



# DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO  
INCREASE CAPACITY FOR WELSH MEDIUM  
EDUCATION BY EXPANDING YSGOL IOLO  
MORGANWG FROM 210 PLACES TO 420  
PLACES FROM SEPTEMBER 2025.**



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## INTRODUCTION

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, reflect the needs of our local communities, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

The Council is committed to ensuring that consultations are meaningful, relevant and appropriate for the communities that are involved, and the Council has a duty of care to ensure that proposals are clear, transparent, and reflective of those affected. This is a vision that can only be realised by working in partnership with schools, governors, parents and the wider communities we all serve.

This proposal is being considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). This section refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes increasing the capacity of the school by at least 25%. A new 420 place school at Clare Gardens has been included as part of the council's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. It is proposed that Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would move into this building by September 2025 to provide the required capacity.

Although the transferring of the school to the new building is included as part of this consultation, this is not subject to the statutory process as the transfer would be within 1.609344 kilometres (1 mile).

## 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 (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. When considering proposals the Council must consider the impact on the local community, particularly in rural areas and in areas designated for communities' first programmes or successor programmes.

Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers was published in July 2017 sets out the long-term vision for the Welsh language. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers is one of the three key themes, and the following key transformational changes will be required within the education sector in order to achieve the vision.

## 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 2020-25 to achieving a vision of – **'Working together for a brighter future'**.

The Vale of Glamorgan is committed to achieving the objective of 'supporting learning, employment and sustainable economic growth' 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.

The Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 is an integral part of the Council's Bilingual strategy. The objectives set out in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan are to;

- Outcome 1: More nursery children/ three-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 2: More reception class children/ five-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another
- Outcome 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school
- Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
- Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

In contributing effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh Speakers by 2050 and to facilitate demand, the Council's business case submission to the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme has the capacity to introduce substantial places linked to Welsh medium across all sectors and to reflect new large-scale housing developments planned over the next 5-10 years.

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

The proposal would address a number of challenges and would:

- Ensure the Council is able to create and accommodate future demand for Welsh medium education based on current trends.
- Provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and will challenge and support children to reach their full potential.
- Provide adult learning opportunities through the creation of adult education and Welsh language immersion centre aiming to improve the take up of Welsh education. This would benefit both the community and as a mechanism to support our objectives with the WESP.
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- The new building will meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and net zero carbon in operation.
- Supports the objectives of the Vale of Glamorgan's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032.
- Contributes effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

There are currently 12 schools which also serve the area within the same catchment as Ysgol lolo Morganwg:

School	Type	Language	Age Range	School Capacity	Nursery places (part time)	Distance from Ysgol lolo Morganwg (km)
Peterston Super Ely	Denominational	EM	3-11	189	28	9.1
St David's	Denominational	EM	3-11	210	48	5.7
St Brides Major	Denominational	EM	3-11	210	48	10.3
St Nicholas	Denominational	EM	4-11	126	0	9.2
Llansannor	Denominational	EM	3-11	210	60	4.9
Y Bont Faen	Community	EM	3-11	210	60	0.1
Llangan	Community	EM	3-11	111	24	4.15
Pendoylan	Denominational	EM	3-11	210	30	6.7
South Point	Community	EM	3-11	210	48	10.7
St Athan	Community	EM	3-11	210	52	6.8
Llanfair	Community	EM	3-11	140	20	2.3
St Helens	Denominational	EM	3-11	308	48	13.3

Ysgol lolo Morganwg is located within the ward of Cowbridge which is made up of 4 lower super output areas (LSOAs). Ysgol lolo Morganwg is located in Cowbridge 1 and is surrounded by

the LSOAs Cowbridge 2, 3, and 4. Cowbridge 1 is the central area of Cowbridge and includes the district centre, school site and residential areas of Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan, in south Wales. The other Cowbridge areas relate to the rural outskirts of the area.

