

# **Newport City Council**

## **School Reorganisation Proposal**

### **Consultation Report**

**Proposal to establish a new primary school on the Glan Llyn development**

**Formal Consultation Period:  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

#### **Purpose**

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, July 2013.

This consultation report includes the following sections:

- The Proposal
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People
- Learner Voice
- Consultation Responses
- Estyn
- Financial Considerations
- Recommendations

#### **The Proposal**

To establish a new primary school on the Glan Llyn development for pupils aged 3-11 years with effect from September 2018.

## Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to the stakeholders outlined below, with either a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website and an electronic version of the pack sent by e-mail, or alternatively by hard copies of the consultation material being issued:

- All people living on the Glan Llyn development;
- Teachers, staff and the governing body of Lliswerry Primary School, Maindee Primary School, Somerton Primary School, St Andrews Primary School, St Patrick's RC Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd;
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Lliswerry Primary School, Maindee Primary School, Somerton Primary School, St Andrews Primary School, St Patrick's RC Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd;
- Pupils attending Lliswerry Primary School, Maindee Primary School, Somerton Primary School, St Andrews Primary School, St Patrick's RC Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd;
- The Headteachers and Governing Bodies of all other Newport schools;
- All Newport City Council elected members;
- All Newport City Council Heads of Service;
- The Welsh Ministers;
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by the schools subject to the proposals;
- Other Local Authorities across the South East Wales Consortium region, including relevant Transport departments;
- The South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- The Church in Wales, Diocese of Monmouth;
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese;
- Estyn;
- Teaching and staff trade unions;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- The Community Councils for Bishton, Goldcliff, Llanwern, Nash and Redwick;
- The local Communities First partnership (or equivalent);
- The three independent childcare providers in Llanwern, Lliswerry and the surrounding areas – Babes in the Wood, Little Angels and Osbourne's Children's Nursery;
- Newport Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership;
- SNAP Cymru.

The following consultation events were arranged and were publicised via a letter to stakeholders. This information was also shared on the Council website and outlined throughout the consultation document:

Venue	Date and Time	Event type
Lliswerry High School, Nash Road, NP19 4RP	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 4.30pm to 6.30pm	Drop-in event
Llanwern High School, Hartridge Farm Road, NP18 2YE	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 4.30pm to 6.30pm	Drop-in event

These drop-in events were unfortunately not well attended. Eight people attended the first event, including two members of the Senior Leadership Team of Lliswerry High School and the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of St Patrick's RC Primary School along with four prospective parents. No stakeholders attended the second event. Both events were supported by the Education Service Development Manager with a member of the School Admissions Team.

## Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People

An Everyday Summary Version of the main consultation document was also published and was targeted specifically at children and young people.

### Learner Voice

The Headteachers of the four primary schools currently within the Lliswerry High School cluster - Lliswerry Primary School, Maindee Primary School, Somerton Primary School and St Andrews Primary School – were approached, along with the Headteachers of St Patrick's RC Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, to ask if they would enable their respective School Council's to take part in the consultation, and all agreed to facilitate this.

The Council is very grateful to the staff members and pupils who took part in these events and would like to thank them for their valuable contributions. These meetings all took place during the six-week consultation period and the following questions were raised by those present:

#### *Lliswerry Primary School*

Question	Response
<b>When will this school open?</b>	<i>The new primary school will open in September 2018.</i>
<b>What will be the maximum capacity of the new school?</b>	<i>The new school will be a 2-form entry school with capacity for 60 children per year group, so 420 pupils in total across the Reception to Year Six groups. There will also be a nursery class with capacity for 48 children in total over either a morning or afternoon session, plus two Learning Resource Base classes to accommodate 10 children in each.</i>
<b>What year groups will be taught at the new school?</b>	<i>The new school will be able to take children between the ages of 3 – 11 so will cover Nursery to Year Six.</i>
<b>Will there be enough pupils to fill the new school?</b>	<i>The Glan Llyn development will eventually consist of approximately 4000 homes, and it is likely that families with children of primary school age will live in many of these. Unfortunately, there are very few surplus primary school places available across the City and in the area for children who might move to live on the development. The school is therefore primarily to accommodate children who live on the Glan Llyn development.</i>
<b>How big will the classes be?</b>	<i>The total capacity of the school and the number of classes being provided means that there should be a maximum of 30 children in each of the Reception to Year Six classes.</i>
<b>How many teachers will the school have?</b>	<i>The Headteacher and governing body will decide on the staff that will be required once they know how many children will be attending the new school.</i>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Will there also be a new High School?</b>	<i>No there are no plans to build a new High School. The catchment secondary school for this new primary school is Lliswerry High School.</i>
<b>What cluster will the new school belong to?</b>	<i>The new school will form part of the Lliswerry High School cluster.</i>
<b>What materials will be used to build the school?</b>	<i>It will be a steel-framed building with a rendered brick-work finish.</i>
<b>Will there be enough toilets?</b>	<i>Yes provision has been made for a suitable number of toilets to cover all age groups at the school.</i>
<b>Will the school be able to accommodate disabled pupils?</b>	<i>Yes, the school will be fully compliant with the Equality Act to enable access by pupils with disabilities.</i>
<b>Will the new school have a Learning Resource Base?</b>	<i>Yes, there will be two Learning Resource Base classes, one for Foundation Phase year groups and the other for Key Stage Two year groups.</i>
<b>Will the hall be big enough and is there going to be a separate canteen?</b>	<i>The hall will be large enough for the maximum number of pupils and will also be used as the canteen at lunchtime.</i>
<b>Will cooking facilities be included in each of the classrooms?</b>	<i>No, but there are plans for the school to have a Technology Room which can be accessed by all classes.</i>
<b>How big will the 3G pitch be?</b>	<i>It will be a junior-sized pitch.</i>
<b>How far away are the nearest houses?</b>	<i>The nearest houses will be opposite the main entrance to the school.</i>
<b>What will be the name of the school?</b>	<i>This will be decided by the temporary governing body once final approval is received for the school to be established.</i>
<b>What will the uniform look like?</b>	<i>This will be decided by the temporary governing body nearer to the school opening date.</i>
<b>Will the school be eco-friendly with a School Council?</b>	<i>This is something that will be decided by the Headteacher once the school opens.</i>
<b>Will there be a Breakfast Club and After School Clubs?</b>	<i>This is something that will be decided by the Headteacher once the school opens.</i>
<b>Where will the school hold their Sports Day?</b>	<i>This is something that will be decided by the Headteacher once the school opens.</i>
<b>Will some children come to school by bus or taxi?</b>	<i>Yes it is possible that some children will be provided with free home to school transport, dependent on where they live and the availability of places in other schools.</i>
<b>Will Lliswerry Primary School be affected in the future in terms of pupils and money?</b>	<i>It is possible that some children will apply to transfer to the new school when it opens. In terms of money, the new school will need to be funded in the same way as all other schools. The funding available from the Council will need to be allocated equally amongst all qualifying schools.</i>
<b>Will the new school affect nature and the environment in the area?</b>	<i>The building plans put forward by the developer would have taken this into consideration, ensuring that there is as little impact on these matters as possible.</i>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Will the new school affect traffic in the area?</b>	<i>As the majority of children attending the new school will likely live on the Glan Llyn development, it is hoped that children will walk to school where possible, therefore reducing the amount of traffic affecting this part of the City at the start and end of the school day.</i>
<b>Will the second school be built close to the first school?</b>	<i>No, the Glan Llyn development is quite large and therefore the second school will be some distance away from this first school.</i>
<b>How much is the school going to cost?</b>	<i>All building costs are being met by the developer. However the Council will be responsible for all furniture and equipment costs, estimated to be approximately £460,000.</i>

