

Newport City Council

Consultation report

Proposal to establish a seedling Welsh-medium secondary school, sharing the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon on a temporary basis from September 2016 and subsequent transfer to the original site on Duffryn Way, Newport as soon as possible, or to a permanent location yet to be determined, at the earliest available opportunity.

Formal Consultation period: 1st March to 12th April 2016

Purpose

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

This consultation report includes the following sections:

The Proposal

Stakeholder Engagement

Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People

Consultation Responses

Estyn

Survey of the Learner's Voice

Frequently Asked Questions

The Proposal

To establish a seedling Welsh-medium secondary school, sharing the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon on a temporary basis from September 2016 and subsequent transfer to the original site on Duffryn Way, Newport as soon as possible, or to a permanent location yet to be determined, at the earliest available opportunity.

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 sent by e-mail, or hard copies being made available through the schools.

- Teachers, staff and the governing body of all affected schools;
- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending affected schools;
- Pupils at affected schools;
- South East Wales authorities as this is a regionally funded project
- Torfaen County Borough Council and Cardiff Council as the catchment area borders the authorities with Welsh-medium secondary provision and catchment areas already in place
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority;
- The Welsh Ministers;
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is subject to the proposals;
- Estyn;
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- Local Authority Transport departments for Newport and Monmouthshire
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- Community Councils across Newport and Monmouthshire
- Communities First partnership (or equivalent) for Newport and Monmouthshire

The following consultation events were arranged. These were publicised in the media, on the Council website and through the consultation document.

Venue	Date and Time	Event type
Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR	7 th March 2016 3.00pm – 5.00pm	Drop-in event
Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR	11 th March 2016 10.00am – 12 noon	Drop-in event

Everyday Summary Version – Children & Young People

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

In addition a Survey of the Learner's Voice was carried out by a children's questionnaire created and shared with the school, the children held discussion groups to assist the completion of the questionnaires. The results of these exercises are summarised in the section Survey of the Learner's Voice.

Consultation Responses

108 Consultation responses were received

- 8 respondents submitted comments or questions

The remaining 100 (87 of which were from children) provided the following responses:

- 82 respondents support the proposal (82%)
- 14 respondents did not know (14%)
- 4 respondents do not support the proposal (4%)

Estyn

The formal response by Estyn is positive:

- "It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to meet the demand for Welsh-medium education in the short term and that it is important that the proposer secures a permanent site for the new Welsh-medium school as soon as possible".

Survey of the Learner's Voice

The consultation responses included the results of a survey of the Learner's Voice. 87 responses to a children's questionnaire were from the children who attend the four Welsh-medium primary schools in the new secondary school cluster, a summary of the high light views are set out below:

Children & Young People consultation summary of 87 responses

Question 1

Yn eich barn chi, a yw agor ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd yng Nghasnewydd yn syniad da?

In your view, is opening a new Welsh medium secondary school in Newport a good idea?

Vast majority positive responses (72)
Small number of don't knows (14)
Only one negative response (1)

Question 2

Yn eich barn chi, a yw agor ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd yng Nghasnewydd yn well na theithio i ysgolion mewn ardaloedd eraill?

In your view, is opening a new Welsh medium secondary school in Newport better than travelling to schools in other areas?

Majority positive responses (64)
Some don't knows (19)
Very few negative responses (4)

Question 5

Yn eich barn chi, ydy agor yr ysgol am ddwy flynedd ar safle Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion tra bod yr ysgol barhaol yn cael ei hadeiladu yn syniad da?

In your view, is opening the school for two years on the site of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion while the permanent school is being built a good idea?

Positive responses 19
Don't knows 35
Negative responses 33

Question 7

Ydych chi'n gyffrous am gael ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd yng Nghasnewydd?

Are you excited about having a new Welsh medium secondary school in Newport?

Majority positive responses 65
Some don't knows 18
Very few negative responses 4

A formal detailed report on the Learner's Voice survey is to be published on the Council web site shortly.

Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions received about the proposal have been published on the Council web site and are included for information below:

Proposal under Formal Consultation to establish the New Welsh-medium Secondary School – Frequently Asked Questions

Parents are concerned at having to make a decision on whether or not to accept the place offered to their child at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed by 15th March. Can this date be extended?

Yes. This date is automatically populated on letters produced by the Education Management System. Given the specific issues and parental concerns surrounding the new school, this deadline date has been extended to 15th April 2016.

The consultation document refers to 90 pupils in the first year sharing two classrooms and temporary additional provisions. What are these temporary provisions?

