

# Report



## Cabinet Member for Education & Skills

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### Part 1

Date: January 2020

Item No:

**Subject** **School Reorganisation Proposal – Establishment of a new Welsh-medium Primary School and the relocation of Pillgwenlly Primary School**

**Purpose** To move to publish a statutory notice on the school reorganisation proposal “to establish a new two-form entry Welsh-medium primary school in Newport and as a result to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School from its current site to the new school on the Whiteheads development”.

**Author** Service Manager - Education Planning & Resources

**Ward** All

**Summary** Formal consultation has now concluded on the school reorganisation proposal “to establish a new two-form entry Welsh-medium primary school in Newport and as a result to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School from its current site to the new school on the Whiteheads development”.

This formal consultation was carried out between 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Following conclusion of this process a consultation report, which describes the consultation process and feedback received, has been drafted and is attached at Appendix 1. The report has also been published on the Newport City Council website and shared with stakeholders as outlined in the statutory School Organisation Code.

This report references those findings, the result of which recommends that the Council move to publish a statutory proposal. During this statutory proposal period, legal objections can be lodged by any stakeholder, and will need to be considered before any final determination is taken.

The original report to the Cabinet Member for Education & Skills, which sought permission to take forward the proposal, suggested that the new Welsh-medium school would be established, under a seedling arrangement, from September 2020 and that Pillgwenlly Primary would be relocated to the new school on the Whiteheads development from January 2022. Since the public consultation was launched however, the land developer has confirmed that the relevant planning conditions have not been discharged to enable commencement of the scheme and the resultant transfer of the school site. Until these issues are resolved the development will be delayed, and therefore there is currently some uncertainty over when this land transfer will occur.

In light of the uncertainty over the timeframe for the site being made available, it is recommended that this whole project is deferred by one full academic year meaning that:

- The seedling school would open in September 2021;
- Pillgwenlly Primary School would be relocated to the new school on the Whiteheads development at the start of the Spring term 2023, and;
- The new Welsh-medium primary school would move to its permanent site in Pillgwenlly from September 2023.

**Proposal** To move to publish a statutory notice for a period of 28 days in respect of the proposal to establish a new two-form entry Welsh-medium primary school in Newport and as a result to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School from its current site to the school on the Whiteheads development.

**Action by** Chief Education Officer

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Corporate Management Team
- Education Senior Management Team
- Senior HR Business Partner
- Senior Finance Business Partner
- Acting Headteacher and Chair of Governors, Pillgwenlly Primary School

**Signed**

## **Background**

A formal consultation on the proposal to establish a new two-form entry Welsh-medium primary school in Newport and as a result to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School from its current site to the school on the Whiteheads development was carried out between 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Following conclusion of this process, a consultation report was prepared, published on the Newport City Council website and shared with stakeholders as outlined in the statutory School Organisation Code.

There is now a requirement to consider the content of this report and determine whether or not it is appropriate to move to the next stage in the school reorganisation process which is the publication of a statutory proposal. During this statutory proposal period, legal objections can be lodged by any stakeholder, and if any are received, will need to be considered before any final determination is taken.

A copy of the Consultation Report is attached at Appendix 1 but there now follows a synopsis of the feedback received.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to an extensive list of stakeholders, with five separate drop-in events arranged where people directly affected by the proposal could attend to find out more information and share their views. These events were held at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School, Pillgwenlly Primary School and Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed. There was mixed attendance at these events which were each supported by a variety of Council officers. These drop-in events are described in more detail within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1 (pages 10-13 of this report).

## **Consultation Responses**

Overall, a total of 75 responses were received during the consultation process. Further information about these responses are included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1 (pages 14-22 of this report).

## **Estyn**

The formal response from Estyn concluded that the Council has given appropriate consideration to a range of options in advance of taking forward the proposal, and the proposal will result in the current standards of education being at least maintained. It also commented that the proposal:

- Corresponds with the Welsh Government's objective of a million Welsh speakers by 2050 by increasing the use of the Welsh language in education in Newport;
- Is in keeping with the objectives of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and;
- Addresses the need to provide more English-medium spaces reasonably by relocating Pillgwenlly Primary School to a new building.

The full response from Estyn is included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1 (pages 31-33 of this report).

## **Learner Voice**

The Council is keen to gain the views of learners when taking forward school reorganisation proposals. In this instances, this was facilitated by members of the Education Service who attended a series of consultation meetings with groups of pupils currently attending the affected schools. Further information about these main points and questions raised during these sessions is included within the Consultation Report at Appendix 1 (pages 23-27 of this report).

## **Other Considerations**

Page 28 of the published consultation document lists the key risks to the proposal and notes that any delays in the construction of the new school on the Whiteheads development could impact on the proposed move of the new Welsh-medium school from the temporary site to the permanent location. A pre-requisite for the construction of the new school building is the transfer of the land on which the school will be sited to Newport City Council ownership, and this in itself is dependent on the commencement of the adjacent housing development. This was initially expected to take place in spring 2019.

Since the public consultation was launched however, the land developer has confirmed that the relevant planning conditions have not been discharged to enable commencement of the scheme and the resultant transfer of the school site. Until these issues are resolved the development will be delayed, and therefore there is currently some uncertainty over when this land transfer will occur. The most recent correspondence indicates that this will not be before December 2020 at the earliest.

## Financial Summary

### Capital

The Council has successfully submitted a bid to Welsh Government for funding of £5.8million to undertake this project via the *Welsh Medium Capital Grant*. This capital funding will be used to make improvements to the seedling facility and to the existing Pillgwenlly Primary School buildings. The new school build on the Whiteheads development is one of the projects included within the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B programme and as such is being funded jointly by Newport City Council and Welsh Government. Colleagues in Welsh Government have confirmed that this funding remains secure in light of the recommended one-year deferment of this project.

### Revenue

The revenue funding required for the operation of the primary school will need to be provided through the Council's overall schools budget and the profiled budget requirements have been included within the Council's medium term financial plan (MTFP) for consideration within future budget decisions. Please note that the MTFP has been updated to reflect the recommended deferment of this project by one academic year.

The table below shows the financial impact of this decision over the current life of the Council's Medium Term Financial Projections though it should be noted that costs for the new Welsh-medium School will continue to expand beyond 2022/23 as the seedling model increases year groups each year, and therefore costs, for about 6 years. Once established, the school will require appropriate funding from within the overall schools' budget, whether or not the proposal for growth within the current MTFP is accepted. If increased funding is not available, it will dilute the current overall school's budget across all existing Newport schools.

	Year 1 2020/21 £	Year 2 2021/22 £	Year 3 2022/23 £	Year 4 2023/24 £	Notes
<b>Welsh Medium</b>		<b>246,000</b>	<b>458,000</b>	<b>644,000</b>	School Opening September 2021
<b>Pillgwenlly Expansion</b>			<b>64,000</b>	<b>256,000</b>	Expansion January 2023  Costs based on AWPU and 10 place LRB only

## Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Failure to move to statutory notice	L	L	This risk has been mitigated by carrying out a full consultation process in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. The proposal cannot be progressed without publishing a statutory notice.	Chief Education Officer

\* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

## **Links to Council Policies and Priorities**

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Corporate Plan

Council Improvement Plan (*Aspirational People* theme)

Education Service Plan

## **Options Available**

Option 1: To move to the next stage in this school reorganisation process, which is the publication of a statutory proposal (notice) for a period of 28 days, and is the opportunity at which any legal objections can be lodged against the proposal.

Option 2: To withdraw the proposal following consideration of the feedback received during the formal consultation period and outlined in detail within the attached Consultation Report.

## **Preferred Option and Why**

The preferred option is Option 1. The publication of a statutory notice is the next stage in this school reorganisation proposal. This 28-day period will provide all consultees and stakeholders with an opportunity to further consider, and if necessary lodge legal objections to, the proposal.

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

Opening the Welsh-medium primary school in September 2021 is estimated to cost £246,000 for the 7-month period ending 31 March 2022. Expanding Pillgwenlly Primary School from January 2023 would be an estimated cost of £64,000 for the 3 months to 31 March 2023. The estimated costs for both have been identified within the Council's MTRP and reflect the deferment for Welsh medium opening in September 2021. Cabinet will need to consider these cost increases in light of the overall increase in school budgets funding at these times.

There is increasing pressure within the school's sector with increasing schools utilising reserves and moving into deficit balance positions. At the end of 2018/19, there were 5 schools in a deficit reserves position, of which 1 was a primary school and one a nursery. Schools are being challenged to find savings in order to deliver balanced budgets in future years. In spite of the challenging position from the limited ISB funds, there is a requirement to expand school provision within the Authority due to increasing demand for school places from the growing population and the need to further develop Welsh medium provision in line with Newport's WG approved WESP.

In the above context, funding the costs of expanding and new schools is very important in light of the need to set realistic and robust budgets and in particular given the current position on school finances and reserves.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The proposed action is in accordance with the statutory school reorganisation procedures set out in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code. The proposed provision of a new two-form entry Welsh medium primary school and the relocation to Pillgwenlly primary school to a new site on the Whiteheads development is a regulated alteration under the Code and, therefore, has to be the subject of formal statutory consultation. In accordance with the statutory procedures, a detailed consultation document was prepared, setting out the educational reasons for the proposals, and meaningful consultation has been carried out with key stakeholders, including children and young people, who are likely to be affected by the changes. The consultation document sets out the responses received and, although some concerns were raised about the proposals, they largely related to operational matters concerning the re-location of the existing school and the changes to catchment areas, as opposed to any adverse impact on educational provision. The response from Estyn confirmed that this proposal would result in current educational standards being at least maintained and that it reflected the objectives in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Welsh Government objectives regarding Welsh-medium education.

The Cabinet Member is now required to consider whether, in the light of the consultation responses, the Council should proceed with the necessary statutory notices. If agreed, then the proposal will need to be published by way of formal statutory notice, on the Council's website and by public notices, and a period of 28 days (including, at least, 15 school days) will need to be allowed for statutory objections. If no objections are received during the statutory consultation period, then the Cabinet Member can take the final decision about whether to proceed with the proposal but, if there are any unresolved objections, the final determination will have to be referred to full Cabinet, acting as the Local Determination Panel. Because of delays in securing the discharge of planning conditions in relation to the Whiteheads development, then the handover of the site and relocation of Pillgwenlly primary school will need to be deferred. Therefore, the proposed opening date for the new seedling school in the statutory notices would need to be postponed until September 2021, with a phased relocation of the existing primary school between the Spring and Summer terms in 2023.

### **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

The proposal to establish a new Welsh-medium primary school in Newport will deliver on the commitment in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan; will contribute to the Welsh Governments aim to achieve 1 million Welsh speakers in the Country by 2050 and help to achieve the National Wellbeing Goal of 'a Wales of thriving Welsh language and culture'. It will also meet the growing demand locally for Welsh medium education, whilst taking advantage of the vacant building as Pill Primary relocates to a larger site. Following a programme of engagement with stakeholders, the report proposes to progress to the publication of statutory notice during which any legal objections can be raised. Consultation included the involvement of pupils, staff and their families, in addition to statutory organisations like Estyn.