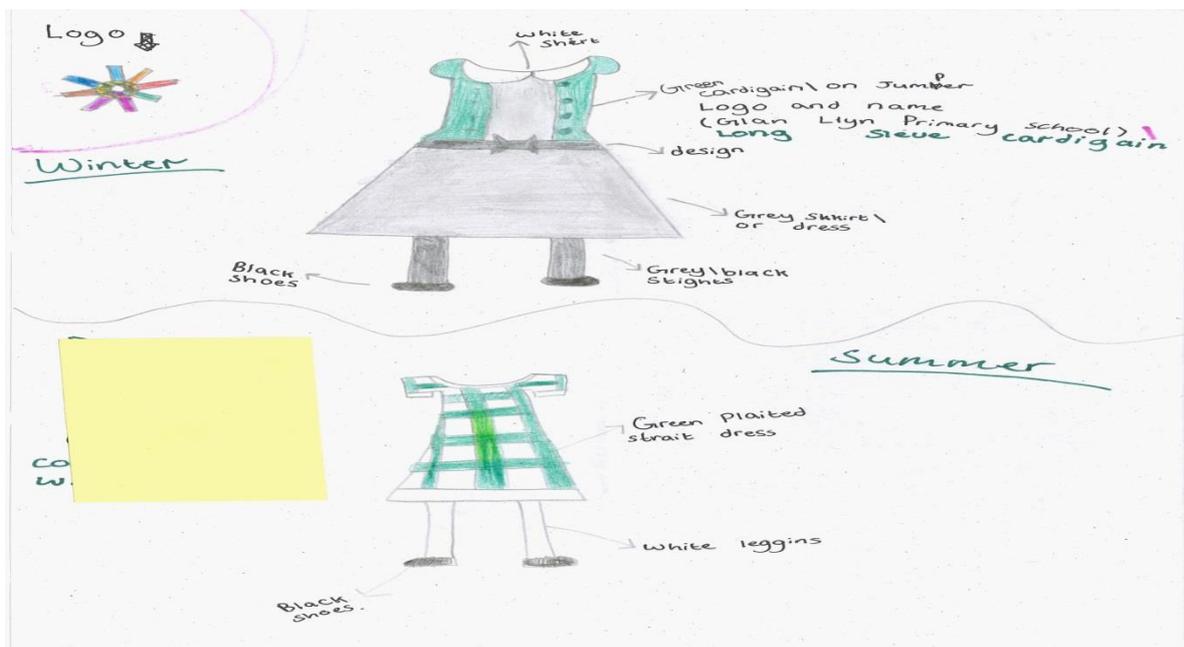
### **Maindee Primary School**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>How many Key Stages will be taught at the new school?</b>	<i>The new school will be able to take children between the ages of 3 – 11 so will cover Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.</i>
<b>How many children will be able to go to the new school?</b>	<i>The new school will be a 2-form entry school with capacity for 60 children per year group, so 420 pupils in total across the Reception to Year Six groups. There will also be a nursery class with capacity for 48 children in total over either a morning or afternoon session, plus two Learning Resource Base classes to accommodate 10 children in each. The school will however be established as a growing school and full capacity will not be realised until the start of the fourth year. In the first year, capacity will be restricted to 120 pupils across Reception to Year 6, plus the nursery and Learning Resource Bases.</i>
<b>Will the School Admissions Team or the teachers decide who can go to the school?</b>	<i>Admission to the school will be in accordance with the Council's School Admissions Policy administered by the School Admissions Team at the Civic Centre.</i>
<b>Will the new school be a Christian school?</b>	<i>The new school will be an English-medium community maintained school.</i>
<b>Will there also be a new High School?</b>	<i>No there are no plans to build a new High School. The catchment secondary school for this new primary school is Llswerry High School.</i>
<b>When will interviews for teachers take place?</b>	<i>Teachers will be appointed by the temporary governing body once final approval is granted for the school to be established. This is likely to be in the summer term 2018.</i>
<b>Will classrooms be near the playground?</b>	<i>All classrooms will be on the ground floor and will have direct access to outside.</i>
<b>Will the new classrooms have whiteboards?</b>	<i>The classrooms will be fully equipped, including the provision of whiteboards.</i>