Information regarding the accommodation arrangements for September 2016 will be shared once the Governing Body of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion has received the latest plans from the Council. This meeting is scheduled for Monday 21st March 2016. Following this, information will be shared at a meeting specifically for the parents of current Year 6 pupils, due to take place on Thursday 24th March 2016, and will subsequently be made available on the Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed website.

How many teachers will be available on a daily basis to teach and care for the children?

This is a matter for the Headteacher and the temporary Governing Body, but it is anticipated that the teaching staff number will be between 6 and 8 in the first year. A Year 6 Parents Meeting has been arranged to take place at 6pm on Thursday 24th March 2016 at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion and more information will be shared at this time.

My child is currently receiving extra support. How will this continue if necessary in the new secondary school?

The Headteacher and her appointed staff will ensure that the needs of all pupils attending this new school are fully met.

My child has a medical condition that needs to be monitored and cared for, how will this be managed on a daily basis?

The Headteacher will make suitable arrangements to ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils is not compromised in any way.

Is it correct that parents who choose to send their children to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw will be required to pay for transport?

The Council's Home to School Transport policy regarding secondary school pupils only applies to children living three miles or more from their catchment school. Parents can elect for their children to attend an alternative school, but if this application is successful, they will not be eligible for assistance with transport costs. If the current proposal is successful, Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed will be the catchment school for all pupils entering Year 7 in September 2016 and therefore the Council will not provide free school transport to any other Welsh-medium secondary school.

How is transport eligibility assessed?

In determining eligibility, distances are measured by the shortest available walking route between the nearest entrance / front gate of the home and the nearest entrance / gate of the school. The Council will determine this shortest available walking route using specific routing software, and this may not necessarily be the route chosen by the child. The measurement tool has been approved by both the Head of Streetscene and Scrutiny Committee, and for fairness is the only measurement tool that is used by the council.

In assessing a route, the Council will deem it as "available" if a child, accompanied as necessary, can walk to school in reasonable safety. It is for parents and not the Council to determine whether or not a child needs accompanying. In assessing the availability of a route, the Council follows WG guidelines and will take account of risks and other relevant safety factors, and the assessments take place at the time of day and on the days of the week that pupils would be expected to use the route.

How will the Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion site cope with the additional traffic?

The development of the site will include additional parking facilities for staff at the new school. School buses will use the turning circle at the bottom of the Brynglas estate to drop-off and collect secondary age pupils, and parents will be encouraged to do the same.

In addition, the temporary Governing Body will also create a School Travel Plan to support access to the school.

How can objections be made to this proposal?

Following this consultation, the Cabinet Member for Education & Young People will consider the views expressed and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal. If the decision is taken to proceed, a statutory notice will be published in the local press, on the Council website and at the school. The statutory notice period will last for 1 month and enables people to express their views in the form of supporting or objecting to the proposal.

What will the uniform be at the new school?

This is a matter for the Headteacher to decide in conjunction with the temporary Governing Body and they will let you know immediately that this is agreed. A Year 6 Parents Meeting has been arranged to take place at 6pm on Thursday 24th March 2016 at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion and more information will be shared at this time.

What will be the start and end times of the school day at the new school?

This is a matter for the Headteacher to decide in conjunction with the temporary Governing Body and they will let you know immediately that this is agreed. A Year 6 Parents Meeting has been arranged to take place at 6pm on Thursday 24th March 2016 at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon and more information will be shared at this time.

What arrangements have been made for delivery of the curriculum at the new school?

This is a matter for the Headteacher to decide in conjunction with the temporary Governing Body and they will let you know immediately that this is agreed. However the new school will be capable of delivering all aspects of the curriculum, although some PE lessons will be delivered at Newport High School. A Year 6 Parents Meeting has been arranged to take place at 6pm on Thursday 24th March 2016 at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon and more information will be shared at this time.

Will the pupils at the new secondary be able to access a cafeteria lunchtime facility?

Discussions are currently on-going with the Catering provider but every effort will be made to ensure that the secondary school pupils are able to access a lunchtime cafeteria facility similar to their peers in other secondary schools across the City.

Will there be after school clubs at the new school?

Yes, the school will set up after school clubs, and the Headteacher will decide on these arrangements with her staff as we approach the start of the academic year.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2013) this report is published electronically on Newport City Council's website at www.newport.gov.uk

To request a hard (paper) copy of this document please contact Newport City Council's Education Service Development Manager on 01633 656656 or email school.reorg@newport.gov.uk