

.Date/Dyddiad 28 April 2021
Ask for/Gofynwch am M Curtis
Telephone/Rhif ffôn 01446 709828
Fax/Ffacs
e-mail/e-bost 21stcenturyschools@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Your Ref/Eich Cyf
My Ref/Cyf 21C/YYD2

The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Learning and Skills
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU
Telephone: (01446) 700111
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Dysgu a Sgiliau
Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU
Rhif ffôn: (01446) 700111
www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk



To: Parents, Carers and Guardians of children attending Ysgol Y Deri; Headteacher, Staff and Governing Body of Ysgol Y Deri; Prescribed Consultees

Dear Consultee,

Proposal to transform specialist education by:

- **increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Deri to accommodate an additional 150 pupils; and**
- **constructing a new building on the preferred site located in Cosmeston, Penarth for September 2023, which would operate as an additional site under the management of Ysgol Y Deri.**

The Council consulted with prescribed consultees in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on the proposal.

In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018, a consultation exercise with prescribed consultees was undertaken between 6 November 2020 and 20 December 2020. The aim of the consultation was to inform prescribed consultees about the proposal and for the Council's Cabinet to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be taken into account before decisions are made.

During the consultation exercise, 102 individual responses were received by the consultation closing date of 20 December 2020. Consultees were asked for their opinion on the proposal. Of the total 102 individual responses, 90 (88%) were in favour, 11 (11%) were opposed, and 1 (1%) stated no opinion either way. The responses were published in the consultation report.

On 8 February 2021, following consideration of the consultation report, Cabinet determined to progress the proposal through the publication of a statutory notice. The statutory notice was published on the Council's website on 22 February 2021 and was issued to prescribed consultees and posted at the main entrances of Ysgol Y Deri. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, 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 ("the objection period"). As the statutory notice was published on 8 February 2021, statutory objections had to be received by 22 March 2021. Two statutory objections were received during the statutory notice period.

On 26 April 2021, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet considered the objection report and all other relevant documentation and determined to approve the proposal. The objection report is available to view and download from the Council's website:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ysgolyderiexpansion

Hard copies of the objection report are available on request by contacting a member of the 21st Century Schools Team on: 21stcenturyschools@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

The proposal will mean specialist educational provision at Ysgol Y Deri will be increased to accommodate an additional 150 pupils. In order to accommodate this increased capacity, a new school building will be constructed on a new site, which will operate under the management of Ysgol Y Deri.

The Council has identified a preferred site which is located next to the proposed 'Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock' development which has been allocated as part of the Council's adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-26. This area provides sufficient space to construct the proposed new school building and is approximately 3 miles from the existing Ysgol Y Deri site. The new school building will primarily accommodate primary-aged pupils. However, the school will operate a need-based approach to determine the split of pupils across the two sites. This will reduce the need to duplicate all facilities currently available at Ysgol Y Deri.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet were satisfied that the proposal will:

- Ensure the Council is able to meet projected demand for special education in the Vale of Glamorgan;
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and meets the needs of our most vulnerable learners;
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school;
- It is recognised that Ysgol Y Deri is the organisation with the experience and skills to implement the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) strategy most effectively within and across the Local Authority. As such, an expansion of Ysgol Y Deri will mean that some of our most vulnerable learners receive the most effective support and nurture provision as key components of their education; and
- Prevent future reliance on costly out of county provision.

The reasons for the decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

Quality and Standards of Education

This proposal will likely have a positive impact on education provision and standards within the Vale by providing specialist support for pupils with additional learning needs. The proposal will ensure the Council is able to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and meet the needs of some of our most vulnerable learners. As noted by respondents to the consultation, the proposed expansion of Ysgol Y Deri will enable more pupils to access specialist education who might otherwise be excluded.

The proposal will result in appropriate teaching and learning environments that will promote pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning. The new building and site for the Ysgol Y Deri expansion has been designed to meet the needs of a wide range of pupils and will provide greater access to the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Need for places and the impact upon accessibility of schools

This proposal forms part of the Council's strategy to transform special education in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet projected future demand and best meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners.

