

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

On the proposals to transform secondary schools in Barry by:

- 1. Creating a new mixed-sex secondary comprehensive community school through the amalgamation of Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive Schools;**
- 2. Expanding Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg; and**
- 3. Relocating Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg to the current Bryn Hafren Comprehensive school site and relocating the new mixed-sex comprehensive school to the current sites of Barry Comprehensive School, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg.**

**Directorate of Learning and Skills
The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

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1. Introduction

The Council proposes that secondary education in Barry should be transformed by establishing a new mixed sex English medium comprehensive school. The Council also proposes that Ysgol Bro Morgannwg should be extended to meet the growing demand for Welsh medium secondary education across the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council is legally required to ensure that there are enough places to meet the demand for school places both in English and Welsh-medium education.

To undertake this transformation two distinct campuses for mixed Welsh-medium and English-medium education will be created.

This transformation will:

- Create a new 2,400 place mixed English medium comprehensive school through the amalgamation of Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive Schools located on the two current sites from September 2017. The amalgamation would involve the closure of both schools and the opening of an 11-19 school with an admission number of 390
- Expand Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg from 1,151 places to 1,847 places from September 2020 to meet increased demand for places. The admission number will increase from 189 to 300
- From September 2020 to relocate Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg to a new Welsh medium campus on the current Bryn Hafren site and wholly relocate the new English medium comprehensive school onto one site currently occupied by Barry Comprehensive School, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg creating a single English medium campus for the school.

The Council's proposals would mean that the new English medium comprehensive school will operate on two sites between September 2017 and September 2020: this is called the transition period. During this period the governing body of the new school would decide how best to organise pupils and staff across the two sites. The arrangements for the transition period are not therefore part of the Council's proposals or this consultation document.

These proposals have been developed based on an assumption that funding to invest in the school buildings will be provided by both the Council and Welsh Government. If in due course funding is not available from Welsh Government, it may not be possible to relocate the schools to create the two new campuses. In these circumstances, it would be necessary to review the investment options for delivering improvements to the school buildings whether or not the schools have been relocated.

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. Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg are situated in very close proximity on adjoining sites off Colcot Road. The Bro Morgannwg site also adjoins the Barry Comprehensive School site. Bro Morgannwg and Nant Talwg are 1.041 miles from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School by road or 0.924 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.

21st Century Schools Programme

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a One Wales commitment launched in March 2010 as collaboration between the Welsh Government (WG), the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and local authorities across the Principality. The Programme is regarded as a major, long term and strategic capital investment programme supporting large-scale capital building projects across Wales with the aim of enhancing school buildings to meet 21st Century educational needs. The programme focuses resources "...on the right school in the right places, for early years through to post-16, with funding jointly provided by WG and local authorities..." (www.21stcenturyschools.org).

3. Local Policy Context.

Community Strategy

The Vale of Glamorgan Community Strategy 2011-2021 identifies as a strategic priority that "*People of all ages are able to access coordinated learning opportunities and have the necessary skills to reach their full potential, helping to remove barriers to employment...*" (Learning and Skills Priority Outcome Six, The Vale of Glamorgan Community Strategy 2011-2021).

One of the key Aims under the Learning and Skills Priority of the Community Strategy is to "...*deliver transformational change to meet the Learning and Skills Measure...*" The Community Strategy states The Learning and Skills Partnership will aim to deliver learning and skills outcomes to deliver local needs, and will lead on the Welsh Government priority to achieve

transformational change through extending collaboration and developing joint arrangements to raise standards and extend choice to learners.

One of the “Outcomes” the Community Strategy aims to achieve is for the 21st Century School and college capital investment developments to contribute to the transformational change agenda. The Strategy states this will be partly achieved by ensuring “...21st Century Schools and college capital investment proposals reflect the wider needs of learners in the Vale and offer **high quality community resources...**”

Local Context

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to modernising education in the Vale to ensure children and young people receive a first class education.

We recognise the importance of having 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.

Community focussed schools

The Local Authority will support schools to develop community links that provide opportunities and enrich experiences for all. Opportunities for curriculum development and enrichment need to be developed with the schools, local community and beyond, benefitting both the pupils and members of the community. When considering the options for future school structures the Authority will balance educational needs with community development, investment and support needs.

4. Community Impact

Catchment area

Barry comprehensive, Bryn Hafren comprehensive, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg are classified as community schools each of which has an area it serves, referred to as the catchment area. All the 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 schools. High levels of children living in Barry attend schools outside the local area.

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

Schools attended by children living in the catchment area at January 2015									
Catchment Area school	Catchment Area Population		Barry Comprehensive	Bryn Hafren	Cowbridge	Llantwit	Penarth schools	St Richard Gwyn	Bro Morgannwg
Barry/Bryn Hafren	3,798		1,019	945	109	152	420	625	528
Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg	8,029		1026	953	1223	862	2446	707	812

Schools attended by children living in the catchment area at January 2015									
Catchment Area school	Catchment Area Population		Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg	Other Barry Welsh medium primary schools	Colcot Primary	Other Barry English medium schools	St Helens RC infant and Junior	Penarth schools	Rural Vale
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg	614		38	90	187	242	33	18	6

Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School catchment area analysis

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

As of January 2015 there were 3,798 pupils of secondary school age (11-19) living within the schools designated catchment area compared to a combined school capacity of 2,754 pupils.

