

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS Consultation Document

Consultation on the proposal to transform special education in the Vale by:

- Increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Deri to accommodate an additional 150 pupils; and
- Constructing a new school building on the preferred site located in Cosmeston, Penarth for September 2023 which would operate as an additional site under the management of Ysgol Y Deri.



This document can be made available in Braille.

Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed.

Please contact us on 01446 709828 to arrange this.

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Introduction

Background

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that all pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes. In order to achieve this ambition, it is essential that we ensure schools remain sustainable, reflect the needs of our local communities, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.

On 9 July 2020, the Council's Managing Director approved a strategy to transform special education in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet projected future demand and best meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners. The strategy identified three key areas:

1. Establish a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (CL&W), which will replace Y Daith, the Council's pupil referral unit (PRU);
2. Establish specialist resource bases (SRB) in mainstream schools to ensure learners have access mainstream education; and
3. Increase capacity of Ysgol Y Deri (YYD), the Council's special school, to meet projected demand for special education.

On 2 November 2020, the Council's Cabinet authorised the Director of Learning & Skills to undertake a **consultation from Friday 6 November 2020 to Sunday 20 December 2020** on a proposal to expand Ysgol Y Deri (YYD).

The proposal

This document explains the **Council's proposal to transform specialist education by;**

- **Increasing the capacity of YYD to accommodate an additional 150 pupils; and**
- **Constructing a new building on the preferred site located in Cosmeston, Penarth for September 2023, which would operate as an additional site under the management of YYD.**

This proposal is considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes:

- increasing the capacity of a special school by at least 10% or 20 places; and
- the transfer of any school to a new site or sites.

Responding to the proposal

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to ensuring that consultations are meaningful, relevant and appropriate for the communities that are involved, and the Council has a duty of care to ensure that proposals are clear, transparent, and reflective of those affected. This is a vision that can only be realised by working in partnership with schools, governors, parents and the wider communities we all serve.

This consultation gives you the opportunity to ask questions and make comments that will be considered when the Council's Cabinet decides how to proceed.

Further information regarding planned stakeholder engagement sessions and how you can respond to the consultation is detailed in the "Involving stakeholders and responding to the

consultation” section from page 27. This section links to the online survey and contains a response form if you would like to submit a response via post.

Under the School Organisation Code (2018), it is vital that any feedback be received by Sunday 20 December 2020 in order to be considered as part of this consultation. Any items received after that date cannot be considered.

Explanation of terms used in this document

‘AN’ (Admission Number) - All maintained schools must admit pupils up to at least their published admission number. The admission number is the number of pupil places available in each year group.

‘ALN’ (Additional Learning Needs) - A pupil has additional learning needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision.

‘Capacity’ – The capacity of a school is the total number of statutory aged pupil places available, it excludes nursery places.

‘Catchment Area’ - The geographic area from which students are eligible to attend a local school. Catchment children will always take priority over applications from outside the catchment area however there is no guarantee that any child will be admitted to their chosen school.

‘Community’ - A type of state-funded school in which the local education authority employs the school's staff, is responsible for the school's admissions and owns the school's estate.

‘Denominational’ - Schools with a designated religious character e.g. Church in Wales.

‘EA’ (Equality Act) - The Act covers all aspects of school life to do with how a school treats pupils and prospective pupils, parents and carers, employees, and members of the community. Everything a school does must be fair, non-discriminatory and not put individuals or groups of people at a disadvantage. In particular, a school must not discriminate, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil in relation to; admissions, the way it provides education for pupils, how it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service, and excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

‘EIA’ (An Equality Impact Assessment) - EIA is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not discriminate against any protected groups.

‘EM’ (English Medium) – A school where teaching and learning is primarily conducted through the medium of English.

‘LA’ (Local Authority) - The Local Authority referred to in this document means the Vale of Glamorgan Council unless otherwise stated.

‘MUGA’ (Multi-Use Games Area) – A year-round sports area, usually containing a steel anti vandal outdoor fenced area with built in goal post units for various types of sports games, such as football, basketball or tennis. The outer fencing makes it easier to keep the ball in play.

‘NOR’ (Number on Roll) - The number of pupils attending a school. Nursery places are excluded.

'PLASC' (Pupil Level Annual School Census) - In January of every year, verified information is collected by schools for submission to the Welsh Government. This includes the number of pupils enrolled in each school, their age groups, home addresses, ethnicity and data on Welsh language, free school meals eligibility, special education needs and first language.

'SA' (School Action) - When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has ALN they provide interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual curriculum.

'SA+' (School Action +) - When a class or subject teacher and the ALN Co-ordinator are provided with advice or support from outside specialists, so that alternative interventions additional or different to those provided for the pupil through SA can be put in place.

'Section 106' - The Section 106 contribution is sought from anyone who has an interest in the building of a housing development, towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, educational provision, open space / play equipment, transport or healthcare for those occupying the new homes.

'SRB' (Specialist Resource Base) - A facility within the school for children with special educational needs.

'Statemented' - A child has a Statement of Educational Need (SEN), otherwise known as ALN, if they have learning difficulties which require special educational provision to be made. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides.

'WM' (Welsh Medium) - A school where teaching and learning is primarily conducted through the medium of Welsh.

The Proposal

The proposal

Summary

The proposal is to meet future demand for special education in the Vale of Glamorgan by

- **Increasing the capacity of YYD to accommodate an additional 150 pupils; and**
- **Constructing a new building on the preferred site located in Cosmeston, Penarth for September 2023, which would operate as an additional site under the management of YYD.**

This proposal is considered under section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code refers to Regulated Alterations of a school, which includes:

- increasing the capacity of a special school by at least 10% or 20 places; and
- the transfer of any school to a new site or sites.

What would this mean?

The proposal would mean specialist educational provision at YYD would be increased to accommodate an additional 150 pupils. In order to accommodate this increased capacity, a new school building would be constructed on a new site, which would operate under the management of YYD. The Council has identified a preferred site which is located next to the proposed 'Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock' development which has been allocated as part of the Council's adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-26. This area provides sufficient space to construct the proposed new school building and is approximately 3 miles from the existing YYD site. The new school building would primarily accommodate primary-aged pupils. However, the school would operate a need-based approach to determine the split of pupils across the two sites. This would reduce the need to duplicate all facilities currently available at YYD.

A description of the educational facilities the building and site would have as standard and some examples from previous schools built under the 21st Century Schools programme are set out in more detail in the "Land and Buildings" section (from page 14). However, it should be noted that feedback on the construction of a new building is not directly considered as part of this education proposal under the School Organisation Code (2018). **The building and related transport infrastructure would be subject to a planning application.**

More information on the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme can be found on the Council's website: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/21st-Century-Schools

Why are we proposing the changes?

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. The Local Authority is also responsible for learners with additional learning needs (ALN), ensuring they can access suitable education and/or training, including compulsory education and specialist post-16 education or training where necessary. The main driver for this proposal is to meet increased demand for specialist educational provision within the Vale to best meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners.

The numbers of children and young people requiring a placement at YYD has continued to increase and at a faster pace than previously predicted. As a result, £11m has been allocated as

part of the Council 21st Century Schools Programme to increase the capacity of the school.

YYD was originally constructed to accommodate 205 pupils but currently has 262 pupils on roll. The number of pupils leaving the school in the short to medium term is much lower than those entering which is causing the significant pressure on capacity.

In 2018-19 there were 18 school leavers and 39 entrants, in 2019-20 there were again 39 entrants against 25 leavers. At the end of the 2019-20 academic year there were only 10 leavers and a significant increase in entrants to 48. In order to accommodate the September 2020 intake, Ty Deri Residential Respite facility has been temporarily closed and communal areas have been converted into additional classroom space. This has enabled the Council to provide places for those requiring placements this year, however all available space has now been utilised and the school will be unable to expand any further.

In 2021-22 the number of leavers will be 18, it is impossible to provide a precise number of pupils that will require places in September 2021 as this will depend on a number of factors, however, current projections would indicate that a minimum of 44 pupils will require a place at the school. As a consequence, it is clear that a minimum of an additional 26 places will be required to create the capacity for the September 2021 intake. In 2022-23 there will be 26 leavers and current projections would indicate that the number of pupils requiring a placement will again be in the mid-forties. This would mean that an additional 18 places will be required in September 2022. In total, approximately 44 additional places will be needed at YYD prior to the completion of the new building. However, please note that this is an anticipated minimum, and does not account for families moving into the Vale with children with complex needs, for example.

