



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 Officer:-

Head of Service:- Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

Service Area and Department:- Community and Leisure Services

Date:- 1/10/2023

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

The proposal for Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre to remain permanently closed, with sporting facilities at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) being made available for community use outside of school hours from Spring 2025.

The indoor leisure space at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre closed because of the UK national lockdown in March 2020 and has not re-opened for leisure use. The Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) development provides an option to replace the majority of facilities within the existing leisure centre with a modern, fit for purpose, DDA compliant offer. Sporting facilities at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners will be made available for community use outside of school hours from Spring 2025. The new Centre will include a 4-court sports hall, with associated changing facilities.

Use of the outdoor 3G pitch recommenced on a phased basis in April 2021. The 3G pitch is currently well used and has been the subject of ongoing repairs for some time. An inspection report produced in 2022 confirmed that the pitch is nearing the end of its lifespan. Any further repairs undertaken would only provide a short-term benefit and replacement must be considered. Use of the pitch will continue until the new pitch at the Centre for Vulnerable Learners is open.

Whilst the new 3G pitch will not support competitive fixtures which are currently played at weekends, there is scope at Islwyn High School, 3 miles away, for weekend usage of the 3G pitch and Sports Hall which are now managed by CCBC. Similarly, further opportunities for 3G pitch usage are also available at Blackwood Comprehensive School 2 miles away. In addition there are 3G pitches at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and Lewis School Pengam. The table in 2a(ii) summarises alternative facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site.



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

New facilities at the Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) will provide more accessible modern, fit for purpose, DDA compliant offer for all age groups.

Negative

There is a potential for a negative impact resulting from the additional travel distance to Islwyn High School. However, this will only impact on travel to competitive 3G pitch fixtures where this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities depending on point of origin and the extent to which they use current provision for competitive fixtures.

A number of older respondents to the consultation on the proposal and some respondents with children felt that they would be more negatively affected due to the increased distance and associated cost if they have to travel further to alternative facilities.

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

Sporting facilities at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) will be made available for community use outside of school hours from and including school holidays upon opening in Spring 2025.

The CVL development provides an option to replace the majority of facilities within the existing leisure centre with a modern, fit for purpose, DDA compliant offer. The new Centre will include a 4-court sports hall, with associated accessible changing facilities.

Whilst the new 3G will not support competitive fixtures, there is scope at Islwyn High School, 3 miles away, and Blackwood Comprehensive School, 2miles away, for weekend usage of the 3G pitch and Sports Hall.

In the consultation 75% responded that they travel by car to use the existing facilities and the majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site.

As illustrated in the following table there are a number of CCBC managed alternative facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site (there is private sector provision also):

| Facility | Distance from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre | Travel Time by car from Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre |
|---|---|---|
| Newbridge Leisure Centre | 3.3 miles | 9 minutes |
| Cefn Fforest Leisure Centre | 2.0 miles | 8 minutes |
| Sue Noake Leisure Centre, Ystrad Mynach | 3.1 miles | 9 minutes |
| Heolddu Leisure Centre | 5.0 miles | 14 minutes |
| Islwyn High School | 3.1 miles | 7 minutes |
| Blackwood Comprehensive School | 2.3 miles | 8 minutes |
| Caerphilly Leisure Centre | 7.5 miles | 16 minutes |
| Markham Community Leisure Centre | 4.2 miles | 10 minutes |
| Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, Fleur de Lys | 2.2 miles | 5 minutes |
| Lewis School Pengam | 3.1 miles | 9 minutes |

The ability to book alternative facilities such as the new 3G pitch and sports hall at the CVL will serve to mitigate some of the impacts identified by respondents in relation to capacity. In addition, current bookings at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will be supported to transfer to alternative facilities with capacity being maximised further with the management of the 3G and sports hall at Islwyn High school having been taken over by Sport and Leisure Services in December 2023 and is now fully available for weekend and evening bookings.

The 23% of respondents who said that they walk to the existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have the opportunity to make use of new facilities at the CVL outside of school hours and during holiday periods.

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

In 2022/23, there were 30,257 visits to the 3G pitch. Of these, 10,913 adults and 19,344 were junior users.

Information from the public consultation undertaken from Monday 20 November 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024 has been used to inform this view.

