

T: 01495 356011 Ext./Est: 6011

E: committee.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Contact:/Cysylltwch â: Democratic Services



THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

14th April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Virtually Via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 21st April, 2021 at 2.00 pm.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris
Managing Director

AGENDA

Pages

1. SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION

You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

2. APOLOGIES

To receive.

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

To receive.

DECISION ITEMS - EDUCATION MATTERS

4. **WELSH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL: STATUTORY NOTICE PERIOD OBJECTIONS REPORT** 3 - 98

To consider the report of the Corporate Director Education.

5. **PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON PEN Y CWM CAPACITY INCREASE** 99 - 140

To consider the report of the Corporate Director Education.

6. **DECISION ITEM - CORPORATE SERVICES MATTERS**

7. **BUSINESS RATES RELIEF – RETAIL, LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY RATES RELIEF – 2021/22** 141 - 150

To consider the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

To: Councillor N. Daniels (Chair)
Councillor J. Collins
Councillor D. Davies
Councillor J. Mason
Councillor J. Wilkins

All other Members (for information)
Manager Director
Chief Officers

Agenda Item 4

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 13.04.21

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 14.04.21

Committee: **Executive Committee**

Date of meeting: **22nd February 2021**

Report Subject: **Welsh-medium Primary School: Statutory Notice Period Objections Report**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Joanne Collins, Executive Member Education**

Report Submitted by: **Corporate Director of Education - Lynn Phillips**

Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	7.4.21	13.04.21				21.4.21		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Executive Committee with an overview of the Statutory Notice/objection period outcomes and recommendations, in relation to the proposal to build a new 210 place Welsh-medium primary school with co-located childcare provision, in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 The Proposal

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council proposes to develop a new 210 place Welsh-medium primary school in the Tredegar/Sirhowy valley, along with co-located childcare provision. The preferred option seeks to develop the school building on the Chartist Way site via a seedling/growth model, whereby the childcare facility, along with the nursery and reception year groups, would come in effect from September 2023; with 28 childcare, 24 nursery and 24 reception places. The school would grow thereafter year on year. By 2029 the school will be fully established, with all year groups from Nursery to Year 6 operational.

- 2.2 The new seedling school would be designed and purpose built in line with 21st Century Schools standards. The preferred option includes a governance and leadership structure developed as an extension of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. This would mean that there would be one Governing Body across the 2 schools, along with relevant amendments to the staffing structure.

- 2.3 Executive Committee met on 16th December 2020 and agreed to consult on the above proposal, with the consultation processes commencing on Thursday 17th December 2020, concluding on Friday 29th January 2021. The consultation was initiated and conducted via a formal consultation document and accompanying online survey (please refer to **Appendix 1** for the consultation document), which was fully compliant with the statutory requirements set out within the School Organisation Code 2018 (V2). The purpose of consultation was to establish the views and opinions of consultees in relation to the proposal, in order to inform the Council's decision making process and next steps.

- 2.4 The consultation out-turn report was presented to Executive Committee on 22nd February 2021. At which point, approval was granted for Education to proceed to Statutory Notice.
- 2.5 The consultation process determined that there was wide spread support for the proposal among consultees, with over 93% of respondents in favour of the new school development, citing the positive impact that the proposal is likely to have upon: The Welsh language, education, employment, the local community and economy. In summary, during the 42-day consultation period:
- The Council received 8 email responses, 5 in English and 3 bilingually
 - The Council received 190 survey responses, 16 of which were completed via the medium of Welsh, with the remainder submitted via the medium of English
 - The responses can be broken down as follows:
 - **Fully support the proposal - 177 (93%)**
 - **Partially support the proposal - 2 (1%)**
 - **Do not support the proposal - 11 (6%)**
- 2.6 The Statutory Notice period (please refer to **Appendix 2** for the document), was conducted over 28 days as per the requirement set out within the School Organisation Code (2018, version 2), as such it:
- commenced on Monday 1st March 2021; and,
 - concluded on Monday 29th March 2021.
- The Statutory Notice period, provided the opportunity for anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal with the opportunity to do so. The objections report containing a summary of any statutory objections must then be published, along with the proposer's response to the objections.
- 2.7 The outcome of the Statutory Notice period is detailed in section 2.8, the fact that only one objection has been received throughout, indicates a high-level of support for the proposal, which is consistent with the findings of the consultation.
- 2.8 **Statutory Notice Period (Objection Period)**
The wide spread support for the proposal was further demonstrated by the outcome of the Statutory Notice period, with only 1 objection letter being received. The response detailed concerns regarding the potential impact upon the individual as a local resident, rather than stating a formal objection to the proposal. The content of the correspondence has been broken down within **Appendix 3**, and all concerns fully addressed. A summary of the main concerns are as follows:
- impact upon the view from the respondent's home;
 - impact i.e. noise, mess and access, resulting from the construction and subsequent opening of the school; and,
 - parking and associated traffic implications.
- The correspondence did however indicate that the respondent was in support of Welsh-medium education.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

3.1 There are 2 options associated with the Objections report, as follows:

- **Option 1** – Executive Committee considers and accepts the Objections report, associated documents and course of action, and agrees to proceed to Decision Notification stage (which is required within 7 days of the decision being made, as per the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018, version 2).
- **Option 2** – Executive Committee rejects the proposal to proceed to Decision Notification.

4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 In accordance with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018, version 2), there is a statutory requirement for Councils to consult upon, publish and follow the statutory processes associated with school reorganisation proposals. Education is a strategic priority within the Corporate Plan, of which the growth, development and sustainability of Welsh-medium education is a key component.

4.2 The Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is instrumental in securing continued access to and development of the Welsh language in line with Welsh Government's aim of one million Welsh speakers by 2050. Education is also a major contributor to the Blaenau Gwent Wellbeing Plan in that the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which requires public bodies to work towards seven well-being goals, one of which is 'A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language'. The Council has a duty to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh and work towards the well-being goals. The process for planning Welsh-medium education also has a statutory basis under Section 84 of the 2013 Act.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1.1 **Impact on Budget**

There are no capital financial implications associated with this proposal for the Council, as the £6m awarded is 100% funding with no match funding requirement. Welsh Government also awarded £200,000 as 100% funding from the Childcare Capital Grant.

5.1.2 In the medium to long-term, there will be revenue budget implications associated with the proposal, in that the Individual School Budget will need to be established in 2023/2024 financial year and the funding required will grow annually as the school grows to capacity.

5.1.3 The assumptions used in the modelling include an assumption that overall there would be no growth in the pupil population resulting from this proposal, the ISB would need to increase by £265,000 in 2023/2024 with a further increase of £189,000 in 2024/2025 in order to fund the new school. The remaining pupil led funding required would come from within the existing ISB,

as pupils chose the new setting over other schools (reducing pupil led funding in existing schools).

5.1.4 Based on the modelling above, there will be a cost pressure for the Council of £265,000 in 2023/2024 and £189,000 in 2024/2025, which will need to be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

5.1.5 There is likely to be a positive financial impact on Home to School Transport and an assessment would need to be undertaken in order to quantify the likely cost reduction benefits should the proposal be implemented. Home to School Transport:

- **Current spend** per annum on Welsh medium education is approximately:
 - Primary - £150,000 (4 Buses & 1 Taxi)
 - Secondary - £220,000 (6 Buses & 1 Taxi)
 - **2 buses to Bro Helyg from Ebbw Fawr & Tredegar area** - £67,000 per annum
- **Potential phased reduction in transport costs** i.e. Tredegar/Ebbw Fawr pupils to Bro Helyg - average cost per bus per annum £33,000

5.1.6 Should savings be generated via the Home to School Transport Budget, these saving will be used to offset any potential cost pressures identified.

5.2 **Risk** There is a risk that the Council will not deliver against the priorities laid out in the WESP. Furthermore, there is the potential to lose the £6m that has been allocated to Blaenau Gwent in line with the development of a new 210 place Welsh medium primary school, which builds upon the seedling concept/model, should the proposal and concept not proceed. In addition, the Council would lose the £200,000 allocated in line with the Capital Childcare Grant.

5.3 **Legal** There are no direct legal implications associated with this proposal.

5.4 **Human Resources** There are no direct staffing or workforce implications associated with the consultation process. Should the proposal proceed, however, the governance and leadership aspects will be developed in partnership with Organisational Development, Finance and the school directly affected.

6 **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data** Please refer to the consultation document (**Appendix 1**), for performance data relating to the proposal.

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public** The public can expect a new 21st Century school facility with co-located childcare provision, which enhances and develops Welsh-medium Education opportunities and access within Blaenau Gwent.

- 6.3 **Involvement** Stakeholder engagement is a key focus of all school organisation proposals. The proposal was subject to consultation, along with an objections period aligned to Statutory Notice in line with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018). The outcomes of which will and have been used to inform decision making process.
- 6.4 **Thinking for the Long-term** The proposal looks to secure additional Welsh-medium education provision in line with the long-term development, and sustainability of the education system in Blaenau Gwent
- 6.5 **Preventative focus** The proposal seeks to address sustainability issues associated with the future growth and development of Welsh-medium education.
- 6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working** The statutory processes along with the development of the proposal, has involved collaboration with both the local and regional Welsh Education Forums, Planning, Social Services, Community Services, Finance, Schools, other authorities etc.
- 6.7 **Integration** The proposal seeks to secure integration between new and existing Welsh-medium education and childcare provision, supporting growth and sustainability.
- 6.8 **EqIA** An Equality Impact Screening Assessment (EQIA) has been completed in line with the consultation, which determined that there is no negative impact upon the protected characteristics. The proposal promotes equality of opportunity within Blaenau Gwent for families and Welsh learners, having a positive impact upon the Welsh language.
7. **Monitoring Arrangements**
Should the proposal proceed, the project would be established and managed in accordance with Blaenau Gwent Corporate Project Management Framework and the PRINCE 2 methodology. A project management group would be set-up to oversee development and implementation of the proposal.

Background Documents / Electronic Links

Appendix 1 Consultation Document
Appendix 2 Statutory Notice
Appendix 3 Objection Report

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Proposal: To establish a New Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley via a Seedling/Growth Model

The consultation will run as follows:

Commencing on: Thursday 17th December 2020

Concluding on: Friday 29th January 2021

What is the Purpose of this Booklet?

This booklet has been prepared for parents/carers, school staff, school governors and the wider community of Blaenau Gwent. The booklet provides an overview of the consultation process associated with the Council's proposal to develop a new 210 place Welsh-medium primary school within the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley. It will be of particular interest to parents/carers who are considering Welsh-medium education for their child/children.

If you would like this information in any other format, please contact the Education Transformation team either via email or telephone, as follows:

- Email us: 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or,
- Call us on: (01495) 355470



Explanatory Notes - please note the following terms used throughout this document:

Admission Number	All maintained schools admit pupils up to their Published Admission Number (PAN). The admission number is the number of pupil places available in each year group.
Local Development Plan (LDP)	Sets out each local planning authority's proposals for future development and use of land in their area.
Mitigation	The action of reducing the severity or seriousness of something.
Numbers on Roll	The number of pupils at a school (not including nursery pupils).
PLASC	Pupil Level Annual School Census. In January of every year, the Welsh Government collects information from schools. This includes the number of pupils at each school, their age group, home address, ethnicity, data on Welsh language, Special Educational Need (SEN), first language and pupils free school meal entitlement.
Seedling Growth Model	Model used in the development of new schools, where the year groups are added year on year.
Surplus Places	Empty or unfilled places in a school.
Statutory Notice	A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. This will only be undertaken if a decision is made by the Council to proceed with a proposal following consideration of all responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).
Welsh-medium School	A school where the first language taught is Welsh.

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Section 1: Introduction



As part of the Welsh Government's commitment to the goal of one million Welsh speakers by 2050, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced on 16 January 2018 that £30 million (100% funded, with no match funding requirement from Councils), would be allocated to support capital projects dedicated to creating additional Welsh-medium education provision.

The Welsh Government approved the Blaenau Gwent Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-20 in March 2018 (please refer to the following link for more information:

https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/fileadmin/documents/Council/Policies_Strategies_Plans/Blaenau_Gwent_WESP_2017-20_Nov_2017_24th_English.pdf).

The Blaenau Gwent WESP advocates and sets out key targets and outcomes aligned to the growth and development of Welsh-medium education, childcare, and ultimately the Welsh language locally.

Blaenau Gwent is the only Council in Wales with only one Welsh-medium primary school. Therefore, an ambitious business case was developed seeking to secure additionality at primary level, aligned to latent demand for Welsh-medium primary school places, particularly within the Tredegar/ Sirhowy valley. In October 2018 the Council received confirmation that £6million had been allocated to provide additional Welsh-medium primary provision. Blaenau Gwent secured with £200,000 via the Welsh Government Childcare Capital Grant, to create additional Welsh-medium education and childcare provision within the area.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg is a 215 place Welsh-medium Primary school situated in the town of Blaina which is situated in the northern part Ebbw Fach Valley. The school services the whole of Blaenau Gwent in terms of catchment, and caters for pupils aged 3-11 years. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council proposes to respond to the latent demand for increased Welsh-medium childcare and school places for pupils who reside within the Tredegar/Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr (north) Valleys. Through the funding allocated as detailed above, the Council proposes to increase Welsh-medium primary provision via seedling/growth model, in addressing the latent demand described above.

The Council is committed to providing all children and young people with high quality education, which is tailored to meet their needs, develop their potential, extend aspirations, promote social inclusion and contribute to the economic regeneration of the area. Creation of a Welsh-medium primary school within the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley, would allow the Council to meet increased demand for Welsh-medium childcare and education places.

Section 2: Consultation Process

The consultation document and associated process, will provide consultees and interested parties with the opportunity to learn more about, understand and express their views on the Council's proposal, which will inform the final decision on how the proposal is taken forward. The feedback and comments captured throughout the process will be collated, analysed and reported via the Council's political processes. The Council's Executive Committee will then make the final decision based on the outcome of and feedback associated with the consultation.

Who will we Consult?

This Consultation Document will be distributed, in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code Version 2 (November 2018). **Figure 1** below details the consultees who will be targeted during the statutory consultation period:

Figure 1: Groups the Council will engage with throughout the consultation period	
Children and young people	Welsh Ministers
Parents/carers	Police & Crime Commissioner
School staff	South East Wales Consortium Joint Education Service (SEWC)
School Governing Bodies	Welsh Language Commissioner
Local residents	Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHaG)
Diocesan Directors for Education	Trade Unions
SEN Partners	Family Information Services
LA Inclusion team	Flying Start
Estyn	National Day Nurseries Association
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	Future Generations Commissioner
Community Councils affected by proposal	Members of the public and other interested parties

Consultation Period and how to get Involved

The consultation period for this proposal will commence on **Thursday 17th December 2020** and conclude on **Friday 29th January 2021**. Consultees can submit their views on the proposal, however, it should be noted that responses received during this period will not be logged as objection. Should the proposal proceed, and a consultee wish to make an objection, they will need to do so in writing during the statutory notice period outlined on page 18.

The Council would like you to consider the information set out in the following pages and provide your views on the proposal. If you have any questions or queries on the information contained within this document, please contact us either by using the email address below, or by calling us on (01495) 355470.



21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk



You are also welcome to complete the on line survey using the following link
<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160804430159>

All consultation responses should be received by **5pm on Friday 29th January 2021 at the latest.**

The Education Transformation team has planned virtual meetings with school staff, governors, Trade Union representatives, pupils and other interested parties. A frequently asked questions page will be developed and updated weekly throughout the consultation period.

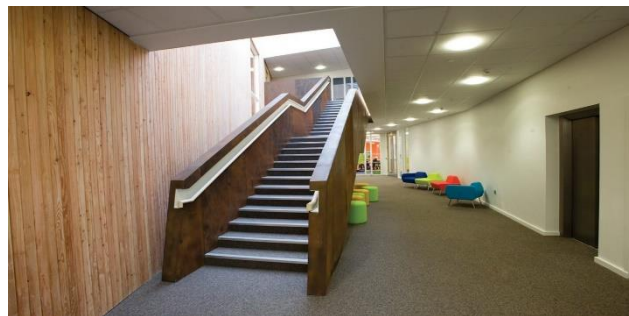
Due to the ongoing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council will not be offering drop in sessions. Should you feel the need to and/or feel strongly about discussing the proposal in person, please contact us via the 21st century schools email address as follows: 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk and a virtual meeting can be arranged.

Consultation with Children and Young People

There will be an opportunity for pupils of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, along with other children and young people to participate in the consultation process. A children and young person friendly version of this document has been developed, which can be accessed via the website or requested via the above email address. All information gathered from the consultation will form part of the consultation out-turn report.

Section 3: Description of the Proposal and Benefits

Why Change is Necessary



Blaenau Gwent has a low percentage of Welsh speakers, with only 7.8% of the population able to speak Welsh (Census, 2011), the area is the 2nd lowest out of the 22 Councils in Wales. The Blaenau Gwent average is well under the national average of 19%.

As detailed in Section 1 of this document, Blaenau Gwent is the only authority in Wales with one Welsh-medium Primary school. Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg (for pupils aged 3-11), is based in the Ebbw Fach Valley. Blaenau Gwent does not have a Welsh-medium Secondary school. The Council currently work in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council, in order to secure secondary school places for Blaenau Gwent pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw. There are currently 155 Blaenau Gwent pupils aged 11-19 who attend Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw. Transition rates between primary and secondary are 100%, with all pupils who chose Welsh-medium primary education, opting for Welsh-medium secondary education. Transfer rates have continued to be high (between 95% and 100%), since the school was established.

When Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg opened in September 2010, there were 36 pupils (across all year groups) attending from the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley. Numbers have fluctuated since then, with highest being 42 in 2011/12. Numbers began to fall to 22 and under between 2015 and 2017. Over

the last 2 academic sessions numbers have stabilised. Learners are taught in 10 class groups and a typical class would have 1 teacher and 1 teaching assistants in Foundation Phase, and between for 25-30 pupils; however, the school has to be very flexible to meet the needs of the children. Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg forms part of the 21st Century Schools Programme Band B Programme, as such the school is programme for remodelling and refurbishment, ensuring parity of provision throughout the school estate, whilst also addressing suitability issues which will improve the quality of teaching and learning.

The Headteacher and Council are committed to working together to raise the school's profile in line with the school's improvement journey. With the offer of both full-time nursery and free home to school transport for non-statutory nursery pupils, overall pupil numbers have again begun to increase. However, the numbers from the Tredegar/Sirhowy and the northern part of the Ebbw Fawr Valleys remain relatively low in comparison to former years. In 2020, approximately 10 pupils from the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley, along with 10 pupils from Ebbw Fawr Valley (North), were admitted to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg at nursery and Reception.

During consultation and engagement sessions and events aimed at gathering the view of parents whose children access early years' provision, the length of the home to school transport journey from the Tredegar Sirhowy Valley, has a negative impact upon parental choice when consideration education options for their child/children. In addition, public transport links between valleys have been described as 'poor' and are limited, which restrict parent's ability to access to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, if and when they do not have access to their own and or family vehicles.

Demand for Welsh-medium Childcare and Education:

There are 3 currently Cylchoedd Meithrin (CM) in Blaenau Gwent, who have seen an increase in numbers of children accessing Welsh-medium provision over the last few years. Transfer rates have fluctuated over the last few years, with an increase noted in line with full-time nursery provision.

Welsh-medium childcare provision throughout Blaenau Gwent is on the increase in line with demand. Mudiad Meithrin have been working closely with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council over the last 4 years, in line with the development of both a Ti a Fi and Meithrin in the Tredegar/Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr areas. As result a Ti a Fi was established in May 2018. A new Cylch Meithrin at Tredegar has opened and is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales. The Management Committee are now looking to recruit staff to open for children in early 2021. Mudiad Meithrin has also registered an interest with the Flying Start team at Blaenau Gwent, to provide Welsh Medium places for children in the area.

A local Nursery setting Buds to Blossoms, which is situated in Beaufort, has registered with Mudiad Meithrin and will be providing a Cylch Meithrin session for children in their care. This is a pilot through Mudiad Meithrin's SAS (Setup and Succeed) project, using Croesi'r Bont which is Mudiad Meithrin's Official Language Immersion Scheme. The scheme was established to help develop Welsh language skills for Cylch staff, by ensuring they present standard and consistent language patterns to the children in their care. There has been an excellent response to the scheme across the region. The Scheme has been approved and recognised by ESTYN in several Cylch Meithrin reports following inspections at settings.

Cylch Meithrin Gwdihw (Brynithel) are extending their services and are now able to provide an all-day session 9am – 3pm. They have also started the process of becoming an Education provider, this would mean that children are able to stay at Cylch Meithrin Gwdihw (Brynithel) for their nursery education, meaning that the transition rate into Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg is likely to increase at Foundation Phase, with entry into the reception year group. Parents accessing this setting have

commented that they would be much more comfortable with their child/children accessing transport at reception age, than they would at nursery age.

Finally, the Early Years Child Care and Play team have secured a Welsh Government Capital Childcare Grant of £1.5 million, to increase childcare within the Ebbw Vale (North) area. Therefore, the Council are seeking to create a new build facility with up to 52 places within the Badminton ward, which is currently planned as a Welsh-medium childcare facility.

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) undertaken with parents, indicated that 1% of children come from predominantly Welsh speaking homes, with a further 6% stating they are from bilingual homes. There is a high level of parental support for bilingualism with 55% of parents wanting their children to become bilingual, however, only 8% of parents intended on sending their child to Welsh medium school.

When asked 'Are there any barriers affecting your ability to benefit from Welsh Medium childcare provision?' 394 parents responded as below;

- No – 68% (269)
- Not available locally – 7.8% (31)
- Not available for the hours required – 1.2% (5)
- Age range not appropriate – 0.5% (2)
- Cost – 2% (8)
- Other – 4.3% (17) Comments were asked for and included;
 - 'Not speaking language myself'
 - 'Estyn inspection very poor'
 - 'Concerned as I don't speak Welsh.'
 - 'Yes - Child in a Special Needs School'
 - 'the only provision in the LA area is severely underperforming and I would not choose to send my child into that learning establishment'
 - 'Don't want S.... to have to travel'
 - 'No local Welsh comprehensive. My oldest daughter had to travel from Brynmawr to Pontypool and my 6-year-old will have to do the same'
 - 'Not many places - but haven't looked into it properly.'
 - 'Difficulty in transport'
 - 'Trouble in welsh school, just moved to English school'

Of the 31 parents stating there is no childcare available locally, the geographical spread is as follows; Sirhowy – 8, Ebbw Fawr – 11, North Ebbw Fach – 3, South Ebbw Fach – 9. The survey showed a split in opinion over whether there was enough Welsh medium childcare with 29 parents agreeing there was and 17 disagreeing. 51 parents felt that childcare was available in the language of their choice, but 10 did not. The parental demand measured showed that 2 parents would be looking for Welsh medium childcare in future and 21 would be looking for Welsh and English medium”.

In 2018 the Council undertook a Welsh-medium Demand Survey during the autumn-term. The survey was distributed to 1,460 parents of 0-2 year olds. 72 surveys were completed, which equates to a 4.93% return rate. Out of the 72, 21 were from the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley, 23 from Ebbw Fawr, and 28 from the Ebbw Fach Valley. The results relevant to this consultation are as follows:

- 52% (38) of participants said that they did not feel they have enough information about Welsh-medium education.
- 35% (25) said they had considered Welsh-medium education or childcare.

- 28% (20) of participants would like their child to go to a Welsh-school.
- 82% (59) of participants said that they would send their child to a Welsh-medium school if it was within 2 miles from their home.

The local Welsh Education Forum created a 'Bi-lingual Children' events programme which run from 2017 onwards. The aim of the programme was to promote and ensure that parents were fully aware of both English and Welsh-medium education and childcare options available to them. The events also served to establish the barriers parents perceive that they face with regards Welsh-medium childcare and education. A questionnaire was developed along with comment sheets and 2 events were held in the Tredegar/Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr valley's. There was also an online questionnaire promoted by the Family Information Service, Cymraeg Y Blant and Mudiad Meithrin. Feedback has been extremely positive, with Mudiad Meithrin commenting that Blaenau Gwent are leading the way in terms of family and parent engagement. Parent feedback indicated the following:

- Welsh-medium childcare within the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley decreased between 2016 and 2017, which influenced parents decision in opting for Welsh-medium childcare. However, Mudiad Meithrin have recently increased the childcare options available as detailed above.
- Public transport links do not support effective access to and engagement between parents and the existing Welsh-medium primary school – particularly for parents from the Tredegar/Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr areas who do not drive. Therefore, parents expressed concerns regarding getting to their child in an emergency.
- Parents were concerned about the length of time that their children are on transport to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg from the Ebbw Fawr and Tredegar/ Sirhowy areas, particularly at nursery and foundation phase.
- Parents were concerned about their child(ren) attending a Welsh-medium primary school outside of the area in which they live, in terms of how this could negatively influence their child's social network and interaction with friends/peers.
- English speaking parents felt they needed more information on how to support their children in Welsh-medium education.
- Parents felt that the placement of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg was a disadvantage and that there should be Welsh-medium provision located closer to them.

At the Tredegar/Sirhowy event, the questionnaires completed revealed the following:

- 70% (19) of respondents felt that they had enough information about educational provision.
- 67% (18) of respondents felt their child would benefit from being bilingual.
- 59% (16) of respondents stated that they would consider Welsh-medium education and or childcare.
- 92% (25) of respondents only speak English at home, where as there is only 8% (2) which speak Welsh
- 74% (20) of respondents from Tredegar/Sirhowy stated that distance from home influences their choice of school
- 67% (18) of respondents stated that transport options and ease of access influences their choice of school
- 55% (15) a high proportion of respondents stated that others feedback about the school of choice is important factor
- 48% (13) of respondents stated that their decision on education for their child happens when they are pregnant or before being pregnant

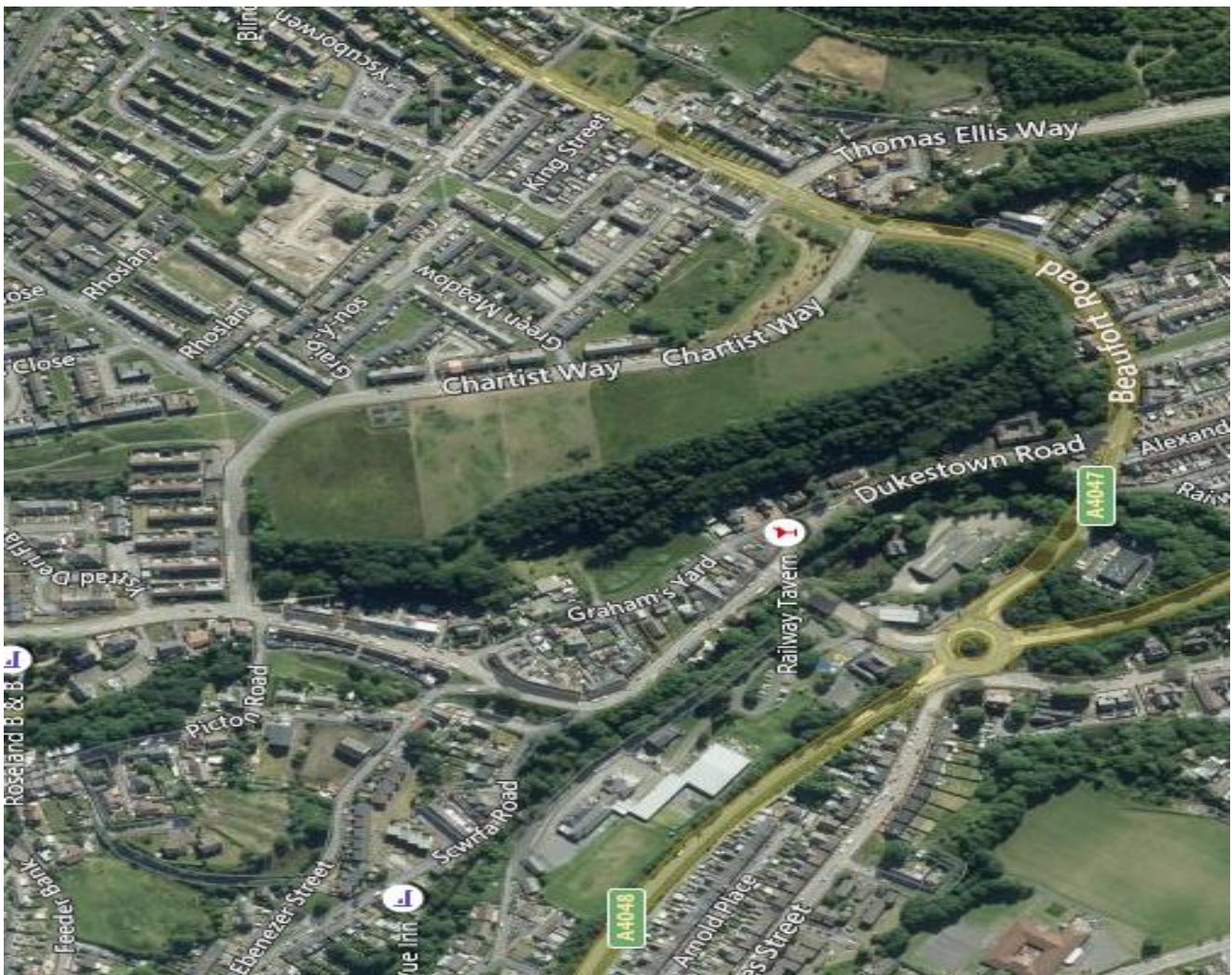
Blaenau Gwent Council has secured significant capital funding in order to increase the provision of Welsh-medium education. Welsh-medium childcare developments are also on the increase,

which will create additional demand for education in the long-term and so the school estate will need to develop in order to accommodate this. If Blaenau Gwent does not look to grow our Welsh education options, there is limited scope for growth and development of the Welsh language locally in line with the Welsh Government aspiration for 1 million Welsh Speakers by 2050. Finally, with the national drive to increase Welsh speakers, associated employment opportunities etc. there is a risk that parents will move out of borough to access Welsh-medium education, should we not create a suitable, sustainable local solution.

Description of the Proposal and Benefits

The Proposal

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council proposes to develop a new 210 place Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley. The proposal seeks to develop the school building on the preferred Chartist Way site (see below) as a seedling/growth model, whereby the childcare facility, nursery and reception year groups would come in effect from September 2023, with approximately 28 childcare places, 24 nursery and 24 reception places. The school would grow thereafter year on year. By 2029 the school will be fully established, with all year groups from Nursery to Year 6 operational. It is also proposed that the school will have co-located childcare provision.



The new seedling school would be designed and purpose built in line with 21st Century Schools standards. It is proposed that the school governance and leadership structure is an extension of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. This would mean that there would be one Governing Body and amendments to the staffing structure, i.e. the creation of a Head of Campus/Leadership Role, which would secure long-term leadership of the seedling school whilst it grows.

There are 4 core components of the proposal as follows:

- I. To create a new 210 place Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar Sirhowy Valley.
- II. To develop the new Welsh-medium Primary School as seedling/growth model where the childcare facility and the nursery and reception year groups come into effect in September 2023, with additional year groups opening for pupil progression each year thereafter. The school would be fully functional with all year groups in operation by September 2029.
- III. To secure a suitable location. Based upon initial site review and investigation, the preferred option is Chartist Way in the Sirhowy area.
- IV. To develop a leadership and management structure aligned to that of the existing primary school.

The proposal is indirectly linked to the Blaenau Gwent 21st Century Schools Programme which seeks to:

- Address growth in demand for Welsh-medium education
- Reduce surplus capacity and inefficiency in the system
- Expansion of schools and colleges in areas of increased demand
- Address condition and suitability of schools
- Make education assets available for community use where demand exists, to optimise the infrastructure and resources for public services.

The Council's Education Transformation Service has a proven track record of delivering complex school organisation proposals, along with successful delivery of the Band A 21st Century Schools Programme, which concluded in March 2019, when Band B came into effect.

Should nothing be change, the Council will be unable to meet latent demand from parents for Welsh-medium schooling the Tredegar Sirhowy area.

Seedling Model

What is a seedling school?

A seedling school is a model that can be used when establishing a new school, to allow the facilities and staff to be used efficiently whilst the school grows to its full potential. The school opens initially for childcare, nursery and reception classes, with a year group then added each academic year until the first reception cohort reaches Year 6.

Welsh-medium Primary School Class Size

During the first year of the seedling school opening, two mainstream classes will be in operation as follows:

- A **nursery class** where up to **24 full-time** places will be offered
- A **reception class** with a maximum of **24** places;

In the second year, the seedling school will consist of:

- A **nursery class** where up to **24 full-time** places will be offered
- A **reception class** with a maximum of **24** places;
- A **Year 1** class with a maximum of **24** places;

In the third year, will consist of:

- A **nursery class** where up to **24 part-time** places will be offered
- A **reception class** with a maximum of **24** places;
- A **Year 1** class with a maximum of **24** places;
- A **Year 2** class with a maximum of **24** places;

In the years following, each new reception year group will have a maximum of 24 places. Full capacity of the school will be realised in September 2028 when all year groups will operate under a two-form entry arrangement.

The table below shows an example of the seedling model of growth for a single form-entry school. The seedling model is considered the most appropriate solution for new Welsh-medium schools and has been tried and tested throughout Wales. Whilst demand is growing for Welsh-medium education, opening a new Welsh-medium school immediately to all year groups could potentially affect and destabilise other schools across the County Borough. However, the proposed model being seedling, would largely mitigate any potential impact.

	N	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
2023/24	24	24						
2024/25	24	24	24					
2025/26	24	24	24	24				
2026/27	24	24	24	24	24			
2027/28	24	24	24	24	24	24		
2028/29	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	
2029/30	30	30	24	24	24	24	24	24
2030/31	30	30	30	24	24	24	24	24

Benefits and Disadvantages of the Seedling Model

What are the benefits of a seedling school?	What are the disadvantages of a seedling school?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school capacity would grow as demand increases; • Stable growth to support existing schools; • Reduces the possibility of mass movement of pupils from other schools; • Effectively manages class sizes to support staffing and the school budget; and, • Pupils living outside the school catchment area can still apply for a place at the school and may be successful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes a number of years to deliver growth; • Possible implications for siblings with changes to catchment areas; and, • Possible implications for families moving to Tredegar area with children of different ages.

Benefits and Disadvantages of the Proposal when Compared with the Status Quo

This proposal will provide equality of opportunity for pupils to be educated via the medium of Welsh. There is already an array of English-medium and Faith-based primary school options available to families within Blaenau Gwent. The proposal would also support the Council to address the barriers

parents perceive in accessing Welsh-medium education, and support families to recognise the benefits of being bi-lingual.

Expected benefits of this proposal when compared with the status quo (do nothing) are as follows:

- Equality of opportunity and choice for families in accessing and considering the option of Welsh-medium education and childcare.
- The Growth of Welsh language and Welsh-medium education, in line with the Welsh Government vision for 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- £6.2 million capital investment into the Blaenau Gwent school estate, improving the condition, suitability and access to education options locally.
- Increase childcare provision for families.
- Creation of a local solution which can address the latent demand for Welsh-medium primary places in Tredegar/Sirhowy and North Ebbw Fawr areas.
- Continuity and sustainability in terms of the education options for pupils transitioning from Welsh-medium pre-school settings into statutory education.
- Creation of an innovative, flexible education facility which is able to contribute to improving social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being within Blaenau Gwent and across the region.
- Secure and additional fit for purpose 21st Century learning environment for Welsh-medium pupils and staff.
- Reduce class sizes and raise standards of education, facilitating improved outcomes for pupils.
- Create opportunities for pupils to be taught through the medium of Welsh closer to their home.
- Increase the number of Welsh-medium primary places available in the local area, supporting the sustainability of Welsh-medium education and the Welsh language.
- The seedling/growth model will ensure that there is minimal disruption to the existing school estate and allow sufficient time for the school to grow.