This trend is consistent with other Local Authorities and is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

The Council is proposing a holistic approach in meeting future demand through the provision of additional capacity at YYD, as well as additional specialist resource bases in mainstream schools throughout the Vale to support learners who are better served accessing mainstream education with increased support. This approach would ensure the Council is able to meet demand while providing a range of provision to best meet the individual needs of our learners.

Interim Measures

This proposal sees the new school building being completed for September 2023. As outlined above, Ysgol Y Deri is already above its capacity and it is anticipated that there will be an additional 88 pupils who require placements at Ysgol Y Deri across the September 2021 and September 2022 intakes. Only 44 pupils are due to leave the school during this period, resulting in a net increase of 44 pupils. The school does not currently have additional capacity to accommodate those pupils and there are no more opportunities to increase the school's capacity through internal reconfiguration.

The Council has considered a range of options to meet this projected demand prior to establishing long-term provision. The preferred option is to install temporary modular accommodation on the existing Ysgol Y Deri site to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the 44 pupils. It is estimated that this would cost approximately £700k. A capital bid has been submitted to request that this additional funding is included within the 2021/22 capital programme.

Implications of the proposal

School information

The following section discusses potential implications of the proposal, including educational outcomes, finance, human resources and transport.

The Council has collated information about the school to help inform these potential implications. The School Information document includes the most recent Estyn inspection, National Categorisation of school report, and internal assessments of the buildings condition and suitability of YYD.

The School Information document can be viewed via the following link:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ysgolyderiexpansion

Educational outcomes

Standards and progress

As noted in the most recent National Categorisation Report for YYD, 'standards in the school are very good and most pupils make good or excellent progress relative of their low starting points and additional learning needs'. This proposal would ensure YYD is able to continue providing high quality education whilst catering for a greater pupil population.

One of the key benefits associated with the establishment of Penarth Learning Community was the opportunity to share skills knowledge and best practice between St Cyres Comprehensive School and YYD. This proposal would not negatively impact on this as the proposed additional site would primarily focus on primary-aged learners.

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

As outlined above, YYD was originally designed to accommodate 205 pupils and currently has 262 pupils on roll. In order to accommodate this increased capacity additional areas have been converted to provide additional classroom space, such as Ty Deri. This has put increased pressure on the shared facilities available at YYD. The new school building would provide additional facilities to enhance pupil wellbeing, including break out areas and therapy rooms.

The proposed site for the new school building is in close proximity to Cosmeston Country Park and the Medieval Village. The park would provide a great resource for staff and pupils to enhance wellbeing and attitudes to learning. The proposed site is also close to the sea.

Teaching and learning experiences

The new school building would provide 21st century learning environments, including improved ICT infrastructure, collaborative breakout areas, and effective circulation. This would enable a teaching and learning environment that best meets the needs of learners and is consistent with the modern learning environment provided at Penarth Learning Community.

Outdoor learning is an important consideration within the 21st Century Schools design and provision within the new site would include nature areas and sporting facilities. Schools delivered

within Band A of the 21st Century Schools have created nature areas with ponds, bug hotels and planting as part of their outdoor learning spaces.

The proposed new building and site would allow for further development of a curriculum filled with rich experiences that challenges children, raises attainment and supports pupils' wellbeing.

The Council's 21st Century Schools Team would be responsible for managing the build process. A contractor would be appointed using the SEWSCAP framework. SEWSCAP is a construction framework used by 16 local authorities and provides pre-qualified and suitably experienced Contractors to deliver the 21st Century Schools Programme, and other public buildings, relating to both new build and refurbishment projects over £1.5 million. Contractors on the SEWSCAP framework all have extensive experience delivering school buildings on live sites, meaning they understand and make arrangements for work schedules to fit around examinations and other important events in the school calendar. Demonstrating clear plans for logistics management is one of the areas considered in the tendering process. There would also be regular meetings between the Council, contractor and school to ensure the design and construction progress runs smoothly and any issues can be resolved efficiently.

There are potential educational benefits for pupils during the construction phase as appointed contractors would hold site visits and workshops with pupils. For example, on a previous project an English lesson was held on site and pupils wrote poems about their experiences. Workshops suitable for relevant key stages would be held with pupils. Additionally, the project would participate in the construction ambassadors programme, which enables pupils to gain confidence and skills by learning more about construction and updating their peers on site progress.

