

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 9TH MARCH, 2023

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 2ND FEBRUARY, 2023

“C214 STATUTORY CONSULTATION TO EXPAND YSGOL IOLO MORGANWG FROM 210 PLACES TO 420 PLACES FROM SEPTEMBER 2025 - (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek Cabinet approval to undertake a statutory consultation to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Director of Learning and Skills be authorised to undertake a consultation on the proposal to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025 starting on 27th February, 2023 for a 6-week period ending on the 11th April, 2023.

(2) T H A T the report be referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of the proposed consultation exercise.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To seek Cabinet authority to carry out a statutory consultation in compliance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 on the proposal to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025.

(2) To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee are consulted on the proposals.”

Attached as Appendix – Report to Cabinet: 2nd February, 2023

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 02 February 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Statutory Consultation to Expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 Places to 420 Places from September 2025.
Purpose of Report:	To seek Cabinet approval to undertake a statutory consultation to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language
Responsible Officer:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	<p>Lisa Lewis: Operational Manager, Strategy & Resources</p> <p>Nathan Slater: Sustainable Communities for Learning Project Manager</p> <p>Gemma Jones: Operational Manager, Accountancy</p> <p>Trevor Baker: Head of Strategy, Community Learning & Resources</p> <p>Mike Matthews: Principal Strategic Planning Officer</p> <p>Committee Reports</p>
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report seeks Cabinet approval to consult on the proposal to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025. In addition, the proposal includes increasing the nursery provision to 96 part time nursery places from 66 and an additional facility to be established onsite to support adult education and immersion. A self-contained unit would provide Welsh medium immersion placements, as well as offering Welsh lessons for adults, particularly those living within the residential development. • The proposal is presented under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code refers to Regulated Alterations of a school including increasing the capacity of the school. • Feedback received throughout the consultation period will need to be considered by Cabinet. Following consideration of the responses, Cabinet will then need to make a determination regarding how the next steps in relation to the proposal. 	

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet authorises the Director of Learning & Skills to undertake a consultation on the proposal to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025 starting on 27th February, 2023 for a 6-week period ending on the 11th April, 2023.
2. That Cabinet refers this report to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of the proposed consultation exercise.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To seek Cabinet authority to carry out a statutory consultation in compliance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 on the proposal to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025.
2. To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee is consulted on the proposals.

1. Background

- 1.1 On 4th November, 2019, the Council's Cabinet approved a phased approach to expanding primary provision in Cowbridge with an expansion of English medium provision being delivered as part of phase one and Welsh medium primary provision being expanded as part of phase two. The reason for the proposal is to create and accommodate additional demand for primary education as a result of recent and proposed housing developments included as part of the Council's adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026. The LDP includes a number of housing developments within Cowbridge, the largest of these developments being the 'Land to the north and west of Darren Close' with 475 dwellings. This development has obtained planning permission and construction has begun on site. A 2-hectare school site is also due to be transferred to the Council via the Section 106 agreement.
- 1.2 English medium provision was identified as the priority due to the urgent need to increase the number of English medium primary places within the area in order to meet our statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. The Council has identified the Cowbridge Comprehensive School site as the preferred site to deliver the English medium primary expansion, through the creation of an all-through school. The projections at the time indicated that the Council could meet demand for Welsh medium primary education in the short term and funding would be requested as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.
- 1.3 Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is a Welsh medium community school serving 3 to 11 year olds in the North Western area of the Vale of Glamorgan and is based in Cowbridge. In terms of admissions, there are 30 pupils per year group with a

total capacity of 210 pupils. The school also has a 66-place part-time nursery places.

- 1.4** Ysgol Iolo Morganwg comprises a main Victorian building built in 1900, a dining block from the same period and three demountable buildings two of which are used for classrooms and one for storage. There are also 3 outbuildings associated with the school which were constructed at a similar time to the main Victorian building which are used for storage. The school is on a confined sloping site with no prospect of substantially increasing the site to meet the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme standards. There are 9 classrooms serving the school which vary in size which causes difficulties maintaining the required pupil capacity of 30 children. It is not possible to replace the school with a new build at its current location due to restricted outside space.
- 1.5** The Sustainable Communities for Learning 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. The Council is expected to receive Welsh Government funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme as part of the rolling programme for new school developments to build the new school on education land allocated on the new residential development at Land to the North West of Darren Farm (known as Clare Gardens).
- 1.6** Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers was published in July 2017 sets out the long-term vision for the Welsh language. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers is one of the three key themes, and a number of key transformational changes will be required within the education sector in order to achieve the vision.
- 1.7** The Council appreciates that in order to contribute effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh Speakers by 2050, significant investment in provision is required within education to both generate and facilitate demand for Welsh Language education. The Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 is an integral part of the Council's Welsh Language Standards strategy. The objectives set out in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan are to:

- Outcome 1: More nursery children/ three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 2: More reception class children/ five-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another
- Outcome 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school
- Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
- Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

- 1.8** In contributing effectively to the Welsh Government’s target of 1 million Welsh Speakers by 2050 and to facilitate demand, the Council’s business case submission to the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme has the capacity to introduce substantial places linked to Welsh medium across all sectors and to reflect new large-scale housing developments planned over the next 5-10 years.
- 1.9** The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026 provides the local planning policy framework for the Vale of Glamorgan and was adopted by the Council on 28th June, 2017. A new school relating to the Land to the north west of Darren Farm residential allocation was included as part of the LDP.
- 1.10** In December 2014, the housing developer Taylor Wimpey submitted an outline application to develop the site for 475 units. In January 2016 planning permission was granted for comprehensive redevelopment of the site subject to conditions and a Section 106 Agreement which included a 2 hectare site allocated for education purposes.
- 1.11** As of October 2022, 135 dwellings have been built and are occupied. 44 dwellings are currently under construction. Approximately 475 dwellings will be built in total by 2026-27.
- 1.12** Land at northwest Darren Farm would be served by the following schools based on their current catchment areas:
- Y Bont Faen Primary School – English medium
 - Ysgol Iolo Morganwg – Welsh medium (Primary)
 - St Helens RC Primary School – Denominational
 - St David’s CiW Primary School – Denominational

- Cowbridge School – English medium (All-through school)
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morganwg – Welsh Medium (Secondary)
- St Richard Gwyn RC High School – Denominational
- Ysgol Y Deri – Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

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

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** The proposal would mean constructing a new 420 place primary school building on the Section 106 land within the 'Land to the north and west of Darren Close' housing development. Upon completion of the building, Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would transfer to the new site. This would provide an additional 210 Welsh medium primary places and 30 nursery places. This would support growth in Welsh medium primary education, supporting the Council's WESP and Welsh Governments 'Cymraeg 2050' strategy.
- 2.2** The school would be at the heart of the community and would promote Welsh language education, improving accessibility to the Welsh language and promoting bilingualism. The proposal would also provide state of the art facilities for staff and learners of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg. The new location would also improve access from across the Western Vale with improved transport links.
- 2.3** To support Welsh medium expansion within Cowbridge and across the Vale, an additional facility is also proposed to establish onsite support for adult education and immersion. A self-contained unit would provide Welsh medium immersion placements, as well as offering Welsh lessons for adults, particularly those living within the residential development.
- 2.4** It is not proposed that changes will be made to Ysgol Iolo Morganwg's catchment area as a result of this proposal.

Condition and Suitability of School Buildings:

- 2.5** The existing buildings are in poor condition with £798,590 backlog maintenance which means the school is exhibiting major defects and teaching methods are adversely affected.
- 2.6** The existing building has an internal area of 1,117.05m². This is below the recommended gross area detailed in the Building Bulletin 99: Building Framework for Primary School Projects which stands at 1,286m². The new building would meet Building Bulletin 99 and have improved outdoor sports provision for hard and soft areas.

Housing Developments:

- 2.7** Within the existing catchment area for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg there are 5 large scale housing developments (10 dwellings or more). The largest residential development relates to land to the north west of Darren Farm (Clare Gardens) which is being developed for 475 units. The development of the site has already started with 135 dwellings already occupied and any arising pupil demand accommodated in the existing school capacity in the area. However, 44 units are currently under construction and 296 units have not been constructed. It is considered in the next 5 years the site will be complete. In addition, the 4 other developments would result in a further 247 units coming forward in the next 6 years.
- 2.8** In total the planned residential developments in the catchment area for the school has a projected pupil yield of 56 nursery pupils and 154 primary pupils. Based on current trends 13.18% of the pupil population within the school catchment attend Welsh medium education. This would result in 7 new nursery places and 20 new primary places for Welsh medium education.