The proposal would see an increase in numbers of staff, providing valuable job opportunities within the organisation and wider community. The new school will offer a range of standard roles requiring Welsh language skills helping to contribute to the Council's equality objectives and the People and Business Change Service Plan 2018-22 objectives including a workforce that will be representative of the population we serve, improving access to services in the medium of Welsh and promoting and increasing the use of Welsh in Newport.

### **Local issues**

This is a City-wide proposal.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

None

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership.

The new single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users.

In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

A Fairness & Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) has been developed and updated, and is attached at Appendix 2.

## **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Pupils at the schools identified as being affected by this proposal have been engaged as part of the formal consultation process. Their feedback is outlined in detail within the Consultation Report, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1.

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

Report writers need to indicate how they have considered the five things public bodies need to think about to show they have applied the sustainable development principle put into place by the Act. You will need to demonstrate you have considered the following:

- Long term: the importance of balancing short- term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long – term needs. **The proposal to establish an additional Welsh-medium primary school will increase the availability of Welsh-medium primary school places by 50% across the City. This will address the commitments outlined in the WESP and supports Welsh Government’s charter of achieving 1 million Welsh speakers across Wales by 2050. The proposal to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School will enable the school to grow to a 3-form entry arrangement as outlined in the Council’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B programme. The school is currently oversubscribed, and in many cases, siblings are forced to attend different schools. Creating additional places in this school will ease this problem, and will have a positive impact on attendance, punctuality and parental engagement.**
- Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help us meet our objectives. **The need for Welsh-medium education has grown significantly in recent years and there is currently no Welsh-medium education within the Caerleon or Pillgwenlly area. The proposal will therefore stimulate demand from pupils living in both of these areas, as children will have the opportunity to attend a Welsh-medium school local to their home address. The proposal will deliver 430 additional pupil places that will provide capacity for accelerated and long-term growth in Welsh-medium education over future years and potentially relieve pressure on other schools.**
- Integration: Consider how the proposals will impact on our wellbeing objectives, our wellbeing goals, other objectives or those of other public bodies. **A formal statutory consultation process has been carried out with key stakeholders, the outcome of which is described in detail in the consultation report. This proposal supports the “A prosperous Wales”, “A more equal Wales”, “A Wales of cohesive communities” and “A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language” Well-being Goals and has no adverse effect on any of the other Well-being Goals. In addition, this proposal supports the Newport City Council Well-being Objective “To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities”.**
- Collaboration: have you considered how acting in collaboration with any other person or any other part of our organisation could help meet our wellbeing objectives. **A formal statutory consultation process has been carried out with key stakeholders, the outcome of which is described in detail in the consultation report. This is supported by an updated FEIA which considers in detail the impact of the proposal. The proposal has been developed in response to representations from a range of stakeholders including the Newport Welsh Education Forum and accords with the commitment outlined in the WESP.**
- Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the City we serve. **A formal statutory consultation process has been carried out with key stakeholders, the outcome of which is described in detail in the consultation report. This is supported by an updated FEIA which considers in detail the impact of the proposal. This period of formal consultation offered the opportunity for engagement with all stakeholders and included a series of drop-in events where people were able to find out more information about the proposal and how it might affect them.**

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

### **Consultation**

Stakeholder consultation has been carried out and is outlined in some detail in the attached consultation report.

### **Background Papers**

Consultation Report (attached at Appendix 1)

Updated FEIA (attached at Appendix 2)

Dated: January 2020

# Newport City Council

## School Reorganisation Proposal

### Consultation Report

**Proposal to establish a Welsh-medium primary school and to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School**

**Formal Consultation Period:  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

#### **Purpose**

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, November 2018. This consultation report includes the following sections:

- The Proposal
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Consultation Responses
- Estyn's Response
- Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People
- Learner Voice
- Other Considerations
- Recommendations
- Appendices

## The Proposal

This consultation report concerns a proposal to:

- establish a Welsh-medium seedling primary school on the vacant site of the former Caerleon Lodge Hill Infant School from September 2020;
- to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School from its existing site to a new build on the Whiteheads development, and in doing so to increase the capacity of the school for mainstream pupils from 546 to 630 and its Learning Resource Base (LRB) from 10 to 20 from January 2022, and;
- to subsequently transfer the seedling school to a permanent location on the site of the current Pillgwenlly Primary school from September 2022.

## Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to the following stakeholders, with a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website and/or an electronic version of the pack sent by e-mail:

- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending all affected schools<sup>1</sup>;
- Pupils attending all schools affected by this proposal<sup>1</sup>;
- Members of staff currently employed at all schools affected by this proposal<sup>1</sup>;
- The Church in Wales, Diocese of Monmouth;
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese;
- Neighbouring Local Authorities across the South East Wales Consortium area;
- The Headteacher and Governing Bodies of all Newport schools;
- All Newport City Council elected members;
- All Newport City Council Heads of Service;
- All Community Councils across Newport;
- The Welsh Ministers;
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by the school's subject to the proposals;
- Estyn;
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and staff employed at all schools affected by this proposal;
- The South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- Newport's Welsh in Education Forum;
- The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership;
- Any independent early years' providers in the Caerleon and Pillgwenlly areas;
- Aneurin Bevan Health Board;
- Public Health Wales;
- Newport Serennu Centre;
- SNAP Cymru;
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations;
- Preventative Services;
- The Welsh Language Commissioner.

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<sup>1</sup> The schools identified as being affected by the proposal are listed on p.3

Hard copies of the full consultation document and the Everyday Summary Version for Children and Young People were available at the Information Station and from the Civic Centre, and were provided bilingually in Welsh and English.

The schools identified as being affected by the proposal are listed below:

School	Reason
Pillgwenlly Primary	Due to the change of school location and the increase in school capacity.
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon	As parents may choose to send or transfer their child to the new primary school for convenience of location, and therefore there could be a risk that their pupil numbers could decrease.
Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd	
Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael	
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	The number of pupils expected to progress to Year 7 admission for this school will be greater from September 2027 than the current admission number.
Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School	The seedling school will be located within close proximity to this school and possibly reduce the number of applications to the school. There may be a small impact on transport routes.

#### Distribution of Information

Initially 50 hard copies of the full consultation document and 50 hard copies of the Children and Young People's Everyday Summary Version were provided to all six affected schools to be available for staff, pupils and parents. Further copies of the document were available to be delivered to schools when they were requested.

Additionally, Pillgwenlly Primary School was provided with sufficient Everyday Summary Versions for every pupil at the school and the document was translated into eight community languages: Bengali, Urdu, Arabic, Slovakian, Kurdish – Sorani, Kurdish – Bhadini, Somali, and Romanian.

Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd provided an electronic link to the consultation pack on the Council's website to all parents/carers via text message or email. Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon, Ysgol Ifor Hael, and Pillgwenlly Primary issued a letter from the Council to all parents/carers via pupil post.

In early July 2019, a letter was issued to the parents of 2,000 children living in Newport and born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, to make them aware of the proposal at the point when they would be making their application for a nursery place for September 2020. In addition, the Newport Youth Council promoted the proposal at Maindee Festival and the Big Splash, two events which took place over the Summer. This included having copies of the Everyday Summary Version available at both events.

### Drop-in Events

The Council also facilitated a series of drop-in events as outlined below, and these were publicised via the Council's website and in all correspondence and documentation relating to the proposal. The drop-in events were arranged with the support of the Council's Connected Communities team, whose officers attended the events and provided cultural and translation assistance. Additional translation services were arranged to ensure that language would not be a barrier to stakeholder engagement, particularly in the Pillgwenlly area.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Translation available</b>
Pillgwenlly Primary School, Capel Crescent, NP20 2FT	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 15.00-17.00	Drop-in event	Welsh Bengali Punjabi Arabic Urdu Kurdish Somali
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, Duffryn Way, Duffryn, NP10 8BX	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 15.30-17.30	Drop-in event	Welsh
Pillgwenlly Primary School Capel Crescent, NP20 2FT	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 09.00-11.00	Drop-in event	Welsh Romanian Slovakian Czech
Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School Roman Way, Caerleon, NP18 3BY	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 15.45-17.30	Drop-in event	Welsh
Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, Duffryn Way, Duffryn, NP10 8BX	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 08.30-10.00	Drop-in event	Welsh

There was a mixed attendance at these events. The first drop-in session, held at Pillgwenlly Primary school, was attended by approximately 50 stakeholders and was supported as follows:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Manager;
- Education Transformation Officer;
- Two Education Information and Development Officers;
- School Admissions Officer (providing Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi interpretation);
- Welsh Language Policy Officer (providing Welsh interpretation), and;
- Newport City Council Connected Communities team members to support Arabic, Bengali, Czech, Polish, Punjabi, Slovak and Urdu translation.
- Two independent interpreters providing Kurdish and Somali translation

A number of the stakeholders attending this drop-in session raised concerns about the proposed relocation of the school to the Whiteheads site, particularly in relation to the traffic flows on Mendalgief Road, and questioned the need for a Welsh-medium school in this area. A small number of stakeholders also raised concerns over the proposed realignment of the Welsh-medium school catchment areas. However, the proposed capacity increase at Pillgwenlly Primary School was seen as a positive benefit to the community, increasing the chances of siblings being able to attend the same school local to their home. Overall the responses from stakeholders at this drop-in session was mixed. Fifteen written responses were also received during the session.

The second drop-in session, held at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, was supported by:

- Education Transformation Officer;
- Two Education Information and Development Officers;
- Welsh Language Policy Officer (providing Welsh interpretation).

This event was attended by just one family who, as a result of their particular circumstances, raised questions around the proposed changes to Welsh-medium primary school catchment areas.

The third drop-in session, held at Pillgwenlly Primary School, was attended by approximately 30 stakeholders and was supported by:

- Service Manager – Education Resources & Planning;
- Education Transformation Officer;
- Education Information and Development Officer;
- School Admissions Officer (providing Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi interpretation);
- Welsh Language Policy Officer (providing Welsh interpretation);
- A member of the Welsh in Education Forum;
- Newport City Council Connected Communities team members to support Arabic, Czech, Polish, Slovak and Somali translation.
- One independent interpreter providing Romanian translation.

Some of the stakeholders attending this third drop-in had also attended the previous session at Pillgwenlly and raised similar concerns in relation to traffic flows on Mendalgief Road, safe routes to school, revised catchment areas and whether there was a need for a new Welsh-medium primary school in the area. The discussions which took place reassured some of the stakeholders present and overall there was a positive response to the information that was shared. Eight response pro-formas were also received from stakeholders during this event.

The fourth drop-in session, held at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School, was not attended by any stakeholders but was supported by:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Manager;
- Education Transformation Officer;
- Education Information and Development Officer;
- Welsh Language Policy Officer (providing Welsh interpretation);
- Equalities Officer (providing Welsh interpretation).

The fifth drop-in session, held at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, was also not attended by any stakeholders but was supported by:

- Service Manager – Education Resources & Planning;
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Manager;
- Education Information and Development Officer;
- Welsh Language Policy Officer (providing Welsh interpretation);
- A member of the Welsh in Education Forum.

