



Caerphilly County Borough Council - Integrated Impact Assessment

This integrated impact assessment (IIA) has been designed to help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

PLEASE NOTE: Section 3 Socio-economic Duty only needs to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions.

See page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.

1. Proposal Details

Lead Officers:- Andrea West / Lisa Thomas

Head of Service:- Sue Richards

Service Area and Department:- Sustainable Communities for Learning

Date:- September 2023

This document is available in Welsh and English. Information can also be made available in other formats, languages and in hard copy on request. Please contact us on 01443 864817 to arrange this.

What is the proposal to be assessed? *Provide brief details of the proposal and provide a link to any relevant report or documents.*

**Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme
Band B Proposal
Ysgol Y Lawnt & Upper Rhymney Primary**



Schools in Wales need to be in good condition and suitable for the delivery of education. In some cases, schools can be modernised, repaired, refurbished, extended, or partially rebuilt to meet the standards needed for contemporary teaching and learning. However, some existing schools are no longer in the right place and in such cases, we might propose new schools or changes to existing schools.

Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) aspires to continue to raise school standards and improve the quality of the learning environment to create fit-for-purpose 21st century schools and give every child in Caerphilly the best possible start in life. The Sustainable Communities for Learning programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities and aims to create a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.

Ysgol Y Lawnt & Upper Rhymney Primary have been identified as priority projects in the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme.

Current Position:

Ysgol y Lawnt

- Welsh Medium
- Community primary school
- Capacity of 262 including a childcare and nursery provision.
- 18.4% FSM pupils, 15.6% pupils with SEN
- Situated on a site in 1.4 Hectare site in Rhymney with no option to expand.
- The school operates from 1 main building and numerous prefabricated modular builds. The main building, CADW listed, originally established as an English Medium Primary School in 1900, opening in 1955 as the current Welsh Medium Primary.

Upper Rhymney Primary School

- English Medium
- Community primary school
- Capacity of 210, which includes nursery provision.
- 44.1% FSM pupils, 12.7% pupils with SEN
- Situated within a 0.98 hectare site in Rhymney, closely bordered by residential properties.
- Occupies 2 Buildings, Junior block over 2 floors with no lift

Proposal:

The Council wishes to make a 'regulated alteration' to a maintained school in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.

- To relocate Ysgol Y Lawnt & Upper Rhymney Primary to a new purpose-built site with shared facilities.



It is proposed that a new dual-purpose building will incorporate both schools and continue to provide Welsh and English Medium Primary education. It must be emphasised that both schools would remain independent entities, the existing catchment areas would remain unchanged and each school would occupy their own separate teaching areas within the new building.

- The proposed new building will include a shared bi-lingual reception area and flexible and adaptable communal facilities for example a Hall that can be subdivided and a separate kitchen servery so that provision is delivered in the appropriate language medium for each school. The configuration of these facilities will be designed in a manner enabling independent use by each school respectively if needed to minimise infringement on current activities or opened up for shared utilisation to provide wider community cohesion.
 - The new building will incorporate primary school facilities as well as childcare and separate Special Resource Base provision for each school, one with 8 places for Welsh medium and the other providing 8 places for English medium.
 - It is proposed that the new school build will meet the Welsh Government Net Zero Carbon School requirements.
- To stimulate demand for Welsh medium education, which we know is more sustainable for families if education provision is expanded in line with childcare availability in line with the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP).



- To provide additional opportunities for Welsh immersion, facilitate growth in Welsh medium education and use of the Welsh language that will contribute to meeting the Welsh Government's aim of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- The new primary school site will have improved outside learning space and facilities that will be segregated between each school to provide stimulating teaching and learning environments with 21st Century facilities centred on the learning, self-esteem and well-being of all pupils.
- Building on the Net Zero Carbon mandate our proposal is framed to demonstrate innovative and collaborative design, encompassing the built environment and the surrounding landscape in a way that enriches pupils' daily life.

Through developing a sustainable, flexible site, this would enable:

- Space maximisation for reconfiguration of site
 - Shared communal facilities including adaptable hall, community room, kitchen and storage capable of delivering the universal free school meals offer
 - A longer elemental lifespan
 - Lower whole life cost
 - Improved value for money
- The proposed project will take into account the desire to encourage and facilitate community use of the entire building, in partnership with both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School. The design will seek to include measures to enable safe 'zoning' which can be utilised by the wider community. It should be noted that any existing community provision at the existing schools would be encouraged to relocate to the new site which will have upgraded facilities.

For reference, a similar approach has been taken by Cardiff Council as part of their Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Glan Ceubal project, whereby both schools are co-located in a building with shared communal facilities and continue to operate successfully as separate entities delivering Welsh and English education.



2. Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

*(The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups). Please note that an individual may have more than one **protected characteristics**.*

2a Age (people of all ages)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?

Positive - The proposal seeks to provide innovative 21st century facilities to cater for pupils aged 3-11 and plans to expand provision and support community usage and therefore has the potential to benefit all age ranges.

Positive - Children and young people will be supported to increasingly speak Welsh as part of their everyday routine, improve potential education and career prospects and realise the value of the language.

Positive - This proposal will ensure future projected demand can be met within the area for both Welsh and English medium provision.

Positive - The current Ysgol Y Lawnt school site has reached its capacity in terms of accommodation and any further expansion. A new school will facilitate positive educational outcomes for children in the future in the area who wish to be educated through the medium of Welsh.

Neutral – Due to the proposed configuration of the communal facilities, infringement on activities can be limited as required. For example, existing breakfast clubs and wraparound provision linked to either school can continue to be delivered independently and concurrently if required and through each schools preferred language choice.

Neutral- Existing Community Groups at both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School will be encouraged to relocate to the new premises which will have upgraded facilities to those presently offered. An initial data gathering exercise has been undertaken, showing minimal community use at either existing school at present, however, any groups identified will be engaged with as part of the consultation process.

Negative - Proposal seeks to relocate both schools to a new site less than 1 mile from the existing schools which may result in additional travel for pupils in certain age groups dependent on their current home location from existing school, but it is envisaged that this will be minimal based on current pupil plotting information.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

The Council acknowledges the importance of the Learner Travel. The site identified for the relocation of both Ysgol y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary is within 1 mile



of both existing schools and remains in the Rhymney area. The safety of children is of paramount importance and the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 requires local authorities to assess the suitability of travel for learners between home and places of education and training. It is the intention of the Authority to provide a system of transport that will seek to ensure pupils can safely and comfortably access their education.

Those that attend, work and use the new dual purpose school building that will accommodate both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School, will benefit from a fit for purpose, innovative 21st Century facility. In addition, the proposal intends to extend access at the new premises to include community use and shared areas of indoor and outdoor provision. To this end the design process will seek to include measures to enable safe 'zoning' of parts of the new school building, including the hall and a multi-functional classroom compliant space which could be adapted for use by either or both schools as required, subject to booking. The Wi-Fi and Information Technology infrastructure will be established to support public access and community use. The use of sporting facilities will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable.

(iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

[Equality Act 2010](#)

[Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024](#)

[Equal Wales 2020-2024 Easy read](#)

[Caerphilly - Census 2011 ward profiles](#)

[Pupil Level Annual School Census \(PLASC\)](#)

Statistical Information relating to the numbers of pupils at local authority level and their language medium for education.

2b Disability (*people with disabilities/ long term conditions*)

(i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Positive - The current schools have limited accessibility, Ysgol Y Lawnt being a circa 1900 CADW listed building, accessed via a steep and busy main road entrance, and Upper Rhymney Primary School split into separate blocks with access via a narrow residential road. The proposed relocation of both schools will be to an accessible new build school, which retains each individual school's identity via a facility which is able to cater for anyone with additional needs and empower them to be independent, further contributing to their wellbeing.

Positive - The proposal seeks to provide two new Special Resource Bases for some of our most vulnerable children, through the provision of modern 21st Century Educational facilities for children and young people with complex needs. The proposal seeks to establish a 8 Place Special Resource base in the Ysgol Y Lawnt section of the school building to provide support through the medium of Welsh and a 8 place Special Resource base in Upper Rhymney Primary School part of the building to provide support through the medium of English.



(ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**
Not applicable

(iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**
Condition surveys for Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School

2c Gender Reassignment (*anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth*)

(i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**
Neutral - No anticipated change

(ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**
Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics.

(iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**
Not applicable



2d Marriage or Civil Partnership (*people who are married or in a civil partnership*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Neutral - No impact

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific characteristics.

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

Not applicable

2e Pregnancy and Maternity (*women who are pregnant and/or on maternity leave*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Positive – The new school facilities are envisaged to encourage prospective parents in choosing to send their children to either Ysgol Y Lawnt or Upper Rhymney Primary School, with additional opportunities to encourage more children to access Welsh medium education from the outset.

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics.

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
Parent Survey / Admissions Information

2f Race (*people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and different racial backgrounds*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Neutral - No anticipated change

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics.