Assessment of Need:

- 2.9** In terms of Welsh medium provision, Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is the only Welsh language school which serves pupils within the catchment area. This means there are 24 Welsh medium places available in the western Vale served within the Ysgol Iolo Morganwg catchment area. In terms of English medium primary places there are 268 places available. Although there is currently sufficient capacity for both English and Welsh medium places within the catchment area it is projected by 2025/26 there would be insufficient capacity for Welsh medium places based on population projections and accounting for anticipated housing developments in the area. The table below outlines the anticipated pupil projections for the school:

School	Current School	January 2018	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022	2023/24 Projection	2024/25 Projection	2025/26 Projection	2026/27 Projection	2028/29 Projection
Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	210	155	150	140	145	186	204	207	228	223	208

- 2.10** It is noted the 2018-based projections anticipate a reduction in demand by 2028/29, however, the Council and Welsh Government have strategies in place to improve take up of Welsh medium education which is anticipated to offset this decline. Creation of new demand for Welsh medium education is a legislative requirement for Local Authorities and is a key deliverable of the Council's 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- 2.11** Evidence shows that where the Council has provided additional Welsh medium capacity, the number of Welsh medium learners has increased. An example of

this is Ysgol Dewi Sant, a Welsh medium primary school in Llantwit Major that opened in September 2011. In the first year of opening, the reception intake contained 3 pupils. In 7 years, the September 2018 intake was oversubscribed with 32 applicants for 30 places.

- 2.12** However, it is noted that providing an increase in the number of places available will not guarantee increased demand. Therefore, a key element of the proposal is to actively encourage parents/carers to opt for Welsh medium education through a variety of strategies including the introduction of an adult education and Welsh language immersion centre as part of the development of the new school. This would be a self-contained unit within the proposed school which would provide Welsh medium immersion placements for late learners (7+ year olds), as well as offering Welsh lessons for adults.

Next Steps:

- 2.13** The Council will hold the statutory consultation starting on 27th February, 2023 for a 6-week period ending on the 11th April, 2023. The consultation document is included at Appendix A and the Community Impact Assessment of the proposal at Appendix B which will be the subject of the consultation process.
- 2.14** Including within the Consultation Document under Appendix A is an indicative timetable for the consultation period and the different stages of the process. These are outlined under Section 5 of the document.
- 2.15** Once the consultation closes Cabinet will need to consider the responses received which will be presented in a Consultation Response Report. Cabinet will need to determine whether the proposal should progress to the next stage following consideration of the comments received and the responses given. If the Cabinet wish to proceed a Statutory Notice will be published and a 28 day objection period will begin. It should be noted that if objections are received during the objection period following the publication of the Statutory Notice, the Council would need to produce an Objection Report. This report sets out the Council's response to any objections received. If the Council wishes to proceed with the proposal, they must notify the Cabinet and issue the Objection Report and other relevant information to the Cabinet for consideration. Cabinet would be required to determine whether to approve, reject or approve with modifications, the proposal within 16 weeks of the end of the objection period.
- 2.16** Once the proposal has been determined notification of the decision, in the form of a letter, will need to be issued which sets out the reasons for the decision in accordance with sections 1.3 to 1.6 and section 1.9 of the School Organisation Code (2018). The decision letter will need to be published on the school's website and the relevant Council webpage. The relevant bodies outlined in section 5.6 of the School Organisation Code (2018) would need to be notified of the publication of the decision letter.

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

- 3.1** 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.
- 3.2** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to achieving a vision of ‘Working Together for a Brighter Future’. This plan is reflective of the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act and is comprised of four Well-being objectives to deliver this vision:
- Objective 1 – To work with and for our communities
 - Objective 2 – To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth
 - Objective 3 – To support people at home and in their community
 - Objective 4 – To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
- 3.3** 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
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh Language
 - A globally responsible Wales
- 3.4** The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme contributes to achieving the wellbeing goals by:
- Improving sustainability of school buildings through the creation of BREEAM Excellent accommodation.
 - Ensure an efficient supply and demand of school places across the Vale of Glamorgan through effective forecasting of future demand.
 - Providing additional school places to meet increased demand as a result of recent and proposed housing developments.
 - Providing facilities available for community use.

- Improving access to Welsh language in the Vale of Glamorgan and generating increased demand.
- 3.5** 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.
- 3.6** 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.
- 3.7** The Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme meets 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 as a result of recent and 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 the national mission for education in Wales and future 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.
 - Contributing towards a healthier Wales by supporting sustainable transport strategies and providing additional sport facilities.

- Contributing towards a prosperous Wales by committing to working with Welsh Government on the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. The Sustainable Communities for Learning 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 provide opportunities for local tradespeople and to use local resources, wherever possible.
- Delivering rigorous consultation with open communication channels and numerous opportunities for stakeholders to engage throughout the process.
- 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.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** There are no direct climate change and nature implications as a result of the proposed consultation. However, the implementation of the proposal, if approved, would include a new school building which would be net zero carbon in operation and include biodiversity enhancements as part of the proposal in accordance with Welsh Government and Council requirements and national and local planning policy. This would represent a considerable improvement on the current situation experienced at the existing Ysgol Iolo Morganwg School which does not benefit from net zero technology within the existing school buildings and there is limited space on site to provide substantial biodiversity enhancements.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** Subject to the approval of this proposal, a significant capital investment will be made to establish a new school building for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg. The Council will manage the process and the governing body, staff, parents and pupils of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg will be fully engaged in the development of the plans. The Council will also be responsible for managing the construction.
- 5.2** It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school be £13.76 million. The Council is expected to receive £8.9 million in Welsh Government match funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme for this project subject to the approval of a full business case
- 5.3** If this proposal is approved, then a request will be made to include this scheme in the Capital Programme. The planned profile and proposed funding sources are detailed within the table below:-

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Required Budget	430	2,593	7,419	3,322	13,764
Funding Source					
Unsupported Borrowing	430	532	1,434	421	2,817
Reserves/Capital Receipt			2,000		2,000
WG Grant	0	2,061	3,985	2,901	8,947
Total	430	2,593	7,419	3,322	13,764

5.4 There are revenue implications associated with the cost of borrowing the £2.8m. The revenue cost of borrowing will be circa £150k per annum over a 50 year period.

5.5 Additional revenue funding will be required to meet the operational costs of the new school and for the immersion centre in the long term. The additional revenue costs of the increased pupil numbers will be met through an increase to the Councils settlement as the education IBA is partly driven by pupil numbers. The Directorate submits annual cost pressures for demographic increases to schools which are then added to the schools funding formula which allocates the majority of funding for schools on the basis of pupil numbers. Providing funding for mid and late immersion programmes can be a challenge. Since 2014/15 the provision of courses for latecomers has been dependent on local authorities and regional consortia earmarking funding for the development of the a mid/late immersion programme. One of the main issues facing this provision is its relatively high cost due to the relatively small numbers of pupils receiving the service. The provision of such courses requires revenue investment, in the present financial year Welsh Government has allocated specific grant funding for authorities to bid for in relation to the provision of mid/late immersion provision. There is an expectation that this funding will continue for the near future, but in the long term continued revenue funding would be required. However, where there are spare places in the immersion centre these can serve the wider regional area where there is a shortfall which would be funded by the relevant local authority to cover the associated revenue costs.

Employment

5.6 It is not anticipated that there would be any adverse impacts for staff as they would simply move to a new building on their existing contracts. This proposal would lead to an increase in employment opportunities at the school as additional pupil numbers would lead to growth in future staffing levels. If the

move to a new school site takes place, the governing body and headteacher would need to consider an increase in the staffing structure for the additional pupil numbers from September 2025. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trades unions where necessary.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.7** 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 securing that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area.
- 5.8** 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.
- 5.9** 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.
- 5.10** Powers for Councils to develop school organisation proposals are governed by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. The Council is to comply with the relevant provisions in connection with the proposal.
- 5.11** The proposal addresses outcomes outlined in the Councils Welsh Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 in accordance with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019.

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

- 5.12** 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:
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>

- 5.13** Chapter 2 of Part 3 of the 2013 Act deals with school organisation proposals.
- 5.14** 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.
- 5.15** 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.
- 5.16** 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).
- 5.17** 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.
- 5.18** 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.

(2) The Code

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

5.20 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
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (see below)
- Cymraeg 2050, A Million Welsh Speakers
- Action Plan, Cymraeg 2050
- 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
- Local plans for economic or housing development
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (made under part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013)
- Children and Young People’s Plans (or successor plans)
- 21st Century Schools – Capital Investment Programme and the relevant wave of investment
- Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014: <https://beta.gov.wales/learner-travel-statutory-provision-and-operational-guidance>
- Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales, Circular No: 021/2011: <https://beta.gov.wales/measuring-capacity-schools-guidance>
- Children and Young People’s National Participation Standards

5.21 Section 1.4 of the School Organisation Code 2018 outlines that Councils should consider the extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

(3) The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

5.22 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (‘the 2015 Act’) sets out new ways of working – of planning and making decisions – for local authorities and other public bodies it lists. The aim is that, by improving these things, the overall well-being of Wales will be better improved by the things public bodies

collectively do. The Act and the statutory guidance makes it clear that local authorities must, in the course of their corporate planning and their delivery against those plans:

- balance short term needs against the ability to meet long term needs;
- think about the impact their objectives have on other organisations' objectives, and on the well-being of Wales, in an integrated way;
- involve in those processes people who reflect the diversity of the population they serve;
- work together collaboratively with other organisations to better meet each other's objectives; and
- deploy their resources to prevent problems from getting worse or from occurring in the first.

5.23 The statutory guidance, for organisations subject to the Act, sets out the expectations for how the duties should be met:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?lang=en>

5.24 The Act itself is available to view online:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents/enacted>

5.25 Current practice on the use of surplus school accommodation, Information document No 158/2014.

(4) Equalities Act 2010

5.26 The Council has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Council's must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics.