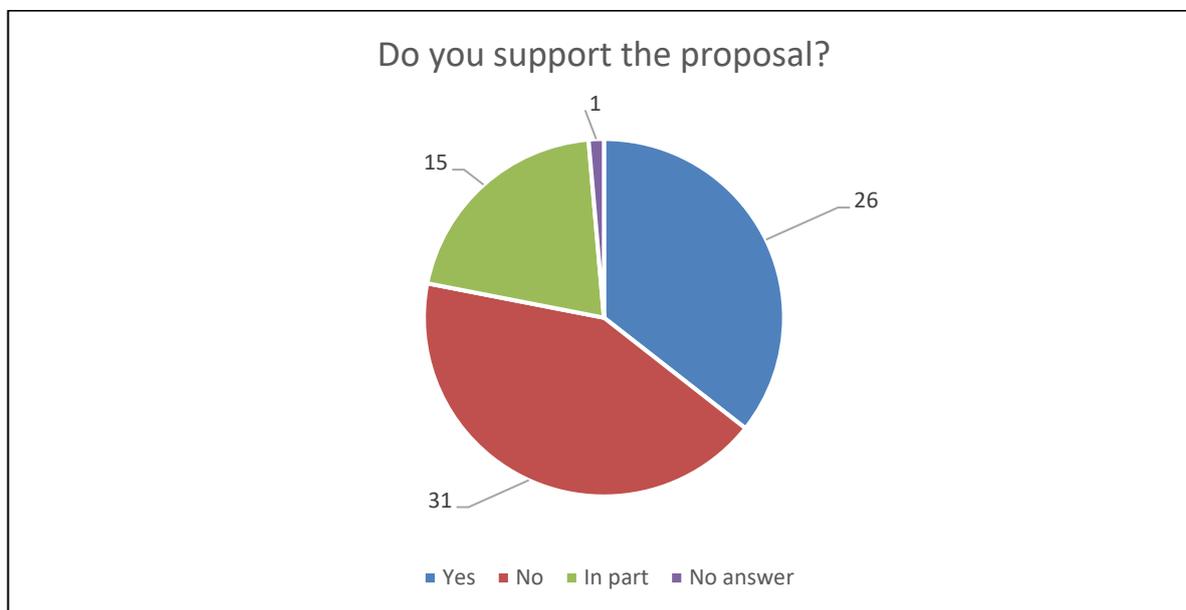
## Consultation Responses

Overall, a total of 75 responses were received during the consultation process, 73 of which were made via the response pro-forma (see Appendix A). There were also two responses by email, one from a parent and one from Estyn (*Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales*).

The 73 pro-forma responses were received from a variety of stakeholders including parents, carers and pupils of affected schools, teachers and Chairs of Governors from across Newport schools, employees of the Council and local community members and residents. 38 of these responses were made on-line, with 35 being received at the various drop-in events and pupil voice sessions.

The following charts provide a breakdown of responses against each of the questions:

**Question 1** – Do you support the proposal to establish a 2FE community maintained Welsh-medium primary school (ages 3-11) with LRB facility and to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School from its existing site to the new build on the Whiteheads development, and in doing so to increase the capacity of the school for mainstream pupils from 546 to 630; and LRB provision from 10 to 20 pupils?



26 out of the 73 respondents (36%) stated that they supported the proposal, with additional views provided as follows:

- The proposal will support parental choice;
- The proposed location for the new school offers a site in the South West of the city, close to Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed;
- The expansion of Pillgwenlly Primary will create additional school places in an area of high demand;
- There will be increased opportunities for children to learn another language;
- The proposal provides an opportunity for growth over a number of years.

A further 15 of the respondents (21%) supported the proposal in part, and offered a variety of reasons to support this view:

Comment / Question	Number of Similar Comments	Council's Response
<p>Whilst the proposal to increase the number of Welsh-medium primary school places is supported, why is the Council proposing to change Welsh-medium primary school catchment areas?</p>	<p>5</p>	<p><i>It is not possible to open a fourth Welsh-medium primary school without changing the existing catchment areas, as otherwise the new school would be without a catchment area. Due to the city of Newport being small, there is limited land available to build new schools. Newport City Council do their best to split the catchment areas equally throughout Newport taking into consideration how many houses and pupils are in each area against the number of places available at each school.</i></p> <p><i>Parents who are affected by the re-defined catchment areas can still make an application for their preferred school. Where a school is oversubscribed the Council's over-subscription criteria will be applied to determine priority. This gives a higher priority to children whose siblings are already attending the preferred school.</i></p>
<p>Whilst the proposed growth to Welsh-medium provision is supported, why has Pillgwenlly Primary School been chosen as the permanent location rather than the new school at Whiteheads?</p>	<p>4</p>	<p><i>There is very little available and suitable land across Newport to support a new school build. Alongside this, the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme includes a commitment to expand Pillgwenlly Primary School, and this is not achievable on the current site.</i></p> <p><i>The new school at Whiteheads will enable Pillgwenlly Primary to move to a larger site to support the required growth. As a result, the current building will become empty offering the opportunity for the new Welsh-medium school to be established in an existing Education Service asset, thus reducing the capital expenditure costs.</i></p> <p><i>This proposed location will also meet demand for Welsh-medium school places across the Centre and West of the city.</i></p>
<p>Whilst the proposed growth to Welsh-medium provision is supported, why is the seedling school being located in Caerleon?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><i>A number of alternative options were considered for the location of the seedling school before identifying the vacant Caerleon Lodge Hill Infant building as the most suitable site.</i></p> <p><i>Primarily, this offers the opportunity to use a vacant school building rather than utilise temporary accommodation. In addition, locating the seedling school here could assist in promoting Welsh-medium education in an area of low take-up.</i></p>

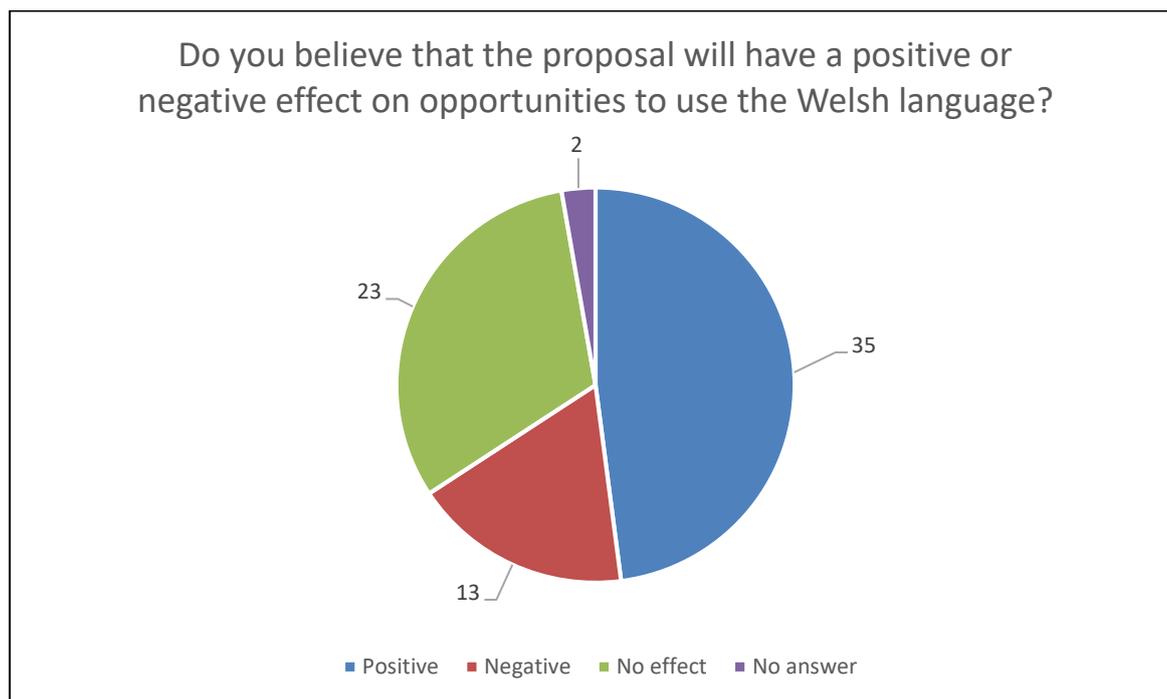
The lack of demand for Welsh-medium school places could have a detrimental impact on other schools across the City.	2	<i>Currently there are three Welsh-medium primary schools in Newport and all are almost full. Welsh Government is committed to increasing the number of Welsh speakers across Wales, and a fourth Welsh-medium primary school in Newport is key to supporting this. Opening a new school in the West of the City will ensure that Welsh-medium education is available locally for more families. Currently 5% of pupils across Newport access Welsh-medium primary education. In a recent parent survey however, 16% of respondents stated a preference for their child to attend a Welsh-medium primary school.</i>
The proposed site of the new school on the Whiteheads development is too far away from the current Pillgwenlly Primary school building.	2	<i>The proposed new school site is located just off Mendalgief Road, approximately half a mile away from the current Pillgwenlly Primary school building. The farthest edges of the catchment area are just over 1 mile from the proposed school site.</i>
How will the new school be funded as some schools are already struggling financially?	2	<i>The capital funding required to establish the new Welsh-medium primary school is being provided by Welsh Government, through a specific Welsh-medium Capital Grant. This funding is only available to support expansion in Welsh-medium education provision.</i>  <i>In terms of running costs, the Council has committed the required revenue funding to support the establishment of the new school and this is reflected within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. This will be taken from the overall Individual Schools Budget (ISB) for Newport schools.</i>

Finally, 31 of the 73 respondents (42%) did not support the proposal and raised a number of points in support of their views:

<b>Comment / Question</b>	<b>Number of Similar Comments</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
Why is this funding being used on a new Welsh-medium primary school and not on existing schools across Newport?	8	<i>The funding required to establish the new Welsh-medium primary school is being provided by Welsh Government, through a specific Welsh-medium Capital Grant. This funding is only available to support expansion in Welsh-medium education provision.</i>
Does Newport need another Welsh-medium Primary School as there does not appear to be a huge demand for Welsh-medium education?	5	<i>Currently there are three Welsh-medium primary schools in Newport and all are almost full. Welsh Government is committed to increasing the number of Welsh speakers across Wales, and a fourth Welsh-medium primary school in Newport is key to supporting this.</i> <i>Opening a new school in the West of the City will ensure that Welsh-medium education is</i>

		<i>available locally for more families. Currently 5% of pupils across Newport access Welsh-medium primary education. In a recent parent survey however, 16% of respondents stated a preference for their child to attend a Welsh-medium primary school.</i>
The proposed site of the new school on the Whiteheads development is some distance away from the current Pillgwenlly Primary school building, and it will be too far for children to walk.	5	<i>The proposed new school site is located just off Mendalgief Road, approximately half a mile away from the current Pillgwenlly Primary school building. The farthest edges of the catchment area are just over 1 mile from the proposed school site.</i>
Mendalgief Road is very busy and is not safe to cross with children.	3	<i>As part of this proposal, officers from the Education Service and City Services will consider appropriate measures to ensure Mendalgief Road is safe for pedestrians to cross.</i>
Why can't Pillgwenlly Primary School remain as it is, and the new Welsh-medium school be opened on Whiteheads site?	2	<i>There is very little available and suitable land across Newport to support a new school build. Alongside this, the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme includes a commitment to expand Pillgwenlly Primary School, and this is not achievable on the current site.</i>  <i>The new school at Whiteheads will enable Pillgwenlly Primary to move to a larger site to support the required growth. As a result, the current building will become empty offering the opportunity for the new Welsh-medium school to be established in an existing Education Service asset, thus reducing the capital expenditure costs.</i>
Why is the Council proposing to change Welsh-medium primary school catchment areas as part of this proposal?	1	<i>It is not possible to open a fourth Welsh-medium primary school without changing the existing catchment areas. Due to the city of Newport being small, there is limited land available to build new schools. Newport City Council do their best to split the catchment areas equally throughout Newport taking into consideration how many houses/pupils are in each area against how many places are available at each school.</i>  <i>Parents who are affected by the re-defined catchment areas can still make an application for their preferred school. Where a school is oversubscribed the Council's over-subscription criteria will be applied to determine priority. This gives a higher priority to children whose siblings are already attending the preferred school.</i>

**Question 2** – Do you believe that the proposal will have a positive or negative effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?