For more examples, please visit our community benefits webpage:

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/schools_in_the_vale/21st-Century-Schools/21st-Century-Schools-Community-Benefits.aspx

Care, support and guidance

The proposal would result in increased facilities to support wellbeing, including break out spaces for pastoral care and purpose-built areas for additional learning needs support and interventions.

Security arrangements within the building would also be a key consideration and South Wales Police would be consulted as part of the design process and the 'Designing Out Crime' officer would provide feedback on the proposed design. A lockdown strategy would also be developed to limit visitor access throughout the school building. The new building would provide an intercom and security lobby to enhance security arrangements.

The most recent Estyn inspection also noted that 'The school has appropriate arrangements for identifying and monitoring pupils' additional needs. These include specialist intervention programmes to develop pupils' self-esteem and improve pupils' communication and behaviour.' The proposal would enable a greater number of pupils to benefit from this targeted support.

YYD also helps students to prepare for their career paths, as Estyn noted, 'The school provides helpful guidance and support to older pupils and their parents about careers, further education options and other services.' Again, the proposal would enable a greater number of pupils to benefit from this guidance and support.

The school has a highly positive and inclusive ethos, which helps pupils to develop self-esteem and grow in confidence. Pupils have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of school life regardless of the complexity of their varying needs, abilities and backgrounds. Pupils are treated

with dignity and respect.

Leadership and management

In the most recent Estyn inspection, YYD's leadership was assessed to be 'Excellent'. The report noted that the headteacher and senior leadership worked skilfully and imaginatively to bring three different schools together through a process of amalgamation. The Council would work closely with the leadership of YYD to develop a transition plan prior of the opening of the new school building.

It is anticipated that there would always be a member of the senior leadership team available on the new school site.

Welsh language provision

The Council's School Investment Programme reflects the Council's commitments in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), which aims to ensure that demand for Welsh medium education can be met in the long-term. In line with Welsh Government's National Cymraeg 2050 strategy and contributing to its ambitious target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Whilst teaching and learning is predominately delivered through the medium of English at YYD, Welsh medium provision would be made available when required. This would be delivered by bilingual Learning Support Assistants employed by YYD as is currently the case.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision

On 9 July 2020, the Council's Managing Director approved a strategy to transform special education in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet projected future demand and best meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners. The strategy identified three key areas:

1. Establish a new Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (CL&W), which will replace Y Daith, the Council's pupil referral unit (PRU);
2. Establish specialist resource bases (SRB) in mainstream schools to ensure learners have access to mainstream education; and
3. Increase capacity of Ysgol Y Deri (YYD), the Council's special school, to meet projected demand for special education.

Increasing the capacity of YYD is a key component of the Council's strategy in order to meet projected demand for special education. The number of children and young people requiring a placement at YYD has continued to increase and at a faster pace than previously predicted. This proposal would provide an additional 150 places which would ensure YYD is able to meet future demand.

The Council is proposing a holistic approach to meet future demand through the provision of additional capacity at YYD, as well as additional specialist resource bases in mainstream schools throughout the Vale to support learners who are able to access mainstream education with increased support. This approach would ensure the Council is able to manage demand to best meet the needs of individual learners.

Impacts upon other schools

YYD is the Council's only special school and serves the entire Vale of Glamorgan. As YYD is the Council's only special school, there are no direct implications for other primary and secondary schools across the Vale of Glamorgan.

YYD works closely with all primary and secondary schools across the Vale of Glamorgan. There are also a number of mainstream schools with specialist resource bases which provide additional support to learners to ensure they can access mainstream education.

Normal admissions arrangements do not apply and so YYD will not compete with local schools (please see "Admissions" section below for further details).

Admissions

Previous numbers on roll

School	Type	Language	Capacity	2017	2018	2019	2020
YYD	Special	EM	205	245	240	259	277

Projected numbers on roll

School	Type	Language	Capacity	2020	2021	2022	2023
YYD	Special	EM	205	277	303	321	351

It is very difficult to project demand for special education as it is dependent on a number of factors and historical trends and birth rates are not a reliable indicator as variations in individual need and complexity of provision required can develop over time. The above figures are based on the number of expected leavers against the estimated number of pupils who will require a place. This represents the minimum anticipated pupil numbers and demand could be higher.

