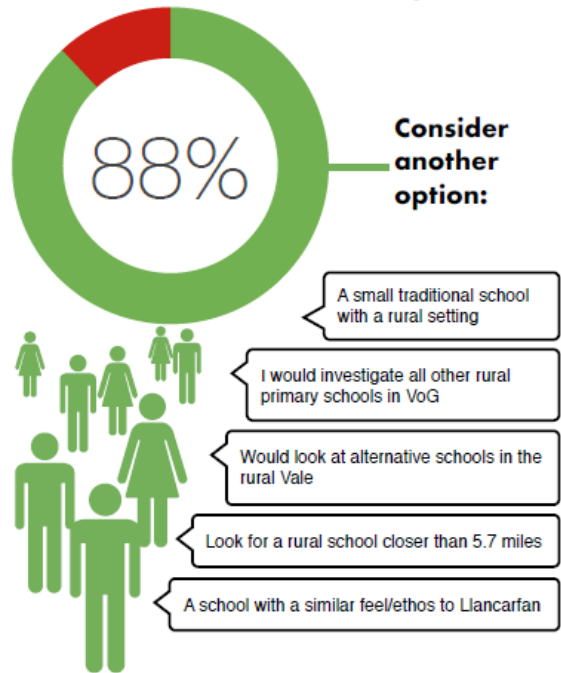


The survey calls into real question the number of pupils likely to transfer to the new school, and how many new school entrants from within the revised catchment area will apply to attend once the transfer period is over

Why did you choose Llancarfan Primary?



Would you choose the new school in Rhoose or consider another option?*



*Imagine you had a child about to start primary school for the first time, with no siblings in any other school. Would you choose the new 210 place school in Rhoose proposed by the council or would you consider another option?

Minutes from Llancafán Primary School in relation to the consultation

GOVERNORS



Minutes of the Full Governing Body Meeting

Wednesday 28th March 2018, 5.30pm

Present J Davies (JD - Chair), H Hughes (HH- Vice chair), C Smith (CS - Headteacher), J Potter (JP), O Spencer (OS), K Kemp (KK), J Scott-Quelch (JS-Q), C Hughes (CH), F Williams (FW), K Jenkins (KJ), A Riley (AR), J James (JJ) A Llewellyn-Blakemore (ALB),

J Western (JW - Clerk)

Apologies G Kemp (GK)

Visitors Paula Ham
Lisa Lewis
Jane O'Leary - 21st Century School, Vale of Glamorgan Council

G Q – Governor Questions

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

JD welcomed everyone to the meeting and the visitors introduced themselves. Apologies were received and accepted from GK.

2. **Consultation with Vale of Glamorgan on School Migration**

Proposal has already been received by GB. Governors were encouraged to ask questions and voice their concerns regarding the proposals:

Numbers at the school

The primary admission round for September has taken place and numbers are quite low. Projections is that numbers will be lower than normal. Pupil number protection for three years could be an option to prevent the loss of staff due to lower pupil numbers. There is

funding protection to enable the school to keep staff, but it is up to the school how they spend the money.

Pupils number for September include 19 leaving and 7 coming in. Historically, applications are received up until June. The applications were closed before the proposal was published.

How did the proposal first come about?

We looked at all the options. We did consider building a larger school to replace original in Rhose and pick up the larger number of children. Rhose Primary is a listed building and on a restricted site. The costs to make that larger is significantly larger than building a whole new school.

The site is only big enough for a 210 place school, demand from the new housing development in Rhose was not enough to fill a 210 place school.

Rhose school have 372 pupils currently and can take 375 pupils. Therefore, slightly under full capacity at the moment. The capacity is across all the of the year groups.

The Section 106 Payment is dependent on current site. The North East site seeking to renew planning application as it has lapsed. There is still interest in developing the North East site.

Education 106 can only be claimed if there are new pupils who will come from that development.

Increments are 30 per year group.

Governors suggested that if Llancarfan stayed in Llancarfan, and The North East site provided another Section 106 funding, Rhose PS could close and there could be two 210 entry schools.

Provision?

Band B program to Welsh Government – Primary Provision in the Western Vale. 50% funding from Welsh Government, some from Section 106 and some from the council.

Catchment?

Pupils who transfer on migration and their siblings are included in the proposal to be guaranteed to be in the feeder to Cowbridge.

Catchment areas are currently under consultation. The community impact should also be considered. An over subscription criterion is published. The area is changing and therefore the catchment for Cowbridge Comprehensive will be changing in the future anyway.

Governors enforced that it would be a big deal to the village if the pupils were dropped out of the catchment for Cowbridge.

Feeder schools and catchments are currently used, however, if the Vale stop using feeder, Llancarfan children, who live in Llancarfan, would still qualify as in catchment.

Governors pointed out that pupils from Barry and Rhoose have chosen Llancarfan because it is a rural school and a feeder for Cowbridge comprehensive.

The Band B program will the impact the Feeder schools so will be reviewed over the next 12 months. People living in Llancarfan could still be in the catchment. Rhoose have dual feeder arrangements.

Two new comprehensive schools in Barry are opening in September 2018. The migrated school would still have a choice as a dual feeder.

What is the primary reason for migrating school?

To address the capacity in Rhoose and at Llancarfan PS. Llancarfan has surplus places and Rhoose will require more due to the housing.

The current Rhoose School cannot increase the capacity and would not meet criteria to get funding. The number of pupils traveling from Rhoose to other comprehensives would be a significant increase in traffic.

Projections are that it will not need more than the extra 210 places. The new school would provide sufficient places for the area but not too many places. The Welsh Government set a limit on how many surplus places you can have. Not more than 10%.

How did you calculate the projected number of school places required?

The projections were made based on housing developments that the Vale are aware of and have already received planning permission. They have included the Persimmon North East housing. If the Persimmon development does not go ahead, the places will be offered to out of catchment.

The Governors have been made aware of the unrest on social media, including the feeling that having two schools in Rhoose is going to increase divide in the community. The migration will also have an impact on Llancarfan Village, potentially turning it into a retirement village.

LL informed Governors that community impact is looked at, but there needs to be educational reasons for the concern.

The following are not taken into consideration:

- House prices
- Highways
- Planning

Education should not change as the staff will move with the school. The new school would have far better facilities and will be fully equipped. If the proposal goes ahead, the Vale will work with staff and governors to design the fixtures and fittings for the new building. A budget for fixture and fittings has been set, although some existing IT will be transferred to the new school. Whilst you are losing some of the small village aspect, the site overlooks the sea with a lot of external resources.

With regards to the community aspect, the LA encourages retired people and people without children to air their views, as well as the parents, staff and Governors. The consultation is based on information that is known. Evidence that will become known during the Consultation will be included in the Consultation Report.

A Community Impact Assessment will take place.

Llancarfan incurs a high revenue cost per child. This is a fact, not a key driver for the consultation. These have been included as a requirement from Welsh Government for the Consultation Document.

The impact of migrating the school will be included in the report.

Do you have any plans for the existing site?

None at the moment. We will wait for the outcome of Consultation. If it goes ahead, then consideration of the current site will take place. There is an Asset panel in the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Things to remember are:

- Llancarfan is not small enough or rural enough to be listed as a rural school.
- Proposal is to relocate rather than close the school.
- Governors can choose the name and then it goes through Cabinet from approval.

Whilst there are strong views against the migration of the school, staff are very supportive. Job security is a consideration, and what it could offer for pupils is first and foremost for staff.

The Vale ask that if you would like to support it, please answer as well.

It is not a vote, so the amount of responses is not counted in that way. The comments themselves will be factors. Education is the only thing that is considered and the points that are made. The comments will be grouped into issues and then a response for each one will be provided. In the past, the Vale has recommended to cabinet not to proceed. There will be no individual responses or acknowledge. There will be a summary of responses in the document.

Is there an age limit to responses?

Pupils can respond.

The School council were consulted today, by an independent specialist. The consultation was activity based and talked about the word consultation, and definitions of. The school council considered the pro's and con's of the Consultation. The information gathered to goes back in a form of a Report from the Independent Specialist. This report will go to Cabinet.

There has been research into the impact of a well-designed classrooms on pupils by Salford University, called Clever Classrooms.

Will ESTYN be made aware of the proposals and consultation?

Yes, ESTYN will also respond as a Key Stake Holder. ESTYN will look at the proposal and the impact on pupils and come to a conclusion based on their knowledge of the school and pupils. If ESTYN believed there was anything missing regarding the Educational aspect, it would be commented on.

Should the Governing Body respond as a whole?

A Governing Body response is optional.

Paula Ham, Lisa Lewis and Jane O'Leary left the meeting after Governors thanked them for their time.

3. Discussion

The Governors felt that there is some ignorance and misunderstanding within the community about the role of Governing Body with regards to this Consultation.

RESOLVED – the Governing Body is unable to give a majority response and therefore, each Governor is to make their own response to the Consultation.

RESOLVED – the role of the Governing body needs to be clarified. Our remit in this Consultation is to represent

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of factually incorrect information shared and feedback received.

The council has already allocated the funding for the new school. Split year groups are already a concern for the school and there is a fear that the school will not match up in attractiveness against a new school in Rhoose.

There will be a review of the Church in Wales schools and catchment areas.

Feeder could be removed, and it will go back to catchment only.

Cowbridge does not currently have intake just from feeder and catchment. Church in Wales school has different criteria with regard to catchment.

The consultation is causing a divide in the school community. The way in which the consultation was announced has caused conflict.

How do you promote the ethos and the school in general? CH has prices for an advert in the newspaper. This has to be carefully worded.

Number of pupils at Llancarfan was 106 prior to the migration announcement, now 102 since the migration was announced.

If the number of pupils drop, the funding drops and then staff numbers will be affected.

Whichever way it goes, staff will continue to provide the best education possible for the children who are in the school.

It is important to consider that if the opposition is successful and the school does not close, there is a concern that there will not have enough pupils to keep the school viable and open. It will not become attractive with mixed year groups in a class, and numbers will drop.

RESOLVED – A letter will be drafted by the GB to parents.

Governors meeting 27 June 2018 at 17.30pm with council officials re Llancaf fan school consultation

Present: Bob Penrose (Cabinet member)

Council officials: Paula Ham, Lisa Lewis, Trevor Baker

Governing body: present Adam Riley, Andrew Llewellyn-Blakemore, Councillor Gordon Kemp,

Hayley Hughes, Jeffrey James, Joann Scott-Quelch, Julie Potter, Kate Jenkins, Katherine Kemp, Oli Spencer, Christine Hughes, Colin Smith

Apologies: Jill Davies, Jo Western

1. Consultation with the Vale of Glamorgan regarding proposal to migrate the school

2nd consultation document issued - council wanted to get feedback so they had come along to listen.

A meeting between the council officials and school staff had been held just before the Governors meeting.

Many of the issues from the original consultation were still outstanding. We were told our collective response still stands unless we decide to submit a new response as a governing body.

560 responses had been received so far, this total includes the first and second consultations.

The crux of the consultation is the same. The second document was to address further points and updated community impact assessment and admission details, including some changes to catchment boundaries.

It was said the community feels there was no point in re-running the consultation but were pleased individual responses from the first consultation would be taken into account.

Bob Penrose said the purpose of tonight is part of the consultation process. They want us to have opportunity to air our thoughts on the educational aspects of the proposal. The impact assessment was not quite as detailed before as it is now. Other main difference in the second consultation is that concerns about the loss of the existing Llancaf fan School site had been addressed. Funding will come from section 106 funds plus reserves. There will be a time lag between the availability of the site and the completion of the project. Council is looking to generate a receipt from the site and it will be used to fund a future project. Effectively the funding will come from reserves and the capital proceeds of the existing school site, when received, will top up the reserves.

We were told that Estyn had commented, apparently favourably, on the proposal. Paula Ham said there had been a decline in pupil numbers in the area so they have looked at the wider area. They think the proposal will sustain the school for the future.

Budget formula shows minimum efficient size for a school is 210 pupils. Welsh Government are asking for programmes to be provided on the basis of 210 pupils, although WG have said that there is no minimum size to achieve match funding. There is a distinction in the schools code between the terms "closure" and "transfer".

Paula Ham alluded to the parents survey and the value of feeder school status. Council will be reviewing feeder schools in the next academic review and issuing a consultation which will cover catchment, feeder and admission policy across the whole of the Vale.

Jeff James asked if the process proceeds what costs would the council cover in terms of the reorganisation. Paula Ham said they usually fund reorganisation costs

from a reserve, plus additional revenue. She said the new school site would be fully funded and furnished.

Gordon Kemp mentioned the initial funding of the new site out of reserves and noted that the site could not be marketed aggressively until the new site is operational.

Katherine Kemp said the first consultation was negligent and shoddy. This was refuted by the officials.

There was further discussion about the sale of the Llancarfan site. Bob Penrose said he is sure that the consultation says that the proceeds will be used for the new site.

Why could Rhws school not be extended? Trevor Baker said the 21st Century Schools programme has different criteria and there is insufficient space on the Rhws school site to extend it.

There is no appetite from the council or the community for extending the consultation to a third run.

The introduction to the consultation makes clear that a first response is still valid if they don't submit a second response.

Concerns over having two different schools in Rhoose. The council don't see this as an issue. There will be those who want different things, established schools, new facilities, rural schools. It is an opportunity for schools to work together rather than dividing the local community. They feel the catchment areas won't be divisive in Rhoose.

It was pointed out that Llancarfan catchment children will have to drive past Rhws School to get to the new school.

The survey of parents done by Jim will be presented as it was submitted.

The school pupils have been consulted.

The Chair thanked the visitors and they left.

2. Response to the consultation

We will make an additional response as a governing body

3. Present and apologies

Covered at the start of this document

4. Minutes from meeting 18 April 2018 and matters arising

Minutes accepted. Proposed by Jeff James, seconded by Katherine Kemp.