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

Not applicable

2g Religion or Belief (*people with different religions and beliefs including people with no beliefs*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Neutral – No anticipated change

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics.

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

Not applicable

2h Sex (*women and men, girls and boys and those who self-identify their gender*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Neutral - No anticipated change

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics.

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

Not applicable

2i Sexual Orientation (*lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, other*)

- (i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the protected characteristics and how?**

Neutral - No anticipated change

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**

Not applicable because the facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of other specific protected characteristics.

- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

Not applicable



3. **Socio-economic Duty** (*Strategic Decisions Only*)

*(The Socio-economic Duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision making. **Socio-economic disadvantage** means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services)*

Please consider these additional vulnerable group and the impact your proposal may or may not have on them:

- Single parents and vulnerable families
- People with low literacy/numeracy
- Pensioners
- Looked after children
- Homeless people
- Carers
- Armed Forces Community
- Students
- Single adult households
- People misusing substances
- People who have experienced the asylum system
- People of all ages leaving a care setting
- People living in the most deprived areas in Wales (WIMD)
- People involved in the criminal justice system

3a **Low Income / Income Poverty** (*cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.*)

(i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?**

Positive - Providing educational facilities fit for the future will improve the education and life outcomes of the present and future pupils at Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary.

Positive - Ysgol Y Lawnt serves the Moriah 2 Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOAs) and this area is ranked 228 out of 1,909 and Upper Rhymney Primary serves Twyn Carno 2 areas which is ranked 473 out of 1,909 areas in Wales, where 1 is the most deprived and 1,909 is the least deprived. This proposal will serve the needs of all learners, irrespective of background and provide greater continuity of education from 3 to 11 years.

Positive - The facility will provide community facilities which can be utilised by anyone regardless of any socio-economic disadvantage.

Positive

The facility will be fully accessible to people with learning disabilities regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage.



Neutral – Due to the proposed configuration of the communal facilities, infringement on activities can be limited as required. For example, existing breakfast clubs and wraparound provision linked to either school can continue to be delivered independently and concurrently if required and through each schools preferred language choice.

- (ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**
Not applicable
- (iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**

[Is Wales Fairer? – The state of equality and human rights](#)

(EHRC 2018)

Equality and Human Rights Commission acknowledge that socio-economic disadvantage has a knock-on effect on education and health outcomes.

[Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 recognises that Welsh and English are official languages and establishes a legal framework for a statutory duty on public bodies in Wales to comply with Welsh standards. The legislation allows people to live through the medium of Welsh if they so wish.

[Caerphilly - Census 2011 ward profiles](#)

According to the Pupil Level Annual School Census figures from January 2016, 16.9% of the primary school population and 12.7% of the secondary school population were in Welsh medium education. Attainment of qualifications in the medium of Welsh provides wider access to employment and career opportunities in Wales and beyond.

[Caerphilly - Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027](#)

The target to increase the Welsh speaking population by 3% over the duration of the strategy.

Strategic area 5- Increase opportunities for people to use the Welsh language in the workplace by enabling and supporting fluent staff and staff who are learning, to use the Welsh language in the workplace.

[Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#)

Ysgol Y Lawnt serves the Moriah 2 Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOAs) and this area is ranked 228 out of 1,909 and Upper Rhymney Primary serves Twyn Carno 2 areas which is ranked 473 out of 1,909 areas in Wales where 1 is the most deprived and 1909 is the least deprived. This proposal will serve the needs of all learners, irrespective of background and provide greater continuity of education from 3 to 11 years.

Free school meals (FSM) data for Upper Rhymney Primary shows 48.8% of pupils are in receipt of FSM and Ysgol Y Lawnt recording 19.8% compared to 20% across CCBC and Wales as a whole.



Further Evidence:

- **2021 Census Data**
[2011 Census - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk)
- **Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-2020**
[Social use of the Welsh language: July 2019 to March 2020 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)
- **Position of the Welsh Language – Commissioner’s Report**
<http://www.comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru/English/ReportsGuides/Publications/Pages/PublicationDetails.aspx?PublicationId=83ce0864-3b93-4f73-a52f-baf61b6eca20>
- **Annual Population Survey**
<https://www.gov.wales/welsh-language-data-annual-population-survey>
- **Welsh Language Commissioner’s Assurance Reports**
[Assurance reports \(welshlanguagecommissioner.wales\)](https://welshlanguagecommissioner.wales)
- **National Survey for Wales**
[National Survey for Wales: culture and Welsh language | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)
- **Cymraeg 2050: Annual Reports**
[Cymraeg 2050: annual reports | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)
- **Technical Advice Note (TAN20)**
[TAN20: Planning and the Welsh Language \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)
- **Health and Welsh Language Data**
[General practitioners Welsh language ability by local health board and year \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)
- **Data relating to the Welsh Language and the economy**
[Welsh Language Task and Finish Cover English \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

3b Low and/or No Wealth (*enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future*)

(i) **Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?**

Positive - Ysgol Y Lawnt serves the Moriah 2 Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOAs) and this area is ranked 228 out of 1,909 and Upper Rhymney Primary serves Twyn Carno 2 areas which is ranked 473 out of 1,909 areas in Wales where 1 is the most deprived and 1909 is the least deprived. This proposal will serve the needs of all learners, irrespective of background and provide greater continuity of education from 3 to 11 years.

Positive - The facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage.

Neutral – Due to the proposed configuration of the communal facilities, infringement on activities can be limited as required. For example, existing breakfast clubs and wraparound provision linked to either school can continue to be delivered independently and concurrently if required and through each schools preferred language choice.



(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

Not applicable

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

[Equality Act 2010](#)

[Wales Act 2017 - Public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities](#)

[Equality Act 2010 - Public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities](#)

Section 45 of the Wales Act 2017, amends Part 1 of the Equality Act, 2010 to give Welsh Ministers the power to commence this Duty in Wales. The Welsh Ministers have used this power to commence Sections 1 to 3 of the 2010 Act¹⁶ in Wales – the Socio-economic Duty.

The Duty places a legal responsibility on bodies when they are taking strategic decisions to have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.

In this instance the main consideration of inequality of outcome as a result of socio-economic disadvantage is “Education – the capability to be knowledgeable”

[Is Wales Fairer? – The state of equality and human rights](#)

(EHRC 2018)

Equality and Human Rights Commission acknowledge that Socio-economic disadvantage has a knock-on effect on education and health outcomes.

[Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#)

Ysgol Y Lawnt serves the Moriah 2 Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOAs) and this area is ranked 228 out of 1,909 and Upper Rhymney Primary serves Twyn Carno 2 areas which is ranked 473 out of 1,909 areas in Wales where 1 is the most deprived and 1909 is the least deprived. This proposal will serve the needs of all learners, irrespective of background and provide greater continuity of education from 3 to 11 years.

Free school meals (FSM) data for Upper Rhymney Primary shows 48.8% of pupils are in receipt of FSM and Ysgol Y Lawnt recording 19.8% compared to 20% across CCBC and Wales as a whole.



3c Material Deprivation (*unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive - It is a pre-requisite of Welsh Government funding that Council's optimise the use of infrastructure and resources to enable flexibility for space and facilities to be made available as community assets. Whilst the design of the new site is yet to be finalised, subject to Cabinet approval to progress, discussions have included the zoning of the building and both school areas (Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School) to support access during school time and after hours.

Positive - It is anticipated that there will be a positive impact on the Welsh Language as a result of these proposals. Welsh Language materials will continue to be available for both schools, signage will be dual language and reception areas will be staffed offering both Welsh and English interfaces, exposing both pupil cohorts and their wider families to the Welsh Language. The proposed changes outlined in this document align with aims of Caerphilly's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and support the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language by contributing to meeting the targets set out in the Cymraeg 2050 strategy.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

Not applicable

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

Not applicable

3d Area Deprivation (*where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport) Impact on the environment?*)

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive - Ysgol Y Lawnt serves the Moriah 2 Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOAs) and this area is ranked 228 out of 1,909 and Upper Rhymney Primary serves Twyn Carno 2 areas which is ranked 473 out of 1,909 areas in Wales where 1 is the most deprived and 1909 is the least deprived. This proposal will serve the needs of all learners, irrespective of background and provide greater continuity of education from 3 to 11 years.

Positive - The design process will seek to include measures to enable safe 'zoning' of parts of the new school building. Whilst both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School will be housed in different areas of the new school building, the usage of facilities both independent and shared will also be considered for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable. It will also strengthen and safeguard the promotion of inclusivity and wellbeing within the Community and increase access to the Welsh Language.



Positive - Procurement will include Community Benefits as a core requirement e.g. around local targeted recruitment and training, supply chains, community and education initiatives in the provision of the proposed new facility.

Positive - The new build school which will house both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School in separate areas with some joint communal areas, will provide inclusive facilities which will be accessible to vulnerable children and young people alongside supporting the holistic needs of their wider family and supporting their future wellbeing. When the site is being used by the community they will be able to access the facilities regardless of requirements.