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

New facilities at the CVL will provide a more accessible (to meet current physical accessibility standards) in a modern, fit for purpose offer.

Negative



There is a potential for a negative impact resulting from the additional travel distance to Islwyn High School. However, this will only impact on travel to competitive 3G pitch fixtures where this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities depending on point of origin and the extent to which they use current provision for competitive fixtures.

Some respondents to the consultation with disabilities felt that they would be more negatively affected due to the increased distance and associated cost if they have to travel further to alternative facilities.

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

Sporting facilities at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners will be made available for community use outside of school hours from Spring 2025. New facilities at the CVL will meet current physical accessibility standards. The Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) development provides an option to replace the majority of facilities within the existing leisure centre with a modern, fit for purpose offer. The new Centre will include a 4-court sports hall, with associated accessible changing facilities.

However, the new 3G pitch will not support competitive fixtures. There is scope at Islwyn High School 3 miles away, and Blackwood Comprehensive School 2 miles away, for weekend usage of the 3G pitch and Sports Hall.

In the consultation 75% responded that they travel by car to use the existing facilities and the majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site. As illustrated in the table above there are a number of alternative facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site. The 23% of respondents who said that they walk to the existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have the opportunity to make use of new facilities at the CVL outside of school hours.

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

Information from the public consultation undertaken from Monday 20 November 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024 has been used to inform this view.



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

- (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

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

- (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

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?

Neutral

- (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

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

- (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

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

- (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

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?**

Positive as changing facilities are improved

No specific examples were provided Comments were raised in the consultation that women's sports may be impacted more if there is a limited capacity to book facilities.

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

In the consultation 75% responded that they travel by car to use the existing facilities and the majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site. As illustrated in the table above there are a number of alternative facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site. The 23% of respondents who said that they walk to the existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have the opportunity to make use of new facilities at the CVL outside of school hours.



The ability to book alternative facilities such as the new 3G pitch and sports hall at the CVL will serve to mitigate some of the impacts identified by respondents in relation to capacity. In addition, current bookings at Pontllanfraith will be supported to transfer to alternative facilities with capacity being maximised further with the management of the 3G and sports hall at Islwyn High school having been taken over by Sport and Leisure Services in December 2023 and is now fully available for weekend and evening bookings.

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

Information from the public consultation undertaken from Monday 20 November 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024 has been used to inform this view.

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

(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

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

New facilities at the Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) will provide a more accessible modern, fit for purpose offer.

Negative

There is a potential for a negative impact resulting from the additional travel distance to Islwyn High School. However, this will only impact on travel to competitive 3G pitch fixtures where this results in longer travel times to alternative facilities depending on point of origin and the extent to which they currently use current provision for competitive fixtures.

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



Sporting facilities at the adjacent CVL will be made available for community use outside of school hours from Spring 2025. The CVL development provides an option to replace the majority of facilities within the existing leisure centre with a modern, fit for purpose offer. The new Centre will include a 4-court sports hall, with associated changing facilities, and a 3G pitch (size 40 x 30 metres i.e. not full size).

The new 3G pitch will not support competitive fixtures. There is scope at Islwyn High School, 3 miles away and Blackwood Comprehensive School, 2 miles away, for weekend usage of the 3G pitch and Sports Hall.

In the consultation 75% responded that they travel by car to use the existing facilities and the majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site. As illustrated in the table in 2a(ii) above there are a number of Council managed alternative facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site. The 23% of respondents who said that they walk to the existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have the opportunity to make use of new facilities at the CVL outside of school hours.

The ability to book alternative facilities such as the new 3G pitch and sports hall at the CVL will serve to mitigate some of the impacts identified by respondents in relation to capacity. In addition, current bookings at Pontllanfraith will be supported to transfer to alternative facilities with capacity being maximised further with the management of the 3G and sports hall at Islwyn High school having been taken over by Sport and Leisure Services in December 2023 and is now fully available for weekend and evening bookings.

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

Information from the public consultation undertaken from Monday 20 November 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024 has been used to inform this view.



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?

As in 3a

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

As in 3a

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

As in 3a

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?

As in 3a

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

As in 3a

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

As in 3a

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?

As in 3a

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

As in 3a

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

As in 3a



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?