The Cowbridge ward has a population of 6,573 based upon the 2020 mid-year estimates. Cowbridge 1 has a population of 1,647 (Office of National Statistics, 2020).

The data below for the Cowbridge ward surrounding Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is from the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#).

Vale of Glamorgan Constituency Area	LSOA Code	Overall Wales Rank (of 1909)		Employment Rank (of 1909)		Access to Services Rank (of 1909)	
		Rank	% (Least / Most Deprived)	Rank	% (LD / MD)	Rank	% (LD / MD)
Cowbridge 1	W01001082	1,768	50% least deprived	1,463	50% least deprived	1,834	50% least deprived
Cowbridge 2	W01001083	1,726	50% least deprived	1,906	50% least deprived	259	10-20% most deprived
Cowbridge 3	W01001084	1,786	50% least deprived	1,715	50% least deprived	1,193	50% least deprived
Cowbridge 4	W01001085	1,708	50% least deprived	1,795	50% least deprived	225	10-20% most deprived

As the table above shows, the LSOA areas surrounding Ysgol Iolo Morganwg are similar in terms of levels of deprivation with the majority of measures the areas are within the 50% least deprived. The LSOA area the school is located in is one of the least deprived areas across the 3 measures. Areas 2 and 4 have been identified as being in the 10-20% most deprived in terms of access to services. This is reflective of the more rural location of these areas where services will generally be more difficult to access.

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Within the existing catchment area for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg there are 5 large scale housing developments (10 dwellings or more). The largest residential development relates to land to the north west of Darren Farm (Clare Gardens) which is being developed for 475 units. The

development of the site has already started with 135 dwellings already occupied and any arising pupil demand accommodated in the existing school capacity in the area. However, 44 units are currently under construction and 296 units have not been constructed. It is considered in the next 5 years the site will be complete. In addition, the 4 other developments would result in a further 247 units coming forward in the next 6 years.

In total the planned residential developments in the catchment area for the school has a projected pupil yield of 56 nursery pupils and 154 primary pupils. Based on current trends 13.18% of the pupil population within the school catchment attend Welsh medium education. This would result in 7 new nursery places and 20 new primary places for Welsh medium education.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section of the Community Impact Assessment assesses the potential impact this proposal could have on the local community. The information analysed in this process represents a snapshot of the current situation. The impact assessment is an evolving document that will continue to be developed throughout the statutory process. Feedback received during the consultation period will be used to further inform the Community Impact Assessment, which will be presented to Cabinet as part of the Consultation Report.

Eight key measures have been identified:

Ref.	Measure
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises
CI5	Impact on local businesses
CI6	Impact on local employment
CI7	Impact on local infrastructure
CI8	Transport arrangements

The eight measures were assessed to identify any negative or positive impacts on the local community, and a score was applied ranging from -3 to +3 based on the balance of the evidence available.

Measure Score	Measure Assessment
-3	Large deterioration
-2	Moderate deterioration
-1	Slight deterioration
0	No overall change
1	Slight Improvement
2	Moderate Improvement
3	Large Improvement