Disadvantages of this proposal when compared with the status quo (do nothing) are as follows:

- It is estimated that there could be variance of approximately 2-5% within the overall primary pupil population for schools and in turn the secondary school within the Tredegar/Sirhowy valley dependent on take-up. However, with stable and positive variations in the birth rates, inward migration and expected housing developments, the variance is limited and the impact upon the school estate is likely to be minimal.
- The Welsh-medium school will be developed via a seedling/growth model, which means that pupils will be admitted only to the available year groups from its inception. Therefore, in-year transfer opportunities will be limited until such time that the school is fully developed.

Risks and Mitigation

The Council has a proven track record of managing both school build and school organisation projects. These risks can be managed by the Council and schools working together.

Risk	Mitigation
Destabilisation of the existing school estate.	The proposal seeks to develop the school via a seedling/growth model, whereby childcare provision, nursery and reception year groups would come in effect from September 2023, with approximately 28 childcare, 24 nursery and 24 reception places available. The school would grow thereafter year on year. By 2029 the school will be fully established, with all year groups from Nursery to Year 6 operational. The growth model and will ensure that

	<p>there is minimal disruption in terms of pupil numbers, and allow the school and Council to determine and manage the demand for places.</p> <p>Birth rates, migration into Blaenau Gwent, pupil projections and housing developments have all been considered in line with the admission number and capacity of the new school. The data is telling us the current school estate in terms of the number of schools, pupil places etc.is sustainable in the medium - long term, with the creation of an additional Welsh-medium Primary School.</p> <p>The proposal is to align the management and governance structure to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Heylg. This would ensure that staffing, pupil place allocation etc. is managed to ensure minimum disruption to the existing Welsh-medium Primary School.</p> <p>Pupils currently access Welsh-medium secondary education at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw. Places have been secured for Blaenau Gwent pupils until at least 2029. Neighbouring Councils including Blaenau Gwent, are currently working together in line with the proposal to extend the age range at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, to secure future Welsh-medium secondary places 2029 and beyond.</p>
The consultation process does not address stakeholder perspective and understanding of the project. Therefore the project is not supported and does not progress.	The consultation document has been written with a detailed summary of how the proposal will work and why it is needed. An engagement plan has been developed to ensure continued engagement with pupils, parents, staff, other stakeholders and the wider community; throughout the consultation process.
The project is delivered late and/or over budget.	The Council is experienced in the delivery of new build projects. Should the proposal proceed the Council will develop: a detailed timeline including key milestones (which are already known), a dedicated project group comprised of all relevant officers, and a detailed financial profile. The project development and delivery would be monitored weekly and reported to senior leaders.
Planning approval is denied and so a site is not secured.	A detailed site appraisal has taken place in order to identify suitable locations for the new school. The most suitable location has been identified and will be subject to further site investigation, along with planning. Early engagement with Planning has taken place and will continue post consultation should the proposal be approved.
Opposition to the proposal, meaning that the proposal will not be delivered.	<p>Positive engagement with key stakeholders i.e. the schools directly affected and those indirectly affected in Tredegar/Sirhowy has already taken place. The formal consultation process will offer the opportunity for schools, parents, pupils and the wider community to gain a full appreciation of the positive opportunity that this proposal presents within Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>A number of options have been considered in line with the proposal and this document details why change is needed, and why the proposal that has been brought forward for consultation is the Councils preferred option.</p>

Alternatives Considered and Discounted

Aside from the proposal detailed above, the following options were considered in line with the development of a new Welsh-medium primary provision (broken down by type of provision, governance models and site/ location):

Type of Provision Considered:

- Co-location of the Welsh-medium seedling school in an existing English-medium school with internal surplus capacity to accommodate a seedling and or school build.
- Co-location of the Welsh-medium seedling school in an existing English-medium school with enough external capacity to accommodate the seedling and school build.

The above options were discounted as they would potentially:

- Cause disruption to the existing school estate i.e. developing a seedling on a live site, affecting school capacity and admission numbers.
- Not be sustainable as the provision grows.
- Negatively affect immersion from a Welsh-language perspective, as co-location options in the area where latent demand has been evidenced would be on existing English-medium school sites, i.e. at play times and in-between school sessions English language would be the 'norm'.
- Incur higher capital build costs in the long-term, as double the work would be required to remodel an internal or external area of an existing school and then potential build a new one as the numbers/ year groups grow.

Governance Models Considered:

- Treat this as a new School with a new Headteacher and Governing Body, obviously under regular review of pay range as the pupil numbers increase.
- Treat this as a new school, but consider a Federation with the existing Welsh-medium Primary.

The above options were discounted as they would potentially:

- Have a negative effect on Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, with limited alignment.
- Have a negative financial impact from a revenue perspective.

Site/Locations Considered:

Education, Planning, Technical Services and Estates have carried out an appraisal of Council owned sites within the locality to identify sites that could accommodate a single form entry school based on Building Bulletin guidance. This resulted in the preferred site being identified at Chartist Way (Page 12). The feasibility study shows how the school could fit on the curtilage of this plot of land. An outline plan is included on the next page circling the proposed location. Please note that the details of this may be subject to change.

The Council have considered a number of sites to accommodate the development and have narrowed the search down to the below sites:

- Deighton Playing Field – least favourite option as it would take away from the existing school, is a green area and may cause more traffic congestion.
- Land adjacent to the Vitec Building in Tredegar – this option was ruled out due to the fact that the land is a high flood risk area and that the land is also identified as
- Tredegar Comprehensive playing fields.

Learner Travel Arrangements

The Council's Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy states that free home to school transport will be provided for all statutory school age pupils who attend their designated school and who qualify under the Council's distance limits. Within Blaenau Gwent the distance limits are as follows:

- Under 8 years of age – living more than 1.5 miles from the school.
- 8 – 11 years of age, living more than 2 miles from the school.
- 11 – 16 years of age, living more than 2 miles from the school.

Post 16 Transport Provision

Blaenau Gwent's current policy is to provide all post 16 pupils/students who qualify on the grounds of distance a travel grant of £150. In respect of student attending a Coleg Gwent campus site the £150 can either be received by students in monetary form or paid directly to Coleg Gwent in order to subsidise a season ticket. The season ticket allows students to travel to Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone or any other Coleg Gwent campus at a reduced cost to them, currently set at £1.00 per single journey.

Students, who travel to the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Unit at the Learning Zone, are able to do so free of charge via an approved transport provider contracted by the Council. The use of this transport must be approved by the Council's ALN section. The travel policy also provides for pupils accessing post 16 education at either a Welsh medium or faith secondary provision, by allowing free travel on existing transport in lieu of the travel grant.

Section 4: Consultation Details

Consultation Outcome and Next Steps

Consultation Report

Feedback from the consultation will be collated, analysed and presented in a Consultation Out-turn Report to the Council's Executive Committee in February 2021. The report will be available 2 weeks before a decision is made via the Council's website before the decision is made to or not to proceed to publish a statutory notice. Hard copies can be obtained on request from the email address detailed above.

Statutory Notice

Should this proposal be approved at Executive Committee, the Council will then go out to statutory notice in March 2021. This will run for 28 days, during this period, you will be able to object via the email address provided in this consultation booklet. Any issues raised by interested parties will then summarised and presented back to the Executive Committee for a final decision to be made.

Should the proposal proceed, a copy of the Statutory Notice will be displayed on the Council's website and at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. Hard copies of the statutory notice will be available on request.

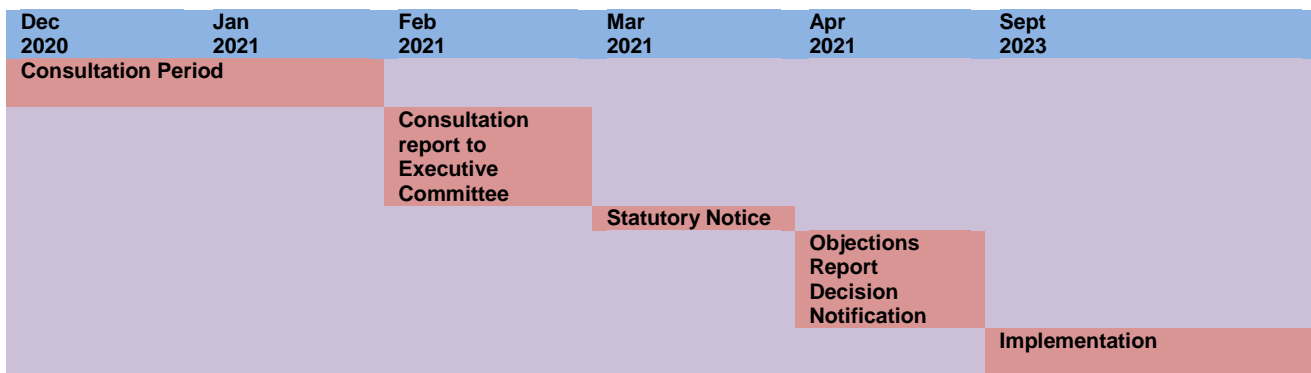
Determination of Proposal

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will determine the proposal based upon the objections that will be collated post Statutory Notice Period in April 2021. This may lead to the approval, rejection or approval for the proposal with modifications.

Decision Notification

Once the decision has been approved, an electronic copy of determination will be sent out to all interested parties and published on Blaenau Gwent's County Borough Council's website within 7 days of the decision April 2021.

The Statutory Process Timeline



Section 5: Details of Affected Schools

School numbers on roll and pupil projections

As previously discussed, Blaenau Gwent only has one Welsh-medium primary school and all secondary pupils are educated in Torfaen; therefore, there is only one school in Blaenau Gwent that is primarily affected by the proposal Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, the school has a condition rating B and suitability rating C, and the School Categorisation is Yellow. The Secondary school that they feed into is situated in Torfaen. The table below provides further details on both the primary and secondary schools:

Name of School and location	Category	Language	Age Range
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Blaina, Abertillery, NP13 3DQ	Maintained	Welsh-medium	3-11
Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, Folly Road, Trevethin, Pontypool NP4 8JD	Maintained	Welsh-medium	11-18

Primary School Pupil Place and Projection Data

The school's capacity is 258, along with a nursery capacity of 60. The numbers on role (actual as at September each year) are as follows:

Table 1: School (current capacity)	Actual Numbers on Roll (ANoR) September 2016	ANoR September 2017	ANoR September 2018	ANoR September 2019	ANoR September 2020
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg (258)	232	225	231	209	215

The following table provides projections for the school over the next five years (projections for September each year):

Table 2: School Capacity	Projected September 2021	Projected September 2022	Projected September 2023	Projected September 2024	Projected September 2025
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg	266	258	253	259	263
Welsh-medium Seedling School	-	-	48	72	94

Secondary School Pupil Place and Projection Data

Torfaen County Borough Council has consultation on a proposal to extend the age range of Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw to 3-18, please refer to the following link for more information:

The numbers on role (actual as at September each year) are as follows:

Table 3: School (current capacity)	Actual Numbers on Roll September 2016	ANoR September 2017	ANoR September 2018	ANoR September 2019	ANoR September 2020
Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (1107)	939	888	860	819	762

The following table provides projections for the school over the next five years (projections for September each year):

Table 4: School (current capacity)	Projected September 2021	Projected September 2022	Projected September 2023	Projected September 2024	Projected September 2025
Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (1107)	778	820	862	875	912

There is also an assumption that should this proposal be established Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg would be impacted indirectly, as the pupils entering the school from the Tredegar Sirhowy area at the moment will choose to attend the satellite school in Tredegar Sirhowy.

Indirectly affected

Although, not directly affected, there will potentially be an impact upon English-medium and Faith schools within the school development area (detailed below) in terms of pupil numbers:

Tredegar/ Sirhowy

- Bryn Bach Primary School, Merthyr Road, Tredegar NP22 3RX
- Deighton Primary School, Stockton Way, Tredegar NP22 3ES
- Georgetown Primary School, Oakfield Road, Tredegar, NP22 4LP
- Glanhwy Primary School, Coach Bach, Tredegar, NP22 4RW
- St Joseph's R.C. Primary School, Ashvale, Dukestown, Tredegar, NP22 4AQ
- Tredegar Comprehensive School, Stable Lane, Tredegar, NP22 4BH

Ebbw Fawr (North)

- Glyncoed Primary School, Badminton Grove, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5UL
- Rhos-Y-Fedwen Primary School, Honeyfield Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5TA
- Willowtown Primary School, Brynheulog Street, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6NJ
- All Saints R.C. Primary School, Heol-yr-Ysgol, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6QP

Section 6: Other Considerations

Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language

This proposal would increase pupil numbers of Welsh-medium school places available in the area. The Council does not expect any negative impact on the Welsh Language from this proposal. Welsh is taught in English-medium and Special Schools in line with the National Curriculum. The Council works closely and constructively with partners on its Welsh Education Forum (WEF).

The Council monitors birth rates, the number of extra pupils that may come from new housing and the patterns of how many pupils are in English/Welsh-medium schools. This allows the Council to bring forward suitable plans to deal with any increase in demand. This will be at an appropriate time to ensure there are enough places available.

Section 84 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, requires each Council to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The Blaenau Gwent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20 (please refer to **link below** for more information), is directly aligned to both the Welsh Government's and the Council's Welsh Language strategic frameworks. The strategic priorities highlighted in the draft WESP document for the next three years can be summarised as follows:

- Raise the profile and levels of participation for Welsh-medium education across the County Borough by 2020, to contribute to the vision for one million speakers by 2050.
- Increase the early year's provision offer to stimulate parental demand to enable growth across the County Borough.
- Increase transition rates from Welsh-medium nursery provision to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg by 50% in 2020.
- Work regionally with South East Wales Local Authorities to secure places for Blaenau Gwent learners in Welsh-medium secondary provision between 2017-2020 and beyond.
- Improving Welsh medium learner outcomes by 2020 so that learners raise aspirations and improve their life chances.

The Welsh-medium proposal is timely in that Welsh Government approved the Blaenau Gwent Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-20 in March 2018 (please refer to the following link for more information:

https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/fileadmin/documents/Council/Policies_Strategies_Plans/Blaenau_Gwent_WESP_2017-20_Nov_2017_24th_English.pdf);

Which advocates increasing Welsh education opportunities across the County Borough. The proposal will also support Welsh Governments Welsh language strategy: 2050. <https://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/170711-welsh-language-strategy-eng.pdf>

Welsh Government plans to undertake curriculum reform, investing significantly in Welsh language developments, which could see the subject of second language Welsh being abolished, with all pupils in Wales studying first language Welsh.

Finance

Blaenau Gwent has secured capital funding via Welsh Government to the value of £6.2 million, to develop a Welsh-medium 210 place primary inclusive of nursery and childcare provision, via seedling/growth model.

There will however, be revenue costs associated with this proposal. The below figure has been calculated based on the gross internal floor area of proposed school, a maximum projected pupil population of 48 in its first year. It is estimated that there will be revenue expenditure in the region of £232,000 in 2023/24 (incorporating building maintenance, caretaking, cleaning, grounds maintenance, energy and rates etc.), along with leadership and administration costs. These figures are based on the 2020/21 price base. The costs would be funded from the Individual School Budget.

Transport costs will be funded via the Council's Home to School Transport Budget. It is anticipated that transport costs would not significantly increase, with reduction in transport costs to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg off setting any additional costs created by the new school development. There is likely to be a positive financial impact on Home to School Transport and an assessment would need to be undertaken in order to quantify the likely cost reduction benefits should the proposal be implemented.

Admission Arrangements

Should the proposal proceed, Blaenau Gwent Council will act as the Admissions Authority for the new school. The new school is proposed to have 210 primary school places, plus nursery provision for 24 full-time places (48-part time equivalent). It is proposed that the school will start as a "seedling school" with pupils initially admitted into the reception and nursery classes who will apply as part of the normal admissions round. The school will have an admission number of 24 per year group which can grow as the school grows.

Blaenau Gwent Council as the admission authority, is not able to offer a guaranteed places policy particularly given the requirements of the Government Infant class legislation which restricts the size of Foundation Phase classes to no more than 30 pupils per class. Although not statutory, the "target" size for Key Stage 2 classes is also 30. If applications for admission to a school exceed the number of places available, the council's published over subscription criteria will apply.

Equality Impact Screening

A detailed Equality impact assessment has been undertaken, in order to assess the impact of the proposal and decisions upon the protected characteristics. A summary of the impact is detailed within the Equal screening assessment which can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

A community impact assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the impact of the proposal upon stakeholders and the wider community. Please refer to **Appendix 2** for the summary document.

The proposal involves the development of additional Welsh-medium education and childcare provision; therefore, it is expected to have a positive impact on Welsh language, access to and the provision of Welsh-medium education and childcare, along with parent and community engagement opportunities.

United Nation Rights of the Child (UNCRC):

The Council in all its corporate responsibilities ensure that they will always engage positively with children and young people. If this proposal is implemented, the seven core aims of the UNCRC will be maintained.

With particular reference to:

- **Article 28** You have the right to education.
- **Article 29** You have the right to education which tries to develop your personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages you to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment.

Engagement of Children and Young People in this Consultation

As part of this consultation process, the Education Transformation team in partnership with schools, the Inclusion team and Youth Service; will consult with pupils that are affected by the proposal, as well as engaging with both the Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum and Schools Grand Council.

Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

Blaenau Gwent Council regularly consider the sufficiency of places to meet local demand currently and in the future.

Surplus places/Capacity Issues

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg has a capacity for 215. To meet current and future demand an increase in capacity is required for the School medium to long term plan. Should the proposal to build a new Welsh-medium primary school proceed this will all more places to be offered in Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg in line with development of childcare facilities offered.

Short-medium term there will be relatively little impact on the primary provision (this is an assumption that approximately 1/3 children from each of the school's catchment areas will apply to attend) in the Tredegar/Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr North areas. However, in the long term with numbers increasing year on year to attend the Welsh-medium seedling primary provision will experience an impact based on current projects.

Tredegar Comprehensive school is assumed to be the biggest impact if 24 pupils opt for Welsh-medium secondary as a result of them attending the Welsh-medium seedling.

Capital Costs / Capital Receipts

The estimated capital costs of the project are to be fully funded by Welsh Government and are in the region £6.2m. There are no anticipated capital receipts associated with the scheme, the council would forgo a capital receipt in relation to the land it will be utilising for the build.

Housing Developments

On average, in the past 5 years, 90 houses have been built in Blaenau Gwent each year. This level of growth is expected to continue. These potential homes either already have planning permission, are seeking legal agreement or are included in the LDP. There will be more children living in new

housing as well as more children living in existing housing. Therefore, extra school places in general in existing schools will grow. **Figure 2** - illustrates the number of housing Developments which are currently in the Local Development Plan (LDP)

	According the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for Tredegar Valley .					According the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for Ebbw Fawr Valley .					According the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for Ebbw Fach Valley .				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Housing Associations:	23	18	0	0		13	13	33	0		0	16	20	0	0
Private Sector Housing:	8	7	6	6		34	104	92	32		3	53	40	17	12
Total	31	25	6	6		47	117	125	32		3	69	60	17	12

For more information please visit the following Blaenau Gwent webpage: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan/ldp-allocations/>

The above data tells us that there are over 472 houses being planned between 2020 – 2024 reflecting or planning for the number of pupils in each year group in existing housing will increase. The population however, would be subsumed within the existing mainstream primary and secondary settings. With little or no effect on the special schools.

Human Resources

The opening of a new provision would generate opportunities to increase the staff cohort and it would provide opportunities for Welsh-medium speaking staff. There are professional learning opportunities for staff to access welsh-language training through various routes. Should the proposal be agreed a group will be set up to look at the staffing requirements and the governance model in more depth.

Partnerships

The ‘Blaenau Gwent We Want’ engagement programme is about local people, businesses and organisations having a say on how we can improve Blaenau Gwent for our future generations.

In its 1st year the group have already engaged with over 1,500 people from throughout Blaenau Gwent to find out what they would like the area to be like in the future. Their feedback has been used to help us put together a number of priorities that we will work on over the next few years to help us create the Blaenau Gwent that we all want.

Our Well-Being Plan outlines our objectives for improving well-being in Blaenau Gwent and meeting our duties under the Future Generations Act (2015). The 5 objectives in the plan have been developed to reflect that Blaenau Gwent Wants.

- **The best start in life for everyone**
- **Safe and friendly communities**

- **To look after and protect the natural environment**
- **To forge new pathways to prosperity**
- **To encourage healthy lifestyles**

These well-being objectives are ones we consider to have real power to bring about change, that are the most urgent and that the evidence tells us need the combined force of the Public Services Board partners to deliver and improve well-being.

Section 7: Evaluation of Present Arrangements

Current Estyn Results

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise standards achieved by their pupils (Estyn).

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg last Estyn inspection was undertaken in 2020. The results of which are tabled below:

Inspection area	Judgement
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Adequate and needs improvement
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good

If a school is judged as adequate or unsatisfactory, they will be subject to monitoring by Estyn or the Local Authority until such time as they are judged to have made sufficient progress to be removed from the list of schools requiring improvement. Overall, this assessment is a good result for the school, only having 4 recommendations for improvements.

- **R1** Ensure that teaching and learning experiences develop the independence of all pupils in the foundation phase consistently
- **R2** Improve provision to develop pupils' ICT skills across the school
- **R3** Strengthen self-evaluation and planning for improvement procedures in order to prioritise and address the most important areas

A sample of comments from the latest inspection are detailed below:

- Very few are able to speak Welsh before entry. However, most pupils, including those with special educational needs, make sound progress during their time at the school.
- The working relationship between pupils and staff at the school is sound and provides an effective foundation to maintain a caring and supportive ethos. Nearly all pupils talk about their school with pride.
- Pupils play a leading role in the school's strategic work. Members of the wide range of children's committees have a purposeful influence on different aspects of the school.

- Leaders have established a strong culture of continuous self-evaluation.

Quality and Standards in Education

The quality and standards of schools in Blaenau Gwent are monitored by the Council, in line with the national system of school categorisation and guidance in respect of schools causing concern. Estyn is the Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales and is established under the 1992 Education Act. Standards and the quality of provision are also monitored periodically through the Estyn Inspection Framework for the inspection of schools.

Since 2012, the Council has commissioned the Education Achievement Service (EAS) to support school improvement in Blaenau Gwent's schools. The EAS provide school improvement support to the following Councils: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. As part of this proposal, the Council will work in partnership with the EAS to secure increased levels of support for the schools. This will ensure appropriate support is in place during the period of transition.

Standards: The proposal will not affect the standards in the Welsh-medium school affected. The new Welsh-medium primary school building will receive the appropriate level of challenge and support, as per the arrangements at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg.

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning: The provision of additional pupil places at the proposed Welsh-medium seedling primary school is expected to enable more children to attend school in their local community. The creation of a new Welsh-medium primary school will increase parental choice and provide Welsh-medium education closer to home for children living Tredegar, Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr (North) Valleys. Pupil wellbeing is a priority for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg which is monitored and reported. The proposal will not impact wellbeing and attitudes towards learning at the other affected schools.

Teaching and learning experiences: The teaching at the new Welsh-medium Primary school will follow the national curriculum with Welsh as the language of teaching and learning. The proposal will not impact the teaching and learning experiences at the other affected school.

Care, support and guidance: Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg is a caring and inclusive community that provides high quality care and support for all pupils, this will be continued within the new school. All staff are committed to identifying pupils' needs at an early stage and providing them with valuable support. The new Welsh-medium primary building in Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley will be supported by Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, the Council and the Education Achievement Service; to provide high quality care, support and guidance. There will be no change in care support and guidance at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg.

Leadership and management: The headteacher and leaders have a clear and robust vision to develop the school as a successful learning community by providing high quality education and care for all pupils, this will continue into the new school setting. This vision is based soundly on raising standards, developing pride towards the Welsh language, and pupils' wellbeing. There is an effective leadership team to support the work of setting a decisive strategic direction for all of the school's work. There will be no change to how the quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers will perform. At the proposed Welsh-medium seedling primary school site, the school leadership team will receive support and guidance from the Council and the Education Achievement Service to ensure best practice in leadership and management are continued and adopted.

Impact of the proposal

Should the proposal be approved, the impact on Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg will be largely mitigated, as it is planned to establish a shared governance model across the two schools. It will continue to provide a high quality learning environment in support of enhanced outcomes for all learners. The proposal will ensure that the already excellent standards will be transferred and further developed.

As mentioned previously (Page 13) the growth of the school has the potential to impact on English-medium community primary and secondary provision, along with faith-based primary schools. The biggest impact on primary being in 2029/30, with maximum loss of pupil numbers - if solely from within the exiting/projected pupil population, would be in the region of 24 – 30 pupils across the primary schools detailed on Page 20. There is also a potential impact for secondary provision going forward, with the same maximum level of loss.

Section 8: Overview of the New School Proposal

The table below details the category, language, age range and other relevant details relation to the proposed new school:

New School Proposal Overview	
Admission no. and arrangements	<p>Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will act as the Admissions Authority for the admission of pupils to the new school.</p> <p>The admission numbers from 2023 will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery:24 • Reception:24 <p>Admission would be managed in accordance with the Blaenau Gwent School Admissions Policy for Nursery and Statutory Education (2022/23).</p>
Age range	3-11 years (with additional childcare provision)
Capacity of the new school	Seedling provision Tredegar 210 places
Location	Preferred option: Chartist Way, Sirhowy, Tredegar.
Category school and language	Maintained Welsh-medium Primary
Schedule of accommodation	<p>A detailed schedule of accommodation will be determined post consultation. The facility will, however, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursery and associated hygiene rooms and calming room • 5 standard Foundation Phase classrooms • 2 Key Stage 2 Classrooms • Flexible teaching spaces • Dining/assembly hall and kitchen/servery • Headteacher and admin offices • Staffroom • Teaching streets • Calming room • Covered play/learning areas • Playground and soft social (grass) area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Co-located Welsh-medium Childcare provision
Transport arrangements and policy	Transport will be delivered in accordance with the Blaenau Gwent Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2019. Please refer to Section 1 for more information.
School Categorisation (2019)	Not applicable
Estyn Inspection Results	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6772307 February 2020
Building Condition Categorisation	A
Building Suitability Categorisation	A

School Catchment Area

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg and the proposed seedling school will still serve the whole of Blaenau Gwent, with the focus of the latter being pupils from the Tredegar Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr North area.

Transition Arrangements

There will be no change for pupils already attending Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. The proposal will affect pupils who apply for a school place in the 2023/24 academic session. The Council will work with Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg and Early Years, Childcare partners to ensure effective planning and transition processes are in place.

Section 9: Consultation Pro-forma



Consultation Questionnaire

Please provide your comment on the proposal to establish a new Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley via a Seedling/Growth Model.

<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160804430159>

You may also wish to indicate which of the following reflects your views:

I fully support the proposal	
I support some of the proposal	
I do not support the proposal	

Your comments:

Name: _____ Date: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Please indicate if you are:

Primary: Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) _____

Secondary: Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) _____

Thank you for your time and contribution to the consultation. Your views, comments and responses will be recorded and reported to the Council's Executive Committee in the Consultation Outcome Report.

Please detach this form and return by Emailing: 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

All comments to be received no later than 5:00pm on Friday 29th January 2021

Appendix 1– Equality Impact Screening



Screening Form



Service Area Contact Information: <i>(Please complete all fields)</i>				
Name of Person Completing Form: Sharon Northall		Department/Service Area: Education Directorate		Service Manager: Claire Gardner
		Date: 30/11/2020		
Contact Details: sharon.northall@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk			Name of Proposed Policy: N/A	
Policy Information				
Are you screening for the Equality Impact on a new policy, or an existing policy: N/A Choose an item.			Comments: This EIA screening is in connection with the development of a new 210 Place Primary School in Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley.	
What are the aims and objectives of the policy: <i>There are no associated policy developments, however, the Council is consulting upon a proposal to increase Welsh-medium Education and Childcare provision within the borough.</i>				
Assessment of Impact of the Policy / Practice on Protected Characteristics				
Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Provide reasons and any mitigation required
Age (children, young people, the elderly)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposal will have a positive impact upon all ages, by offering them more opportunities to be educated, learn and access provision via the medium of Welsh.
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The school will be fully accessible in line with 21st Century School standards.
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pregnancy and Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Religion and Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sex (male, female)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
<u>Additional Indicators of Equality Risk</u>				
<i>Please indicate if you believe this policy / practice has a high, medium or low risk as follows (1 = No Impact; 2 = Minimal Impact; 3 = Potential Impact; 4 = Likely Impact; 5 = Inequality Impact)</i>				
Children and / or young people up to the age of 18		1		<i>Please indicate any planned methods aimed at mitigating these risks</i> Click here to enter text.
The dynamics of a given community		1		<i>Please indicate any planned methods aimed at mitigating these risks</i> <i>There will be more options for parents to consider based on their child's schooling. English medium, Faith Based and Welsh-medium.</i>
<u>Meeting the Equality Objectives</u>				
<i>Please indicate below if / how your proposal will contribute to the Equality Objectives</i>				
Objective 1 – Making equality vital in decision making and service provision	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Objective 2 – Be an equal opportunity employer, with a workforce that is aware of and understands the equality agenda	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		Click here to enter text.
Objective 3 – Do our best to engage, protect and support those people in our community that need it the most	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		Click here to enter text.
Objective 4 – Promote understanding and acceptance of diversity within our communities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<u>Evidence and Consultation</u>				
Have you undertaken any consultation and engagement activities with protected groups in order to mitigate any risks of discrimination	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>		<i>Please describe the engagement activities undertaken as part of this process</i> Formal consultation will be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders in order to gather their views.
<i>Please highlight any additional evidence which might demonstrate consideration of the needs to protected groups in relation to this particular proposal</i>				



Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Proposal to establish a Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley

November 2020

1. Introduction

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) is carrying out a formal consultation on a proposal to establish a Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley. Should Blaenau Gwent Borough Council wish to implement the proposal following conclusion of the formal consultation, such implementation will be subject to Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments.

2. National Context

Welsh Government School Organisation Code November 2018 (V2) requires local authorities to conduct a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment when proposing changes to school organisation. The School Organisation Code stipulates that local authorities need to consider the impact that proposals may have on local families and the local community, by undertaking a community impact assessment, and the impact upon Welsh language via a language impact assessment, if any school affected provides teaching through the medium of Welsh.

3. Local Context

Blaenau Gwent is committed to modernising education, ensuring children and young people receive a first class education, The Council also recognises the importance of having modern and fit for purpose buildings that meet the needs of modern day education. In March 2017, the education directorate published the 'Vision for Education' to Secure excellent achievement and wellbeing for all learners through a partnership, school-led, self-improving system. There are five priorities that the Council aims to deliver. The fifth priority refers to improving the quality of our school estate.

Community Impact

As part of the consultation document development, the Education Transformation team have undertaken a Community Impact assessment which is detailed below, in consideration of the proposal to build a new 210 place Welsh-medium primary school in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley.

a. Number of Pupils in the area of Tredegar Sirhowy Valley

There are 1,913 pupils of statutory school age attending schools in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley. Of these, 1,247 are primary pupils and 666 secondary pupils. 58% (724) of the primary school age population attend their catchment area school, within Tredegar Comprehensive School this is slightly higher, with 94% (622) of pupils in catchment. The remaining 6% (44) of pupils reside outside of Tredegar/ Sirhowy Valley.

As this proposal seeks to develop the school via a seedling/growth model, calculations have been carried out using existing nursery, reception and Year 1 data.

Nursery Data

Out of the 148 nursery age pupils, 62% (92) of pupils attend their catchment area school, 32% (48) of pupils attend a school in Tredegar which isn't their catchment

school, with the remaining 6% (8) residing outside of Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley (predominantly Ebbw Vale and/or out of borough).

Reception Data

Out of 166 reception age pupils, 59% (99) of pupils attend their catchment area school, 35% (57) of pupils attend a school in Tredegar which isn't their catchment school, with the remaining 6% (10) of pupils residing outside of Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley (predominantly Ebbw Vale and/or out of borough).

Year 1 Data

Out of 176 Year 1 pupils, 56.5% (101) of pupils attend their catchment area school within Tredegar/Sirhowy, 38% (68) of pupils attend a school in Tredegar which isn't their catchment school, and the remainder of pupils 5.5% (7) reside outside of Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley (predominantly Ebbw Vale and/or out of borough).

b. Which schools are likely to be affected by this proposal

An initial appraisal was undertaken to assess which primary schools would be directly affected, and which would be indirectly affected by this proposal in the Tredegar/Sirhowy and North Ebbw Fawr Valleys, should the new school proposal be developed. There is an assumption that the affected schools would be:

Directly affected – as this is currently the only Welsh-medium Primary School: Ebbw Fach (North)

- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, Rising Sun Industrial Site, Blaina NP13 1YL

Indirectly affected - with possible pupil displacement as a result of parental choice: English and Faith based Primary Schools in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley

- Bryn Bach Primary School, Merthyr Road, Tredegar NP22 3RX
- Deighton Primary School, Stockton Way, Tredegar NP22 3ES
- Georgetown Primary School, Oakfield Road, Tredegar, NP22 4LP
- Glanhwy Primary School, Coach Bach, Tredegar, NP22 4RW
- St Joseph's R.C. Primary School, Ashvale, Dukestown, Tredegar, NP22 4AQ

Ebbw Fawr (North)

- Glyncoed Primary School, Badminton Grove, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5UL
- Willowtown Primary School, Brynheulog Street, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6NJ
- All Saints R.C. Primary School, Heol-yr-Ysgol, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6QP

Welsh-medium Secondary

- Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, Folly Road, Trevethin, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 8JD

Other considerations include:

- Pupil migration into the area from neighbouring authorities which border the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley.
- New pupils resulting from housing developments and in-year transfers.

c. Information about the distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school of the same language category

Should this proposal not proceed, for the children of families whose first choice is Welsh-medium education, the travel time for pupils via home to school transport would likely be in excess of 50 minutes.

For pupils who wish to partake in after school activity, there are additional transport and access considerations for parents, should parents not have access to their own vehicle. In this instance, parents would need to use either public transport and/or taxi services. There is no direct public transport link to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg via either Tredegar or Ebbw Vale. Therefore, parents would need to make 3 changes as follows from Tredegar and 2 from Ebbw Vale:

- Tredegar to Ebbw Vale
- Ebbw Vale to Brynmawr
- Brynmawr to Nantyglo

Parents and pupils would then be required to walk for at least 15 minutes to safely access the school from the nearest bus stop. Both journeys are likely to take in excess of 1 hour each way, with transport times varying and not consistently passing through.

Therefore, access and engagement with out of hours’ school-based activity is likely to be more difficult should the proposal not proceed. Walking and cycling routes from a number of areas throughout the borough are restricted.

The preferred site, Chartist Way, is on an existing bus route and would make it more accessible for parents on public transport.

Welsh Language Impact

The language category of the proposed seedling primary school would be Welsh-medium, the only other Welsh-medium primary in Blaenau Gwent is Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. The proposal would positively impact upon the Welsh language in creating additional childcare, education and community provision.

School	School activities which provide additional opportunities to use Welsh in the school and any alternative school	Does the school provides facilities for members of the community to learn Welsh
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg Welsh-medium primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School: clubs after school for KS2 pupils on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays – Art, Sports, Drama, Music, ICT • Urdd run a club on a Monday – various activities. • Menter Iaith run a lunch-time club on a Friday – various activities and we compete in Urdd Eisteddfod, Urdd Sports and take children to Llangrannog Urdd Activity centre twice a year. • The school runs lunch-time Welsh pop music clubs and holds various events during the year promoting Welsh language and culture e.g. Welsh Music Day in February, St. David’s Day March, Caffi Cymraeg 	The school hold community engage activities and sessions for parents, families and residents, which could be expanded upon and further developed school the proposal go ahead.

	<p>termly where parents and the community are invited to coffee morning. TED sessions are also held, where new parents learn Welsh songs and vocabulary that will help them support their children with the language e.g. the school has held cookery sessions, reading sessions, and other various themed sessions during the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Caffi Cymraeg and TED sessions, the Criw Cymraeg (pupils who lead on the Siarter Iaith/Welsh Charter) lead the learning. • The school has good links with both Tai Calon Welsh learners and BGfm radio station. • The latest development is that the school has established links with the Criw Cymraeg from local English-medium primary schools (Ystruth, Coed-y-Garn and Blaen-y-Cwm), who visit to plan activities such as Welsh Music day disco and seeing how our Caffi Cymraeg works. Other schools such as Deighton Primary School have visited for support and activities to improve Welsh language acquisition. 	<p>Coleg Gwent act as a partner agency delivering courses to young people and adults. Should the proposal proceed, this would offer the opportunity to increase community provision and engagement via the College.</p>
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d. Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20 (WESP) and its delivery agent Blaenau Gwent’s Welsh in Education Forum (WEF)

Blaenau Gwent, through its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20 (WESP) along with Blaenau Gwent’s Welsh in Education Forum (WEF), is committed to expanding the provision of Welsh medium education throughout the County Borough. This proposal would increase opportunities for learning via the medium of Welsh.