35 out of the 73 respondents (48%) stated that they believed the proposal would have a positive effect on the use of the Welsh language, with additional comments provided that:

- Additional jobs would as a result be created in both the Welsh-medium and English-medium sectors, and;
- This would offer the opportunity for young people to use an additional language.

However, 13 of the respondents (18%) stated that they believed the proposal would have a negative effect on the use of the Welsh language, providing the following comments to support this:

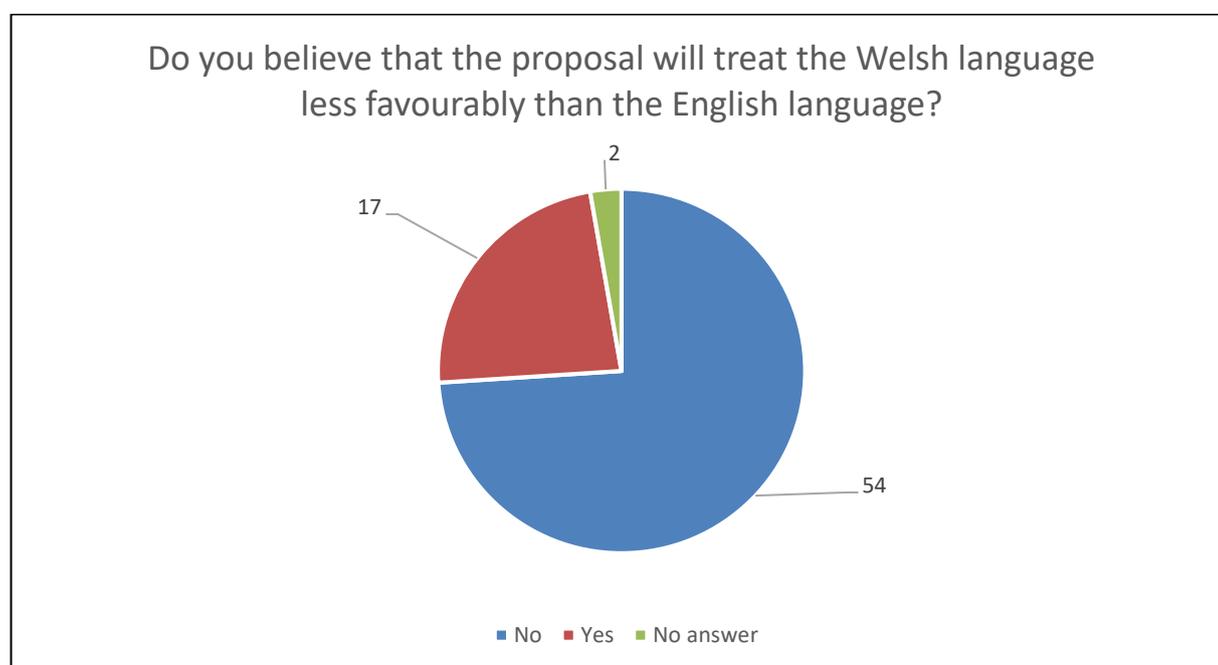
Comment / Question	Number of Similar Comments	Council's Response
Newport is not currently nor likely to be in the future a Welsh speaking region and as a result there is not a huge demand for Welsh-medium education in this area.	3	<i>Currently there are three Welsh-medium primary schools in Newport and all are almost full. Welsh Government is committed to increasing the number of Welsh speakers across Wales, and a fourth Welsh-medium primary school in Newport is key to supporting this. Opening a new school in the West of the City will ensure that Welsh-medium education is available locally for more families. Currently 5% of pupils across Newport access Welsh-medium primary education. In a recent parent survey however, 16% of respondents stated a preference for their child to attend a Welsh-medium primary school.</i>

<p>The new school should be established in a more appropriate location.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p><i>There is very little available and suitable land across Newport to support a new school build. Alongside this, the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme includes a commitment to expand Pillgwenlly Primary School, and this is not achievable on the current site.</i></p> <p><i>The new school at Whiteheads will enable Pillgwenlly Primary to move to a larger site to support the required growth. As a result, the current building will become empty offering the opportunity for the new Welsh-medium school to be established in an existing Education Service asset, thus reducing the capital expenditure.</i></p> <p><i>Opening a new school in the Pillgwenlly area will also ensure that Welsh-medium education is available locally for more families and supports the demand for Welsh-medium school places across the Centre and West of the city.</i></p>
<p>Families will be reluctant to choose the seedling school given its location.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>A number of alternative options were considered for the location of the seedling school before identifying the vacant Caerleon Lodge Hill Infant building as the most suitable site. Primarily, this offers the opportunity to use a vacant school building rather than utilise temporary accommodation. In addition, locating the seedling school here could assist in promoting Welsh-medium education in an area of low take-up.</i></p>
<p>The proposed change to catchment areas will impact on families, specifically in relation to siblings being forced to attend different schools and eligibility for home to school transport.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>There is no guarantee of admission to a chosen school, even if it is the catchment school. If this proposal is approved, applications for admission from September 2020 onwards will be considered against the revised catchment areas. Parents who are affected by the re-defined catchment areas can still make an application for their preferred school. Where a school is oversubscribed the Council's over-subscription criteria will be applied to determine priority. This gives a higher priority to children whose siblings are already attending the preferred school. Whilst the Council's Home to School Transport policy is based on pupils meeting the distance criteria from the catchment or nearest available school, there is a possibility that non-eligible pupils could apply for a concessionary seat. There is however a cost associated with this that must be borne by parents.</i></p>

Another 23 respondents (31%) stated that they believed the proposal would have no effect on the use of the Welsh language, offering the following comment:

Comment / Question	Number of Similar Comments	Council's Response
There is not a large demand amongst parents for their children to speak Welsh, nor is there a demand from employers for Welsh-speaking staff.	5	<i>Welsh Government approved Newport's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) in 2018. This includes a commitment to expand primary provision across the City so that the proportion of seven-year-old pupils taught through the medium of Welsh is increased from 3.9% to 5% by 2022/23. The proposal will assist and support Welsh Government's charter of achieving 1 million Welsh speakers across Wales by 2050.</i>

**Question 3** – Do you believe that the proposal will treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?



In total, 54 out of the 73 respondents (74%) stated that they believed the proposal would not treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language. Additional comments were provided as follows:

Comment / Question	Number of Similar Comments	Council's Response
The proposal is likely to treat the Welsh language more favourably than the English language and could be perceived as discriminatory towards English-medium schools.	1	<i>The Council aims to treat the Welsh-medium and English-medium sectors as equally as possible. There are currently a number of projects ongoing which are focussed at improving school buildings across both sectors.</i>

Establishing the new primary school close to Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed will assist in increasing awareness of Welsh-medium education and give parents increased choice.	1	<i>Opening a new school in Pillgwenlly will ensure that Welsh-medium education is available locally for more families and also supports the demand for Welsh-medium school places across the Centre and West of the city.</i>
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However, 17 respondents (23%) stated that they believed the proposal would treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language, offering the following comments to support this view:

<b>Comment / Question</b>	<b>Number of Similar Comments</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
It is disappointing that the permanent location is an existing school building, rather than a new school build.	5	<p><i>There is very little available and suitable land across Newport to support a new school build. Alongside this, the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme includes a commitment to expand Pillgwenlly Primary School, and this is not achievable on the current site.</i></p> <p><i>The new school at Whiteheads will enable Pillgwenlly Primary to move to a larger site to support the required growth. As a result, the current building will become empty offering the opportunity for the new Welsh-medium school to be established in an existing Education Service asset, thus reducing the capital expenditure.</i></p> <p><i>Opening a new school in the Pillgwenlly area will also ensure that Welsh-medium education is available locally for more families and supports the demand for Welsh-medium school places across the Centre and West of the city.</i></p>
The proposed catchment areas mean that some children who elect Welsh-medium education will still be unable to walk to a local school.	1	<p><i>The proposed catchment areas have been defined to consider the number of properties in each area against the number of places available at each school.</i></p> <p><i>The Council's Home to School Transport policy is designed to support access to school, and any child who lives two miles or more from their catchment or nearest available school will be eligible for this assistance.</i></p> <p><i>The establishment of a new school in a new location will undoubtedly mean that more children will have the opportunity to attend a school within walking distance of their home.</i></p>

The proposed catchment areas could have an impact on families whose older children have already started school.	1	<p><i>There is no guarantee of admission to a chosen school, even if it is the catchment school. If this proposal is approved, applications for admission from September 2020 onwards will be considered against the revised catchment areas.</i></p> <p><i>Parents who are affected by the re-defined catchment areas can still make an application for their preferred school. Where a school is oversubscribed the Council's over-subscription criteria will be applied to determine priority. This gives a higher priority to children whose siblings are already attending the preferred school.</i></p>
People are starting to resent the way that the Welsh-language is being constantly pushed.	1	<p><i>The Council is committed to promoting access to Welsh-medium education to align with the Welsh Government's charter of achieving 1 million Welsh speakers across Wales by 2050. As a result, parents have the choice to send their children to either English-medium or Welsh-medium schools.</i></p>

As previously outlined, one further parental response was received by email. This outlined some concerns in relation to the proposed catchment areas, specifically in relation to the potential for siblings having to attend different schools and the associated implications of home to school transport eligibility. The response also indicated a view that the new school might not succeed as families living in the Pillgwenlly area could be reluctant to travel to the temporary site in Caerleon.

In response, and as previously outlined, it is not possible to open a fourth Welsh-medium primary school without changing the existing catchment areas, as otherwise the new school would be without a catchment area. Parents who are affected by the re-defined catchment areas can still make an application for their preferred school. Where a school is oversubscribed the Council's over-subscription criteria will be applied to determine priority. This gives a higher priority to children whose siblings are already attending the preferred school. The Council's Home to School Transport policy is designed to support access to school, and any child who lives two miles or more from their catchment or nearest available school will be eligible for this assistance. Any child who currently benefits from this assistance will continue to do so following implementation of the proposal.

The response from Estyn is referred to in the following section.