## IMPACTS UPON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
CI1	Children living in the catchment are attending their local school	1	<p>Recent housing developments have resulted in increased pupil numbers in the western Vale. Projections indicate that Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would not be able to meet demand from September 2025. Increasing the capacity of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg by September 2025 would result in the school being able to accommodate the projected demand from within the catchment area.</p> <p>There are a number of local English medium primary schools with capacity. There is also the opportunity to increase a number of English medium primary schools if additional places are required.</p> <p>However, there has been a trend towards increasing pupil numbers in Welsh medium education. This has been evident in Llantwit Major with the opening of Ysgol Dewi Sant. In the first year of opening, the reception intake contained just 3 pupils. 7 years later, the September 2018 intake was oversubscribed with 32 applicants for 30 places.</p> <p>All catchment and feeder arrangements in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review. Any proposed changes would be reflected in a future admission arrangements consultation.</p>
CI2	Services provided by the school for the local community, including extra-curricular activities	2	<p>Ysgol Iolo Morganwg currently offers a breakfast club and a privately run after school club.</p> <p>The breakfast club is available from 7.40am to 9am.</p> <p>The after school club is available from 3.20pm and 5pm.</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
			<p>It is intended that all existing services for children, parents and the community would continue if the proposal was to go ahead. The proposal would result in increased pupil numbers which is likely to result in increased demand for school services, as well as providing the opportunity to expand the number of services offered.</p> <p>The proposal will form part of Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This would include the creation of new state of art facilities fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A key element of the Programme is the provision of community facilities.</p> <p>The adult learning associated with the immersion centre will add additional community value and would be delivered predominantly outside of core school hours. The centre will aim to improve take up of Welsh medium education and further promote the Welsh language within the community particularly in relation to the residential development.</p>
CI3	Community facilities used regularly by the school	1	<p>Ysgol Iolo Morganwg has limited outdoor facilities and capacity to accommodate community activities within the school building</p> <p>Increasing the capacity of the school and moving it into a new building would result in improved outdoor sports facilities and access to the school hall and digital infrastructure. This could be accessed by the community.</p>
CI4	Community facilities provided by and activity undertaken within the school premises	3	<p>Ysgol Iolo Morganwg offers limited lettings for the MUGA for community use. This is due to the limitations with the existing school site.</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
			<p>A key aim of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is to ensure school facilities are developed to meet the needs of the local community.</p> <p>Members of the local community would be involved throughout the development of the plans for the new school building to ensure services meet the needs of the community and enhance the facilities available.</p> <p>Increasing the capacity and moving the school to a new building would result in improved facilities for the community to use.</p>
CI5	Impact on local businesses	0	<p>The school is near a number of businesses, particularly those on Eastgate and Westgate street, a major shopping area in Cowbridge.</p> <p>The school does not have close links to, or support, any local businesses.</p>
CI6	Impact on local employment	3	<p>All staff employed at the school on the date of transfer would transfer automatically to the new site with no change to their terms and conditions of employment.</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
			As the school would be increasing from 210 places to 420 places, additional staff would be required. This would include both teaching and support staff positions.
C17	Impact on local infrastructure	3	<p>Access to Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is limited as pupil pick-up / drop-off takes place on Broadway a residential street in Cowbridge. The access road is a through road and has limited on road parking. The school does not have a car park.</p> <p>Increasing the capacity and transferring the school to the new building would ease congestion around the existing site. The new site has been designed to accommodate a school.</p> <p>Traffic and transport implications are being considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented.</p>

Ref.	Measure	Score	Impact of Proposal
CI8	Transport arrangements	0	<p>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.<sup>1</sup></p> <p><i>“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.”<sup>2</sup></i></p> <p>Any pupil attending Ysgol Iolo Morganwg on the date of transfer to the new site who lives more than 2 miles from the new school site would therefore be entitled to free school transport. Any pupils who no longer live 2 miles from the new site as a result of the relocation would no longer be entitled to free school transport</p>

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<sup>1</sup>Policy For The Provision Of Home To School Transport (Revised February 2010)

<sup>2</sup>The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

## SCORING SUMMARY

Ref.	Local Community
CI1	1
CI2	2
CI3	1
CI4	3
CI5	0
CI6	3
CI7	3
CI8	0
Average Score	1.625

## CONCLUSIONS

The impact assessment identifies that the proposal would likely have a neutral impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

The proposal would maintain and increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.

The proposal would provide a consistent approach from 3-11 years that would promote and underpin continuity and progression for pupils, ensuring breadth and balance across the curriculum.

The school currently offers a range of activities for pupils outside of the normal school day. It is proposed that as a minimum all existing facilities for pupil's parents and the community would continue on the proposal. The adult learning associated with the immersion centre will add additional community value and would be delivered predominantly outside of core school hours.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal to increase the number of school places at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg would better meet the needs of the wider community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.