5.27 A full Equality Impact Assessment will be developed as part of the consultation exercise and will be included within the consultation report.

(5) The Equality Act (Authorities subject to a duty regarding Socio economic Inequalities) (Wales) Regulations 2021

5.28 On the 10 and 11 March 2021 respectively, the Equality Act (Authorities subject to a duty regarding Socio-economic Inequalities) (Wales) Regulations 2021 (SI 2021/295) and the Equality Act 2010 (Commencement No 15) (Wales) Order 2021 (SI 2021/298) were made, and the 'socio-economic' inequality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and make public bodies subject to the duty.

5.29 A commencement order and regulations were made concerning the coming into force of the public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities, as follows:

- *The Equality Act 2010 (Commencement No 15) (Wales) Order 2021 (SI 2021/298)* was made on 11 March 2021 brought section 1 (that is, the socio-economic inequality duty) and section 3 (enforcement for the purposes of section 1) of the Equality Act 2010 into force on 31 March 2021

- The Equality Act (Authorities subject to a duty regarding Socio-economic Inequalities) (Wales) Regulations 2021 (SI 2021/295) were made on 10 March 2021 and came into force on 30 March 2021. The Regulations make specific Welsh public bodies subject to the socio-economic inequality duty when the duty is brought into force under the above Order.

5.30 The Socio-economic duty places a duty on the Council, as a public sector organisation in Wales, to consider how it might help reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage when strategic decisions are made, including decision which would include deciding priorities and setting objectives, such as:

- Strategic directive and intent.
- Strategies developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards which impact on a public body's functions.
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans).
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy).
- Changes to and development of public services.
- Strategic financial planning.
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions.
- Strategic policy development.

5.31 When making decisions, and reviewing previous strategic decisions, the Council needs to do the following:

- Take account of evidence and potential impact.
- Through consultation and engagement, understand the views and needs of those impacted by the decision, particularly those who suffer socio-economic disadvantage.
- Welcome challenge and scrutiny.
 - Drive a change in the way that decisions are made and the way that decision makers operate.

5.32 When making a decision or reviewing a previously made strategic decision about how to exercise their functions, the Council must show that it has had 'due regard' (giving weight to a particular issue in proportion to its relevance) to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage. Those subject to the duty includes government ministers and departments, local authorities and NHS bodies.

5.33 This would form part of the full Equality Impact Assessment which would be developed as part of the consultation process.

6. Background Papers

None.

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE
CAPACITY FOR WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION BY
EXPANDING YSGOL IOLO MORGANWG FROM
210 PLACES TO 420 PLACES FROM
SEPTEMBER 2025.**



This document can be made available in Braille. Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed. Please contact us on 01446 709828 to arrange this.

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EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

'AN' (Admission Number) - All maintained schools must admit pupils up to at least their published admission number. The admission number is the number of pupil places available in each year group.

'ALN' (Additional Learning Needs) - A pupil has additional learning needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision.

'Capacity' – The capacity of a school is the total number of statutory aged pupil places available; it excludes nursery places.

'Catchment Area' - The geographic area from which students are eligible to attend a local school. Catchment children will always take priority over applications from outside the catchment area however there is no guarantee that any child will be admitted to their chosen school.

'Community' - A type of state-funded school in which the local education authority employs the school's staff, is responsible for the school's admissions and owns the school's estate.

'Denominational' - Schools with a designated religious character e.g. Church in Wales.

'EA' (Equality Act) - The Act covers all aspects of school life to do with how a school treats pupils and prospective pupils, parents and carers, employees, and members of the community. Everything a school does must be fair, non-discriminatory, and not put individuals or groups of people at a disadvantage. In particular, a school must not discriminate, harass, or victimise a pupil or potential pupil in relation to; admissions, the way it provides education for pupils, how it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility, or service, and excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

'EIA' (An Equality Impact Assessment) - EIA is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project, or scheme does not discriminate against any protected groups.

'EM' (English Medium) – A school where teaching and learning is primarily conducted through the medium of English.

'LA' (Local Authority) - The Local Authority referred to in this document means the Vale of Glamorgan Council unless otherwise stated.

'NOR' (Number on Roll) - The number of pupils attending a school. Nursery places are excluded.

'PLASC' (Pupil Level Annual School Census) - In January of every year, verified information is collected by schools for submission to the Welsh Government. This includes the number of pupils

enrolled in each school, their age groups, home addresses, ethnicity and data on Welsh language, free school meals eligibility, special education needs and first language.

‘SA’ (School Action) - When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has ALN they provide interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school’s usual curriculum.

‘SA+’ (School Action +) - When a class or subject teacher and the ALN Co-ordinator are provided with advice or support from outside specialists, so that alternative interventions additional or different to those provided for the pupil through SA can be put in place.

‘Section 106’ - The Section 106 contribution is sought from anyone who has an interest in the building of a housing development, towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, educational provision, open space / play equipment, transport, or healthcare for those occupying the new homes.

‘SRB’ (Specialist Resource Base) - A facility within the school for children with special educational needs.

‘Statemented’ - A child has a Statement of Educational Need (SEN), otherwise known as ALN, if they have learning difficulties which require special educational provision to be made. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides.

‘WM’ (Welsh Medium) - A school where teaching and learning is primarily conducted through the medium of Welsh.

‘WESP’ (Welsh Education Strategic Plan) – the WESP sets out the Council’s ten-year plan for further developing the provision of Welsh medium and Welsh language education. It builds on the work of the previous WESP for the period between 2017 to 2022 and sets out a workplan which demonstrates how the Council intends to achieve its ten-year vision.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is a Welsh medium community school serving 3 to 11 year olds in the North West of the Vale of Glamorgan and is based in Cowbridge. In terms of admissions, there are 30 pupils per year group with a total capacity of 210 pupils. The school also has a 66-place part-time nursery.

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg comprises a main Victorian building built in 1900, a dining block from the same period and three demountable buildings two of which are used for classrooms and one for storage. There are also 3 outbuildings associated with the school which were constructed at a similar time to the main Victoria building which are used for storage. The school is on a confined sloping site with no prospect of substantially increasing the site to meet the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme standards. There are 9 classrooms serving the school which vary in size which causes difficulties maintaining the required pupil capacity of 30 children. It is not possible to replace the school with a new build at its current location due to restricted outside space.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning 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. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a good track record for delivering projects undertaken as part of Band A and B of the Programme on time and within budget. The Council is expected to receive Welsh Government funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme as part of the rolling programme for new school developments to build the new school on education land allocated on the new residential development at Land to the North West of Darren Farm (known as Clare Gardens).

Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers was published in July 2017 sets out the long-term vision for the Welsh language. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers is one of the three key themes, and the following key transformational changes will be required within the education sector in order to achieve the vision.

The Council appreciates that in order to contribute effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh Speakers by 2050, significant investment in provision is required within education to both generate and facilitate demand for Welsh Language education. The Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032 is an integral part of the Council's Welsh Language promotion strategy. The objectives set out in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan are to;

- Outcome 1: More nursery children/ three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

- Outcome 2: More reception class children/ five-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another
- Outcome 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school
- Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
- Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

In order to contribute effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh Speakers by 2050, the Council's business case submission to the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme has the capacity to increase the number of Welsh medium school places across all sectors and to reflect new large-scale housing developments planned over the next 5-10 years. In doing so, this will generate and accommodate additional demand for Welsh Medium education.

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026 provides the local planning policy framework for the Vale of Glamorgan and was adopted by the Council on 28 June 2017. A new school relating to the Land to the north west of Darren Farm residential allocation was included as part of the LDP.

In December 2014, the housing developer Taylor Wimpey submitted an outline application to develop the site for 475 units. In January 2016 planning permission was granted for comprehensive redevelopment of the site subject to conditions and a Section 106 Agreement which included a 2ha site allocated for education purposes. As of October 2022, 135 dwellings have been built and are occupied. 44 dwellings are currently under construction. Approximately 475 dwellings will be built in total by 2026-27. Land at north west Darren Farm would be served by the following schools based on their current catchment areas:

- Y Bont Faen Primary School – English medium
- Ysgol Iolo Morganwg – Welsh medium (Primary)
- St Helens RC Primary School – Denominational
- St David's CiW Primary School - Denominational
- Cowbridge School – English medium (All through)
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg – Welsh Medium (Secondary)
- St Richard Gwyn RC High School – Denominational
- Ysgol Y Deri – Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

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

The Council's Cabinet authorised the Director of Learning & Skills to undertake a **consultation from 27th February 2023 to 11th April 2023** on a proposal to provide additional school places to meet the future demand for Welsh medium education by expanding Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025.

1.2. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025.

This proposal is being considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). This section refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes increasing the capacity of the school by at least 25%. A new 420 place school at Land to the north west of Darren Farm will be included as part of the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. It is proposed that Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would move into the new building by September 2025 to accommodate the increased capacity. The new school would also result in additional nursery places from 66 to 96 part time places.