## **Estyn's Response**

The full response from Estyn is included at Appendix B of this report. However, in summary, the response outlines that the proposal:

- Corresponds with the Welsh Government's objective of a million Welsh speakers by 2050 by increasing the use of the Welsh language in education in Newport;
- Is in keeping with the objectives of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and;
- Addresses the need to provide more English-medium spaces reasonably by relocating Pillgwenlly Primary School to a new building.

In conclusion, the response states that the Council has given appropriate consideration to a range of options in advance of taking forward the proposal, and the proposal will result in the current standards of education being at least maintained.

## Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People

An Everyday Summary Version of the main consultation document was also prepared and published, and was targeted specifically at children and young people. This summary version was available on request from the Information Station and the Civic Centre. Copies were also shared with the Newport Youth Council who as a result were able to promote the proposal at Maindee Festival and the Big Splash.

## Learner Voice

The Council was keen to gain the views of learners, and this was facilitated by members of the Education Service who attended a series of consultation meetings with groups of pupils attending the affected schools. The main points and questions raised during these sessions are outlined on the following pages:

### ***Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary School***

<b>Question / Comments</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
School pick up and drop off times are already busy and the new seedling school will add to this problem. Has this been considered?	<i>The seedling school will only be used for two academic years and at most will accommodate a maximum of 60 full-time pupils, plus 48 nursery pupils attending either a morning or afternoon session. The proposed building is some distance from your school and will have a separate drop off/pick up area so there shouldn't be much disruption.</i>
Will the seedling school need to use our field?	<i>Possibly yes as there will be limited outdoor space available for the seedling school. This will be discussed between the two Headteachers who will ensure that the two schools do not use these facilities at the same time.</i>
What colour will the uniform be?	<i>The Headteacher of the new school will decide this, but will probably want to ensure that there is no clash with other local schools.</i>
What will happen to the building after the seedling school moves out?	<i>The Education Service will look at an alternative permanent use for the building.</i>
Is there a chance that the school might stay in the old infant building permanently?	<i>No, the vacant building is not big enough to host the new school permanently.</i>
Will children leave our school to go the new school?	<i>The new school will only be available for children in nursery and Reception to start with and therefore this is unlikely. However, children who live in Caerleon and are starting school may choose to go to the new school rather than either Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary or Charles Williams Church in Wales Primary.</i>

### **Pillgwenlly Primary School**

<b>Questions / Comments</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
How many children will there be in our school when it moves and how many will be in each class?	<i>The new building will be able to fit 762 pupils in total, which is 94 more than at present. There will be up to 30 children in each class, although the classrooms will be bigger than those in the current school.</i>
Will the school start and end times change?	<i>Not necessarily, but this will be for the Headteacher and governors to decide.</i>
Will the school uniform change?	<i>Not necessarily, but this will be for the Headteacher and governors to decide.</i>
What facilities will be in the new school? Will there be a swimming pool, games room, library, art room and music room?	<i>Unfortunately, there will not be a swimming pool in the new school. However, there will be lots of flexible spaces, and the school will help decide what these are used for.</i>
What outdoor facilities will we have?	<i>A sports pitch will be provided, and we are considering whether this will be an artificial pitch which can be used all year round. There will also be a hard play area and a nature area.</i>
It is good that this building is being used for another school and that more children will be able to go to a Welsh-medium school.	<i>There are very few spare buildings belonging to the Council, so we are lucky that Pillgwenlly Primary is in good condition and can be used for the new school. Having a Welsh-medium school and an English-medium school in Pillgwenlly will give parents more choice when picking a school for their children.</i>
The new school will be closer to my house.	<i>Yes, some families will have less distance to travel to the school.</i>
Having an extra class for children with additional learning needs is a good idea.	<i>Some children need additional help with learning and the proposal is to have an extra class for this.</i>

### **Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed**

<b>Questions / Comments</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
How many children will be able to attend the new Welsh-medium primary school?	<i>Once the school moves to its permanent site and is fully grown, it will be able to accommodate 478 pupils in total.</i>
What will happen if the new school becomes full?	<i>Longer term, a 5th Welsh-medium primary school in Newport may be a possibility but this is not anticipated for a long time.</i>
Where will the seedling school be located and how far is this from the permanent site in Pillgwenlly?	<i>The seedling school will be located in Caerleon, at the vacant Lodge Hill Infant school. This is approximately 5.7 miles from the permanent site in Pillgwenlly.</i>
How long will the seedling school be open?	<i>The intention is that the seedling school will only be open for two years. However, the building is large enough to host the school for an additional third year if necessary.</i>
Will children living in Pillgwenlly get free transport to the seedling school?	<i>Yes, it is likely that children who live in Pillgwenlly who apply to attend the Reception class at the seedling school will receive free home to school transport.</i>
Is there enough space in Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed for the children who will attend the new school?	<i>Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed is able to accommodate a maximum of 900 pupils, and therefore the Council is considering longer-term secondary provision. This will not impact until September 2027 at the earliest.</i>

Why has Pillgwenlly been chosen as the permanent location for the new school?	<i>Opening a new school in Pillgwenlly will ensure that Welsh-medium education is available locally for more families and also supports the demand for Welsh-medium school places across the Centre and West of the city.</i>
Will an increase in Welsh-medium provision eventually mean a decrease in English-medium provision?	<i>The population of Newport is growing but it is certainly possible that if the number of pupils in Welsh-medium education increases, then the number in English language schools could decrease over time. Many of our primary schools are full however and therefore we believe this proposal will enable additional choice for families.</i>
What will be the impact on Pillgwenlly Primary school staff when they move to the new building?	<i>There will be no impact on staff. In fact, as the new building will be bigger than the current school, additional staff will be needed.</i>
Do you think the Council will ever open a Welsh-medium special school?	<i>As part of the proposal, Newport's first Welsh-medium Learning Resource Base will be established. Provision for children with additional learning needs will continue to be monitored by the Education Service.</i>

### ***Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon***

<b>Questions / Comments</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
What will happen to our school when the new school opens?	<i>There should be no adverse effect on any of the existing Welsh-medium primary schools, although typically some children will be likely to apply for the new school if it is closer to their home address.</i>
Will any children currently attending this school be forced to move to the new school?	<i>No. Children can continue to attend their existing school if that is their choice.</i>
What will happen if the new school at Whiteheads doesn't open as planned?	<i>The intention is that the seedling school will only be open for two years. However, the building is large enough to host the school for an additional third year if necessary.</i>
What is a Learning Resource Base?	<i>A Learning Resource Base is a class specifically for children who need extra help with their learning. Many English-medium primary schools already host these classes.</i>
How much will it cost to open the new school?	<i>The Council has received a grant of £5.8 million from Welsh Government to open the new school.</i>
Is there enough space in Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed for the children who will attend the new school?	<i>Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed is able to accommodate a maximum of 900 pupils, and therefore the Council is considering longer-term secondary provision. This will not impact until September 2027 at the earliest.</i>
Will the new school have any effect on the existing Welsh-medium schools?	<i>Not intentionally, but inevitably some children will apply for places at the new school and some staff could also move jobs.</i>
How will the classes be arranged at the new Welsh-medium primary school?	<i>The proposal is for the school to operate straight-age classes. At the seedling school, there will be one class per year group, although this will increase to two classes per year group when the school moves to the permanent site.</i>

Do you think the location of the seedling school will have an effect on applications for the new school?	<i>This is a possibility. Moreover take-up of Welsh-medium education from families living in Caerleon is currently low, and therefore hosting the seedling in this area could actually promote this.</i>
What is a temporary governing body and what do they do?	<i>The temporary governing body is a group of people who will work together to appoint the new Headteacher and ensure that the new school opens as planned.</i>
How many children do you think will be in Welsh-medium schools?	<i>We think that by 2026, up to 1000 pupils will be attending Welsh-medium primary schools across Newport.</i>
Is there a risk in opening the seedling school before the permanent site is secured?	<i>Yes, this is a risk and is something that the Council is working hard to avoid.</i>

### **Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd**

<b>Questions / Comments</b>	<b>Council's Response</b>
How long will it take to build the new school at Whiteheads?	<i>The new school build programme will take approximately 18 months.</i>
Why can't Pillgwenlly Primary be expanded on its current site?	<i>There is very limited outdoor space at the school to enable us to build an extension, and as it is already on two floors it can't grow any taller.</i>
How will the new school be designed and why are you only creating 3 classes per year group?	<i>We haven't agreed the design yet, but again it is likely to be a two-storey building. The available land means that we couldn't build the school any bigger than a 3 classes per year group arrangement. This is in line with the biggest schools we currently have across Newport.</i>
How much will it cost to build the new primary school at Whiteheads?	<i>The new school will cost around £12 million to build and furnish, and the money has been set aside to pay for this.</i>
What will be the name of the new Welsh-medium primary school?	<i>This will be decided by the Headteacher and the temporary governing body once the proposal has been approved.</i>
How far is the seedling school from the permanent location?	<i>The seedling school will be located in Caerleon, at the vacant Lodge Hill Infant school. This is approximately 5.7 miles from the permanent site in Pillgwenlly.</i>
Is there enough space in Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed for the children who will attend the new school?	<i>Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed is able to accommodate a maximum of 900 pupils, and therefore the Council is considering longer-term secondary provision. This will not impact until September 2027 at the earliest.</i>
How many pupils will be able to go to the new Welsh-medium primary school?	<i>Once the school moves to its permanent site and is fully grown, it will be able to accommodate 478 pupils in total.</i>

## Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael

Questions / Comments	Council's Response
Why is the catchment area for our school being made smaller?	<i>It is not possible to open a fourth Welsh-medium primary school without changing the existing catchment areas. Due to the city of Newport being small, there is limited land available to build new schools. The proposal splits the catchment areas equally throughout Newport taking into consideration how many houses/pupils are in each area against how many places are available at each school.</i>
Will the amended catchment area mean that less children will attend our school?	<i>This is a possibility, however in denoting the new catchment areas we have taken into consideration how many houses/pupils are in each area against how many places are available at each school. In addition, opening the new school as a seedling means that it will grow slowly and thus the impact on existing schools is lessened.</i>
Why was Pillgwenlly chosen as the permanent location for the new school?	<i>Opening a new school in Pillgwenlly will ensure that Welsh-medium education is available locally for more families and also supports the demand for Welsh-medium school places across the Centre and West of the city.</i>
Why couldn't the new school at Whiteheads become the fourth Welsh-medium primary school?	<i>There is very little available and suitable land across Newport to support a new school build. Alongside this, the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme includes a commitment to expand Pillgwenlly Primary School, and this is not achievable on the current site. The new school at Whiteheads will enable Pillgwenlly Primary to move to a larger site to support the required growth. As a result, the current building will become empty offering the opportunity for the new Welsh-medium school to be established in an existing Education Service asset, thus reducing the capital expenditure costs. This proposed location will also meet demand for Welsh-medium school places across the Centre and West of the city.</i>
Will home to school transport be provided for the children attending the seedling school? What will happen when the school moves to the permanent location?	<i>Yes, it is likely that children who live in Pillgwenlly who apply to attend the Reception class at the seedling school will receive free home to school transport. Whilst the catchment area for the new school is not proposed to extend into Caerleon, the seedling school is likely to be attractive to families in the Caerleon area. In order to support the establishment of the new school, any pupils from Caerleon who elect to attend the seedling school will be entitled to free home to school transport to Pillgwenlly from September 2022 when the school moves to its permanent location. This discretionary assistance will be awarded to this specific group of pupils only, and unfortunately cannot be extended to include siblings.</i>

## Other Considerations

Page 28 of the published consultation document lists the key risks to the proposal and notes that any delays in the construction of the new school on the Whiteheads development could impact on the proposed move of the new Welsh-medium school from the temporary site to the permanent location. A pre-requisite for the construction of the new school building is the transfer of the land on which the school will be sited to Newport City Council ownership, and this in itself is dependent on the commencement of the adjacent housing development. This was initially expected to take place in spring 2019.