5. Head teacher's report to governors

Head teacher's report circulated with the agenda and delivered by Colin Smith. Carry forward balance £13725. Boiler repairs will be required. Mrs Hughes had negotiated away the water bill arising from the recent leak.

6. Policies for review

Eco policy - some duplication in the policy but otherwise policy agreed.

7. Staffing update and class organisation for September

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8. Finance update

Covered within item 5.

9. Access to Hwb

Mr Bilney looking into getting permissions for governors' Hwb access, Dean Jones will be stepping in in the interim.

10. Governor training

Fran Williams and Jill Davies have completed data training. The training pack was inaccurate.

Christine Hughes and Fran Williams have completed finance training.

11. School self-evaluation

The process is changing. Colin Smith has attended training.

12. Communications and documents received since last meeting

None

13. AOB

None

14. Determination of matters to be regarded as confidential

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee - Monday 26th March 2018

828 PROPOSED RECONFIGURATION OF PRIMARY PROVISION IN THE WESTERN VALE (REF) -

Cabinet had on 22nd January, 2018 referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration having approved that the Director of Learning and Skills in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture be authorised to undertake a consultation from 5th March, 2018 for a period of seven weeks on the profile to establish a 210 place primary school with a 48 part-time place nursery class at Rhoose Point and the migration of Llanccarfan Primary School into the new site. As part of the consultation process, the Scrutiny Committee was being asked to consider the report.

The Operational Manager for Strategy and Resources also provided a PowerPoint presentation a copy of which was tabled at the meeting for Member's information. The Operational Manager commenced by advising that the consultation was currently live and the proposal was to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale through:

- The creation of a new 210 place primary school, with a 48 part time place nursery class at the land north of the railway line, Rhoose
- The migration of staff and pupils from Llanccarfan Primary school into the new site and
- Extending the age range of the school

Llanccarfan Primary School comprised the original Victorian school building containing two classrooms. The school was on a small site (slightly offset by the use of the adjacent tennis club courts) with difficult and congested access through the village and lanes leading to Llanccarfan. The four separate buildings and small sloping site did not meet 21st Century School design guidance standards for primary schools which had been used for all new builds completed through the 21st Century Schools programme. These schools comprised a fully accessible one or two storey building providing all the required educational functions within a single building set in grounds meeting current outdoor curriculum needs.

Llanccarfan Primary School had a pupil capacity of 126. The school was currently operating with a surplus capacity of 19 places (15%). This capacity was set to increase to 28 places (22%) as demonstrated by pupil projections in the report. The Vale of Glamorgan had made a commitment

to Welsh Government to reduce the number of surplus places in schools. Within the primary sector, this equated to an agreed target of 10%. Llancarfan Primary School incurred a high revenue cost per child at £4,490 per child compared to the Vale average of £3,697 per child. Llancarfan was the 5th highest primary school in terms of revenue cost per child. The majority of pupils attending Llancarfan Primary School resided outside the catchment area.

The Council's adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) (2011-2026) attached at Appendix A to the report, Policy MG1, allocated a total of 787 new dwellings in Rhoose over the LDP period. The allocations comprised 87 dwellings at land south of the Railway Line, and 700 new dwellings at land north of the Railway Line. The allocation to the south of the Railway Line had been completed and was now fully occupied with children in the school system (planning reference: 2012/00937/FUL).

The majority of children attending Rhws Primary School resided within the Rhoose area. The Council had a statutory duty to review the number of types of schools in the area and to make the best use of resources to raise standards in schools.

Based on current projections by 2023 there would be an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places in the Rhoose area. There was also a need to accommodate the demand however a new 210 place school would result in 10% surplus capacity when considering the projected increase in pupil numbers from both new developments in Rhoose in addition to the projected pupil numbers that would migrate over from Llancarfan Primary School. Reviewing the wider needs of the western Vale offered an opportunity to establish a new 21st Century School while addressing community needs and surplus capacity challenges.

Llancarfan Primary School was situated 3.7 miles from Rhws Primary School. The projected number on roll at Llancarfan Primary School for 2023 was 98 pupils with 28 (22%) surplus places.

Rhws Primary School was a grade 2 listed building. The school site was restricted in size and potential for further development opportunities were limited, and would not be able to accommodate the total projected increase in demand for pupil places. Llancarfan was a small rural school with an admission number of 18. Mixed age teaching was therefore necessary in managing classes with associated difficulties in terms of the planning and delivery of the national curriculum. An admission number of 18 with mixed

age classes also made it difficult to manage statutory class size limits of 30. Migrating the school to larger accommodation with a new catchment with sustainable numbers would enable the school to continue its success while catering for a greater pupil population.

In order to meet future demand, ensure best use of resources and to reduce overall surplus capacity in line with Welsh Government targets, the report proposed to migrate Llancarfan Primary School to a new, larger 210 place school in the Rhoose Point development. Catchment areas would be redefined to distribute the current catchment area of Llancarfan school amongst Rhws, Llanfair, St. Athan and St. Nicholas Primary schools, and to also realign existing catchment areas in Rhoose.

Committee was informed that migrating the school would address a number of challenges:

- The staff and pupils at the existing Llancarfan site would benefit from a new school build at 21st century school standards.
- Increasing amounts of surplus capacity at Llancarfan School would be addressed.
- Increasing demand for pupil places within the Rhoose area would be met.
- Revisions to catchment areas within the Western Vale were expected to increase pupil numbers at other schools, improving future sustainability and contributing to the Council's commitment to reduce surplus capacity in its schools.
- Small site issues associated with the school on a confined site such as the provision of outdoor sporting facilities.
- Congested access to the school through the village and lanes would be addressed.
- A nursery would be established supporting continuity and progression in children's learning from age 3 and would support stability of numbers for the school.

During the discussion a Member referred to the work of the Task and Finish Group on Surplus Places of the Scrutiny Committee stating that the proposal being considered appeared to be the final proposal as a result of the work of that Group and advised that he wholeheartedly supported the proposal recognising the changes in demography in the Llancarfan area.

The local Ward Member a Member of the Committee stated that he had two issues to raise with regard to the report advising that in his view the report reflected a purely educational perspective and there was an absence of the

impact on the local community. The village of Llancarfan was currently served by a hub of a school, a pub and a community hall and the removal of the school would adversely have an impact on the nature of the village and for Rhoose it would provide a dividing line down the middle of the village with the new school and the current school in competition. Rhws Primary was also a Listed Building which could benefit from investment from Section 106 monies advising that in his view he would prefer to see the current school upgraded rather than a new one established. It was also in his view inappropriate to name the new school Llancarfan as it would be sited in Rhoose and requested that the Council revisit the naming of the school.

However, in response the Operational Manager advised that the naming of the school would be a matter for the new Governing Body with final determination by Cabinet.

The Operational Manager further advised that the new school would be single form entry and that 210 had proven to be an optimum number in relation to finance and the delivery of education. The Cabinet Member, with permission to speak, also advised that they would be considering the views of the residents as it was not the intention to divide the Rhoose area but it would be important to consult and consider the responses when received. He was fully aware that there were repair bills for the Rhws School and officers were currently looking at a schedule of repairs to address the issue.

Following a query as to whether there would be transport for pupils from Llancarfan, the Operational Manager advised that where appropriate these would be met by the Council.

A local Member for Llantwit Major advised that she wished to reassure the Member for Rhoose that in her area where a similar scheme had taken place similar apprehension had been considered however both schools were working well together. A Member also requested the criteria for 21st Century Schools be circulated to all Members of the Committee for information together with the details of the other options that had been discounted.

The Chairman, in conclusion, advised that in noting the local Ward Member's concerns the majority of Members of the Committee appeared to be in support of the proposal following which it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED

(1) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee supports the resolutions of Cabinet in that consultation be authorised from 6th March, 2018 for the period of 7 weeks on the proposal to establish a 210 place primary school with a 48 part time place nursery class at Rhoose Point and the migration of Llancarfan Primary School into the new site.

(2) T H A T the comments made at the meeting be referred to Cabinet for its consideration following the consultation process.



COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

On the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale by:

1. Creating a new 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class for Llancarfan Primary School in Rhoose.
2. Transferring staff and pupils from the existing Llancarfan Primary School building into the new school building.
3. Changing the age range of Llancarfan Primary school from 4-11 years to 3-11 years.



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Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed.
Please contact us on 01446 709727 to arrange this.

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1. 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 the local community and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

The Council proposes to build a new 210 place school building for Llancarfan Primary School, with the addition of the provision of 48 part time nursery places which would be located in Rhoose. It is proposed that all pupils, staff and governors from Llancarfan Primary School would transfer into the new school building.

The Council would facilitate the transfer of Llancarfan Primary School into the new school building through Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme. This would change the age range of the school from a 4-11 year old school to a school educating 3-11 year olds.

The Council must ensure that schools serve their local communities and are reflective of demand. There is a need to meet future demand from the new housing developments in Rhoose and ensure both schools serve their communities. A new 210 place school, which is the minimum size for a school to be efficient and also the minimum size school the Council would build from a sustainability perspective, would accommodate the projected increase in pupils numbers from both new developments in Rhoose, in addition to the projected pupil numbers that would transfer over from the existing site of Llancarfan Primary School. Reviewing the wider needs of the Western Vale offers an opportunity to establish a new 21st century school building while addressing community need and surplus capacity challenges.

The proposal would 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 maintain and 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 Council proposes that the new school building and transfer of Llancarfan Primary School would operate from September 2021. This document assesses the impacts this proposal could have on both the local and wider community. Feedback received during the initial consultation and the second consultation exercise has been used to inform and update the community impact assessment.

2. 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 Act (2013) and the School Organisation Code (2013). The School Organisation Code (2013)

recommends that a Community Impact Assessment should be included as part of school organisation consultations, however, this is not a mandatory requirement. The Council nevertheless thought it would be prudent to produce a thorough Community Impact Assessment given that under the proposal, as a regulated alteration, the existing site in Llancafarn would become surplus and the school would move to a new site in Rhoose.

3. 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 2016-20 to achieving a vision of – **‘Strong Communities with a bright future’**.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of an ‘Aspirational Vale’ 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.

4. Current Challenges

The proposal to transfer Llancafarn Primary School would address a number of challenges.

- The staff and pupils at the existing Llancafarn Primary School site would benefit from a new school building which meets 21st century school standards.
- Increased surplus capacity at Llancafarn Primary School would be addressed.
- Increasing demand for pupil places within the Rhoose area would be met.
- The proposed revisions to catchment areas within the Western Vale are expected to increase pupil numbers at other schools, improving future sustainability and contributing to the Council's commitment to reduce surplus capacity in its schools.
- Small site issues associated with a school on a confined site such as a lack of outdoor sporting facilities would be addressed.
- Poor access to the school through the village and lanes would be addressed.
- A nursery would be established supporting continuity and progression in children's learning from age 3. This would support stability of numbers for the school.

5. Community Profile

The Western Vale consists of 8 wards, St Bride's Major, Llandow/Ewenny, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, Peterson-Super-Ely, St Athan, Rhoose and Wenvoe. This Community Impact Assessment assesses the impacts this proposal would have on the local and wider community.

Llancarfan is located approximately 6 miles west of Barry, 5 miles north of Rhoose and 8.5 miles south east of Cowbridge.

Population Profile

Llancarfan Primary School is located in the village of Llancarfan, in the Rhoose ward of the Vale of Glamorgan Council constituency. According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-2016 population estimates, there are 7,069 residents living in the Rhoose Ward. According to the 2011 census, there are 747 residents living in the Llancarfan Parish. The profile of residents is as follows.

Age Range	Residents	Percentage (%)
Age 0 to 4	34	4.6
Age 5 to 7	24	3.2
Age 8 to 9	24	3.2
Age 10 to 14	58	7.8
Age 15	14	1.9
Age 16 to 17	29	3.9
Age 18 to 19	16	2.1
Age 20 to 24	27	3.6
Age 25 to 29	20	2.7
Age 30 to 44	123	16.5
Age 45 to 59	202	27.0
Age 60 to 64	43	5.8
Age 65 to 74	83	11.1
Age 75 to 84	36	4.8
Age 85 to 89	11	1.5
Age 90 and over	3	0.4

The mean age of residents is 41.2 and the median age is 45.

Economic Profile

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) Is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of

several different types of deprivation. It is a national statistic and is produced by statisticians at the Welsh Government.

WIMD is a measure of multiple deprivation that is both an area based measure and a measure of relative deprivations. WIMD is currently made up of eight separate domains (or types of deprivation). Each domain is compiled from a range of different indicators:

- Income
- Employment
- Health
- Education
- Access to Services
- Community Safety
- Physical Environment
- Housing

The index is established for each Lower Super Output Area (LSOA). Llancafarn is part of the Rhoose 3 (W01001119) LSOA. Overall Rhoose 3 is ranked 1650 out of 1909 LSOAs in Wales, which places it among the 50% least deprived. 7 of the 8 measures are classed as being among the 50% least deprived. Access to Services is among the 10-20% most deprived in Wales.

There are a number of businesses and community facilities within Llancafarn, including a tennis club, public house, cinema club, community centre and church. These are all within close proximity to Llancafarn Primary School. A number of events are held throughout the year involving the school.

Catchment Profile

As at May 2018 there were 101 pupils on roll at Llancafarn Primary School. Of these, 29 pupils are resident in the Llancafarn catchment area. The remaining 72 pupils reside out of the Llancafarn Primary School catchment area. The full breakdown is as follows.

School	Number on Roll	Llancafarn catchment	Rhws catchment	Barry catchment schools	Llantwit catchment schools	Cowbridge catchment schools	Penarth/Dinas catchment schools	other
Llancafarn	101	29	35	14	20	2	0	1

Llancafarn Primary School has an admission number of 18 pupils and a total capacity of 126. As at May 2018 the school had a surplus of 25 places (19.8%). This is above the Vale of Glamorgan target of less than 10% surplus capacity.