All schools in Blaenau Gwent teach and promote the Welsh language. The proposal would increase opportunities to learn and enhance Welsh language and culture within the area.

STATUTORY NOTICE

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Education Department, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1DB.

Notice is given in accordance with section 41 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, propose to establish a new 210 place Welsh-Medium Primary School with co-located childcare provision on the proposed site of Chartist Way, Tredegar, NP22 4PR for boys and girls aged 3-11. This will be maintained by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The new school will have no denominating religious character.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and Estyn's full response is available on:-

[Blaenau Gwent CBC: To establish a New Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley via a Seedling/Growth Model \(blaenau-gwent.gov.uk\)](http://blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2023 using a seedling growth model. In which the school opens initially for childcare, Nursery and Reception year groups, with a year group then added each academic year with the school reaching capacity when the first reception cohort reaches Year 6.

The proposed new school will be a Welsh medium maintained school. Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will be the admission authority. The new school's pupil capacity will be 210 pupils of statutory school age (4-11). There will also be 24 full time nursery places.

The admission number for the reception year group at the new school in the first school year in which the proposals have been implemented is 24 and the admission number for full time nursery places will also be 24.

In each subsequent school year, pupils will progress to the next year group; each year group at the school including each new Reception year group will have an admission number of 24, with the new school reaching capacity of 210 pupils of statutory school age (4-11) and 28 full time nursery places in the school year commencing September 2023, as shown in the table below.

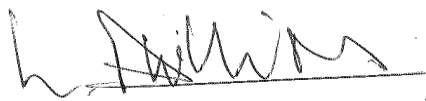
	N	R	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
2023/24	24	24						
2024/25	24	24	24					
2025/26	24	24	24	24				
2026/27	24	24	24	24	24			
2027/28	24	24	24	24	24	24		
2028/29	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	
2029/30	30	30	24	24	24	24	24	24
2030/31	30	30	30	24	24	24	24	24

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Home to School transport policy. At present, the Council provides free transport for primary aged pupils who attend their relevant school if they reside more than 1.5 miles walking distance to that school.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say by 29th March 2021 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections by e-mail should be sent to 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk.

Objections in writing should be sent to Lynn Phillips, Corporate Director of Education, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Floor 8 Anvil Court, Abertillery, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1DB.



Signed

Corporate Director of Education

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

1st March 2021

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As part of the Welsh Government's commitment to the goal of one million Welsh speakers by 2050, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced on 16 January 2018 that £30 million (100% funded, with no match funding requirement from Councils), would be allocated to support capital projects dedicated to creating additional Welsh-medium education provision.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has been successful in its bid for £6M to provide additional Welsh Medium primary provision in the Tredegar/Sirhowy valley. This statutory notice is the outcome of statutory consultation on the establishment of the new school which was carried out in compliance with the School Organisation Code (2018).

The consultation period for this proposal commenced on **Thursday 17th December 2020** and concluded on **Friday 29th January 2021**. There were 4 key core components of the proposal as follows:

- I. To create a new 210 place Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar Sirhowy Valley.
- II. To develop the new Welsh-medium Primary School as seedling/growth model where the childcare facility and the nursery and reception year groups come into effect in September 2023, with additional year groups opening for pupil progression each year thereafter. The school would be fully functional with all year groups in operation by September 2029.
- III. To secure a suitable location. Based upon initial site review and investigation, the preferred option is Chartist Way in the Sirhowy area.
- IV. To develop a leadership and management structure aligned to that of the Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg primary school.

The consultation report is available on Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council's website. The Council has favoured a seedling school model when establishing this proposal, to allow the facilities and staff to be used efficiently whilst the school grows to its full potential.

The new school will be located in the Tredegar/Sirhowy area of Blaenau Gwent and will provide an additional Welsh Medium Primary School in the County Borough, which currently only has one Welsh Medium Primary School, namely Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg primary school which is located in the Blaina area in the Ebbw Fach valley. The catchment area for the new school will be Tredegar/Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr North.

Further information on this proposal can be found here:

[Blaenau Gwent CBC: To establish a New Welsh-medium Primary School in the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley via a Seedling/Growth Model \(blaenau-gwent.gov.uk\)](https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

END OF NOTICE

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Objection Report

To the proposal of building a Welsh-medium Primary School with co-located Childcare Provision on the preferred site of Chartist Way Sirhowy Tredegar

There was one objection/concern for this proposal

Questions and the Councils responses noted below

The beautiful view I have from my window, being one reason the property which is my home, was bought in the first place, being obscured from the view of my property.

Response:

By way of context, as per the Blaenau Gwent's Local Development Plan 2006-2021 ([Site Descriptions.pdf \(blaenau-gwent.gov.uk\)](#) page 5, the land adjacent to Chartist Way, is not intended for green space. The land is a brownfield site which means it has been reclaimed to create a flat platform for development. It was formerly earmarked for industrial development

With regards to the view, should the proposal proceed, the Council will ensure that the design is sympathetic and does not negatively affect the vista for local residents. It is anticipated that, should the proposal proceed the school will be a single story building, located on the northern edge of the site.

The mess of construction works, noise and obstruction by construction vehicles to the access of my property.

Response:

Should the proposal proceed, when appointing a contractor, the Council will ensure that they are considerate of local residents, and that site management is effective with minimal disruption and maximum benefit for the local community. Community engagement would be of paramount importance and local residents would be regularly updated on the construction process by both the Council and the contractor.

When the school is constructed, parking and traffic on dropping off and picking up of school children causing parking restrictions, of access to my property.

Response:

It is proposed that school and co-located childcare provision would be occupied from September 2023 and that the school would develop via a growth model; therefore, the numbers of staff, pupils and parents accessing the site would be staggered and increased over a number of years.

As part of the design stage and project development process a full traffic and travel assessment will be undertaken. Car parking, pick up drop off will be considered as part of this process, to ensure that the provision is developed and designed in consideration of the health and safety of all parties. The Council monitors site access and safety in terms of traffic and travel for all of its schools, taking account also of the views of local residents. Civil Parking Enforcement requirements will be monitored to ensure safety and compliance at the start, and the end of the school day.

Double yellow lines of parking restrictions to myself of visitors to my property.

Response:

This can only be taken forward once the decision has been made to proceed.

The Environment Directorate within the Council, especially the Highways Division, will be part of the project team involved with the design development and features. The use of appropriate

parking restrictions and traffic calming measures, will be considered in preparation for the pre-planning and planning stages, upon which local residents will be consulted.

Noise of construction, and children disturbing the tranquillity that I now enjoy in the comfort of my home.

Response:

As detailed above, the construction process will consider the needs and views of local residents, with a view to minimising disruption - including noise.

The Council does not anticipate the school development and use, including outdoor play and learning, negatively affecting local residents.

Under the Covid-19 regulations. My neighbours and myself are not allowed to meet and discuss our concerns, to limit a time of one month under the new laws of Covid-19 regulations is inconsiderate.

Response:

The statutory processes associated with this proposal are fully compliant with the requirements set out in the Welsh Governments School Organisation Code (2018, version 2). The 42-day consultation process prior to the 28-day Statutory Notice period, offered the opportunity for residents to engage in virtual and/or telephone meetings and discussions with officers, in order to air their views. There was also an opportunity for consultees to contact the Council to request a meeting.

The proposal is within its infancy and yet to be approved. There will be further opportunities – should the proposal proceed, i.e. at pre-planning and planning stage for residents to engage with, shape, inform and/or air their views and objections. There will also be opportunities for community engagement throughout.

While in support of Welsh Education, I would have thought the old Ebbw Vale college site would have been a more appropriate choice for planning a new school.

Response:

This site is unavailable and planning granted for housing development.

Pwyllgor: **Pwyllgor Gweithredol**
Dyddiad y Cyfarfod: **Dydd Llun 22 Chwefror 2021**

Pwnc yr Adroddiad: **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg: Adroddiad Cyfnod
Hysbysiad Statudol/Gwrthwynebiad**

Deiliad Portffolio: **Portffolio Addysg a Dysgu – Cyng Joanne Collins**

Cyflwynir yr
Adroddiad gan: **Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg - Lynn Phillips**

Tim Rheoli y Gyfarwyddiaeth	Tim Arweinyddiaeth Gorfforaethol	Deiliad Portffolio/Cadeirydd	Pwyllgor Archwilio	Pwyllgor Gwas. Democraidd	Pwyllgor Craffu	Pwyllgor Gweithredol	Cyngor	Arall (noder)
	07.04.21	13.04.21				21.04.21		

1. **Diben yr Adroddiad**

- 1.1 Diben yr adroddiad yw rhoi trosolwg i'r Pwyllgor Gweithredol o ganlyniadau ac argymhellion y cyfnod Hysbysiad Statudol/Gwrthwynebiad yng nghyswllt y cynnig i adeiladu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd 210 lle gyda darpariaeth gofal plant ar yr un safle yn Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi.

2. **Cwmpas a Chefndir**

2.1 **Y Cynnig**

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent yn cynnig datblygu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd 210 lle yn Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi, ynghyd â darpariaeth gofal plant ar yr un safle. Mae'r opsiwn a ffafrir yn anelu i ddatblygu adeilad yr ysgol ar safle Chartist Way drwy fodel egin/twf, lle byddai'r cyfleuster gofal plant, ynghyd â grwpiau meithrin a dosbarth derbyn, yn dod i rym o fis Medi 2023; gyda 28 lle gofal plant, 24 lle meithrin a 24 lle dosbarth derbyn. Byddai'r ysgol wedyn yn tyfu flwyddyn ar flwyddyn. Bydd yr ysgol wedi sefydlu'n llawn erbyn 2029, gyda phob grŵp blwyddyn o Feithrin i Flwyddyn 6 yn weithredol.

- 2.2 Byddai'r ysgol egin newydd yn cael ei dylunio a'i hadeiladu'n bwrpasol yn unol â safonau Ysgolion yr 21^{ain} Ganrif. Mae'r opsiwn a ffafrir yn cynnwys strwythur llywodraethiant ac arweinyddiaeth a ddatblygid fel estyniad o Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. Byddai hyn yn golygu mai un Corff Llywodraethol fyddai i'r ddwy ysgol gyda'i gilydd, ynghyd â newidiadau perthnasol i'r strwythur staffio.

- 2.3 Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Gweithredol ar 16 Rhagfyr 2020 a chytunodd ymgynghori ar y cynnig uchod, gyda'r prosesau ymgynghori yn dechrau ddydd Iau 17 Rhagfyr 2020, gan ddod i ben ddydd Gwener 29 Ionawr 2021. Cafodd yr ymgynghoriad ei gychwyn a'i gynnal drwy ddogfen ymgynghori ffurfiol ac arolwg ar-lein i gyd-fynd â hynny (mae'r ddogfen ymgynghori ar gael yn **Atodiad 1**), oedd yn cydymffurfio'n llawn gyda'r gofynion statudol a nodir yn y Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion 2018 (F2). Diben yr ymgynghoriad oedd canfod

sylwadau a barn ymgynghoreion yng nghyswllt y cynnig er mwyn llywio proses gwneud penderfyniadau a cham nesaf y Cyngor.

2.4

Cyflwynwyd adroddiad all-dro yr ymgynghoriad i'r Pwyllgor Gweithredol ar 22 Chwefror 2021 pan roddwyd cymeradwyaeth i'r Gyfarwyddiaeth Addysg symud ymlaen i Hysbysiad Statudol.

2.5

Penderfynodd y broses ymgynghori fod cefnogaeth eang o blaid y cynnig ymysg ymgynghoreion gyda dros 93% o'r ymatebwyr o blaid datblygu'r ysgol newydd, gan sôn am yr effaith gadarnhaol y mae'r cynnig yn debyg o'i gael ar: yr iaith Gymraeg, addysg, cyflogaeth, y gymuned leol a'r economi. Yn gryno, yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori o 42 diwrnod:

- Derbyniodd y Cyngor 8 ymateb e-bost, 5 yn Saesneg a 3 yn ddwyieithog
- Derbyniodd y Cyngor 190 ymateb i'r arolwg, 16 ohonynt wedi eu llenwi yn y Gymraeg, gyda'r gweddill wedi'i cyflwyno yn Saesneg
- Gellir dadansoddi'r ymatebion fel sy'n dilyn:
 - **Cefnogi'r cynnig yn llawn - 177 (93%)**
 - **Cefnogi'r cynnig yn rhannol- 2 (1%)**
 - **Dim yn cefnogi'r cynnig - 11 (6%)**

2.6

Cynhaliwyd y cyfnod Hysbysiad Statudol (gweler **Atodiad 2** ar gyfer y ddogfen) dros 28 diwrnod yn ôl y gofyniad a nodir yn y Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (2018, fersiwn 2), a:

- dechreuodd ddydd Llun 1 Mawrth 2021; a
- daeth i ben ddydd Llun 29 Mawrth 2021.

2.7

Rhoddodd y cyfnod Hysbysiad Statudol gyfle i unrhyw un a ddymunai wneud gwrthwynebiadau i gynnig trefniadaeth ysgol i wneud hynny. Mae'n rhaid wedyn cyhoeddi'r adroddiad gwrthwynebiad yn cynnwys crynodeb o unrhyw wrthwynebiad statudol, ynghyd ag ymateb y cynigydd i'r gwrthwynebiad.

2.8

Rhoddir canlyniad y cyfnod Hysbysiad Statudol yn adran 2.8, mae'r ffaith mai dim ond un gwrthwynebiad a dderbyniwyd yn dangos lefel uchel o gefnogaeth ar gyfer y cynnig, sy'n cyd-fynd gyda chanfyddiadau'r ymgynghoriad.

Cyfnod Hysbysiad Statudol (Cyfnod Gwrthwynebiad)

Cafodd y gefnogaeth eang i'r cynnig ei ddangos ymhellach gan ganlyniad y cyfnod Hysbysiad Statudol, gyda dim ond 1 llythyr gwrthwynebiad yn cael ei dderbyn. Mae'r ymateb yn rhoi manylion pryderon am yr effaith bosibl ar yr unigolyn fel preswlydd lleol, yn hytrach na nodi gwrthwynebiad ffurfiol i'r cynnig. Cafodd cynnwys yr ohebiaeth ei ddadansoddi yn **Atodiad 3**, a chaiff pob consyrn eu trin yn llwyr. Mae'r dilynol yn grynodedb o'r prif bryderon:

- effaith ar yr olygfa o gartref yr ymatebydd;
- effaith h.y. sŵn, annibendod a mynediad, fel canlyniad i'r gwaith adeiladu ac agor yr ysgol yn ddilynol; a
- pharcio a goblygiadau traffig cysylltiedig.

Fodd bynnag, roedd yr ohebiaeth yn dweud fod yr ymatebydd yn gefnogol i addysg Gymraeg.

3 **Opsiynau ar gyfer Argymhelliad**

- 3.1 Mae 2 opsiwn yn gysylltiedig gyda'r adroddiad Gwrthwynebiad, fel sy'n dilyn:
- **Opsiwn 1** – Bod y Pwyllgor Gweithredol yn ystyried ac yn derbyn yr adroddiad Gwrthwynebiad, dogfennau cysylltiedig a llwybr gweithredu, ac yn cytuno symud ymlaen i'r cam Hysbysiad Penderfyniad (sydd ei angen o fewn 7 diwrnod o wneud y penderfyniad, yn unol â Chod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion Llywodraeth Cymru (2018, fersiwn 2).
 - **Opsiwn 2** – Bod y Pwyllgor Gweithredol yn gwrthod y cynnig i symud ymlaen i Hysbysiad Penderfyniad

4. **Tystiolaeth o sut mae'r pwnc hwn yn cefnogi cyflawni'r Cynllun Corfforaethol / Cyfrifoldebau Statudol / Cynllun Llesiant Blaenau Gwent**

- 4.1 Yn unol â Chod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion Llywodraeth Cymru (2018, fersiwn 2), mae gofyniad statudol ar Gynghorau i ymgynghori ar, cyhoeddi a dilyn y prosesau statudol yn gysylltiedig gyda chynigion ad-drefnu ysgolion. Mae addysg yn flaenoriaeth strategol o fewn y Cynllun Corfforaethol, gyda thwf, datblygiad a chynaliadwyedd addysg Gymraeg yn elfen allweddol.

- 4.2 Mae gan y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg ran allweddol wrth sicrhau mynediad a datblygiad parhaus o'r Gymraeg yn unol â nod Llywodraeth Cymru o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Mae addysg hefyd yn cyfrannu'n sylweddol at Gynllun Llesiant Blaenau Gwent gan fod Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i gyrrff cyhoeddus weithio tuag at saith nod llesiant, gyda 'Cymru o ddiwylliant byw a'r Gymraeg yn ffynnu' yn un ohonynt. Mae gan y Cyngor ddyletswydd i hyrwyddo a hwyluso'r defnydd o'r Gymraeg a gweithio tuag at y nodau llesiant. Mae gan y broses ar gyfer cynllunio addysg Gymraeg hefyd sail statudol dan Adran 84 o Ddeddf 2013.

5. **Goblygiadau pob Opsiwn**

5.1.1 **Effaith ar y Gyllideb**

Nid oes unrhyw oblygiadau ariannol cyfalaf yn gysylltiedig gyda'r cynnig hwn ar gyfer y Cyngor, gan fod y £6m a ddyfarnwyd yn gyllid 100% heb unrhyw ofyniad arian cyfatebol. Fe wnaeth Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd ddyfarnu £200,000 fel cyllid 100% o Grant Cyfalaf Gofal Plant..

- 5.1.2 Bydd goblygiadau i'r gyllideb refeniw yn y tymor canol i'r hirdymor, gan y bydd angen sefydlu'r Gyllideb Ysgol Unigol ym mlwyddyn ariannol 2023/2024 a bydd y cyllid sydd ei angen yn tyfu'n flynyddol wrth i'r ysgol dyfu i'w capasiti.

- 5.1.3 Mae'r tybiaethau a ddefnyddir yn y modelu yn cynnwys tybiaeth na fyddai unrhyw dwf yn gyffredinol yn y boblogaeth disgyblion fel canlyniad i'r cynnig hwn, byddai angen i'r Gyllideb Ysgol Unigol gynyddu gan £265,000 yn 2023/2024 gyda chynnydd pellach o £189,000 yn 2024/2025 er mwyn ariannu'r ysgol newydd. Byddai gweddill y cyllid seiliedig ar ddisgyblion yn dod o fewn y Gyllideb Ysgol Unigol bresennol, wrth i ddisgyblion ddewis y

gosodiad newydd yn hytrach nag ysgolion eraill (gan ostwng cyllid seiliedig ar ddisgyblion yn yr ysgolion sy'n bodoli eisoes).

5.1.4 Yn seiliedig ar y modelu uchod, bydd pwysau cost ar y Cyngor o £265,000 yn 2023/2024 a £189,000 yn 2024/2025, y bydd angen ei ystyried fel rhan o'r Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canol.

5.1.5 Mae'n debyg y bydd effaith ariannol gadarnhaol ar Gludiant Rhwng y Cartref i'r Ysgol a byddai angen cynnal asesiad er mwyn meintoli'r buddion gostyngiad cost tebygol pe byddai'r cynnig yn cael ei weithredu. Cludiant Rhwng y Cartref a'r Ysgol:

- Mae **gwariant presennol** y flwyddyn ar addysg Gymraeg tua:
 - Cynradd - £150,000 (4 Bws ac 1 Tacsî)
 - Uwchradd - £220,000 (6 Bws ac 1 Tacsî)
 - **2 fws i Fro Helyg o ardal Ebwy Fawr a Thredegar** - £67,000 y flwyddyn
- **Gostyngiad posibl mewn camau mewn costau cludiant** h.y. disgyblion Tredegar/Ebwy Fawr i Fro Helyg – cost gyfartalog fesul bws y flwyddyn £33,000.

5.1.6 Os caiff yr arbedion hyn eu sicrhau drwy'r Gyllideb Cludiant Rhwng y Cartref a'r Ysgol, cânt eu defnyddio i wrthbwysu unrhyw bwysau cost posibl a gaiff eu dynodi..

5.2 **Risg** Mae risg na fydd y Cyngor yn cyflawni'r blaenoriaethau a nodir yng Nghynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg. Ymhellach, mae potensial i gollî'r £6m a ddyrannwyd i Flaenau Gwent yn unol â datblygiad ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd 210 lle sy'n adeiladu ar y cysyniad/model egin pe na byddai'r cynnig a'r cysyniad yn symud ymlaen. Yn ychwanegol, byddai'r Cyngor yn colli'r £200,000 a ddyrannwyd yn unol â Grant Cyfalaf Gofal Plant.

5.3 **Cyfreithiol** Nid oes unrhyw oblygiadau cyfreithiol uniongyrchol yn gysylltiedig gyda'r cynnig.

5.4 **Adnoddau Dynol** Nid oes unrhyw oblygiadau uniongyrchol ar staffio na'r gweithlu yn gysylltiedig gyda'r broses ymgynghori. Os aiff y cynnig yn ei flaen, fodd bynnag, caiff yr agweddau llywodraethiant ac arweinyddiaeth eu datblygu mewn partneriaeth gyda Datblygu Sefydliadol, Cyllid a'r ysgol yr effeithir yn uniongyrchol arni.

Tystiolaeth i Gefnogi

6

6.1 **Gwybodaeth a Data Perfformiad** Gweler y ddogfen ymgynghori (**Atodiad1**) am ddata perfformiad yn gysylltiedig â'r cynnig.

6.2 **Canlyniad disgwylidig ar gyfer y cyhoedd** Gall y cyhoedd ddisgwyl cyfleuster ysgol newydd 21^{ain} Ganrif newydd gyda darpariaeth gofal plant yn yr un lleoliad, sy'n hybu ac yn datblygu cyfleoedd a mynediad i addysg Gymraeg o fewn Blaenau Gwent.

- 6.3 **Ymgysylltu** Mae ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid yn ffocws allweddol yn holl gynigion trefniadaeth ysgolion. Cynhaliwyd ymgynghoriad ar y cynnig, ynghyd â chyfnod gwrthwynebiadau wedi'i alinio gyda'r Hysbysiad Statudol yn unol â Chod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (2018) Llywodraeth Cymru. Caiff a chafodd canlyniadau hynny eu defnyddio i lywio'r broses gwneud penderfyniad.
- 6.4 **Meddwl am yr hirdymor** Mae'r cynnig yn anelu i sicrhau darpariaeth addysg Gymraeg ychwanegol yn unol â datblygiad a chynaliadwyedd hirdymor y system addysg ym Mlaenau Gwent.
- 6.5 **Ffocws ataliol** Mae'r cynnig yn anelu i drin materion cynaliadwyedd yn gysylltiedig gyda thwf a datblygiad addysg Gymraeg yn y dyfodol.
- 6.6 **Cydweithio/gweithio partneriaeth** Mae'r prosesau statudol ynghyd â datblygiad y cynnig wedi cynnwys cydweithio gyda'r Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg yn lleol ac yn rhanbarthol, Cynllunio, Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Gwasanaethau Cymunedol, Cyllid, Ysgolion, awdurdodau eraill ac yn y blaen.
- 6.7 **Integreiddio** Mae'r cynnig yn anelu i sicrhau integreiddiad rhwng addysg a darpariaeth gofal plant cyfrwng Gymraeg newydd a phresennol, gan gefnogi twf a chynaliadwyedd.
- 6.8 **Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb** Cwblhawyd Asesiad yn unol â'r ymgynghoriad, a benderfynodd nad oes unrhyw effaith negyddol ar y nodweddion gwarchoddedig. Mae'r cynnig yn hyrwyddo cyfle cyfartal o fewn Blaenau Gwent ar gyfer teuluoedd a dysgwyr Gymraeg, gan gael argraff gadarnhaol ar y Gymraeg.
7. **Trefniadau Monitro**
Os yw'r cynnig yn symud yn ei flaen, caiff y prosiect ei sefydlu a'i reoli yn unol â Fframwaith Rheoli Prosiect Corfforaethol Blaenau Gwent a methodoleg PRINCE 2. Byddid yn sefydlu grŵp rheoli prosiect i oruchwyllo datblygiad a gweithrediad y cynnig.

Dogfennau Cefndir/Dolenni Electronig

Atodiad 1 Dogfen Ymgynghori

Atodiad 2 Hysbysiad Statudol

Atodiad 3 Adroddiad Gwrthwynebiad

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Cynnig: Sefydlu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg newydd yn Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi drwy Fodel Egin/Twff

Cynhelir yr ymgynghoriad fel sy'n dilyn:

Dechrau: Dydd Iau 17 Rhagfyr 2020

Gorffen: Dydd Gwener 29 Ionawr 2021

Mae'r ddogfen ymgynghori hon yn cydymffurfio gyda chanllawiau Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (F2) Llywodraeth Cymru.

Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif
21st Century Schools

Beth yw diben y Llyfryn hwn?

Cafodd y llyfryn hwn ei baratoi ar gyfer rhieni/gofalwyr, staff ysgolion, llywodraethwyr ysgol a chymuned ehangach Blaenau Gwent. Mae'n rhoi trosolwg o'r broses ymgynghori sy'n gysylltiedig â chynnig y Cyngor i ddatblygu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd gyda 210 lle yn Nhrefdegar/Cwm Sirhywi. Bydd o ddiddordeb neilltuol i rieni/gofalwyr sy'n ystyried addysg Gymraeg ar gyfer eu plentyn/plant.

Os hoffech yr wybodaeth hon mewn unrhyw fformat arall, cysylltwch os gwelwch yn dda â'r tîm Trawsnewid Addysg naill ai drwy e-bost neu dros y ffôn, fel sy'n dilyn:

- E-bost 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk neu
- Ffôn: (01495) 355470



Nodiadau Esboniadol – defnyddir y termau dilynol drwy'r ddogfen hon:

Rhif Derbyn	Mae pob ysgol a gynhelir yn derbyn disgyblion hyd at eu Rhif Derbyn a Gyhoeddwyd. Y rhif derbyn yw nifer y lleoedd i ddisgyblion sydd ar gael ym mhob grŵp blwyddyn.
Cynllun Datblygu Lleol	Mae'n gosod cynigion pob awdurdod cynllunio ar gyfer datblygiad a defnydd tir yn eu hardal yn y dyfodol.
Lliniaru	Y weithred o ostwng difrifoldeb rhywbeth.
Nifer ar y Gofrestr	Nifer y disgyblion mewn ysgol (heb fod yn cynnwys disgyblion meithrin).
PLASC	Cyfrifiad Blynyddol Ysgolion Lefel Disgybl. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn casglu gwybodaeth gan ysgolion ym mis Ionawr bob blwyddyn. Mae hyn yn cynnwys nifer y disgyblion ym mhob ysgol, eu grŵp oedran, eu cyfeiriad cartref, ethnigrwydd, data ar y Gymraeg, Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig, iaith gyntaf a hawl disgyblion i brydau ysgol am ddim.
Model Twf Egin	Model a ddefnyddir wrth ddatblygu ysgolion newydd, lle caiff grwpiau blwyddyn eu hychwanegu flwyddyn ar flwyddyn.
Lleoedd gwag	Lleoedd gwag neu heb eu llenwi mewn ysgol
Hysbysiad Statudol	Hysbysiad statudol yw cyhoeddiad ffurfiol cynnig a gafodd ei gwblhau. Dim ond os yw'r Cyngor yn penderfynu symud ymlaen gyda chynnig ar ôl ystyried yr holl ymatebion o'r broses ymgynghori y gwneir hyn. Mae hyn yn ofyniad cyfreithiol fel yr amlinellir yn y Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (2018).
Ysgol Gymraeg	Ysgol lle caiff y Gymraeg ei haddysgu fel iaith gyntaf.

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Adran 1: Cyflwyniad



Fel rhan o ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i'r nod o un filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050, cyhoeddodd Ysgrifennydd Cyllid y Cabinet ar 16 Ionawr 2018 y byddai £30 miliwn (cyllid 100%, heb unrhyw ofyniad am arian cyfatebol gan Gyngorau) yn cael ei ddyrannu i gefnogi prosiectau cyfalaf neilltuol ar gyfer creu darpariaeth ychwanegol mewn addysg Gymraeg.

Cafodd Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (WESP) 2017-20 Blaenau Gwent ei gymeradwyo gan Lywodraeth Cymru ym mis Mawrth 2018 (mae mwy o wybodaeth ar gael drwy ddefnyddio'r ddolen ddilynol):

https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/fileadmin/documents/Council/Policies_Strategies_Plans/Blaenau_Gwent_WESP_2017-20_Nov_2017_24th_English.pdf.

Mae Blaenau Gwent yn hyrwyddo ac yn gosod targedau a deilliannau allweddol sy'n gydnaws â thwf a datblygiad addysg a gofal plant drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a thrwy hynny y Gymraeg yn lleol.

Cyngor Blaenau Gwent yw'r unig gyngor yng Nghymru sydd â dim ond un ysgol gynradd Gymraeg. Felly cafodd achos busnes uchelgeisiol ei ddatblygu yn ceisio sicrhau ychwaneged ar lefel gynradd, yn gysylltiedig â galw cudd am leoedd mewn ysgol gynradd Gymraeg, yn neilltuol yn Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi. Ym mis Hydref 2018 derbyniodd y Cyngor gadarnhad y cafodd £6 miliwn ei ddyrannu i gyflenwi darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ychwanegol. Sicrhaodd Blaenau Gwent hefyd £200,000 drwy Grant Cyfalaf Gofal Plant Llywodraeth Cymru i greu darpariaeth addysg a gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ychwanegol o fewn yr ardal.

Mae Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg yn ysgol gynradd Gymraeg gyda 215 lle yn nhref Blaenau yng ngogledd cwm Ebwy Fach. Mae'r ysgol yn gwasanaethu Blaenau Gwent i gyd o ran dalgylch ac yn darparu ar gyfer disgyblion 3-11 oed. Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent yn cynnig ymateb i'r galw cudd am fwy o leoedd gofal plant ac ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg ar gyfer disgyblion sy'n byw yn Nhredegar a chymoedd Sirhywi ac Ebwy Fawr (gogledd). Drwy'r cyllid a ddyrannwyd fel y manylir uchod, mae'r Cyngor yn cynnig cynyddu darpariaeth gynradd Gymraeg drwy fodel egin/twf, i ateb y galw cudd a ddisgrifir uchod.

Mae'r Cyngor yn ymroddedig i ddarparu addysg ansawdd uchel i bob plentyn a pherson ifanc sydd wedi ei theilwra i ateb eu hanghenion, datblygu eu potensial, ymestyn uchelgais, hyrwyddo cynhwysiant cymdeithasol a chyfrannu at adfywiad economaidd yr ardal. Byddai creu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg yn Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi yn galluogi'r Cyngor i ateb y galw cynyddol am leoedd gofal plant ac addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Adran 2: Y Broses Ymgynghori

Bydd y ddogfen ymgynghori a'r broses gysylltiedig yn rhoi cyfle i ymgynghoreion a rhai â diddordeb i ddydysgu mwy am, deall a mynegi eu barn ar gynnyg y Cyngor, fydd yn llywio'r penderfyniad terfynol ar sut y byddir yn symud ymlaen â'r cynnyg. Caiff yr adborth a'r sylwadau a geir drwy'r broses eu casglu, eu dadansoddi a'u hadrodd drwy brosesau gwleidyddol y Cyngor. Bydd Pwyllgor Gweithredol y Cyngor wedyn yn gwneud y penderfyniad terfynol yn seiliedig ar ganlyniad yr ymgynghoriad a'r adborth yn gysylltiedig â hynny.

Gyda phwy y byddwn yn ymgynghori?

Caiff y Ddogfen Ymgynghori ei dosbarthu yn unol â Fersiwn 2 Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion Llywodraeth Cymru (Tachwedd 2018). Mae **Ffigur 1** yn rhoi manylion yr ymgynghoreion a gaiff eu targedu yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori statudol.

Ffigur 1: Grwpiau y bydd y Cyngor yn cysylltu â nhw yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori	
Plant a phobl ifanc	Gweinidogion Cymru
Rhieni/gofalwyr	Y Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau
Staff ysgolion	Gwasanaeth Addysg Consortiwm De Ddwyrain Cymru (SEWC)
Cyrff Llywodraethu Ysgolion	Comisiynydd y Gymraeg
Trigolion lleol	Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHaG)
Cyfarwyddwyr Addysg Esgobaethol	Undebau Llafur
Partneriaid Anghenion Addysgol Arbennig	Gwasanaethau Gwybodaeth i'r Teulu
Tîm Cynhwysiant yr awdurdod lleol	Dechrau'n Deg
Estyn	Cymdeithas Genedlaethol Meithrinfeydd Dydd
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan	Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol
Cynghorau Cymuned y mae'r cynnyg yn effeithio arnynt	Aelodau'r cyhoedd a phartion eraill sydd â diddordeb

Cyfnod ymgynghori a sut i gymryd rhan

Bydd y cyfnod ymgynghori ar gyfer y cynnyg hwn yn dechrau **ddydd Iau 17 Rhagfyr 2020** ac yn gorffen **ddydd Gwener 29 Ionawr 2021**. Gall ymgynghoreion gyflwyno eu sylwadau ar y cynnyg, fodd bynnag, dylid nodi na chaiff ymatebion a dderbynnir yn ystod y cyfnod hwn eu cofnodi fel gwrthwynebiad. Pe byddai'r cynnyg yn symud ymlaen a bod ymgynghoreion yn dymuno gwneud gwrthwynebiad, bydd angen iddynt wneud hynny mewn ysgrifen yn ystod y cyfnod hysbysiad statudol a amlinellir ar dudalen 18.

Hoffai'r Cyngor i chi ystyried yr wybodaeth a nodir yn y tudalennau dilynol a rhoi eich sylwadau ar y cynnyg. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau neu ymholiadau ar yr wybodaeth yn y ddogfen hon, cysylltwch â ni naill drwy ddefnyddio'r cyfeiriad e-bost islaw neu ein ffonio ar (01495) 355470 os gwelwch yn dda.



21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Mae hefyd groeso i chi lenwi'r arolwg ar-lein drwy ddefnyddio'r ddolen ddilynol:

<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160804432322>

Dylai pob ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad ddod i law erbyn **5pm ddydd Gwener 29 Ionawr 2021 fan bellaf.**

Mae'r tîm Trawsnewid Addysg wedi cynllunio cyfarfodydd rhithiol gyda staff ysgolion, llywodraethwyr, cynrychiolwyr undebau llafur, disgyblion a phartïon eraill â diddordeb. Caiff tudalen cwestiynau cyffredin ei datblygu a'i diweddarau'n wythnosol drwy gydol y cyfnod ymgynghori.

Oherwydd goblygiadau parhaus pandemig COVID-19, ni fydd y Cyngor yn cynnig sesiynau galw heibio. Os teimlwch fod angen a/neu'n teimlo'n gryf am drafod y cynnig wyneb yn wyneb, cysylltwch â ni drwy gyfeiriad e-bost ysgolion 21ain ganrif fel sy'n dilyn: 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk a gellir trafod cyfarfod rhithiol.

Ymgynghori gyda Phlant a Phobl Ifanc

Bydd cyfle i ddisgyblion Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, ynghyd â phlant a phobl ifanc eraill, i gymryd rhan yn y broses ymgynghori. Datblygwyd fersiwn gyfeillgar i blant a phobl ifanc sydd ar gael drwy'r wefan a chaiff ei rhannu gyda disgyblion ledled Blaenau Gwent, ynghyd â Chynghorau Ysgolion a'r Fforwm Ieuenctid. Bydd yr holl wybodaeth a gasglwyd o'r ymgynghoriad yn ffurfio rhan o adroddiad alldro yr ymgynghoriad.