Since the public consultation was launched however, the land developer has confirmed that the relevant planning conditions have not been discharged to enable commencement of the scheme and the resultant transfer of the school site. Until these issues are resolved the development will be delayed, and therefore there is currently some uncertainty over when this land transfer will occur. The most recent correspondence indicates that this will not be before December 2020 at the earliest.

## Recommendations

In light of the uncertainty over the timeframe for the site being made available, it is recommended that the Council moves forward with the proposal through publication of a statutory notice, albeit with a deferred implementation date of one full academic year. This would mean that:

- The seedling school would open in September 2021;
- Pillgwenlly Primary School would be relocated to the new school on the Whiteheads development at the start of the Spring term 2023, and;
- The new Welsh-medium primary school would move to its permanent site in Pillgwenlly from September 2023.

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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In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2018) this report is published electronically on Newport City Council's website at [www.newport.gov.uk](http://www.newport.gov.uk)

To request a hard (paper) copy of this document please contact Newport City Council by telephoning 01633 656656 or emailing [school.reorg@newport.gov.uk](mailto:school.reorg@newport.gov.uk)

# Appendix A: Consultation Response Pro-forma

This response relates to:

- The establishment of a Welsh-medium seedling primary school from September 2020
- The relocation and subsequent expansion of Pillgwenlly Primary School for January 2022 and
- The transfer of the seedling school to a permanent location on the site of the current Pillgwenlly Primary School from September 2022.

Your views matter. Please tell us what you think about the proposal by completing this questionnaire and returning it to the Education Information and Development Officer, Newport City Council, Room 425W, Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR. Alternatively, you can complete this form online at

[www.newport.gov.uk/schoolreorganisation](http://www.newport.gov.uk/schoolreorganisation) or email your response to [school.reorg@newport.gov.uk](mailto:school.reorg@newport.gov.uk).

**The closing date for the submission of responses to this consultation is midnight on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

**September 2019.** Please note that negative responses made to this consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal, they will be recorded as adverse comments. Objections can only be registered following the publication of a statutory notice.

## 1) Do you support the proposal to:

To establish a 2FE community maintained Welsh-medium primary school (ages 3-11) with LRB facility and to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School from its existing site to the new build on the Whiteheads development, and in doing so to increase the capacity of the school for mainstream pupils from 546 to 630; and LRB provision from 10 to 20 pupils.

Yes  No  In part

**Please use the box below to provide comments or explain which element of the proposal you do not support**

## 2) Do you

**believe that the proposal will have a positive or negative effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?**

Positive  Negative  No effect

## 3) If you think it will have a negative effect, what steps could we take to lessen or remove this and improve positive effects?

4) Do you believe that the proposal will treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?

Yes  No

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Please indicate who you are (e.g. parent/carer of a child attending a local nursery)

--

Please select your Ethnic group			
White British		Asian-Bangladeshi	
White Irish		Asian-Indian	
Any other White background (please state): _____		Asian-Pakistani	
		Any other Asian background	
Gypsy or Irish Traveller		Black Caribbean	
White and Asian		Black African	
White and Black African		Any other Black background	
White and Black Caribbean		Arab	
Any other Mixed background (please state): _____		Chinese	
		Any other ethnic group (please state): _____	
Asian-Bangladeshi		Prefer not to say	
Asian-Indian			
Asian-Pakistani			

Welsh language			
<b>Do you consider yourself a Welsh speaker?</b>			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>

Caring Responsibilities			
<b>Do you care for children of school age?</b>			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Do you care for children of pre-school age?</b>			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Do you care for a dependent adult or child above school age?</b>			
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>

If you wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report, please supply your contact details:

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix B: Estyn's full response to the proposal to establish a new Welsh-medium school and relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School**

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

### **Introduction**

This is a proposal by Newport City Council.

The proposal is as follows:

- To establish a Welsh-medium seedling primary school on the vacant site of the former Caerleon Lodge Hill Infant School from September 2020;
- To relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School from its existing site to a new building on the Whiteheads development, thereby increasing the capacity of the school for mainstream pupils from 546 to 630 and its Learning Resource Base (LRB) from 10 to 20 places from January 2022; and
- Subsequently transfer the seedling school to a permanent location on the site of the current Pillgwenlly Primary School from September 2022.

### **Summary/Conclusion**

The proposal corresponds with the Welsh Government's objective of a million Welsh speakers by 2050 (Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers) by increasing the use of the Welsh language in education in Newport.

The proposal is in keeping with the objectives of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

The proposal addresses the need to provide more English-medium spaces reasonably by relocating Pillgwenlly Primary School to a new building.

The Council has given appropriate consideration to a range of options and has chosen the above proposal.

Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standards of education.

### **Description and benefits**

The proposer provides a clear and detailed rationale for the proposal. It identifies fairly that this proposal corresponds with the objectives of Newport City Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, in addition to the Welsh Government's objectives to increase the number of Welsh speakers. It refers validly to the results of the parental demand survey, which shows a potential increase in the demand for Welsh-medium education in Newport.

The proposer shows clearly that the English-medium school, Pillgwenlly Primary School, is fully subscribed and has a waiting list for each year group.

In addition, the demand for places is likely to increase following new housing developments in the area. It states validly that there is not enough space on the current site to expand the school, and that doing so would mean building on the outdoor play areas.

The proposer has given valid consideration to other options. These include locating the Welsh seedling school on other sites, including on the grounds of the Welsh-medium secondary school. They identify the advantages, disadvantages and risks associated with the proposal and the different options clearly. The proposer states clearly why it favours the proposal and refers to the benefits of opening a Welsh-medium seedling school. It asserts fairly that relocating Pillgwenlly Primary School to a new site will create additional English-medium capacity. The proposer also asserts in a balanced way that opening the Welsh-medium seedling school, in the Caerleon area initially before moving it to its permanent site, may lead to an increase in demand for Welsh-medium education in that area.

The proposer draws relevant attention to that fact that the facilities on the new site of Pillgwenlly Primary School will provide an opportunity for the school to create better community engagement by ensuring access for members of the local community.

The proposer has given suitable consideration to the effect of the proposal on Welsh-medium provision within the authority. It asserts fairly that the proposal would have a positive effect on the number of places that are available in Welsh-medium education in the Newport area.

The proposer has given sufficient consideration on the effect of the proposal on learners' travel arrangements and the accessibility of provision. It states firmly that pupils who are currently eligible for free home to school transport will not lose this provision as a result of establishing the new school and the associated revision of catchment areas. It states fairly that the fact that there will be a new Welsh-medium education facility in the heart of the city is likely to reduce the distance that pupils will have to travel to access Welsh-medium education.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposer has given detailed consideration to the effect of the proposal on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership at the school.

It refers validly to the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspections of the Welsh and English-medium schools in the areas concerned, their categories and support bandings.

It comes to the reasonable conclusion that it does not anticipate any negative effects on the quality of educational standards, wellbeing, learning experiences or leadership. It asserts strongly that the proposal will have a positive effect on pupils' education. This is because buildings on both sites will include appropriate resources to deliver a full curriculum to mainstream pupils and those with additional learning needs.

The proposer states firmly that locating specialist provision for pupils with additional learning needs at both sites would strengthen such provision through the medium of Welsh and English. As a result of the proposal, there would be an increase of 100% in the capacity of the Learning Resource Base (LRB) on the grounds of Pillgwenlly Primary School. The proposal would also create an LRB with 10 places on the grounds of the new Welsh-medium primary school, which is provision that does not exist currently across the Welsh-medium primary sector in Newport.

The proposer has conducted an equality impact assessment and claims reasonably that the proposal should not have a detrimental effect on any specific groups. It states clearly that the proposal would ensure better provision for pupils with additional learning needs in both languages.

The proposer asserts fairly that including nursery provision at the new Welsh-medium primary school would increase the number of part-time places that are available through the medium of Welsh in Newport. It states in a balanced manner that the proposal could lead to additional pressure on places at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed due to the increasing number of children who receive primary education through the medium of Welsh.

The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the possible disruption for existing pupils.

## Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment (FEIA)

### Move to publish a proposal to establish a new Welsh Medium Primary School and to relocate Pillgwenlly Primary School

Version 3.6 May 2017

The purpose of this assessment is to provide balanced information to support decision making and to promote better ways of working in line with equalities (Equalities Act 2010), Welsh language promotion (The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), sustainable development (Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015), and the four parameters of debate about fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission (NFC Full Report to Council 2013).

**Completed by:** Richard Sexty **Role:** Education Transformation Officer

**Head of Service:** Sarah Morgan **Date:** 18/12/2019

**I confirm that the above Head of Service has agreed the content of this assessment**

**Yes / No**

**When you complete this FEIA, it is your responsibility to submit it to**  
 impact.assessment@newport.gov.uk

#### **1. Name and description of the policy / proposal being assessed. Outline the policy's purpose.**

The purpose is to seek permission to take forward a school reorganisation proposal to establish a new two form entry (60 pupils per year group) Welsh-medium primary school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years. The school will open at a temporary location at the former Caerleon Lodge Hill Infants site as a seedling school in September 2021; starting with 1 nursery class of 24 places and 1 reception class of 30 places. The following year the school will remain on the temporary site with 1 nursery class, 1 reception class, and 1 year one class. In September 2023 the school will move to the current Pillgwenlly Primary school site which will become the permanent location for the new school. From September 2023 the Reception admission number will rise to 60 pupils (2 classes) each year, and a 10 place Learning Resource Base (LRB) will be established.

Pillgwenlly Primary school currently has a year group size of 78 children, although with more children living in the area and wanting to attend this school, the school needs to be made bigger. However, there is no more room left at the school to build extra classrooms, so it has been decided to move Pillgwenlly Primary school to a new location.

Less than a mile away from Pillgwenlly Primary school there is a large area of land known as the 'Whiteheads site' with planning permission to build new houses and it has land available for a new school. The school will be big enough to have 3 classes per year group (30 children in each class, total of 90 per year group).

It is proposed that Pillgwenlly Primary School will move into the new school building, which will be big enough to accept additional pupil applications and will offer more teaching and support jobs. The pupils at Pillgwenlly Primary school would not be able to move to the new site until January 2023, which will then leave the current Pillgwenlly Primary School building available for the new Welsh-medium school to move in. There will be 6 months for the builders to refurbish the current Pillgwenlly Primary school ready for the new Welsh-medium primary school to move in in September 2023.