(ii) **If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?**
Not applicable

(iii) **What evidence has been used to support this view?**
[Equality Act 2010](#)

[Wales Act 2017 - Public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities](#)

[Equality Act 2010 - Public sector duty regarding socio-economic inequalities](#)

Section 45 of the Wales Act 2017, amends Part 1 of the Equality Act, 2010 to give Welsh Ministers the power to commence this Duty in Wales. The Welsh Ministers have used this power to commence Sections 1 to 3 of the 2010 Act¹⁶ in Wales – the Socio-economic Duty.

The Duty places a legal responsibility on bodies when they are taking strategic decisions to have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.

In this instance the main consideration of inequality of outcome as a result of socio-economic disadvantage is “Education – the capability to be knowledgeable”

[Is Wales Fairer? – The state of equality and human rights](#)

(EHRC 2018)

Equality and Human Rights Commission acknowledge that Socio-economic disadvantage has a knock-on effect on education and health outcomes.

[Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation \(WIMD\)](#)



Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)

Electoral Ward Profile

Moriah & Pontlottyn and Twyn Carno ward profiles from the 2011 Census information has been reviewed.

3e Socio-economic Background *(social class i.e. parents education, employment and income)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive - Facility is accessible to pupils and the wider community regardless of any specific socio-economic disadvantage.

Positive - The proposed facility would include the expansion of community usage to support and upskill parents, carers and the wider community including Welsh courses for parents.

Positive - Provision for Welsh language childcare and vulnerable learners through special resource bases through the medium of both the Welsh and English language will be fully inclusive and accessible for all at a single location in the Rhymney area.

Positive

The facility will provide inclusive facilities for children and young people alongside supporting the holistic needs of their wider family and supporting their future wellbeing.

Neutral – Due to the proposed configuration of the communal facilities, infringement on activities can be limited as required. For example, existing breakfast clubs and wraparound provision linked to either school can continue to be delivered independently and concurrently if required and through each schools preferred language choice.



(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?
Not applicable

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?
Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)

Electoral Ward Profile

Moriah & Pontlloyn and Twyn Carno ward profiles from the 2011 Census information have been reviewed.

3f Socio-economic Disadvantage *(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)*

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?
Positive - It is a pre-requisite of Welsh Government funding that Council's optimise the use of infrastructure and resources to enable flexibility for space and facilities to be made available as community assets. Whilst the design of the new site is yet to be finalised, subject to Cabinet approval to progress, discussions have included the zoning of sections of both schools and the joint communal areas and outdoor areas to support access during school time and after hours.

Positive - Opportunities will be available as part of this proposal for to facilitate the use of the Welsh Language for those fluent and learning, within the local community.

Positive - Proposal aims to stimulate and provide local, accessible, sustainable, community-focused provision, to meet the demand English medium education in the area, and deliver on out Cymraeg 2050 and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan commitments for the expansion of the Welsh medium offer in the Rhymney area.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?
Not applicable

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view?

- **2021 Census Data**
[2011 Census - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)
- **Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-2020**
[Social use of the Welsh language: July 2019 to March 2020 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)
- **Position of the Welsh Language – Commissioner's Report**
<http://www.comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru/English/ReportsGuides/Publications/Pages/PublicationDetails.aspx?PublicationId=83ce0864-3b93-4f73-a52f-baf61b6eca20>
- **Cymraeg 2050: Annual Reports**
[Cymraeg 2050: annual reports | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales)

4. Corporate Plan – Council’s Well-being Objectives

(How does your proposal deliver against any/all of the Council’s Well-being Objectives? Which in turn support the national well-being goals for Wales as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Are there any impacts (positive, negative or neutral? If there are negative impacts how have these been mitigated?) Well-being Objectives

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

Positive - This proposal seeks to increase the opportunities for young learners of nursery and primary age and the community to access high quality educational facilities. The proposal seeks to create a new shared school building with facilities to accommodate both Ysgol Y Lawnt (Welsh Medium) and Upper Rhymney Primary School (English Medium) and for use by the wider community. Ysgol Y Lawnt currently occupies a pre-1900 CADW listed building and Upper Rhymney Primary School occupies 2 separate school blocks, with no lift access. Both sites have restrictions on expansion/building and are bordering residential properties. Through relocation of both schools to the new build proposed, this would provide more efficient and effective educational infrastructure that will meet current and future demand for places.

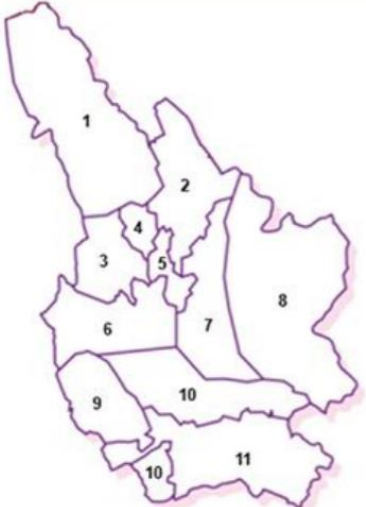
The whole school site would have a combined capacity of 525 broken down as follows:

School	Ysgol y Lawnt	Upper Rhymney Primary
Language Medium	Welsh	English
Existing Capacity (FTE)	206 + 29 nursery	184 + 26 nursery
Proposed Capacity (FTE)	315 + 45 nursery + 8 SRB	210 + 30 nursery +8 SRB
Change (+ or -)	Additional 109 + 16 nursery + 8 SRB	Additional 26 + 4 nursery + 8 SRB

Positive - This proposal seeks to secure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development of both Welsh and English medium education and giving a commitment to providing the best possible quality of education and services.

Positive - Caerphilly currently has 11 Welsh-medium primary schools, each providing education for pupils between 3 and 11 years. The establishment of this new fit-for-purpose facility and the relocation of Ysgol Y Lawnt Welsh-medium primary school will assist in reaching the objectives of Caerphilly’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

The catchment areas for Welsh Medium primaries are as below:

	1	Ysgol y Lawnt
	2	Ysgol Bro Sannan
	3	Ysgol Penalltau
	4	Ysgol Gymraeg Gilfach Fargoed
	5	Ysgol Gymraeg Trelyn
	6	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Allta
	7	Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen
	8	Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon
	9	Ysgol Ifor Bach
	10	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Castell
	11	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili

This is the only Welsh medium school in a 6.9 mile radius of the existing Ysgol Y Lawnt site. The nearest community Welsh medium school is Ysgol bro Sannan, therefore the investment is required to future-proof the educational outcomes and meet the growing demand.

Neutral - Both schools would be relocated to the new build, a site located less than 1 mile from the existing schools and within the existing catchment areas. It is anticipated that disruption to pupil transport arrangements would be minimal, and safe routes are already established to and from the new site.

Objective 2 - Enabling employment

As part of the funding requirements for all Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly referred to as 21st Century Schools) proposals, Welsh Government stipulates that Community Benefits are a core requirement of any procurement process related to the award of contracts and will therefore be scored as part of the Quality evaluation. These include a number of targets around local recruitment and training, supply chains, community in-kind support and education initiatives.



Objective 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being

Not applicable at the proposal is linked to 2 existing school facilities, namely Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School.

Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impact on the environment

Neutral - There is a Statutory duty placed upon the Authority to provide pupils with free transport to their nearest suitable school if they reside beyond 'walking distance' to that school. All pupils are assessed in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. However, the Authority does offer a more generous policy than what is statutorily required by the Measure. It is anticipated that a status quo will be maintained as the new primary school will be less than 1 mile away from the current school sites.

Positive - The distance between Ysgol Y Lawnt, Upper Rhymney Primary and the proposed new build site is within a 1 mile radius. Door to door, Ysgol Y Lawnt is 0.8 miles, and Upper Rhymney Primary is 0.2 miles from the proposed build site.

Positive - As part of the Active Travel Integrated Network Routes there are several new links of 'shared use' being established in the locale which run adjacent to the new site (INMC1 & INMC112– Walking and Cycling route) . Traffic and transport implications will be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required to achieve planning consent for building works should these proposals be implemented.

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development principle with in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Positive - The intention to integrate existing community provision with the development of the new dual use primary school facility will help both the pupils of Ysgol Y Lawnt, Upper Rhymney Primary School and the local community to be part of a healthier Wales and support community cohesion.

Positive - Providing educational facilities fit for the future will improve the education and life outcomes of the present pupils at Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary and future pupils at the new Primary School shared site. The shared facility will be fully accessible to all learners regardless of any specific socio-economic



disadvantage, enabling children accessing the school to thrive, with the knock-on positive effects for the children, their families and the local area.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being

Positive - The proposal includes the development of a Special Resource Base for both Schools, providing 16 places in total, 8 delivered through the medium of Welsh and 8 through English, enabling more vulnerable pupils to access support and resources through the language medium of choice. This is not currently established at either existing site and is much needed in the North of the Borough where deprivation is higher.