As in 3a

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

As in 3a

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

As in 3a

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?

As in 3a

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

As in 3a

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

As in 3a



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

Well-being Objective 1 - Enabling Our Children to Succeed in Education

This proposal is consistent with our commitment to work with our schools to support the provision of a sport and physical activity offer that is fit for future generations and to encourage a commitment to active lifestyle habits leading to our young people growing up to become more active adults.

Well-being Objective 2 - Enabling Our Residents to Thrive

Changing our leisure facility provision as proposed supports our investment in modern accessible facilities and will have a positive impact on our response to our aging demographic including creating age friendly communities.

Well-being Objective 3 - Enabling Our Communities to Thrive

In November 2018 the Council adopted a 10-year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough. It establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions in respect of the Council’s provision of leisure services over the next 10 years. The Strategy aims to ensure that the Council recognises and promotes the benefits of leading a physically active lifestyle for all residents within the current financial situation that the Council must now operate.

The overarching aim of the Strategy is to get ‘More People More Active More Often’ through delivery of sport and active recreation services on a holistic basis.

The Authority currently provides a range of opportunities to engage in physical activity which include a physical infrastructure of leisure centres, community centres and fixed play, supported by a parks, cycle paths and outdoor sports areas. It should be noted that the largest element of the authority’s expenditure is on leisure centres and rationalisation of facilities helps to achieve a sustainable future service allowing investment of remaining resources to enhance the quality and customer offer. Examples of this approach have witnessed significant investment in a new Fitness Suite offer at Newbridge Leisure Centre, circa £800k and a Fitness Suite refurbishment project at Heolddu Leisure Centre of circa £100k. Both leisure centres were identified within the Sport & Active Recreation as strategically located facilities



The Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) development provides an option to replace the majority of facilities within the existing leisure centre with a modern, fit for purpose offer that will also help the Council meet its ambition in relation to carbon reduction. Changing our leisure facility provision as proposed will support our ability to improve physical infrastructure and to create conditions that enable our communities to be healthier and more active.

The CVL will also offer a 3G facility, however it is acknowledged that the new offer will be smaller and only suitable for training purposes and not competitive matches. Most competitive matches are played on weekends, and as such can be relocated to Islwyn High School.

75% of respondents to the consultation said that they travel by car to use the existing facilities and the majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site, but some users of the existing site travel from further afield. There are a number of alternative facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site. The 23% of respondents who said that they walk to the existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have the opportunity to make use of new facilities at the CVL outside of school hours.

Well-being Objective 4 - Enabling Our Economy to Grow

Previous staff at the site have been relocated to other roles during the time. The delivery of community-based facilities from the Centre for Vulnerable Learners will require a dedicated and experienced staff resource and on that basis, utilising the existing staffing complement would support consistent and safe delivery of service provision. Staff will be included in the proposed consultation on the proposal.

Well-being Objective 5 - Enabling Our Environment to be Greener

The Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) development provides an option to replace the majority of facilities within the existing leisure centre with a modern, fit for purpose offer that will also help the Council meet its ambition in relation to carbon reduction through a more energy efficient building. Comments received through the consultation regarding additional travel distances will be mitigated by the availability of alternative facilities a short distance away.



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

Sports and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 [Sport & Active Recreation strategy 2019 – 29](#)

Corporate Plan

Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024

Caerphilly Decarbonisation Reduction Strategy [Caerphilly Decarbonisation Reduction Strategy](#)

Active Travel

Regeneration

Place-Shaping Plan

Caerphilly 2035



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

In November 2018 the Council adopted a 10-year Sport and Active Recreation Strategy. The Strategy sets out the future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough. It establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions in respect of the Council's provision of leisure services over the next 10 years. The Authority currently provides a range of opportunities to engage in physical activity which include a physical infrastructure of leisure centres, community centres and fixed play, further supported by a number of parks, cycle paths and outdoor sports areas. Rationalisation of facilities helps to achieve a sustainable future service allowing investment of remaining resources to enhance the quality and customer offer.

The current building is almost 50 years old with the inherent maintenance and running costs that come with a building of that age. The Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) development provides an option to replace the majority of facilities within the existing leisure centre with a modern, fit for purpose offer that will also help the Council meet its ambition in relation to carbon reduction.