Future projections show that demand for Llancafarn Primary School is likely to reduce over the next five years.

School	Current School Capacity	January 2014	January 2015	January 2016	January 2017	January 2018	2018/19 Projection	2019/20 Projection	2020/21 Projection	2021/22 Projection	2022/23 Projection
Llancarfan Primary School	126	116	115	104	104	106	91	90	85	80	83

Note: The above projections have been based on the information available at the time of publication and are subject to change

6. Impact Assessment

This section of the Community Impact Assessment assesses the potential impact this proposal could have on the community of Llancarfan, as well as the wider community the proposed school would serve. The information analysed in this process represents a snapshot of the current situation. Feedback received during the initial consultation and the second consultation exercise has been used to inform and update the community impact assessment.

Eight key measures were identified based on responses submitted as part of the initial consultation exercise.

Ref.	Measure
C11	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school
C12	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities
C13	Community facilities used regularly by the school
C14	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises
C15	Impact on local businesses
C16	Impact on local employment
C17	Impact on local infrastructure
C18	Transport arrangements

The eight measures were assessed to identify any negative or positive impacts on the local and wider 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

6a. Impacts on the Local Community

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	2	<p>Llancarfan Primary School serves its immediate area and the areas of Llancadle, Llanbethery and Llantrithyd.</p> <p>The school has a catchment area population of 55 children set against a capacity of 126 places. Only 29 of the 55 primary aged children living in the catchment area attend the school. Transferring the school to larger and newer accommodation with a new catchment area with sustainable numbers would enable the school to continue its success while catering for a greater school population.</p> <p>As part of the proposal the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School would need to be redrawn. The proposal would distribute the current catchment area between the transferred Llancarfan Primary School in Rhoose, Llanfair, St Athan and St Nicholas Primary schools. A realignment of the existing catchment area of Rhws Primary School would also be necessary to provide an even distribution of pupils in Rhoose to serve both schools.</p> <p>Local authorities are required to manage school places and are expected to have no more than 10% surplus capacity overall. The School Organisation Code states that local authorities should review provision and should make a proposal for school reorganisation where there are more than 10% surplus places. The revisions to catchment areas are expected to increase</p>

			<p>pupil numbers for other schools, improving future sustainability and contributing to the Council's commitment to reduce surplus capacity in its schools.</p> <p>Revising the catchment areas, changing the manner in which education is delivered would result in a more even distribution of pupils in the proposed schools.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	0	<p>Llancarfan Primary School offers parents and carers out of school services which are run on the school site exclusively for Llancarfan children. The clubs sessions are as follows;</p> <p>Breakfast club Session 8.00am - 8.45am After School Session 3.30pm - 5.30pm</p> <p>The breakfast club session is a free Welsh Government run breakfast club for parents and is available from 8.00 to 8.45 am. There is no charge for this service and children can attend from any age group across the school.</p> <p>The after school club session from 3.30pm to 5.30pm is run by the school at a charge of £6.50 per session for parents.</p> <p>The above clubs enable parents to access wrap around care for their children in a safe and stimulating environment.</p> <p>The school offers a range of teacher led extra-curricular activities at lunchtimes and after school. After school curricular clubs run from 3.30pm to 4.20pm.</p> <p>Extra-curricular clubs include;</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby • Football • Netball • French • Comic • Media • Sum Dog/Chess Club • Recorder Club <p>It has been noted that some respondents felt that the school has strong links with the community. It is acknowledged that a small number of parents and local community members currently volunteer to support peer and individual reading sessions at the school and also volunteer to provide music classes. There was however no evidence of strong community links with the school in terms of community involvement and use of the schools facilities.</p> <p>It is intended that all existing services for children, parents and the community would continue if the proposal were to go ahead. The proposal would result in increased pupil numbers which is likely to result in increased demand for school services, as well as providing the opportunity to expand the number of services.</p> <p>The proposal forms part of Band B of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme. This would include the creation of new state of art facilities fit for the 21st Century. A key element of the 21st Century Schools Programme is the provision of community</p>
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			<p>facilities.</p> <p>Members of the local community would be involved throughout the development of the plans for the new school building to ensure services meet the needs of the community and enhance the services currently available. Feedback received during the consultation indicates that some members of the community would not be able to access these services due to increased travel distance. Therefore, on balance, the score has been revised to 0 as there are both positive and negative impacts.</p>
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	-1	<p>As outlined above, there are a number of businesses and community facilities in the vicinity of the current school. Feedback received as part of the initial consultation identifies that some of these facilities are used by the school, in particular the sports facilities in the nearby tennis club. The transfer of the school would likely impact on the use of the facilities as the new school is proposed to be located outside of Llancarfan.</p> <p>The school currently pays £330 per annum for use of the facilities at the tennis club. This is the only community facility paid for by the school. A key aim of the 21st Century Schools Programme is to ensure schools have the facilities to fulfil an enhanced curriculum to reduce reliance on external facilities. It is therefore unlikely that this arrangement would continue following the creation of the new school building.</p> <p>Feedback received as part of the initial consultation also identifies that a number of local facilities and businesses are regularly used by parents and pupils outside of school opening</p>

			<p>hours, as well as attendance at local events. These include the local public house, tennis club and local cinema club. However, the school has advised it does not actively support or signpost parents to these businesses. The impact on these businesses is further discussed in CI5 and CI6.</p> <p>The school's PTA has previously arranged meetings and events at the local public house and community cinema.</p> <p>As the school has confirmed the tennis club is the only community facility that is currently used directly by the school, the score has been revised to -1. Impacts on local businesses and employment due to the transfer of the school will be picked up in CI5 and CI6.</p>
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	0	<p>Llancarfan Primary School is available for use by the local community. However, the local community centre, which is separate to the school, is primarily used by the community.</p> <p>Feedback received as part of the initial consultation identifies that the school has previously been used, in conjunction with the Village Hall, for the summer fete.</p> <p>A key aim of the 21st Century Schools Programme is to ensure school facilities are developed to meet the needs of the local community.</p> <p>Members of the local community would be involved throughout the development of the plans for the new school building to ensure services meet the needs of the community and enhance</p>

			the facilities available.
CI5	Impact on local businesses	-1	<p>There are a number of local businesses and organisations in close proximity to the school, such as the tennis club, community cinema, after school club and public house. Feedback from these businesses and organisations suggests that a large number of pupils and parents use them. Feedback received as part of the consultation notes that a large number of parents and pupils do not live in Llanccarfan and would no longer use the businesses if the school was to be transferred.</p> <p>The Llanccarfan Community Cinema is a non-profit, volunteer-run film club serving the village of Llanccarfan and surrounding area. It was established in September 2012 and won the prestigious Best New Film Society award at the 2013 Film Society of the Year Awards. The Community Cinema has benefitted from support of the Creative Rural Communities initiative, a regeneration fund administered by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. This money has helped to purchase a high definition projector, blackout blinds for the village hall and comfortable chairs. The Community Cinema does not make use of any facilities at Llanccarfan Primary. The volunteer group has grown since 2012; ten volunteers run the monthly screenings and of these five either have children at the school or did so very recently, and three other volunteers are former pupils of the school. The best attended screenings (attracting audiences of 70+, compared with an average of around 40 per screening) are family events promoted as fund raisers for the school PTA. The Community Cinema benefits from ticket sales to parents and children who attend the primary school. 60% of</p>

		<p>its members are families with children at the school, or who had children at the school within the last five years. The club has made public via the British Film Institute that each season they sell around 40 family and individual memberships, priced at £30 and £15 respectively. As part of the offer, the cinema club also sell locally sourced ice cream, tea, coffee and soft drinks, as well as second hand DVDs. In turn, the School PTA has benefited from funds raised at special events hosted by the cinema. Since 2013, four such special events have been held. The cinema has run cross-promotional activity with the Fox & Hounds Pub, including pre-screening meal deals. On film nights the pub fills up with audience members after the screening. The cinema ran a social event for the Llancarfan Tennis Club in 2016 with a screening of Eddie the Eagle to help promote membership of both groups. Feedback received during the consultation suggests that the cinema would not be able to continue following the transfer of the school. The Council does not consider that sufficient evidence has been provided to substantiate this. The transferred school, PTA and governing body could continue a relationship to promote use of the community cinema. Llancarfan Community Cinema has a limited online presence with a lack of updated information on the website and Facebook page. Utilisation of social media and the website could promote the cinema to increase audiences. The transferred school would result in an increased number of pupils attending the school which could result in additional potential attendees.</p> <p>In addition to the school's after school club, there is also a privately run after school club offering after school care for both</p>
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		<p>primary and secondary school pupils for £8 per session. The after school club currently pays an annual fee for use of the village hall. Feedback received during the consultation suggests that the after school club would not be able to continue following the transfer of the school. 8 pupils attended the after school club up to July 2018. The Council would investigate how many of these pupils reside in the Llancarfan catchment area and could be supported e.g. through school transport from the new school to Llancarfan. Llancarfan Primary currently offers its own after school club for its pupils, at £6.50 per session. This provision would continue to be available should the school move to a new site.</p> <p>The tennis club is a club that is affiliated to the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association). It is a voluntary organisation which owns the land via a number of trustees. The Llancarfan Lawn Tennis Club describes itself as 'A rural club in the Vale of Glamorgan. Llancarfan LTC is a 1-court facility situated near the village hall and primary school. The court is well-used through the summer months with a healthy membership and popular summer tournament (when neighbouring private courts are also used).' Its running costs for refurbishment of the courts etc. are found via community fundraising and some limited revenue streams. For example the school pays £330 per year to use the courts during the school day. Maintenance is the clubs primary cost. During the summer months up to five coaching sessions a week take place from Easter to summer holidays, there is sometimes five weeks put on in September. There are up to 5 pupils each session. The majority of those attending the coaching sessions are drawn from the school and older</p>
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		<p>children who have moved on to secondary school. This can lead to family membership. Membership is approximately 50-60 families; there is a smaller number of junior memberships. The tennis club would lose income from the school as a result of the transfer (see C13). Feedback received as part of the consultation also advises that a large proportion of members are current or previous pupils and their parents. Feedback notes that the club will be negatively impacted by the transfer as the village will attract fewer members in the future. However, the Council notes that there is no tennis club surrounding the proposed site of the new build. The school and governing body could support and promote the tennis club to pupils and parents. The nearest tennis club would be in Barry or Llantwit Major.</p> <p>Feedback received as part of the consultation suggests that Llancafarn would no longer be desirable to families due to the transfer of the school. However, the Council notes that there are a number of strong communities across the Vale of Glamorgan that are not within walking distance of a school that are highly desired by families. According to the 2011 census data, the population of Llandow, St Donats and Welsh St Donats has a similar mean age to Llancafarn despite there being no primary school within the village.</p> <p>There is also a public house, the Fox and Hounds, located in Llancafarn. The Fox and Hounds is one of a chain of 4 public houses. The freehold of the pub is owned by the Community Council which charges rent of one pint a year. There are covenant restrictions that apply such as the requirement to run</p>
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		<p>a newspaper service for the village. It is run by Coach House Inns. It is a freehouse which provides local produce (brewers, food). The current management has been in place since January 2017, and has been trading since February 2017. The previous owners discouraged links with the school and restricted opening hours. This has changed since the new management. The pub markets itself online as 'a destination pub in the secluded village of Llancarfan on the banks of a small stream and with the historic St Cadoc's Church as its neighbour'. The public house offers food, drink and accommodation.</p> <p>Feedback received as part of the consultation indicates that the public house currently benefits from the nearby school as it attracts families to the village. The pub is a typical rural community pub. It also provides accommodation and food as well as a bar. It is not run solely for the community; it attracts people to the community. It makes some income from parents popping in for coffee before and after school. The manager has been unable to provide an estimate on the level of income associated with this, however. Parents of pupils living outside the village also use the public house. The public house also opens for the annual duck race and school fete. The pub has supported the annual duck race for the last two years. The pub claims it has a big cash injection from these events.</p> <p>Transferring the school from Llancarfan could potentially have a negative impact on these businesses as a number of parents and pupils using these facilities do not live in Llancarfan.</p>
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			<p>In order to mitigate any possible negative impacts, the Council would work closely with the school and members of the community to support local businesses and events including, where appropriate, signposting through the school's website. The Council would continue to support the community of Llancafarn through its Creative Rural Communities initiative, which sees the Council supporting communities and enterprises to develop innovative projects and ideas that will create long term social and economic benefits. The Council has set up the Strong Communities Grant Fund to support Community Groups, the Voluntary Sector and Town and Community Councils. £672,000 is available over a three year period until March 2020. The tennis club would be eligible to apply for grant funding. The club has stated it has not applied for any grants and is entirely reliant on income, part of which comes from Llancafarn Primary.</p>
CI6	Impact on local employment	-1	<p>Only 5% (1 member) of the staff employed by the school live in the current catchment area for Llancafarn Primary School. The Council would work closely to support all members of staff to mitigate any negative impacts as a result of the proposal on those employed by the school. Staff members have not identified any negative impacts.</p> <p>As outlined in CI5, this proposal could potentially have a negative impact on local businesses and organisations, which could result in a reduction in local employment. The Council would continue to support the community of Llancafarn through its Creative Rural Communities initiative, which sees the Council supporting communities and enterprises to develop innovative projects and ideas that will create long term social</p>