Although the transferring of the school to the new building is included as part of this consultation, this is not subject to the statutory process as the transfer would be within 1.609344 kilometres. The new school site is 1.3km from the existing school. 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 Cowbridge and the wider catchment area for the school, as well as the increased demand for Welsh medium education. A new 420 place school building would accommodate the projected increase in pupil numbers from the new development. The increased capacity would also accommodate the projected increase in parents choosing Welsh medium education to meet the Council's WESP targets.

1.3. RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSAL

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. This is a vision that can only be realised by working in partnership with schools, governors, parents, and the wider communities we all serve.

This consultation gives you the opportunity to ask questions and make comments that will be considered when the Council's Cabinet decides how to proceed.

Further information regarding planned stakeholder engagement sessions and how you can respond to the consultation is detailed in [Section 7 "Involving stakeholders and responding to the consultation"](#). This section also contains a link to the online survey and a free post address if you would like to submit a response via post. The response form can be found under [Section 8](#).

Under the School Organisation Code (2018), it is vital that any feedback be received by 11th April 2023 in order to be considered as part of this consultation. Any items received after that date cannot be considered.

2. THE PROPOSAL

2.1. SUMMARY

- The proposal is to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025. Additionally the proposal also includes increasing nursery provision to 96 part time places and an adult education and Welsh language immersion centre for primary school aged pupils from 7 years old and above, as well as offering Adult and Community Learning Programs after school hours.
- This proposal is considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code refers to Regulated Alterations of a school. The element within this section which is relevant to the proposal is increasing the capacity of the school by at least 25%.

2.2. WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN?

The proposal would mean constructing a new 420 place primary school building on the Section 106 land within the 'Land to the north and west of Darren Close' housing development. Upon completion of the building, Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would transfer to the new site. This would provide an additional 210 Welsh medium primary places and 30 nursery places. This would support growth in Welsh medium primary education, supporting the Council's WESP and Welsh Governments 'Cymraeg 2050' strategy.

The school would be at the heart of the community and would promote Welsh language education, improving accessibility to the Welsh language and promoting bilingualism. The proposal would also provide state of the art facilities for staff and learners of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg. The new location would also improve access from across the Western Vale with improved transport links.

To support Welsh medium expansion within Cowbridge and across the Vale, an additional facility would be established onsite to support adult education and immersion for late learners (primary aged pupils 7+ year olds) to Welsh medium education.

A self-contained unit would provide Welsh medium immersion placements for primary aged pupils aged 7 and above, as well as offering Welsh lessons for adults after school hours, particularly those living within the development. The Council has an existing immersion unit in Barry, however, the proposed unit would be better placed to serve the western Vale reducing travel for learners to attend a centre in the Authority which live in this area. The immersion centre would have capacity for 12 immersion placements.

CATCHMENT AREA

It is not proposed that changes will be made to Ysgol Iolo Morganwg's catchment area as a result of this proposal.

Figure 1: Ysgol Iolo Morganwg Catchment Area



- However, all catchment and feeder arrangements in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review. Any proposed changes would be reflected in a future admission arrangements consultation.

2.3. WHY ARE WE PROPOSING THE CHANGES?

DEMAND FOR WELSH LANGUAGE PROVISION

The Council has made significant investment in Welsh medium education which has seen an increase in bilingual learners and aims to continue this trend to ensure there is sufficient capacity over the long-term. The Council’s School Investment Programme reflects the Council’s commitments in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), which aims to ensure that demand for Welsh medium education can be met in the long-term. In line with Welsh Government’s National Cymraeg 2050 strategy and contributing to its ambitious target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Welsh medium education is increasing in popularity in the Vale and has seen significant growth over the last 18 years since the opening of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. This has been evident in the recent completion of the 'Transforming Secondary Education in Barry' project which has seen an increase in the number of Welsh medium secondary places available from 1151 to 1450. The Welsh secondary school serves the whole Authority area

and primary pupils from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg seeking Welsh medium education at secondary level would be accommodated at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg

In addition, Ysgol Dewi Sant is a Welsh medium primary school in Llantwit Major that opened in September 2011. In the first year of opening, the reception intake contained just 3 pupils. 7 years later, the September 2018 intake was oversubscribed with 32 applicants for 30 places. Recently, a private Welsh medium nursery has been moved to a new modular building in 2021 on the Dewi Sant site to provide improved connections to the primary school and ensure continued take-up of Welsh medium places.

The proposal includes an adult learning and immersion centre. The main aim of late intensive immersion education in Wales is to provide opportunities for primary school aged pupils who do not speak Welsh to have a late entry point to Welsh-medium education. In general, across Wales, pupils take advantage of this structured provision after the age of 7+. The inclusion of adult learning within the centre aims to improve take up of Welsh medium education and further promote the Welsh language which would be provided outside of school hours.

BUILDING FIT FOR PURPOSE

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg comprises a main Victorian school building, dining block and 3 storage units constructed between 1900 – 1920. Three demountable units were installed between 2002 – 2010. The two newer demountable units (Blocks 3 and 4) are in satisfactory condition and one of the original storage units is also considered to be satisfactory. However, the remaining buildings including the main school have been categorised as being in poor condition following the recent condition survey undertaken in March 2022. In addition to the poor building condition, the following should also be considered;

- The school is on a very confined sloping site with limited outdoor recreational space and no prospect of substantially increasing the site to meet the Sustainable Communities for Learning standards
- Irregular sized classrooms resulting in different sizes throughout year groups rather than following a standard classroom size.

Transferring Ysgol Iolo Morganwg and increasing the number of school places from 210 to 420 offers a more efficient and sustainable model than opening an additional 210 place school to serve the Western Vale area and Clare Gardens development. The proposal also addresses issues with the existing building, such as the restricted outdoor space and irregular sized classrooms. Pupils would be educated in a high-quality modern building which would be able to support the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum.

The proposal will ensure that the new building will meet modern building standards to reduce recurrent costs and be net zero carbon in operation. The new building will also meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellence standards.

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Within the existing catchment area for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg there are 5 large scale housing developments (10 dwellings or more). The largest residential development relates to land to the north west of Darren Farm (Clare Gardens) which is being developed for 475 units. The development of the site has already started with 135 dwellings already occupied and any arising pupil demand accommodated in the existing school capacity in the area. However, 44 units are currently under construction and 296 units have not been constructed. It is considered in the next 5 years the site will be complete. In addition, the 4 other developments would result in a further 247 units coming forward in the next 6 years.

In total the planned residential developments in the catchment area for the school has a projected pupil yield of 56 nursery pupils and 154 primary pupils. Based on current trends 13.18% of the pupil population within the school catchment attend Welsh medium education. This would result in 7 new nursery places and 20 new primary places for Welsh medium education.

3. IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSAL

3.1. SCHOOL INFORMATION

The table below outlines the current capacity information for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg:

Table 1: Ysgol Iolo Morganwg School Information

School	Type of school	Language category	Admission number	School capacity	Number on roll	Age range	No of Part – time nursery places
Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	Community School	Welsh Medium	30	210	186	3 - 11	66

All admission to Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would be via the Local Authority Admissions Panel as a Community type school.

DEMAND FOR SCHOOL PLACES

The following table provides the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) number on roll in January each year and projected number on roll data.

Table 2: Ysgol Iolo Morganwg Projected Pupil Demand

School	Current School	January 2018	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022	2023/24 Projection	2024/25 Projection	2025/26 Projection	2026/27 Projection	2028/29 Projection
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Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	210	155	150	140	145	186	204	207	228	223	208
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The tables below indicate the current numbers on roll (NOR) across all English and Welsh medium schools which share the catchment area for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

Table 3: Neighbouring Schools' Information

School	AN	School Capacity	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total NOR	Total Surplus Capacity
Peterston Super Ely	27	189	18	11	18	22	27	25	28	149	40
St David's	30	210	27	25	30	31	31	30	26	200	10
St Brides Major	30	210	29	29	30	30	30	30	27	205	5
St Nicholas	18	126	18	14	15	20	18	14	17	116	10
Llansannor	30	210	26	29	31	29	30	32	28	205	5
Y Bont Faen	30	210	34	29	31	43	24	31	32	224	-14
Llangan	15	111	14	15	16	16	15	20	10	106	5
Pendoylan	30	210	30	23	25	29	29	30	31	197	13
South Point	30	210	14	6	13	8	11	17	11	80	130
St Athan	30	210	27	29	27	25	20	26	29	183	27
Llanfair	20	140	16	19	19	21	18	20	16	129	11
St Helens	44	308	36	46	43	43	30	43	41	282	26
Total	334	2,344	289	275	298	317	283	318	296	2,076	268
Places available in year groups	-	-	45	59	36	17	51	16	38	-	-

In terms of Welsh medium provision, Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is the only Welsh language school which serves pupils within the catchment area. This means there are 24 Welsh medium places available in the western Vale served within the Ysgol Iolo Morganwg catchment area. In terms of English medium primary places there are 268 places available. Although there is currently sufficient capacity for both English and Welsh medium places within the catchment area it is projected by 2025/26 there would be insufficient capacity for Welsh medium places. It is noted the 2018-based projections anticipate a reduction in demand by 2028/29, however, the Council and Welsh Government have policies in place to improve Welsh medium education take-up which is anticipated to offset this decline. Creation of new demand for Welsh medium education is a legislative requirement for Local Authorities and is a key deliverable of the Council's 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Evidence shows that where the Council has provided additional Welsh medium capacity, the number of Welsh medium learners has increased. An example of this is Ysgol Dewi Sant, a Welsh medium primary school in Llantwit Major that opened in September 2011. In the first year of opening, the reception intake contained 3 pupils. In 7 years, the September 2018 intake was oversubscribed with 32 applicants for 30 places.