The CVL will also offer a 3G facility, however it is acknowledged that the new offer will be smaller and only suitable for training purposes and not competitive matches. Most competitive matches are played on weekends, and as such can be relocated to either Islwyn High or Blackwood Comprehensive School. An inspection report on the current 3G pitch produced in 2022 confirmed that the pitch is nearing the end of its lifespan. Any further repairs undertaken would only provide a short-term benefit and replacement must be considered. Replacement costs are approximately £280,000, although this does not include a review of the current 30-year-old substructure that will require investigation to ensure that the integrity has not been compromised. The council is also committed to continued exploration of opportunity to enhance the portfolio of 3G pitches across the county borough to support the continued growth and ambition of local clubs and organisations.

Prevention

Please refer to Section 4

Integration

Please refer to Section 4

Collaboration



This proposal is consistent with our commitment to work with our schools to support the provision of a sport and physical activity offer that is fit for future generations and to encourage a commitment to active lifestyle habits leading to our young people growing up to become more active adults.

Involvement

We have considered existing intelligence and feedback to develop this proposal. We have involved stakeholders through the consultation process outlined in Sections 8 and 9 below and that will continue as the new leisure offer in the CVL is introduced.

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

It should be noted that the largest element of the authority's sport and leisure expenditure is on leisure centres and rationalisation of facilities helps to achieve a sustainable future service allowing investment of remaining resources to enhance the quality and customer offer. The current building is almost 50 years old and the new provision at CVL will provide a more energy efficient, modern and fit for purpose facility.

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)

It should be noted that the largest element of the authority's sport and leisure expenditure is on leisure centres and rationalisation of facilities helps to achieve a sustainable future service allowing investment of remaining resources to enhance the quality and customer offer. The current building is almost 50 years old and the new provision at CVL will provide a more energy efficient, modern and fit for purpose facility.

However, it is recognised that there is a potential negative impact associated with further travel distances (dependent on mode of transport). In the consultation 75% responded that they travel by car to use the existing facilities and the majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site. As illustrated in the table in 2a(ii) above there are a number of alternative facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site. The 23% of respondents who said that they walk to the existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have the opportunity to make use of new facilities at the CVL outside of school hours.

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



The Authority currently provides a range of opportunities to engage in physical activity which include a physical infrastructure of leisure centres, community centres and fixed play, supported by a parks, cycle paths and outdoor sports areas. It should be noted that the largest element of the authority's sport and leisure expenditure is on leisure centres and rationalisation of facilities helps to achieve a sustainable future service allowing investment of remaining resources to enhance the quality and customer offer.

The Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) development provides an option to replace the majority of facilities within the existing leisure centre with a modern, fit for purpose offer that will also the help the Council meet its ambition in relation to carbon reduction.

The CVL will also offer a 3G facility, however it is acknowledged that the new offer will be smaller and only suitable for training purposes and not competitive matches. Most competitive matches are played on weekends, and as such can be relocated to either Islwyn High or Blackwood Comprehensive School.

The ability to book alternative facilities such as the new 3G pitch and sports hall at the CVL will serve to mitigate some of the impacts identified by respondents in relation to capacity. In addition, current bookings at Pontllanfraith will be supported to transfer to alternative facilities with capacity being maximised further with the management of the 3G and sports hall at Islwyn High School having been taken over by Sport and Leisure Services in December 2023 and is now fully available for weekend and evening bookings. As illustrated in the table above there are a number of alternative CCBC managed facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site.

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)

Please refer to Section 3 (Socio-economic Duty)

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

Using alternative provision in the area will encourage communities to engage with each other.

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

The proposal will support and promote involvement in sports and recreation activities through greater promotion of available sport and leisure opportunities including active travel

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

It should be noted that the largest element of the authority's sport and leisure expenditure is on leisure centres and rationalisation of facilities helps to achieve a sustainable future service allowing investment of remaining resources to enhance the quality and customer offer. The current building is almost 50 years old and has significant outstanding maintenance liabilities. The new provision at CVL will provide a more energy efficient, modern and fit for purpose facility. This is a positive contribution to global well-being and decarbonisation. Comments received through the consultation regarding additional travel distances will be mitigated by the availability of alternative facilities a short distance away.