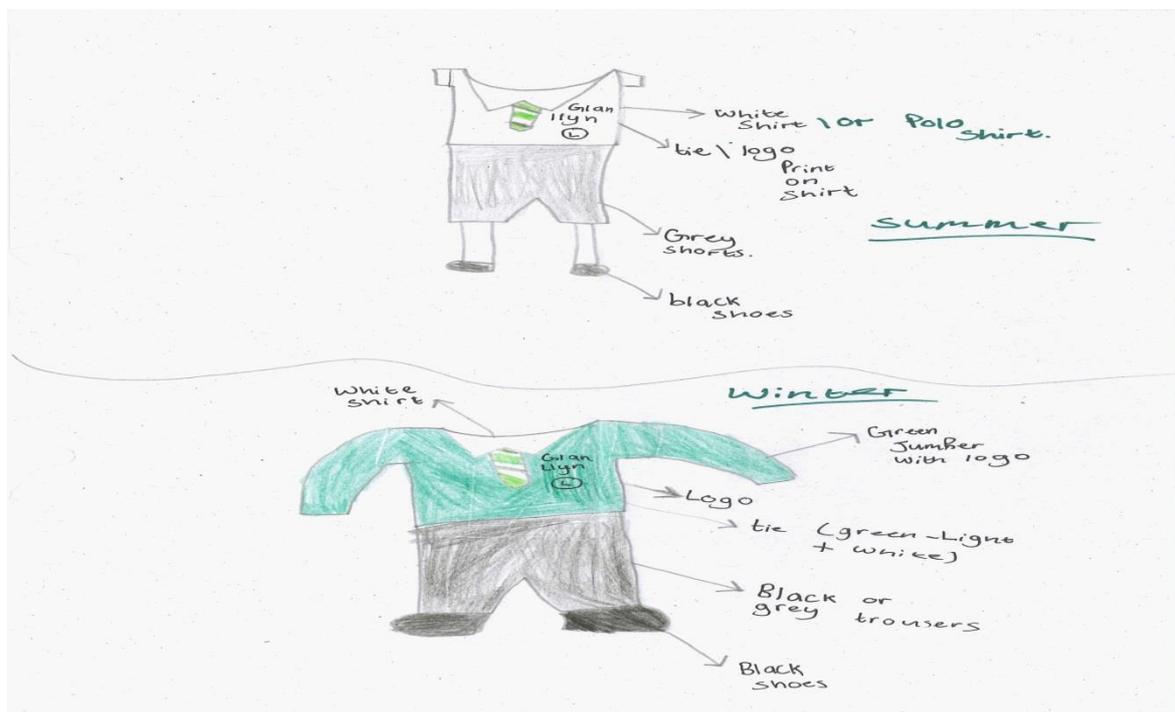
Question	Response
What facilities will the new school have? Will they include things such as a library, a swimming pool, a gym and a kitchen / canteen?	The plans include the provision of a dedicated school library along with a kitchen and servery. The hall will be used as a canteen as well as for assemblies and indoor PE activities. Unfortunately there are no plans to include a swimming pool at the new school. There will however be a 3G sports pitch which may be available for community use outside of the school day.
Will there be lockers available for pupils instead of coat pegs?	The Council will discuss this with the developer.
What kind of security will the new school have? Will there be a fence and security cameras in the classrooms?	There will be a fence around the perimeter of the school. The 3G pitch will also be fenced off from the main school to prevent unauthorised access to the school during evenings and at weekends and therefore reduce the risk of damage and vandalism. The temporary governing body will decide on the use of security cameras, but they are unlikely to be installed in classrooms.
What colour will the uniform be?	This will be decided by the temporary governing body nearer to the school opening date.  *Some of the children then showed some suggested designs for the uniform at the new school. These are outlined below.
What will be the school colours and logo?	This will be decided by the temporary governing body nearer to the school opening date.
Will there be After School Clubs or a School Shop?	This is something that will be decided by the Headteacher once the school opens.
How much is the school going to cost?	All building costs are being met by the developer. However the Council will be responsible for all furniture and equipment costs, estimated to be approximately £460,000.

### Suggested school uniform designs

#### Girls



**Boys**



**Somerton Primary School**

Question	Response
<b>What year groups will be taught at the new school?</b>	<i>The new school will be able to take children between the ages of 3 – 11 so will cover Nursery to Year Six.</i>
<b>How big will the new school be?</b>	<i>The new school will be a 2-form entry school with capacity for 60 children per year group, so 420 pupils in total across the Reception to Year Six groups. There will also be a nursery class with capacity for 48 children in total over either a morning or afternoon session, plus two Learning Resource Base classes to accommodate 10 children in each. All classrooms will be ground floor level with direct access to outside. The building will be “L” shaped with two separate wings, one for Foundation Phase classes and the other for Key Stage Two classes.</i>
<b>Why is such a big school being opened?</b>	<i>The Glan Llyn development will eventually consist of approximately 4000 homes, and it is likely that families with children of primary school age will live in many of these. Unfortunately, there are very few surplus primary school places available across the City and in the area for children who might move to live on the development. The school is therefore primarily to accommodate children who live on the Glan Llyn development. There are longer term plans to open a second primary school on the development.</i>
<b>Will there be enough pupils to fill the new school?</b>	<i>No, probably not initially when the school first opens. For this reason, the school will be established as a growing school and full capacity will not be realised until the start of the fourth year. In the first year, capacity will be restricted to 120 pupils across Reception to Year 6, plus the nursery and Learning Resource Bases.</i>