Adran 3: Disgrifiad o'r Cynnig a'r Manteision

Pam fod angen newid



Canran isel o siaradwyr Cymraeg sydd ym Mlaenau Gwent, gyda dim ond 7.8% o'r boblogaeth yn medru siarad Cymraeg (Cyfrifiad 2011), mae'r ardal yr ail isaf o blith y 22 Cyngor yng Nghymru. Mae cyfartaledd Blaenau Gwent yn llawer is na'r cyfartaledd cenedlaethol o 19%.

Fel y manylir yn Adran 1 y ddogfen hon, Blaenau Gwent yw'r unig awdurdod yng Nghymru gyda dim ond un ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg (ar gyfer disgyblion 3-11 oed) yng Nghwm Ebwy Fach. Nid oes ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mlaenau Gwent. Mae'r Cyngor ar hyn o bryd yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen er mwyn sicrhau lleoedd ysgol uwchradd ar gyfer disgyblion Blaenau Gwent yn Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw. Ar hyn o bryd mae 155 o ddisgyblion 11-19 oed Blaenau Gwent yn mynychu Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw. Mae'r cyfraddau trosglwyddo rhwng cynradd ac uwchradd yn 100%, gyda phob disgybl a ddewisodd addysg gynradd Gymraeg yn dewis addysg uwchradd Gymraeg. Mae cyfraddau trosglwyddo wedi parhau'n uchel (rhwng 95% a 100%), ers sefydlu'r ysgol.

Pan agorodd Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg ym mis Medi roedd 36 disgybl (ar draws pob grŵp blwyddyn) yn mynychu o Dredegar/Cwm Sirhywi. Mae'r niferoedd wedi amrywio ers hynny, gan fod ar eu huchaf yn 42 yn 2011/12. Dechreuodd niferoedd ostwng i 22 ac is rhwng 2015 a 2017. Mae niferoedd wedi sefydlogi dros y 2 sesiwn academaidd ddiwethaf. Caiff dysgwyr eu haddysgu mewn 10 grŵp dosbarth a byddai gan ddsbarth nodweddiadol 1 athro ac 1 cymhorthydd addysgu yn y Cyfnod Sylfaen, a rhwng 25-30 disgybl; fodd bynnag mae'n rhaid i'r ysgol fod yn hyblyg iawn

i ddiwallu anghenion y plant. Mae Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg yn ffurfio rhan o raglen Band B Rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif, ac felly mae'r ysgol yn y rhaglen ar gyfer ailfodelu ac ailwampio, gan sicrhau darpariaeth gyfartal ym mhob rhan o'r stad ysgolion, tra hefyd yn trin materion addasrwydd fydd yn gwella ansawdd addysgu a dysgu.

Mae Pennaeth yr Ysgol a'r Cyngor yn ymroddedig i gydweithio i godi proffil yr ysgol yn unol â thaith gwella'r ysgol. Gyda chynnig cludiant meithrinfa lawn-amser a rhwng y cartref a'r ysgol ar gyfer disgyblion meithrin anstatudol, mae cyfanswm nifer disgyblion unwaith eto wedi dechrau cynyddu. Fodd bynnag, mae'r nifer o Dredegar/Cwm Sirhywi a rhan ogleddol cwm Ebwy Fach yn parhau'n gymharol isel o gymharu â blynyddoedd blaenorol. Yn 2020 cafodd tua 10 disgybl o Dredegar/Cwm Sirhywi, ynghyd â 10 disgybl o gwm Ebwy Fawr (gogledd) eu derbyn i'r dosbarth meithrin a'r dosbarth derbyn yn Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg.

Yn ystod sesiynau a digwyddiadau ymgynghori ac ymgysylltu a digwyddiadau a anelwyd i gasglu barn rhieni y mae eu plant yn cael mynediad i ddarpariaeth blynyddoedd cynnar, mae'r pellter rhwng cartrefi Tredegar a Chwm Sirhywi a'r ysgol yn cael effaith negyddol ar ddewis rhieni wrth ystyried opsiynau addysg ar gyfer eu plentyn/plant. Yn ychwanegol, cafodd cysylltiadau trafndiaeth gyhoeddus rhwng cymoedd eu disgrifio fel 'gwael' ac yn brin ac mae hynny yn cyfyngu gallu rhieni i gael mynediad i Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, os a phan nad oes ganddynt fynediad i'w cerbydau eu hunain neu gerbydau teuluol.

Galw am Ofal Plant ac Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg:

Ar hyn o bryd mae 3 Cylch Meithrin ym Mlaenau Gwent a welodd gynnydd yn nifer y plant sy'n derbyn darpariaeth Gymraeg dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae cyfraddau trosglwyddo wedi amrywio dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf gyda chynnydd wedi'i nodi yn unol â darpariaeth feithrin lawn-amser.

Mae cynnydd mewn darpariaeth gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg ledled Blaenau Gwent yn unol â'r galw. Bu'r Mudiad Meithrin yn gweithio'n agos gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent dros y 4 blynedd ddiwethaf, gyda datblygu darpariaeth Ti a Fi a hefyd gylch Meithrin yn ardaloedd Tredegar/Sirhywi ac Ebwy Fawr. Fel canlyniad sefydlwyd grŵp Ti a Fi ym mis Mai 2018. Agorodd Cylch Meithrin newydd yn Nhrefdegar ac mae wedi cofrestru gydag Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru. Mae'r pwyllgor rheoli yn awr yn dymuno recriwtio staff i agor ar gyfer plant yn gynnar yn 2021. Mae'r Mudiad Meithrin hefyd wedi cofrestru diddordeb gyda'r tîm Dechrau'n Deg ym Mlaenau Gwent i ddarparu lleoedd cyfrwng Cymraeg ar gyfer plant yn yr ardal.

Mae meithrinfa leol Buds to Blossoms, sy'n seiliedig yn Beaufort, wedi cofrestru gyda'r Mudiad Meithrin a bydd yn dechrau darparu sesiwn Cylch Meithrin ar gyfer plant yn eu gofal. Mae hyn yn gynllun peilot drwy brosiect Dechrau Sefydlu Dechrau Symud y Mudiad Meithrin, yn defnyddio Croesi'r Bont sef cynllun swyddogol trochi iaith y Mudiad Meithrin. Sefydlwyd y cynllun i helpu datblygu sgiliau Cymraeg ar gyfer staff Cylch, drwy sicrhau eu bod yn cyflwyno patrymau iaith safonol a chyson i'r plant yn eu gofal. Bu ymateb rhagorol i'r cynllun ar draws y rhanbarth. Cafodd y Cynllun ei gymeradwyo a'i gydnabod gan Estyn mewn nifer o adroddiadau Cylch Meithrin yn dilyn archwiliadau mewn gosodiadau.

Mae Cylch Meithrin Gwdihw (Brynithel) yn ymestyn eu gwasanaethau ac yn awr yn medru darparu sesiwn drwy'r dydd rhwng 9am - 3pm. Maent hefyd wedi dechrau'r broses o ddod yn ddarparydd Addysg. Byddai hyn yn golygu y gall plant aros yng Nghylch Meithrin Gwdihw (Brynithel) ar gyfer eu haddysg feithrin, gan olygu fod y gyfradd trosglwyddo i Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg yn debyg o gynyddu yn y Cyfnod Sylfaen, gyda mynediad i'r grŵp dosbarth derbyn. Dywedodd rhieni sy'n

defnyddio'r gosodiad y byddent yn llawer mwy cysurus gyda'u plant/plentyn yn defnyddio cludiant ar oedran dosbarth derbyn nag ar oedran meithrin.

Yn olaf, mae'r tîm Gofal Plant a Chwarae Blynnyddoedd Cynnar wedi sicrhau Grant Cyfalaf Gofal Plant o £1.5 miliwn gan Lywodraeth Cymru i gynyddu gofal plant o fewn ardal gogledd Glynebwy. Felly, mae'r Cyngor yn anelu i greu cyfleuster adeilad newydd gyda hyd at 52 lle o fewn ward Badminton, sydd ar y gweill ar hyn o bryd fel cyfleuster gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Dangosodd yr Asesiad Digonolrwydd Gofal Plant a gynhaliwyd gyda rhieni fod 1% o'r plant yn dod o gartrefi sy'n bennaf yn siarad Cymraeg gyda 6% arall yn dweud eu bod o gartrefi dwyieithog. Mae lefel uchel o gefnogaeth rhieni ar gyfer dwyieithrwydd gyda 55% o rieni eisiau i'w plant ddod yn ddwyieithog, fodd bynnag dim ond 8% o rieni oedd yn bwriadu anfon eu plentyn i ysgol Gymraeg.

Pan ofynnwyd iddynt 'A oes unrhyw rwystrau sy'n effeithio ar eich gallu i fanteisio o ddarpariaeth gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg?' atebodd 394 o rieni fel sy'n dilyn:

- Na – 68% (269)
- Dim ar gael yn lleol – 7.8% (31)
- Dim ar gael yn yr oriau sydd eu hangen – 1.2% (5)
- Ystod oedran ddim yn addas – 0.5% (2)
- Cost – 2% (8)
- Arall – 4.3% (17) Gofynnwyd am sylwadau oedd yn cynnwys:
 - 'Dim yn siarad yr iaith fy hunan'
 - 'Arolwg Estyn yn wael iawn'
 - 'Pryderus gan nad wyf yn siarad Cymraeg'
 - 'Plentyn mewn ysgol anghenion arbennig'
 - 'Mae'r unig ddarpariaeth yn ardal yr awdurdod lleol yn tangyflawni'n ddifrifol ac ni fyddwn yn dewis anfon fy mhientyn i'w sefydliad dysgu'
 - 'Dim eisiau i S ... orfod teithio'
 - 'Dim ysgol gyfun Gymraeg leol. Bu'n rhaid i fy merch hynaf deithio o Frynmawr i Bont-y-pŵl a bydd yn rhaid i fy mhientyn 6 oed wneud yr un fath'
 - 'Dim llawer o leoedd – ond heb edrych i'r mater yn iawn'
 - 'Anawsterau gyda chludiant'
 - 'Trafferth yn yr ysgol Gymraeg, newydd symud i ysgol Saesneg'

O'r 31 rhiant a ddywedodd nad oes gofal plant ar gael yn lleol, roedd y gwasgariad daearyddol fel sy'n dilyn: - Sirhywi – 8, Ebwy Fawr – 11, Gogledd Ebwy Fach – 3, De Ebwy Fach – 9. Dangosodd yr arolwg fod y farn wedi hollti am p'un ai oedd digon o ofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg gyda 29 rhiant yn cytuno bod a 17 yn anghytuno. Teimlai 51 rhiant fod gofal plant ar gael yn eu dewis iaith, ond nid oedd 10 yn credu hynny. Dangosodd y galw gan rieni y byddai 2 riant yn edrych am ofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y dyfodol ac y byddai 21 yn edrych am ofal plant yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg.

Yn 2018 fe wnaeth y Cyngor gynnal Arolwg Galw Darpariaeth Gymraeg yn ystod tymor yr hydref. Dosbarthwyd yr arolwg i 1,460 o rieni plant 0-2 oed. Cafodd 72 arolwg eu llenwi, sef cyfradd ddychwelyd o 4.93%. O'r 72, roedd 21 o Dredegar/Cwm Sirhywi, 23 o Ebwy Fawr a 28 o Gwm Ebwy Fach. Mae'r canlyniadau perthnasol i'r ymgynghoriad hwn fel sy'n dilyn:

- 52% (38) o gyfranogwyr yn dweud nad oeddent yn teimlo fod ganddynt ddigon o wybodaeth am addysg Gymraeg
- 35% (25) yn dweud eu bod wedi ystyried addysg neu ofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg.
- 28% (20) o gyfranogwyr yn dymuno i'w plentyn fynd i ysgol Gymraeg.

- 82% (59) o gyfranogwyr yn dweud y byddent yn anfon eu plentyn i ysgol Gymraeg os oedd o fewn 2 filltir i'w cartref.

Fe wnaeth y Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg leol greu rhaglen digwyddiad 'Plant Dwyieithog' a gynhaliwyd o 2017 ymlaen. Nod y rhaglen oedd hyrwyddo a sicrhau fod rhieni'n hollol ymwybodol am addysg cyfrwng Saesneg a hefyd gyfrwng Cymraeg a'r opsiynau gofal plant oedd ar gael iddynt. Mae'r digwyddiadau hefyd yn sefydlu'r rhwystrau y mae rhieni'n tybio sydd ganddynt gyda gofal plant ac addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Datblygwyd holiadur ynghyd â dalenni sylwadau a chynhaliwyd dau ddigwyddiad yn Nhredeggar/Sirhywi a chwm Ebwy Fawr. Cafodd holiadur ar-lein hefyd ei hyrwyddo gan y Gwasanaeth Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd, Cymraeg i Blant a'r Mudiad Meithrin. Bu'r adborth yn gadarnhaol iawn gyda'r Mudiad Meithrin yn dweud fod Blaenau Gwent yn arwain y ffordd o ran ymgysylltu gyda theuluoedd a rhieni. Mae adborth gan rieni yn dangos y dilynol:

- Gostyngodd gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn ardal Tredeggar/Cwm Sirhywi rhwng 2016 a 2017, a ddylanwadodd ar benderfyniad rhieni i ddewis gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg. Fodd bynnag, mae'r Mudiad Meithrin yn ddiweddar wedi cynyddu'r opsiynau gofal plant sydd ar gael fel y manylir uchod.
- Nid yw cysylltiadau trafndiaeth gyhoeddus yn cefnogi mynediad ac ymgysylltu effeithlon rhwng rhieni a'r ysgol gynradd Gymraeg bresennol – yn neilltuol ar gyfer rhieni o ardaloedd Tredeggar/Sirhywi ac Ebwy Fawr nad ydynt yn gyrru. Felly mynegodd rieni bryderon am gyrraedd eu plentyn mewn argyfwng.
- Roedd rhieni yn bryderus am ba mor hir y mae eu plant yn teithio i'r ysgol i Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg o ardaloedd Tredeggar/Sirhywi ac Ebwy Fawr, yn neilltuol yn y cyfnod meithrin a sylfaen.
- Roedd rhieni yn bryderus am i'w plentyn/plant fynychu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg tu allan i'r ardal y maent yn byw ynddi, o ran sut y gallai hyn ddylanwadu'n negyddol ar rwydwaith cymdeithasol a'u cysylltiad gyda ffrindiau/cyfoedion.
- Teimlai rhieni na fedrai'r Gymraeg eu bod angen mwy o wybodaeth ar sut i gefnogi eu plentyn mewn addysg Gymraeg.
- Teimlai rhieni fod lleoliad Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg yn anfantais ac y dylai fod darpariaeth Gymraeg yn nes atynt.

Yn y digwyddiad yn ardal Tredeggar/Sirhywi, dangosodd yr holiaduron a lenwyd y ddilynol:

- 70% (19) o ymatebwyr yn teimlo fod ganddynt ddigon o wybodaeth am ddarpariaeth addysgol.
- 67% (18) o ymatebwyr yn teimlo y byddai eu plentyn yn manteisio o fod yn ddwyieithog.
- 59% (16) o ymatebwyr yn dweud y byddent yn ystyried addysg neu ofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg.
- 92% (25) o ymatebwyr ond yn siarad Saesneg yn y cartref, gyda dim ond 8% (2) yn siarad Cymraeg.
- 74% (20) o ymatebwyr o ardal Tredeggar/Sirhywi yn dweud fod eu pellter o gartref yn dylanwadu ar eu dewis o ysgol.
- 67% (18) o ymatebwyr yn dweud fod opsiynau trafndiaeth a hwylustod mynediad yn dylanwadu ar eu dewis o ysgol.
- 55% (15) o ymatebwyr yn dweud fod adborth ysgolion am eu dewis ysgol yn ffactor bwysig.
- 48% (13) ymatebwyr yn dweud fod eu penderfyniad ar addysg ar gyfer eu plentyn yn digwydd pan maent yn feichiog neu cyn dod yn feichiog

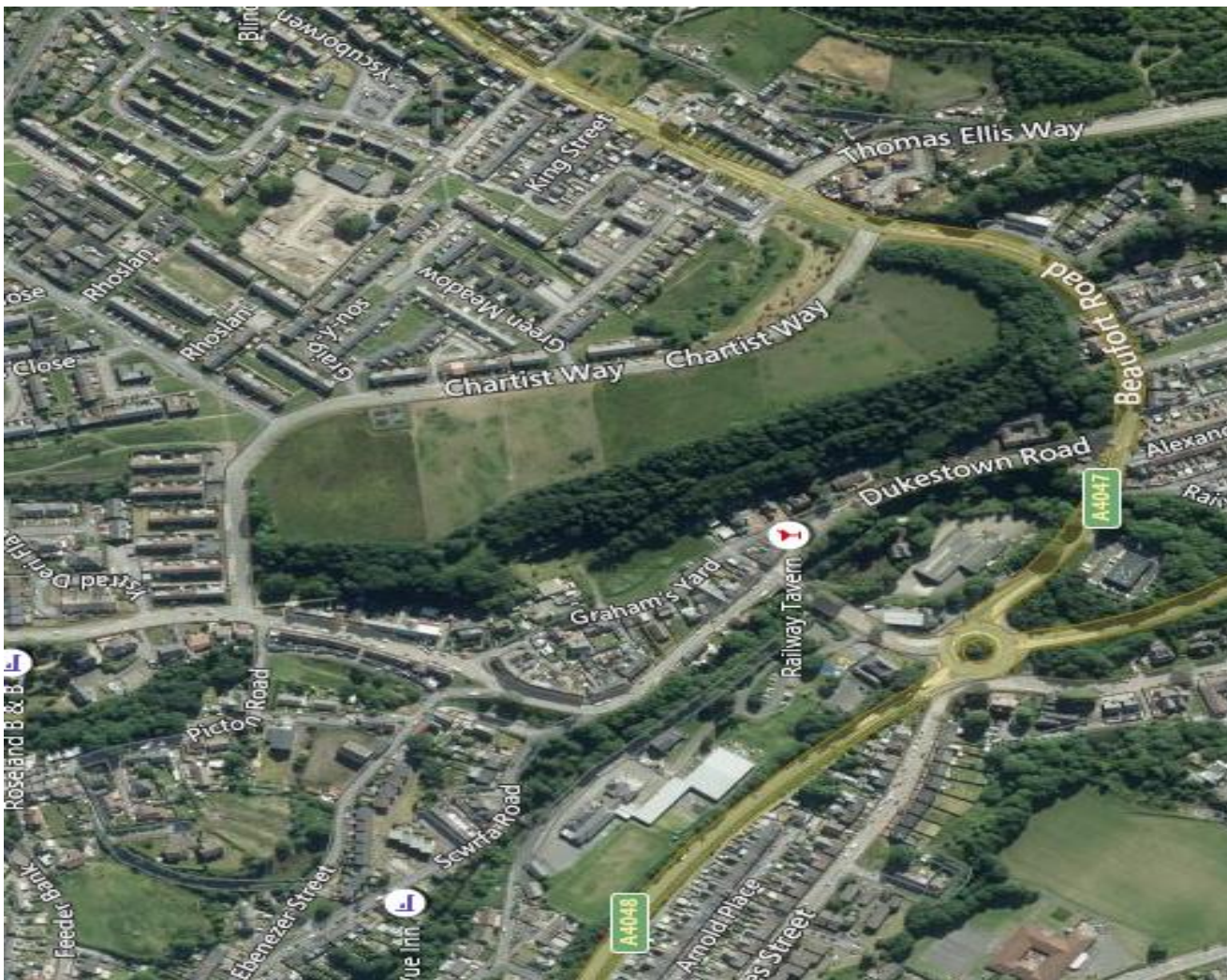
Mae Cyngor Blaenau Gwent wedi sicrhau cyllid cyfalaf sylweddol er mwyn cynyddu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae datblygiadau gofal plant yn y Gymraeg hefyd yn cynyddu, fydd yn creu

galw ychwanegol am addysg yn yr hirdymor ac felly bydd angen i'r stad ysgolion ddatblygu er mwyn darparu ar gyfer hyn. Os nad yw Blaenau Gwent yn anelu i dyfu ein hopsiynau addysg Gymraeg, cwmpas cyfyngedig sydd ar gyfer twf a datblygu'r Gymraeg lleol yn unol â nod Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer 1 filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Yn olaf, gyda'r ymgyrch genedlaethol i gynyddu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg, cyfleoedd cyflogaeth cysylltiedig ac yn y blaen, mae risg y bydd rhieni yn symud allan o'r fwrdeistref i gael mynediad i addysg Gymraeg os nad ydym yn creu datrysiad lleol cynaliadwy, addas.

Disgrifiad o'r Cynnig a'r Buddion

Y Cynnig

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent yn cynnig datblygu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg newydd 210 lle yn Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi. Mae'r cynnig yn anelu i ddatblygu adeilad yr ysgol ar y safle a ffafrir yn Chartist Way (gweler islaw) fel model egin/twf, lle byddai'r cyfleuster gofal plant, meithrinfa a dosbarth derbyn yn dod i rym o fis Medi 2023, gyda thua 28 o leoedd gofal plant, 24 lle meithrin a 24 lle dosbarth derbyn. Byddai'r ysgol yn tyfu bob blwyddyn ar ôl hynny. Bydd yr ysgol wedi sefydlu'n llawn erbyn 2029, gyda phob grŵp blwyddyn o'r dosbarth Meithrini Flwyddyn 6 yn weithredol. Cynigir hefyd y bydd gan yr ysgol ddarpariaeth gofal plant ar yr un safle.



Byddai'r ysgol egin newydd yn cael ei chynllunio a'i hadeiladu'n bwrpasol yn unol â safonau Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif. Cynigir y byddai llywodraethiant a strwythur arweinyddiaeth yr ysgol yn estyniad o Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. Byddai hyn yn golygu y byddai un Corff Llywodraethu a

newidiadau i'r strwythur staffio, h.y. creu Pennaeth Campws/Rôl Arweinyddiaeth a fyddai'n sicrhau arweinyddiaeth hirdymor o'r ysgol egin tra'i bod yn tyfu.

Mae 4 elfen greiddiol yn y cynnig fel sy'n dilyn:

- I. Creu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg newydd gyda 210 lle yn Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi.
- II. Datblygu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg newydd fel model egin/twf lle bydd y cyfleuster gofal plant a'r grwpiau meithrin a dosbarth derbyn yn dod i rym ym mis Medi 2023, gyda grwpiau blwyddyn ychwanegol yn agor ar gyfer cynnydd disgyblion bob blwyddyn wedyn. Byddai'r ysgol yn gweithredu'n llawn gyda phob grŵp blwyddyn erbyn mis Medi 2029.
- III. Sicrhau lleoliad addas. Yn seiliedig ar adolygiad ac ymchwiliad dechreuol ar safle, yr opsiwn a ffafrir yw Chartist Way yn ardal Sirhywi.
- IV. Datblygu strwythur arweinyddiaeth a rheolaeth wedi alinio gyda'r ysgol gynradd bresennol.

Mae cysylltiad anuniongyrchol gyda Rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif Blaenau Gwent sy'n anelu i:

- Cyfarch twf yn y galw am addysg Gymraeg
- Gostwng nifer lleoedd gwag ac aneffeithlonrwydd y system
- Ehangu ysgolion a cholegau mewn ardaloedd o alw cynyddol
- Cyfarch cyflwr ac addasrwydd ysgolion
- Gwneud asedau addysg ar gael ar gyfer defnydd y gymuned lle mae galw yn bodoli, i optimeiddio seilwaith ac adnoddau ar gyfer gwasanaethau cyhoeddus.

Mae gan wasanaeth Trawsnewid Addysg y Cyngor hanes amlwg o lwyddiant mewn cyflwyno cynigion cymhleth ar drefniadaeth ysgolion, ynghyd â chyflenwi rhaglen Ysgolion Band A Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif, a ddaeth i ben ym mis Mawrth 2019 pan ddaeth Band B i rym.

Pe na fyddai dim yn newid, ni fydd y Cyngor yn medru diwallu'r galw cudd gan rieni ar gyfer addysg Gymraeg yn ardal Tredegar a Sirhywi.

Model Egin

Beth yw ysgol egin?

Mae ysgol egin yn fodel y gellir ei ddefnyddio wrth sefydlu ysgol newydd i alluogi defnyddio'r cyfleusterau a'r staff yn effeithiol tra bydd yr ysgol y tyfu i'w photensial llawn. Mae'r ysgol yn agor i ddechrau ar gyfer gofal plant, meithrinfa a dosbarth derbyn gyda grŵp blwyddyn wedyn yn cael ei ychwanegu bob blwyddyn academiaidd nes bod y cohort derbyn cyntaf yn cyrraedd Blwyddyn 6.

Maint Dosbarthiadau yr Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg

Yn ystod y flwyddyn gyntaf y byddai'r ysgol egin ar agor, bydd dau ddosbarth prif ffrwd yn weithredol fel sy'n dilyn:

- **Dosbarth meithrin** lle bydd hyd at **24 lle llawn-amser** ar gael
- **Dosbarth derbyn** gydag uchafswm o **24** lle.

Yn yr ail flwyddyn byddai'r ysgol egin yn cynnwys:

- **Dosbarth meithrin** lle cynigir hyd at **24 lle llawn-amser**;
- **Dosbarth derbyn** gydag uchafswm o **24** lle;
- Dosbarth **Blwyddyn 1** gydag uchafswm o **24** lle;

Yn y drydedd flwyddyn, bydd ysgol egin yn cynnwys:

- **Dosbarth meithrin** lle cynigir hyd at **24 lle rhan-amser**;

- **Dosbarth derbyn** gydag uchafswm o **24** lle;
- Dosbarth **Blwyddyn 1** gydag uchafswm o **24** lle;
- Dosbarth **Blwyddyn 2** gydag uchafswm o **24** lle;

Yn y blynyddoedd dilynol, bydd gan bob grŵp newydd dosbarth derbyn uchafswm o 24 lle. Cyrhaeddir capasiti llawn yr ysgol ym mis Medi 2028 pan fydd pob grŵp blwyddyn yn gweithredu dan drefniant mynediad dau-ddosbarth.

Mae'r tabl islaw yn dangos enghraifft o'r model egin ar gyfer twf o ysgol mynediad un dosbarth. Ystyrir mai'r model egin yw'r datrysiad mwyaf addas ar gyfer ysgolion Cymraeg newydd a chafodd ei dreialu a'i brofi ledled Cymru. Er bod y galw yn cynyddu am addysg Gymraeg, gallai agor ysgol newydd Gymraeg ar unwaith i bob grŵp blwyddyn effeithio a dadsefydlogi ysgolion eraill ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol. Fodd bynnag, byddai model egin i raddau helaeth yn lliniaru unrhyw effaith posibl.

	M	D	BI 1	BI 2	BI 3	BI 4	BI 5	BI 6
2023/24	24	24						
2024/25	24	24	24					
2025/26	24	24	24	24				
2026/27	24	24	24	24	24			
2027/28	24	24	24	24	24	24		
2028/29	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	
2029/30	30	30	24	24	24	24	24	24
2030/31	30	30	30	24	24	24	24	24

Manteision ac Anfanteision Model Egin

Beth yw manteision ysgol egin?	Beth yw anfanteision ysgol egin?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byddai capasiti'r ysgol yn tyfu wrth i'r galw gynyddu; • Twf sefydlog i gefnogi ysgolion presennol; • Gostwng y posibilrwydd o symud llawer iawn o ddisgyblion o ysgolion eraill; • Rheoli meintiau dosbarthiadau yn effeithlon i gefnogi staffio a chyllideb yr ysgol; a • Gall pobl sy'n byw tu allan i ddalgylch yr ysgol ddal wneud cais am le yn yr ysgol a gallant fod yn llwyddiannus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mae'n cymryd nifer o flynyddoedd i gyflenwi twf; • Goblygiadau posibl ar gyfer brodyr a chwiorydd gyda newidiadau i ddalgylchoedd; a • Goblygiadau posibl ar gyfer teuluoedd yn symud i ardal Tredegar gyda phlant gwahanol oed.

Manteision ac anfanteision y cynnig o gymharu â'r sefyllfa bresennol

Bydd y cynnig yn rhoi cyfle cyfartal i ddisgyblion gael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae eisoes ddewis mawr o ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Saesneg ac ysgolion Ffydd ar gael i deuluoedd o fewn Blaenau Gwent. Byddai'r cynnig hefyd yn cefnogi'r Cyngor i drin y rhwystrau y mae rhieni yn tybio sydd wrth gael mynediad i addysg Gymraeg a chefnogi teuluoedd i gydnabod manteision bod yn ddwyieithog.

Mae buddion disgwylidig y cynnig o gymharu gyda'r sefyllfa bresennol (gwneud dim) fel sy'n dilyn:

- Cyfle cyfartal a dewis ar gyfer teuluoedd wrth gael mynediad i ac ystyried opsiwn addysg a gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg
- Twf y Gymraeg ac addysg Gymraeg, yn unol â gweledigaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer un filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.
- Buddsoddiad cyfalaf o £6.2 miliwn i stad ysgolion Blaenau Gwent, gan wella cyflwr, addasrwydd a mynediad i opsiynau addysg yn lleol.
- Cynyddu darpariaeth gofal plant ar gyfer teuluoedd.
- Creu datrysiad lleol a all gyfarch y galw cudd am leoedd cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ardaloedd Tredegar/Sirhywi a gogledd Ebwy Fawr.
- Parhad a chynaliadwyedd yn nhermau'r opsiynau addysg ar gyfer disgyblion yn symud o osodiadau cyn-ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg i addysg statudol.
- Creu cyfleuster addysg arloesol a hyblyg a all gyfrannu at wella llesiant cymdeithasol, economaidd, amgylcheddol a diwylliannol Blaenau Gwent a'r rhanbarth.
- Sicrhau amgylchedd dysgu 21ain Ganrif ychwanegol addas i'r diben ar gyfer disgyblion a staff cyfrwng Cymraeg.
- Gostwng maint dosbarthiadau a chodi safonau addysg, gan hwyluso gwell deilliannau ar gyfer disgyblion.
- Creu cyfleoedd i ddisgyblion cael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn nes at eu cartrefi.
- Cynyddu nifer y lleoedd cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ar gael yn yr ardal leol, gan gefnogi cynaliadwyedd addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a'r Gymraeg.
- Byddai'r model egin/twf yn sicrhau nad oes fawr o amharu ar y stad ysgolion bresennol ac yn rhoi digon o amser i'r ysgol dyfu.

Anfanteision y cynnig hwn o gymharu â'r sefyllfa bresennol (gwneud dim) yw:

- Amcangyfrifir y gallai fod amrywiad o tua 2-5% o fewn y cyfanswm poblogaeth disgyblion cynradd ar gyfer ysgolion ac yn ei dro ar gyfer ysgolion uwchradd o fewn Tredegar/Cwm Sirhywi yn dibynnu ar y galw. Fodd bynnag, gydag amrywiadau sefydlog a chadarnhaol mewn cyfraddau genedigaeth, mewnfudo a datblygiadau tai disgwylidig, mae'r amrywiad yn gyfyngedig ac mae'r effaith ar y stad ysgolion yn debyg o fod yn fach iawn.
- Caiff yr ysgol Gymraeg ei datblygu drwy fodel egin/twf, sy'n golygu mai dim ond i'r grwpiau blwyddyn sydd ar gael o'i chychwyn y caiff disgyblion eu derbyn. Felly bydd cyfleoedd trosglwyddo o fewn y flwyddyn yn gyfyngedig nes bydd yr ysgol wedi datblygu yn llawn.

Risgiau a Lliniaru

Mae'r tabl isod yn rhoi manylion y categori, iaith, ystod oedran a manylion perthnasol eraill mewn perthynas â'r ysgol newydd arfaethedig:

Risg	Lliniaru
Dadsefydlogi'r stad ysgolion bresennol	<p>Nod y cynnig yw datblygu'r ysgol drwy fodel egin/twf, lle byddai darpariaeth gofal plant a grwpiau meithrin a dosbarth yn dod i rym o fis Medi 2023, gyda tua 24 lle gofal plant, 24 lle meithrin a 24 lle dosbarth derbyn ar gael. Byddai'r ysgol yn tyfu wedyn flwyddyn ar flwyddyn. Byddai'r ysgol wedi sefydlu'n llawn erbyn 2029 gyda grwpiau pob blwyddyn o'r dosbarth Meithrin i Flwyddyn 6 yn weithredol. Byddai'r model twf yn sicrhau nad oes fawr ddim tarfu o ran nifer disgyblion ac yn galluogi'r ysgol a'r Cyngor i benderfynu ar a rheoli'r galw am leoedd.</p> <p>Cafodd cyfraddau genedigaeth, symud i fyw i Flaenau Gwent, amcanestyniadau disgyblion a datblygiadau tai i gyd eu hystyried yn unol â'r rhif derbyn a chapasiti'r ysgol newydd. Mae'r data yn dweud wrthym fod y</p>

	<p>stad ysgolion bresennol o ran nifer yr ysgolion, lleoedd disgyblion ac yn y blaen yn gynaliadwy yn y tymor canol – hirdymor, gyda chreu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg ychwanegol.</p> <p>Y cynnig yw alinio'r strwythur rheoli a llywodraethiant gydag Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. Byddai hyn yn sicrhau y caiff staffio, dyrannu lleoedd disgyblion ac yn y blaen ei reoli i sicrhau nad oes fawr ddim tarfu ar yr ysgol gynradd Gymraeg bresennol.</p> <p>Mae disgyblion ar hyn o bryd yn derbyn addysg uwchradd Gymraeg yn Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw. Sicrhawyd lleoedd ar gyfer disgyblion Blaenau Gwent tan o leiaf 2029. Mae cynghorau cyfagos, yn cynnwys Blaenau Gwent, yn cydweithio ar hyn o bryd yn unol â'r cynnig i ymestyn yr ystod oedran yn Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw i sicrhau lleoedd ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg i 2019 a thu hwnt.</p>
<p>Nid yw'r broses ymgynghori yn trin safbwynt a dealltwriaeth rhanddeiliaid o'r prosiect. Felly ni chaiff y prosiect ei gefnogi ac nid yw'n mynd rhagddo.</p>	<p>Ysgrifennwyd y ddogfen ymgynghori gyda chrynodeb manwl o sut y bydd y cynnig yn gweithio a pham fod ei angen. Datblygwyd cynllun ymgysylltu i sicrhau ymgysylltu parhaus gyda disgyblion, rhieni, staff, rhanddeiliaid eraill a'r gymuned ehangach, ar hyd y broses ymgynghori.</p>
<p>Caiff y prosiect ei gyflenwi'n hwyr a/neu dros y gyllideb</p>	<p>Mae'r Cyngor yn brofiadol wrth gyflawni prosiectau adeiladu newydd. Os bydd y cynnig yn mynd rhagddo bydd y Cyngor yn datblygu: amserlen fanwl yn cynnwys cerrig milltir allweddol (sydd eisoes yn hysbys), grŵp prosiect arbennig yn cynnwys yr holl swyddogion perthnasol a phroffil ariannol manwl. Byddai'r datblygiad a chyflenwi'r prosiect yn cael ei fonitro'n wythnosol gydag adroddiadau i uwch arweinwyr.</p>
<p>Gwrthodir caniatâd cynllunio ac felly ni chaiff safle ei sicrhau</p>	<p>Cynhaliwyd gwerthusiad manwl o safle er mwyn dynodi lleoliadau addas ar gyfer yr ysgol newydd. Dynodwyd y lleoliad mwyaf addas a chynhelir ymchwiliad pellach o'r safle ynghyd â chynllunio. Bu ymgysylltu cynnar gyda Cynllunio a bydd yn parhau yn dilyn yr ymgynghoriad os cymeradwyir y cynnig.</p>
<p>Gwrthwynebiad i'r cynnig, gan olygu na chaiff y cynnig ei gyflenwi</p>	<p>Cafwyd ymgysylltu cadarnhaol eisoes gyda rhanddeiliaid allweddol h.y. yr ysgolion yr effeithir yn uniongyrchol arnynt a'r rhai yr effeithir yn anuniongyrchol arnynt yn ardal Tredegar/Sirhywi. Bydd y broses ymgynghori ffurfiol yn cynnig cyfle i ysgolion, rhieni, disgyblion a'r gymuned yn ehangach i gael gwerthfawrogiad llawn o'r cyfle cadarnhaol y mae'r cynnig hwn yn ei gyflwyno o fewn Blaenau Gwent.</p> <p>Cafodd nifer o opsiynau eu hystyried yn unol â'r cynnig ac mae'r ddogfen hon yn manylu pam fod angen newid a pham mai'r cynnig a gyflwynwyd ar gyfer ymgynghoriad yw'r opsiwn a ffeirir gan y Cyngor.</p>

Cynigion eraill a ystyriwyd ac a wrthodwyd

Ar wahân i'r cynnig a fanylir uchod, cafodd yr opsiynau dilynol eu hystyried yn unol â datblygu darpariaeth gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd (wedi'u gwahanu yn ôl math o ddarpariaeth, modelau llywodraethiant a safle/lleoliad):

Mathau o ddarpariaeth a ystyriwyd

- Cyd-leoli'r egin ysgol Gymraeg mewn ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg presennol gyda chapasiti mewnol gwag ar gael i ddarparu ar gyfer ysgol egin a neu adeiladu ysgol

- Cyd-leoli'r egin ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg bresennol gyda digon o gapasiti allanol i ddarparu ar gyfer yr ysgol egin a neu adeiladu ysgol.