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?

Neutral. Leisure services can be accessed through the medium of Welsh. Staff with the required skills to complete service requests in the customer's language preference will be available.

(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; Compliments and Complaints data

Census data 2021

Smart card user data – language preference

Welsh Language Training offered to staff on a regular basis to learn and upskill

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?

Neutral. Requests for services through the medium of Welsh will be provided and in doing so will meet the language preference and the rights of the individual to receive services through the medium of Welsh.

(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

Meeting the requirement of the Council's Compliance Notice.



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?

Neutral.

Requests for service through the medium of Welsh will be provided thereby promoting the opportunity to use the Welsh Language. All promotional material (paper or electronic) promoting sport and leisure activities is available in Welsh and English, including social media accounts. All information and signage within sport and leisure facilities are bilingual

(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*

See responses above.

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?

Neutral.

Requests for service through the medium of Welsh will be provided thereby promoting the opportunity to use the Welsh Language.

Reception areas display the Cymrage Gwaith (Work Welsh) poster and all staff with Welsh language skills wear the lanyards showing so.

Automated telephone and answer machine messages are bilingual, Welsh first.

(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*

See responses above.

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?



Neutral.

Requests for service through the medium of Welsh will be provided thereby treating the Welsh language 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

See responses above.

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.

Staff working at the CVL will be encouraged and supported to develop the required Welsh language skills so that if a customer requests a service in Welsh, that request can be fulfilled in the language of preference.

The provision of bilingual leisure services is promoted as a matter of course at all sites and in line with the Standards outlined in the Council's Compliance Notice. Visitors will therefore be aware that they can use the Welsh language when they visit.

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)*

The proposal and this Integrated Impact Assessment have been informed by data and intelligence already held including that from previous consultations relating to the Leisure Centre and Sports and Active Recreation Strategy, Smart Card user data, historical and current usage data for this and other leisure services as well as financial information.

Key relevant findings

- The indoor leisure facilities at Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre closed as result of the UK National lockdown in March 2020 and has not re-opened for leisure use since.
- The existing leisure centre has significant outstanding maintenance liabilities and is not energy efficient.
- The annual budget for running Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch is £179,360 per year.
- The 3G football pitch is coming to the end of its lifespan and requires regular and ongoing repairs to ensure it remains safe for community use and will require replacement in the short-term. The cost to replace the facility is estimated at approximately £280,000.

How has the data/evidence informed this proposal?

Existing data has enabled us to identify a preferred option for the current proposal.

The Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) development provides an option to replace the majority of facilities within the existing leisure centre with a modern, fit for purpose offer. The CVL will also offer a smaller 3G facility suitable for training purposes with alternative provision for matches available nearby. As such, the potential for a negative impact is minimised.

In the consultation 75% responded that they travel by car to use the existing facilities and the majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site. As illustrated in the table above there are a number of alternative facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site. The 23% of respondents who said that they walk to the existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have the opportunity to make use of new facilities at the CVL outside of school hours.



This proposal will also help the Council meet its ambition in relation to carbon reduction. [Caerphilly Decarbonisation Reduction Strategy](#)

It will also help meet the aspirations of providing modern, fit for purpose leisure facilities as set out in the [Sport & Active Recreation strategy 2019 – 29](#).

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.*

In order to inform this Integrated Impact Assessment further a consultation was undertaken as detailed in Section 9 below. It ran from Monday 20 November 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024 and was widely promoted including targeted stakeholder groups (including current users of the 3G provision/local sports clubs). Residents were encouraged to give their views in a variety of ways including online and hard copy surveys and online/face to face drop-in sessions. 307 completed surveys were received by the closing date and 16 individual members of the public in total proactively attended the online/face to face drop in sessions to discuss the proposal.



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.

In November 2023, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Cabinet agreed to consult on a proposal that would see Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre remain permanently closed, with sporting facilities at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) being made available for community use outside of school hours from Spring 2025. The proposal would also see use of the 3G pitch on the Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre site cease once the 3G pitch at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners is open for community use.

The consultation was designed to gain an understanding of the impact of the proposal on key stakeholders including previous and current users of Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre and 3G pitch. Where individuals identified that the proposal will have a negative impact on themselves or their household, the consultation will help the council understand the reasons for this and to identify mitigation that could be put in place to reduce that impact.