Question	Response
<b>What staff will work at the school?</b>	<i>The temporary governing body will appoint a Headteacher once final approval has been granted for the school to open. The Headteachers and temporary governing body will then decide on the staff that will be required once they know how many children will be attending the new school. This will include teachers, teaching assistants and a caretaker.</i>

### **St Andrews Primary School**

Question	Response
<b>Has the building work started yet?</b>	<i>Yes the building work has already been started.</i>
<b>How long will the building work take?</b>	<i>The developer should be handing the building over to the Council in the summer of 2018 ready for the School to open in September 2018.</i>
<b>What year groups will be taught at the new school?</b>	<i>The new school will be able to take children between the ages of 3 – 11 so will cover Nursery to Year Six.</i>
<b>How big will the new school be?</b>	<i>All classrooms will be ground floor level with direct access to outside. The building will be “L” shaped with two separate wings, one for Foundation Phase classes and the other for Key Stage Two classes.</i>
<b>What language will be spoken at the new school?</b>	<i>The new school will be an English-medium school.</i>
<b>How many children will be able to go to the new school?</b>	<i>The new school will be a 2-form entry school with capacity for 60 children per year group, so 420 pupils in total across the Reception to Year Six groups. There will also be a nursery class with capacity for 48 children in total over either a morning or afternoon session, plus two Learning Resource Base classes to accommodate 10 children in each. The school will however be established as a growing school and full capacity will not be realised until the start of the fourth year. In the first year, capacity will be restricted to 120 pupils across Reception to Year 6, plus the nursery and Learning Resource Bases.</i>
<b>Will there also be a new High School?</b>	<i>No there are no plans to build a new High School. The catchment secondary school for this new primary school is Lliswerry High School.</i>
<b>Will the new school have a canteen and what kind of school dinners will be served?</b>	<i>The school will have its own canteen and lunch will be served in the main school hall. School meals will be provided by Chartwells so will be the same as those currently provided in other primary schools across the City.</i>
<b>Will there be separate entrances, cloakrooms and changing rooms for boys and girls?</b>	<i>There will not be any specific changing facilities at the school and cloakrooms will be accommodated within each classroom. Foundation Phase toilets will be situated off classrooms and therefore will be unisex. Key Stage 2 toilets will be situated in the main corridor so could be unisex or gender designated. This decision will be taken by the temporary governing body.</i>
<b>What outdoor facilities will be available at the new school?</b>	<i>The external play areas will include hard and soft surface areas. The will also be a junior-sized 3G pitch.</i>
<b>Who will be the Headteacher of the new school?</b>	<i>The Headteacher will be appointed by the temporary governing body once final approval is granted for the school to be established. This is likely to be in the early summer term 2018.</i>

Question	Response
How many teachers will there be when the school opens?	<i>The Headteacher and governing body will decide on the staff that will be required once they know how many children will be attending the new school.</i>
What will be the name of the new school?	<i>This will be decided by the temporary governing body once final approval is received for the school to be established.</i>
What will be the school colours?	<i>This will be decided by the temporary governing body nearer to the school opening date.</i>
What will the school logo look like?	<i>This will be decided by the temporary governing body nearer to the school opening date. They may look to include pupils in the design process.</i>
What lessons will be taught at the new school?	<i>The pupils at the new school will follow the same lessons as those in other schools across the City. This is called the National Curriculum.</i>
Will there be a School Council?	<i>This is something that will be decided by the Headteacher once the school opens.</i>
Will the pupils be arranged into "houses"?	<i>This is something that will be decided by the Headteacher once the school opens.</i>