			<p>and economic benefits.</p> <p>On balance, this proposal is considered to have a slightly negative impact on local employment.</p>
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	2	<p>The entry roads into the village are single lane and hedge-lined. Access to Llancafarn Primary School is limited due to the poor access through the village and the lanes leading to Llancafarn. This congestion is exacerbated by the large number of pupils attending the school from outside the catchment area.</p> <p>The proposal would result in pupils currently living in Llancafarn being required to travel to the new school site, which could result in increased traffic leaving the village. However, pupils currently living in Llancafarn would be entitled to free school transport and would be collected and transported in groups.</p> <p>As outlined above, the majority of pupils attending Llancafarn Primary School do not live in the local community. There are currently 69 pupils attending the school who live more than 2 miles away from the school and are not entitled to free transport.</p> <p>The transfer of the school is likely to have a positive impact on the local road network due to reduced congestion from those currently traveling to the school from outside the village.</p>

CI8	Transport arrangements	-0.5	<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.¹</p> <p><i>“This is defined as more than 2 miles to the nearest suitable school for Primary Pupils and more than 3 miles for Secondary School Pupils. Distances are measured by the nearest available walking route.”²</i></p> <p>Any pupil attending Llancarfan Primary School on the date of transfer to the new site who lives more than 2 miles from the new school site would therefore be entitled to free school transport. Only 29% of all pupils currently attending Llancarfan Primary School are within the existing catchment area. Under the proposal, these pupils would fall outside of the 2 mile limit, therefore requiring transport to the new site at Rhoose.</p> <p>The admission transition arrangements proposed as part of this consultation would be reflected in the provision of transport. This would support children with siblings who are affected by the change in catchment areas to ensure that if requested by parents both siblings can receive transport to the new Llancarfan Primary School site providing they would be attending the school at the same time and live more than two miles from the new school site.</p>
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¹Policy For The Provision Of Home To School Transport (Revised February 2010)

²The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

			<p>The proposal is likely to have a negative impact on transport arrangements for the Llancarfan community as the new school would not be within walking distance for local residents. However, it should be noted that this related to a small number of pupils living in the immediate vicinity of the school. The community infrastructure limits the ability of pupils to walk to school as there are no paths or walkways in or surrounding the village leading to the school site.</p>
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6b. Impacts on the Wider Community

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposed Transfer														
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	3	<p>The majority of pupils attending the school reside outside the catchment area. There are 101 children currently on roll, of which 29 (29%) live in the school catchment area. The remaining 72 children (71%) live outside the school catchment area. 36 (48%) out of the 75 pupils residing out of catchment live in the Rhws Primary School catchment area.</p> <p>Rhws Primary School currently has 374 pupils on roll and a total capacity of 375, resulting in a surplus of 1 place (0.3%). Demand for school places at Rhws Primary School is likely to increase due to new housing developments within the catchment area.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>School capacity</th> <th>2018/19</th> <th>2019/20</th> <th>2020/21</th> <th>2021/22</th> <th>2022/23</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rhws</td> <td>375</td> <td>376</td> <td>373</td> <td>405</td> <td>451</td> <td>465</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The above table identifies that future demand is likely to be above the capacity of Rhws Primary School.</p> <p>As part of the proposal the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School would need to be redrawn. The proposal would distribute the current catchment area between</p>	School	School capacity	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Rhws	375	376	373	405	451	465
School	School capacity	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23											
Rhws	375	376	373	405	451	465											

			<p>the transferred Llancafarn Primary School in Rhoose, Llanfair, St Athan and St Nicholas Primary schools. A realignment of the existing catchment area of Rhws Primary School would also be necessary to provide an even distribution of pupils in Rhoose to serve both schools.</p> <p>The revisions to catchment areas are expected to increase pupil numbers for other schools, improving future sustainability and contributing to the Council's commitment to reduce surplus capacity in its schools.</p> <p>Revising the catchment areas and changing the manner in which education is delivered would result in a more even distribution of pupils in the proposed schools.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	2	<p>The proposal would result in the transferred school increasing capacity to 210 pupils. This would also include a 48 part time place nursery class. The new school would serve a wider community area than the current Llancafarn Primary School.</p> <p>The nursery would provide additional services for the community which is not currently available.</p> <p>The proposal forms part of Band B of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme. A key element of the 21st Century School Programme involves the creation of community facilities. The Council would work closely with the school and members of the wider community to develop plans for the new building to ensure services provided by the school meet the needs of the community.</p>

CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	1	<p>There are a number of community facilities surrounding the proposed site for the new school which could be utilised by the new school.</p> <p>Community facilities available in the Rhoose area include Stewart Road Community Centre, Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose Library, Milbourne Park and children's play area, Celtic Way bowling green, Ceri Road sports pitches and Celti Way football pitches. These are facilities that could be utilised by the school to further enhance the curriculum.</p>
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	2	<p>The proposal forms part of Band B of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme. A key element of the 21st Century School Programme involves the creation of community facilities. The Council would work closely with the school and members of the wider community to develop plans for the new building to ensure services provided by the school are suitable for the community.</p> <p>During a community mapping exercise completed in October – November 2016, residents noted that facilities particularly health services, school, public transport, community facilities and shops should be improved given the growth in the area.</p>
CI5	Impact on local businesses	1	<p>There are a number of businesses and organisations within Rhoose, including Fontygary Leisure Park, Porthkerry Country Park, and a number of pubs, restaurants and shops. The population in Rhoose is growing due to new housing developments in the area. The transfer of Llancafarn Primary</p>

			School would ensure there are sufficient school places which would prevent parents traveling outside the area to attend school. This will likely have a positive impact on local businesses.
CI6	Impact on local employment	2	<p>The new location of the school would reduce travel time for the vast majority of staff currently employed at Llancafarn Primary School. 21% (4 members) of staff currently employed by the school live in the Rhoose area.</p> <p>The transferred school would also have an increased capacity resulting in additional employment opportunities for members of the wider community.</p>
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	-1	<p>The transfer of Llancafarn Primary School would likely increase car traffic in the Rhoose area. However, the new road infrastructure surrounding the proposed site of the new school building is better equipped to handle the increased traffic than the narrow lanes surrounding Llancafarn. The site for the proposed new building is 0.9 miles from Rhws Primary which is located on the main thoroughfare through Rhoose and is very congested particularly at school drop off and pick up times.</p> <p>There are currently 69 pupils attending Llancafarn Primary School who live more than 2 miles away and are not entitled to free transport. This would reduce to 42 pupils following the transfer of the school to the proposed site.</p> <p>The Council would work closely with the local community to</p>

			limit the impact of increased traffic.
CI8	Transport arrangements	2	<p>As outlined above, the majority of pupils attending Llancarfan Primary School do not currently live within the catchment area.</p> <p>As part of the proposal the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School would need to be redrawn. The proposal would distribute the current catchment area between the transferred Llancarfan Primary School in Rhoose, Llanfair, St Athan and St Nicholas Primary schools. A realignment of the existing catchment area of Rhws Primary School would also be necessary to provide an even distribution of pupils in Rhoose to serve both schools.</p> <p>35% of the current population at Llancarfan Primary currently travel into Llancarfan from Rhoose. Transferring the school to the new site in Rhoose under this proposal would reduce the transportation costs and arrangements currently required for the existing school site.</p> <p>Were the transfer to the new school site under this proposal not to take place, the projected increase of 90 pupils which cannot be accommodated from the new development in Rhoose, would have no option but to travel to schools outside of their local area, adding to the traffic congestion and transport costs within the Western Vale.</p> <p>The proposal would have a positive effect for Rhoose parents as children attending Llancarfan Primary School being transported would be within walking distance to the transferred</p>

			<p>school. Children living in Rhoose are within walking distance of both Rhws Primary and the transferred school.</p> <p>The new catchment areas therefore would likely have a positive impact on transport arrangements.</p>
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7. Scoring Summary

Ref.	Local Community	Wider Community
CI1	2	3
CI2	0	2
CI3	-1	1
CI4	0	2
CI5	-1	1
CI6	-1	2
CI7	2	-1
CI8	-0.5	2
Average Score	+ 0.0625	+1.5

8. Mitigating Actions

This community impact assessment has identified a number of negative impacts this proposal could have on the local and wider community. There are a number of mitigating actions the Council could need to undertake to limit the impact on the community.

Ref.	Mitigating Action	Desired Outcome
M1	Support the local community through the Council's Creative Rural Communities initiative. The Creative Rural Communities initiative has supported rural communities throughout the Vale of Glamorgan.	Creative rural Communities initiative supports business innovation to limit the impact this proposal will have on local businesses. The Creative Rural Communities initiative can also support the exploration of new ways of delivering services, facilities and activities that benefit the community.
M2	Provide the local community with information regarding the Council's Strong Communities Grant Fund.	The Strong Communities Grant Fund offers grants to Community Groups, the Voluntary Sector and Town and Community councils towards the cost of initiatives within the Vale of Glamorgan. The fund totals £672,000 over three years until March 2020. Organisations affected by the proposal would be able to apply for funding to support new initiatives to limit impact.

M3	Work with the school, governing body and PTA to support local organisations and the community.	Work with the school to support local organisations through signposting on the website and sending information to parents. The transferred school could continue the strong relationship with the Llancarfan community to limit the impact.
M4	Engagement with the school leadership, staff, governing body, parents, pupils and the community to develop plans for the new build.	Work closely with school leadership, staff, governing body, parents, pupils and the community to develop the plans for the new build to ensure the building meets their needs. This will ensure the new build forms part of the local and wider community by enhancing facilities available to the community. The engagement will also look to limit disruption due to increased traffic.

9. Conclusions

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a negative impact on the local community across 4 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely result in no overall change to a slight improvement.

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely to have a positive impact on the wider community across 7 of the 8 measures. Overall, the proposal would likely result in a slight to moderate improvement for the wider community.

The principle purpose of a school is to educate the pupils to the best standards and it is not reasonable to expect schools and pupils to carry wider burden of the impact on the community. Ultimately, economic and social factors are not educational issues and cannot be allowed to compromise the education of children.

The proposal would enable the school to continue its success while catering for a greater pupil population. It would 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 maintain and 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 proposal would provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years that would promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.

The school would be able to incorporate provision for 3 and 4 year-old children in a high quality Early Years and Foundation Phase setting. A nursery would enable a seamless transition for nursery age children into the reception class of the school and sustain pupil numbers for the future.

The school currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school day. Parents and community members provide peer and individual reading support for children. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community would continue on the proposal.

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



**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL,
CIVIC OFFICES, HOLTON ROAD,
BARRY CF63 4RU**

**STATUTORY NOTICE TO TRANSFER LLANCARFAN PRIMARY SCHOOL, LLANCARFAN,
CF62 3AD TO A NEW SCHOOL SITE IN RHOOSE ON LAND NORTH-WEST OF THE RAILWAY
LINE, EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF THE SCHOOL AND INCREASE THE SCHOOL CAPACITY**

NOTICE IS GIVEN in accordance with sections 42(1)(a) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, 'the Act', and the School Organisation Code 2013 that The Vale of Glamorgan Council, having consulted such persons as required, propose to make regulated alterations to Llanccarfán Primary School by:

1. Transferring Llanccarfán Primary School to a new school site in Rhose on land north-west of the railway line (paragraph 2 Schedule 2 to 'the Act')
2. Extending the age range of the school from 4 – 11 years to 3 -11 years (paragraph 5 Schedule 2 of 'the Act')
3. Increasing the school capacity for pupils of statutory school age from 126 places to 210 places (paragraph 10 Schedule 2 of 'the Act')

The school is an English-medium school maintained by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council 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 are available to view on The Vale of Glamorgan website at the following address www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/westernvalereconfiguration

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2021. The school will remain a community school and will continue to admit pupils of both sexes.

A new school catchment area will be established for the school. The catchment area can be found in the consultation document available at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/westernvalereconfiguration or at the Learning and Skills Directorate, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council will continue to be the admission authority. The proposal will result in the published admission number for the school increasing from 18 to 30. The number of pupils to be admitted to the school in Reception at age 4/5 in the first school year will be 30. The admission number for nursery aged pupils in the 3 to 4 age range at the school in the first school year will be 48 part time pupils. Admission arrangements do not make provision for selection by ability (pupil banding). As at October 2018, there were 83 pupils of statutory school age on roll at the school. The school capacity for pupils of statutory school age will increase from 126 places to 210 places. The school will also meet demand from the new housing developments north of the railway line in Rhose.

The All Wales Learner Travel arrangements¹ provide eligibility for school transport if pupils reside beyond walking distance to their nearest or designated catchment area school. Walking distance is defined as two miles or further for primary age and three miles or further for secondary age pupils, as measured by the shortest available walking route. The Vale of Glamorgan provides transport in

¹ The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance June 2014

accordance with the above. As a result of the transfer of the school and subsequent changes to the school catchment areas, a review of pupil's eligibility will be undertaken.

In accordance with section 49 of 'the Act', within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals under section 48 of 'the Act', that is to say by 3 December 2018 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills, The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or e-mail

JMJones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Signed:



Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
5 November 2018

EXPLANATORY NOTE – THIS DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE STATUTORY NOTICE

The Council proposes to reconfigure primary school provision in the western vale to:

- Create a new 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class for Llancarfan Primary School in Rhoose;
- Transfer staff and pupils from the current Llancarfan Primary School building into the new school building;
- Change the age range of Llancarfan Primary school from 4-11 years to 3-11 years;
- Increase the school capacity to 210 places.