From within the schools catchment area;

- 1964 pupils (52%) attend Barry and Bryn Hafren comprehensive schools
- 528 pupils (14%) attend Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg
- 625 pupils (16%) attend the denominational secondary school of St Richard Gwyn
- 529 pupils (14%) attend secondary schools in the Cowbridge and Penarth areas
- 152 pupils (4%) 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.

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg School catchment area analysis

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg serves the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan. As of January 2015 there were 8,029 school age pupils living within the schools designated catchment area of which 812 (10%) have opted for Welsh medium education. The school has a school capacity for 1151 pupils.

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

Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg catchment area analysis

Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg currently serves Colcot and the surrounding area. As of January 2015 there were 614 children living within the school catchment area compared to a school capacity for 120 children. The capacity of the school will increase to a maximum of 210 by September 2017 when all year groups will be in place.

The schools catchment area generates sufficient pupils to meet demand for Welsh medium education after allowing for English and denominational demand as follows;

120 Welsh medium places (210 places by September 2017) at Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg
315 places for English medium demand at Colcot Primary; and
89 places for denominational demand in the area.

Under the proposal the school will move from the west of its current catchment area to the east. As a result there will be a small change to the school catchment area to include the following roads and houses that are currently within the catchment area of Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant;

Port Road East – odd numbers 115 – 129
Port Road East – even numbers 184 – 200
Port Mews – numbers 1 – 4
Merthyr Dyfan Rosad – numbers 1 – 56
Glynbridge Close – numbers 1 – 21
Merthyr Dyfan Court – numbers 1 - 5

Two children attend Welsh medium education from these addresses of which 1 pupil attends Ysgol Gwaun y Nant.

The school catchment area will continue to generate sufficient pupils after relocation to meet demand for Welsh medium education in the area.

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 are amalgamated.

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 schools are amalgamated.

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg offers a range of activities and after school clubs for pupils outside of school hours:

- Homework clubs
- Sports clubs
- Urdd
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme
- Revision clubs

- Performance activities
- 5x60 programme for pupils to participate in extracurricular sport and physical activity on a regular basis.

The school offers its facilities to local organisations as follows;

- Welsh Classes
- Adult Education Classes
- Use of facilities for choir activities and award ceremonies
- Sports facilities to local clubs
- The Barn
- Careers Fairs

The school works with Menter Bro Morgannwg to expand the use of the Welsh language by creating opportunities to use the Welsh language outside school and work

It is intended that all existing facilities for children, parents and the community will continue if the school moves to the Bryn Hafren school site.

Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg

Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg offers pupils a breakfast club from 8.00 am until 8.45 am.

The school continues strong links with the local Ti a Fi Cylch Meithrin (Cylch Meithrin Bethesda), a community based private Welsh medium play group which provides a wrap around facility for nursery pupils. Children have the opportunity to attend the nursery unit at the school for the morning/afternoon session and attend wrap around care provided by Ti a Fi the Cylch in the morning/afternoon.

The school runs a pre nursery Ty a Fi Club every Thursday afternoon which is presently open to the local community.

After school activities are provided by the school and the Urdd with emphasis on performance and skills through the medium of Welsh. Holiday clubs are organised for children during school holiday times by Menter Bro Morgannwg.

The school provides nurturing classes for parents in association with families first.

It is intended that all existing facilities for children, parents and the community will continue if the school moves to the Bryn Hafren school site.

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 Comprehensive, Bryn Hafren and Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg 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.

Pupils receiving a free school transport service prior to September 2020 will continue to receive this service until the end of their education at either 16 or 18. However all new pupils joining the schools from September 2020 will be assessed for eligibility under the criteria outlined above.

School transport is not provided for children currently attending Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg and this will not change when the school transfers to the Bryn Hafren school site as the distances across the catchment will be less than 2 miles from the new school site.

Free school transport is currently provided for pupils attending Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg from outside the Barry area and will continue to be provided if the school moves. The only exception to this will be for new pupils after September 2020 travelling from the Wenvoe area as these pupils will live within the statutory qualifying limit of three miles.

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. As a result of the move to the Barry Comprehensive School site there will no longer be an entitlement for new pupils after September 2020 to free transport from the Barry Island area as it will be within the statutory qualifying limit of three miles. Transport will continue to be provided from the Wenvoe area.

Initial traffic assessments indicate that there would be minimal impact for Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren schools as there are already good facilities for parking on the Ysgol Bro Morgannwg site currently and there will be similar numbers of pupils, mainly within walking / cycling distance. The walking and cycling infrastructure to access the school is good.

The Bryn Hafren site would require improved car parking arrangements to those currently in operation at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg that will allow for the future expansion of pupil numbers. This is likely to require access from Port Road to cater for a minimum of 12 buses at the beginning and end of the school day. The start and finish times of the school day will remain staggered to limit traffic around the school site. The walking and cycling infrastructure to access the school is 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. 13% of parents living in the area choose to send their children to secondary schools in the Cowbridge and Penarth areas.

The amalgamation of Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School onto a single English medium campus together with the relocation of Ysgol Gyfan Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg to a new Welsh medium campus on the Bryn Hafren school site will provide extensive facilities and wide ranging opportunities for pupils attending the schools as well as for the local community as a whole.

All schools currently offer a range of activities for pupils outside of the school day with agencies providing support to pupils throughout the day. Schools make their facilities available to the local community and also 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 are amalgamated and relocated.

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 amalgamate Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren schools on one site and to relocate Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Talwg to the Bryn Hafren school site will result in:

- 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 children 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.