### **St Patrick's RC Primary School**

Question	Response
How many children will be able to go to the new school?	<i>The new school will be a 2-form entry school with capacity for 60 children per year group, so 420 pupils in total across the Reception to Year Six groups. There will also be a nursery class with capacity for 48 children in total over either a morning or afternoon session, plus two Learning Resource Base classes to accommodate 10 children in each. The school will however be established as a growing school and full capacity will not be realised until the start of the fourth year. In the first year, capacity will be restricted to 120 pupils across Reception to Year 6, plus the nursery and Learning Resource Bases.</i>
Why is a new school needed in that area?	<i>The Glan Llyn development will eventually consist of approximately 4000 homes, and it is likely that families with children of primary school age will live in many of these. Unfortunately, there are very few surplus primary school places available across the City and in the area for children who might move to live on the development. The school is therefore primarily to accommodate children who live on the Glan Llyn development because of the lack of other school places in the area.</i>
What year groups will be taught at the new school?	<i>The new school will be able to take children between the ages of 3 – 11 so will cover Nursery to Year Six.</i>
What High School will the children go to?	<i>The catchment secondary school for this new primary school is Llswerry High School.</i>
Will the new school be a private school?	<i>No, the new school will be a community maintained school which will be free to attend.</i>
Will the new school be linked to a Church?	<i>No, the new school will be a community maintained school.</i>
When will this school open?	<i>The new primary school will open in September 2018.</i>
What will be the name of the school?	<i>This will be decided by the temporary governing body once final approval is received for the school to be established.</i>

Question	Response
<b>What will the uniform look like?</b>	<i>This will be decided by the temporary governing body nearer to the school opening date.</i>
<b>How many teachers will the school have?</b>	<i>The Headteacher and temporary governing body will decide on the staff that will be required once they know how many children will be attending the new school.</i>
<b>Will the school have a quiet area?</b>	<i>The plans include a dedicated library area which can be used for quiet time.</i>
<b>Will there be parking facilities at the new school?</b>	<i>The plans include dedicated car parking spaces within the school grounds for staff and visitors, along with a small number of parking bays outside the school.</i>
<b>Will people be able to use the school facilities outside of the school day?</b>	<i>It is intended that the school will benefit from a 3G pitch which hopefully can be leased to community groups in the evenings and on weekends. It may also be possible for individual rooms within the school building to be rented to community groups outside of the school day. Any lease agreements will need to be agreed by the governing body once the school opens.</i>

In total, 52 children took part in these sessions across the five schools. Of this pupil cohort, 50 children (equivalent to 96%) thought that opening a new primary school in the area was a good idea. 33 of these children (equivalent to 63% of the cohort) also supported the concept of a growing school.

### ***Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd***

The pupil group at Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd were in agreement that a new school should be opened but felt that a Welsh-medium school was preferable. A breakdown of their respective questions and comments is outlined below:

Question	Response
<b>Why does the new school have to be an English-medium school?</b>	There was no specific requirement for the school to be an English-medium school. However before issuing this consultation, the Council undertook a pre-consultation exercise with those families currently living on the development to identify whether the predominant demand was for Welsh-medium or English-medium provision. The Council received 65 responses, 72.3% of which indicated a preference for an English-medium school. Alongside this direct stakeholder feedback, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd is geographically very close to the Glan Llyn development. In addition, across the Welsh-medium primary school estate there are currently vacancies in all year groups from Reception to Year Six. Given this overall position, it has been proposed that the first new primary school on the development be established as English-medium.
<b>Are the existing English-medium schools in the area full?</b>	The Council has very few surplus primary school places, especially across Foundation Phase year groups. As at September 2017, there were only 18 spaces available across all Foundation Phase year groups within the Lliswerry cluster.

Question	Response
<b>Do you agree that the current proportion of Welsh-medium schools compared to English-medium schools is unfair?</b>	The Council has opened three new Welsh-medium schools over the past decade, and no child who requests Welsh-medium education is refused this opportunity.
<b>Why are the new houses being built?</b>	The new houses are being built by a developer to meet the needs of people who want to live and work in Newport.
<b>Why is there always a big fuss when the Council tries to open a Welsh-medium school?</b>	The Council has a good record of opening three new Welsh-medium schools over the past decade.
<b>What is the point of having a national language if it is not supported?</b>	The Council has a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) which is monitored and supported by the statutory Welsh in Education Forum (WEF).