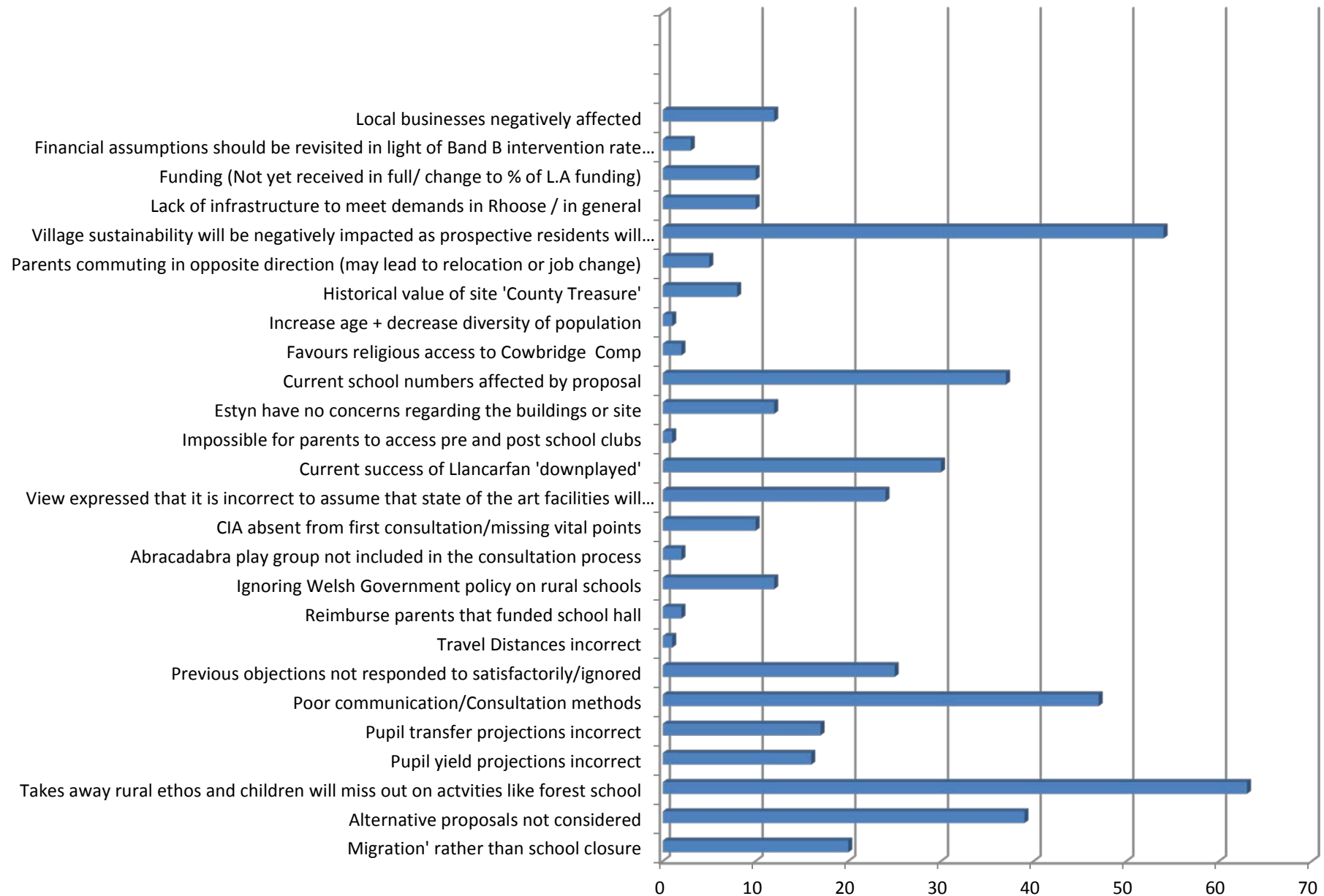
The proposal is made under section 2.2 School Organisation Code 2013 referred to as Regulated Alterations. The proposal will transfer Llancarfan Primary School to a new site in Rhoose, extend the age range of the school from 4 – 11 to 3 – 11 and increase the capacity of the school from 126 places to 210 places. The proposal will also meet demand from the new housing developments in Rhoose.

The Council is the admission authority for the school. The school will provide 48 part time nursery and 210 primary school places. A nursery will enable up to 48 children aged 3-4 (from the term following their third birthday until they enter a reception class) to receive part time education at the school. Attendance at the nursery does not guarantee a child a reception class place at the school, parents will be required to complete an application for a reception place at their chosen school.

Significant capital investment will be made, subject to Welsh Government funding, in establishing a new school building for Llancarfan Primary School at a new site. The estimated cost of the project is £4.185 million. The Council is expected to receive £2.0925 million in Welsh Government Band B match funding through the 21st Century School's Programme for this project. There will be a total of £1.639 million in Section 106 contributions available from developments in Rhoose with the balance met from the Council's capital funding.

School transport would be provided for children living 2 miles or further from the new school site. It is likely that two mini buses would serve the school, one from the Llancarfan area and another serving Llancadle and Llanbethery although the exact arrangements will be determined by the school transport department.

Llancarfan Objection Reasons



Estyn response to the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale (Vale of Glamorgan)

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors for 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 from Estyn's own databases and from Welsh Government.

Summary/ Conclusion

Following comments made by members of the local community to the initial document, the local authority has produced a revised consultation document including responses to many questions. The revised document contains more detail and includes a new consultation timeline.

The proposal is to:

- reconfigure primary provision in the Vale of Glamorgan by creating a new primary school building on a new site for up to 210 pupils and a nursery class for up to 48 pupils on a part-time basis
- migrate all pupils and staff from Llancafán Primary School to the new school site, and
- extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years.

This is likely to at least maintain the standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has presented a sound rationale for the proposals to create a new school building for Llancafán Primary School with the addition of 48 nursery places for pupils on a part-time basis, on a new site in Rhose. It sets out the expected benefits and disadvantages of the proposal clearly. The local authority has considered provision for existing pupils in the current Llancafán Primary School, its future pupils, as well as those in Rhws, Llanfair and St Nicholas Primary Schools. This is because the proposed realignment of existing catchment areas in Rhose in order to accommodate the new school site, would affect pupils in these schools. The local authority has taken appropriate account of educational standards, school surplus places, pupil travel arrangements, accessibility of provision, the quality and sustainability of school accommodation, financial investment and running costs.

The proposal establishes that Llancafán Primary School is a relatively small school with an admission number of 18. Its current catchment area population of 55 children is less than

half the school capacity of 126 places. There are 106 pupils on roll currently, of which only around a third live in the school catchment area. The remaining 75 pupils live outside the school catchment area and 36 of these pupils live in the Rhws Primary School catchment area. Currently, Rhws Primary School is nearly at maximum capacity.

The proposal sets out clearly that there is a need to address the level of surplus places at Llancarfan Primary School in light of current and projected pupil numbers, in order to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the school. In addition, the local authority has considered the north-west and north-east housing development in Rhoose and has projected an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places by 2023 as a result of the planned housing developments in the Rhws Primary School catchment area.

The local authority has considered carefully the condition of the school buildings, facilities and access to Llancarfan Primary School, which include a Victorian school building where pupils are taught in two classrooms and three separate demountable blocks on a small site. A condition survey in 2014, established that a low level of investment is required to ensure that the standard of the building provision is maintained. However, the school does not meet the standards set out in the statutory framework for school buildings and design in Wales and routes through the village and lanes to access the school are congested. Furthermore, the potential for further development opportunities at Rhws Primary School to accommodate the anticipated increase in pupil numbers in its catchment area, are limited. The school is a grade 2 listed building and the school site is restricted in size.

The council provides a clear rationale for how it will address these issues through migrating all pupils and staff from the current Llancarfan Primary School site to a new primary school building in Rhoose, and redefining the catchment areas within the Western Vale region. The local authority has considered suitable alternatives and given good reasons as to why it has discounted these.

The proposal has considered the impact of the new provision on other schools in the local area and has shown how it would redistribute the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School amongst Rhws, Llanfair, St Athan and St Nicholas Primary Schools and define the new catchment area of the new Llancarfan Primary School site. It anticipates that these revisions will increase pupil numbers for the other schools and includes increased projected pupil numbers for Rhws Primary over the next 5 years.

The proposal presents clearly the local authority's plan for transferring pupils, staff and governors to the new school site in September 2021, including how the local authority will 'honour' the feeder arrangements and catchment area links to Cowbridge Comprehensive School for existing Llancarfan Primary School pupils on roll.

The plan has considered appropriately the impact on learner travel arrangements, in terms of pupils' eligibility to access free school transport for pupils of statutory school age under existing local authority policy. It recognises that some pupils who live closer to the current school site will have further to travel. The proposed admission transition arrangements take suitable account of supporting pupils with siblings who would be affected by the change in catchment areas. The council states that it is considering traffic implications as part of the Transport Assessment required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works. It has considered that there is no impact as a result of this proposal on the available safe

walking routes for pupils to access the school, as part of its Community Impact Assessment. It is likely that the proposal will at least maintain the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities

The proposal is likely to have no adverse impact on pupils from different groups, including those pupils with additional learning needs or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. However, the local authority has not included an Equality Impact Assessment. It plans to do this after the consultation.

The proposal will not negatively affect Welsh medium primary education, as the local authority will continue provide this through the catchment area school, Ysgol Dewi Sant. The proposal does not seek to change the status of Llancarfan Primary School as an English medium school.

The local authority's proposal to extend the age range of Llancarfan Primary School to include nursery provision is based upon a strong principle of establishing and supporting continuity and progression in children's learning from age 3 and to support stability of numbers in the school. The plan states that there is a need for increased nursery provision in the area as is currently no provision in the immediate area and that the closest non-maintained registered providers are located at St Athan West Camp and in the Welsh St Donats area. The local authority predicts that the overall number of nursery places required will increase in the area by approximately 70 places to take account of the new housing developments planned. The Council expect the additional demand to be accommodated at both Rhws Primary School and Llancarfan Primary School.

The legal aspects of the proposal have been considered and operate within the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The plan confirms that proposed procedures are in line with legislative requirements.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal has considered appropriately outcomes, provision and leadership at Llancarfan Primary School. It has drawn on a suitable range of evidence to do this including a brief analysis of the school's performance data over the past 3 years.

The proposal identifies that Estyn judged the school's current performance and prospects for improvement as 'good' when it inspected the school in 2014. Leadership, including the role of governors, was judged as good. The proposal does not make clear whether the current leaders were in post at the time of the last inspection, but indicates that there have been staffing changes. However, the regional consortium judge that the school is very well led by the headteacher and deputy head teacher

The school has been placed in a yellow category of support in the latest Welsh Government categorisation of schools, with standards grade 2 and improvement capacity B.

There are a very few inconsistencies in the proposer's broad description of the school's recent outcomes against its targets:

'The school has set challenging whole school targets and **nearly all** 2016-17 outcomes in the Foundation Phase and Key stage met or exceeded the targets set'.

'Targets reflect high expectations for the achievement of all pupils and **these are met consistently.**'

The regional consortium report that teaching at the school is consistently good with elements of excellence indicating that the quality of teaching, judged to be adequate at the time of the last inspection, has improved significantly.

The proposal suggests that the new provision is not likely to impact negatively on the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum across the foundation phase and key stage 2, and maintain current standards. It is likely that extending the provision to include nursery would support continuity and progression in pupils' learning experiences from pre-school age to statutory school age. The addition of outdoor facilities is likely to enhance pupils' wellbeing through providing better opportunities to develop their physical skills and health. In addition, access to high-quality outdoor provision is a key principle of foundation phase pedagogy.

Risk Assessment

The local authority identifies that 50% funding under Band B of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme is subject to approval of the business case. The remaining funding is dependent upon completion of the housing development and capital funding from the local authority. The local authority judges this as a limited risk as some instalments for homes have already been received and the development of the land is well underway.

Please click on headings to find [general guidance](#) or section guidance with an example.

You will find supporting information in appendices at the end of the guidance.

When you start to assess your proposal, arrange to meet Tim Greaves, Equality Co-ordinator, for specific guidance. Send the completed form to him for a final check and so that he can publish it on our Vale of Glamorgan equality web pages.

Please also contact Tim Greaves if you need this equality impact assessment form in a different format.

1. [What are you assessing?](#)

A proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale by:

1. Creating a new 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class for Llancafán Primary School in Rhose.
2. Transferring staff and pupils from the existing Llancafán Primary School building into the new school building.
3. Changing the age range of Llancafán Primary School from 4 – 11 years to 3 – 11 years

2. [Who is responsible?](#)

Name	Lisa Lewis	Job Title	Operational Manager, Strategy & Resources
Team	Strategy, Community Learning & Resources	Directorate	Learning & Skills

3. [When is the assessment being carried out?](#)

Date of start of assessment	21 May 2018
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4. Describe the proposal?

What is the purpose of the proposal?

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 the local community and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

In March 2018, the Council launched a new consultation aimed at taking a holistic view of Primary school provision in the Western Vale. The aim of the consultation was inform the community about the school re-organisation proposal being put forward to build a new 210 place school building for Llancafán Primary School, with the addition of 48 part time nursery places which would be located in Rhose, and to seek feedback on this proposal.

In response to the consultation members of the community raised a number of concerns regarding the impact to their local areas, as well as raising additional questions about the proposal, while seeking to ensure their views were understood.

As a result of feedback the Council undertook a second consultation that commenced on 21 May 2018. The Council considered it important to include greater detail in the consultation document and to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to consider this within a new consultation timeline. The Council welcomed additional feedback from individuals or organisations on the information included in the second consultation before a decision is taken by the Council.

The feedback and views expressed in both consultations are being considered together in the publication of a consultation report on the proposal, a Community Impact Assessment and this Equality Impact Assessment.

The proposal being put forward is to build a new 210 place school building for Llancafán Primary School, with the addition of a 48 part time nursery which would be located in Rhose. It is proposed that all pupils, staff and governors from Llancafán Primary School would transfer into the new school building.

The Consultation outlines the Council's proposals to:

- Create a new 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class for Llancafán Primary School in Rhose
- Transfer staff and pupils from the current Llancafán Primary School Building into the new school building.
- Change the age range of Llancafán Primary school from 4-11 years to 3-11 years.

All staff and pupils would move to the new school building and the governing body would remain unchanged. Careful planning and management of any transitional arrangements would be necessary to mitigate the challenges of pupils moving in to the area between 2018 and 2021, ensuring no disadvantage to pupils moving to the new school building or

negative impact on the current good performance of Llancafán Primary School.