Positive - The shared communal facilities at the school will be the hall which will have the opportunity to be divided for individual school use should this be required to minimise any infringement on any language specific activities, but then one area for Community usage and wider site cohesion. The kitchen area would be shared but each school would have their own servery area so that services are delivered in the language medium for each school. There would be two Community rooms that would be available for individual schools use but would then be available for wider Community use.

Positive - There will be a shared reception/admin space with a shared entrance which will deliver dual language functions and have bi-lingual signage throughout. Further expanding the exposure and usage of Welsh in the Community.

Positive - The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) would also be available for use by both schools, and the wider community, however this would require timetabling for use.

Positive - The intention is to maximise this facility for Community usage. The CCBC Adult Learning Team have identified resources that would utilise this school facility to not only to deliver basic digital skills but also wider Adult Learning

4a. Links to any other relevant Council Policy (*How does your proposal deliver against any other relevant Council Policy*)

The proposal contributes the following Strategies:

- **Caerphilly Local Authority Education Strategy (2022 – 2025)**
‘Pursuing Excellence Together’

This proposal will deliver upon the Council’s ambition to provide every learner with the best life chances through the provision of high quality teaching, learning and leadership across our impressive 21st Century school settings.

- **Caerphilly Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2022- 2032)**



The Council's commitment to Welsh medium education development is a priority as evidenced in Band B of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme. The Council's vision is to secure equality of access by promoting and supporting the development of inclusive education and giving a commitment to providing the best possible quality of education and services within available resources. Furthermore, in equipping schools and education providers the aim is to increase standards in Welsh and promote the use of the Welsh language within families, communities and workplaces.

- **Caerphilly Welsh Language Strategy (2022 – 2027)**

The baseline for the strategy is the current language profile of the borough in order to be able to determine an achievable target increase in Welsh speakers that is required by Welsh Language Standard 145. M. According to the 2011 Census, the number of Welsh speakers in Caerphilly county borough was 19,251 or 11.2%, this data is subject to change following the 2021 census.

On 31st December 2020, according to the annual population survey:

- ✓ The number of people who could speak Welsh in the County Borough was 42,700 or 24.3%
- ✓ 19.9% of the population could read Welsh, 18.4% could write Welsh, and 27.2% could understand spoken Welsh
- ✓ The frequency of the number of people speaking Welsh in Caerphilly county borough on a daily basis was 10.2%

Over the past five years the number of children transferring from Welsh medium early years settings has varied from 72.29% to 99.43%.⁴ Of the whole primary school population 17.22% attend Welsh medium education with approximately 97.75% of these transferring to Welsh medium secondary education.

- **Caerphilly Strategic Equality Plan**

A statutory document under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, this four-year plan explains in straightforward terms what each of the equalities issues actually means and under what wider legislation we have responsibilities as a council. It highlights links to legislation and regulations covering the Welsh Language Standards and Human Rights issues and how it supports 4 of the 7 aims of Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; A healthier Wales, A more equal Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities and A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

- **Childcare Sufficiency Assessment**

A report that brings together a range of different data and information to develop a picture of the current childcare market and to identify whether there are any gaps in supply.



- **CCBC Decarbonisation Strategy**

CCBC has an excellent track record of implementing initiatives that benefit the environment. The authority has reduced carbon emissions by investing in technologies that reduce consumption and we have worked hard to raise awareness of the importance of carbon reduction with our staff, pupils and residents across the county borough. Proposals will consider how best to deliver this agenda as part of the build process and future operational matters.

- **Integrated Impact Assessment**

The utilisation of this Integrated Impact Assessment design will further help support the Council in making informed and effective decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Statutory Consultation v Doctrine of Legitimate Expectation and Gunning Principles

5. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – The Five Ways of Working *(Also known as the sustainable development principles. The Act requires the Council to consider how any proposal improves the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales using the five ways of working as a baseline)*

How have you used the Sustainable Development Principles in forming the proposal?

Long Term

The Council must act in a manner that seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Ysgol Y Lawnt currently occupies a pre-1900 CADW listed building and Upper Rhymney Primary School occupies 2 separate school blocks, with no lift access at either location. Both sites have restrictions on expansion/building and are bordering residential properties.

Whilst formulating the proposal, consideration has been given to alternative locations within the settlement boundary, including redevelopment on the existing school sites, as evidenced in the options appraisal. In addition, consideration has been given to the Town Centre 1st principle in developing this proposal. However these have been



discounted at this stage due to suitability, limited availability and being unable to accommodate the format, scale and design required for the primary schools.

The proposed new site for the development, has been identified to accommodate two existing schools within the Rhymney area, and as well established transportation routes, however, is outside the settlement boundary of Rhymney Town.

Through relocation of both schools to the new build proposed, this would provide more efficient and effective educational infrastructure that will meet current and future demand for places.

Building on the Net Zero Carbon mandate our proposal is framed to demonstrate innovative and collaborative design, encompassing the built environment and the surrounding landscape in a way that enriches pupils' daily life.

Through developing a sustainable, flexible site, this would enable:

- Space maximisation for reconfiguration of site
- Deliver the commitments of Cymraeg 2050 and the Authority's WESP by increasing Welsh Medium provision whilst also enabling flexibility to manage surplus places in the area
- Shared communal facilities including adaptable hall, community room, kitchen and storage capable of delivering the universal free school meals offer which would also be available for wider community use
- A longer elemental lifespan
- Lower whole life cost
- Improved value for money

Subject to the proposal gaining approval, once relocated, the former existing school buildings and sites would then be classified as surplus to educational requirement and become an unallocated Corporate Asset. Future use of the buildings and site would then be subject to a stringent series of tests to ensure Welsh Language and Local Community Use are prioritised. Any current community groups hosted at either of the existing schools would be encouraged to relocate into the new upgraded site, and where this is not the case, alternative venues such as the local Library would also be considered. An initial data collection exercise has been undertaken, and both schools have limited existing community use, however any community groups that have been identified will be engaged with as part of the consultation process.

Prevention

Providing learners in the catchment area for both existing schools (which will remain unchanged as a result of this proposal) with a custom built new site will enable pupils to access a 21st century facility and to receive tailor made learning opportunities in the language of their preference designed to meet their specific educational needs.



This purpose built school building which will accommodate both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School will cater for current and future demand for Welsh and English medium education in the Northern end of the county borough.

Due to the proposed configuration of the communal facilities, infringement on activities can be limited as required. For example, existing breakfast clubs and wraparound provision linked to either school can continue to be delivered independently and concurrently if required and through each schools preferred language choice. In addition, any Community Use activities will need to accommodate curriculum delivery if undertaken during school hours.

Integration

The proposal to create a new build, shared school facility which will accommodate both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School will impact on Wellbeing Goals:

- A Prosperous Wales
- A More Equal Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

The proposed facilities will provide opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community for educational, recreational and leisure activities. However, due to the proposed configuration of the communal facilities, infringement on activities can be limited as required and can continue to be delivered independently and concurrently if required and through each schools preferred language choice.

It is anticipated that through both schools occupying the same site, it will also enable greater exposure and opportunity to utilise the Welsh Language through supporting the aspirations of the Welsh Language Education White Paper in relation to Upper Rhymney Primary School.

Collaboration

The Council has worked with staff in both schools and across a range of departments to shape the proposal to this initial stage for approval. Subject to approval from Cabinet and Welsh Government to proceed, further engagement with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken to shape the new build and its facilities. Through following the consultation processes as prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018 this will include engagement with the learners to ensure their voice is heard in the development process.

Involvement

This proposal looks to relocate both Ysgol y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School into a new shared building within 1 mile of the existing schools. It must be stressed that both schools would remain as separate entities, providing education to pupils in their respective languages and would have their own areas within the



building with appropriate resources and signage, in addition to access to shared communal areas. This places the proposed change within the scope of the School Organisation Code (2018) therefore the guidance within the Code, especially with regard to consultation and engagement, will be closely followed. The Learner Voice will also be captured as part of this process.

Subject to Cabinet approval and the outcome of the educational consultation process, there will be a separate planning application process that will address a number of material planning considerations. This process will enable further involvement and engagement opportunities for interested parties.



6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Does the proposal maximise our contribution to the Well-being Goals and how?

A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work

A skilled and well-educated workforce enables individuals to lead successful lives and contribute to the wider economy.

This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:

Embodied Carbon / Operational Carbon

The Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme looks to deliver a combination of new school builds, expansions, amalgamations, relocations and refurbishments, all with the potential to support the Welsh Government and Council's strategies on decarbonisation and provide a new model of delivery. As such, skilled and knowledgeable workforce sectors will be engaged to delivery this outcome. As this school development includes a Welsh Medium school, there will be opportunities for Welsh Language skills to be utilised through client/school and contractor interactions.