## **2. Outline how you have/ will involve stakeholders who will be affected by the policy/proposal**

This proposal has been developed in response to feedback received through the Welsh Education Forum (WEF) and Welsh-language promotion group with regard to the location of the current 3 Welsh-medium primary schools and the need to provide an accessible Welsh-medium offer for all parts of the city. The proposal also follows the maturation in 2017 of the last Welsh-medium seedling primary school, Ysgol Bro Teyrnnon. The proposal is made possible through the announcement of and successful bid for funding through Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Capital Grant.

If permission to take this proposal forward is granted, the proposal will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the statutory School Organisation Code.

The consultation process represented an opportunity for people to learn about the proposal, ask questions and make comments. A combination of online and face to face consultation methods ensured those most directly affected by the proposal were able to contribute to the decision making process.

Five drop-in events were arranged where Council officers were on hand to explain the proposals in more detail and answer any questions. Two drop-in events took place at Pillgwenlly Primary school where approximately 80 stakeholders attended over the two sessions. Interpreters were on hand to assist with the following languages: Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, Bengali, Czech, Polish, Slovak, Kurdish, Somali, and Welsh. 23 written responses were received from these events. There were two events held at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed and only one family attended out of the two sessions. There was Welsh interpretation provided at both of these events. A fifth drop-in event was held at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary school, where Welsh interpretation was also provided, although no stakeholders attended this session.

Comments and questions could also be submitted using a consultation response pro-forma. This pro-forma was available at the drop-in sessions and on the Council's website. Social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook also shared information on proposed changes.

Sessions were arranged at the affected schools involving the school council, giving the pupils an opportunity to voice their opinion on the proposal. Their comments are part of the consultation report published on the Council's website.

A Children and Young People's Everyday Summary version of the consultation document was available from Newport City Council. Copies were also made available at the Maindee Festival and the Big Splash. This version was available in English and Welsh and it was also translated into eight community languages: Bengali, Urdu, Arabic, Slovakian, Kurdish – Sorani, Kurdish – Bhadini, Somali, and Romanian for pupils at Pillgwenlly Primary.

A letter was also issued to parents of 2,000 children living in Newport who were born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 to make them aware of the proposal at the point when they would be making their application for a Nursery place for September 2020.

Following the consultation, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Education & Skills has considered the views expressed and has decided to proceed with the proposal. A statutory notice

will be published and posted at the relevant school sites. The statutory notice period will last for 28 days following the date of publication and enables people to express their views in the form of supporting or objecting to the proposals. If no objections are received following the publication of the statutory notice, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Education & Skills will make the final decision as to whether to proceed. If objections are received, the final decision will be referred to the Council's Cabinet.

**3. What information/evidence do you have on stakeholders? e.g. views, needs, service usage etc. Please include all the evidence you consider relevant.**

The statutory Code outlines the key stakeholders who should be consulted with as part of this process which includes schools, parents, elected members, community councils and trade unions. This list is not exclusive however, and the Council has identified and added to this as a result of feedback received in relation to previous proposals and will also consult with the Serennu Centre; SNAP Cymru and Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations. Consultation with stakeholder groups took place with pupils from the affected schools, via face-to-face meetings with the school council and through questionnaires. This gave pupils the opportunity to voice their opinion on the proposal.

The Pillgwenlly ward represents approximately 2.96% of the total area of Newport but is home to 5.3% of the total population of the city. ONS population figures for the ward show population growth in the area at 46% between 2011 and 2015, compared to whole Newport growth of 7.9%. The population growth has been primarily in those of working age (16-64) although the number of children aged 0-15 has also grown by 30% over the period. The number of people of retirement age has declined slightly.

As of the 2011 Census, BAME groups represent 39.5% of the population of Pillgwenlly, compared to just 10% of the overall population of Newport. The community is very diverse, with 24 different home languages recorded for Pillgwenlly Primary School's 678 pupils.

Unemployment is also higher in Pillgwenlly, at 7.3% compared with the Newport average (5.3%) and Wales average (4.3%). The level of economic disadvantage in the area is reflected by the proportion of pupils at the school eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) which is 33.8% compared to the Newport and Wales averages of 19.2% and 18.4% respectively.

The proposal has been developed in light of increased uptake of places in our 3 Welsh-medium primary schools in recent years and the maturation of the last seedling school, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon, in September 2017. The proposal has also been informed by views submitted in the regional Welsh-language parental preference survey and representations made by members of the Newport Welsh Education Forum which suggested current capacity would not be sufficient to meet future demand and also highlighted the lack of Welsh-medium provision in the centre and west of the city. The proposal is expected to stimulate and cater for increased demand for Welsh-medium education.

Following the period of formal consultation, a Consultation Report has been prepared and is published on the Council website, and the publication of a statutory notice is now proposed. The FEIA has been updated at this stage. The publication of the statutory notice enables stakeholders to lodge formal objections to the proposal.

#### 4. Equalities and Welsh language impact

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
<b>Age</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The establishment of a new Welsh-medium Primary school will support the increasing demand for Welsh-medium education across the city of Newport which has been growing significantly over recent years. There is currently no Welsh-medium provision for ages 3 - 11 years in the Caerleon area which could increase the opportunities for parents and children in this area to attend Welsh-medium education.
<b>Disability</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Newport City Council recognises that although there is some intersectionality between disability and Special Educational Needs, the two are not interdependent and can be mutually exclusive. However, for ease of reference, the potential impact on children with Special Educational Needs has been included in this section.</p> <p>The Council is committed to providing Learning Resource Base (LRB) facilities in all new school builds as this supports a more inclusive approach for pupils with additional learning needs. A 10 place LRB facility will be established within the new Welsh-medium primary school. There is currently no such provision within the other Welsh-medium Primary schools across Newport and will be Newport's first Welsh-medium LRB.</p> <p>The new school will be fully accessible for pupils with mobility and sensory impairments. During refurbishment, consideration will be made to ways in which the accessibility of the existing Pillgwenlly Primary School building can be improved.</p>
<b>Gender reassignment/transgender</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that suggests the proposal will have a disproportionate impact on people that share this Protected Characteristic). Toilet facilities which are provided as part of both schools' development will not be assigned gender specific signage, and may be allocated dependent on a range of factors (e.g. by class), however, it lies with the individual school to decide how these facilities are used.
<b>Marriage or civil partnership</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that suggests the proposal will have a disproportionate impact on people that share this Protected Characteristic).

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Pregnancy or maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For expectant parents, it is anticipated that an additional Welsh language medium school will have a positive impact on the education choices available locally.
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Pillgwenlly is a diverse community, with a high proportion of BAME residents. Within the current Primary School, 23% of 677 students list their first language as English, with 23 other languages spoken by pupils. 84% of pupils are identified as having English as an additional language, compared to an 18% average across all schools in Newport.</p> <p>Other languages most frequently spoken are Bengali (18%), and Punjabi (17%). 88% of pupils in Pillgwenlly Primary School are from a minority ethnic background, compared to an average of 26% in Newport.</p> <p>It can therefore be concluded that the relocation of the Primary School will have a disproportionate impact on pupils and parents from a BAME background who have English as a second language, or no English language skills. This has the potential to be a negative impact should the consultation process not be designed to be fully inclusive and accessible.</p> <p>It is recognised that families who speak English as a second language are comparatively under-represented in Welsh-medium education, with less than 10% of primary age children in Welsh-medium education being from BAME backgrounds, compared with almost 24% of pupils across all Newport schools. This presents a positive opportunity to encourage a bilingual education amongst these communities, but must be supported by appropriate promotion work.</p>
Religion or Belief or non-belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The new school is a Welsh-medium community primary school. The proposal does not provide the option of Welsh-medium faith based education. However, the school will follow all aspects of the new teaching curriculum including religious education, diversity and wellbeing. There is no evidence to suggest that this will have either a positive or negative impact on people that share this Protected Characteristic.
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that suggests the proposal will have a disproportionate impact on people that share this Protected Characteristic

Protected characteristic	Impact:			Provide further details about the nature of the impact in the section below. Does it: 1. Promote equal opportunity 2. Promote community cohesion 3. Help eliminate unlawful discrimination/ harassment/ victimisation?
	Positive	Negative	Neither	
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is no evidence that suggests the proposal will have a disproportionate impact on people that share this Protected Characteristic
Welsh Language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The new primary school will be a Welsh-medium school, meaning it will provide a large number of additional Welsh-medium school spaces in the Newport area. The proposal provides a strong contribution to the Welsh Government charter to reach 1 million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050. The establishment of a new Welsh-medium school will bring a positive impact to prospective parents who have considered sending their child to a Welsh-medium school. There will be an increase in places available and a new provision in the centre/west of the city, which has been identified as a target area for growth due to the location's current lack of Welsh medium education provision.</p> <p>Parents who currently send their children to a Welsh-medium primary school may potentially be impacted in a positive way as the new school could be more convenient, location wise for the parent to send their child/children. Parents selecting Welsh medium education will have an increased choice of Primary Schools for their children, and the introduction of a fourth Welsh medium school may also serve to reduce travel time as catchment areas will be suitably realigned.</p> <p>The proposals support the Council's target to increase the number of Primary aged children being educated through the medium of Welsh as set out in its 5 Year Strategy, as well as the Wellbeing Goal of creating a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.</p> <p>Newport City Council recognise the ongoing challenge of recruiting Welsh speaking staff into critical posts, including roles providing Welsh medium education. It is anticipated that the plans for a staggered start to the new Welsh medium school, enabling gradual growth, will assist in ensuring recruitment is successful and minimises any potential impact on other Welsh language medium schools.</p> <p>The Council recognise their responsibility to enable participation in any consultation through the medium of Welsh. The Council will ensure that processes reflect this, allowing for equitable contribution through the medium of both Welsh and English.</p>

## 5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable development principle in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term needs</p>	<p><b>1. Name and description of the policy / proposal being assessed. Outline the policy's purpose.</b></p> <p>The purpose is to seek permission to take forward a school reorganisation proposal to establish a new two form entry (60 pupils per year group) Welsh-medium primary school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years. The school will open at a temporary location at the former Caerleon Lodge Hill Infants site as a seedling school in September 2021; starting with 1 nursery class of 24 places and 1 reception class of 30 places. The following year the school will remain on the temporary site with 1 nursery class, 1 reception class, and 1 year one class. In September 2023 the school will move to the current Pillgwenlly Primary school site which will become the permanent location for the new school. From September 2023 the Reception admission number will rise to 60 pupils (2 classes) each year, and a 10 place Learning Resource Base (LRB) will be established.</p> <p>Pillgwenlly Primary school currently has a year group size of 78 children, although with more children living in the area and wanting to attend this school, the school needs to be made bigger. However, there is no more room left at the school to build extra classrooms, so it has been decided to move Pillgwenlly Primary school to a new location.</p> <p>Less than a mile away from Pillgwenlly Primary school there is a large area of land known as the 'Whiteheads site' with planning permission to build new houses and it has land available for a new school. The school will be big enough to have 3 classes per year group (30 children in each class, total of 90 per year group).</p> <p>It is proposed that Pillgwenlly Primary School will move into the new school building, which will be big enough to accept additional pupil applications and will offer more teaching and support jobs. The pupils at Pillgwenlly Primary school would not be able to move to the new site until January 2023, which will then leave the current Pillgwenlly Primary School building available for the new Welsh-medium school to move in. There will be 6 months for the builders to refurbish the current Pillgwenlly Primary school ready for the new Welsh-medium primary school to move in in September 2023.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together to deliver objectives</p>	<p>A formal statutory consultation has been carried out with the opportunity to engage with all stakeholders and be supported at each stage by a FEIA to consider impact. The proposal has been developed in response to representations from a range of stakeholders including the Newport Welsh Education Forum.</p>