However, it is noted that providing an increase in the number of places available will not guarantee increased demand. Therefore, a key element of the proposal is to actively encourage parents/carers to opt for Welsh medium education through the inclusion of a Welsh language immersion centre as part of the development of the new school. This would be a self-contained unit within the proposed school which would provide Welsh medium immersion placements for primary school aged pupils from 7 years old and above, as well as offering Adult and Community Learning Programs after school hours.

3.2. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

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 His 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 REPORT (JUNE 2022)

Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg was last inspected in June 2022. The report summarises:

Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg provides a stimulating and happy learning environment that places a high priority on its pupils' wellbeing. The school has a warm and Welsh ethos. Staff work together effectively and have high expectations for their pupils. This supports pupils to develop as conscientious, confident and bilingual citizens.

Most pupils make very sound progress from their starting points and there is effective provision for pupils with additional learning needs. Pupils have a strong voice in the school and thrive in their roles as learning coaches. They contribute well to their termly themes and persevere exceptionally well during their activities. Pupils enjoy researching when discovering information within their local area, for example when learning about the journey of bananas from the Caribbean to Barry.

The headteacher provides strong leadership and her enthusiasm and guidance in terms of developing the new curriculum are key. The curriculum is designed around the school's new values and shared vision. Staff provide exciting learning experiences that enable pupils to develop the skills that they need to access the whole curriculum and learn effectively. This has a positive effect on pupils' enjoyment of their learning experiences and their strong progress from their starting points. However, there are not enough opportunities for pupils to write at length in all classes. Leaders ensure that staff benefit from professional learning opportunities that have a positive effect on teaching and learning.

Governors know the school well and ask challenging questions about decisions when necessary. They are proud of the pupils' progress as they develop as confident, bilingual learners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve, the school needs to:

- R1 Ensure that planning to develop pupils' extended writing skills is rigorous enough in all classes
- R2 Provide specific feedback so that pupils know exactly what the next steps are to improve the quality of their work
- R3 Strengthen and sharpen the school development plan to be able to measure the effect of the actions for improvement on provision.

The inspection report for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg can be found at:

https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-08/Inspection%20report%20Ysgol%20Iolo%20Morganwg%202022_0.pdf

3.3. INTENDED IMPACT ON EDUCATION OUTCOMES

This consultation proposes expanding Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025. The school would move into a new school building to accommodate this increased capacity.

STANDARDS AND PROGRESS

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- Pupils in the nursery and reception classes listen attentively and interact effectively with adults, developing sound oracy, language and communication skills.

- Most of the school's older pupils develop their oral skills skilfully in Welsh and English. They communicate effectively and contribute purposefully to class discussions, expressing themselves clearly and maturely.
- Most pupils' reading skills are developing well. The youngest pupils use an appropriate range of phonic strategies to read familiar and unfamiliar words
- Many pupils apply their writing skills successfully. They show a good awareness of the importance of the elements of punctuation and accuracy when spelling.
- Most pupils across the school make sound progress in their mathematics and numeracy skills.
- Most pupils apply their digital skills skilfully. The youngest pupils control a programmable device confidently.

The proposal will have a positive impact on standards as increasing the capacity of the school will result in the relocation of the school to a new building on Clare Gardens site. 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 Sustainable Communities for Learning schools with full access to modern technologies.

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 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 the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.

WELLBEING AND ATTITUDES TO LEARNING

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- Pupils' wellbeing and positive attitudes to learning are an obvious strength.

- Supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing is one of the school's priorities and, as a result, most pupils understand how to respond appropriately to situations that affect their emotional wellbeing
- Most pupils have an understanding of the need to keep fit and eat healthily and use this understanding to make healthy choices in their school life and beyond
- Most pupils develop a sound understanding of the importance of moral citizenship through their awareness of the key values
- Most pupils take their leadership responsibilities seriously and pupils are enthusiastic members of the school council, the eco committee, the ambassadors, *Criw Calon Cymru* and the digital wizards.

As a result of the proposal, the school will be transferred to a new school building on the Clare Gardens site. The new school would have larger and more accessible hard and soft play areas to enhance pupils' wellbeing. The new school would also include breakout areas and ALN learning spaces to help improve wellbeing of pupils and their attitudes to learning.

TEACHING AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- Most teachers plan thoughtfully for interesting learning experiences that reflect the school's ethos and encourage pupils to develop as ambitious and confident learners.
- Teachers think carefully about the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, which have now been embedded in the school's values, and how these can be reflected while planning their curriculum
- There are good relationships between staff and pupils. Teachers and assistants care conscientiously and loyally for their pupils
- On the whole, teachers provide learning experiences that give pupils regular opportunities to develop and apply elements of literacy, numeracy and digital competence skilfully across the curriculum.
- Teachers and learning assistants give pupils constructive feedback so that they understand how to improve their work, particularly orally.

The proposal would result in improved teaching and learning experiences through the provision of modern education facilities. This includes break out spaces and ALN learning areas, improved digital infrastructure throughout the new school building reflecting the digital curriculum standards. Furthermore the design of the building will support effective pedagogy through improved facilities, standardised classroom sizes and through providing building and outdoor spaces which reflect the space requirements of Building Bulletin 99.

CARE, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- All staff contribute successfully to develop a happy, caring and safe ethos at the school.

- The school provides opportunities that contribute well to developing pupils' spiritual and ethical skills and support pupils to investigate issues relating to tolerance and respect towards others
- The school provides effective provision for pupils with additional learning needs, which includes purposeful support programmes
- There are successful procedures in place to track and monitor pupils' progress
- Staff provide beneficial opportunities for pupils to take part in physical wellbeing sessions
- Teachers and learning assistants promote the Welsh language and embed pupils' Welshness successfully
- Leaders monitor pupils' attendance through a robust arrangement, working closely with parents and external agencies.

As a result of the proposal, the school will be transferred to a new school building on the Clare Gardens site. The new school would have larger and more accessible hard and soft play areas to enhance pupils' wellbeing. The new school would also include breakout areas and ALN learning spaces to help improve wellbeing of pupils and their attitudes to learning. Furthermore, the design of the new building includes improved transitions from indoor to outdoor learning for the infant year groups.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Key points from last Estyn inspection:

- The headteacher's effective and robust leadership sets a clear strategic direction for the development of the school
- The school's self-evaluation arrangements are effective
- Regular staff meetings are held to organise and implement activities to achieve the shared priorities.
- Governors have a good understanding of their responsibilities
- The school's governors and leaders manage their budget well
- Leaders address local and national priorities skilfully
- There is a productive relationship between the school and parents. Leaders use digital communication methods to inform parents about events regularly
- Regular professional learning opportunities are provided for staff, which link effectively with the outcomes of the school's evaluation activities and priorities for improvement.

A new school building will result in the removal of the limitations with the current school's buildings and grounds resulting in a more manageable space for staff and learners.

3.4. WELSH LANGUAGE PROVISION

The Council's School Investment Programme reflects the Council's commitments in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), which aims to ensure that demand for Welsh medium education can be met in the long-term. In line with Welsh Government's National

Cymraeg 2050 strategy and contributing to its ambitious target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The proposal will result in 210 additional Welsh medium school places, an additional 30 nursery places and an adult education and Welsh language immersion centre.

It will take a number of years for the school to reach full capacity and the reception intake will be changed from September 2025. During this time, there will be additional space within the school which could be utilised by the community to support and promote Welsh language within the community.

The school would be at the heart of the community and would support growth in the demand for Welsh language education, improving accessibility to the Welsh language and promoting bilingualism. The Council’s Learn Welsh provision for adults is also promoted across the Vale of Glamorgan with a wide range of courses available from beginners to proficiency through the inclusion of an immersion unit attached to the school.

3.5. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) PROVISION

The school does not have an attached specialist resource base (SRB); it provides specialist support for children who have identified needs in an inclusive setting within the school. The school has a good working relationship with Ysgol Y Deri, the Council’s Special School which provide outreach services to support the school.

The following table provides information about the needs of current pupils.

Table 4: ALN Information for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg

2020 - 2022		Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	LA	Wales
Percentage of ALN Pupils	School Action	4%	4.1%	7.3%
	School Action Plus	4.3%	4.3%	6.1%
	Statemented	0%	0.5%	2%

The school provides 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.

The design of the new school would include break out spaces for ALN learning space. Within the wider design to future proof the proposal, capacity to include a specialist resource base in the future would be possible due to the larger site area. This would be subject to a separate consultation process if it was to come forward.

The current provision at the existing school would be continued in the new building.

3.6. IMPACTS UPON OTHER SCHOOLS

The proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact on any other schools in the local area as no change to the existing catchment area is proposed.

3.7. LAND AND BUILDINGS

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a vision to provide the best possible facilities for children and young people in the Vale to support their learning. A condition survey involves a visual assessment of all exposed parts of the buildings to identify significant defects and items of disrepair. The Council's latest condition survey of the school was undertaken in 2022.