Future Prospects:

A new Primary School site with 21st century facilities designed to deliver the new national curriculum and the requisite skills in young people through the medium of both Welsh and English as both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School will be accommodated within the same development. This in turn will provide the base for developing a skilled and well-educated workforce that is needed to underpin economic growth in Wales and strengthen opportunities for pupils in the English Primary School to develop Welsh Language skills through interactions with pupils from the Welsh medium school.



A Resilient Wales

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for climate change)

Young people who have developed positive wellbeing and healthy lifestyles will be better able to cope with the changes that the future will bring and thereby make Wales a more resilient nation.

This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:

Replacing both existing and outdated school sites with new a new build that will meet the requirements of BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and Net Zero Carbon in line with our decarbonisation commitments. The new building will be delivered in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way, with improved biodiversity and the option to develop a 'forest school' with an overall reduced impact on climate change and opportunities for the schools and wider community to access facilities from an educational, recreational and leisure perspective.

The development of an up to date 21st century primary school building that will accommodate Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School will be of significant benefit to its pupils and, as suggested by Estyn, a high quality learning environment of this nature will have a positive impact on pupil learning, wellbeing and outcomes. This model has been successfully delivered in the Gabalfa Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Glan Ceubal project in Cardiff, whereby both schools are co-located in a building with shared communal facilities and continue to operate successfully as separate entities delivering Welsh and English education.

A Healthier Wales

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood

Enabling people to develop healthy lifestyles and positive wellbeing has positive long term benefits for their own health and for society in general.

This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:

The proposed new site will create a dual use primary school building which will accommodate both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School pupils in addition to nursery and special resource base provision for both schools. The



continuity of provision on the one site will be of significant benefit to children, pupils, parents, families and the local community.

The proposal for a fit for purpose primary school building to accommodate both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School will provide a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities including improved ICT facilities, centred on the learning, self-esteem and well-being of all pupils. The proposals will bring improved learning spaces and community facilities. The latter will be made available for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable and after hours.

The improved environment for both schools when compared with their existing infrastructure and limitations on both sites will have a positive effect on the mental well-being of the pupils. New outdoor activity areas will support the pupils to develop a healthy lifestyle and stay fit. These facilities will also be available for community use and therefore will play a part in supporting healthy lifestyles in the local community.

Due to the proposed configuration of the communal facilities, infringement on activities can be limited as require and continue to be delivered independently and concurrently if required and through each schools preferred language choice. This will be at the discretion of both schools and subject to further engagement and discussion as the proposal progresses.

Shared communal spaces will also encourage greater use of the Welsh Language between pupils and staff onsite in both schools, which has been identified in the Framework as being beneficial to individuals' health and community wellbeing.

A More Equal Wales

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)

Everyone in Wales should be able to live their lives and achieve their potential.

This proposal supports this Well-being goal by:

Community Use:

Those that attend, work and use the building will benefit from a fit for purpose, innovative 21st Century facility. In addition, as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, a key Investment Objective is to optimise the use of infrastructure and resources, and to ensure flexibility of our assets so that space and facilities available for our stakeholders are maximised. The proposed project will take into account the desire to encourage and facilitate community use of the asset in a safe, manageable way. To this end the design process will seek to include measures to enable safe use of the communal areas shared by both schools which will include, hall, multi-purpose classrooms and outdoor play areas for the community at suitable times in keeping with the curriculum timetable.



The Wi-Fi and Information Technology infrastructure will be established to support public access and community use.

Impact on other schools:

The increase in capacity for both schools should have little impact on neighbouring schools but does provide the additionality to meet anticipated future demand. A phasing in of the admission number will be considered if this is helpful in avoiding any undue impact on neighbouring schools.

This brand new 21st century school building, accommodating both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School will provide sufficient places within both catchments so that all potential pupils in the area, irrespective of background or circumstance can take advantage of the excellent facilities, teaching and learning in the new school building.

Increasing the admission number by a manageable amount will allow for the growth while not over developing the provision to destabilise other already established educational provisions within the area.

Changes to primary education be that Welsh or English Medium will inevitably have an impact upon secondary education. Ysgol Y Lawnt is a feeder school for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Rhymni, whilst Upper Rhymney Primary School feeds into Idris Davies School 3-18. Whilst secondary education is being reviewed within the authority at present which includes single sex, surplus places and provision, until such time that a determination has been made, it is the assumption of this proposal that the current feeder configuration would remain the same. Based on current projections and available data, this proposal would have minimal impact on secondary provision.

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

The proposal seeks to provide a new fit for purpose school build provision that will accommodate both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School. Through combining both schools on a single site will encourage community cohesion through children from the same community accessing the same educational and community based facilities. This will also be reflected for families and the wider community having central facilities will bring the communities together.

Consideration has been made to potential concerns relating to the dilution of the Welsh Language where the Welsh speaking community may utilise English when they all come together. However, the Council intends to mitigate as far as reasonably possible through utilising this site as an archetype in fully exploiting the opportunity to make Upper Rhymney Primary School and exemplar school whereby it will use the Welsh language more, via the Cymraeg i Blant scheme, engagement in Welsh for the Family course, potential twinning of the schools whereby cultures of the schools can be shared and the possibility of a Welsh Language mentoring scheme whereby Upper Rhymney Primary School Pupils are mentored for Welsh



lessons by their peers from Ysgol Y Lawnt. Consideration will also be given to setting targets in line with the Welsh Language Education: White Paper to enhance Welsh language provision in maintained schools that are not already designated Welsh-medium schools. Further discussions and support with both schools will be undertaken as the proposal progresses to investigate the options available to support this aspiration.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation

This proposal represents an opportunity to revitalise Welsh medium education in the area with a new building a community facilities. It should be noted that the existing Ysgol Y Lawnt site does not have any further capacity for expansion and due to the listed nature of the main building, enhancements are limited.

As outlined previously, consideration has been given as to how to promote and encourage increased use of the Welsh Language across both schools.

A Globally Responsible Wales

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

Procurement will include Community Benefits as a core requirement e.g. around local targeted recruitment and training, supply chains, community and education initiatives in the provision of the proposed new facility. This will include the opportunity to learn / engage via the Welsh Language



7. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Welsh Language Standards

(The Welsh Language Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards require the Council to have 'due regard' for the positive or negative impact a proposal may have on opportunities to use the Welsh language and ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language) Policy Making Standards - Good Practice Advice Document

7a. Links with Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy and CCBC's Five Year Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 and the Language Profile

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive - Engagement with Caerphilly's Welsh Language Forum will be undertaken as part of the implementation of this proposal to ensure that all the relevant organisations are involved in the promotion of the Welsh language.

Positive - A request for education through the medium of Welsh can already be accommodated at present. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education through the medium of Welsh.

Neutral – There is the potential for pupils to make good progress in developing their Welsh language skills as they move through the schools and it is anticipated that the current capacity of Ysgol Y Lawnt will increase as a result of the proposal

Negative – Potential for Welsh speaking community having to utilise English when accessing shared facilities only. There would be no impact relating to general curriculum delivery as both schools are remaining as separate entities and have their own designated classroom/ teaching space/ external space allocations.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

All signage across the school site and community facilities will be bilingual as part of our commitment to increase exposure to the Welsh language. For example, the existing Upper Rhymney Primary School site sign was erected prior to the regulations coming into effect so currently is only in English.

Working with the schools, the Council would encourage the two school sites committing to coming together to hold interactive events such as sports days or Eisteddfodau – not to create competition, but to create a shared learning experience, and so that the children from the English medium school see the benefits of speaking Welsh.



(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

There is increasing evidence of growing demand for Welsh Medium places in the area. Over the past 5 years, the number of admission applications for places at the school have increased, with refusals being issued for the last 2 years.

In addition, the Welsh Government published its Cymraeg 2050 Strategy in 2017, which sets out a vision of reaching 1 million speakers by 2050. By 2031, the aim for Caerphilly is for 26% of Welsh-medium education places in our year 1. The council recognises that the education system is a key element in ensuring that children are able to develop their Welsh Skills and for creating new speakers and in order to make further progress to that already achieved in the Borough, further investment into the infrastructure is required. Ysgol Y Lawnt has been identified as a strategic site, to support growing numbers in one of the more socially deprived areas in the borough.

The school currently hosts Cylch Meithrin Mwy Rhymini, delivered by Cylch Meithrin Rhymini for 27 children. However, there is no capacity within the current school to deliver full wraparound provision further and it has been identified that a minimum of a further 32 places are needed.

Based on projections and new builds in the area we are anticipating that by 2025 there will be 6.31% surplus places, which does not allow for any growth particularly if additional childcare is not forthcoming.

Subject to approval for the outlined proposal to develop the shared site, we foresee the need to submit a childcare bid for this provision in the post 2025 bidding round.

7b. Compliance with the Welsh Language Standards. Specifically Standards 88–93

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – The whole site, including community facilities when built will comply with the Welsh language Standards in relation to signage, booking facilities etc.

Positive - A request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated at present within the borough, however, there is increasing evidence of growing demand for Welsh Medium places in the area. Over the past 5 years, the number of admission applications for places at the school have increased, with refusals being issued for the last 2 years. This proposal will ensure increased capacity moving forward in Ysgol Y Lawnt to allow for parental preference to be accommodated.



Positive - All documentation including the website relating to the proposal is produced in Welsh and English, further supporting use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Neutral - Any meetings with either school to discuss provision of education, , will be delivered through the child / family's preferred language and the right that they have to this under the Welsh Language Measure can be accommodated at present. This creates opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treats the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Neutral - The process during both the Consultation period will ensure that key consultees are targeted as outlined in the CCBC Consultation and Engagement Framework; the process will provide opportunities to respond in the language of choice – Welsh or English. In addition, the views of children and young people affected by this proposal will be consulted upon through targeted information and feedback sessions and the production of child friendly versions of the documentation also available in either Welsh or English.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

Not applicable

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Historical Consultation Processes involving Welsh and English Schools Bi-lingual Signage as standard across all Council facilities to future proof buildings and increase exposure to the Welsh Language

7c. Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work / community

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – Through increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Lawnt, a request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education through the medium of Welsh.

Positive - Any meetings with the schools to discuss provision of education through the child / family's preferred language and the right that they have to this under the WL Measure can be accommodated at present.

Positive - All signage in the proposed new site will be bilingual.

Positive

Consultation will be undertaken bilingually and targeted to specific people and groups because of their vested interest in the field.



Positive - The Community Usage element which will be an opportunity to promote activities through the medium of Welsh for the whole family and wider community.

Negative – Potential for Welsh speaking community having to utilise English when accessing shared facilities only. There would be no impact relating to general curriculum delivery as both schools are remaining as separate entities and have their own designated classroom/ teaching space/ external space allocations.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

Reception services will be provided Bi-lingually.

All documentation published on the CCBC Sustainable Communities for Learning website relating to the proposal will be translated through the Council's Equalities and Welsh Language Team.

Signage across the entire site will be bilingual.

Working with the schools, the Council would encourage the two school sites committing to coming together to hold interactive events such as sports days or Eisteddfodau – not to create competition, but to create a shared learning experience, and so that the children from the English medium school see the benefits of speaking Welsh.

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

Historical Consultation Processes involving Welsh and English Schools.
Bi-lingual Signage as standard across all Council facilities to future proof buildings and increase exposure to the Welsh Language.
Initial Engagement with School Heads.

7d. Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language e.g. staff, residents and visitors

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive – Through increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Lawnt, a request for education through the medium of Welsh can be accommodated. In so doing, there is capacity to meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive their education through the medium of Welsh.

Positive - When considering the expansion of provision, recruitment and selection processes will reflect the local need but will also support job creation.



Positive - The proposal will create further opportunities for people to use the Welsh language through day to day activities, including pupils, families, teachers, catering staff, cleaning staff and the caretaker.

Positive - The Council is pro-active in supporting staff with free Welsh courses with some tailored to specific work areas. This proposal would support staff in accessing any provision as required.

Negative – Potential for Welsh speaking community having to utilise English when accessing shared facilities only. There would be no impact relating to general curriculum delivery as both schools are remaining as separate entities and have their own designated classroom/ teaching space/ external space allocations.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

The Council intends to mitigate any dilution of the use of the Welsh Language in the shared facilities as far as reasonably possible through utilising this site as an archetype. We will fully explore the opportunity to make Upper Rhymney Primary School and exemplar school whereby it will use the Welsh language more, via the Cymraeg i Blant scheme, engagement in Welsh for the Family course, potential twinning of the schools whereby cultures of the schools can be shared and the possibility of a Welsh Language mentoring scheme whereby Upper Rhymney Primary School Pupils are mentored for Welsh lessons by their peers from Ysgol Y Lawnt. Consideration will also be given to setting targets in line with the Welsh Language Education: White Paper to enhance Welsh language provision in maintained schools that are not already designated Welsh-medium schools. Further discussions and support with both schools will be undertaken as the proposal progresses to investigate the options available to support this aspiration.

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

Current HR Recruitment Protocols

Best practice in supporting and promoting the Welsh Language across schools in Wales

Engagement with the Council's Policy Officer for Equalities and Welsh Language

7e. Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

(i) Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts on the following and how?

Positive - Any meetings with the school to discuss provision of education through the child / family's preferred language and the right that they have to this under the Welsh Language Measure can be accommodated at present.



Positive - All documentation including the website relating to the proposal is produced in Welsh and English

Positive - It will be possible to send and receive all consultation and objection responses in Welsh and English ensuring that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language.

(ii) If there are negative impacts how will these be mitigated?

Not applicable

(iii) What evidence has been used to support this view? e.g. the WESP, TAN20, LDP, Pupil Level Annual School Census

Historical Engagement Activities undertaken through the School Organisation Code and the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy

7f. Having considered the impacts above, how has the proposal been developed so that there are positive effects, or increased positive effects on (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and (b) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Need and demand

The Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary proposal seeks to further support the local and national agenda in the development of Welsh standards in education to equip a bilingual Wales with a skilled bilingual workforce, supporting the Welsh Government's vision for Welsh in Education. The more pupils who enjoy a Welsh medium primary education, the more are likely to attend Welsh medium secondary education and have the fullest opportunities to live their lives in Wales using the Welsh language.

Location

The relocation site has been identified within the existing locale, it has been proposed as it provides minimal disruption to existing pupil travel arrangements and remains located central to the existing catchment area for both schools. In addition the relocation site is within 1 mile of the existing Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary school sites and in good proximity to transport links and the centre of Rhymney. The site will provide 21st century facilities for both schools while also providing the opportunity to future proof both language medium provisions in the area with the capacity to accommodate projected increase in pupil numbers.

Method and process

The School Organisation Code 2018 is the prescribed process for progressing this proposal.

It is proposed that a new dual-purpose building will incorporate both schools and continue to provide Welsh and English Medium Primary education. It must be emphasised that both schools would remain independent entities, the existing



catchment areas would remain unchanged and each school would occupy their own separate teaching areas within the new building with shared communal facilities.

The new building will incorporate primary school facilities as well as separate Special Resource Base provision for each school, one with 8 places for Welsh medium and the other providing 8 places for English medium.

Consideration has been made to potential concerns relating to the dilution of the Welsh Language where the Welsh speaking community may utilise English when they all come together. However, the Council intends to mitigate as far as reasonably possible through utilising this site as an archetype in fully exploiting the opportunity to make Upper Rhymney Primary School and exemplar school whereby it will use the Welsh language more, via the Cymraeg i Blant scheme, engagement in Welsh for the Family course, potential twinning of the schools whereby cultures of the schools can be shared and the possibility of a Welsh Language mentoring scheme whereby Upper Rhymney Primary School Pupils are mentored for Welsh lessons by their peers from Ysgol Y Lawnt. Consideration will also be given to setting targets in line with the Welsh Language Education: White Paper to enhance Welsh language provision in maintained schools that are not already designated Welsh-medium schools. Further discussions and support with both schools will be undertaken as the proposal progresses to investigate the options available to support this aspiration.

8. Data and Information

(What data or other evidence has been used to inform the development of the proposal? Evidence may include the outcome of previous consultations, existing databases, pilot projects, review of customer complaints and compliments and or other service user feedback, national and regional data, academic publications and consultants' reports etc.)

Data/evidence *(Please provide link to report if appropriate)*

- **2021 Census Data**
[2011 Census - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk)
- **Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-2020**
[Social use of the Welsh language: July 2019 to March 2020 | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/social-use-of-the-welsh-language-july-2019-to-march-2020)
- **Position of the Welsh Language – Commissioner's Report**
<http://www.comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru/English/ReportsGuides/Publications/Pages/PublicationDetails.aspx?PublicationId=83ce0864-3b93-4f73-a52f-baf61b6eca20>
- **Annual Population Survey**
<https://www.gov.wales/welsh-language-data-annual-population-survey>
- **Welsh Language Commissioner's Assurance Reports**
[Assurance reports \(welshlanguagecommissioner.wales\)](https://welshlanguagecommissioner.wales/assurance-reports)
- **National Survey for Wales**
[National Survey for Wales: culture and Welsh language | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/national-survey-for-wales-culture-and-welsh-language)
- **Cymraeg 2050: Annual Reports**



[Cymraeg 2050: annual reports | GOV.WALES](#)

- **Technical Advice Note (TAN20)**
[TAN20: Planning and the Welsh Language \(gov.wales\)](#)
- **Health and Welsh Language Data**
[General practitioners Welsh language ability by local health board and year \(gov.wales\)](#)
- **Data relating to the Welsh Language and the economy**
[Welsh Language Task and Finish Cover English \(gov.wales\)](#)

Key relevant findings

- The number of people who could speak Welsh in the County Borough was 42,700 or 24.3%
- 19.9% of the population could read Welsh, 18.4% could write Welsh, and 27.2% could understand spoken Welsh
- The frequency of the number of people speaking Welsh in Caerphilly county borough on a daily basis was 10.2%
- Over the past five years the number of children transferring from Welsh medium early years settings has varied from 72.29% to 99.43%.
- Of the whole primary school population 17.22% attend Welsh medium education with approximately 97.75% of these transferring to Welsh medium secondary education.