Cafodd yr opsiynau uchod eu gwrthod gan y gallent o bosibl:

- Amharu ar y stad ysgolion bresennol h.y. datblygu ysgol egin ar safle byw, gan effeithio ar gapasiti a rhifau derbyn ysgolion.
- Peidio bod yn gynaliadwy wrth i'r ddarpariaeth dyfu.
- Cael effaith negyddol ar drochi o safbwynt y Gymraeg, gan y byddai opsiynau cyd-leoli yn yr ardal lle mae tystiolaeth o alw cudd ar safleoedd ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg presennol h.y. y Saesneg fyddai'r 'norm' amser chwarae a rhwng sesiynau ysgol
- Golygu costau adeiladu cyfalaf uwch yn yr hirdymor, gan y byddai angen dyblu'r gwaith i ailwampio rhannau mewnol neu allanol ysgol bresennol ac yna o bosib adeiladu ysgol newydd wrth i'r niferoedd/grwpiau blwyddyn dyfu.

Modelau llywodraethiant a ystyriwyd:

- Trin hon fel ysgol newydd gyda phennaeth a chorff llywodraethu newydd, yn amlwg dan adolygiad cyson o'r ystod cyflog wrth i nifer y disgyblion gynyddu.
- Trin hon fel ysgol newydd, ond ystyried ffederaleiddio gyda'r ysgol gynradd Gymraeg bresennol.

Gwrthodwyd yr opsiynau uchod gan y gallent o bosibl:

- Gael effaith negyddol ar Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, gydag aliniad cyfyngedig.
- Cael effaith ariannol negyddol o safbwynt refeniw.

Safleoedd/lleoliadau a gafodd eu hystyried:

Mae Addysg, Cynllunio, Gwasanaethau Technegol a Stadau wedi cynnal gwerthusiad o safleoedd y mae'r Cyngor yn berchen arnynt yn yr ardal er mwyn dynodi safleoedd a allai ddarparu ar gyfer ysgol mynediad un dosbarth yn seiliedig ar ganllawiau Bwletin Adeiladu. Arweiniodd hyn at ddynodi'r safle a ffefrir yn Chartist Way (tudalen 12). Mae'r astudiaeth dichonolrwydd yn dangos sut y gallai'r ysgol ffitio ar libart y llain hon o dir. Mae amlinelliad o'r cynllun ar y dudalen nesaf gan gylchu'r lleoliad arfaethedig. Dylid nodi y gall manylion hyn newid.

Mae'r Cyngor wedi ystyried nifer o safleoedd i ddarparu ar gyfer y datblygiad ac wedi culhau'r chwilio i'r safleoedd dilynol:

- Cae Chwarae Deighton – yr opsiwn a ffefrir leiaf gan y byddai'n tynnu bant o'r ysgol bresennol, mae'n ardal werdd a gallai achosi mwy o dagfeydd traffig.
- Tir ger adeilad Vitec yn Nhredegar - gwrthodwyd yr opsiwn hwn oherwydd bod y tir yn ardal gyda risg uchel o lifogydd a bod y tir hefyd wedi ei ddynodi fel caeau chwarae Ysgol Gyfun Tredegar.

Trefniadau teithio dysgwyr

Mae Polisi'r Cyngor ar Gludiant Rhwng y Cartref a'r Ysgol ac Ôl 16 yn dweud y caiff cludiant am ddim ei ddarparu rhwng y cartref a'r ysgol ar gyfer pob disgybl oedran ysgol statudol sy'n mynychu eu hysgol ddynodedig ac sy'n gymwys dan derfynau pellter y Cyngor. Mae'r terfynau pellter fel sy'n dilyn o fewn Blaenau Gwent:

- Dan 8 oed – yn byw mwy na 1.5 milltir o'r ysgol.
- 8 – 11 oed, yn byw fwy na 2 filltir o'r ysgol.
- 11 – 16 mlwydd oed, yn byw fwy na 2 filltir o'r ysgol..

Darpariaeth cludiant Ôl 16

Polisi presennol Blaenau Gwent yw rhoi grant teithio o £150 i bob disgybl/myfyriwr ôl-16 sy'n gymwys ar sail pellter. Ar gyfer myfyrwyr sy'n mynychu safle campws Coleg Gwent gallant naill ai dderbyn y £150 fel arian neu ei dalu'n uniongyrchol i Goleg Gwent er mwyn rhoi cymhorthdal at docyn tymor. Mae'r tocyn tymor yn galluogi myfyrwyr i deithio'n rhatach i Hafan Dysgu Blaenau Gwent neu unrhyw gampws Coleg arall, gyda'r gost ar hyn o bryd ar £1.00 ar gyfer taith sengl.

Gall myfyrwyr sy'n teithio i'r Uned Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol (ADY) yn yr Hafan Dysgu wneud hynny yn rhad ac am ddim drwy ddarparwydd cludiant cymeradwy a gaiff contract gan y Cyngor. Mae'n rhaid i adran ADY y Cyngor gymeradwyo defnydd cludiant. Mae'r polisi teithio hefyd yn galluogi disgyblion i fynd i addysg ôl-16 mewn naill ai ddarpariaeth uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg neu ffydd, drwy ganiatáu teithio am ddim ar drafndiaeth bresennol yn lle'r grant teithio.

Adran 4: Manylion yr Ymgynghoriad

Canlyniad yr Ymgynghoriad a'r Cam Nesaf

Adroddiad yr Ymgynghoriad

Caiff adborth o'r ymgynghoriad ei gasglu, ei ddadansoddi a'i gyflwyno mewn Adroddiad All-dro ymgynghoriad i Bwyllgor Gweithredol y Cyngor ym mis Chwefror 2021. Bydd yr adroddiad ar gael am 2 wythnos ar wefan y Cyngor cyn y gwneir y penderfyniad i symud i gyhoeddi hysbysiad statudol ai peidio. Mae copïau caled ar gael ar gais o'r cyfeiriad e-bost a fanylir uchod.

Hysbysiad Statudol

Os caiff y cynnig hwn ei gymeradwyo gan y Pwyllgor Gweithredol, bydd y Cyngor wedyn yn mynd allan i hysbysiad statudol ym mis Mawrth 2021. Bydd hyn yn rhedeg am 28 diwrnod, yn ystod y cyfnod hwn gallwch wrthwynebu drwy'r cyfeiriad e-bost a roddir yn y llyfryn ymgynghori. Byddir wedyn yn crynhoi unrhyw faterion a godir gan rai â diddordeb a'i gyflwyno'n ôl i'r Pwyllgor Gweithredol i benderfyniad terfynol gael ei wneud.

Os yw'r cynnig yn symud ymlaen, caiff copi o'r Hysbysiad Statudol ei ddangos ar wefan y Cyngor ac yn Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. Bydd copïau caled o'r hysbysiad statudol ar gais.

Penderfynu ar y cynnig

Bydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent yn penderfynu ar y cynnig yn seiliedig ar y gwrthwynebiadau a gesglir ar ôl cyfnod yr Hysbysiad Statudol ym mis Ebrill 2021. Gall hyn arwain at gymeradwyo, gwrthod neu gymeradwyo'r cynnig gyda diwygiadau.

Hysbysiad am y penderfyniad

Unwaith y cymeradwywyd y penderfyniad, anfonir copi electronig o'r penderfyniad at bawb sydd â diddordeb a'i gyhoeddi ar wefan Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent o fewn saith diwrnod o'r hysbysiad ym mis Ebrill 2021.

Amserlen y Broses Statudol

Rhagfyr 2020	Ionawr 2021	Chwefror 2021	Mawrth 2021	Ebrill 2021	Medi 2023
Cyfnod Ymgynghori					
		Adroddiad ymgynghori i'r Pwyllgor Gweithredol			
			Hysbysiad Statudol		
				Adroddiad Gwrthwynebiadau Hysbysiad Penderfyniad	
					Gweithredu

Adran 5: Manylion yr ysgolion yr effeithir arnynt

Niferoedd ysgolion ar y gofrestr ac amcanestyniadau disgyblion

Fel y nodwyd yn flaenorol, dim ond un ysgol gynradd Gymraeg sydd ym Mlaenau Gwent a chaiff yr holl ddisgyblion uwchradd eu haddysgu yn Nhorfaen, felly dim ond ar un ysgol ym Mlaenau Gwent y mae'r cynnig yn effeithio'n sylweddol arni sef Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. Mae gan yr ysgol sgôr cyflwr B a sgôr addasrwydd ac mae yn y categori Melyn. Mae'r ysgol uwchradd y maent yn bwydo iddi yn Nhorfaen. Mae'r tabl islaw'n rhoi manylion pellach am yr ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd:

Enw a Lleoliad yr Ysgol	Categori	Iaith	Ystod Oed
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, Stad Ddiwydiannol Rising Sun, Blaenau, Abertyleri, NP13 3DQ	A gynhelir	Cyfrwng Cymraeg	3-11
Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, Heol Folly, Trefddyn Catwg, Pont-y-pŵl NP4 8JD	A gynhelir	Cyfrwng Cymraeg	11-18

Data lleoedd disgyblion ac amcanestyniadau ysgolion cynradd

Capasiti'r ysgol yw 258, ynghyd â chapasiti meithrin o 60. Mae'r niferoedd ar y gofrestr (gwir nifer fel ym mis Medi bob blwyddyn (fel sy'n dilyn)

Tabl 1: Ysgol (capasiti presennol)	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr Medi 2016	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr Medi 2017	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr Medi 2018	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr Medi 2019	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr 2020
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg (258)	232	225	231	209	215

Mae'r tabl dilynol yn rhoi amcanestyniadau ar gyfer yr ysgol dros y pum mlynedd nesaf (amcanestyniadau ar gyfer mis Medi bob blwyddyn)

Tabl 2: Capasiti Ysgol	Amcan Medi 2021	Amcan Medi 2022	Amcan Medi 2023	Amcan Medi 2024	Amcan Medi 2025
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg	266	258	253	259	263
Ysgol egin Cyfrwng Cymraeg	-	-	48	72	94

Data lleoedd disgyblion ac amcanestyniadau ysgol uwchradd

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Torfaen wedi ymgynghori ar gynnig i ymestyn ystod oedran Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw i 3-18, gweler y ddolen ddilynol i gael mwy o wybodaeth:

Mae'r nifer ar y gofrestr (gwir fel ym Medi bob blwyddyn) fel sy'n dilyn

Tabl 3: Ysgol (capasiti presennol)	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr Medi 2016	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr Medi 2017	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr Medi 2018	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr Medi 2019	Gwir Nifer ar y Gofrestr 2020
Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (1107)	939	888	860	819	762

Mae'r tabl dilynol yn rhoi amcanestyniadau ar gyfer yr ysgol dros y pum mlynedd nesaf (amcanestyniadau ar gyfer mis Medi bob blwyddyn).

Tabl 4: Ysgol (capasiti presennol)	Amcan Medi 2021	Amcan Medi 2022	Amcan Medi 2023	Amcan Medi 2024	Amcan Medi 2025
Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (1107)	778	820	862	875	912

Pe byddai'r cynnig yn cael ei sefydlu, mae hefyd dybiaeth yr effeithid yn uniongyrchol ar Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, gan y byddai disgyblion sy'n mynd i'r ysgol o ardal Tredegar/Sirhywi ar hyn o bryd yn dewis mynychu'r ysgol ategol yn ardal Tredegar/Sirhywi.

Ysgolion yr effeithir yn anuniongyrchol arnynt

Er na effeithir yn uniongyrchol arnynt, gallai fod effaith ar ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg ac ysgolion ffydd o fewn ardal datblygu'r ysgol (a fanylir islaw) yn nhermau nifer disgyblion:

Tredegar/ Sirhywi

- Ysgol Gynradd Bryn Bach, Heol Merthyr, Tredegar NP22 3RX
- Ysgol Gynradd Deighton, Stockton Way, Tredegar NP22 3ES
- Ysgol Gynradd Georgetown, Heol Oakfield, Tredegar, NP22 4LP
- Ysgol Gynradd Glanhywi, Coach Bach, Tredegar, NP22 4RW
- Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Sant Joseff, Ashvale, Dukestown, Tredegar, NP22 4AQ
- Ysgol Gyfun Tredegar, Lôn Stabl, Tredegar, NP22 4BH

Ebwy Fawr (Gogledd)

- Ysgol Gynradd Glyncoed, Badminton Grove, Glynebwy, NP23 5UL
- Ysgol Gynradd Rhos-y-Fedwen, Heol Honeyfield, Rasa, Glynebwy, NP23 5TA
- Ysgol Gynradd Trehelyg, Stryd Brynheulog, Glynebwy, NP23 6NJ
- Ysgol Gynradd yr Holl Seintiau, Heol yr Ysgol, Glynebwy, NP23 6QP

Adran 6: Ystyriaethau eraill

Effaith y cynnig ar y Gymraeg

Byddai'r cynnig hwn yn cynyddu nifer y lleoedd ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ar gael i ddisgyblion yn yr ardal. Nid yw'r Cyngor yn disgwyl unrhyw effaith negyddol ar y Gymraeg o'r cynnig hwn. Caiff y Gymraeg ei haddysgu mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg ac ysgolion arbennig yn unol â'r Cwricwlwm Cenedlaethol. Mae'r Cyngor yn gweithio'n agos ac yn adeiladol gyda phartneriaid ar ei Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg.

Mae'r Cyngor yn monitro cyfraddau geni, y nifer o ddisgyblion ychwanegol a all ddod o dai newydd a phatrymau faint o ddisgyblion sydd mewn ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg/Cymraeg. Mae hyn yn galluogi'r Cyngor i gyflwyno cynlluniau addas i ymdopi gydag unrhyw gynnydd mewn galw. Bydd hyn ar amser priodol i sicrhau fod digon o leoedd ar gael.

Mae Adran 84 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i bob Cyngor baratoi Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg (WESP). Mae Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg 2017-20 Blaenau Gwent (gweler y **ddolen islaw** i gael mwy o wybodaeth) wedi alinio'n uniongyrchol â fframweithiau strategol Llywodraeth Cymru a hefyd y Cyngor. Gellir crynhoi'r blaenoriaethau strategol a amlygir yn y drafft ddogfen WESP am y tair blynedd nesaf fel sy'n dilyn:

- Codi proffil a lefelau cyfranogiad addysg Gymraeg ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol erbyn 2020, i gyfrannu at y weledigaeth o un filiwn o siaradwyr erbyn 2050.
- Cynyddu'r cynnig darpariaeth blynnyddoedd cynnar i ysgogi galw gan rieni i alluogi twf ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol.
- Cynyddu cyfraddau trosglwyddo o ddarpariaeth feithrin Gymraeg i Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg erbyn 50% yn 2020.
- Gweithio'n rhanbarthol gydag awdurdodau lleol De Ddwyrain Cymru i sicrhau lleoedd ar gyfer dysgwyr Blaenau Gwent mewn darpariaeth uwchradd Gymraeg rhwng 2017-2020 a thu hwnt.
- Gwella deiliannau dysgwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg erbyn 2020 fel y gall dysgwyr godi eu huchelgais a gwella eu cyfleoedd bywyd.

Mae'r cynnig cyfrwng Cymraeg yn amserol gan fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cymeradwyo Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg Blaenau Gwent (WESP) 2017-20 ym mis Mawrth 2018 (gweler y ddolen ddilynol i gael mwy o wybodaeth): https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/fileadmin/documents/Council/Policies_Strategies_Plans/Blaenau_Gwent_WESP_2017-20_Nov_2017_24th_English.pdf). Mae'r cynllun yn annog cynyddu cyfleoedd addysg Gymraeg ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol. Bydd y cynnig hefyd yn cefnogi strategaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ar y Gymraeg 2050: <https://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/170711-welsh-language-strategy-eng.pdf>

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn bwriadu diwygio'r cwricwlwm, gan fuddsoddi'n sylweddol mewn datblygiadau yn ymwneud â'r Gymraeg a allai weld dileu Cymraeg ail iaith fel pwnc, gyda phob disgybl yng Nghymru yn astudio Cymraeg iaith gyntaf.

Cyllid

Mae Blaenau Gwent wedi sicrhau £6.2 miliwn o gyllid cyfalaf gan Lywodraeth Cymru i ddatblygu ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg gyda 210 lle yn cynnwys darpariaeth feithrin a gofal plant drwy fodel egin/twf.

Fodd bynnag bydd costau refeniw yn gysylltiedig gyda'r cynnig hwn. Cafodd y ffigur islaw ei gyfrif yn seiliedig ar arwynebedd mewnol crynswth yr ysgol arfaethedig, uchafswm amcanestyniad

poblogaeth disgyblion o 48 yn ei blwyddyn gyntaf. Amcangyfrifir y bydd gwariant refeniw o tua £232,000 yn 2023/24 (yn cynnwys cynnal a chadw adeilad, gwasanaeth gofalwr, glanhau, cynnal a chadw tiroedd, ynni ac ardrethi ac yn y blaen) ynghyd ag arweinyddiaeth a gweinyddu. Mae'r ffigurau hyn yn seiliedig ar sylfaen prisiau 2020/21. Byddai'r costau yn cael eu hariannu o'r Gyllideb Ysgolion Unigol.

Caiff costau cludiant eu hariannu drwy gyllideb Cludiant Rhwng y Cartref a'r Ysgol y Cyngor. Rhagwelir na fyddai costau cludiant yn cynyddu'n sylweddol, gyda gostyngiad mewn costau cludiant i Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg yn gwrthbwysu unrhyw gostau ychwanegol a gaiff eu creu drwy ddatblygu'r ysgol newydd. Mae'n debygol y bydd effaith ariannol gadarnhaol ar Gludiant Rhwng y Cartref a'r Ysgol a byddai angen cynnal asesiad er mwyn meintoli'r buddion gostyngiad cost tebygol pe gweithredid y cynnig.

Trefniadau derbyn

Os yw'r cynnig yn mynd rhagddo, Cyngor Blaenau Gwent fydd yn gweithredu fel Awdurdod Derbyn ar gyfer yr ysgol newydd. Bwriedir i'r ysgol newydd gael 210 o leoedd ysgol gynradd ynghyd â darpariaeth feithrin ar gyfer 24 lle llawn-amser (cyfwerth â 48 rhan-amser). Cynigir y bydd yr ysgol yn dechrau fel "ysgol egin" gyda'r myfyrwyr yn cael eu derbyn i ddechrau i'r dosbarthiadau derbyn a meithrin a fydd yn gwneud cais fel rhan o'r cylch derbyn arferol. Bydd gan y grŵp nifer derbyn o 24 ar gyfer pob grŵp blwyddyn a all dyfu wrth i'r ysgol dyfu.

Fel yr awdurdod derbyn ni all Cyngor Blaenau Gwent gynnig polisi gwarantu lleoedd yn neilltuol o gofio am ofynion deddfwriaeth y Llywodraeth ar ddsbarthiadau babanod sy'n cyfyngu maint dosbarthiadau Cyfnod Sylfaen i ddim mwy na 30 disgybl ym mhob dosbarth. Er nad yw'n statudol, y maint "targed" ar gyfer dosbarthiadau Cyfnod Allweddol 2 yw 30 hefyd. Os yw ceisiadau am dderbyn i ysgol yn fwy na nifer y lleoedd sydd ar gael, bydd meini prawf a gyhoeddodd y cyngor ar gyfer pan mae mwy o geisiadau nag o leoedd yn weithredol.

Sgrinio'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb

Cynhaliwyd asesiad manwl o'r effaith ar Gydraddoldeb er mwyn asesu effaith y cynnig a phenderfyniadau ar y nodweddion gwarchoddedig. Rhoddir crynodeb o'r effaith o fewn yr asesiad o sgrinio ar Gydraddoldeb sydd ar gael yn **Atodiad 1**.

Asesiadau Effaith ar y Gymuned a'r Gymraeg

Cynhaliwyd asesiad o'r effaith ar y gymuned er mwyn asesu effaith y cynnig ar randdeiliaid a'r gymuned ehangach. Gweler **Atodiad 2** ar gyfer y crynodeb.

Mae'r cynnig yn ymwneud â datblygu darpariaeth addysg a gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg ychwanegol; felly disgwylir y bydd yn cael effaith gadarnhaol ar y Gymraeg, mynediad i a darpariaeth addysg a gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg, ynghyd â chyfleoedd ymgysylltu â rhieni a'r gymuned.

Confensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau'r Plentyn (UNCRC):

Yn ei holl gyfrifoldebau corfforaethol mae'r Cyngor yn sicrhau y bydd bob amser yn ymgysylltu mewn modd cadarnhaol gyda phlant a phobl ifanc. Os gweithredir y cynnig hwn, cedwir saith nod greiddiol y Confensiwn:

Gan gyfeirio'n neilltuol at:

- **Erthygl 28** Mae gennych hawl i addysg.
- **Erthygl 29** Mae gennych hawl i addysg sy'n ceisio datblygu eich personoliaeth a'ch galluoedd i'r graddau mwyaf posibl ac sy'n eich annog i barchu hawliau a gwerthoedd pobl eraill ac i barchu'r amgylchedd.

Ymgysylltu â phlant a phobl ifanc yn yr Ymgynghoriad

Fel rhan o'r broses ymgynghori, bydd y tîm Trawsnewid Addysg mewn partneriaeth gydag ysgolion, y tîm Cynhwysiant a'r Gwasanaeth Ieuencid yn ymgynghori gyda disgyblion y mae'r cynnig yn effeithio arnynt yn ogystal â gyda Fforwm Ieuencid ac Uwch Gyngor Ysgolion Blaenau Gwent.

Yr angen am lleoedd a'r effaith ar hygyrchedd ysgolion

Mae Cyngor Blaenau Gwent yn ystyried yn gyson ddigonolrwydd lleoedd i ateb y galw lleol ar hyn o bryd ac yn y dyfodol.

Lleoedd gwag/materion capasiti

Mae gan Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg gapasiti ar gyfer 215 disgybl. I ateb y galw cyfredol a'r dyfodol mae angen cynyddu capasiti ar gyfer cynllun tymor canol i hirdymor y Cyngor. Os yw'r cynnig i adeiladu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd yn symud ymlaen bydd hyn yn galluogi cynnig mwy o lleoedd yn Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg yn unol â datblygu'r cyfleusterau gofal plant a gynigir.

Yn y tymor byr cymharol ychydig o effaith fydd ar ddarpariaeth gynradd (mae tybiaeth y bydd tua 3 plentyn o bob un o ddalgylchoedd yr ysgol yn gwneud cais am fynychu) yn ardaloedd Tredegar/Sirhywi a gogledd Ebwy Fawr. Fodd bynnag, yn y tymor hir gyda'r nifer yn cynyddu flwyddyn ar flwyddyn i fynychu'r ddarpariaeth egin cyfrwng Cymraeg, bydd effaith yn seiliedig ar brosiectau cyfredol.

Tybir mai ar Ysgol Gyfun Tredegar fyddai'r effaith mwyaf os yw 24 disgybl yn dewis addysg uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg fel canlyniad i fynychu'r ysgol egin cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Costau cyfalaf/derbyniadau cyfalaf

Caiff amcangyfrif costau cyfalaf y prosiect eu hariannu'n llawn gan Lywodraeth Cymru ac maent tua £6.2m. Ni ddisgwylir bod unrhyw dderbyniadau cyfalaf yn gysylltiedig gyda'r cynllun, byddai'r cyngor yn ildio derbyniad cyfalaf yng nghyswllt y tir y bydd yn ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer yr adeilad.

Datblygiadau tai

Ar gyfartaledd, yn y 5 mlynedd ddiwethaf, cafodd 90 tŷ eu hadeiladu ym Mlaenau Gwent bob blwyddyn. Disgwylir y bydd y lefel yma o dwf yn parhau. Mae gan y darpar gartrefi hyn naill ai ganiatâd cynllunio yn barod, maent yn ceisio cytundeb cyfreithiol neu maent wedi eu cynnwys yn y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Bydd mwy o blant yn byw mewn tai newydd yn ogystal â mwy o blant yn byw mewn tai sydd eisoes yn bodoli. Felly bydd lleoedd ysgol ychwanegol yn gyffredinol mewn

cynlluniau presennol yn tyfu. Mae **Ffigur 2** yn dangos y nifer o ddatblygiadau tai sydd yn y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol ar hyn o bryd.

	Dynodir y ffigurau dilynol ar gyfer Cwm Tredegar yn yr Astudiaeth Argaeledd Tir ar gyfer Tai sy'n edrych ar amserlen 5 mlynedd.					Dynodir y ffigurau dilynol ar gyfer Cwm Ebwy Fawr yn yr Astudiaeth Argaeledd Tir ar gyfer Tai sy'n edrych ar amserlen 5 mlynedd.					Dynodir y ffigurau dilynol ar gyfer Cwm Ebwy Fach yn yr Astudiaeth Argaeledd Tir ar gyfer Tai sy'n edrych ar amserlen 5 mlynedd.				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cymdeithasau Tai:	23	18	0	0		13	13	33	0		0	16	20	0	0
Tai Sector Preifat	8	7	6	6		34	104	92	32		3	53	40	17	12
Cyfanswm	31	25	6	6		47	117	125	32		3	69	60	17	12

I gael mwy o wybodaeth edrychwch ar y dudalen ddilynol ar wefan Blaenau Gwent:

<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan/ldp-allocations/>

Dengys y data uchod fod 472 o dai yn cael eu cynllunio rhwng 2020 – 2024 gan ddangos neu gynllunio cynnydd yn nifer y disgyblion ym mhob grŵp blwyddyn mewn tai presennol. Fodd bynnag, byddai darpariaeth ar gyfer y boblogaeth o fewn yr ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd prif ffrwd presennol heb fawr neu ddim effaith ar yr ysgolion arbennig.

Adnoddau Dynol

Byddai agor darpariaeth newydd yn sicrhau cyfleoedd i gynyddu'r cohort staff ac yn rhoi cyfleoedd ar gyfer staff sy'n siarad Cymraeg. Mae cyfleoedd dysgu proffesiynol ar gyfer staff i gael hyfforddiant yn y Gymraeg drwy wahanol lwybrau. Os cytunir ar y cynnig, sefydlir grŵp i edrych ar y gofynion staffio a'r model llywodraethiant yn fwy manwl.

Partneriaethau

Mae rhaglen ymgysylltu 'Y Blaenau Gwent a Garem' yn ymwneud â phobl leol, busnesau a sefydliadau yn cael llais yn sut y gallwn wella Blaenau Gwent ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol.

Yn ei flwyddyn gyntaf mae'r grŵp eisoes wedi cysylltu gyda dros 1,500 o bobl o bob rhan o Flaenau Gwent i ganfod sut hoffent i'r ardal fod yn y dyfodol. Defnyddiwyd eu hadborth i'n helpu i lunio nifer o flaenoriaethau y byddwn yn gweithio arnynt dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf i'n helpu i greu'r Blaenau Gwent a garem i gyd.

Mae ein Cynllun Llesiant yn amlinellu ein hamcanion ar gyfer gwella llesiant ym Mlaenau Gwent a chyflawni ein dyletswyddau dan Ddeddf Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (2015). Datblygwyd y 5 amcan yn y cynllun i adlewyrchu bod Blaenau Gwent eisiau

- **Y dechrau gorau mewn bywyd i bawb**
- **Cymunedau diogel a chyfeillgar**
- **Gofalu am a diogelu'r amgylchedd naturiol**
- **Llunio llwybrau newydd i ffyniant**
- **Annog ffyrdd iach o fyw**

Mae'r amcanion llesiant hyn yn rhai a ystyriwn y gallent yn wir sicrhau newid, y mae mwyaf o frys amdanynt ac y dengys y dystiolaeth eu bod angen grym cyfunol partneriaid y Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus i gyflenwi a gwella llesiant.

Adran 7: Gwerthuso'r Trefniadau Presennol

Canlyniadau diweddaraf Estyn

Caiff ysgolion eu harolygu fel rhan o raglen genedlaethol. Diben arolwg yw dynodi nodweddion da a diffygion mewn ysgolion fel y gallant wella ansawdd yr addysg a gynigir a chodi'r safonau a gyflawnir gan eu disgyblion (Estyn).

Cynhaliwyd arolwg diweddaraf Estyn yn Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg yn 2020, a dangosir y canlyniadau yn y tabl islaw:

Maes arolygu	Dyfarniad
Safonau	Da
Llesiant ac agweddau at ddysgu	Da
Profiadau addysgu a dysgu	Digonol ac angen gwella
Gofal, cymorth ac arweiniad	Da
Arweinyddiaeth a rheolaeth	Da

Os caiff ysgol ddyfarniad digonol neu anfoddhaol, bydd Estyn neu'r awdurdod lleol yn ei monitro nes y bernir fod yr ysgol wedi gwneud cynnydd digonol i gael ei thynnu o'r rhestr o ysgolion sydd angen gwelliant. Drwyddi draw, mae'r asesiad hwn yn ganlyniad da ar gyfer yr ysgol gyda dim ond 4 argymhelliad am welliannau:

- **A1** Sicrhau bod yr addysgu a'r profiadau dysgu yn datblygu annibyniaeth holl ddisgyblion y cyfnod sylfaen yn gyson
- **A2** Gwella'r ddarpariaeth ar gyfer datblygu medrau TGCh disgyblion ar draws yr ysgol
- **A3** Cryfhau gweithdrefnau hunanwerthuso a chynllunio ar gyfer gwelliant er mwyn blaenoriaethu a mynd i'r afael â'r meysydd pwysicaf

Rhoddir detholiad o sylwadau o'r arolwg diweddaraf islaw:

- Ychydig iawn ohonynt sy'n medru siarad Cymraeg cyn cychwyn. Fodd bynnag, mae rhan fwyaf y disgyblion, gan gynnwys y rhai sydd ag anghenion addysgol arbennig, yn gwneud cynnydd cadarn yn ystod eu cyfnod yn yr ysgol.
- Mae'r berthynas waith sy'n bodoli rhwng y disgyblion a'r staff yn gadarn yn yr ysgol ac yn sylfaen effeithiol ar gyfer cynnal ethos gofalgaf a chefnogol. Mae bron bob disgybl yn siarad gyda balchder am eu hysgol.
- Mae'r disgyblion yn chwarae rôl flaenllaw yng ngwaith strategol yr ysgol. Mae aelodau'r ystod eang o bwyllgorau plant yn cael dylanwad pwrpasol ar wahanol agweddau o'r ysgol.
- Mae arweinwyr wedi sefydlu diwylliant cryf o hunanwerthuso parhaus.

Ansawdd a safonau mewn Addysg

Caiff ansawdd a safonau ysgolion Blaenau Gwent eu monitro gan y Cyngor, yn unol â'r system genedlaethol o gategoreiddio ysgolion a chanllawiau yng nghyswllt ysgolion sy'n achosi consyrn. Estyn yw Swyddfa Prif Arolygydd Addysg a Hyfforddiant Ei Mawrhydi yng Nghymru a chafodd ei sefydlu dan Ddeddf Addysg 1992. Caiff safonau ac ansawdd darpariaeth hefyd eu monitro'n gyfnodol drwy Fframwaith Arolygu Estyn ar gyfer arolygu ysgolion.

Ers 2012, mae'r Cyngor wedi comisiynu'r Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg (EAS) i gefnogi gwella ysgolion Blaenau Gwent. Mae EAS yn darparu cymorth gwella ysgolion i'r cynghorau dilynol: Blaenau Gwent, Caerffili, Casnewydd, Sir Fynwy a Thorfaen. Fel rhan o'r cynnig hwn bydd y Cyngor yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth gyda EAS i sicrhau lefelau uwch o gymorth i'r ysgolion. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau fod cefnogaeth briodol yn ei lle yn ystod y cyfnod pontio.

Safonau: Ni fydd y cynnig yn effeithio ar y safonau yn yr ysgol Gymraeg yr effeithir arnynt. Bydd adeilad yr ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd yn derbyn y lefel briodol o her a chefnogaeth yn unol â'r trefniadau yn Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg.

Llesiant ac agweddau at ddysgu: Disgwylir y bydd darparu lleoedd ychwanegol i ddisgyblion yn yr ysgol gynradd egin Gymraeg a gynigir yn galluogi mwy o blant i fynychu'r ysgol yn eu cymuned leol. Bydd creu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd yn cynyddu dewis rhieni ac yn darparu addysg Gymraeg yn nes adref ar gyfer plant sy'n byw yn Nhredegar a chymoedd Sirhywi ac Ebwy Fawr (Gogledd). Mae llesiant disgyblion yn flaenoriaeth ar gyfer Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg a chaiff hynny ei fonitro a'i adrodd. Ni fydd y cynnig yn effeithio ar lesiant ac agweddau at ddysgu yn yr ysgolion eraill yr effeithir arnynt.

Addysgu a phrofiadau dysgu: Bydd yr addysgu yn yr ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd yn dilyn y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol gyda'r Gymraeg yn iaith addysgu a dysgu. Ni fydd y cynnig yn effeithio ar brofiadau addysgu a dysgu yn yr ysgol eraill yr effeithir arni.

Gofal, cymorth ac arweiniad: Mae Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg yn gymuned ofalgar a chymhwysol sy'n darparu gofal a chymorth ansawdd uchel i bob disgybl, bydd hyn yn parhau yn yr ysgol newydd. Mae'r holl staff yn ymroddedig i ddynodi anghenion disgyblion ar gam cynnar a rhoi cefnogaeth werthfawr iddynt. Caiff adeilad yr ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd yn Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi ei chefnogi gan Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, y Cyngor a'r Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg i ddarparu gofal, cymorth ac arweiniad ansawdd uchel. Ni fydd unrhyw newid mewn gofal, cymorth ac arweiniad yn Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg.

Arweinyddiaeth a rheolaeth: Mae gan bennaeth ac arweinwyr yr ysgol weledigaeth glir a chadarn i ddatblygu'r ysgol fel cymuned ddysgu lwyddiannus drwy ddarparu addysg a gofal ansawdd uchel i bob disgybl, bydd hyn yn parhau yn y gosodiad ysgol newydd. Mae'r weledigaeth hon wedi'i seilio'n gadarn ar godi safonau, datblygu balchder at y Gymraeg, a llesiant disgyblion. Mae tîm arweinyddiaeth effeithlon i gefnogi'r gwaith o osod cyfeiriad strategol penderfynol ar gyfer holl waith yr ysgol. Ni fydd unrhyw newid yn sut y bydd ansawdd ac effeithlonrwydd arweinwyr a rheolwyr yn perfformio. Ar safle'r ysgol egin Gymraeg arfaethedig, bydd tîm arweinyddiaeth yr ysgol yn derbyn cymorth ac arweiniad gan y Cyngor a'r Gwasanaeth Cyflawni Addysg i sicrhau bod arfer gorau mewn arweinyddiaeth a rheoli yn parhau ac yn cael eu defnyddio.