Table 5: Ysgol Iolo Morganwg Condition Report 2022

School	Type of school	Condition of school building	Cost of identified repairs
Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	Community	C - Poor	£798,590

The proposed new location would provide:

- A high-quality IT rich learning environment for pupils meeting the educational curriculum needs of the 21st Century
- Unobstructed access between all internal areas for children and staff as the new school will be contained within a single building
- Enhanced safeguarding and site security for pupils and staff
- Improved outdoor sports facilities for both pupil and community use
- Full access for the whole community with full disabled access to internal and external areas.

The existing Ysgol Iolo Morganwg building is situated on approx. 0.58ha site off Broadway in Cowbridge. The site is directly next to Y Bont Faen Primary School, an English medium 3 to 11 community school.

No decisions have been made in respect of the future use of the site and buildings. If the proposals outlined in the document are implemented, all options would be considered, including designating the site as surplus or exploring alternative educational uses. Any future development of the site will be managed in accordance with the relevant council policy and its statutory and fiduciary obligations.

The existing building has an internal area of 1,117.05m². This is below the recommended gross area detailed in the Building Bulletin 99: Building Framework for Primary School Projects which stands at 1,286m². The new building would meet Building Bulletin 99 and have improved outdoor sports provision for hard and soft areas.

3.8. FINANCE

CAPITAL FUNDING

Subject to the approval of this proposal, a significant capital investment will be made to establish a new school building for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg. The Council will manage the process and the governing body, staff, parents and pupils of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg will be fully engaged in the development of the plans. The Council will also be responsible for managing the construction.

It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school be £12 million. The Council is expected to receive £7.8 million in Welsh Government match funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme for this project.

REVENUE FUNDING

Additional revenue funding will be required to meet the operational costs of the new school. The additional revenue costs of the increased pupil numbers will be met through the school funding formula which allocates the majority of funding for schools on the basis of pupil numbers.

Providing funding for mid and late immersion programmes can be a challenge. Since 2014/15 the provision of courses for latecomers has been dependant on local authorities and regional consortia earmarking funding for the development of the a mid/late immersion programme. One of the main issues facing this provision is its relatively high cost due to the relatively small numbers of pupils receiving the service. The provision of such courses requires revenue investment, in the present financial year Welsh Government has allocated specific grant funding for authorities to bid for in relation to the provision of mid/late immersion provision. There is an expectation that this funding will continue for the near future, but in the long term continued revenue funding would be required. However, where there are spare places in the immersion centre these can serve the wider regional area where there is a shortfall which would be funded by the relevant local authority to cover the associated revenue costs.

3.9. HUMAN RESOURCES

It is not anticipated that there would be any adverse impacts for staff as they would simply move to a new building on their existing contracts. This proposal would lead to an increase in employment opportunities at the school as additional pupil numbers would lead to growth in future staffing levels. If the move to a new school site takes place, the governing body and headteacher would need to consider an increase in the staffing structure for the additional pupil numbers from September 2025. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trades unions where necessary.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council fully supports the governors, headteacher and staff at the school with any employment related matters. The school has access to the Council's Human Resources policies and procedures, including recruitment policies. The Human Resources service works closely with governors to ensure regular and clear communication with all employees takes place on all matters relating to a change in location of their workplace.

3.10. TRANSPORT AND LEARNER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Traffic and transport implications are being considered as part of the Transport Assessment that will be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented. Under these proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools.

The Vale of Glamorgan 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. "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."

The Council does not provide free school transport for nursery-age children other than those children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Any pupil attending Ysgol Iolo Morganwg 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. Any pupils who no longer live 2 miles from the new site as a result of the relocation would no longer be entitled to free school transport

If the proposal was to go ahead based on the current pupil attendees of the school, 108 pupils would be greater than 2 miles away from the new school site. In comparison there are currently 115 pupils which are greater than 2 miles away from the existing school site. Therefore the school relocation would result in a reduction of 7 pupils requiring free school transport. It should be noted that this figure is likely to change if the proposal is implemented in September 2025 as the pupils attending the school would have changed.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THIS PROPOSAL COMPARED TO THE STATUS QUO

Expanding the school and relocating to a new school building would;

- Enable the school to further improve while catering for a greater pupil population.
- Ensure the Council is able to create and accommodate future demand for Welsh medium education based on current trends and Welsh Government targets.
- Provide adult learning opportunities through the creation of adult education and Welsh language immersion centre aiming to improve the take up of Welsh education.
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- The new building will meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and be net zero carbon in operation.
- Supports the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032.
- Contribute effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050 as part of Cymraeg 2050.

4.2. POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGES OF THIS PROPOSAL COMPARED TO THE STATUS QUO

- Management of staff and resources may be disrupted during the transition to the increased capacity.
- Some pupils living closer to the current school site will have further to travel. There may be associated increased costs with this although the school is within one mile of the existing site.
- There is the potential for disruption for pupils and staff as they become accustomed to their new environment.

4.3. POTENTIAL RISKS OF THIS PROPOSAL AND MEASURES TO MITIGATE IDENTIFIED RISKS

The Council aims to secure 65% of funding for the proposal from the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This will be subject to approval of a business case submission. The remaining funding for the new school building will be funded by the Council.

Until funding for the project has been approved there is a risk to the project. To mitigate the risk associated with funding the Council will produce robust business case submission for Welsh Government funding working closely with the relevant Council departments and

Welsh Government colleagues. In addition, the internal Council funding will be subject to a Capital bid process and need to be supported by a robust and evidence driven bid document to secure funding.

4.4. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the consultation process.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process that looks at a policy or scheme to make sure it does not discriminate against anyone based on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The assessment will be reviewed after the consultation and at key points if the proposal proceeds.

4.5. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken to determine any impacts this proposal would have on the local community. The proposal was assessed across a number of measures.

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

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 currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school day. 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 increase the number of school places at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would better meet the needs of the wider community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.

The full Community Impact Assessment can be viewed via the following link:

(link to be inserted following Cabinet approval)

4.6. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

[The Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) 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.

To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the Act puts in place seven Wellbeing goals and five ways-of-working which must inform the decision-making processes of public bodies.

The proposal has been appraised in terms of how it contributes to delivering upon the aspirations of the Act, the Wellbeing goals, and the ways-of-working. This does not form part of the statutory consultation process but was considered beneficial to meeting the spirit of the Act.

4.7. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

OPTION 1: OPENING A NEW 210 PLACE WELSH MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THE CLARE GARDENS SITE

Why was this option discounted?

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would remain as is and a new 210 place Welsh medium primary school would open on the Clare Gardens site.

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

- This option does not address the current site issues at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg
- The creation of a new primary school would result in increased strain on schools funding with additional overhead costs associated with an additional school
- This option would not provide modern learning environments at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

OPTION 2: OPENING 315 PLACE PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH 36 PART TIME NURSERY PLACES AND ATTACHED ADULT EDUCATION / IMMERSION FACILITY.

Why was this option discounted?

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would close and move on to the Clare Gardens site in a new school building for 315 place school.

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

- Insufficient places to meet our WESP targets. There is a need to create additional long term demand.

- Admission number of 45 does not reflect the standardised admission approach promoted by the Council.

OPTION 3: MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO

Why was this option discounted?

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

- This option does not address the current site issues at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg
- This option would not provide modern learning environments at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg
- There would be no additional school places to accommodate the additional pupils as a result of the residential developments in the area.
- There would be no additional Welsh medium school places to create the additional and anticipated demand.

5. THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS

Table 6: Outline of the statutory consultation process

Steps	Description
Step 1: Develop a proposal	An initial proposal will be developed and considered by the Council's Cabinet. Section 2 of the School Organisation Code outlines when the statutory procedure is required.
Step 2: Cabinet consideration	The Council's Cabinet to consider the proposal and approval to consult.
Step 3: Consultation	A consultation document must be published on the Council website. The consultation document must be published on a school day and consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days. Stakeholders identified in section 3.4 of the School Organisation Code (2018) must be notified by letter/email.
Step 4: Consultation response report	Feedback submitted during the consultation period will be considered and a response report will be developed and presented to Cabinet for consideration.

Step 5: Cabinet consideration	Cabinet will consider the consultation response report and determine whether to publish the report and to approve the publication of the proposal in the form of a statutory notice.
Step 6: Statutory notice	The statutory notice must be published on a school day and as outlined in section 4.1 of the School Organisation Code (2018).
Step 7: Objection period	Anyone wishing to make objections to a proposal has the opportunity to do so. Objections must be made in writing or by email, and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice was published.
Step 8: Objection report	Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").
Step 9: Cabinet consideration	Cabinet consider the objection report for final determination on the proposal.
Step 10: Decision letter	Confirmation of the decision and objection report availability will be issued to stakeholders.

5.1. KEY DATES

Feedback from this education consultation will be collated and summarised and a report presented to Cabinet. The consultation report will be available for everybody to view on the Council's website. Copies can also be obtained on request by using the contact details within this document.

