



## COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

On the proposals to transform English medium secondary education in Barry by:

1. Establishing two new mixed sex 11-18 English medium comprehensive schools on the current sites of Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools;
2. Establishing a joint sixth form, provided across both schools; and
3. Closing the existing single sex English medium Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools in Barry;

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	3
<b>2. National Context</b>	4
<b>3. Local Policy Context</b>	4
<b>4. Community Impact</b>	4-5
Catchment area	4
Existing School Facilities/Activities	6-7
Traffic Issues/Walking routes	7
<b>5. Conclusion</b>	9

## 1. Introduction

The Council proposes that secondary schools in Barry should be transformed by establishing two new mixed English medium comprehensive schools on the existing campuses at Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools. The Council further proposes to create a joint sixth form led by a single head of sixth form with courses being offered across both campuses.

A separate consultation took place in the summer which proposed an extension to the facilities at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg in order to meet the demand for Welsh medium secondary education pupil places. The two proposals are not interlinked and will progress separately.

The Council commissioned a comprehensive engagement programme to gain an insight into the ambitions of local people for the future of secondary school education. A series of focus groups with pupils, teachers, unions, and governors from the two English medium secondary schools in Barry were held in the spring of 2016. A parent and community survey was completed by parents of the English and Welsh medium secondary schools and the parents / guardians from the link feeder schools linked to the secondary schools. Members of the public also responded to the survey.

In order to establish two mixed sex schools, it is proposed that the Council closes Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools and opens two new mixed sex community secondary schools on the existing school sites. There will be no time gap in the closure and the opening of the schools.

As both of these schools will be new schools, each school will have a new governing body. Initially this will be set up as a temporary governing body prior to the formal opening of the two new schools on 01 September 2018. The first role of the temporary governing bodies will be to advertise and recruit the Headteacher. The appointment of the two Headteachers will be decided upon by the temporary governing bodies of the two new schools.

As both schools share the same catchment area at present, two new school catchment areas will be established. Further information about the proposed new catchment areas can be seen in the Consultation Document which can be found online at: [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/barryschools](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/barryschools).

This proposed transformation will:

- Create a new 1,100 place, mixed sex 11-18 English medium community comprehensive school on the site of Barry Comprehensive School. The school will have an admission number of 180.
- Create a new 1,100 place, mixed sex 11-18 English medium community comprehensive school on the site of Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School. The school will have an admission number of 180.

- Create a new joint sixth form. It is intended that each school will specialise in a specific area of post 16 education.
- From 2019, subject to Welsh Government funding, build a new school on the existing Barry Comprehensive site, and significantly invest in the existing facilities at the Bryn Hafren site.

The Council proposes that the two new English medium schools will open from September 2018.

Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive Schools are situated in the north of Barry, 1.253 miles apart by road and 1.023 miles as the crow flies.

## 2. National Context

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

## 3. Local Policy Context

Echoing national policy outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2016-20 to achieving a vision of – '**Strong Communities with a bright future**'.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of an 'Aspirational Vale' raising overall standards of achievement by modernising education in the Vale to ensure children and young people receive a first class education.

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

## 4. Community Impact

### Catchment area

Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools are classified as community schools, each of which has an area it serves, which is referred to as the

catchment area. Both schools are able to accommodate pupils from within catchment area and the Authority must have regard for this on-going demand. Parents have a right to state a preference for any school. The number of pupils attending schools is greatly affected by parental preference with a high degree of pupil movement noticeable between the catchment areas of secondary schools across the eastern Vale. High levels of children living in Barry attend schools outside of the local area.

The following table illustrates the effect of parental preference and pupil movement on the schools.

Children Living in the Catchment areas of Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive Schools (including Rhws)						
Barry / Bryn Hafren	Cowbridge	Llantwit Major	St Cyres	Stanwell	St Richard Gwyn	Bro Morgannwg
926 / 863	110	152	183	212	634	529

### Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive Schools catchment area analysis

Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools share the same catchment area which covers the Barry, Rhoose and Wenvoe areas. The Rhoose area has dual feeder status and also feeds into Llantwit Major School.

As of January 2016 there were 3,609 pupils of secondary school age (11-19) living within the school's designated catchment area compared to a combined school capacity of 2,754 pupils.

From within the schools catchment area:

- 1,789 English medium pupils (49.6%) attend Barry and Bryn Hafren comprehensive schools
- 529 pupils (14.66%) attend Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg
- 634 pupils (17.57%) attend the denominational secondary school of St Richard Gwyn
- 505 pupils (14%) attend secondary schools in the Cowbridge and Penarth areas
- 152 pupils (4.2%) attend Llantwit Major School

The schools catchment area generates sufficient pupils to meet demand for English medium places after allowing for Welsh medium and denominational school demand.

### Considering Community Impact

Through the development of new and refurbished facilities at both sites, the Council aims to improve and extend facilities that can be accessed by the community.

The schools will ensure that during the development of the new facilities, both schools will continue to offer activities for students outside of school hours. Consideration will be given as part of the design and refurbishments of the new schools about the type of facilities to be based at each location, and how this can complement the existing facilities across Barry as a whole. The two schools will work together to ensure that the community will have equitable access to these facilities for after school events.