Effaith y cynnig

Os caiff y cynnig ei gymeradwyo, caiff yr effaith ar Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg ei liniaru i raddau helaeth gan y bwriedir sefydlu model rhannu llywodraethiant ar draws y ddwy ysgol. Bydd yn

parhau i ddarparu amgylchedd dysgu ansawdd uchel i gefnogi gwell canlyniadau ar gyfer pob dysgwr. Bydd y cynnig yn sicrhau y caiff y safonau, sydd eisoes yn rhagorol, eu trosglwyddo a'u datblygu ymhellach.

Fel y soniwyd yn flaenorol (Tudalen 13) mae gan dwf yr ysgol y potensial i effeithio ar ddarpariaeth gynradd ac uwchradd gymunedol cyfrwng Saesneg, ynghyd ag ysgolion cynradd ffydd. Bydd yr effaith mwyaf ar ysgolion cynradd yn 2029/30, gyda'r golled fwyaf o nifer disgyblion – os yn llwyr o fewn y boblogaeth disgyblion bresennol/disgwylidig byddai hyn tua 24-30 disgybl ar draws yr ysgolion cynradd a fanylir ar dudalen 20. Mae hefyd effaith bosibl ar gyfer darpariaeth uwchradd o hynny ymlaen, gyda'r un uchafswm lefel o golled.

Adran 8: Trosolwg o'r Cynnig am Ysgol Newydd

Mae'r tabl isod yn rhoi manylion y categori, iaith ac ystod oedran a manylion perthnasol eraill mewn perthynas â'r ysgol newydd arfaethedig:

Trosolwg o'r Cynnig am Ysgol Newydd	
Nifer derbyn a threfniadau	Bydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent yn gweithredu fel yr awdurdod derbyn ar gyfer derbyn disgyblion i'r ysgol newydd. Y niferoedd derbyn o 2023 fydd: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meithrin:24 • Dosbarth Derbyn:24 Caiff derbyn ei reoli yn unol â Pholisi Derbyn Ysgolion Blaenau Gwent ar gyfer Addysg Feithrin ac Addysg Statudol (2022/23).
Ystod oedran	3-11 oed (gyda darpariaeth gofal plant ychwanegol)
Capasiti'r ysgol newydd	Darpariaeth egin Tredegar 210 lle
Lleoliad	Opsiwn a ffeirir: Chartist Way, Sirhywi, Tredegar.
Categori ac iaith yr ysgol	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg a gynhelir
Rhestr adeiladau ac ystafelloedd	Caiff rhestr fanwl o'r holl adeiladau ac ystafelloedd eu penderfynu yn dilyn yr ymgynghoriad. Fodd bynnag, bydd y cyfleuster yn cynnwys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meithrinfa ac ystafelloedd hylendid cysylltiedig ac ystafell tawelu • 5 ystafell ddosbarth safonol Cyfnod Sylfaen • 2 ystafell ddosbarth Cyfnod Allweddol 2 • Gofodau addysgu hyblyg • Neuadd fwyta/gwasanaethau a chegin/man arlwyo • Swyddfeydd y pennaeth a gweinyddol • Ystafell staff • Strydoedd addysgu • Ystafell dawelu • Ardaloedd chwarae/dysgu dan orchudd • Maes chwarae ac ardal gymdeithasol feddal (glaswellt) • Darpariaeth gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg yn yr un lleoliad

Trefniadau a pholisi cludiant	Caiff cludiant ei gyflwyno yn unol â Pholisi Trafnidiaeth Rhwng y Cartref a'r Ysgol ac Ôl 16 2019 Blaenau Gwent. Gweler Adran 1 i gael mwy o wybodaeth.
Categori ysgol (2019)	Dim yn berthnasol
Canlyniadau Arolwg Estyn	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6772307 Chwefror 2020
Categori Cyflwr Adeilad	A
Categori Addasrwydd Adeilad	A

Dalgylch ysgol

Bydd Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg a'r ysgol egin a gynigir yn dal i wasanaethu Blaenau Gwent i gyd, gyda ffocws yr ysgol egin ar ddisgyblion o ardal Tredegar, Sirhywi a gogledd Ebwy Fawr.

Trefniadau trosglwyddo

Ni fydd unrhyw newid ar gyfer disgyblion sydd eisoes yn mynychu Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. Bydd y cynnig yn effeithio ar ddisgyblon sy'n gwneud cais am le ysgol yn sesiwn academaidd 2023/24. Bydd y Cyngor yn gweithio gydag Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg a phartneriaid Blynyddoedd Cynnar a Gofal Plant i sicrhau fod prosesau cynllunio a throsglwyddo effeithlon yn eu lle.

Adran 9: Ffurflen Ymgynghori

Holiadur Ymgynghori

Rhowch eich sylwadau os gwelwch yn dda ar y cynnig i sefydlu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg newydd yn ardal Tredegar/Cwm Sirhywi drwy fodel Egin/Twf. <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160804432322>

Gallech hefyd ddymuno nodi pa un o'r dilynol sy'n adlewyrchu eich barn:

Rwy'n cefnogi'r cynnig yn llawn	
Rwy'n cefnogi peth o'r cynnig	
Nid wyf yn cefnogi'r cynnig	

Eich sylwadau:

Enw:

_____ Dyddiad: _____

E-bost: _____

Cyfeiriad: _____ Cod Post: _____

Nodwch os gwelwch yn dda os ydych yn:

Cynradd: Athro neu Athrawes/Staff Ysgol heb fod yn Addysgu / Llywodraethwr / Rhiant / Disgybl / Preswlydd Lleol / Arall (noder) _____

Uwchradd: Athro neu Athrawes/Staff Ysgol heb fod yn Addysgu / Llywodraethwr / Rhiant / Disgybl / Preswlydd Lleol / Arall (noder) _____

Diolch am eich amser a'ch cyfraniad at yr ymgynghoriad. Caiff eich barn, sylwadau ac ymatebion eu cofnodi a'u hadrodd i Bwyllgor Gweithredol y Cyngor yn yr Adroddiad Canlyniad Ymgynghoriad.

Datodwch y ffurflen hon a'i dychwelyd drwy anfon E-bost: 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Rhaid derbyn pob sylwadau erbyn 5:00pm ddydd Gwener 29 Ionawr 2021 fan bellaf

Atodiad 1 – Sgrinio yr Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb



Ffurflen Sgrinio

Gwybodaeth Gyswllt Maes Gwasanaeth: <i>(Llenwch bob maes os gwelwch yn dda)</i>				
Enw'r Person a Lenwodd y Ffurflen: Sharon Northall		Adran/Maes Gwasanaeth: Cyfarwyddiaeth Addysg		Rheolwr Gwasanaeth: Claire Gardner
				Dyddiad: 30/11/2020
Manylion Cyswllt: sharon.northall@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk			Teitl y Polisi Arfaethedig: N/A	
Gwybodaeth Polisi				
A ydych yn sgrinio am yr effaith ar Gydraddoldeb ar bolisi newydd neu bolisi presennol: N/A_Dewiswch eitem.			Sylwadau: Mae'r sgrinio hwn mewn cysylltiad â datblygu Ysgol Gynradd newydd 210 lle yn Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi	
Beth yw nodau ac amcanion y polisi: <i>Nid oes unrhyw ddatblygiadau polisi cysylltiedig, fodd bynnag mae'r Cyngor yn ymgynghori ar gynnig i gynyddu darpariaeth Addysg a Gofal Plant cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn y fwrdeistref.</i>				
Asesiad Effaith y Polisi/Ymarfer ar Nodweddion Gwarchoddedig				
Nodwedd Gwarchoddedig	Effaith Gadarnhaol	Effaith Negyddol	Effaith Niwtral	Rhowch resymau ac unrhyw liniaru sydd ei angen
Oed (plant, pobl ifanc, yr henoed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bydd y cynnig yn cael effaith gadarnhaol ar bob oed, drwy gynnig mwy o gyfleoedd iddynt gael eu haddysgu, dysgu a chael mynediad i ddarpariaeth drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg
Anabledd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bydd yr ysgol ar gael yn llawn yn unol â safonau Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif.
Rhywedd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Beichiogrwydd a Mamolaeth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Hil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Crefydd a Chredo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rhyw (gwryw/benyw)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cliciwch yma i ychwanegu geiriad</i>
Cyfeiriadedd Rhywiol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Cliciwch yma i ychwanegu geiriad</i>
<u>Dangosyddion Ychwanegol o Risg Cydraddoldeb</u>				
<i>Nodwch os cedwch fod gan y polisi/ymarfer hwn risg uchel, canolog neu isel fel sy'n dilyn (1 = Dim Effaith; 2 = Effaith Fach; 3 = Effaith Bosibl; 4 = Effaith Tebygol; 5 = Effaith Anghydraddoldeb)</i>				
Plant a/neu bobl ifanc hyd at 18 oed		1		<i>Nodwch yma unrhyw ddulliau y bwriedir iddynt liniaru'r risgiau hyn Cliciwch yma i ychwanegu geiriad</i>
Deinameg cymuned benodol		1		<i>Nodwch unrhyw ddulliau y bwriedir iddynt liniaru'r risgiau hyn. Bydd mwy o opsiynau i rieni eu hystyried yn seiliedig ar ysgol eu plentyn: cyfrwng Saesneg, Ffydd a chyfrwng Cymraeg</i>
<u>Cyflawni'r Amcanion Cydraddoldeb</u>				
<i>Nodwch islaw os/sut y bydd eich cynnig yn cyfrannu at yr Amcanion Cydraddoldeb.</i>				
Amcan 1 – Gwneud cydraddoldeb yn hollbwysig wrth wneud penderfyniadau a darpariaeth gwasanaeth	Bydd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Na	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amcan 2 – Bod yn gyflogwr cyfle cyfartal, gyda gweithlu sy'n ymwybodol o ac yn deall yr agenda cydraddoldeb	Bydd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Na	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amcan 3 – Gwneud ein gorau i ymgysylltu, diogelu a chefnogi'r bobl hynny yn ein cymuned sydd fwyaf ei angen	Bydd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Na	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amcan 4 – Hyrwyddo dealltwriaeth a derbyniad o amrywiaeth o fewn ein cymunedau	Bydd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Na	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Tystiolaeth ac Ymgynghoriad</u>				
A ydych wedi cynnal unrhyw weithgareddau ymgynghori ac ymgysylltu gyda grwpiau gwarchoddedig i liniaru unrhyw risgiau o wahaniaeth	Do	<input type="checkbox"/>	Na	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Disgrifiwch y gweithgareddau ymgysylltu a wnaed fel rhan o'r broses Cynhelir ymgynghoriad ffurfiol gyda'r holl randdeiliaid perthnasol er mwyn casglu eu barn.</i>				
<i>Nodwch unrhyw dystiolaeth ychwanegol a fedrai ddangos yr ystyriwyd yr anghenion i grwpiau gwarchoddedig yng nghyswllt y cynnig neilltuol hwn</i>				



Asesiad o'r Effaith ar y Gymuned a'r Iaith Gymraeg

**Cynnig i sefydlu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg yn
Nhredegar/Cwm Sirhywi**

Tachwedd 2020

1. Cyflwyniad

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent yn cynnal ymgynghoriad ffurfiol ar gynnig i sefydlu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg yn Nhredeggar/Cwm Sirhywi. Pe byddai'r Cyngor yn dymuno gweithredu'r cynnig ar ôl cwblhau'r ymgynghoriad ffurfiol, cynhelir Asesiadau o'r Effaith ar y Gymraeg a'r Gymuned.

2. Cyd-destun cenedlaethol

Mae Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion Llywodraeth Cymru Tachwedd 2018 (f2) yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i awdurdodau lleol gynnal Asesiad Effaith ar y Gymuned ac Asesiad Effaith ar y Gymraeg wrth gynnig newidiadau i drefniadaeth ysgolion. Mae'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion yn nodi fod angen i awdurdodau lleol ystyried yr effaith y gall y cynigion ei gael ar deuluoedd lleol a'r gymuned leol drwy gynnal asesiad effaith ar y gymuned a'r effaith ar y Gymraeg drwy asesiad effaith iaith, os yw unrhyw ysgol yr effeithir arni yn darparu addysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

3. Cyd-destun lleol

Mae Blaenau Gwent yn ymroddedig i foderneiddio addysg, gan sicrhau fod plant a phobl ifanc yn derbyn addysg o'r radd flaenaf. Mae'r Cyngor hefyd yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd cael adeiladau modern ac addas i'r diben sy'n diwallu anghenion addysg fodern. Ym mis Ebrill 2017 cyhoeddodd y Gyfarwyddiaeth Addysg y 'Weledigaeth ar gyfer Addysg' i sicrhau cyflawniad a llesiant rhagorol i bob dysgwyr drwy system partneriaeth hunan-wella dan arweiniad yr ysgolion. Mae'r Cyngor yn anelu cyflenwi pum blaenoriaeth, gyda'r bumed blaenoriaeth yn cyfeirio at wella ansawdd ein stad ysgolion.

Effaith ar y gymuned

Fel rhan o ddatblygu'r ddogfen ymgynghori, mae'r tîm Trawsnewid Addysg wedi cynnal Asesiad Effaith ar y Gymuned a fanylir islaw, wrth ystyried y cynnig i adeiladu ysgol gynradd Gymraeg newydd 210 lle yn Nhredeggar/Cwm Sirhywi.

a. Nifer disgyblion yn ardal Tredeggar/Cwm Sirhywi

Mae 1,913 disgybl o oedran ysgol statudol yn mynychu ysgolion yn Nhredeggar/Cwm Sirhywi, gyda 1,247 ohonynt yn ddisgyblion cynradd a 666 yn ddisgyblion uwchradd. Mae 58% (724) o'r boblogaeth oedran ysgolion cynradd yn mynychu eu hysgol dalgylch, mae'r canran ychydig yn uwch o fewn Ysgol Gyfun Tredeggar gyda 94% (622) o'r dalgylch yn mynychu. Mae'r 6% arall (44) o ddisgyblion yn byw tu allan i ardal Tredeggar/Cwm Sirhywi.

Gan fod y cynnig yn anelu i ddatblygu'r ysgol drwy fodel egin/twf, cafodd cyfrifiadau eu gwneud yn defnyddio data meithrin, dosbarth derbyn a Blwyddyn 1 presennol.

Data Meithrin

Allan o'r 148 o ddisgyblion oed meithrin, mae 62% (92) o ddisgyblion yn mynychu eu hysgol dalgylch, 32% (48) o ddisgyblion yn mynychu ysgol yn Nhredeggar heb fod eu hysgol dalgylch gyda'r 6% arall yn byw y tu allan i ardal Tredeggar/Cwm Sirhywi (yn bennaf yng Nglynebwy a/neu allan o'r fwrdeistref).

Data Dosbarth Derbyn

Allan o'r 166 o ddisgyblion oed dosbarth derbyn, mae 59% (99) o ddisgyblion yn mynychu eu hysgol dalgylch, mae 35% (57) o ddisgyblion yn mynychu ysgol yn Nhredegar nad yw eu hysgol dalgylch gyda'r 6% arall (10) o ddisgyblion yn byw tu allan i ardal Tredegar/Cwm Sirhywi (yn bennaf Glynebwy a/neu allan o'r fwrdeistref).

Data Blwyddyn 1

Allan o 176 disgybl Blwyddyn 1 mae 56.5% (101) disgybl yn mynychu eu hysgol dalgylch o fewn Tredegar/Sirhywi. Mae 38% (68) o ddisgyblion yn mynychu ysgol yn Nhredegar nad yw eu hysgol dalgylch ac mae gweddill y disgyblion, 5.5% (7) yn byw tu allan i Dredegar/Cwm Sirhywi (yn bennaf Glynebwy a/neu allan o'r fwrdeistref).

b. Pa ysgolion y mae'r cynnig hwn yn debygol o effeithio arnynt?

Cynhaliwyd gwerthusiad dechreuol i asesu pa ysgolion cynradd y byddai'r cynnig yn effeithio'n uniongyrchol arnynt a pha rai yr effeithid arnynt yn anuniongyrchol yn ardal Tredegar/Sirhywi a gogledd Ebwy Fawr, pe datblygid y cynnig am ysgol newydd. Mae tybiaeth mai'r ysgolion yr effeithid arnynt fyddai:

Effeithio yn uniongyrchol – gan mai dyma'r unig ysgol gynradd Gymraeg ar hyn o bryd:

Ebwy Fach (Gogledd)

- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, Stad Ddiwydiannol Rising Sun, Blaenau NP13 1YL

Effeithio yn anuniongyrchol - gyda symud disgyblion posibl fel canlyniad i ddewis rhieni:

Ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg a Ffydd yn ardal Tredegar/Cwm Sirhywi

- Ysgol Gynradd Bryn Bach, Heol Merthyr, Tredegar NP22 3RX
- Ysgol Gynradd Deighton, Stockton Way, Tredegar NP22 3ES
- Ysgol Gynradd Georgetown, Heol Oakfield, Tredegar, NP22 4LP
- Ysgol Gynradd Glanhywi, Coach Bach, Tredegar, NP22 4RW
- Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Sant Joseff, Ashvale, Dukestown, Tredegar, NP22 4AQ

Ebwy Fawr (Gogledd)

- Ysgol Gynradd Glyncoed, Badminton Grove, Glynebwy, NP23 5UL
- Ysgol Gynradd Willowtown, Stryd Brynheulog, Glyn Ebwy NP23 6NJ
- Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig yr Holl Seintiau, Heol-yr-Ysgol, Glynebwy, NP23 6QP

Ysgol Uwchradd Gymraeg

- Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, Heol Folly, Trefddyn Catwg, Pont-y-pŵl, Torfaen, NP4 8JD

Mae ystyriaethau eraill yn cynnwys:

- Disgyblion yn symud i'r ardal o awdurdodau cyfagos sy'n ffinio ar Dredegar/Cwm Sirhywi.
- Disgyblion newydd fel canlyniad i ddatblygiadau tai a throsglwyddo o fewn y flwyddyn.

c. Gwybodaeth am y pellter a'r amser teithio yn gysylltiedig â mynychu ysgol arall o'r un categori ieithyddol

Pe na byddai'r cynnig hwn yn symud ymlaen, ar gyfer rhieni plant y mae addysg Gymraeg yn ddewis cyntaf iddynt, mae'n debyg y byddai'r amser teithio i ddisgyblion ar gludiant rhwng y cartref a'r ysgol yn fwy na 50 munud.

Ar gyfer disgyblion sy'n dymuno cymryd rhan mewn gweithgaredd ar ôl ysgol, mae ystyriaethau cludiant a mynediad ychwanegol i rieni os nad oes gan rhieni fynediad i'w cerbyd eu hunain. Yn yr achos hwn byddai angen i rieni ddefnyddio naill ai drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus a/neu wasanaethau tacsï. Nid oes unrhyw gysylltiad trafndiaeth gyhoeddus uniongyrchol i Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg drwy naill ai Dredegar na Glynebwy. Felly, byddai'n rhaid i rieni wneud 3 newid fel sy'n dilyn o Dredegar a 2 o Lynebwy:

- Tredegar i Lynebwy
- Glynebwy i Frynmawr
- Brynmawr i Nantyglo

Byddai wedyn angen i rieni a disgyblion gerdded am o leiaf 15 munud i gael mynediad diogel i'r ysgol o'r safle bws agosaf. Mae'r ddwy daith yn debyg o gymryd mwy na 1 awr bob ffordd, gydag amserau teithio yn amrywiol ac yn anghyson.

Felly mae'n debyg y byddai mynediad a chymryd rhan mewn gweithgaredd yn yr ysgol tu allan i'r oriau yn anos pe na byddai'r cynnig yn mynd rhagddo. Mae llwybrau cerdded a seiclo o nifer o ardaloedd ledled y fwrdeistref yn gyfyngedig.

Mae'r safle a ffefrir, Chartist Way, ar lwybr bws sy'n bodoli eisoes a byddai'n ei wneud yn fwy hygyrch ar gyfer rhieni sy'n defnyddio trafndiaeth gyhoeddus.

Effaith ar y Gymraeg

Cymraeg fyddai categori iaith yr ysgol gynradd egin a gynigir. Yr unig ysgol gynradd Gymraeg arall ym Mlaenau Gwent yw Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg. Byddai'r cynnig yn cael effaith gadarnhaol ar y Gymraeg drwy greu darpariaeth gofal plant, addysg a chymunedol ychwanegol.

Ysgol	Gweithgareddau ysgol sy'n rhoi cyfleoedd ychwanegol i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn yr ysgol ac unrhyw ysgol amgen arall	A yw'r ysgol yn darparu cyfleusterau ar gyfer aelodau'r gymuned i ddysgu'r Gymraeg?
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Helyg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol: clybiau ar ôl ysgol ar gyfer disgyblion CA2 ar ddyddiau Mawrth, Mercher ac Iau – Celf, Chwaraeon, Drama, Cerddoriaeth, TGCh • Mae'r Urdd yn cynnal clwb ar ddyddiau Llun – gwahanol weithgareddau. • Mae'r Fenter Iaith yn cynnal clwb amser cinio ar ddyddiau Gwener – gwahanol weithgareddau gyda chystadlu yn Eisteddfod yr Urdd, Chwaraeon yr Urdd a mynd â phlant i Ganolfan Llangrannog ddwywaith y flwyddyn. 	Mae'r ysgol yn cynnal gweithgareddau ymgysylltu â'r gymuned a sesiynau ar gyfer rhieni, teuluoedd a phreswylwyr y gellid eu hystemyn a'u datblygu

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mae'r ysgol yn cynnal clybiau cerddoriaeth pop Gymraeg a gwahanol ddigwyddiadau yn ystod y flwyddyn yn hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg a diwylliant Cymru e.e. Diwrnod Cerddoriaeth Gymraeg ym mis Chwefror, Dydd Gŵyl Dewi ym mis Mawrth, Caffi Cymraeg bob tymor pan wahoddir rhieni a'r gymuned i fore coffi. Caiff sesiynau TED hefyd eu cynnal lle mae rhieni newydd yn dysgu caneuon a geirfa Gymraeg fydd yn eu helpu i gefnogi eu plant gyda'r iaith e.e. mae'r ysgol wedi cynnal sesiynau coginio, sesiynau darllen a sesiynau gyda themâu eraill yn ystod y flwyddyn. • Yn ystod y sesiynau Caffi Cymraeg a TED, caiff y dysgu ei arwain gan y Criw Cymraeg (disgyblion sy'n arwain ar y Siarter Iaith) • Mae gan yr ysgol gysylltiadau da gyda dysgwyr Cymraeg Tai Calon a hefyd orsaf radio BGfm • Y datblygiad diweddaraf yw bod yr ysgol wedi sefydlu cysylltiadau gyda'r Criw Cymraeg o ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Saesneg lleol (Ystruth, Coed-y-Garn a Blaen-y-Cwm) sy'n ymweld i gynllunio gweithgareddau tebyg i ddisgo Diwrnod Cerddoriaeth Cymraeg a gweld sut mae ein Caffi Cymraeg yn gweithio. Mae ysgolion eraill tebyg i Ysgol Gynradd Deighton wedi ymweld ar gyfer cefnogaeth a gweithgareddau i wella dysgu'r iaith.. 	<p>ymhellach os yw'r cynnig am yr ysgol yn mynd yn ei flaen.</p> <p>Mae Coleg Gwent yn gweithredu fel asiantaeth partner yn cyflwyno cyrsiau i bobl ifanc ac oedolion. Pe byddai'r cynnig yn symud yn ei flaen, byddai hyn yn rhoi cyfle i gynyddu darpariaeth gymunedol ac ymgysylltu drwy'r Coleg.</p>
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d. Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg 2017-20 (WESP) a Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg Blaenau Gwent, ei asiant cyflenwi

Mae Blaenau Gwent drwy ei Gynllun Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg 2017-20 (WESP) ynghyd â Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg Blaenau Gwent yn ymroddedig i ehangu'r ddarpariaeth o addysg Gymraeg ledled y Fwrdeistref Sirol. Byddai'r cynnig hwn yn cynyddu cyfleoedd ar gyfer dysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Mae pob ysgol ym Mlaenau Gwent yn addysgu ac yn hyrwyddo'r Gymraeg. Byddai'r cynnig yn cynyddu cyfleoedd i ddysgu a hybu'r iaith a'r diwylliant Cymraeg o fewn yr ardal.

HYSBYSIAD STATUDOL

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent, Adeilad Bwrdeisiol, Canolfan Ddinesig, Glynebwy NP23 6XB

Rhoddir hysbysiad yn unol ag adran 41 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2021 a'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent, ar ôl ymgynghori â'r personau hynny fel sydd angen, yn cynnig sefydlu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg newydd gyda 210 lle gyda darpariaeth gofal plant yn yr un lleoliad ar y safle arfaethedig sef Chartist Way, Tredegar, NP22 4PR ar gyfer bechgyn a merched 3-11 oed. Caiff hyn ei gynnal gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent. Ni fydd gan yr ysgol newydd unrhyw gymeriad crefyddol enwadol

Cynhaliodd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent gyfnod ymgynghori cyn penderfynu cyhoeddi'r cynnig. Mae adroddiad ymgynghori yn cynnwys crynodeb o'r materion a godwyd gan yr ymgynghoreion, ymatebion y cynigydd ac ymateb llawn Estyn ar gael yn:-

[CBS Blaenau Gwent: Sefydlu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Newydd yn ardal Tredegar/Cwm Sirhywi drwy Fodel Egin/Twf \(blaenau-gwent.gov.uk\)](https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

Bwriedir gweithredu'r cynnig ar 1 Medi 2023 yn defnyddio model twf egin, lle mae'r ysgol yn agor i ddechrau ar gyfer gofal plant, grwpiau blwyddyn Meithrin a Dosbarth Derbyn, gan ychwanegu grŵp blwyddyn wedyn bob blwyddyn academaidd gyda'r ysgol yn cyrraedd ei chapasiti pan fydd cohort y dosbarth derbyn cyntaf yn cyrraedd Blwyddyn 6.

Bydd yr ysgol newydd arfaethedig yn ysgol a gynhelir cyfrwng Cymraeg. Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent fydd yr awdurdod derbyn. Capasiti disgyblion yr ysgol newydd fydd 210 disgybl oedran ysgol statudol (4-11). Bydd hefyd 24 o leoedd meithrin llawn-amser.

Y nifer derbyn ar gyfer y grŵp dosbarth derbyn yn yr ysgol newydd yn y flwyddyn ysgol gyntaf y gweithredir y cynigion yw 24 a bydd y nifer derbyn ar gyfer lleoedd meithrin llawn-amser hefyd yn 24.

Ym mhob blwyddyn ysgol ddilynol, bydd disgyblion yn symud ymlaen i'r grŵp blwyddyn nesaf; bydd gan bob grŵp blwyddyn yn yr ysgol yn cynnwys pob grŵp dosbarth Derbyn newydd nifer derbyn o 24, gyda'r ysgol newydd yn cyrraedd capasiti o 210 disgybl o oedran ysgol statudol (4-11) a 28 o leoedd meithrin llawn-amser yn y flwyddyn ysgol yn cychwyn mis Medi 2023, fel y dangosir yn y tabl islaw.

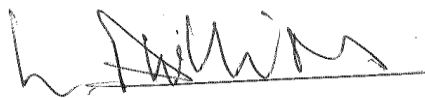
	M	D	BI 1	BI 2	BI 3	BI 4	BI 5	BI 6
2023/24	24	24						
2024/25	24	24	24					
2025/26	24	24	24	24				
2026/27	24	24	24	24	24			
2027/28	24	24	24	24	24	24		
2028/29	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	
2029/30	30	30	24	24	24	24	24	24
2030/31	30	30	30	24	24	24	24	24

Darperir cludiant i ddisgyblion yn unol â pholisi'r Cyngor ar gludiant Rhwng yr Ysgol a'r Cartref. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r Cyngor yn darparu cludiant am ddim ar gyfer disgyblion oedran cynradd sy'n mynychu eu hysgol berthnasol os ydynt yn byw fwy na 1.5 milltir o bellter cerdded i'r ysgol honno.

Gall unrhyw berson wrthwynebu'r cynigion o fewn cyfnod o 28 diwrnod o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r cynnig, sef erbyn 29 Mawrth 2021.

Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau drwy e-bost i 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk.

Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau mewn ysgrifen at Lynn Phillips, Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent, Llawr 8 Llys Einion, Abertyleri, Blaenau Gwent, NP13 1DB.



Llofnod

Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent.

1 Mawrth 2021

NODYN ESBONIADOL

Fel rhan o ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i'r nod o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050, cyhoeddodd yr Ysgrifennydd Cabinet dros Gyllid ar 17 Ionawr 2018 y dyrennid £30 miliwn (cyllid 100%, heb unrhyw ofyniad arian cyfatebol gan Gynghorau) i gefnogi prosiectau cyfalaf yn neilltuol i greu darpariaeth addysg Gymraeg ychwanegol.

Bu Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent yn llwyddiannus yn ei gais am £6M i gyflenwi darpariaeth gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg ychwanegol yn ardal Tredegar/Cwm Sirhywi. Mae'r hysbysiad statudol hwn yn ganlyniad ymgynghoriad statudol ar sefydlu'r ysgol newydd a gynhaliwyd gan gydymffurfio gyda'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (2018).

Dechreuodd y cyfnod ymgynghori ar gyfer y cynnig **ddydd Iau 17 Rhagfyr 2020** a daeth i ben **ddydd Gwener 29 Ionawr 2021**. Roedd 4 elfen greiddiol allweddol yn y cynnig fel sy'n dilyn:

- I. Creu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg newydd gyda 210 lle yn ardal Tredegar/Cwm Sirhywi.
- II. Datblygu'r Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg newydd fel model egin/twf lle daw'r cyfleusterau gofal plant a'r grwpiau meithrin a dosbarth derbyn i rym ym mis Medi 2023, gyda grwpiau blwyddyn ychwanegol yn agor ar gyfer cynnydd disgyblion bob blwyddyn ar ôl hynny. Byddai'r ysgol yn gweithredu'n llawn gyda phob grŵp blwyddyn erbyn mis Medi 2029.
- III. I sicrhau lleoliad addas. Yn seiliedig ar adolygiad ac ymchwiliad dechreuol o'r safle, yr opsiwn a ffafrir yw Chartist Way yn ardal Sirhywi.
- IV. Datblygu strwythur arweinyddiaeth a rheolaeth wedi'i alinio gydag ysgol gynradd Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg.

Mae adroddiad yr ymgynghoriad ar gael ar wefan Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Blaenau Gwent. Mae'r Cyngor wedi ffafrio model ysgol egin wrth sefydlu'r cynnig hwn, er mwyn galluogi defnyddio cyfleusterau a staff yn effeithiol tra bydd yr ysgol yn tyfu i'w photensial llawn.

Caiff yr ysgol newydd ei lleoli yn ardal Tredegar/Sirhywi ym Mlaenau Gwent a bydd yn darparu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg ychwanegol yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol, sydd â dim ond un Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg ar hyn o bryd, sef ysgol gynradd Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg sydd yn ardal Blaenau yng nghwm Ebwy Fach. Dalgylch yr ysgol newydd fydd Tredegar/Sirhywi a Gogledd Ebwy Fawr.

Mae mwy o wybodaeth ar y cynnig ar gael yma:

[CBS Blaenau Gwent: Sefydlu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Newydd yn ardal Tredegar/Cwm Sirhywi drwy Fodel Egin/Twf \(blaenau-gwent.gov.uk\)](https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/cbs-blaenau-gwent-sefydlu-ysgol-gynradd-gymraeg-newydd-yn-ardal-tredegar/cwm-sirhywi-drwy-fodel-egin/twf)

DIWEDD YR HYSBYSIAD

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Adroddiad Gwrthwynebiad

I'r cynnig i adeiladu Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg gyda darpariaeth gofal plant ar yr un safle ar y safle a ffeirir sef Chartist Way, Sirhywi, Tredegar.

Derbyniwyd un gwrthwynebiad/consyryn yng nghyswllt y cynnig hwn

Nodir y Cwestiynau ac ymatebion y Cyngor islaw

Bydd yr olygfa hardd sydd gennyf o fy ffenestr, oedd yn un rheswm pam y prynais yr eiddo lle mae fy nghartref yn y lle cyntaf, yn cael ei chuddio o fy eiddo.

Ymateb:

Fel cyd-destun, yn unol â Chynllun Datblygu Lleol Blaenau Gwent 2006-2021 ([Site Descriptions.pdf \(blaenau-gwent.gov.uk\)](#) tudalen 5, ni fwriedir y tir ger Chartist Way fel gofod gwyrdd. Mae'r tir yn safle tir llwyd sy'n golygu y cafodd ei adhawlio i greu llwyfan gwastad ar gyfer datblygu. Roedd wedi ei glustnodi'n flaenorol ar gyfer datblygiad diwydiannol.

Yng nghyswllt yr olygfa, pe byddai'r cynnig yn symud ymlaen, bydd y Cyngor yn sicrhau fod y dyluniad yn gydnaws ac nad yw'n effeithio'n negyddol ar yr olygfa ar gyfer preswylwyr lleol. Os aiff y cynnig ymlaen, rhagwelir y bydd yr ysgol yn adeilad un llawr wedi'i leoli ar ymyl gogleddol y safle.

Annibendod, sŵn a'r rhwystr a achosir gan gerbydau adeiladu i'r fynedfa i fy nghartref.

Ymateb:

Os yw'r cynnig yn symud ymlaen, wrth benodi contractwr, bydd y Cyngor yn sicrhau eu bod yn ystyriol o breswylwyr lleol a bod rheolaeth y safle yn effeithlon heb fawr ddim ymyriad a'r budd mwyaf i'r gymuned leol. Bydd ymgysylltu â'r gymuned yn hollbwysig a byddai preswylwyr lleol yn cael eu diweddar'u'n gyson ar y broses adeiladu gan y Cyngor a hefyd y contractwr.

Pan adeiledir yr ysgol, parcio a thraffig bydd pobl yn mynd â phlant i'r ysgol a'u codi oddi yno yn achosi cyfyngiadau parcio neu fynediad i fy nghartref.

Ymateb

Cynigir y byddai'r ysgol a'r ddarpariaeth gofal plant ar yr un safle yn cael ei defnyddio o fis Medi 2023 ac y bydd yr ysgol yn datblygu drwy fodel egin, felly byddai nifer y staff, disgyblion a rhieni sy'n cael mynediad i'r safle yn digwydd mewn camau ac yn cynyddu dros nifer o flynyddoedd.

Cynhelir asesiad llawn o draffig a theithio fel rhan o'r cam dylunio a'r broses datblygu prosiect. Caiff maes parcio, manau gollwng a chodi eu hystyried fel rhan o'r broses, i sicrhau y caiff y ddarpariaeth ei datblygu a'i chynllunio gan roi ystyriaeth i iechyd a diogelwch pawb. Mae'r Cyngor yn monitro mynediad i'r safle a diogelwch yn nhermau traffig a theithio i'r holl ysgolion, gan roi ystyriaeth hefyd i farn preswylwyr lleol. Bydd gofynion Gorfodaeth Parcio Sifil yn cael eu monitro i sicrhau diogelwch a chydymffurfiaeth ar y dechrau ac ar ddiwedd y diwrnod ysgol.

Llinellau melyn dwbl yn cyfyngu parcio i fi ac ymwelwyr i fy eiddo.

Ymateb:

Dim ond unwaith y gwnaed y penderfyniad i symud ymlaen y gellir symud ymlaen â hyn.

Bydd Cyfarwyddiaeth yr Amgylchedd o fewn y Cyngor, yn arbennig yr Adran Priffyrdd, yn rhan o'r tîm prosiect sy'n ymwneud â datblygiad ac nodweddion y dyluniad. Caiff y defnydd o gyfyngiadau parcio a mesurau tawelu traffig eu hystyried wrth baratoi ar gyfer y camau cyn-cynllunio a chynllunio, yr ymgynghorir â phreswylwyr lleol arnynt.

Sŵn adeiladu a phlant yn tarfu ar y tawelwch rwy'n ei fwynhau yn fy nghartref yn awr.

Ymateb:

Fel y manylir uchod, bydd y broses adeiladu yn ystyried anghenion a sylwadau preswylwyr lleol gyda golwg ar leihau ymyriad – yn cynnwys sŵn.

