



## **COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

On the proposal to increase Welsh medium secondary school places in the Vale of Glamorgan by expanding Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg on its current site from 1361 places to 1660 places.

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

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## 1. Introduction

The Council proposes to provide new facilities to expand Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg on its current campus to meet the growing demand for Welsh medium secondary education across the Vale of Glamorgan. The Council, alongside match funding from Welsh Government through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme proposes to invest around £19 million in an ambitious programme of refurbishment and new buildings. Through this significant capital investment at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, the Council will ensure that it exceeds in our legal duty to provide school capacity to meet the demand for school places for Welsh medium education in the Vale of Glamorgan.

This proposal will:

- Increase the number of Welsh medium secondary school places in the Vale of Glamorgan by expanding Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg on its current site from 1361 to 1660 places. The admission number within the secondary department will increase from 189 to 240.

This proposal has 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 fulfil all of the building and refurbishment projects that we wish to achieve. In these circumstances, it will be necessary to review the investment options with our main priority being to provide the additional facilities required to meet additional demand for pupil places.

## 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

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg is classified as a Welsh medium 3-19 community school which has an area it serves, referred to as the catchment area. The school has two catchment areas – one for the primary and one for the secondary phases. The school is able to accommodate pupils from within its catchment areas 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. The secondary department provides Welsh medium education for children across the Vale of Glamorgan.

The following table illustrates the effect of parental preference for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg.

| Schools attended by children living in the catchment area at January 2016 |                           |  |                     |             |           |                |                 |                 |               |
|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Catchment Area school   | Catchment Area Population |  | Barry Comprehensive | Bryn Hafren | Cowbridge | Llantwit Major | Penarth schools | St Richard Gwyn | Bro Morgannwg |
| Secondary dept  | 7,649                     |  | 963                 | 946         | 1,212     | 859            | 2,132           | 720             | 817           |

Table 1 – Catchment area information as at PLASC 2016

| Schools attended by children living in the catchment area at January 2016 |                           |  |                             |  |                                    |                |                                    |                                |                 |            |
|---|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Catchment Area school   | Catchment Area Population |  | Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg | Other Barry Welsh-medium primary schools | Other Welsh-medium primary schools | Colcot Primary | Other Barry English medium schools | St Helens RC infant and Junior | Penarth schools | Rural Vale |
| Primary dept  | 664                       |  | 48                          | 77                                       | 2                                  | 182            | 288                                | 38                             | 17              | 12         |

Table 2 – Catchment area information as at PLASC 2016

### Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg School catchment area analysis

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg serves the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan for pupils of secondary school age that wish to be taught through the medium of Welsh. There are currently 300 (16.7%) surplus places in the Welsh medium primary sector and on average over the past 5 years, an average of 96.2% of pupils have transferred from the 7 Welsh medium primary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. As at January 2016 there were 7,649 secondary school age pupils living within the school's designated catchment area of which 835 (10.9%) have opted for Welsh medium education. The secondary phase currently has a capacity for 1151 pupils.

The school serves Colcot and the surrounding area for children of primary school age. As of January 2016 there were 664 children living within the school catchment area for primary age pupils. Of this number, 135 children chose to be educated through the medium of Welsh compared to a school capacity for 150 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 school's catchment area for secondary age pupils currently generates sufficient pupils to meet demand for Welsh medium places after allowing for English medium and Denominational demand.

After allowing for English and denominational demand, the school's catchment area for primary age pupils generates sufficient pupil places to meet the demand for Welsh medium primary education as follows;

- 150 Welsh medium primary age places (210 places by September 2017) at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg
- 315 places for English medium demand at Colcot Primary;
- denominational demand in the area is supported by St Helen's Infant and Junior schools (308 places) and All Saints Church in Wales Primary School (210 places).

There will be no changes to either catchment boundary as a result of this proposal.

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

### Existing School Facilities/Activities

The school offers a range of activities and after school clubs for secondary school age 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 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.

The school offers pupils a breakfast club for primary age pupils 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 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.

After school activities for primary age pupils 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.

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

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

It is intended that all existing facilities for children, parents and the community will continue if the proposal were to go ahead.

## 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 school site 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.

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

School transport is not provided for children currently attending the primary department and this will not change.

Free school transport is currently provided for pupils attending the secondary department who live more than 3 miles from the school and will continue to be provided. Free school transport eligibility will remain unchanged as a result of this proposal.

Initial traffic assessments indicate that as pupil numbers increase there will be increased traffic transporting pupils to and from school. To mitigate this increased traffic demand it is proposed that a new entrance to the school will be created via Port Road crossing through the Barry Comprehensive School campus. The proposal will provide improved car parking arrangements to support the expansion of future numbers. 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 expand the school. The Council will work with the

governing body of the school prior to, during and after the period of transition to develop travel plans to minimise potential disruption.

## 5. Conclusion

The expansion of facilities at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg will provide extensive facilities and wide ranging opportunities for pupils attending the school as well as for the local community as a whole.

The school currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the school day with agencies providing support to pupils throughout the day. The school makes its facilities available to the local community and in turn makes 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 school facilities are extended.

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 extended facilities for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg on its current campus 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 increasing facilities at the campus.