Why do you need to put it in place?

The current site of Llancafán Primary School is comprised of an original Victorian school building containing two classrooms. The building has solid stone walls and a pitch slate covered roof. There are two separate demountable classroom blocks, one single and one double classroom, which are in good condition. In addition, there is a block built in 2000 and extended in 2006 providing the hall, kitchens, a small classroom and staff accommodation.

The school is on a small site which is slightly offset by the use of the adjacent tennis club courts. The school does not meet current building standards and following consideration of the restricted size and location of the site, it is not possible to replace the school with a new build at its current location. An additional challenge relates to the difficult and congested access to the school through the village and the lanes leading to Llancafán. The four separate buildings and small sloping site do not meet 21st Century School design guidance standards for primary schools which have been used for all new builds completed through the Council's 21st Century Schools programme. These schools comprise a fully accessible one or two storey building providing all the required educational functions within a single building set in grounds meeting current outdoor curriculum needs.

As at May 2018, the school was operating with a surplus capacity of 25 places (19.8%) that is set to increase to 43 places (34%) over the next five year period. The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to reducing the number of surplus places in schools in order to meet an agreed target put in place as a requirement of Welsh Government in order to ensure education is provided efficiently. Within the primary sector, this equates to an agreed target of no more than 10%.

The Council's adopted Local Development Plan has allocated a total of 787 new dwellings in Rhose. The allocation comprises 87 dwellings at land south of the Railway Line, and 700 new dwellings at land north of the Railway Line. Based on current projections to include both housing developments, by 2023 there is an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places in the Rhose area. Around 35% of pupils attending Llancafán Primary School reside in the Rhose area.

In order to meet future demand, ensure best use of resources and reduce overall surplus capacity in line with Welsh Government targets, it is proposed to move Llancafán Primary School to a new, larger school building in the Rhose development. Catchment areas would be redefined to place Llancafán, Moulton, Llanbetherly and Llancahle in the new catchment area for the school. It is proposed that we would also realign existing catchment areas in Rhose.

This proposal provides a unique opportunity to not only move Llancafán Primary School into a new 21st century school building but also accommodate children from the new housing development in Rhose. The existing Primary School in Rhose is nearing its maximum capacity and will be unable to accommodate these children. Rhws Primary School is approximately a mile away from the proposed location of the new school site.

Do we need to commit significant resources to it (such as money or staff time)?

It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school on a green field site, including the installation of utilities services and highways provision, will be £4.185 million. The Council is expected to receive £2.0925 million in Welsh Government Band B match funding through the 21st Century Schools Programme for this project. There will be a total of £1.639 million in Section 106 contributions for educational facilities in Rhoose from two developments. The balance will be met from the Council's capital funding.

Officer time has been addressed via the creation of a 21st Century Schools Team.

What are the intended outcomes of the proposal?

Moving the school to larger accommodation with a new catchment with sustainable numbers would;

- Enable the school to further improve while catering for a greater pupil population.
- 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.
- Establish a nursery unit which offers a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery of education for the 21st Century that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings. 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.
- Develop the ethos and culture of the school in children from an earlier age, leading to effective interpersonal relationships and higher self-esteem.
- Provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years to promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.
- All curriculum planning and resourcing would build successfully on previous pupil knowledge and experience and engage interest.
- Support pupils to develop their ability to learn new skills and apply their subject knowledge more positively and creatively across a continuum of learning.
- Improve the already good arrangements for the care, support and guidance of pupils from an earlier age.
- Extend and develop partnerships with families from the earliest opportunity to strengthen home / school transition.
- Promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with different protected characteristics.

Who does the proposal affect?

All staff, pupils, parents of pupils, and governors at Llancarfan Primary School on the date of the move to a new improved school building in Rhoose. The date of the move is

anticipated to be September 2021.

In addition this proposal if implemented would provide a local school for the growing Rhoose community and surrounding areas, ensuring that the majority of pupils can be educated at a school within their community.

Will the proposal affect how other organisations work?

The proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on any other schools in the local area. Whilst the Council is increasing the number of places, the current primary school in the Rhoose area will not be able to meet the future demand for school places from the new housing development.

The existing Primary School in Rhoose is nearing its maximum capacity. This proposal has been presented in order to meet future demand, ensure best use of resources and reduce overall surplus capacity in line with Welsh Government targets. Catchment areas would be redefined to distribute the current catchment area of Llancarfan Primary School amongst the school at its new site in Rhoose, Llanfair and St Nicholas Primary schools. The school at its new site would retain the Llancarfan, Moulton, Llanbethery and Llancadle area within its catchment area and would also include part of the current Rhws catchment area. The remaining parts of Llancarfan's catchment area, namely Tre Aubrey and Whitton, would be redistributed among Llanfair and St Nicholas Primary Schools. A revision to school catchment areas is expected to also increase pupil numbers at other schools improving future sustainability of those schools and contributing to the Councils commitment to reduce surplus capacity in its schools. Currently 10% of pupils attending St Nicholas Primary School live in its catchment area and 16% of pupils attending Llanfair Primary School live in its catchment area.

There is currently no nursery provision at Llancarfan Primary School or in the immediate area. The overall number of nursery places required will increase in the area by approximately 70 places to take account of the new housing developments planned. The Council expect the additional demand to be accommodated at both Rhws Primary School and Llancarfan Primary School.

Will the proposal affect how you deliver services?

The Council must ensure that schools serve their local communities and are reflective of demand. There is a need to meet future demand from the new housing developments in Rhoose. A new 210 place school, which is the minimum size for a school to be efficient and also the minimum size school the Council would build from a sustainability perspective, would accommodate the projected increase in pupils numbers from both new developments in Rhoose, in addition to the projected pupil numbers that would move from the existing site of Llancarfan Primary School. Reviewing the wider needs of the Western Vale offers an opportunity to establish a new 21st century school building while addressing community need and surplus capacity challenges.

All staff and pupils would move to the new school building and the governing body would remain unchanged. Careful planning and management of any transitional arrangements

would be necessary to mitigate the challenges of pupils moving in to the area between 2018 and 2021, ensuring no disadvantage to pupils moving to the new school or negative impact on the current performance of Llancafarn Primary School.

The needs of the new school community that will attend this school in future cannot be known, however a great deal of information is available with relation to the population within the Vale of Glamorgan. This can be accessed from the following sources.

Household projections by local authority <https://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2017/170323-household-projections-local-authorities-2014-based-en.pdf>

Future population trends <https://www.slideshare.net/StatisticsWales/welsh-government-future-trends-report-2017-population>

ONS 2016 population estimates (row 392 code W06000014)
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland/mid2017/ukmidyearestimates2017finalversion.xls>

Protected characteristic data from 2011 Census
<https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/census-population/?lang=en>

Will the proposal impact on other policies or practices?

The proposal is part of the councils overall [strategic outline programme](#) for Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme. The operation of the school will continue to be supported by many policies and procedures. The governing body will be required to continue to comply with all policies, including the Council and schools Equality Policies. All schools will have their part to play in meeting the equality objectives that the Learning and Skills Directorate is responsible for delivering and support the performance reported on in the annual equality monitoring report where appropriate.

Can you change the proposal so that it further promotes equality of opportunity and fosters good relations?

The proposal being put forward is to build a new 210 place school building for Llancafarn Primary School, with the addition of a 48 part time nursery which would be located in Rhoose. It is proposed that all pupils, staff and governors from Llancafarn Primary School would be provided with a new school building. The building will be designed to improve accessibility and promote equality of opportunity for education for more pupils over an increased age range. It would provide the school with improved facilities which would enable them to promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with different protected characteristics. Specific consideration to feedback in relation to pupils with disabilities has been fed into the consultation document and in turn would be reflected in the design for the new building.

Our formal consultation process follows Welsh Government guidelines outlined in the School Organisation Code 2013. A range of individuals and groups will be asked for their views about these proposals during the period 21 May to 9 July 2018. All responses received as part of the previous consultation in March/April 2018 are reflected in the Consultation Report and analysis of the protected characteristics of respondents to both consultations are included in this assessment. Before any decisions are made, the Council needs to ensure that it offers a number of opportunities for individuals and interested groups to make their views and opinions on the proposals known.

The Council consulted with the following groups:

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at Llancarfan Primary school	Governing Body of Llancarfan Primary School
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children attending Llancarfan Primary school	Llancarfan Community Council
Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Partnership	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)
Communities First Partnership	Local Councillors
Assembly Members (AM's) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Welsh Language Commissioner
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Estyn	Trade Unions
Welsh Government Ministers	Directors of Education – All neighbouring Authorities
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Diocesan Directors of Education
Council's Transportation Department	

How will you achieve the proposed changes?

The second consultation period for the proposal started on 21 May 2018 and ended on 9 July 2018.

Within 13 weeks of 9 July 2018 a consultation report will be published on the Council's and school's websites. Hard copies of the report will also be available from the school office on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees during the consultation period and responses to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposals. In September 2018 Cabinet will consider the consultation report and decide

whether or not to proceed with the proposals.

If the Council decides to continue with the proposals it must publish a statutory notice.

The Council's proposals mean that all pupils, staff and governors would move to the new school site with the addition of a nursery unit in September 2021. It is proposed that transitional admission arrangements would apply to existing Llancarfan Primary School pupils after their move to the new building. The Council's intention is to honour the feeder arrangements and catchment area links to Cowbridge for Llancarfan Primary School pupils who are on roll at the school on migration up until they leave. Any pupils joining Llancarfan Primary School after the move would be subject to the agreed admission arrangements in place at that time.

Transportation is currently provided for pupils travelling to Llancarfan from the Rhoose and Cowbridge area. This would continue for those children subject to the two mile limit eligibility criterion for free school transport for primary age children.

Who will deliver the proposal?

Subject to the approval of this proposal, a significant capital investment will be made to establish a new school building for Llancarfan Primary School. The Council will manage the process and the governing body, staff, parents and pupils of Llancarfan Primary School will be fully engaged in the development of the plans, including where appropriate adaptations to the building design to ensure equality of opportunity for teaching and learning experiences. The Council will also be responsible for managing the construction.

This building would be delivered with external partners by the 21st Century Schools team within the Directorate of Learning & Skills as part of the Councils School Investment Programme following its successful bid for funding as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme. Projects are subject to statutory consultation and rigorous business case as required by the School Organisation Code and Welsh Government. The 21st Century Schools Programme is a long-term strategic investment in educational estate throughout Wales. It is a unique collaboration between Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, colleges and dioceses. All of the Vale of Glamorgan Council projects that were undertaken as part of Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme were completed on time and on budget.

How will you know whether you have achieved the proposal's purpose?

The Council would have determined the proposal and:

- Create a new 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class for Llancarfan Primary School in Rhoose
- Transfer staff and pupils from the current Llancarfan Primary School Building into the new school building.

- Change the age range of Llancafán Primary school from 4-11 years to 3-11 years.

Cabinet may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposals with modifications. In doing so, the Council will take into account any statutory objections that it has received.

5. What evidence are you using?

Engagement (with internal and external stakeholders)

The consultation processes followed Welsh Government guidelines, in compliance with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2013. The Council consulted with a range of statutory consultees outlined in and required by the Code.

The authority received 1136 individual responses by the consultation closing date of the 20 April and 9 July 2019 for the second. Of the total 1136 individual responses received 82 were in favour of the proposal, 1046 were opposed, and 8 provided no opinion either way. The governing body of Llancafán Primary School and Estyn also formally responded.

It has been noted that not all consultees provided a response to each of the questions and that some forms were not fully completed. In these cases we have accepted the responses to the questions that they have chosen to answer. Where recorded the protected characteristics of the respondents are provided in this report.

Feedback from consultation meetings and drop in sessions are not included in this report as it was stated clearly in the consultation document that the Council would only accept responses using the official consultation response form. Consultees were advised of this at the drop in sessions. The consultation and engagement processes followed Welsh Government guidelines, in compliance with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2013. The Council consulted with a range of statutory consultees outlined and required by the Code.

Consultation was undertaken at a formative stage and allowed for intelligent consideration and response. The timescales for consultation comply with the School Organisation Code and allowed 7 weeks for consultees to consider and prepare a response.

The Council is using the feedback and responses received to the engagement and consultation exercises carried out in relation to the proposal, this also included engagement with pupils of Llancafán Primary School. The Council held drop in sessions and invited stakeholders to attend as part of the process.

Respondents were asked to complete an Equalities Monitoring form included in the consultation document. The Council received 1136 responses to both consultations either by post or on line. The closing dates for the return of forms were the 20 April and 9 July 2018 respectively.

A number of themes received in as part of the process will be addressed and contained within a consultation report to be reported to Cabinet on the proposal. The Council has a statutory duty to publish a consultation report on the proposal.

A parent attending one of the consultation events was concerned that some children with additional learning needs can benefit from a small school. They felt that their child, who is autistic, requires small and quiet learning environment in which to thrive.

Other comments received highlighted a view that pupils would be better supported in a smaller school environment.

Consultation (with internal and external stakeholders)

The consultation processes followed Welsh Government guidelines, in compliance with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2013. The Council consulted with a range of statutory consultees outlined in and required by the Code.

Formal consultations were conducted through a consultation document and response form distributed electronically to prescribed consultees and published on the Vale of Glamorgan website the on the 5 March for the first consultation and 21 May 2018 for the second.

The bilingual consultation documents were published on 5 March 2018 for the first consultation and 21 May 2018 for the second and distributed online, through social media, and on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website. Consultees were provided with an electronic copy of the documents and a link to the Vale of Glamorgan website. Hard copies were available at the school and also at all of the consultation events.

Consultees for both consultations were asked for their opinion on a key question:

- Do you support the proposal to provide a new school building with a new nursery unit for Llancarfan Primary School from September 2021?

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?

