

## **Reviewing Primary Provision in the Western Vale**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments. The proposal to consult outlines an opportunity to meet these criteria both for the staff and pupils at Llancarfan Primary, as well as meeting the increased demand for school places from the Rhoose area. The proposal to move Llancarfan is also subject to a full consultation process with pupils, staff, parents and members of the community. Responses to the consultation would be considered by Cabinet before any final decisions are made.

The Council will be maintaining a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on its website as part of the consultation process, which is set to begin on 5 March 2018, following the approval to consult from Cabinet which was granted on 22 January, 2018. A number of queries have been received to-date and the responses are included below.

A full suite of documentation outlining the proposals and considerations in details will be made available at that time. A number of engagement sessions will also be arranged for all parents, pupils, staff and community members to come and ask questions.

#### **Are you planning to close Llancarfan Primary School?**

The proposal seeks to move the existing school into a new, larger school building in line with Welsh Governments 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. The proposals do not include any plans to close Llancarfan Primary School.

The proposed new school building for Llancarfan Primary School would also be able to accommodate an increase in demand for pupil places in the Western Vale, primarily from new developments in the Rhoose area. Existing staff, Governors and pupils at Llancarfan Primary would move into the new building.

#### **Can you build a new school in Llancarfan?**

There are a number of inherent limitations associated with the existing Victorian school building itself and the land upon which it sits, that would prevent a new build. The existing provision falls short of a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment.

Llancarfan has a small catchment population compared to its overall capacity to accommodate children. The existing Rhws Primary School is approaching maximum capacity, and over one-third of children attending Llancarfan come from the Rhoose area. Only 30% of the pupil population at Llancarfan come from within the Llancarfan catchment area. 70% come from outside the catchment area.

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

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

### **What commitment for existing children at Llancarfan Primary will be honoured?**

It will be proposed as part of the consultation for the new school building and as part of consultations on future admission arrangements that transitional arrangements will apply to existing Llancarfan pupils on migration. The Council's intention is to honour the feeder arrangements and catchment area links to Cowbridge for existing Llancarfan Primary School pupils on migration up until they leave the school. Siblings of pupils attending the school on migration will continue to have a high priority for admission to Llancarfan Primary School once they reach school age. This will be part of the oversubscription criteria in place. Full details for all stakeholders would be included as part of the consultation document.

### **Would the same rights apply to pupils admitted to the school between a decision being taken to migrate Llancarfan Primary to the new school building and the actual migration?**

Subject to the outcome of statutory consultation, the intention would be to honour the existing feeder school arrangements for pupils on roll up to the date of migration. Any pupils joining Llancarfan Primary School after the migration to the new site would be subject to the agreed admission arrangements in place at that time. Siblings would continue to have a high priority for admission under the council's admission arrangements policy. There is no proposal to change these arrangements.

### **Would pupils from the current Llancarfan Catchment area still retain rights to admission to Cowbridge Comprehensive or would the Cowbridge Comprehensive Catchment Area be changed to exclude the catchment area of the migrated school?**

Catchment areas are traditional boundaries that are put in place to ensure that local schools service their community. Any change to the catchment area for Cowbridge Comprehensive would only take place after a review of catchment areas and the required consultation. Parents will of course always have the ability to specify their preference.