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? Describe how.
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>A formal statutory consultation has been carried out with the opportunity to engage with all stakeholders and be supported at each stage by a FEIA to consider impact.</p> <p>The following stakeholders are amongst those who were engaged as part of the consultation process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents, carers and guardians of Pillgwenlly Primary School, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion and Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael;</li> <li>• Staff members at Pillgwenlly Primary School, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion and Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael;</li> <li>• Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by the school's subject to the proposals;</li> <li>• Estyn;</li> <li>• Any independent or voluntary nurse providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin;</li> <li>• The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership;</li> <li>• Any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest;</li> <li>• The Welsh Language Commissioner.</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> <li>• Voluntary organisations and interest groups</li> </ul>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>The need for Welsh-medium education has grown significantly in recent years and there is currently no Welsh-medium education within the Caerleon or Pillgwenlly area. The proposal will therefore benefit pupils and be available to be accessed by pupils living in both of these areas. This will allow children to attend a Welsh-medium school more local to their home address.</p> <p>The proposal will deliver 430 additional pupil places which will provide capacity for accelerated and long-term growth in Welsh-medium education over future years and potentially relieve pressure on other schools.</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>A formal statutory consultation has been carried out and supported at each stage by a FEIA to consider impact. This proposal supports the "A prosperous Wales", "A more equal Wales" and "A Wales of cohesive communities" Well-being Goals and has no adverse effect on any of the other Well-being Goals. In addition, this proposal supports the Newport City Council Well-being Objective "To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities", and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act's Wellbeing Goal to create a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.</p>

## 6 Will the proposal/policy have a disproportionate impact on a specific geographical area of Newport?

The Council is committed to providing additional Welsh-medium education provision across Newport. The proposal focuses on providing a long-term capacity for growth in the centre/west area of the city. This area has been identified as one which has been lacking in Welsh-medium provision and is also known to feature a significant amount of new housing, suggesting the pupil population of the area will increase. The location of the school should serve to reduce travel time for pupils choosing Welsh-medium education in the city.

The school's temporary location in Caerleon gives provision in an area, where there are currently no Welsh-medium schools. Once the school moves to the current Pillgwenlly Primary school site, pupils who attend the new Welsh-medium Primary school from the Caerleon area will be offered free school transport. Pupils in the Pillgwenlly area will also be offered free school transport whilst the school is temporarily located in the Caerleon area.

Although the proposal focuses on provision in the Pillgwenlly and Caerleon areas, there is no anticipated detrimental impact on any geographic area.

## 7 How does the proposal/policy relate to the parameters of debate about Fairness identified by the Newport Fairness Commission?

### Parameter 1 – Equal treatment while recognising difference

The Council is obligated to provide school places in accordance with the language preference (Welsh/English) of resident families. This proposal ensures that sufficient pupil places are made available to meet future demand for provision in both languages.

### Parameter 2 – Mutual Obligations between citizens and government

While the local authority will provide the school and the staff, the community must engage with the school and respect its rules regarding attendance and behaviour. Citizens will also be encouraged to actively support the school through events and membership of various associations and bodies.

### Parameter 3 – Interdependency and reciprocity within community relations

The opening of a new Welsh-medium Primary School in the ethnically diverse Pillgwenlly area will provide an opportunity to bring different parts of the community together as stakeholders of the new school. This will encourage participation in community events and in exploring Welsh identity and culture. The establishment of the school and its respective organisations (PTA, Governing Body etc.) will provide a platform for community engagement and participation.

### Parameter 4 – Transparency and accountability in decision making

The consultation document outlined the decision making process and is transparent and accountable in the information provided. It allows the effective democratic participation of citizens.

## 8. Taking this assessment as a whole, what could be done to mitigate any negative impacts of your policy and better contribute to positive impacts?

The proposal will be subject to full stakeholder consultation and the feedback received has been taken into consideration when deciding how to proceed.

**Race:** A potential for a negative disproportionate impact has been identified in relation to the Protected Characteristic. In order to mitigate this, Newport City Council ensured that:

- The consultation and information sharing process was fully inclusive of those children and parents who speak English as a second language, facilitating specific sessions in a range of community languages, and providing language support at drop in sessions where needed.
- The development of the new Welsh medium school runs parallel with work to develop sustainable interest in, and appetite for, Welsh language medium education within BAME communities, building on Newport's current Becoming Bilingual campaign and considering investment in other project-based activities

**Welsh Language:** In order to ensure that an equitable consultation was achieved in both English and Welsh, Newport City Council:

- Ensured all publicly available documentation was available bilingually
- Provided translation services at drop in sessions where appropriate
- Ensured the consultation questionnaire asked specific questions in relation to the project's potential positive or negative impact on opportunity to promote and use the Welsh language

## 8 Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

Any questions or comments made throughout the process have been recorded and summarised in a consultation report. This report has been published on the Council's website and will be considered when the Council decides on the way forward.

Following consultation, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Education & Skills considered the views expressed and then decided whether to proceed with the proposal. The decision was taken to proceed and a statutory notice will be published.

Copies of the statutory notice will be shared with stakeholders and also published on the Newport City Council website and posted at the affected school gates.

The statutory notice period will last for 28 days following the date of publication and enables people to express their views in the form of supporting or objecting to the proposals.

If no objections are received following the publication of the statutory notice, Newport City Council's Cabinet Member for Education & Skills will make the final decision as to whether to proceed. If objections are received, the final decision will be referred to the Council's Cabinet.

## 9 Involvement

The consultation process represented an opportunity for people to learn about the proposal. The proposal was available online in both English and Welsh, via the Newport City Council's website, email and social media, and as a hard copy. The consultation involved five drop-in sessions with those most directly affected by the proposal, where Council officers were on hand to explain the proposals in more detail and answer any questions.

Five drop-in events were arranged where Council officers were on hand to explain the proposals in more detail and answer any questions. Two drop-in events took place at Pillgwenlly Primary school where approximately 80 stakeholders attended over the two sessions. Interpreters were on hand to assist with the following languages: Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, Bengali, Czech, Polish, Slovak, Kurdish, Somali, and Welsh. 23 written responses were received from these two events. There were two events held at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed and only one family attended out of the two sessions. There was Welsh interpretation provided at both of these events. The fifth drop-in event was held at Caerleon Lodge Hill Primary school, where Welsh interpretation was also provided, although no stakeholders attended this session.

Comments and questions could also be submitted using a consultation response pro-forma. This pro-forma was available at the drop-in sessions and on the Council's website. Social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook also shared information on proposed changes.

Sessions were arranged at the affected schools involving the school council, giving the pupils an opportunity to voice their opinion on the proposal. Their comments are part of the consultation report published on the Council's website.

A Children and Young People's Everyday Summary version of the consultation document was available from Newport City Council. Copies were also made available at the Maindee Festival and the Big Splash. This version was available in English and Welsh and it was also translated into eight community languages: Bengali, Urdu, Arabic, Slovakian, Kurdish – Sorani, Kurdish – Bhadini, Somali, and Romanian for pupils at Pillgwenlly Primary.

A letter was also issued to parents of 2,000 children living in Newport who were born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 to make them aware of the proposal at the point when they would be making their application for a Nursery place for September 2020.

Any questions and comments made throughout the process, were recorded and summarised in a consultation report. This report was published on the Council's website and was considered when the Council decided on the way forward.

## 10 Summary of Impact (for inclusion in any report)

### **Equality Act 2010**

The Council is committed to providing Learning Resource Base (LRBs) facilities in all new school builds as this supports a more inclusive approach for pupils with additional learning needs. There is also desire to move to a position where there is at least one LRB class in each cluster of primary schools. There is currently no such provision within the current cluster of Welsh-medium primary schools in Newport.

This approach is considered to be more consistent with the Equality Act 2010 than providing supported pupil places in alternative facilities or special schools.

In order to support teaching pupils with additional learning needs where full-time mainstream education is not deemed appropriate, the Local Authority has numerous LRB facilities across Newport hosted by individual schools. These LRBs are attached to main-stream schools and provide learning environments that have fewer pupil numbers with enhanced adult ratios. The LRBs are generic in nature and meet the needs of pupils with a range of difficulties. The ethos is to provide targeted support to the individuals based on their needs with the intention of integrating the pupil back into mainstream classes as appropriate. There is an on-going demand for primary LRB placements across Newport and to establish a Welsh-medium LRB.

There is currently no such LRB provision within the Welsh-medium cluster. This proposal will not only benefit pupils living locally, but can be accessed by pupils across the city to support specific education needs in an appropriate and secure environment in the Welsh language.

### **Welsh Language**

The Council is committed to providing sufficient Welsh-medium facilities across Newport to support and stimulate demand for Welsh language education. There are currently three Welsh-medium primary schools across Newport, although there is not a Welsh-medium primary school in the West of the city. By establishing the school at the temporary site in Caerleon and then at the permanent site in Pillgwenlly will allow pupils to be able to attend a Welsh-medium primary school more locally to their home and will provide more opportunities for pupils to choose a Welsh-medium school.

Newport currently has 112 reception places available between the 3 existing Welsh-medium primary schools and an additional 60 places will become available within the additional provision.

The proposal represents a strong commitment to the Welsh Government Charter 'Cymraeg 2050' and supports the Council's 5-year strategy to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh in Newport.

#### **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

- **Long term: the importance of balancing short- term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long – term needs:**  
The proposal provides a long-term solution for growing Welsh-medium education provision across Newport giving further opportunities for pupils to attend Welsh-medium education and enabling pupils to attend a school more local to their home address. The proposal will also provide Welsh-medium LRB provision which will be the first Welsh-medium LRB in Newport serving short term needs and providing enough space for future needs.
- **Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help us meet our objectives:**  
The proposal will benefit pupils across the city as additional Welsh-medium facilities will be provided to help with current and future demand of Welsh-medium education. Currently there is no Welsh-medium LRB provision in Newport, therefore this proposal will prevent possible problems of no Welsh-medium provision being available if requested.
- **Integration: Consider how the proposals will impact on our wellbeing objectives, our wellbeing goals, other objectives or those of other public bodies:**  
A formal statutory consultation is being carried out and supported at each stage by a FEIA to consider impact. This proposal supports the "A prosperous Wales", "A more equal Wales" and "A Wales of cohesive communities" Well-being Goals and has no adverse effect on any of the other Well-being Goals. In addition, this proposal supports the Newport City Council Well-being Objective "To improve skills, educational outcomes and employment opportunities".
- **Collaboration: have you considered how acting in collaboration with any other person or any other part of our organisation could help meet our wellbeing objectives:**  
A formal statutory consultation is being carried out with the opportunity for engagement with all stakeholders and supported at each stage by a FEIA to consider impact.
- **Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the City we serve:**  
A formal statutory consultation is being carried out with the opportunity for engagement with all stakeholders and supported at each stage by a FEIA to consider impact.