The assembled pupils asked to share their views as to why the school should be established as a Welsh-medium school as opposed to an English-medium school:

- The Welsh Government Charter wants to see 1 million Welsh-speakers across Wales by 2050. Opening an additional Welsh-medium primary school would assist in meeting this target;
- Having a fourth Welsh-medium school would improve the way Welsh-medium schools currently work together;
- There should be more Welsh-medium schools to balance out the large number of English-medium schools already in Newport;
- There are currently only three Welsh-medium schools so choice of schools is restricted;
- The number of people speaking Welsh across Wales has fallen, and opening another school would contribute towards this rising again;
- Without a sufficient number of Welsh-medium schools there is a possibility that the language might die out;
- People need to be able to understand something to know it properly, and all people deserve the chance to know and understand the Welsh-language;
- English-medium schools are not as full as Welsh-medium schools;
- The needs of the minority are not being considered by the majority;
- Children attending Welsh-medium schools become fully bilingual in Welsh and English;
- People who are able to speak Welsh will have increased opportunities and life chances;
- Speaking Welsh is a way of demonstrating pride in the Country;
- Any new school that is opened in Wales should be Welsh-medium;
- Another Welsh-medium school should be opened to give more children the opportunity to learn to speak Welsh;
- Opening an English-medium school as opposed to a Welsh-medium school shows that the Council does not respect the Welsh-language;
- The Welsh language is older than the English language;
- The Welsh language is suffering due to the low number of Welsh-medium schools;

- Children should be able to attend their choice of English-medium or Welsh-medium schools close to their homes;
- Welsh is an ancient language and if it is allowed to die out it will become a myth just like the Woolly Mammoth or the Sabre Toothed Tiger;
- Increasing the number of Welsh-medium schools helps people to understand the Welsh-language;
- Another Welsh-medium school would help increase the number of people speaking Wales in Newport;
- As there are plans to eventually have two new schools on the Glan Llyn development, the first one should be a Welsh-medium school and the second one an English-medium school;
- Opening another Welsh-medium school would give parents more choice about which Welsh-medium school to choose for their children;
- The Welsh language is dying and opening another school would help to grow the language;
- The people of Wales have an identity which should be supported – it is a way of life;
- There are people currently attending English-medium schools who would like to be able to speak Welsh;
- People who are able to speak Welsh will have better opportunities;
- It is important to practise Welsh, and this will be more easily achieved if there are more Welsh-medium schools;
- People should not be afraid of the Welsh language;
- Those people who are able to speak Welsh are very lucky and treasure the language;
- Only 19% of people in Wales are able to speak Welsh, and an additional Welsh-medium school would help to promote and support growth.

## Consultation Responses

17 consultation responses were received during the consultation period, 14 of which (equivalent to 82%) supported the proposal as it was consulted upon. 2 respondents (11%) were in support of a new school being opened but felt that it should be established as a Welsh-medium school. A final single respondent opposed the proposal on the basis of the significant financial impact this would have on other schools across the City.

### *Responses in support of the proposal*

In addition to supporting the proposal, responses included the following points:

- People living on the development were in support of a local school for their children;
- The proposition of a new school was a prime reason for moving to the development;
- One respondent indicated a clear preference for English-medium provision;
- The school would be a good community resource, and;
- The new primary school might be more appropriately assigned to the Llanwern High School cluster.

The Glan Llyn development will eventually consist of in the region of 4000 residential dwellings and two primary schools. Without predicting any information in support of the second school, it is possible that the whole development will be split into two separate catchment areas, the second of which could in the future be assigned to Llanwern High School.

Notwithstanding this however, the Council's School Admissions Policy enables parents to apply for their child to attend any school. In instances where more applications are received than there are places available, the Council's agreed over-subscription criteria is applied which gives priority to children who live in the designated school catchment area.

#### *Responses in support of increased Welsh-medium provision*

The two responses outlining this opinion were concerned that the decision to consult on the establishment of an English-medium school did not fully consider the option of a Welsh-medium school and the duty of the Local Authority to promote Welsh-medium education.

As outlined in the consultation document, a pre-consultation exercise was carried out in July 2017, with the then residents of the development, as a means of identifying whether the predominant demand in the area was for either an English-medium school or a Welsh-medium school. The Council received 65 responses in total, 47 of which outlined a preference for English-medium provision and 18 indicating that Welsh-medium provision was their preferred option. The Council is aware of the duty to promote Welsh-medium education, and it is for this reason that the pre-consultation letter contained a link to enable stakeholders to find out more information about Welsh-medium and bilingual education. The pre-consultation exercise did not include any stakeholder engagement sessions although these were a focus of the formal consultation stage.