Current Position (Schools):

There are presently 11 Welsh medium primary schools across the County Borough with a combined capacity of approaching 3000 places.

Ysgol y Lawnt

- Welsh Medium
- Community primary school
- Capacity of 262 including a childcare and nursery provision.
- 18.4% FSM pupils, 15.6% pupils with SEN
- Situated on a site in 1.4 Hectare site in Rhymney with no option to expand.
- The school operates from 1 main building and numerous prefabricated modular builds. The main building, CADW listed, originally established as an English Medium Primary School in 1900, opening in 1955 as the current Welsh Medium Primary.

Upper Rhymney Primary School

- English Medium
- Community primary school



- Capacity of 210, which includes nursery provision.
- 44.1% FSM pupils, 12.7% pupils with SEN
- Situated within a 0.98 hectare site in Rhymney, closely bordered by residential properties.
- Occupies 2 Buildings, Junior block over 2 floors with no lift

Ysgol Y Lawnt serves the Moriah 2 Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOAs) and this area is ranked 228 out of 1,909 and Upper Rhymney Primary serves Twyn Carno 2 areas which is ranked 473 out of 1,909 areas in Wales where 1 is the most deprived and 1909 is the least deprived. This proposal will serve the needs of all learners, irrespective of background and provide greater continuity of education from 3 to 11 years.

The Welsh Government published its Cymraeg 2050 Strategy in 2017, which sets out a vision of reaching 1 million speakers by 2050. By 2031, the aim for Caerphilly is for 26% of Welsh-medium education places in our year 1. The council recognises that the education system is a key element in ensuring that children are able to develop their Welsh Skills and for creating new speakers and in order to make further progress to that already achieved in the Borough, further investment into the infrastructure is required. Ysgol Y Lawnt has been identified as a strategic site, to support growing numbers in one of the more socially deprived areas in the borough.

How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?

A cross-departmental project panel consisting of representatives from the Sustainable Communities for Learning Team, Education Directorate, Sport and Leisure, Inclusion Services, Property Services, Finance and Health and Safety met to consider the viability, suitability and feasibility of this proposal.

The panel was tasked with:

- Preparing and appraise a longlist of options for this funding stream
- Evaluate and score each option as to the extent to which each option meets the investment objectives and critical success factors identified and weighted as priority areas by the Council.
- Discount or carry forward options for further consideration in the shortlist based on the preliminary analysis and scoring to identify viable options.
- Recommend a preferred way forward

The panel also took into consideration how options would comply with a number of National and Local Policy contexts, for example the investment objectives of the Welsh Governments Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, The Net Zero Strategic Plan, Cymraeg 2050, CCBC Corporate Plan, PSB Wellbeing Objectives, CCBC Welsh In Education Strategic Plan, Childcare Strategy and EOTAS Strategy etc. *(list not exhaustive)*



The data and evidence collected to date and outlined in this document informed the identification of the schools, the rationale based on projected demand and suitability and a viable build site in the Rhymney area.

In formulating a shortlist of options that could potentially deliver the proposal, and a preferred way forward which will form the basis of the Consultation process following the Statutory process as prescribed by the School Organisation Code 2018, key criteria included whether the proposal would be achievable, value for money, the right Strategic Fit, Educational Fit (including Language offer), Accessibility, Affordability and Sustainability.

Further data and information will be collected as part of the Consultation process as to date this proposal has only been internally reviewed in partnership with the Local Ward Members, School Heads and Chair of Governors for both schools. Further Stakeholder engagement will enable conscientious consideration with a view to a final determination on the viability of this proposal or progression of any viable alternative options.

This Integrated Impact Assessment is a living document and will be continuously reviewed and updated at the end of each consultation stage. It will be published on the Council's website in both Welsh and English and available in hard copy on request. A copy will also be accessible to the Social Services and Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Members as part of the decision making process.

Were there any gaps identified in the evidence and data used to develop this proposal and how will these gaps be filled? *Details of further consultation can be included in Section 9.*

At this stage in the process, no gaps have been identified. However, subject to approval to proceed to consultation, this Integrated Impact Assessment will be reviewed to include any additional elements highlighted through the statutory consultation process.

The purpose of this further assessment is to take account of any further information or alternative options that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.



9. Consultation

*(In some instances, there is a legal requirement to consult. In others, even where there is no legal obligation, there may be a legitimate expectation from people that a consultation will take place. Where it has been determined that consultation is required, **The Gunning Principles** must be adhered to. Consider the **Consultation and Engagement Framework**. Please note that this may need to be updated as the proposal develops and to strengthen the assessment.*

Briefly describe any recent or planned consultations paying particular attention to evidencing the Gunning Principles.

Who was consulted?

As part of the approval process to progress to Strategic Outline Case submission to Welsh Government and subsequent Consultation should the proposal receive Welsh Government approval, a report was presented at the Council's Education Scrutiny Committee (21st June 2023) and Cabinet (28th June 2023).

The Council's Senior Policy Officer for Equalities and Welsh Language has been engaged in constant dialogue throughout the process and has informed the information contained within this Integrated Impact Assessment.

Initial engagement and briefing sessions have been held with the Head Teachers and Chair of Governors for both schools. Feedback from both sessions was positive although further sessions will be undertaken as the proposal progresses.

The Authority has given consideration to the School Organisation Code 2018 and how the proposals impact as per the guidance.

Both Ysgol y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary are classified as a community school under the code, and no exemptions apply in this case. Therefore, the consultation process as prescribed by the code will be undertaken to ensure the appropriate level of engagement in informing and consulting stakeholders. This process is synergistic with the Council's Consultation and Engagement Framework 2020-2025 and "Spectrum of Engagement".

When they were consulted did the consultation take place at the formative stage and was adequate time given for consultees to consider and respond?

It is currently anticipated that the consultation process would be undertaken as per the following timeline based on approval at each stage of the process:

Ysgol Y Lawnt / Upper Rhymney School Proposal Timeline	
Consultation Opens	Thursday 28 th September 2023
Scrutiny (as consultee)	Tuesday 17 th October 2023



Consultation Ends	Thursday 9 th November 2023
Scrutiny (to consider Consultation Report & endorse publication of Statutory Notice)	Tuesday 28 th November 2023
Cabinet (to consider Consultation Report & agree publication of Statutory Notice)	Wednesday 13 th December 2023
Statutory Notice / Objection Period Opens	Monday 8 th January 2024
Statutory Notice / Objection Period End	Monday 5 th February 2024
Scrutiny (to consider Objection Report)	Tuesday 12 th March 2024
Cabinet (to make final determination)	Wednesday 20 th March 2024

The timelines have been identified to comply with the Welsh Government's Consultation guidance allowing for adequate time for consultees to consider and respond.

Subject to final determination to proceed, the process would then be subject to the Planning Application and Sustainable Drainage approval process which is led by the Council's experienced Property Services Team.

In addition, an Outline Business Case will be submitted to Welsh Government at the appropriate design/tender stage in line with their recently revised 3 stage Business Case process.

Was sufficient information provided to consultees to allow them to make an informed decision on the proposal?

Education Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Members were provided with a report outlining the proposal and recommended way forward which is publically available:

Scrutiny Report –

<https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s45490/Scrutiny%20Report%20for%20Sustainable%20Communities%20for%20Learning%20Phase%203.pdf?LLL=0>

Cabinet Report -

<https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s45579/Cabinet%20Report%20for%20Sustainable%20Communities%20for%20Learning%20Phase%203%20FINAL.pdf?LLL=0>

As of August 2023, a Statagic Outline Case has been submitted to Welsh Government and has been considered by their Business Case Scrutiny Group and awaiting consideration at their Education Investment Panel.



What were the key findings?

- Endorsement to proceed with the proposal to submit a business case was received from Education Scrutiny Committee on the 20th June 2023 (9 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions)
- Approval from Cabinet to proceed to business case submission and subsequent formal consultation in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 was received on the 28th June 2023 (Unanimous)
- Initial engagement sessions have been held with the Head Teachers and Chair of Governors for both schools. Feedback from both sessions was positive although further sessions will be undertaken as the proposal progresses.

How have the consultation findings been taken into account?

Further analysis will be undertaken post consultation when the wider stakeholder cohort as prescribed in the Code, Estyn and Pupil Engagement activities have been undertaken.

The consultation process represents an opportunity for people to learn about the proposal, ask questions and make comments that will be recorded and summarised in a consultation report.