Nid yw'r Cyngor yn rhagweld y bydd datblygiad a defnydd yr ysgol, yn cynnwys chwarae a dysgu awyr agored, yn cael effaith negyddol ar breswylwyr lleol.

Dan reoliadau COVID-19, nid yw fy nghymdogion a finnau'n cael cyfarfod a thrafod ein pryderon, mae'n anystyriol cyfyngu amser o un mis dan gyfreithiau newydd rheoliadau Covid-19.

Ymateb:

Mae'r prosesau statudol sy'n gysylltiedig gyda'r cynnig yn cydymffurfio'n llawn gyda'r gofynion a nodir yng Nghod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (2018, fersiwn 2) Llywodraeth Cymru. Roedd y cyfnod ymgynghori o 42-diwrnod cyn cyfnod 28 diwrnod yr Hysbysiad Statudol yn cynnig cyfle i breswylwyr gymryd rhan mewn cyfarfodydd rhithiol a/neu ffôn a thrafodaethau gydag swyddogion er mwyn gwyntyllu eu sylwadau. Roedd hefyd gyfle i ymgynghoreion gysylltu â'r Cyngor i ofyn am gyfarfod.

Mae'r cynnig yn ei ddyddiau cynnar a heb ei gymeradwyo eto. Bydd cyfleoedd pellach os bydd y cynnig yn symud ymlaen, h.y. ar y camau cyn-cynllunio a chynllunio i breswylwyr ymgysylltu â, llunio, hysbysu a/neu wyntyllu eu sylwadau a'u gwrthwynebiadau. Bydd hefyd gyfleoedd ar gyfer ymgysylltu â'r gymuned drwy gydol yr amser.

Er fy mod yn cefnogi addysg Gymraeg, byddwn wedi credu y byddai safle hen golwg Glynebwy yn ddewis mwy addas ar gyfer cynllunio newydd.

Ymateb:

Nid yw'r safle hwnnw ar gael a rhoddwyd caniatâd cynllunio ar gyfer datblygiad tai.

Agenda Item 5

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 13.04.21

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 14.04.21

Committee: **Executive Committee**

Date of meeting: **21st April 2021**

Report Subject: **Proposal to Consult on Pen y Cwm Capacity increase**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Joanne Collins, Executive Member Education**

Report Submitted by: **Corporate Director of Education – Lynn Phillips**

Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
22.3.21	23.3.21	13.04.21			1.4.21	21.4.21		

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to request Executive Committee approval to consult in relation to the proposal to extend the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School from 120 to 175 pupils, accommodating the demand for places. Education and Learning Scrutiny Committee will be a statutory consultee, should proposal to proceed to consultation be granted by Executive Committee.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is responding to the increasing need for special school placements for children and young people within the Borough. Pen y Cwm is one of two special schools in Blaenau Gwent (the only one of its kind), the other being the River Centre 3-16 learning community. Pen y Cwm caters for pupils between the ages of 3-19 years across a broad spectrum of complex special educational needs. Placement is granted for both Blaenau Gwent pupils as well as pupils from other local authority areas.
- 2.2 The school is presently over capacity and currently has 141 pupils on roll. Pen y Cwm Special School caters for learners across the 3-19 age range, with a wide range of disabilities and difficulties ranging from Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) to Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Visually Impaired (VI), Hearing Impaired (HI) pupils. Pupils have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Individual Development plan (IDP). This is the only setting in Blaenau Gwent that caters for pupils with SLD and PMLD. The school mission is: ***'To empower and support individuals to be resilient and independent and to develop skills to reach their potential'***.
- 2.3 The school population has grown by almost 30% since relocating to a new build in November 2012. As a result, there is no flexible space and each of the specialist areas (including the specialist rooms for Secondary age teaching and learning) have had to be reconfigured to facilitate general teaching spaces for additional pupils.
- 2.4 The Council is committed to providing all children and young people with high quality education and training tailored to meet their needs, which will

develop their potential, extend aspirations, promote social inclusion and contribute to the economic regeneration of the area. A provision such as Pen y Cwm Special School is essential for pupils with complex learning needs to enable them to fulfil their potential.

The Proposal

2.5 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council propose to extend the capacity at Pen y Cwm Special School from 120 to 175 places, with effect from September 2021. In order to facilitate the extended capacity, the Council will remodel the existing learning environment to create additional classroom spaces and associated facilities i.e. toilets. In addition, and alongside this, the Council will work with the school to develop a long-term plan to support sustained growth and development. Therefore, this proposal will be delivered in 2 parts:

- Part 1, to increase the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School from 120 to 175 places in preparation for 2021/22 academic year, which would involve physical works to the existing building including:
 - Re-location of the Post 16 base (including 3 classrooms, a common room, life skills room, toilets and hygiene facilities)
 - Re-location of the current administrative area and office space (including a staff room, PPA room, conference facility and a small meeting room)
 - Creation of 2 additional primary classrooms
 - Creation of 1 additional secondary classroom and associated facilities
 - Re-location of the soft-play area to the ground floor
 - Re-development of the Science and Technology room
- Part 2, the development of a long-term plan to secure additional capacity to facilitate sustained growth and development.

2.6 Should nothing change, the Local Authority will be unable to meet the needs of all learners particularly those with profound and multiple learning difficulties within Blaenau Gwent. Therefore, they would need to be placed Out of County at significant additional cost, outside of their community and with increased travel time. This does not support Blaenau Gwent's Vision for Education:

'Securing excellent achievement and wellbeing for all learners through a partnership, school-led self-improving system'.

2.7 Expected benefits and advantages of this proposal when compared with the status quo (do nothing):

- Creation of a local solution which will address the increased demand for special education provision
- Continuity and sustainability in terms of local education for learners with specialist and medical needs
- A local option for pupils transitioning from mainstream school, and resources bases

- Reduce the costs of out of county placements for learners, whilst securing local investment within the Blaenau Gwent school estate
- Improve access to and facilities for learners who meet the criteria for the specialist provision which Pen y Cwm offers
- Increased capacity and sustainability of placement
- Reduced travel time and carbon footprint

2.8 The Council's Education Transformation team has a proven track record of delivering complex school organisation proposals, along with successful delivery of the Band A 21st Century Schools Programme, which concluded in March 2019, when the Band B programme came into effect.

Consultation Requirements

2.9 The Welsh Government School Organisation Code – second edition (2018), dictates that proposals **must** be published for the following elements of school reorganisation:

1. the opening of a maintained school (including a special school);
2. the closing of a maintained school (including a special school);
3. to make a regulated alteration to a maintained school; and,
4. to change the category of a maintained school.

2.10 Prior to any decision being made on the proposal to extend the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School, the Council is required to undertake statutory consultation with all interested and affected parties. This is necessary due to the fact that as set out within the School Organisation Code (Version 2, 2018), the proposal will see an increase in the number of pupils at the school, which when coupled with previous capacity increases, would increase the number of pupils by 10% or the relevant number of such pupils (whichever is the lesser). This section provides an overview of the consultation process.

2.11 The proposed consultation document and timeline take account of the publication and other statutory requirements as set out within the aforementioned code. The proposed consultation timeline - if approved, is as follows:

- Consultation to commence on –Monday 26th April 2021
- Consultation to conclude on – Sunday 6th May 2021 (inclusive of 20 school days)

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 There are 2 options associated with the consultation as follows:

- **Option 1** – Executive Committee considers and accepts the report, associated document and agrees to formally consult upon the proposal.
- **Option 2** – Executive Committee provide comments in relation to improvements that can be made in relation to the associated document and proposed course of action, in consideration of the School Organisation Code (2018) and established timeline.

4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 In accordance with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018), there is a statutory requirement for the Council to undertake statutory consultation with all interested and affected parties. This is necessary due to the fact that, as set out within the School Organisation Code (Version 2, 2018) the proposal will see an increase in the number of pupils at the school, which when coupled with previous capacity increases, would increase the number of pupils by 10% or the relevant number of such pupils (whichever is the lesser). This section provides an overview of the consultation process. The Council, therefore, intends to increase the capacity from 120 to 175, which is an increase of 55 pupil places.

4.2 Education is a strategic priority within the Corporate Plan. In order to enable people to maximise their independence, develop solutions and take an active role in their communities, the growth, development and sustainability of our special schools is necessary to meet the demand.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 **Impact on Budget**

Capital

There are capital cost implications associated with this proposal for the Council, which are circa £250,000. This will be met via both the Capital Maintenance Grant and the Welsh Government ALN Grant funding, so therefore this has no cost pressure implications for the Council's Capital Programme.

5.1.2 Revenue

Pen y Cwm Special School is funded in accordance with Blaenau Gwent Council's Fair Funding policy, and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within Blaenau Gwent, based upon pupil numbers and the area of the school building. In April 2020/21 pupil funding at Pen y Cwm Special School for Age Weighted Pupil Unit and Category funding was £2,277,494 (other factors funding is not included), this figure is based upon the 141 pupils on roll. Based on the average pupil cost of £16,925, the AWPU/category funding costs for 175 pupils will be circa £2.9 million, which is an increase of £575,450 - if all places were to be fully allocated.

5.1.3 The Local Authority generates income relating to Pen y Cwm Special School placements of in excess of £522,259, as a result of the 19 Out of County learners being educated within Blaenau Gwent, whilst living in another Local Authority area.

5.1.4 Blaenau Gwent currently has 20 ALN pupils that are educated outside the Local Authority at a cost of £896,000. Of the 20 pupils placed Out of County all have statements of SEN and have been placed due to their recognised needs and legal entitlements. If Pen y Cwm Special School was able to increase capacity, there would be opportunities to consider making

education provision for some of the 20 pupils back in Blaenau Gwent, for modelling purposes, we have assumed that approximately 5 of the existing 20 Out of County placements could return to Blaenau Gwent should the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School increase. However, all placements will be subject to review within the next 12 months. This said, it is recognised that in some cases, pupils will continue to receive their education Out of County in line with their specialist needs.

- 5.1.5 The additional funding requirement will be met from a combination of:
- existing resources (from the ISB reserve);
 - ISB funding arising from pupil reductions in BGCBC mainstream schools;
 - cost avoidance for Out of County placements; and,
 - income generated from Out of County placement at Pen y Cwm Special School.
- 5.1.6 Sensitivity analysis around the mix of pupils from the above areas is attached as **Appendix 2**. The sensitivity analysis indicates a range of funding options from the ISB reserve. Best case scenario it indicates a minimal contribution of £14,000 from the reserve, and the most likely scenario indicates a contribution of £135,000 from the ISB reserve. The latter is well within existing revenue estimates.
- 5.1.7 The building remodelling is proposed to take place within the existing footprint of the school, therefore, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant additional premises costs. There will be leadership implications, however, these are deemed to be relatively small based upon leadership pay scales which are reflective of the pupil population.
- 5.1.8 Costs associated with home to school transport are increasing, however, the growth bid for this provision was approved at Full Council for circa £100,000. The transport costs associated with Out of County placement for 2019/20 were £134,000, whereas in 2020/21 and due to Covid-19, costs were in the region of £95,000. Pen y Cwm Special School transport costs for 2019/20 were £278,990 whereas for the 2020/21 academic year this rose to £292,000. These costs are regularly reviewed and subject to change in line with pupil placement.
- 5.2 **Risk** - If the proposal is not taken forward, there is both a placement and a financial risk in terms of securing suitable Out of County provision for learners.
- 5.2.1 There is also a financial risk that Out of County Placements are not reduced and additional income from other LEA's is not increased. This could be largely mitigated by a full review of Out of County placements, along with potential increased in-county placement options, with a view to generating additional income.

- 5.3 **Legal** – There are no direct legal implications associated with this proposal.
- 5.4 **Human Resources** - There are no significant HR implications arising from the proposal. The proposed increase in pupil numbers will require the Governing Body of Pen y Cwm School to plan for the workforce requirements in readiness for the respective expansions. Organisational Development will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies for the workforce planning and consequential recruitment processes.
6. **Supporting Evidence**
- 6.1 **Performance Information and Data** – Please refer to the Consultation document (**Appendix 1**), for the date performance data relating to the proposal.
- 6.2 **Expected outcome for the public (This section is mandatory)** - The public can expect a fair and equitable consultation process, which is fully compliant with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018)
- 6.3 **Involvement** - Stakeholder engagement is a key focus of all school organisation proposals. The proposal will be subject to consultation in line with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018), which will then be used to inform decision making processes moving forward.
- 6.4 **Thinking for the Long term** - The consultation details a proposal which looks to secure additional Special School education places and capacity in line with placement requests and associated demand in the medium to long-term, securing sustainable growth of specialist education provision within Blaenau Gwent.
- 6.5 **Preventative focus** – The proposal seeks to address medium-term capacity issues, whilst securing sustainability to support long-term growth in line with specialist education placements within Blaenau Gwent.
- 6.6 **Collaboration / partnership working** - The consultation document, along with the development of the proposal has been developed collaboratively with the Inclusion Team, Pen y Cwm Special School, Finance, and Community Services.
- 6.7 **Integration** - The proposal seeks to secure integration for new and existing pupils supporting growth and sustainability of provision.
- 6.8 **EqIA** - An Equality Impact Screening Assessment (EQIA) has been completed in line with the consultation, which determined that there is no negative impact upon the protected characteristics. The proposal promotes equality of opportunity within Blaenau Gwent for families whose children require specialist provision, and will have a positive impact upon the protected characteristic of disability.
7. **Monitoring Arrangements** – Should the consultation proceed, there will be extensive monitoring in line with the consultation processes, responses and

outcomes; which would be answered, analysed and taken via the Council's political processes. In addition, the project would be established and managed in accordance with Blaenau Gwent Corporate Project Management Framework and the PRINCE 2 methodology.

Background Documents / Electronic Links

Appendix 1 – Blaenau Gwent Proposal Consultation Document – Increase the Capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School

Appendix 2 – Sensitivity Analysis (Pupil Additionality)

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Ysgolion a Cholegau yr 21ain Ganrif
21st Century Schools and Colleges

Statutory Consultation Document:
Proposal to Extend the Capacity at
Pen y Cwm Special School

Consultation Period

Monday 26th April 2020 concluding on Monday 7th June 2021

This consultation document complies with Welsh Governments, School Organisation Code 2018 (V2) guidance

What is this booklet about?

This booklet has been prepared for parents/carers, school staff, school governors and the wider community of Blaenau Gwent. The booklet provides an overview of the consultation process associated with the Council's proposal to extend the capacity at Pen y Cwm Special School. It will be of particular interest to parents/carers whose children are attending or looking to attend the current special school.

If you would like this information in any other format, please contact the Education Transformation team either via email or telephone, as follows:

- **Email us:** 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or,
- **Call us on:** (01495) 355470



Glossary of Terms - Please note the following terms used throughout this document:

Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	A learner has ALN if he/she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for additional learning provision (ALP).
Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	Is a complex developmental condition that involves persistent challenges in social interaction, speech and nonverbal communication and restricted/repetitive behaviours. The effects of ASD and the severity of symptoms are different in each person.
Child Looked After (CLA)	Is a child in the care of a Local Authority either: through a Care Order made by a court, or voluntary agreement with their parent(s) to accommodate them.
Local Authority	An organisation that is officially responsible for all the public services and facilities in a particular area.
Local Development Plan (LDP)	Sets out each local planning authority's proposals for future development and use of land in their area.
Numbers on Roll	The number of pupils at a school (not including nursery pupils).
Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)	PLASC is an electronic collection of pupil and school level data provided by all maintained sector primary, middle, secondary, nursery and special schools in January each year (more information can be found on the Welsh Government website).
Resource Base RB	A small class in a mainstream school for pupils with significant ALN. Not all pupils attending an RB will have a statement of ALN. Pupils are taught by specialist teachers and learning support assistants. Sometimes RB pupils also have opportunities to attend mainstream classes.
School Assessments	When a school assess a pupils needs.
School Action	When a class or subject teacher gives extra support to a pupil with ALN.
School Action Plus	When outside specialists help the class or school staff to provide extra support for a pupil with ALN. This is different or additional to the support provided through School Action.
Special School	A school for children with an additional learning need or disability, whose needs cannot be met in a mainstream school. The pupils at a special school will often have a statement of ALN.
Statement of Additional Learning Needs	A child with a statement of ALN has additional learning difficulties which need special support. This means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the child has significantly greater difficulty learning than most children of the same age, or • the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children.
Statutory Notice	A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. This will only be undertaken if a decision is made by the Council's Executive Committee to proceed with a proposal, following consideration of all responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).
Statutory School Age (SSA)	A Child who is over the age of 5 and under the age of 16 that is eligible to attend school

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Section 1: Introduction



Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council reviews the capacity of its schools on an annual basis. As such, the Council is responding to the increased demand and growth noted over the course of the last 3 years, in line with pupil placement requests for Pen y Cwm Special School. Pen y Cwm Special School caters for pupils (aged between 3-19 years) with a broad spectrum of complex special educational and medical needs, including profound and multiple learning difficulties. The school currently caters for Blaenau Gwent pupils, along with pupils from Out of County (OOC).

The school mission is: ***'To empower and support individuals to be resilient and independent and to develop skills to reach their potential'***.

Learners are taught in 16 class groups and a typical class would have 1 teacher and 3 teaching assistants, with approximately 10 pupils. However, the set-up in each class is entirely dependent on pupil need. The adult/pupil ratio ensures that the individual care and educational needs of the pupils can be met. The school is supported by the physiotherapy, occupational therapy services and the speech and language therapy service. In addition, the Council's Inclusion Service - including Educational Psychology, work closely with the school to manage and support placement.

Pen y Cwm Special School is co-located with Ebbw Fawr Learning Community Primary Phase (both schools are housed in the same building). The facilities include: classrooms, a purpose built hydro therapy pool, sensory rooms, hygiene rooms, quiet rooms, PMLD rooms, nurses office, a gymnasium, rebound room, library, art room, life skills room and science & technology room. Externally the school has an outdoor sensory garden and adventure play area along with outdoor learning areas.

The Council is committed to providing all children and young people with high quality education tailored to meet their needs, which will develop their potential, extend aspirations, promote social inclusion and contribute to the economic regeneration of the area. A provision such as Pen y Cwm Special School is essential for pupils with complex learning needs to enable them fulfil their potential. Therefore, this proposal is a key priority for the Council.

Section 2: Consultation Process

Prior to any decision being made on the proposal to extend the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School, the Council is required to undertake statutory consultation with all interested and affected parties. This is necessary due to the fact that the proposal will see an increase in the number of pupils at the school, which when coupled with previous capacity increases, would increase the

number of pupils by 10% or the relevant number of such pupils (whichever is the lesser). This section provides an overview of the consultation process.

This consultation, will provide consultees with the opportunity to learn more about, understand and express their views on the Council's proposal, which will inform the final decision as to how the proposal is taken forward. The feedback and comments captured throughout the consultation process will be collated, analysed and reported via the Councils political processes. The Councils Executive Committee will then make the final decision based on the outcome of and feedback associated with the consultation.

Who we are Consulting with?

This Consultation Document will be distributed, in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code Version 2 (November 2018). **Appendix 1** details the full list of consultees who will be targeted during the statutory consultation period.

Consultation Overview

The consultation period for this proposal will commence on **Monday 26th April 2021**, concluding on **Sunday 6th June 2021**. Consultees can submit their views on the proposal, however, it should be noted that responses received during this period will not be logged as objection. Should the proposal proceed, and consultees wish to make an objection, they will need to do so in writing during the statutory notice period outlined on page **13**.

The Council would like you to consider the information set out in this document and provide your views on the proposal. If you have any questions or queries on the information contained within this document, please contact us either by using the email address below, or by calling us on (01495) 355470.



21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

You are also welcome to complete the on line survey using the following link <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160804430159>



All consultation responses should be received by **5pm on Sunday 6th June 2021 at the latest**.

The Education Transformation team has planned virtual meetings with school staff, governors, Trade Union representatives, pupils and other interested parties. A frequently asked questions page will be developed and updated throughout the consultation period.

Due to the ongoing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council will not be offering drop in sessions. Should you feel the need to and/or feel strongly about discussing the proposal in person, please contact us via the 21st century schools email address as follows: 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk and a virtual meeting can be arranged.

Consultation with Children and Young People

There will be an opportunity for the pupils of Pen y Cwm Special School, along with other children and young people to participate in the consultation process. All information gathered from the consultation process will form part of the consultation out-turn report.

Section 3: The Proposal

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council propose to extend the capacity at Pen y Cwm Special School from 120 to 175 places, with effect from September 2021. In order to facilitate the extended capacity, the Council will remodel the existing learning environment to create additional classroom spaces and associated facilities i.e. toilets. In addition, and alongside this, the Council will work with the school to develop a long-term plan to support sustained growth and development. Therefore, this proposal will be delivered in 2 parts:

- Part 1, to increase the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School from 120 to 175 places in preparation for 2021/22 academic year, which would involve physical works to the existing building including:
 - Re-location of the Post 16 base (including 3 classrooms, a common room, life skills room, toilets and hygiene facilities)
 - Re-location of the current administrative area and office space (including a staff room, PPA room, conference facility and a small meeting room)
 - Creation of 2 additional primary classrooms
 - Creation of 1 additional secondary classroom and associated facilities
 - Re-location of the soft-play area to the ground floor
 - Re-development of the Science and Technology room
- Part 2, the development of a long-term plan to secure additional capacity to facilitate sustained growth and development.

The proposal would support the Blaenau Gwent's Vision for Education as follows:

'Securing excellent achievement and wellbeing for all learners through a partnership, school-led self-improving system'.

The proposal is in keeping with Blaenau Gwent's 21st Century Schools investment objectives which are:

- **Investment Objective 1:** to raise standards and achievement in line with localised targets at Foundation Phase, KS2, KS3 and KS4; and secure improved transition into post 16 learning
- **Investment Objective 2:** to create a sustainable model for the 21st Century school estate in consideration of both capital and revenue investment, along with the condition and suitability of buildings
- **Investment Objective 3:** to establish effective management and provision of school places, by having the right schools of the right size in the right place
- **Investment Objective 4:** to implement the 21st Century Schools Programme in line with local, regional and national school organisation policy; ensuring synergy between progression, development and implementation
- **Investment Objective 5:** meeting the needs of vulnerable learners

Rationale and Background Information - Why Change is Necessary



Pen y Cwm is a Special School catering for learners across the 3-19 age range, with a wide range of disabilities and difficulties ranging from Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) to Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Visually Impaired (VI), Hearing Impaired (HI) pupils. The school provides accessible accommodation and facilities for those who have a physical disability alongside their learning difficulty.

The new Pen y Cwm Special School opened in 2012, and replaced the former 1960's school building located in Beaufort. The new school was designed to be bigger, better and to provide many additional facilities including specialist rooms for Food Technology, Science and Design Technology, Art – specified as needed for effective delivery of the curriculum for Secondary learners by ESTYN, as part of the inspection process in 2004 and 2010 respectively. Additional facilities were created to include a parent room, an outreach/inclusion base, a common room for Post 16 learners, a 'flat' to support the development of independent living skills, a multi-purpose 'learning bay' and several other small ancillary and administrative spaces, including staff PPA areas etc. The school was built with a capacity of 120 places and based upon pupil numbers and associated predication at the time, 120 places was deemed to be suitable and sufficient. However, over the course of the last 4 years' demand for places has increased considerably, with 141 pupils currently on roll.

The school population has grown by approximately 36% since relocating November 2012. As a result, there is now very limited if any flexible space, and each of the specialist areas (including the specialist rooms for Secondary age teaching and learning) have been reconfigured to facilitate general teaching spaces for additional pupils. Therefore, each of the phases (Foundation Phase/Primary/Secondary/Post 16) are now compromised in terms of flexibility and space.

Whilst the school has gained additional floor space following the re-location of the formerly co-located Integrated Children's Centre in 2016, this space - due to suitability, has been predominantly used to house and facilitate the work of school's Business and Administration team/functions. In addition, the space has a conferencing facility which supports training and engagement with other professionals and families.

Additionally, timetabling has become compromised with allocated times in each of the specialist facilities e.g. art, food technology, gym, hydro pool and outdoor fitness area limited, due to the additional numbers of pupils. Staff welfare facilities also require address as the current staff room accommodates approximately 16 staff (pre-COVID restrictions), with a staff numbers having grown and now in excess of 90.

Pupil numbers and demand for places at Pen y Cwm Special School have significantly increased over the course of last four years, resulting in the school being oversubscribed, along with a waiting list, which as at March 2021, has 10 children and young people awaiting placement. There are a number of factors relating to this increase, including higher survival rates for children with

complex disabilities, more cases and/improved diagnosis and an increase in complex medical conditions. Therefore, the Local Authority is seeking to increase the capacity (in terms of the number of places) at the school from 120 to 175.

As at September 2020, there were 150 learners in the school with 2 placement requests awaiting allocation, since this time 9 pupils have left. However, as detailed above demand continues to increase. Pen y Cwm Special School provides a highly specialist learning environment and curriculum for children and young people with profound and multiple learning difficulties. All those attending the school will have needs that cannot be met in a less specialised and/or mainstream school. Most pupil's also have a range of secondary needs which include medical, speech and language, physical or ASD needs.

The Local Authority is projecting a continued upward trend in terms of demand/pupil numbers going forward. Demand for places at the school continues and is subsequently putting pressure on the local authority to place pupils Out of County, should we not be able to secure additional places locally.

The Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council seeks to address the aforementioned issues by increasing the capacity of Pen y Cwm Special School to facilitate the increased demand for places and secure medium-term growth. In order to facilitate the increased capacity, remodelling works will need to be undertaken within the current school site to increase the number of classrooms for Foundation Phase, Primary, Secondary and Post 16 learners.

Demand for Places

Within Blaenau Gwent, the number of children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) has increased. At present, 18.8% (8,385) of Statutory School Age pupils in the County Borough have an Additional Learning Need/SEN Status. There are currently around 275 children with a Statement of ALN in Blaenau Gwent of Statutory School Age.

Figure 1 on page 11 provides both historic and predictive information relating to placement trends and anticipated future placement requirements at the school.

Figure 1 – Pen y Cwm Pupil Placement 6-year Trend and Projections

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total	Average over years	Prediction based on Six year Trend			
									2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of requests	25	35	33	23	28	23	167	28	28	28	28	28
Number of requests agreed	17	25	25	17	19	19	122	20	20	20	20	20
Number of leavers	13	11	11	9	13	5	62	10	8	13	12	10
Net Increase	4	14	14	8	6	14	54	10	12	7	8	10

No agreed model currently exists for the planning of special school places that we know of, therefore, actual projected pupil numbers are difficult to predict. In an attempt to develop a model with the aim of predicting the number of places required, the Council has used historic data and associated trends. We have considered the number of requests for special school placement over the last six academic years, along with the number of those requests which were agreed. As a

result, we know that on average, over the last six years, there have been 28 requests for special school placement. We also know that on average, the number of special school placements agreed has been 20. We have considered this in relation to the number of special school leavers on an annual basis. By subtracting the number of leavers from the number of places agreed, we were able to establish the net increase on an annual basis. Based on the current numbers on roll, and the information above, we have predicted demand forward. Our expectation is that the capacity required in 2024/25 will be in the region of 170-180 pupils.

Demand has risen and is likely to continue to do so in line with inward migration, increased survival rates of children with complex needs and finally, placement requests from other Local Authorities with sufficiency issues. Blaenau Gwent Council is aware that the growth and demand for specialist education placements is on the increase throughout Wales. Neighbouring Authorities have undertaken consultation upon growth of special school capacity to facilitate demand, or are considering doing so, due to sufficiency of places. If Blaenau Gwent Council does not secure sufficient places for its pupils, it is unlikely that neighbouring Local Authorities will have capacity to accommodate them, resulting in potentially very high Out of County placements, increased traveling time and decreased accessibility to local education options for the most vulnerable pupils with the highest level of need.

Early Years and Nursery Provision

There are no plans for the Council to create a separate facility to facilitate pre-school provision. Nursery children are currently accommodated at Pen y Cwm Special School. Therefore, it is not anticipated that there will be any impact upon this provision, or changes to the current childcare arrangements and integrated approach which is in place. As the provision is specialist, there will be no impact upon mainstream, Welsh-medium and/or provision of religious character. Nor will there be any impact upon private or third sector provision of this nature.

Additional Learning Needs Provision

The proposal to extend the capacity and undertake physical changes to the building whilst also developing a long-term growth and sustainability plan, would create equality of access to a high-quality, 21st Century learning environment for children and young people with severe and complex learning disabilities.

Options Considered

A detailed option appraisal was undertaken in order to explore ways in which the requirement for additional specialist education places could be addressed. Factors such as location, site and type of provision were considered.

The long list of options detailed within Figure 2 below, were later re-evaluated and a short-list drawn up, so that the benefits, risks, timelines, costs etc. could be explored in much greater detail.

The key factors are securing places in the short to medium-term, which can be delivered over the course of the next academic year, to secure additional places from September 2021 onwards

Figure2 – Long List of Options

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
Description:	Business as Usual- maintain the status quo	Build an extension on to the Pen y Cwm School site	Build another special school in Blaenau Gwent	Send Pupils to a special school Out of County	Remodel the existing school site in order to create an additional 55 places, within the existing footprint of Pen y Cwm Special School, whilst working on the development of a long-term plan to secure additional capacity to facilitate sustained growth and development.	Co-location on an English-medium school with internal surplus capacity to accommodate a satellite provision.
Conclusion:	<p>This is a standard baseline comparator which must be considered, but not an option, as it does not address the identified need.</p> <p>Discounted</p>	<p>Merits further consideration, but site constraints, special requirements and programming would not permit effective and timely implementation.</p> <p>Possible</p>	<p>Merits further investigation in line with a detailed exploration of sites, availability of land and overall programme budget.</p> <p>Possible</p>	<p>No spare capacity exists and this would not support the vision for education in securing localised, accessible and high quality provision.</p> <p>Discounted</p>	<p>Preferred way forward in addressing medium and long-term growth.</p> <p>Possible</p>	<p>Potential for disruption to both schools at a challenging time. Requires monitoring in order to address sustainability.</p> <p>Possible</p>

The short list included:

- Option 1 (business as usual)- Maintain the status quo
- Option 5 (do maximum) - Remodel the existing school site in order to create an additional 55 places, within the existing footprint of Pen y Cwm Special School, whilst working on the development of a long-term plan to secure additional capacity to facilitate sustained growth and development.
- Option 6 (intermediate) - Co-location on an English-medium school with internal surplus capacity to accommodate a satellite provision.

Options 1 and 6 have been discounted as they would potentially:

- Not address the immediate and medium-term need
- Cause disruption within the existing education system on both school sites
- Require extensive remodelling and physical works that could not be delivered within the existing timeline
- Negatively affect provision and access to specialist facilities and services i.e. medical and therapy

Risks and Mitigation

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has a proven track record of managing both school build and school organisation projects – including the requirement to increase school capacity. The following risks can be managed and largely mitigated as follows:

Figure 3 – Risks and Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation
If the proposal is not taken forward, there is both a placement and a financial risk in terms of securing suitable Out of County provision for learners	The Local Authority is working closely with key colleagues to provide a local solution that is cost effective, and reduces the number of pupils travelling to and accessing already limited Out of County placements. However, the LA has a proven track record of working to secure appropriate placements for learners throughout the region.
The consultation process does not address stakeholder perspective and understanding of the proposal. Therefore, the proposal is not supported and does not progress.	Blaenau Gwent Council's Education Directorate are experienced in and have recently undertaken consultation upon proposals, whilst being fully compliant with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (Version 2, 2018).
The proposal to expand the school is delivered late and/or over budget.	Delivery plans are in place and can be facilitated at pace in line with outcome of the statutory processes associated within this proposal i.e. consultation and statutory notice. Capital funding has been secured to deliver the proposal.
Insufficient capacity for future demand.	The purpose of this proposal is to build extra capacity to meet a previously unforeseen demand and to allow the Council to monitor and explore long-term options to secure sustainable growth.
The project capital/construction costs exceed the budget.	The site, services and facility are well known to the Blaenau Gwent Project team who built the school, and so the cost estimates are based upon actual knowledge and understanding, with contingency built in to address any potential unknowns. Budget monitoring is undertaken regularly, along with value engineering and change management processes.
Contributes high Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions.	Target cost effective low CO2 technologies that are compatible with the existing school technologies. Securing a localised solution will also reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

Delays and additional costs due to pandemic.	Comparable schemes are already under implementation and have informed the cost estimates for this proposal; therefore, cost implications associated with the pandemic are relatively well known.
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Benefits of Proposal

This proposal would ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils - particularly those with the greatest level of need, to be educated locally. The proposal further facilitates inclusion and an inclusive approach within Education, ensuring access to high quality specialist education facilities and support for children with disabilities within the Borough. It will also go some way to addressing the barriers parents perceive in accessing specialist education and reducing the Council's carbon footprint associated with travel for education purposes, but securing development on an existing school site.

Should nothing change, the Council will be unable to meet the needs of all learners particularly those with profound and multiple learning difficulties within Blaenau Gwent. Therefore, they would need to be placed Out of County at significant cost, with learners having to manage longer school journeys affecting families and socialisation for many pupils.

Expected Benefits and Advantages (when compared with the status quo):

- Creation of a local solution which will address the increased demand for special education provision
- Continuity and sustainability in terms of local education for learners with specialist and medical needs
- A local option for pupils transitioning from mainstream school, and resources bases
- Reduce the costs of out of county placements for learners, whilst securing local investment within the Blaenau Gwent school estate
- Improve access to and facilities for learners who meet the criteria for the specialist provision which Pen y Cwm offers
- Increased capacity and sustainability of placement
- Reduced travel time and carbon footprint

Disadvantages:

There are no disadvantages associated with this proposal.

Governance Model

There will be no changes to the existing governance model and structure within Pen y Cwm Special School.

Learner Travel Arrangements

The Council's Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy states that free home to school transport will be provided as follows:

The Council will provide transport assistance for pupils with ALN:

- if existing transport arrangements are deemed unsuitable in line with learners needs, alternative arrangements will be determined by the Inclusion Service;
- if it is not appropriate for the pupil to walk to school due to the nature of their additional learning need and/or disability; and/or,

- if it is determined by ALN Panel that there is no appropriate education provision within the County Borough suitable to meet pupil need.

The above arrangements will be subject to review in line with changes to circumstances relating to the pupil(s) transport requirements.

Pupils requiring Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transport who live:

- over 1.5 miles (for those under 8 years of age); and/or,
- over 2 miles (for those aged between 8-16 years of age)

From their nearest suitable ALN provision, will automatically qualify for free home to school transport. *Please note in instances where the school is a parental choice and not the provision determined by the ALN Panel, no transport will be provided.

The Council has established a process in order to assess the travel needs of children who may require ALN transport, as follows:

- All requests to ALN Panel for consideration of change of placement will firstly be considered by the Transport team to determine their eligibility for transport on distance grounds.
- The Council's ALN Panel will then consider the request for change of placement, and if agreed, determine the appropriate placement and identify if transport is required to access the agreed placement.
- If it is identified that transport is required, a Pupil Transport Request Form will be completed by the ALN team. The form will be returned to the Transport Officer within 5 working days of the Panel meeting taking place. The Transport Officer will then make the necessary arrangements and complete a journey risk assessment.
- Individual pupil risk assessment forms will only be completed if requested by a parent/carer, or if the pupil has needs that warrant completion of a form such as profound and multiple learning difficulties. The ALN team will coordinate completion of the form. The form will identify the pupils transport needs and the type of transport required.
- The Transport Team require 15 school days upon receipt of the Pupil Transport Request Form, in order to arrange transport.

Where transport has been agreed, the Transport Officer will contact the parent and inform them of the arrangements. In cases where transport requests are refused, parents/carers will receive notification from the ALN team, also indicating their right of appeal.

The current school location and infrastructure accommodates bus and taxi drop off and pick-up at the start and finish of the school day, with sufficient parking for staff and key partners to visit.

Section 4: Consultation Outcome and Next Steps

Consultation Report: Feedback from the consultation will be collated, analysed and presented in a Consultation Out-turn Report to the Council's Executive Committee in June 2021. The report will be available on the Council's website 2 weeks prior to a decision being made to proceed or not to proceed to statutory notice. Hard copies can be obtained on request via the email addresses detailed above.