Admissions arrangements

As YYD is a special school, all admissions to YYD would be via the Local Authority Panel in consultation with YYD and the Council's Engagement Service. This is based on an assessment of the needs of individual pupils.

Land and Buildings

YYD currently forms part of Penarth Learning Community (PLC) alongside St Cyres Comprehensive School. The establishment of PLC was the result of a £50m investment to construct state of the art education facilities.

It is not possible to increase the capacity of YYD on the existing site any further due to limited

external space available, and the likely impact this would have on the local infrastructure around the site. The PLC site already accommodates around 1,400 learners.

The preferred approach is to construct a new school building on a separate site which would form part of YYD. The additional school building would primarily accommodate primary aged pupils. However, the school would operate a needs-based approach to determine the split of pupils across the two sites. This would reduce the need to duplicate all facilities currently available at YYD.

The Council considered a range of sites across the Vale of Glamorgan to accommodate the new school building. It was essential that the additional site was in close proximity to the existing YYD in order to limit disruption to staff operating across both sites.

The Council has identified a preferred site which is located next to the proposed 'Land at Upper Cosmeston Farm, Lavernock' development which has been allocated as part of the Council's adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-26. This area provides sufficient space to construct the proposed new school building and is approximately 3 miles from the existing YYD site.

The preferred site is currently owned by Welsh Government and the Council has an agreement in principle to purchase the land, subject to planning permission being obtained. Alongside the consultation, the Council is looking to obtain outline planning permission in order to progress with the site purchase, which would be subject to Cabinet approval.

The new YYD school building would include suitably sized classrooms, a main hall for sport and dining, offices for senior staff and administration, a staffroom, therapy rooms and break out areas for pupil interventions. The school would be fenced to safeguard pupils with intercom access for visitors. Within the grounds, there would be external play areas, a multi-use games area (MUGA) and habitat areas to enhance pupil wellbeing.

The design team would work closely with the school to ensure nature-based skills are developed through tailored outdoor provision. If the proposal were to go ahead, suitable tree species and vegetation to enhance the site would be identified through extensive ecology surveys. Schools delivered within Band A of the 21st Century Schools have also previously created nature areas with ponds, bug hotels, and planting as part of their outdoor learning spaces.

All options within the site would be considered and subject to full planning application. The planning approval would also be subject to sustainable drainage requirements which involves extensive designs for surface water management; i.e. water flow rates must meet specific requirements and be achieved through natural solutions like swales and raingardens.

The proposed new school building would provide:

- A high-quality IT rich learning environment for pupils meeting the educational curriculum needs of the 21st Century
- Unobstructed access between all internal areas for children and staff
- Enhanced safeguarding and site security for pupils and staff
- Improved outdoor sports facilities for both pupil and community use
- Specialist provision to provide a curriculum that best meets the needs of learners
- Full access for the whole community with full disabled access to internal and external areas.

Some example images of school buildings constructed during Band A of the 21st Century Schools programme are available below and more can be found on our main webpage:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/21st-Century-Schools



Double-height hall at Ysgol Dewi Sant



Dining space at St Cyres



Ysgol Y Deri secure reception area



Outside view of Ysgol Y Ddraig

Figure 1 – Previous schools built by the Vale’s 21st Century Schools programme

Finance

Capital Funding

The expansion of YYD has been included as part of Band B of the Council’s 21st Century Schools Programme. £11m has been allocated to this scheme which is part funded by Welsh Government. As a special school, 75% of the funding would be provided by Welsh Government (£8.25m) and 25% would be funded by the Council. The Council’s contribution of £2.75m is included within the capital programme and is funded via Section 106 contributions received from housing developments in the Vale.

A capital bid has been submitted to include £700k within the 2021/22 capital programme to implement a temporary modular building on the existing YYD site to meet anticipated demand prior to the opening of the new school building.

Revenue Funding

A cost pressure has been submitted as part of the revenue budget process for the 2021/22 financial year as a revenue increase will be required to accommodate the additional pupils at

Ysgol Y Deri. The revenue cost pressure submitted for 2021/22 is £729,000, with a further £521,000 requested in the 2022/23 financial year to meet the costs of the estimated growth in pupil numbers. This would be to accommodate a net increase of 26 pupils in 2021/22 and a further net increase of 18 pupils in 2022/23.