Ysgol Y Deri was originally constructed to accommodate 205 pupils but currently has 262 pupils on roll. The number of pupils leaving the school in the short to medium term is much lower than those entering which is causing the significant pressure on capacity.

In 2018-19 there were 18 school leavers and 39 entrants, in 2019-20 there were again 39 entrants against 25 leavers. At the end of the 2019-20 academic year there were only 10 leavers and a significant increase in entrants to 48. In order to accommodate the September 2020 intake, Ty Deri Residential Respite facility has been temporarily closed and communal areas have been converted into additional classroom space. This has enabled the Council to provide places for those requiring placements this year, however all available space has now been utilised and the school will be unable to expand any further.

In 2021-22 the number of leavers will be 18, it is impossible to provide a precise number of pupils that will require places in September 2021 as this will depend on a number of factors, however, current projections would indicate that a minimum of 44 pupils will require a place at the school. As a consequence, it is clear that a minimum of an additional 26 places will be required to create the capacity for the September 2021 intake. In 2022-23 there will be 26 leavers and current projections would indicate that the number of pupils requiring a placement will again be in the mid-forties. This would mean that approximately 18 additional places will be required in September 2022. In total, approximately 44 additional places will be needed at Ysgol Y Deri prior to the completion of the new building. However, please note that this is an anticipated minimum, and does not account for families moving into the Vale with children with complex needs, for example. This trend is consistent with other Local Authorities and is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

The proposal will mean specialist educational provision at Ysgol Y Deri will be increased to accommodate an additional 150 pupils.

The Council is proposing a holistic approach in meeting future demand through the provision of additional capacity at Ysgol Y Deri, as well as additional specialist resource bases in mainstream schools throughout the Vale to support learners who are better served accessing mainstream education with increased support. This approach would ensure the Council is able to meet demand while providing a range of provision to best meet the individual needs of our learners.

Resourcing of education and other financial implications

A significant capital investment will be made to construct a new building for Ysgol Y Deri on the proposed Cosmeston site. The Council will be responsible for managing the construction of the new building as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

It is estimated that the total capital funding required to build a new school would be £11.8million. The Council is expected to receive £8.85million (75%) in Welsh Government funding through the 21st Century Schools Programme, subject to the approval of a business case. The Council's contribution of £2.95million is included as part of the capital programme.

A cost pressure has been awarded as part of the revenue budget process for the 2021/22 financial year to fund the revenue increase required to accommodate the additional pupils at Ysgol Y Deri. The revenue growth awarded for 2021/22 is £843,000. Further cost pressures have been submitted for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years of £639,000 and £224,000 to meet the costs of the estimated growth in pupil numbers. This would be to accommodate a net increase of 26 pupils in September 2021 and a further net increase of 18 pupils in September 2022.

The proposals will ensure that new buildings will meet modern building standards to reduce carbon emissions, meet BREEAM Excellence standards, and achieve the highest rating of A for the Energy

Performance Certificate (EPC).

The governing body of Ysgol Y Deri will be responsible for developing a staffing structure to support the split site provision. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trade unions where necessary.

Other general factors

Equality Impact Assessment

The Equality Impact Assessment identifies that there will be a positive impact on persons with the protected characteristics of age, disability and gender reassignment/ identity. The proposal will support the school to ensure that it has the improved facilities to promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those with different protected characteristics.

There has been no perceived negative impact on the protected characteristics identified.

Community Impact Assessment

The Community impact assessment identifies that the proposal will likely have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal will likely have a negative impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed.

The proposal will enable the expansion of Ysgol Y Deri to provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential. The proposal will increase the level of community access and interaction through the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the complex needs of pupils.

Transport implications will need to be carefully considered during the design of the new school to limit the impact of the increased pupils traveling to the site.

Overall, the proposal is likely to have a positive impact on the local community.

Yours faithfully,



Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills