

Date/Dyddiad 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
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To: Parents, Carers and Guardians of children attending Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg  
Parents, Carers and Guardians of children attending feeder schools linked to Ysgol  
Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg  
Headteacher, Staff and Governing Body of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg  
Statutory Consultees

Dear Consultee,

**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**

On 12 December 2016, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet determined the proposal to expand Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg on its current site from 1361 places to 1660 places to meet the future demand for Welsh medium secondary school education in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Council held a full consultation with prescribed consultees that concluded with the issue of a statutory notice on the expansion proposal. Cabinet in making its decision considered the proposal in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013. It was noted that the Council received no statutory objections in response to the statutory notice on the proposal.

The Council considered all previous Cabinet reports relating to the proposal and the responses to the consultation as set out in the Consultation Report. Taking all matters into account, Cabinet has approved the proposal. As a result Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg will be expanded on its current site from September 2020 subject to the required funding being provided by the Welsh Government.

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

- Maintain the quality and standards of education in the area;
- Continue to provide a mix of English medium, Welsh medium and faith provision in the Vale of Glamorgan;
- Increase opportunities for learning and ensure accessibility of education through the medium of Welsh in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The reasons for the decision in respect to the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows;

**Quality and Standards of Education**

The proposal will enable the high standards of education present in the existing school to further contribute to high quality provision in an expanded school. The proposal would provide increased and improved facilities for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg in new and remodeled

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school buildings to more effectively support the development of 3 – 19 all through education. It will provide a wide range of learning opportunities for students by providing an enhanced learning environment that supports and challenges individual children to succeed including those with additional learning needs.

It is Estyn's opinion "that the proposal is likely to at least maintain current standards of Welsh medium education and offers an opportunity to increase the number of places available in Welsh medium secondary education in the area to meet growing demand".

### **Need for places and the impact on the accessibility of schools**

In approving the proposal, the Council has considered its statutory duty to meet the demand for Welsh medium education which is forecast to increase significantly from September 2018 onwards. Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg is forecast to be at full capacity by 2020.

The Vale of Glamorgan area will retain English, Welsh and faith provision. The number of school places available for students requiring Welsh medium will increase to meet the growing demand for Welsh medium secondary school places in future.

There will be no impact as a result of the proposal on pupils' journeys and available walking routes to schools as the expanded school will operate the existing site. The proposal will not change school transport arrangements, eligibility or accessibility.

Estyn state "The council asserts credibly that the proposal will have no impact on admissions and catchment area arrangements. Therefore one can also reasonably assume that there is unlikely to be a significant impact on learner's travel arrangements".

### **Resourcing of education**

The additional revenue costs of the increased pupil numbers expected would be met through the school funding formula which allocates the majority of funding for schools on the basis of pupil numbers. An overall increase in pupil numbers across the Vale would result in an increased Revenue Support Grant from Welsh Government which would be allocated to schools. The pupil funding formula will remain the same for the expanded school.

The decision is subject to the call in procedures as set out in the Council's constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet to be reviewed. Should a call in of the decision take place, all stakeholders will be informed.

Yours sincerely



Paula Ham  
Interim Director of Learning and Skills