Alongside this an analysis of past and projected pupil numbers was carried out to confirm the availability of and likely demand for places in English-medium and Welsh-medium schools, both in this area and across the wider City. This identified that places were available in all year groups across the existing Welsh-medium schools, and that the likely short-term future demand could be met from within the existing school provision. Longer term, there are plans for a second primary school to be established on the Glan Llyn development and at this stage no decision has been made regarding the language provision of this school.

Comments were also made that the Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment did not fully explore that impact of the proposal on the Welsh language. This document will be updated at the next stage of the proposal and the comments made will be fully considered as part of this.

#### *Response opposing the proposal*

This final respondent outlined concerns that the opening of a new school would see a large movement of pupils from existing schools, causing instability across the City, and suggested that the School Admissions Policy should be amended so that children were required to attend their catchment school.

The Welsh Government School Admission Code does not support this view however, and has a strong focus on Local Authority's supporting parental preference wherever possible. The Council's policy accords with this although the agreed over-subscription criterion does give higher priority to children who live in the relevant school catchment area where more applications are received than there are places available.

The Council recognises the potential problem of large scale migration when a new school is opened, and it is for this reason that the concept of a growing school is the preferred option in this case, as this is likely to mitigate this risk.

The more significant point raised in this response relates to the financial impact that a new school might have on existing schools within the City. All schools are funded in accordance with an agreed formula from the Individual Schools Budget (ISB). This is not an infinite budget and is capped by the Council at a set amount for distribution amongst all schools. Increasing the physical number of schools in Newport therefore dilutes the amount allocated across each school site and reduces the total funding available to support existing schools and pupils.

## Estyn

The formal response from Estyn concluded that the proposal “is likely to maintain educational provision in the area ..... but does not provide any details about plans to allow access to Welsh-medium education for parents who wish to do so.”

**Response:** *The Local Authority is committed to the provision of Welsh-medium education for any child who indicates that this is their preferred provision. An analysis of past and projected numbers across the three existing Welsh-medium schools has outlined to the Council that sufficient capacity already exists at this present time.*

The response goes on to say that thorough consideration has been given to the advantages and disadvantages of establishing the school as a growing school. However it was Estyn’s view that no detailed attention has been given to projections above these numbers when considering the plans to establish the second school on the development.

**Response:** *The projections for the new school and the already established schools in the locality outline a sufficiency of places across the area as a whole. Longer term, the section 106 agreement between the Council and the developer outlines that the second school will be built in 7-10 years, once the first school is at full capacity and when the second half of the housing development is underway. Latest estimates indicate that approximately 1400 dwellings will be built by August 2023 with the full development eventually being made up of in the region of 4000 residences.*

Whilst the response identifies the reasons for proposing to establish an English-medium school, the view is that consideration has not been given to those parents who identified in the pre-consultation exercise that their desire was for Welsh-medium education.

**Response:** *The pre-consultation exercise was targeted at all habited homes as at July 2017 and simply asked whether the proposed school should be established as either Welsh-medium or English-medium provision. Whilst respondents were asked to provide their address and age bracket, the pro-forma did not ask them to identify whether there were any children at the address currently. The Local Authority is committed to the provision of Welsh-medium education for any child who indicates that this is their preferred provision. An analysis of past and projected numbers across the three existing Welsh-medium schools has outlined to the Council that sufficient capacity already exists at this present time.*

The response from Estyn ends by stating that “the council has considered the risks that may arise as a result of establishing the school and has responded to them reasonably”.

## **Other Considerations**

The latest pupil projection estimates indicate a surplus of approximately 105 pupils across the English-medium, Welsh-medium and Voluntary Aided schools in the denoted Lliswerry and Llanwern clusters as at January 2019 after taking account of the predicted yield from these new housing developments. It would appear therefore that pupils living on the Glan Llyn development can be accommodated in other schools in the local area for the 2018/19 academic year. It would seem reasonable therefore to consider deferring the establishment of the new primary school until September 2019.

This deferred opening date would enable a longer timeframe for the effective establishment of the new school in terms of the appointment of staff and the procurement of resources.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that permission be sought to move this proposal forward by publishing a statutory notice outlining a modified implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. This decision will be referred to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

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