Meetings for both consultations were held with the staff and governors at Llancarfan Primary School which were attended by Council officers. Two drop in sessions, for both consultations, were held for all stakeholders in Llancarfan and Rhoose.

Consultation sessions for both consultations were undertaken with the School Council of Llancarfan Primary School to engage the pupils in the consultation process.

The consultation processes gave a range of consultees and local people the opportunity to

learn about the proposal and for the Council to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be taken into account before any decisions are made. The number of respondents and characteristics thereof are detailed under the Engagement heading above.

National data and research

A great deal of information is available with relation to the population within the Vale of Glamorgan. This can be accessed from the following sources.

Household projections by local authority <https://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2017/170323-household-projections-local-authorities-2014-based-en.pdf>

Future population trends <https://www.slideshare.net/StatisticsWales/welsh-government-future-trends-report-2017-population>

ONS 2016 population estimates (row 392 code W06000014)
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/file?uri=/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland/mid2017/ukmidyearestimates2017finalversion.xls>

Protected characteristic data from 2011 Census
<https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/census-population/?lang=en>

The Councils proposal will be delivered through the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme. The 21st Century Schools Programme is a long-term strategic investment in educational estate throughout Wales. It is a unique collaboration between Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, colleges and dioceses. All of the Vale of Glamorgan Council projects that were undertaken as part of Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme were completed on time and within budget. The Council is expected to receive Welsh Government Band B match funding through the 21st Century School Programme for the proposal.

Changes to school provision, in the form of statutory school organisation proposals, are often necessary as part of local authority plans within the 21st Century Schools and Education Capital Programme.

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires that the Welsh Ministers issue a School Organisation Code. The School Organisation Code 2013 sets out requirements for consultation upon and publication of, statutory proposals for change and local authorities are required to follow the Code. The Code sets out requirements and provides guidance in respect of school reorganisation proposals brought forward to reconfigure school provision and for those responsible for determining proposals. The consultation process follows Welsh Government guidelines outlined in the School Organisation Code.

Local data and research

The Council is using current demographic, school and pupil data to inform the proposal. A strategic review of data was used to inform the process.

The Councils adopted Local Development Plan has allocated a total of 787 new dwellings in Rhoose. The allocation comprises 87 dwellings at land south of the Railway Line and 700 new dwellings at land north of the Railway Line. The allocation to the south of the Railway Line has been completed and occupied with children in the school system. The allocation to the land north of the railway line is in two parts:

- Land to the north-west of the Railway line (350 units); and
- Land to the north-east of the Railway line (350 units)

It is anticipated that the additional housing from the developments will increase demand in the area by an estimated 70 places for nursery age children, 194 places for primary age children, of which 162 are likely to require English medium provision, and 174 places for secondary age children. Based on current projections to include both housing developments, by 2023 there is an anticipated shortfall of 90 primary school places in the Rhoose area.

Llancarfan Primary school has a catchment area population of 55 primary age children set against a capacity of 126 places. Only 29 of the 55 primary aged children living in the catchment area attend the school. The majority of pupils attending the school reside outside the catchment area. There were 101 children on roll as at May 2018, of which 29 (29%) live in the school catchment area. The remaining 72 children (71%) live outside the school catchment area. 35 (49%) out of the 72 pupils residing out of catchment live in the Rhws Primary School catchment area.

Over the last three years, an average of 4 children have been born in the Llancarfan Primary School catchment area each year compared to 18 places available at the reception intake.

The Council's proposal is to transfer Llancarfan Primary School into a new school building which would be located in Rhoose and is 4.7 miles away from the existing Llancarfan Primary School site.

6. [How robust is the evidence?](#)

Does it show what the impact will be (positive and negative)?

This proposal pays due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality, and foster good relations as an integral part of the decision making process. The impact of the proposal will be positive in terms of managing the demand for school places in the Vale of Glamorgan and in the Rhoose area and ensuring that pupils within an extended age range can receive education. The proposal will also be positive for those children attending Llancarfan school who live in the Rhoose area as they will have less distance to travel to school. The majority of pupils attending Llancarfan Primary School do not live in the local community. There are currently 69 pupils attending the school who live more

than 2 miles away from the school and are not entitled to free transport. This would reduce to 42 pupils following the move of the school to the proposed site.

There is a negative impact in terms of travel for those living in the current Llancafán school catchment area and moving to the school site in Rhose. Free school transport would be provided to those children living two or more miles to the school.

What are the gaps?

The protected characteristics of future new residents emanating from the proposed new development are unknown at this stage. There is limited information held within the Directorate of the protected characteristics of the staff and governing body however the proposal is designed to have a positive or neutral impact on those with protected characteristics accessing the new building. As the staff and governing body are small in number, this data may also serve to identify individuals and personal information held about them. However as part of the consultation several opportunities via a variety of confidential methods were given to staff and governors to express concerns with relation to their personal circumstances as well as any wider concerns. No issues were raised during the consultation or subsequently that were considered to have an adverse impact on the protected characteristics of staff or governors. As a result this is not included in this assessment. The council would ensure that the Governing Body were supported to ensure that all staff and governors would not be adversely impacted as a result of their protected characteristic as a result of this proposal.

What will you do about this?

Consideration of the protected characteristics of the pupils, staff and governing body would be reflected in the development of the new building for example via the provision of a fully accessible building and gender neutral toilets.

The protected characteristics of future occupiers of the school cannot be known however the new building would ensure equality of opportunity for all those accessing the new building.

Information is provided to the school by the parents and professionals on the child's enrolment at the school. This allows the school to ensure that the school can meet their needs.

What monitoring data will you collect?

The Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data is collected on an annual basis, protected characteristics are captured through this process.

How often will you analyse and report on this?

The pupils Level Annual School Census (PLASC) is completed annually. The Council and schools use the data to develop and monitor policy and performance in the Vale of Glamorgan. The effectiveness of this proposal will be monitored via the school's Governing body, the Council, the Central South Consortium and Estyn.

Where will you publish monitoring data and reports?

School Census School is published by Welsh Government on the STATS Wales website for each local authority area.

There would be continued monitoring of school standards across all year groups by the Governing Body, the Local Authority and the Central South Consortium and via Estyn.

Standards in schools are monitored on an annual basis by the Consortium and reported back to the Local Authority. Standards for children who have been identified with additional learning needs, along with those children identified as school action and school action plus will also be part of the Annual National Categorisation School Report carried out by the Central South Consortium in partnership with the school.

7. [Impact](#)

Is there an impact?

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 people will 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 positive impacts are outlined below in the relevant section.

If there is no impact, what is the justification for thinking this? Provide evidence.

Evidence is assessed through the consultation process and through school and pupil data.

If there is likely to be an impact, what is it?

Age

According to the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) carried out in January 2018 there were 106 children on roll of which 90 were of compulsory school age. 38 children were aged between 4 – 7 and 68 children aged 8 – 11.

1136 people responded to both consultations, 1049 were completed on line and 87 were received as written correspondence. Age related data is only available for submissions received on line of which 65 were under 18, 689 were aged between 18 – 54 and 227 were aged 55 and over. Of those that responded on line, 158 chose not to state their age.

The proposal would provide a 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class changing the age range of the school from a 4-11 year old school to a school educating 3-11 year olds providing a positive impact for children aged 3 – 4 to be educated locally. This proposal would develop continuity and progression in children's learning from the age of three. A consistent approach to the planning and delivery of the foundation phase (nursery to year two) would be enhanced through the establishment of a nursery unit. The already well-developed holistic approach could be embedded from an early age.

As the school will provide additional places for children of nursery school age then the proposal would provide a positive impact for children of that age bracket. There would also be a positive impact for all other primary age groups. The school would be able to provide sufficient places for Primary School age children that would not be available without the new school building.

As the school on a new site would be of sufficient size to provide the required places for children of primary school age who will be residing in the area and will be extended to nursery age children, the proposal would provide a **positive** impact for children of these age brackets. However, it is noted that section 149, so far as relating to age, does not apply to the exercise of a function relating to the provision of education to pupils in schools (see paragraph 1 of Schedule 18 to the 2010 Act).

Disability

The data held on pupils is characterised by Special Educational Needs (SEN) not disability. 11% of children attending Llancarfan Primary School have SEN which is lower than the average (14%) for the Vale of Glamorgan Primary School population. This will include pupils with a disability however it will also include pupils without a disability. There are no pupils with a disability which impacts on their mobility currently on roll at the school. The degree of need varies across a range of additional learning needs types including:

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Groups
ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder)
BESD (Behavioural, emotional and social difficulties)
DYSL (Dyslexia)
GLD (General Learning Difficulties)
MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulties)
SLCD (Speech, Language and Communication Difficulties)

62 (5.9%) of respondents to the consultation said their day to day activities were limited because of a physical or mental condition. None of the 62 respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their disability.

The proposed new school building would be designed in such a way as to equip staff to meet the needs of learners with additional learning needs.

The school would provide a targeted and bespoke curriculum which is responsive to the individual child's abilities and ensures that all children who require additional support are integrated across all areas of the curriculum. It has been recognised that some parents may have selected Llancarfan Primary School due to a preference for a smaller school to support their child's individual needs. As the Council is not proposing to close the school, the staff would remain unchanged and would be very aware of the individual needs of pupils. All staff, governors and pupils would be in a position to liaise with the Council at the design stage in order to ensure that the learning environment is supportive of all pupils, including those who benefit from a quieter learning environment.

There are many design elements that could be incorporated to support pupils. These could include, for example a small room between a pair of classrooms which could be used for individual / small group learning or could be used as a breakout space should a pupil need to retreat from the classroom. Creative use of acoustic materials and bespoke calming colour schemes etc. would also be considered by part of the design team in full consultation with staff pupils and governors. The school will be designed to have flexible spaces which could be adapted by the use of furniture for specific activities, which would include quiet areas for individual learning. The building will be designed to current acoustic standards (BB93). This will define the acoustic performance standard that the school will be designed to. The whole building will be designed to comply with current building regulations for disabled access, with parking and access into the school building as well as assess throughout the school. Natural daylighting and ventilation will be a key feature of the new learning environment.

The protected characteristics of children who will emanate from the new development in Rhoose are unknown at this stage. This data is collected where appropriate on admission and the Council and schools use the data to develop and monitor policy and performance in the Vale of Glamorgan. The effectiveness of this proposal will be monitored via the school's Governing Body, the Council, the Central South Consortium and Estyn.

Based on the policies in place that would not change as a result of the move to a new school building, staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school and all people accessing the building will benefit from its accessible

nature.

The proposal will therefore provide a **positive** impact for pupils, staff, governors and the wider community visiting the school who have been identified within this protected group as they will have access to a fully accessible school building which has been designed to consider individual needs and will be managed by existing senior leaders at the school.

Gender reassignment, including gender identity

Gender reassignment is not recorded for Primary age pupils however individual pupils choosing to live other than at their birth gender are supported within Primary Schools. All children would continue to receive a high quality education at the new school site. The new building would have suitable facilities in place to accommodate pupils of any gender; no pupil would need to consider changing schools due to gender reassignment. Pupils and staff have the right to access the toilet that corresponds to their gender identity. Any pupil or staff member who has a need or desire for increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason, would be provided access to a single stall toilet, but no pupil or staff member shall be required to use such a toilet. The new building would provide single stall toilets that can be used by all, albeit separate facilities would be available for adults and children.

The use of changing rooms by Trans pupils and staff would be assessed on a case by-case basis in discussion with the individual concerned. The school would maximise social integration and promote an equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes and sports, ensuring the safety and comfort, and removing adverse impact for the individual. In most cases, Trans pupils or staff would have access to a changing space that corresponds to their gender identity.

The transfer of Llancarfan Primary School to a new school site would therefore have a **positive** impact on individuals protected under the duty of gender reassignment. All children would continue to receive a high quality education as part of an 'all through' 3 to 11 year school.

Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010.

Staff would also have access to improved, gender neutral facilities and would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school. Non-binary people, including staff, governors and members of the community accessing the facilities would benefit from the gender neutral adaptations to the school that have been identified above.

None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their gender identity. Based on current evidence this proposal would have a **positive** impact on this protected group.

Marriage and civil partnership (discrimination only)

The Equality monitoring form indicates the following breakdown.

What is your marital status?	
Married	582 (55.5%)
Civil Partnership	2 (0.2%)

None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their status in this regard. This information is not held at a directorate level for staff and governors however the proposal is designed to have a positive or neutral impact on those with protected characteristics accessing the new building. Pupils at the School are below the legal marriage age. Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

Based on the policies in place that would not change as a result of the transfer to a new school building, this proposal would have a **neutral** impact on this protected group.

Pregnancy and Maternity

It is considered that there will not be a negative impact on pupils in this protected group as there is a minimal likelihood of pupils falling within this protected group due to the age range of the school. The provision of education for any pupil identified as being within this protected group would remain unaltered by the proposal.

Staff who are on maternity leave or are pregnant at the point of the proposed move would be protected under the Equalities Act 2010.

None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their status in this regard however reference to the impact, both positive and negative, on future children was made in a small number of responses. Based on the policies in place that would not change as a result of the proposal, this proposal would have a **neutral** impact on people in this protected group.

Race

The predominant ethnicity at Llancarfan Primary School is currently White – Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish British with 97% of children falling within this category. This is significantly higher than the average (90% White British) across the wider Vale Primary School population.

As the children will be moving to a new school building, it is unlikely that the proposal will significantly change the ethnic profile of the school although the characteristic of children emanating from the new development in Rhoose being built at this time is unknown at this stage.

All staff, pupils and governors would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their status in this regard. Based on the policies in place that would not change as a result of the proposal and the very small number of pupils in this category, this proposal would have a **neutral** impact on people in this protected group.

Religion and belief

Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

Respect for all religious and non-religious beliefs would not change due to this proposal. This school is a community school and the aspect of the curriculum relating to religion and belief would not change as a result of this proposal.