The consultation period ran from **Monday 20 November 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024** and was promoted via:

- A dedicated web page accessible directly, via the Council's website or a QR code included on posters: <https://conversation.caerphilly.gov.uk/pontllanfraith-leisure-centre> including links to all supporting reports and frequently asked questions.
- Media releases: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/news/news-bulletin/november-2023/pontllanfraith-leisure-centre-update?lang=en-GB> (1st November)
<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/news/news-bulletin/november-2023/have-your-say-on-future-of-pontllanfraith-leisure?lang=en-GB> (15th November)
- Digital media posts throughout the duration of the consultation period including Facebook (16th November; 5th December 2023) and NewsOnline (8th November; 23rd December 2023).
- Posters displayed in public facing Council venues in the Pontllanfraith/Blackwood area including Blackwood Library and Blackwood Miner's Institute Poster
- Targeted e-mails to stakeholder groups including current users of the existing 3G provision/local sports clubs



Residents were encouraged to give their views in a variety of ways including online and hard copy surveys and online/face to face drop-in sessions. The survey focussed on identifying the potential impact of this proposal on stakeholders as outlined above. 307 completed surveys were received by the closing date and 16 individual members of the public in total proactively attended the online/face to face drop in sessions to discuss the proposal.

Who was consulted?

A full stakeholder analysis was completed to include

- Users of the service – individuals and club representatives
- Residents within an agreed geographical location of Pontllanfraith – making particular effort to encourage those who are seldom heard.
- Any potentially impacted employees and trade union representatives
- Our democratically elected representatives – particularly those who represent Pontllanfraith and immediately surrounding areas
- Blackwood Town and Community Council
- Member of the Senedd and Member of Parliament for Islwyn constituency
- Partner organisations where relevant – for example, Sport Wales
- Community groups where identified
- Relevant Welsh Commissioners (for example, Childrens, Welsh Language, Older Persons, Future Generation

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

The consultation period took place at the formative stage and ran from Monday 20 November 2023 to Wednesday 3 January 2024

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

Yes. Development of a Frequently Asked Questions to clearly outline the current position and the alternative provision available – both at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners site and the alternative 3G pitch provision was be key in helping stakeholder groups give their views on the proposal.

Staff were on hand to assist with questions and any additional information required.

Information was be made available in the Welsh Language a variety of formats.

What were the key findings?

A full report on the findings of the consultation has been produced.

By far, the largest group of people to respond to the survey were previous users of the leisure centre and local residents. 79% said they were previous users of either the leisure centre or 3G pitch. The



largest number of users visited the site “weekly” during this time and the main mode of transport to the site was car (75% used their car and 23% walked).

35% of previous users have used another CCBC leisure centre or sports facility while the centre in Pontllanfraith has remained closed. 21% have used another privately run leisure facility. 31% have not accessed sport and leisure facilities during this time - distance to alternative facilities (not being able to walk to alternative sites) was the main reason given. Other facilities not suitable to needs/preference to use Pontllanfraith and capacity at other facilities were also reasons. 130 respondents to the survey are current users of the 3G pitch at Pontllanfraith. 67% visit the site weekly, 20% visiting a few times a week. The main mode of transport to the site was the car. 25 people said that they currently walk to the site. 98 use a car.

74% of respondents to the survey felt the proposal would have a negative impact, 26% felt that the impact would be neutral or positive. Reasons given for neutral or positive impact were that other facilities within CCBC would allow residents from any area a choice, are of a better quality/more modern (including CVL); Exercise outdoors so not reliant on the facility; the centre has been closed for some time, welcome a new facility

The main reasons given for feeling that the closure will have a negative impact were:

- Distance to alternative provision (beyond the CVL), increase travel distance, time and costs/ other sites are not on public transport routes.
- Too few sport and recreation facilities generally across the borough to meet current demand and growing population. fewer facilities will have a negative impact on health and well-being
- Lack of availability of facilities during the day
- Shortage of 3Gs at weekends and in the winter
- Size of the new 3G pitch for competitive matches and capacity at alternative sites
- Questions over suitability of CVL sports hall for badminton and other sports, noted the lack of gym.

The majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site but some users of the existing site travel from further afield and a number of other 3G sports pitches also fall within 10 minute drive from the current site.

A number of older respondents to the survey, some respondents with children, as well as those with disabilities, felt that they would be more negatively affected due to the increased distance and associated cost if they have to travel further to alternative facilities. Comments were also raised that women’s sports may be impacted more if there is a limited capacity to book facilities, and that the CVL site needs to be accessible for those with disabilities.

In terms of mitigation of the impacts identified, some respondents commented that the site should simply be kept open. Suggested mitigation included:

- Consider the difficulties and cost associated with travel to other sites



- Ensure alternative provision locally: classes and opportunities to use the hall at the new CVL site
- Temporarily open the existing site until the alternative is available
- Replace the current 3G pitch (with like for like) in the local area
- To meet demand:
 - ensure that 3G pitches across the borough are made available at weekends and during school holidays.
 - build more 3G pitches on current grass pitches that currently don't get enough use due to poor weather.
 - change the allocations system to ensure grass roots teams can access pitches
 - ensure that those using the current pitch are allocated other provision

Some respondents to the consultation commented they felt there would be a negative impact due to the increased distance and associated cost if they have to travel further to alternative facilities. The 23% of respondents who said that they walk to the existing Pontllanfraith Leisure Centre will have the opportunity to make use of new facilities at the CVL outside of school hours. 75% responded that they travel by car to use the existing facilities and the majority of respondents live within a 5 or 10 minute drive from the current site, but some users of the existing site travel from further afield. As illustrated in 5.33 there are a number of alternative facilities within 10 minutes' drive of the existing site.

How have the consultation findings been taken into account?

Feedback from the consultation exercise has been used to develop further this Integrated Impact Assessment. The outcome of the consultation process will be considered by a meeting of Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee and a subsequent meeting of Cabinet.



10. Monitoring and Review

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

Feedback on the potential impact was sought through the consultation process.
Complaints, compliments, and customer feedback. Usage data of alternative facilities.

What are the practical arrangements for monitoring?

As above.

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

Relevant information will inform development of relevant future proposals.

When is the proposal due to be reviewed?

On 12th December 2023, the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report which sought its views as part of the consultation exercise. During the meeting the Scrutiny Committee decided not to provide its views and requested a future report on the outcome of the consultation once the consultation period had expired. The outcome of the consultation process will be considered by a meeting of Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee and a subsequent meeting of Cabinet.

Who is responsible for ensuring this happens?

Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services.

11. Recommendation and Reasoning (delete as applicable)

- Implement proposal taking account of the mitigating actions outlined

Have you contacted relevant officers for advice and guidance? (delete as applicable)

- 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).

Feedback from the consultation exercise has been used to further develop the Integrated Impact Assessment undertaken. Older people and those with children as well as those with disabilities felt that they would be more negatively affected due to the increased distance and associated cost if they have to travel further to alternative facilities. 75% of respondents drive to the existing leisure centre and there are a range of CCBC managed alternatives within 10 minutes' drive of the site. The provision of a new sports hall and 3G pitch at the adjacent Centre for Vulnerable Learners (CVL) offers further mitigation.

There was also concern that women's sports may be impacted more if there is a limited capacity to book facilities. As detailed in this report, there will be significant alternative provision with the completion of the CVL and availability of other facilities nearby. It was also stated that the CVL site needs to be accessible for those with disabilities and the new facility is being designed and built in accordance with modern accessibility standards. The existing Leisure Centre is not.

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:- Rob Hartshorn

Brief description of the amendments/update:- Final Draft

Revision Date:- 19/10/2023

➤ Version 2

Author:- Rob Hartshorn

Brief description of the amendments/update:- Amended expected opening date of CVL to Spring 2025

Revision Date:- 31/10/23

➤ Version 3

Author:- Rob Hartshorn

Brief description of the amendments/update:- Amended and updated as a result of the findings of the consultation exercise.

Revision Date:- 19/01/24



Integrated Impact Assessment Author

Name:- Rob Hartshorn

Job Title:- Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

Date:- 19/01/2024

Head of Service Approval

Name:- Rob Hartshorn

Job Title:- Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

Date:- 19/01/2024