This Consultation report will be published on the Council's website and will be considered when Cabinet decides on the way forward.



10. Monitoring and Review

How will the implementation and the impact of the proposal be monitored, including implementation of any amendments?

The programme will be managed by a School Strategy Board comprising of representation from the Director of Corporate and Education Services, Head of Transformation, Head of Corporate Finance, Chief Education Officer, Cabinet Member for Education and Communities, Head of Property Services, Education Finance Manager, the Sustainable Communities for Learning Manager and the Sustainable Communities for Learning Principal Officer.

Project management principles will be followed throughout the programme. A Project Management Team will oversee the day to day development and implementation of each constituent element of the project, which will include engagement with the School and Pupils, reporting to the Board and other relevant senior officers, as appropriate. Projects will be managed in accordance with PRINCE 2 and other relevant project management methodology.

Key personnel have received Equality and Welsh Language Awareness and Integrated Impact Assessment Training. In addition, the Sustainable Communities for Learning Principal Officer is in constant dialogue with the Senior Policy Officer for Equalities and Welsh Language to take guidance where required.

At a more local level, each school will retain their existing Governing Body arrangements, however, a joint committee will be established consisting of representatives from both schools to establish terms and conditions about the working mechanisms relating to maintenance, access and general policies relating the site as a whole.

What are the practical arrangements for monitoring?

The Council recognises that the whole organisation must be skilled in making the very best use of available resources. Good project management is recognised as being an essential ingredient to success in tackling our strategic work programme.

Project management principles will be followed (Prince2 and MS Project) throughout the programme. Programme management principles will be employed for the overarching Band B programme and the project will utilise the experience of the project team involved in the Band A project. This will commence with a Programme execution plan that will define the programme objectives, responsibilities, dependant actions and risks. The latter will include risk elimination or mitigation actions and risk owner. An overall programme monitoring tool will integrate and coordinate procurement, design and construction programmes and will highlight key dependencies and the critical path.



In addition to the numerous reports that need to be produced in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018 and internal Caerphilly County Borough Council decision making processes, the 3 stage business case model is being followed to secure Welsh Government funding focusing on:

- the strategic justification and investment objectives for the project (Strategic Case)
- the reasoning behind reduction of the long list to a short list of options and analysis of the options appraisal and benefits (Economic Case)
- the outline cost of the project and details of match funding and profile of spend (Financial Case)
- the proposed management structure (Management Case)
- the commercial strategy (Commercial Case)

Subject to approval of the Strategic Outline Case by Welsh Government, as the proposal progresses through the consultation processes, regular meetings with the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Team and Officers in Welsh Government will be held to update them on progress.

Once a final determination is made on the proposal by Cabinet, should the proposal then be implemented as outlined, on completion of the works a Welsh Government Closing Report is produced, supported with full project costings and analysis as to whether the community benefits have been achieved.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning team for Caerphilly are required to monitor projects for their first five years through completion of post occupancy evaluation workshops with pupils and staff. This is also reported to Welsh Government and supports the Council in considering best practice and any areas for improvement on future projects.

How will the results of the monitoring be used to develop future proposals?

Benefits Realisation, Social Value and Impact on our Decarbonisation and Welsh Language commitments will be monitored by the project team and Caerphilly County Borough Council and reported to Welsh Government through the project closure report and other relevant documentation.

Regular monitoring meetings will take place throughout the progression of the proposal and typically involve the Sustainable Communities for Learning Team, Headteachers, Education advisers, Property Services, Catering Services, ICT, Traffic Management, Procurement and Audit representation. Relevant stakeholders will also be involved in post project evaluation to review outcomes to ensure improvements are made for future projects.



When is the proposal due to be reviewed?

It is currently anticipated that the internal decision making process would be undertaken as per the following timeline based on approval at each stage of the process:

Ysgol Y Lawnt / Upper Rhymney	
Scrutiny (as consultee)	Tuesday 17 th October 2023
Scrutiny (to consider Consultation Report & endorse publication of Statutory Notice)	Tuesday 28 th November 2023
Cabinet (to consider Consultation Report & agree publication of Statutory Notice)	Wednesday 13 th December 2023
Scrutiny (to consider Objection Report)	Tuesday 12 th March 2024
Cabinet (to make final determination)	Wednesday 20 th March 2024

In addition, the Council is following the Welsh Government's 3 Stage Business Case process and will submit a subsequent Outline Business Case and Full Business Case at the appropriate stages in the process.

This Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed at the end of each Consultation stage to reflect any additional information gained or any options that may be a viable alternative to the preferred option being proposed.

Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?

The Programme Board provides the overall direction, management and control for the Programme, being accountable for the success of the Programme.

Scrutiny Members and Cabinet Members will be asked to review the proposal and endorse / make the final determination as to whether to implement the proposal to relocate Ysgol Y Lawnt & Upper Rhymney Primary to a new purpose-built site with shared facilities.

If approved, it will be the responsibility of the Author(s) of this report (or nominated officer within their section) to ensure the Integrated Impact Assessment and proposal is reviewed and any mitigating actions followed up on and actioned.

11. Recommendation and Reasoning

- Implement proposal taking account of the mitigating actions outlined

Have you contacted relevant officers for advice and guidance?

- Yes

12. Reason(s) for Recommendations

(Provide below a summary of the Integrated Impact Assessment. This summary should be included in the "Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment" section of the Corporate Report Template. The Integrated Impact Assessment should be published alongside the Report proposal).

It is the recommendation of this Integrated Impact Assessment and in line with the processes outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 that Members endorse/approve the proposal to:

- To relocate Ysgol Y Lawnt & Upper Rhymney Primary to a new purpose-built site with shared facilities.

It is proposed that a new dual-purpose building will incorporate both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary Schools who will continue to provide Welsh and English Medium Primary education respectively.

It must be emphasised that both schools would remain independent entities, the existing catchment areas would remain unchanged and each school would occupy their own separate teaching areas within the new building.

Where the proposed new building includes shared communal facilities, these will include:

- ✓ A shared bi-lingual reception area
- ✓ Flexible and adaptable Hall that can be subdivided to accommodate curriculum timetables
- ✓ Bookable Community Rooms
- ✓ A separate kitchen servery so that provision for meals is delivered in the appropriate language medium for each school.

The configuration of these facilities will be designed in a manner enabling independent use by each school respectively if needed to minimise infringement on current activities and language delivery, with the option to open these up for shared utilisation to provide wider community cohesion.



The new building will incorporate primary school facilities as well as childcare and separate Special Resource Base provision for each school, one with 8 places for Welsh medium and the other providing 8 places for English medium.

The new school building will enable increased capacity for both schools. Through careful management and implementation of the mitigation actions identified in this document, the proposal has the potential to provide additional opportunities for Welsh immersion, and to facilitate growth in Welsh medium education and use of the Welsh language that will contribute to meeting the Welsh Government's aim of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The new primary school site will also benefit from improved outside learning space and facilities when compared to both existing school sites, that will provide a stimulating teaching and learning environment with 21st Century facilities centred on the learning, self-esteem and well-being of all pupils.

Building on the Net Zero Carbon mandate our proposal is framed to demonstrate innovative and collaborative design, encompassing the built environment and the surrounding landscape in a way that enriches pupils' daily life.

The information gathered and reviewed as part of this IIA demonstrates the potential for creating a sustainable and innovative shared school site and the need to meet demand, statutory compliance and improve upon the existing primary school provision at both Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School due to their current site limitations.



13. Version Control

(The IIA should be used in the early stages of the proposal development process. The IIA can be strengthened as time progresses to help shape the proposal. The Version Control section will act as an audit trail to evidence how the IIA has been developed over time) (Add or delete versions as applicable)

➤ Version 1

Author:- Lisa Thomas

Brief description of the amendments/update:-

This Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken to ensure compliance with the socio-economic duty set out in section 1 of the Equality Act 2010. Consideration of the impact on Welsh Language provision has been one of the key focus areas due to the inclusion of a Welsh Medium Education Primary School in the proposal, and the Council's Senior Policy Officer for Equalities and Welsh Language has informed the process through constant dialogue to date.

Original Publication Date:- 28th September 2023

➤ Version 2

Author:- Andrea West

Brief description of the amendments/update:-

The Integrated Impact Assessment has been reviewed to include any additional elements highlighted through the statutory consultation process undertaken between the 8th January 2024 and 5th February 2024.

The purpose of this further assessment is to take account of any further information that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.

No further updates required at this point.

Review Date:- 8th February 2024



Integrated Impact Assessment Author(s)

Name:- Lisa Thomas

Job Title:- Sustainable Communities for Learning Principal Officer

Date:- 22nd August 2023

Name:- Andrea West

Job Title:- Sustainable Communities for Learning Manager

Date:- 22nd August 2023

Head of Service Approval

Name:- Sue Richards

Job Title:- Head of Education Planning and Strategy / Head of Transformation

Signature:- *S. Richards*

Date:- 24th August 2023