Statutory Notice: Should this proposal be approved at Executive Committee; the Council will then go out to statutory notice in July 2021. The statutory notice period will run for 28 days, during this time, you will be able to make formal objections should you wish to do so, via the email

address provided in this consultation booklet. Any issues raised by interested parties will then be summarised and presented to the Executive Committee for a final decision to be made. Should the proposal proceed, a copy of the Statutory Notice will be displayed on the Council’s website and at Pen y Cwm Special School. Hard copies of the statutory notice will be available upon request.

Determination of the Proposal: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will determine the proposal based on the outcome of the statutory notice period. This may lead to the approval, rejection or approval of the proposal with modifications.

Decision Notification: Once a decision has been made, an electronic copy of determination will be sent out to all interested parties and published on Blaenau Gwent’s County Borough Council’s website within 7 days of the decision.

Figure 4 - The Statutory Process Timeline

April 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021
Consultation Period					
		Consultation report to Executive Committee			
			Statutory Notice	Objections Report Decision Notification	
			Implementation September 2021		

Section 5: Details of Affected Schools



Pupil Place Data

The school’s capacity is currently 120, the Council. At present, there are more pupils with significant needs who require a place within Pen y Cwm, than there are places available.

There will be no direct effect on mainstream schools in the County Borough, neither will this proposal have any impact on The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community.

Section 6: Other Considerations

Finance

Revenue Costs

Pen Y Cwm Special School is funded in accordance with Blaenau Gwent Council's Fair Funding policy, and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within Blaenau Gwent, based upon pupil numbers and the area of the school building. It is difficult to accurately project the costs associated within the capacity increase, due to the following variables: the reduction in funding for mainstream settings as a result of pupil placement, the level of cost avoidance as a result of pupil placement within Out of County settings from within Blaenau Gwent; and finally, the level of recoupment realised as a result of Out of County placement within Pen y Cwm School. Blaenau Gwent currently has 20 pupils that are educated outside the Local Authority at a cost of £896,000. As an example of the funding required in line with pupil placement, the current position (based upon 141 pupils) for 2020/21 was approximately £2.4 million (Age Weighted Pupil Unit and Category funding).

As the remodelling is proposed to take place within the existing footprint of the school, therefore, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant additional premises costs. There will be leadership implications, however, these are deemed to be relatively small based upon leadership pay scales which are reflective of the pupil population.

Capital Costs

There are capital financial implications associated with this proposal for the Council, which are circa £250,000. This will be met via contributions from within the Council's own resources.

Transport Costs

Costs associated with home to school transport are increasing. The transport costs associated with Out of County placement for 2019/20 were £134,000, whereas in 2020/21 and due to Covid-19, costs were in the region of £95,000. Pen y Cwm Special School transport costs for 2019/20 were £278,990 whereas for the 2020/21 academic year this rose to £292,000. These costs are regularly reviewed and subject to change in line with pupil placement.

Admission Arrangements

Admission to Pen y Cwm Special School is managed via the ALN Panel, which is made up of representatives from schools, the Inclusion Service and wider Education representatives. Referrals to the ALN Panel are made via the ALN Team.

Impact of the Proposal on the Welsh Language

This proposal does not impact upon the number and availability of Welsh-medium school places within Blaenau Gwent. The Council does not expect any negative impact on the Welsh Language as a result of this proposal. Welsh is taught in English-medium and Special Schools in line with the National Curriculum. The proposal will therefore have no impact upon the Welsh Language Measure (2011).

Equality Impact Screening

An Equality Impact Screening Assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the impact of key proposals and decisions upon protected characteristics. The assessment determined that none of the protected characteristics will be negatively affected, whilst disability will be positively affected (Please refer to **Appendix 2** for more information).

Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

17 | Consultation document: Proposal to increase capacity numbers at Pen y Cwm Special School

A community impact assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the impact of key proposals and decisions upon stakeholders and the wider community (Please refer to **Appendix 3 & 4** for more information).

United Nation Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The Council in all its corporate responsibilities ensure that they will always engage positively with children and young people. If this proposal is implemented, it will realise benefits for children and young people in accordance with the seven core aims of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically:

Core aim 1 - have a flying start in life;

Core aim 2 - have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities;

Core aim 3 - enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;

Core aim 4 - have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;

Core aim 5 - are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised;

Core aim 6 - have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing; and

Core aim 7 - are not disadvantaged by poverty.

Engagement of Children and Young People in this Consultation

As part of this consultation process, the Education Transformation team in partnership with school, will consult with pupils that are affected by the proposal, as well as engaging with both the Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum and Schools Grand Council.

Capital Costs/Capital Receipts

Should the proposal be approved, it will address the current shortfall in capacity at Pen y Cwm Special School. There will be a capital costs associated with the proposal in facilitating the remodelling work within existing school building. No buildings will be transferred as a result of the proposal.

Housing Developments

On average over the course of the last 5 years, 90 houses have been built in Blaenau Gwent each year. This level of growth is expected to continue. These potential homes either already have planning permission, are seeking legal agreement or are included in the Local Development Plan. This is likely to have an impact upon pupil place planning. The Education Transformation team monitor the impact upon schools. Figure 2 - illustrates the number of housing Developments which are currently in the Local Development Plan (LDP)

	According the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for Tredegar Valley .					According the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for Ebbw Fawr Valley .					According the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5 year timescale the following figures are identified for Ebbw Fach Valley .				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Housing Associations:	23	18	0	0		13	13	33	0		0	16	20	0	0

Private Sector Housing:	8	7	6	6		34	104	92	32		3	53	40	17	12
Total	31	25	6	6		47	117	125	32		3	69	60	17	12

For more information please visit the following webpage: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan/ldp-allocations/>

The above data tells us that there are over 472 housing development planned between 2020 – 2024. There is a potential for this to increase demand within both mainstream and special schools going forward.

Human Resources

There are no significant HR implications arising from the proposal. The proposed increase in pupil numbers will require the Governing Body of Pen y Cwm School to plan for the workforce requirements in readiness for the respective extension.

Organisational Development will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies for the workforce planning and consequential recruitment processes. Where the Governing Bodies have adopted the Council’s School Redeployment and Redundancy Policy, any new vacancies arising as a consequence of an increase in numbers on the role will provide opportunities for school based staff on the school redeployment register.

Partnerships

The ‘Blaenau Gwent We Want’ engagement programme is about local people, businesses and organisations having a say on how we can improve Blaenau Gwent for our future generations.

In its 1st year the group have already engaged with over 1,500 people from throughout Blaenau Gwent to find out what they would like the area to be like in the future. Their feedback has been used to help us put together a number of priorities that we will work on over the next few years to help us create the Blaenau Gwent that we all want.

Our Well-Being Plan outlines our objectives for improving well-being in Blaenau Gwent and meeting our duties under the Future Generations Act (2015). The 5 objectives in the plan have been developed to reflect that Blaenau Gwent Wants....

- **The best start in life for everyone**
- **Safe and friendly communities**
- **To look after and protect the natural environment**
- **To forge new pathways to prosperity**
- **To encourage healthy lifestyles**

These well-being objectives are ones we consider to have real power to bring about change, that are the most urgent and that the evidence tells us need the combined force of the Public Services Board partners to deliver and improve well-being.

Section 7: Present Arrangements

ESTYN

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise standards achieved by their pupils (Estyn).

Pen Y Cwm Special School last Estyn inspection was undertaken in 2016. The results of which are tabled below:

Questions	Results
The school's current performance	Good
The school's prospects for improvement	Good
Key Question 1: How good are outcomes?	
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Good
Key Question 2: How good is provision?	
Learning experiences:	Good
Teaching:	Good
Care, support and guidance:	Good
Learning environment:	Good
Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?	
Leadership:	Good
Improving quality:	Good
Partnership working:	Good
Resource management:	Good

If a school is judged as adequate or unsatisfactory, they will be subject to monitoring by Estyn or the Local Authority until such time as they are judged to have made sufficient progress to be removed from the list of schools requiring improvement. Overall, this assessment is a good result for the school, only having 4 recommendations for improvements.

- **R1** Improve assessment for learning strategies to support pupils' learning throughout the school
- **R2** Make sure that target-setting is cohesive
- **R3** Improve the quality and consistency of reports to parents
- **R4** Make sure that staff performance management procedures are used consistently to inform improvements

Some of the comments from the inspection are below:

- Pupils make good progress in their learning in relation to their abilities and recognised needs
- There are highly effective arrangements to support pupils' health and wellbeing
- Pupils are offered a broad and balanced range of relevant learning experience within and beyond school
- Leaders and managers have strong commitment to school improvement

Quality and Standards in Education: The quality and standards of schools in Blaenau Gwent are monitored by the Council, in line with the national system of school categorisation and guidance in respect of schools causing concern. Estyn is the Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales and is established under the 1992 Education Act. Standards and the quality of provision are also monitored periodically through the Estyn Inspection Framework for the inspection of schools.

Since 2012, the Council has commissioned the Education Achievement Service (EAS) to support school improvement in Blaenau Gwent's schools. The EAS provide school improvement support to the following Councils: Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. As part of this proposal, the Council will work in partnership with the EAS to secure increased levels of support for the schools. This will ensure appropriate support is in place during the period of transition.

Standards: The proposal will not affect the standards in Pen y Cwm Special school. The school will continue to receive the appropriate level of challenge and support.

Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning: The provision of additional pupil places at is expected to enable more children to attend school in their local community. Pupil wellbeing is a priority for Pen y Cwm Special school which is monitored and reported. The proposal will not impact wellbeing and attitudes towards learning.

Teaching and Learning Experiences: The teaching at Pen y Cwm Special School will follow the national curriculum with English as the language of teaching and learning. The proposal will not impact the teaching and learning experiences.

Care, Support and Guidance: Pen y Cwm has highly effective policies and strategies for promoting care, support and guidance that have a strong emphasis on supporting pupils' behaviour, communication and emotional wellbeing. As a result, nearly all pupils behave well and engage enthusiastically in their learning. The school offers an appropriate range of activities that link well to pupils' interests and abilities. The school promotes pupils' social, moral, spiritual and cultural development effectively. The personal and social education programme provides pupils with valuable, age-appropriate information about a wide range of issues including sex and relationships, e-safety and personal hygiene. The programme helps pupils to develop their self-awareness and positive attitudes towards personal safety.

The school works closely with external agencies ensuring effective collaboration planning that will support and advise staff about individual pupils' needs. All pupils have an IEP and a majority have personal handling plans. However, the link between targets in plans is not always clear and the quality of IEP targets varies too much across the school. For example, not all IEPs have targets that are specific and measurable.

Leadership and Management: The headteacher has a clear vision and high expectations for the school there is clear and effective communication with governors, pupils, parents and staff. The senior leadership team are effective, understand their roles and responsibilities and undertake their work efficiently. All staff contribute to the positive ethos of providing high quality learning experiences in a caring environment. Generally, meetings provide suitable opportunities for all staff to contribute to the strategic direction of the school. There is a clear focus on improving outcomes through improved data tracking and the provision of rich and stimulating experiences for pupils.

Impact of the proposal

Should the proposal be approved, it will continue to provide a high quality learning environment in support of enhanced outcomes for all learners. The proposal will ensure that the already excellent standards will be maintained.

Much research and ALN reform has demonstrated that learners achieve better outcomes with they are fully engaged in learning and in an environment that is suitable for their needs.

Section 8: Overview of the Proposal

The table below details the category, language, age range and other relevant details relation to the proposed new school:

Capacity Proposal Overview	
Admission no and arrangements	Admissions to this school are co-ordinated by Blaenau Gwent's Inclusion team on the basis of need.
Age range	3-19 years
Pupil places	There are currently 141 pupils on roll as of March 2021, meaning that the school is over subscribed.
Capacity of the school	120 with the proposal to increase to 175 in September 2021
Location	Pen y Cwm Special School Strand Annealing Lane, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent NP23 6AN
Category school and language	Special School English-medium
Schedule of accommodation	To be determined post consultation
Transport arrangements and policy	Transport will be delivered in accordance with the Blaenau Gwent Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2020/21. Please refer to Section 1 for more information.
Cost per Pupil 2020/21	£16,925
School Categorisation (2019)	Green
Estyn Inspection Results	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2020-08/Pen-Y-Cwm%2520Special%2520School.pdf
Building Condition Categorisation	A
Building Suitability Categorisation	B

School Catchment Area

The School catchment area of Pen Y Cwm Special School is all of Blaenau Gwent as the only special school that caters for pupils aged 3 – 19 with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. This will not change as part of this proposal.

Transition Arrangements

There will be no change for pupils, currently at the school.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
When would building work start?	If this proposal is approved the aim is to start the first phase of physical work on site during the latter part of the summer and autumn of 2021.
What about staff?	There should be no impact on staff as the school is simply extending its capacity. As pupil numbers increase in the future, however, there will be new opportunities and any new appointments to the staff structure would have to be approved by the Governing Body and the Council through the formal Organisational Development (OD) arrangements as is presently the case.
How safe will the pupils and staff be with the physical works? How will the school manage with all the noise and dust from the building work?	The Council has an exceptional record of coordinating the building of school buildings on “live” sites. The construction areas will be completely separate from the day to day operation of the school, with safety of the pupils and staff of paramount importance. Physical works will be phased in order to minimise disruption, with planned works taking place and in around the school day, and during holiday periods to ensure that there is no disruption for pupils.

Section 9: Consultation Pro-forma

Ysgolion a Cholegau yr 21ain Ganrif
21st Century Schools and Colleges



Consultation Questionnaire

Please provide your comment on the proposal to extend the Capacity for learners of Pen Y Cwm Special School <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160804430159>

You may also wish to indicate which of the following reflects your views:

I fully support the proposal	
I do not support the proposal	

Your comments:

Name: _____ Date: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Please indicate if you are:

Primary: Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) _____

Secondary: Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) _____

Thank you for your time and contribution to the consultation. Your views, comments and responses will be recorded and reported to the Council's Executive Committee in the Consultation Outcome Report.

Please detach this form and return by Emailing: 21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

All comments to be received no later than 5:00pm on **Sunday 6th June 2021**

Appendix 1 - Distribution List for the Consultation Document

Parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians, and staff members of schools affected by the proposals	The Welsh Ministers
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to that secondary school	Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MP's) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals	ESTYN
Any other local authority (including those in England where appropriate) likely to be affected – including in the case of dedicated ALN provision, any authority placing or likely to place pupils with ALN in it to distribute to schools in their areas as appropriate	Teaching and staff trade unions (NUT; NASUWT; ATL; UCAC; UNISON; GMB) representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located	The relevant Regional Education Consortium
Any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals	The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals	Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Governing body of other schools which the proposer consider are likely to be affected by the proposal;	In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin. Also all Registered Private/Voluntary Early Years Settings /Providers in Blaenau Gwent;
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present	In the case of proposals affecting ALN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school (Coleg Gwent)	In the case of proposals affecting Welsh Language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner

In addition to the above, the following are also included in the distribution:

The Headteacher of each school maintained by Blaenau Gwent LEA	Other Directorates of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
All Elected Members of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Blaenau Gwent Association of School Governors
The Careers Service	Libraries
RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education)	SNAP Cymru

Appendix 2– Equality Impact Screening



Screening Form

Service Area Contact Information: <i>(Please complete all fields)</i>				
Name of Person Completing Form: <i>Sharon Northall</i>	Department/Service Area: <i>Education Directorate</i>		Service Manager: <i>Claire Gardner</i>	Date: <i>09/03/2021</i>
Contact Details: <i>sharon.northall@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</i>			Name of Proposed Policy: <i>N/A</i>	
Policy Information				
Are you screening for the Equality Impact on a new policy, or an existing policy: <i>N/A</i> Choose an item.			Comments: This EIA screening is in connection with the proposal to increase capacity at Pen Y Cwm Special School along with changes to the school day.	
What are the aims and objectives of the policy: <i>There are no associated policy developments, however, the Council is consulting upon a proposal to increase Capacity of the Pen Y Cwm Special School within the Borough.</i>				
Assessment of Impact of the Policy / Practice on Protected Characteristics				
Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Provide reasons and any mitigation required
Age (children, young people, the elderly)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The remodelling works will ensure improved access to a high-quality, fully accessible teaching and learning environment, in line with 21st Century School standards, whilst also being DDA compliant. The additional facilities will ensure the health and safety of , along with improved wellbeing for a greater number of pupils in need of specialist provision.
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pregnancy and Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Religion and Belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sex (male, female)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.

Additional Indicators of Equality Risk

Please indicate if you believe this policy / practice has a high, medium or low risk as follows (1 = No Impact; 2 = Minimal Impact; 3 = Potential Impact; 4 = Likely Impact; 5 = Inequality Impact)

Children and / or young people up to the age of 18	1	Please indicate any planned methods aimed at mitigating these risks Click here to enter text.
The dynamics of a given community	1	Please indicate any planned methods aimed at mitigating these risks There will be more options for parents to consider based on their child's schooling. English medium, Faith Based and Welsh-medium.

Meeting the Equality Objectives

Please indicate below if / how your proposal will contribute to the Equality Objectives

Objective 1 – Making equality vital in decision making and service provision	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Objective 2 – Be an equal opportunity employer, with a workforce that is aware of and understands the equality agenda	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Objective 3 – Do our best to engage, protect and support those people in our community that need it the most	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Click here to enter text.
Objective 4 – Promote understanding and acceptance of diversity within our communities	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Evidence and Consultation

Have you undertaken any consultation and engagement activities with protected groups in order to mitigate any risks of discrimination	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Please describe the engagement activities undertaken as part of this process Formal consultation will be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders in order to gather their views.
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Please highlight any additional evidence which might demonstrate consideration of the needs to protected groups in relation to this particular proposal

Appendix 3 - Pen y Cwm Special School Community Impact Assessment

Community Impact Assessments are a structured way for the Council to fully understand the implications of our decisions and whether they are detrimental or discriminatory to certain groups or sections of the community. They help us to consider the impact of Council decisions and policies within and between communities more generally. The Community Impact Assessment process will ensure that our decision making process is robust and impacts on all communities within Blaenau Gwent ensuring that they are fully considered in Council decision making processes.

By carrying out impact assessments, the Council is working to promote equality for all our service users, employees and the wider community that we serve.

Pen y Cwm Special School is located in the Ebbw Fawr South Ward, the ward profile can be viewed by clicking on the following link: https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/fileadmin/documents/Council/Statistics_and_Data/Ebbw_Vale_South_Ward.pdf

Ebbw Fawr South Ward has several areas of deprivation according to the Welsh Index for Multiple Deprivation (2019)

<https://wimd.gov.wales/explore?lang=en#&domain=overall&z=12&lat=51.7770&lng=-3.2185>

Proposed Development

If approved the proposal would secure an additional 55 places for pupils requiring specialist education provision. The increase would bring significant benefits to current and new pupils to the school along with benefits for the wider community and families of pupils.

Proportion of Pupils:

The Council's proposal seeks to ensure a continued high quality learning environment for pupils in our special school, by extending the capacity of the school the Council will be able to cater for many of the Borough's learners who are/or would otherwise be placed Out of County in line with their needs and/or availability and sufficiency of pupil places. The school building is co-located with Ebbw Fawr Primary Learning Community Campus and Little Stars Pre-school within the Ebbw Fawr Valley. It is surround by lush green mountains and woodland, whilst also being located near to the Enterprise Zone. The school building is 9 years old.

There are approximately 19 pupils from outside the County Borough being educated at Pen y Cwm Special School. This represents 13% of the total school population with the majority of its pupils, residing within Blaenau Gwent. Future availability of places for "out of county" pupils will be subject to demand from within Blaenau Gwent in the first instance.

Current facilities and/or services offered

The following facilities are offered at Pen y Cwm School:

- Hydro pool
- ICT facilities
- Sensory Rooms
- Rebound Therapy Room
- Gym and Learning Bay
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication

- Specialist teaching areas such as: food technology rooms and art and craft room

The above provision/services will be not be affected by the remodelling work.

Travel Time

Given the proposal is to remodel the existing premises on its existing site there will be no impact on travel distances for existing pupils. As the catchment area covers the entire County Borough, the maximum distance likely to be travelled is no more than **12 miles, approximately 20 minutes by car.** Distances/travelling times will increase for those pupils with a placement from further afield.

How would parents' and pupils' engage should the proposal be agreed?

The Council recognises the importance of an effective and smooth transition process to ensure there is little if any disruption should the proposal to expand capacity at Pen y Cwm Special School be approved. The school will form part of the project team and will contribute to the overall development of the new provision.

Parents/carers and pupils will be provided with relevant information to aid their understanding of the proposal and the most appropriate support they can offer their children during the period of transition. The school will also work together with other services and where necessary, in identifying families who may need additional support. Parental and community engagement will remain a key priority throughout this process.

The wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions.

The proposal is not expected to have any significant implications for public transport provision in the area given pupils' transport is largely provided by contracted vehicles.

Wider community safety issues.

The proposal would have no direct impact on the wider community for a building perspective;

- The school will remain in its current location.
- It will benefit families of pupils with profound or multiple learning difficulties by their child having the education within the County Borough within which they reside.
- Will provide designated spaces in the school for key partners such as health care professionals to offer individual support for learners.

No significant safety issues are anticipated.

What would be the impact on health and well-being?

As a special school, the focus is on children with complex specialist needs, so the proposal is expected to have a very positive impact on the health and wellbeing of those who attend, who will have access to the highest standard in terms of facilities, education and care.

Transport Impact Assessment

The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 places a duty on the council to assess the travel needs of learners under the age of 19. In addition to those children who qualify for free transport provision due to meeting the eligibility criteria, the council is under a legal obligation to assess the travel needs

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of learners who walk to school. There will likely be an impact upon transport and travel, however, any implications on transport arrangements will be more positive than if the Council were to use provision from outside of the borough to meet the children's needs.

Staff Impact Assessment

There will be no impact on existing staff albeit the increase in capacity may provide new and different opportunities not available in a smaller school. Nevertheless, in addition to their role as statutory consultees, meaningful consultation will take place with any affected staff and recognised trade unions on the possible impact and outcome of the statutory consultation. Discussion will take place through agreed joint consultative processes with recognised trade unions (JCC) and collective consultation.

Additional Learning Needs Provision

This proposal specifically addresses sufficiency issues in relation to the number of places available for children with ALN in the Borough and will therefore, have a positive impact.

DRAFT

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS FOR FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL PUPILS AT PEN Y CWM MARCH 2021

1. INCREASE IN PUPILS

CURRENT NUMBER	141
NEW NUMBER	175
INCREASE	34

2. ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT

20/21 AWP/CATEGORY FUNDING		2,399,785
PUPIL NUMBERS		144
AVERAGE FUNDING PER PUPIL:-		
AWPU	3,272	
CATEGORY	13,653	16,925
REQUIREMENT		575,450

3. RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT

MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

AVERAGE AWP/CATEGORY FUNDING PER PUPIL 20/21		3,300
--	--	--------------

BGCBC Out of County

pupils	20	
cost to recoupment budget	896,000	
ave cost per pupil		44,800

other LEA pupils in to BGCBC recoupment

pupils	19	
income to recoupment budget	522,000	
ave income per pupil		27,474

VARIATIONS IN MIX OF ABOVE 3 VARIABLES

	<u>MAINST REAM</u>	<u>BG PUPILS OUT</u>	<u>OTHER LEA PUPILS IN</u>
	£	£	£
<u>MODEL A</u>	34	0	0
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/COST AVOIDANCE	112,200	0	0

MODEL B

29

5

0

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/COST AVOIDANCE

95,700

224,000

0

MODEL C

24

5

5

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/COST AVOIDANCE

79,200

224,000

137,368

MODEL D

19

5

10

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/COST AVOIDANCE

62,700

224,000

274,737

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>ISB</u> <u>RESERVE</u> <u>REQUIRE</u> <u>MENT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>REQUIRE</u> <u>MENT</u>
£	£	£
34		
112,200	463,250	575,450

34		
319,700	255,750	575,450
34		
440,568	134,882	575,450
34		
561,437	14,013	575,450

Agenda Item 7

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 15.04.21

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 15.04.21

Committee: **Executive Committee**

Date of meeting: **21st April 2021**

Report Subject: **Business Rates Relief – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2021/22**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Nigel Daniels, Leader / Executive Member for Corporate Services**

Report Submitted by: **Rhian Hayden, Chief Officer - Resources**

Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	X	15.04.21				21.4.21		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Executive Committee to consider and adopt, on behalf of the Council, the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2021/22 scheme (RLHRR), as a section 47 discretionary rate relief for 2021/22.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 Over the past couple of years, the Welsh Government have provided grant funding to Local Authorities in order for them to consider delivering Rate Relief schemes for certain businesses within their area.
- 2.2 Blaenau Gwent Council have adopted these discretionary schemes previously.
- 2.3 As part of the Covid19 response and recovery Welsh Government have frozen business rates for 2021/22 at 2020/21 levels. To provide a fiscal stimulus for businesses in Wales, the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd announced that the Welsh Government would extend grant funding to provide the RLHRR scheme for 2021/22.
- 2.4 The criteria and guidance for the operation and delivery of the scheme is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.5 Welsh Government have yet to confirm the actual funding allocation for Blaenau Gwent for the 2021/22 scheme, but have provided an estimated allocation of £3.5M to allow delivery of the scheme.
- 2.6 From analysis of available data, it is anticipated that 328 business may benefit as a result of adoption of the RLHRR scheme, totalling around £3.25M of rate relief.

In order that assistance may be given to ratepayers the Council must resolve to adopt the Welsh Government prescribed scheme as a discretionary rate relief scheme in line with s47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 Option 1

That the Executive Committee resolves not to implement the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2021/22 scheme as set out in the guidance in appendix 1.

3.2 Option 2 (preferred)

That the Executive Committee adopts the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2021/22 scheme on behalf of the Council, to supplement the Council's discretionary rate relief scheme.

4. Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the

4.1 Council Priorities

The adoption of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief – 2021/22 scheme would support the Council Priority, '*Economic Development and Regeneration*', as it would offer financial support to businesses in the borough.

4.2 Statutory Responsibilities

The Council must resolve to adopt a discretionary relief scheme in accordance with s47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Financial

Option 1

There will be no financial implications for the Council.

Option 2

From analysis of existing data, it is anticipated that any rate relief awarded to businesses throughout Blaenau Gwent under this scheme will be reimbursed in full by Welsh Government as a section 31 grant.

5.2 Risk

Option 1

Failure to adopt the scheme will result in an inability to award financial assistance under the RLHRR scheme to qualifying local business within Blaenau Gwent.

Option 2

Welsh Government withdraw their provisional funding offer.

- 5.4 **Personnel**
The administration of the scheme will be absorbed and delivered within existing staff resources.
6. **Supporting Evidence**
- 6.1 **Performance Information and Data**
During 2020/21 328 businesses benefited from the rate relief scheme totalling £3.25m.
- 6.2 **Involvement**
Any potentially eligible businesses will be identified and contacted directly by the Revenues section. Direct awards of rate relief will be made to accounts that are easily identifiable as meeting the criteria for the scheme, with an application form process available for businesses where further clarification is required.
- 6.3 **Thinking for the Long term**
The availability of the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme is dependent on Welsh Government decision to offer such a scheme in future years.
- 6.4 **Collaboration / partnership working**
Each individual local authority in Wales must adopt this scheme in order to administer relief to ratepayers.
7. **Monitoring Arrangements**
- 7.1 The Revenue section will continue monitoring the potential for qualification for the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme during the financial year.

DE
13th April 2021

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Non-Domestic Rates – Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief in Wales – 2021-22

Guidance

About this guidance

This guidance is intended to support county and county borough councils ('local authorities') in administering the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme ('the relief'). On 3 March 2021, the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd announced the extension of the relief on a temporary basis for 2021-22. This guidance applies to Wales only.

This guidance sets out the criteria which the Welsh Government will use to determine the funding for local authorities for relief provided to retail, leisure and hospitality properties. The guidance does not replace any existing non-domestic rates legislation or any other relief.

Enquiries about the scheme should be sent to: localtaxationpolicy@gov.wales

The relief is being offered from 1 April 2021 and will be available until 31 March 2022.

Introduction

This relief is aimed at businesses and other ratepayers in Wales in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors, for example shops, pubs and restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels.

The Welsh Government will provide grant funding to the 22 local authorities in Wales to provide the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme to eligible ratepayers for 2021-22. The scheme aims to provide support for eligible occupied properties by offering a discount of 100% on the non-domestic rates bill for a property, to all eligible premises. The scheme will apply to all eligible ratepayers with a rateable value of £500,000 or less.

This document provides guidance on the operation and delivery of the scheme.

Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief How will the relief be provided?

As this is a temporary measure, we are providing the relief by reimbursing local authorities that use their discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. It will be for individual local authorities to adopt a scheme and decide in each individual case when to grant relief under section 47. The Welsh Government will reimburse local authorities for the relief that is provided

in line with this guidance via a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and section 58A of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

How will the scheme be administered?

It will be for local authorities to determine how they wish to administer the scheme to maximise take-up and minimise the administrative burden for ratepayers and for local authority staff.

Local authorities are responsible for providing ratepayers with clear and accessible information on the details and administration of the scheme. If, for any reason, an authority is unable to provide this relief to eligible ratepayers from 1 April 2021, consideration should be given to notifying eligible ratepayers that they qualify for the relief and that their bills will be recalculated.

Which properties will benefit from relief?

Properties that will benefit from this relief will be occupied retail, leisure and hospitality properties – such as shops, pubs and restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels across Wales. More detailed eligibility criteria and exceptions to the relief are set out below.

Relief should be granted to each eligible business as a reduction to its rates bill based on occupation between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022. It is recognised that there may be some instances where a local authority is retrospectively notified of a change of occupier. In such cases, if it is clear that the ratepayer was in occupation on or after the 1 April 2021, the local authority may use its discretion in awarding relief.

It is intended that, for the purposes of this scheme, retail properties such as, 'shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments' will mean the following (subject to the other criteria in this guidance).

Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public

- Shops (such as florists, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off-licences, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, etc)
- Charity shops
- Opticians
- Pharmacies
- Post offices
- Furnishing shops or display rooms (such as carpet shops, double-glazing, garage doors)
- Car or caravan showrooms
- Second hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol stations
- Garden centres
- Art galleries (where art is for sale or hire)

Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public

- Hair and beauty services
- Shoe repairs or key cutting
- Travel agents
- Ticket offices, eg. for theatre
- Dry cleaners
- Launderettes
- PC, TV or domestic appliance repair
- Funeral directors
- Photo processing
- DVD or video rentals
- Tool hire
- Car hire
- Estate and letting agents

Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of food and / or drink to visiting members of the public

- Restaurants
- Drive-through or drive-in restaurants
- Takeaways
- Sandwich shops
- Cafés
- Coffee shops
- Pubs
- Bars or Wine Bars

We consider assembly and leisure to mean the following.

Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of sport, leisure and facilities to visiting members of the public (including for the viewing of such activities) and for the assembly of visiting members of the public

- Sports grounds and clubs
- Sport and leisure facilities
- Gyms
- Tourist attractions
- Museums and art galleries
- Stately homes and historic houses
- Theatres
- Live Music Venues
- Cinemas
- Nightclubs

Hereditaments that are being used for the assembly of visiting members of the public

- Public halls

- Clubhouses, clubs and institutions

We consider hotels, guest & boarding premises and self-catering accommodation to mean the following.

Hereditaments where the non-domestic part is being used for the provision of living accommodation as a business

- Hotels, Guest and Boarding Houses,
- Holiday homes,
- Caravan parks and sites

Other considerations

To qualify for the relief, the hereditament should be wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purposes. In a similar way to other reliefs, this is a test on use rather than occupation. Therefore, hereditaments which are occupied but not wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purpose will not qualify for the relief. For the avoidance of doubt, hereditaments which closed temporarily due to the government's advice on Covid-19 should be treated as occupied for the purposes of this relief.

The above list is not intended to be exhaustive as it would be impossible to list all the many and varied retail, leisure and hospitality uses that exist. There will also be mixed uses. However, it is intended to be a guide for local authorities as to the types of uses that the Welsh Government considers for this purpose to be eligible for relief. Local authorities should determine for themselves whether particular properties not listed are broadly similar in nature to those above and, if so, to consider them eligible for the relief. Conversely, properties that are not broadly similar in nature to those listed above should not be eligible for the relief.

As the grant of the relief is discretionary, local authorities may choose not to grant the relief if they consider that appropriate, for example where granting the relief would go against the local authority's wider objectives for the local area.

Ratepayers may view that they have been able to continue trading at a substantial level during Coronavirus restrictions and as such would be inclined to not accept the relief. Arrangements for opting out of receiving relief should be made with the relevant local authority.

Types of hereditaments that are not considered to be eligible for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief

Any hereditament with a rateable value over £500,000.

The following list sets out the types of uses that the Welsh Government does not consider to be retail, leisure or hospitality use for the purpose of this relief and which would not be deemed eligible for the relief. However, it will be for local authorities to determine if hereditaments are similar in nature to those listed and if they would not be eligible for relief under the scheme.

Hereditaments that are being used wholly or mainly for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public

- Financial services (eg. banks, building societies, cash points, ATMs, bureaux de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawnbrokers)
- Medical services (eg. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (eg. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents, financial advisers, tutors)
- Post Office sorting offices
- Day nurseries
- Kennels and catteries
- Casinos and gambling clubs
- Show homes and marketing suites
- Employment agencies

There are a number of further types of hereditament which the Welsh Government believes should not be eligible for the relief.

Hereditaments that are not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public

If a hereditament is not usually reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public, it will be ineligible for relief under the scheme even if there is ancillary use of the hereditament that might be considered to fall within the descriptions listed under [Which properties will benefit from relief?](#)

Hereditaments that are not occupied

Properties that are not occupied on 1 April 2021 should be excluded from this relief. However, under the mandatory Empty Property Rates Relief, empty properties will receive a 100% reduction in rates for the first three months (and in certain cases, six months) of being empty.

Hereditaments that are owned, rented or managed by a local authority

Hereditaments owned, rented or managed by a local authority, such as visitor centres, tourist information shops and council-run coffee shops or gift shops attached to historic buildings, are exempt from this scheme.

How much relief will be available?

The total amount of government funded relief available for each property under this scheme for 2021-22 is 100% of the remaining bill, after mandatory reliefs and other discretionary reliefs funded by section 31 grants have been applied, excluding those where local authorities have used their wider discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act 2011 which are not funded by section 31 grants. Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief should be applied against the net bill after other reliefs have been applied.

The eligibility for the relief and the relief itself will be assessed and calculated on a daily basis. The following formula should be used to determine the amount of relief to be granted for a particular hereditament in the financial year.

Amount of relief to be granted = V , where

V is the daily charge for the hereditament for the chargeable day after the application of any mandatory relief and any other discretionary reliefs, excluding those where local authorities have used their discretionary relief powers introduced by the Localism Act 2011 which are not funded by section 31 grants.

This should be calculated ignoring any prior-year adjustments in liabilities which fall to be liable on the day.

Ratepayers who occupy more than one property will be entitled to Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief for each of their eligible properties.

Retail, leisure and hospitality properties which are excluded from Small Business Rates Relief due to the multiple occupation rule are eligible for this relief scheme.

Changes to existing hereditaments, including change in occupier

Empty properties becoming occupied after 1 April 2021 will qualify for this relief. If there is a change in occupier part way through the financial year, after relief has already been provided to the hereditament, the new occupier will qualify for the relief if they operate in the retail, leisure or hospitality sectors on a pro-rata basis based on the remaining days of occupation using the formula used in the section titled [How much relief will be available?](#)

The discount should be applied on a day-to-day basis using the formula set out above. A new hereditament created as a result of a split or merger during the financial year, or where there is a change of use, should be considered afresh for the discount on that day.

State Aid

Following the end of the transition period for the United Kingdom leaving the European Union on 31 December 2020, EU State Aid regulations only apply in limited circumstances. As the relief is not funded by EU residual funds, EU State Aid regulations no longer apply for this scheme. As of 1 January 2021, the UK Subsidy Regime came into force. The scheme has been viewed to be outside the scope of any international trade agreements as measures are focused locally within Wales.