None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their status in this regard although reference was made to the wider issue of the number of faith schools in the Western Vale. This proposal does not reduce the number of faith school places and increases the number of community (non-faith based) school places. Based on the policies in place that would not change as a result of the proposal this proposal would have a **neutral** impact on people in this protected group.

Sex

The school currently has 49% female pupils on roll and 51% male. This is the same percentage as the Vale wide primary pupil population therefore there would be no perceived negative impact. The staff population is 62% female and 38% male, compared with a Vale wide profile of 89.7% female, 10.3% male staff in Primary Schools. The staff at the school is however small in number and therefore this figure is disproportionate.

Children of both sexes would be treated and taught equally in the school at its new site. There would be no different methods of teaching or curricula for either sex. The school would aim to reduce - as far as possible - segregating pupils and students by Gender. Pupils would continue to be supported to enable equal access to PE and where lessons are segregated by sex/gender they would be enabled to participate in the activity which corresponds to their gender identity if this is what they request. The aspect of the curriculum management relating to any identified gender based attainment gap would not change as a result of this proposal.

Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

From those respondents who fully or partially completed the Equal Opportunities Monitoring form

31% (325) were completed by men

62.5% (656) were completed by women

None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their status in this regard. Based on the policies in place that would not change as a result of the proposal, this proposal would have a **neutral** impact on people in this protected group.

Sexual orientation

Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. The principles of school inspection as described in the 'Framework for School Inspection', September 2015 states that the inspection will focus on the needs of pupils and parents by evaluating the extent to which schools provide an inclusive environment which meets the needs of all pupils irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. The Estyn School Inspection Handbook also details how inspection will evaluate how well individual pupils benefit from the school and states it may be relevant to pay particular attention to those with protected characteristics, therefore including transgender pupils. Under spiritual, moral, social and cultural development Estyn will look for evidence where pupils develop awareness and respect for diversity in relation to, for example gender, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation and disability.

Inspectors will also consider types, rates and patterns of bullying and the effectiveness of the school's actions to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying and harassment – this includes cyber bullying and prejudice-based bullying related to special education need, sexual orientation, sex, race, religion and belief, gender reassignment or disability.

Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

The Equality monitoring form for respondents indicates the following breakdown.

Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?	
756 (72%) Heterosexual/Straight	14 (1.3%) Gay or Lesbian
1 (0.09%) Bisexual	5 (0.5%) Other
182 (17.3%) Prefer not to say	

None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their status in this regard. Based on the policies in place that would not change as a result of the proposal, this proposal would have a **neutral** impact on people in this protected group.

Welsh language - Parental demand for Welsh medium primary education will continue to be provided through the catchment area school Ysgol Dewi Sant.

Llancarfan Primary School is an English medium school and this proposal does not seek to change this. The Council was very successful in increasing Welsh medium primary sector capacity within the Vale of Glamorgan under Band A of the 21st Century Schools

Programme. In order to build on this success, a key priority for Band B is to increase capacity in the Welsh medium secondary sector as well as consideration of further developments at primary level. In order to ensure that the Council actively addresses the Welsh Government target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050, the Council will be undertaking an active programme of addressing need with regard to Welsh and English medium education.

Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

None of the respondents indicated that this proposal would have an adverse impact on their status in this regard. Based on current evidence, this proposal would have a **neutral** impact on people in this protected group.

Human rights

Consideration of the UNICEF document, A Human Rights-Based Approach to Education For All was given as part of the development of this consultation. This document advises that Chapter 2 introduces a conceptual framework for the rights-based approach to education that embodies three interlinked and interdependent dimensions. It contends that human rights related to education cannot be realized unless and until all three are addressed:

- The right of access to education – the right of every child to education on the basis of equality of opportunity and without discrimination on any grounds. To achieve this goal, education must be available for, accessible to and inclusive of all children.
- The right to quality education – the right of every child to a quality education that enables him or her to fulfil his or her potential, realize opportunities for employment and develop life skills. To achieve this goal, education needs to be child-centred, relevant and embrace a broad curriculum, and be appropriately resourced and monitored.
- The right to respect within the learning environment – the right of every child to respect for her or his inherent dignity and to have her or his universal human rights respected within the education system. To achieve this goal, education must be provided in a way that is consistent with human rights, including equal respect for every child, opportunities for meaningful participation, freedom from all forms of violence, and respect for language, culture and religion.

This proposal has been presented in order to address the right of access to education, the right to quality education and the right to respect within the learning environment for all pupils within the Vale of Glamorgan.

Moving the school to larger accommodation with a new catchment with sustainable numbers would:

- Enable the school to further improve while catering for a greater pupil population.

- Ensure that the environment was accessible for all
- 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.
- Establish a nursery unit which offers a more efficient and sustainable model of delivery of education for the 21st Century that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings. 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.
- Develop the ethos and culture of the school in children from an earlier age, leading to effective interpersonal relationships and higher self-esteem.
- Provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years to promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.
- All curriculum planning and resourcing would build successfully on previous pupil knowledge and experience and engage interest.
- Support pupils to develop their ability to learn new skills and apply their subject knowledge more positively and creatively across a continuum of learning.
- Improve the already good arrangements for the care, support and guidance of pupils from an earlier age.
- Extend and develop partnerships with families from the earliest opportunity to strengthen home / school transition.

How do you know?

Explain this for each of the relevant protected characteristics as identified above.

Data is provided and analysed through the Pupil Level Annual School Census data collected in the January of each year. The Council also uses current demographic, school and pupil data to inform the proposal. The staff would also continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

What can be done to promote a positive impact?

Explain this for each of the relevant protected characteristics as identified above.

The availability of the school, its benefits and the facilities available will be published on the Council's website and through the Council's Parental Guide to School Admissions for parents to consider when making a decision on where to express a preference for a pupil place. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity includes having due regard to the need to remove or minimize disadvantages suffered by them. Due regard would therefore be paid to the need to take steps to meet the needs of such persons where those needs are different from persons who do not have that characteristic, and to encourage those who have a protected characteristic to participate

in public life. The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons include steps to take account of the persons' disabilities would be key to the design of the new building. Having due regard to 'fostering good relations' involves having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding. This is an important aspect to curriculum delivery and would not change as a result of this proposal

It is acknowledged that complying with the duty may involve treating some people better than others, as far as that is allowed by the discrimination law.

Age

As the school would continue to provide sufficient places for children of primary school age and would be extended to nursery age children, the proposal would provide a positive impact for children. Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum.

Disability

Llancarfan school site is currently constrained and too small to expand to meet Building Bulletin requirements as adopted by the Welsh Government for the 21st Century Schools Programme. The site is not fully accessible due to a confined site and the buildings do not meet 21st Century School design guidance. This new building would be designed to ensure it was fully accessible to all, regardless of the nature of their disability.

As stated previously design elements would be incorporated to support pupils such as a small room between a pair of classrooms which could be used for individual / small group learning or could be used as a breakout space should a pupil need to retreat from the classroom. The school would be designed to have flexible spaces which could be adapted by the use of furniture for specific activities, which would include quiet areas for individual learning. The school would be designed to current acoustic standards (BB93); this will define the acoustic performance standard that the school will be designed to. The whole building will be designed to comply with current building regulations for disabled access, with parking and access into the school building as well as access throughout the school. Natural daylighting and ventilation will be a key feature of the new learning environment.

Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. The proposal would provide a positive impact.

Gender reassignment, including gender identity

All children would be supported to receive a high quality education if the proposal were to be successfully implemented regardless of gender identity. The school will have suitable facilities in place to accommodate pupils of any gender; no pupil or staff member would need to consider changing schools due to gender reassignment.

Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. The proposal would provide a positive impact.

Marriage and civil partnership

Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. The Council will ensure that the school promotes this requirement through its monitoring and challenge carried out by the school improvement service and Human Resources.

Pregnancy and Maternity

Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. The Council will ensure that the school promotes this requirement through its monitoring and challenge carried out by the school improvement service and Human Resources.

Race

Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. The Council will ensure that the school promotes this requirement through its monitoring and challenge carried out by the school improvement service and Human Resources.

Religion and belief

Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. The Council will ensure that the school promotes this requirement through its monitoring and challenge carried out by the school improvement service and Human Resources.

Sex

Children of both sexes would continue to be treated and taught equally in the new school building. There would be no different methods of teaching or curricula for either sex. Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. The Council will ensure that the school promotes this requirement through its monitoring and challenge carried out by the school improvement service and Human Resources.

Sexual orientation

Staff would continue to receive protection under the Equalities Act 2010 which would be referred to by the Governing Body and Council in order to support the staff at the school.

Inclusivity and respect of others is an intrinsic element of the national curriculum. The Council will ensure that the school promotes this requirement through its monitoring and challenge carried out by the school improvement service and Human Resources.

What can be done to lessen the risk of a negative impact?

Explain this for each of the relevant protected characteristics as identified above.

Those children that will have further to travel from the Llancarfan area following the move to the new school site will be provided with free school transport to the school. Following the move to a new site, of those pupils with known protected characteristics placing them in a minority group who currently attend the school, 66% will no longer be on roll and 33% will live closer to the new school site. The protected characteristics of any future pupils are not currently known. School transport would be provided in line with the Councils transport policy which provides free home to school transport for children who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school. At present there is no evidence to suggest reasonable adjustment would be required for any pupil, however parents will be encouraged to discuss any needs with both the school and the Council, should the proposal be implemented, during the transition phase.

Any pupil attending Llancarfan Primary School on the date of the move to the new school site who lives more than 2 miles from the new school site would therefore be entitled to free school transport. Any pupils who no longer live 2 miles from the new Llancarfan Primary School site as a result of the relocation would no longer be entitled to free school transport.

It is likely that two mini buses would serve the school, one from the Llancarfan area and another serving Llancadle and Llanbethery although the exact arrangements would be determined by the school transport department. Escort provision is generally provided on 16 seat minibuses and above in order to supervise children on their journey to and from school. The Council currently operates a number of buses to primary schools across the Vale of Glamorgan travelling in excess of 5 miles to a school. It is not unusual for young children to be travelling on school transport. Risk assessments, safeguarding training and processes and health and safety procedures are firmly embedded in the delivery of the service.

Whilst some parents will no longer be able to walk their children to school, the availability of a school bus would enable parents to utilise school transport and for children to travel together.

Is there a need for more favourable treatment to achieve equal outcomes? (Disability only)

The current facilities are not fully accessible and this would be addressed positively as part of this proposal. The building will be designed to be fully accessible. In addition, small classrooms and quiet break out areas will be considered as part of the design plan in order to ensure that children requiring a quieter and less busy learning environment can be accommodated.

Will the impact be positive, negative or neutral?

Explain this for each of the relevant protected characteristics as identified above.

Age - Positive

Disability - Positive

Gender reassignment, including gender identity – Positive

Marriage and civil partnership – neutral

Pregnancy and Maternity – neutral

Race – neutral

Religion and belief – neutral

Sex – neutral

Sexual orientation – neutral

In conclusion, there is no real risk of direct or indirect discrimination as the Council is pursuing a legitimate aim (namely, improving the capacity and efficiency of education) and the decision to publish the proposals to make regulated alterations is a proportionate means of achieving that aim.

8. Monitoring on-going impact

Date you will monitor progress

PLASC data is annual and if approved by cabinet a project plan for this proposal will be initiated. This will include reference to this document. Any changes in outcomes resulting from this ongoing analysis will be used to update this Equality Impact Assessment, including any mitigating actions which may be required.

Measures that you will monitor

PLASC data for all pupils will be broken down and monitored by Age, Disability, Race, Religion and belief and Welsh language. The Equalities Team monitors service data and provides information in the annual equality monitoring report. The measures identified for the education of pupils are a matter for the governing body in their School Improvement Plan.

Date you will review implemented proposal and its impact

Subject to cabinet approval, the school will receive enhanced support and challenge in the year following its move as is the practice following all school re-organisations. This will be provided by the Central South Consortium and the Council. Thereafter, the school will be subject to routine monitoring and challenge from the Central South Consortium, Estyn, and the Council.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council works closely with the governing bodies of schools to ensure that standards are robust, that teaching and learning is of a high quality and that leadership and governance is strong. The Council works with two organisations in order to monitor the performance of schools and to support school improvement.

Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales. It is a Crown body, established under the Education Act 1992. Estyn is independent of the National Assembly for Wales but receives its funding from the Welsh Government under section 104 of the Government Wales Act 1998. Estyn inspects quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales.

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSCJES) was established in September 2012. The Local Authority works with the Consortium to support and challenge all schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise the standards achieved by their pupils (Estyn).

In September 2017 a new Estyn School Common Inspection Framework was introduced for all schools across Wales. Llancarfan Primary School was last inspected in March 2014 under Estyn's previous School Inspection Framework which awarded grades for 10 quality indicators.

Under this framework, inspectors also provided an overall judgement on the school's current performance and on its prospects for improvement.

9. Further action as a result of this equality impact assessment

Possible Outcomes	Say which applies
No major change	yes
Adjust the policy	
Continue the policy	
Stop and remove the policy	

10. Outcomes and Actions

Recommend actions to senior management team
Outcome following formal consideration of proposal by senior management team

11. Important Note

Where you have identified impacts, you must detail this in your Cabinet report when seeking approval for your proposal.

12. Publication

<p>Where will you publish your approved proposal and equality impact assessment?</p> <p>Vale of Glamorgan Website</p> <p>In addition to anywhere you intend to publish your approved proposal and equality impact assessment, you must send a copy to Tim Greaves, Equality Co-ordinator, to publish on the equality pages of the Vale of Glamorgan website.</p>
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13. Authorisation

Approved by (name)	Lisa Lewis
Job Title (senior manager)	Operational Manager, Strategy & Resources
Date of approval	31/08/2018
Date of review	To be reviewed following the statutory objection period, should the proposal progress