## **Existing School Facilities/Activities**

### **Barry Comprehensive School**

Barry Comprehensive School offers a range of activities and after school clubs for pupils outside of school hours as follows:

- Homework clubs
- Sports clubs
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme
- Revision clubs
- Sports centre facilities

The school offers its facilities to local organisations as follows:

- Sea View rugby club
- Football clubs/local football tournaments
- Community fun days
- Brynhill golf club
- Facilities used for consultation meetings
- Careers Fairs

The school car park is used as an overflow facility for Cardiff Airport when required.

During the school day a number of agencies work with the schools to support pupils and parents / carers including:

#### **Pupil support**

- Penarth Youth Project
- Peer facilitation groups PULSE (youth work team)
- V POD ( voluntary youth organisation and mobile youth club)
- 'Can Do' project offering support for young people who have low esteem

#### **Parent / carer support**

- A parenting group, including a 'drop in' centre for parents
- 'Can Do' project offering support for low esteem
- Princes Trust Programme

- Up2U – Offers support on substance misuse

It is intended that all existing facilities for children, parents and the community will continue if the schools move to mixed sex schools.

### **Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School**

Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School offers a range of activities and after school clubs for pupils outside of school hours as follows:

- Homework clubs
- Sports clubs
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme
- Revision clubs
- 5x60 programme for pupils to participate in extracurricular sport and physical activity on a regular basis.
- 'Chill Zones' activities

The school offers its facilities to local organisations as follows:

- All Weather facilities Monday to Friday for football and hockey clubs
- Rugby facilities
- Cardiff and Vale Football club on Saturdays
- Careers Fairs

During the school day a number of agencies work with the school to support pupils and parents / carers including:

#### **Pupil support**

- Penarth Youth Project
- Peer facilitation groups PULSE (youth work team)
- V POD ( voluntary youth organisation and mobile youth club)
- 'Can Do' project offering support for low esteem for young people

#### **Parent / carer support**

- A parenting group, including a 'drop in' centre for parents
- 'Can Do' project offering support for low esteem
- Princes Trust Programme
- Up2U – Offers support on substance misuse

It is intended that all existing facilities for children, parents and the community will continue if the two school move to mixed sex secondary schools.

### **Traffic issues/Walking routes**

Under these proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools. The current school sites of

Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive schools will continue to be operational under the proposal.

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. 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).

*“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 available safe walking routes to schools used for the assessment of free school transport will not alter as a result of this proposal albeit some pupils may no longer qualify for free school transport. All walking routes within Barry and from the Wenvoe area are deemed as available safe walking routes for the assessment of free school transport.

There is no impact as a result of this proposal on the available safe walking routes for pupils to access the schools.

Free school transport is currently provided to Barry Comprehensive School from Rhoose and Wenvoe and to Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School from Rhoose and Barry Island. The change in catchment areas will affect this.

With the changes to catchment areas there will be a review of pupil’s eligibility for school transport. All children should live within 3 miles walking distance of their catchment school, with the exception of pupils living within Rhoose and Heol Collen, Parc y Gwenfo.

Initial traffic assessments indicate that with the potential increase from the housing developments at Barry Waterfront, Rhoose and Wenvoe, will mean that there is a potential for increased traffic flow in the roads surrounding the campuses at Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren schools. Both schools have adequate parking facilities and turning circles for increased traffic flow although these may be upgraded as part of the project. The walking and cycling infrastructure to access both campuses are good.

Traffic and transport implications will be included as part of the transport assessment required to achieve planning consent for the building works should these proposals be implemented.

The safety of children is paramount and has been considered prior to putting forward the proposal to amalgamate the two schools. The Council will work with the governing bodies of the schools prior to, during, and after the period of transition to develop travel plans to minimise potential disruption.

## 5. Conclusion

The town of Barry is densely populated with a high level of pupil movement between schools serving the town. 14% of parents living in the area choose to send their children to secondary schools in the Cowbridge and Penarth areas.

The transformation of the current Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive school sites into two mixed secondary English medium campuses will provide modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century facilities and a wide range of opportunities for pupils attending the schools as well as for the local community as a whole.

Both schools currently offer a range of activities for pupils outside of the school day with agencies providing support to pupils during school hours. Both schools make their facilities available to the local community and in turn make use of community facilities such as local churches and sporting facilities during the school year. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community will continue when the schools change their character.

A transport assessment which will be developed and submitted as part of the planning application will highlight any necessary highway improvements which may be required by the proposal.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to develop two mixed sex English medium community secondary schools on existing school campuses will provide:

- An overall positive community impact. There will be no discernible impact on existing community or local facilities in the area. The proposal will enhance and support greater facilities for the local community and children on both campuses.
- The proposal will provide pupils with improved school learning environments and will address the accommodation issues at the existing schools. Community facilities could be enhanced as a result of the proposal.
- All walking routes within Barry and from the Wenvoe area are available safe walking routes for pupils to access the schools. Some pupils may no longer qualify for free school transport as a result of school catchment area changes but who will have a shorter distance to travel to their local school.