There are further stages that the Council will have to go through before a final decision is made. These stages are set out below:

Table 7: Key dates of the process

Statutory Process	Timescale
Issue consultation document	27 February 2023
Closing date for views on the proposals	11 April 2023
Consultation report considered by Cabinet and published on the school and Council's website	25th May 2023
Subject to Cabinet approval, Statutory notice issued during which time formal written objections will be invited	5th June 2023
End of Statutory Notice Period	3rd July 2023
Determination by Cabinet with objection report.	September 2023
Decision notification	September 2023
Increased capacity to be introduced from	September 2025

The proposed timetable may be subject to change.

6. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

What if the increased demand for Welsh medium education does not materialise?

The Council is confident that there is sufficient evidence to suggest demand for Welsh medium education will continue to grow, reflective of Welsh Government's national strategy. It is anticipated that a pro-active approach to promoting bilingual education and creating additional provision to support parents and pupils who decide to transition into Welsh medium education via an immersion centre or similar provision as outlined in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will further increase uptake over the long term. Any interim surplus capacity within schools would be managed as it would with any other school or Council asset.

What are the advantages of Welsh medium education?

Bilingual children tend to achieve higher within the curriculum and perform better in exams. Learning a second language at a young age helps children develop an ear for languages and gives them a head start at learning a third or fourth language as they get older. In Wales, speaking Welsh is a workplace skill, especially within the public and service sectors, and due to recent changes to the law more and more employers will need a bilingual workforce. Learning through another language helps children develop a greater sensitivity to other cultures and backgrounds. Speaking Welsh gives people a closer relationship with the history, heritage and traditions of Wales.

What support is available for parents who do not speak Welsh?

The vast majority of parents who send their children to Welsh medium schools in the Vale don't speak Welsh themselves. This is why Welsh medium schools in the Vale of Glamorgan always communicate with parents in both Welsh and English. In almost all cases homework for Primary aged pupils will have an English explanation provided with it so all parents can help their children with the work. There are also a number of Welsh medium pre-school playgroups in the Vale run by the organisation Mudiad Meithrin. Adult Welsh education is also promoted across the Vale of Glamorgan with a wide range of courses available from beginners to proficiency. More information can be found from the being bilingual booklet: <https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Working/Education%20and%20Skills/Admissions-Guide/Being-Bilingual-booklet-English.pdf>

What is the intended timescale of development?

It is intended building would start on the new school site by July 2024 and be completed by September 2025.

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

The proposal is that the new school would open by September 2025.

Will there be a new headteacher?

All staff employed at the school on the date of transfer would transfer automatically to the new site with no change to their terms and conditions of employment.

Any further Frequently Asked Questions posed during the consultation will be added to the consultation webpage.

7. INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS AND RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

Our consultation process follows Welsh Government guidelines outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018). A range of individuals and groups are being asked for their views about these proposals.

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 to enable Cabinet to consider these views as part of the decision-making process.

The Council is consulting with the following groups:

Table 8: List of groups to consult as part of the consultation process

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	Governing Body of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	Cowbridge Town Council
Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Programme Board	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)
Assembly Members (AM's) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Local Councillors
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Welsh Language Commissioner
Estyn	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Welsh Government Ministers	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Trade Unions
Council's Transportation Department	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities

7.1. INVOLVING CHILDREN IN THE CONSULTATION

It is important that when bringing forward proposals, Councils must make suitable arrangements to consult with pupils and, where possible, those pupils likely to attend the school. The Council firmly believes that the pupils of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal.

It is intended that a consultation workshop will be held with pupils at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg to gather their views about the proposal. The information gathered at these sessions will be included in the final consultation report. The full report will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration following the consultation period.

7.2. INVOLVING PARENTS, GOVERNORS AND STAFF - HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE AND GIVE YOUR VIEWS

The Council intends to hold drop in sessions for all stakeholders as part of the process.

Parents/carers and guardians of pupils at the school and the community are invited to attend the drop in session where you can ask any questions about the proposal.

We will always ask that you complete a consultation response form as we can only accept views in writing.

The date and venue for the drop in session will be displayed by the school via the school website.

We have also arranged meetings for staff and the governing body of the school.

This document and further supporting information can also be found on the Vale of Glamorgan website:

(link to be inserted following Cabinet approval)

Any updates can also be found on social media through the Vale of Glamorgan Council Twitter feed and via the Vale of Glamorgan Council Facebook page.

Details of the consultation meeting dates are given below:

Table 9: Consultation Engagement Events

Nature of consultation	Date/Time	Venue
------------------------	-----------	-------

Staff meeting	15 March 2023, 3.30pm – 4.30pm	Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Broadway, Cowbridge, CF71 7ER
Governors' meeting	15 March 2023, 6pm – 7pm	Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Broadway, Cowbridge, CF71 7ER
Parents and Community drop in session	16 March 2023, 8.30am – 9.30am 3pm – 4pm	Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Broadway, Cowbridge, CF71 7ER
Pupil engagement session	16 March 2023	Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Broadway, Cowbridge, CF71 7ER
Community drop in session	29 March 2023, 2.30pm – 6pm	Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Broadway, Cowbridge, CF71 7ER

7.3. HOW YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE AND GIVE YOUR VIEWS

FIND OUT MORE

This document and further supporting information can be found on the Vale of Glamorgan's [School Consultations](#) page.

Any updates can also be found on social media through the Vale of Glamorgan Council Twitter feed and via the Vale of Glamorgan Council Facebook page.

You can also contact us on **01446 709828** or sustainablecommunitiesforlearning@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk for further information on the proposal.

GIVE YOUR VIEWS

The consultation period will run from **27th February 2023 to 11th April 2023**. You can respond to our proposals at any time during this period. Your views are important to us, and there are a number of ways that you can let us know.

You can:

- Complete the online response form at:
(link to be inserted following Cabinet approval)

Or

- Complete the consultation response form at the end of this document and send to:
Expansion of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU

Please note that all comments submitted in writing should contain the full name and postcode of the person making the comments.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 11th April 2023. Unfortunately, responses received after this date will not be considered by the Council.

All responses given to us will be considered by Cabinet before it decides whether or not to publish a statutory notice about the proposals.

Responses received from consultees who are opposed to these proposals, although considered as part of the consultation report, will not be treated as statutory objections. A statutory objection would form part of the statutory notice period if it were approved at the next stage by the Council's Cabinet. If you wish to object to the notice at the next stage of the process, should it proceed, you will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period. These key dates are outlined under [Section 5](#).

8. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Your views matter. Please tell us what you think about the proposal by:

- **completing the online response** form at:

(link to be inserted following Cabinet approval)

or

- answering the consultation questions and **adding your points of view on this form**

Please return the form to the postal address:

Expansion of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg

Corporate and Customer Services

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Civic Offices,

Holton Road

Barry CF63 4RU

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 11th April 2023. Unfortunately, no responses received after this date can be considered.

Consultation responses will not be counted as objections to the proposals, although considered by the Council when making its decision. Objections can only be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

Please note that all comments should contain the full name and postcode of the person making the comments.

Any responses received can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and may have to be made public. However, any information that would identify an individual such as name, email address and postal address would be removed.

Your Full Name:	
Postcode:	

Please tell us whether you are responding as (tick all which apply):					
Parent or Guardian*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandparent*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil*	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of Staff*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governor*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)					

*Please confirm which school/s you are affiliated with:	
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1. Do you support the proposal to expand Ysgol Iolo Morganwg from 210 places to 420 places from September 2025?					
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	No opinion either way	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain why:					

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

3. Any other comments?

Thank you for your comments.

Please return this form to the Vale of Glamorgan Council by no later than **11th April 2023**.

If you wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report via email or post, please provide the relevant details below:

I wish to be notified via: (please delete as appropriate)	Email / Post
Email address:	
Postal address:	

Blank area for notes.

9. VALE OF GLAMORGAN EQUALITY MONITORING FORM

Gender and Gender Identity				
What is your gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male			
At birth were you described as?	<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Disability				
Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a physical or mental health condition, illness or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, 12 months or more?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – limited a lot <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – limited a little <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Age				
What is your date of birth?				
National Identity				
National Identity – how would you describe your national identity?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> British
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		
Ethnic Group				
Ethnicity – how would you describe your ethnic group?				
White				

<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British		<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish Traveller		<input type="checkbox"/> Any other white background (please specify):	
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups			
<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean		<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African	
<input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian			
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background (please specify):			
Asian/Asian British			
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian		<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi		<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background (please specify):			
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British			
<input type="checkbox"/> African		<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please specify):			
Other ethnic group			
<input type="checkbox"/> Arab			
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group (please specify):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			

Welsh Language

Please describe your Welsh language ability by ticking the relevant box(es) below.

	Understand	Speak	Read	Write
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fluent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Identity				
Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual / straight	<input type="checkbox"/> Gay or lesbian		<input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Religion				
What is your religion?				
<input type="checkbox"/> No religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian (all denominations)		<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other religion (please specify):			<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	
Pregnancy and Maternity				
Are you currently pregnant or have you been pregnant within the last year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Have you taken maternity leave within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Marriage and Civil Partnership				
What is your legal marital or same sex civil partnership status?	<input type="checkbox"/> Single, that is never married and never registered in a same sex civil partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Married and living with husband/wife <input type="checkbox"/> Separated but still legally married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Widowed<input type="checkbox"/> In a registered same-sex civil partnership and living with your partner<input type="checkbox"/> Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership<input type="checkbox"/> Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved<input type="checkbox"/> Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO
INCREASE CAPACITY FOR WELSH MEDIUM
EDUCATION BY EXPANDING YSGOL IOLO
MORGANWG FROM 210 PLACES TO 420
PLACES FROM SEPTEMBER 2025.**



This document can be made available in Braille. Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed. Please contact us on 01446 709828 to arrange this.

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

This proposal is being considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). This section refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes increasing the capacity of the school by at least 25%. A new 420 place school at Clare Gardens has been included as part of the council's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. It is proposed that Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would move into this building by September 2025 to provide the required capacity.

Although the transferring of the school to the new building is included as part of this consultation, this is not subject to the statutory process as the transfer would be within 1.609344 kilometres (1 mile).

NATIONAL CONTEXT

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

Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers was published in July 2017 sets out the long-term vision for the Welsh language. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers is one of the three key themes, and the following key transformational changes will be required within the education sector in order to achieve the vision.

LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

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

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of 'supporting learning, employment and sustainable economic growth' raising overall standards of achievement by modernising education in the Vale to ensure children and young people receive a first-class education.

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

The Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 is an integral part of the Council's Bilingual strategy. The objectives set out in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan are to;

- Outcome 1: More nursery children/ three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 2: More reception class children/ five-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another
- Outcome 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school
- Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
- Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

In contributing effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh Speakers by 2050 and to facilitate demand, the Council's business case submission to the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme has the capacity to introduce substantial places linked to Welsh medium across all sectors and to reflect new large-scale housing developments planned over the next 5-10 years.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

The proposal would address a number of challenges and would:

- Ensure the Council is able to create and accommodate future demand for Welsh medium education based on current trends.
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Provide adult learning opportunities through the creation of adult education and Welsh language immersion centre aiming to improve the take up of Welsh education. This would benefit both the community and as a mechanism to support our objectives with the WESP.
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- The new building will meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and net zero carbon in operation.
- Supports the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032.
- Contributes effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

There are currently 12 schools which also serve the area within the same catchment as Ysgol lolo Morganwg:

School	Type	Language	Age Range	School Capacity	Nursery places (part time)	Distance from Ysgol lolo Morganwg (km)
Peterston Super Ely	Denominational	EM	3-11	189	28	9.1
St David's	Denominational	EM	3-11	210	48	5.7
St Brides Major	Denominational	EM	3-11	210	48	10.3
St Nicholas	Denominational	EM	4-11	126	0	9.2
Llansannor	Denominational	EM	3-11	210	60	4.9
Y Bont Faen	Community	EM	3-11	210	60	0.1
Llangan	Community	EM	3-11	111	24	4.15
Pendoylan	Denominational	EM	3-11	210	30	6.7
South Point	Community	EM	3-11	210	48	10.7
St Athan	Community	EM	3-11	210	52	6.8
Llanfair	Community	EM	3-11	140	20	2.3
St Helens	Denominational	EM	3-11	308	48	13.3

Ysgol lolo Morganwg is located within the ward of Cowbridge which is made up of 4 lower super output areas (LSOAs). Ysgol lolo Morganwg is located in Cowbridge 1 and is surrounded by

the LSOAs Cowbridge 2, 3, and 4. Cowbridge 1 is the central area of Cowbridge and includes the district centre, school site and residential areas of Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan, in south Wales. The other Cowbridge areas relate to the rural outskirts of the area.

The Cowbridge ward has a population of 6,573 based upon the 2020 mid-year estimates. Cowbridge 1 has a population of 1,647 (Office of National Statistics, 2020).

The data below for the Cowbridge ward surrounding Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is from the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#).

Vale of Glamorgan Constituency Area	LSOA Code	Overall Wales Rank (of 1909)		Employment Rank (of 1909)		Access to Services Rank (of 1909)	
		Rank	% (Least / Most Deprived)	Rank	% (LD / MD)	Rank	% (LD / MD)
Cowbridge 1	W01001082	1,768	50% least deprived	1,463	50% least deprived	1,834	50% least deprived
Cowbridge 2	W01001083	1,726	50% least deprived	1,906	50% least deprived	259	10-20% most deprived
Cowbridge 3	W01001084	1,786	50% least deprived	1,715	50% least deprived	1,193	50% least deprived
Cowbridge 4	W01001085	1,708	50% least deprived	1,795	50% least deprived	225	10-20% most deprived

As the table above shows, the LSOA areas surrounding Ysgol Iolo Morganwg are similar in terms of levels of deprivation with the majority of measures the areas are within the 50% least deprived. The LSOA area the school is located in is one of the least deprived areas across the 3 measures. Areas 2 and 4 have been identified as being in the 10-20% most deprived in terms of access to services. This is reflective of the more rural location of these areas where services will generally be more difficult to access.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Within the existing catchment area for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg there are 5 large scale housing developments (10 dwellings or more). The largest residential development relates to land to the north west of Darren Farm (Clare Gardens) which is being developed for 475 units. The

development of the site has already started with 135 dwellings already occupied and any arising pupil demand accommodated in the existing school capacity in the area. However, 44 units are currently under construction and 296 units have not been constructed. It is considered in the next 5 years the site will be complete. In addition, the 4 other developments would result in a further 247 units coming forward in the next 6 years.

In total the planned residential developments in the catchment area for the school has a projected pupil yield of 56 nursery pupils and 154 primary pupils. Based on current trends 13.18% of the pupil population within the school catchment attend Welsh medium education. This would result in 7 new nursery places and 20 new primary places for Welsh medium education.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

Eight key measures have been identified:

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

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

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

IMPACTS UPON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	1	<p>Recent housing developments have resulted in increased pupil numbers in the western Vale. Projections indicate that Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would not be able to meet demand from September 2025. Increasing the capacity of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg by September 2025 would result in the school being able to accommodate the projected demand from within the catchment area.</p> <p>There are a number of local English medium primary schools with capacity. There is also the opportunity to increase a number of English medium primary schools if additional places are required.</p> <p>However, there has been a trend towards increasing pupil numbers in Welsh medium education. This has been evident in Llantwit Major with the opening of Ysgol Dewi Sant. In the first year of opening, the reception intake contained just 3 pupils. 7 years later, the September 2018 intake was oversubscribed with 32 applicants for 30 places.</p> <p>All catchment and feeder arrangements in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review. Any proposed changes would be reflected in a future admission arrangements consultation.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	2	<p>Ysgol Iolo Morganwg currently offers a breakfast club and a privately run after school club.</p> <p>The breakfast club is available from 7.40am to 9am.</p> <p>The after school club is available from 3.20pm and 5pm.</p>

			<p>It is intended that all existing services for children, parents and the community would continue if the proposal was 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 offered.</p> <p>The proposal will form part of Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This would include the creation of new state of art facilities fit for the 21st Century. A key element of the Programme is the provision of community facilities.</p> <p>The adult learning associated with the immersion centre will add additional community value and would be delivered predominantly outside of core school hours. The centre will aim to improve take up of Welsh medium education and further promote the Welsh language within the community particularly in relation to the residential development.</p>
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	1	<p>Ysgol Iolo Morganwg has limited outdoor facilities and capacity to accommodate community activities within the school building</p> <p>Increasing the capacity of the school and moving it into a new building would result in improved outdoor sports facilities and access to the school hall and digital infrastructure. This could be accessed by the community.</p>
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	3	<p>Ysgol Iolo Morganwg offers limited lettings for the MUGA for community use. This is due to the limitations with the existing school site.</p> <p>A key aim of the Sustainable Communities for Learning 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 the facilities available.</p> <p>Increasing the capacity and moving the school to a new building would result in improved facilities for the community to use.</p>
CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	<p>The school is near a number of businesses, particularly those on Eastgate and Westgate street, a major shopping area in Cowbridge.</p> <p>The school does not have close links to, or support, any local businesses.</p>
CI6	Impact on local employment	3	<p>All staff employed at the school on the date of transfer would transfer automatically to the new site with no change to their terms and conditions of employment.</p> <p>As the school would be increasing from 210 places to 420 places, additional staff would be required. This would include both teaching and support staff positions.</p>
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure	3	<p>Access to Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is limited as pupil pick-up / drop-off takes place on Broadway a residential street in Cowbridge. The access road is a through road and has limited on road parking. The school does not have a car park.</p>

			<p>Increasing the capacity and transferring the school to the new building would ease congestion around the existing site. The new site has been designed to accommodate a school.</p> <p>Traffic and transport implications are being considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented.</p>
CI8	Transport arrangements	0	<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 Ysgol Iolo Morganwg 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. Any pupils who no longer live 2 miles from the new site as a result of the relocation would no longer be entitled to free school transport</p>

¹Policy For The Provision Of Home To School Transport (Revised February 2010)

²The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

SCORING SUMMARY

Ref.	Local Community
C11	1
C12	2
C13	1
C14	3
C15	0
C16	3
C17	3
C18	0
Average Score	1.625

CONCLUSIONS

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

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 currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school day. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community would continue on the proposal. The adult learning associated with the immersion centre will add additional community value and would be delivered predominantly outside of core school hours.

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