Human Resources

The governing body of YYD would be responsible for developing a staffing structure to support the split site provision.

The proposal would lead to an increase in employment opportunities at the school as additional staff would need to be recruited as the number of pupils on roll increases. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trade unions where necessary.

Transport and learner travel arrangements

The Council has a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who reside beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school. In accordance with 'The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008'.

ALN pupils are eligible for free transport if they are assessed as having severe and/or complex difficulties and are attending a special school or specialist resource base as directed by the Complex Needs Team or a class in a mainstream school which is 2 miles or further (primary aged pupils) and 3 miles or further (secondary aged pupils) from the parental home address as measured by the shortest available walking route.

School transport is currently provided to 229 pupils at YYD. In total, there are 45 vehicles serving the existing site which can be broken down as follows:

- 5 vehicles provide transport for more than 10 pupils;
- 5 vehicles provide transport for between 6 and 10 pupils; and
- 35 vehicles provide transport for 5 pupils or less.

Traffic and transport implications would be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that would be required in order to achieve planning consent for the building works should this proposal be implemented. A full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process for the new school building. This would assess the impact on the local infrastructure and include a swept path analysis to ensure compliance with current legislation on accessibility for all emergency services. The transport assessment would be used as part of the design process to mitigate against any negative impacts identified.

The transport assessment would also determine the requirement for on site drop-off and pick-up facilities to accommodate school transport arrangements. It would also be used to inform the required number of car parking spaces to accommodate staff.

If the proposal were to progress, active travel would be an important consideration within the site design to support the realisation of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. As part of the soft landings provision, the 21st Century Schools team and contractors would work with the school to develop an updated travel plan which would support measures to increase active travel to school.

Other considerations

Potential educational benefits of this proposal compared to the status quo

- Ensures the Council is able to meet projected demand for special education in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Provides innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and meets the needs of our most vulnerable learners.
- Increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school.
- It is recognised that YYD is the organisation with the experience and skills to implement the ALN strategy most effectively within and across the LA. As such, an expansion of YYD will mean that some of our most vulnerable learners receive the most effective support and nurture provision as key components of their education.
- Ensures the Council is not reliant on costly out of county placements.

Potential educational disadvantages of this proposal compared to the status quo

- Management of staff and resources may be disrupted during the implementation of the proposal.

Potential risks of this proposal and measures to mitigate identified risks

Table 3 – Potential risks and mitigation measures

Risk	Mitigation
The numbers of ALN pupils are increasing year on year. There is a risk that the provision is at capacity very early on in its lifespan and we will be looking for ways to expand in the short term.	<p>The internal layout of the new building for YYD will be flexible and adaptable to meet varying needs of pupils.</p> <p>Additional provision in the interim will be provided by utilising capacity at the Ty Deri building run by YYD. This facility has been changed from a respite centre into additional classrooms to help meet demand in the short-term.</p> <p>Future expansion will be factored into the site masterplan should this be required in the future.</p>
Traffic management around the site could be difficult to manage (safety and pollution concerns).	A full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process for the new school building. This would assess the impact on the local infrastructure and include a swept path analysis to ensure compliance with current legislation on accessibility for all emergency services. This would also include assessment of safe walking routes. The transport assessment would be used as part of the design process to mitigate against any negative impacts identified.

	There is scope through the design and build process to improve connecting pathways to enhance the safety and enjoyment of the routes. Designs would be subject to the formal planning process which includes a statutory consultation with local residents.
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Equality impact assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of the consultation process.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process that looks at a policy or scheme to make sure it does not discriminate against anyone based on the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010 (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The assessment will be reviewed after the consultation and at key points if the proposal proceeds.

If the proposal goes ahead, another equality impact assessment would be carried out. This would identify accessibility to the new build school. The equality impact assessment would consider policies such as the Equality Act 2010, TAN 12: Design 2014 as well as building regulations such as BS8300, Part M and relevant Building Bulletins.

Community impact assessment

A Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken to determine any impacts this proposal would have on the local community. The proposal was assessed across a number of measures.

The proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community across 6 of the 8 measures assessed. The proposal would likely have a negative impact on the local community across 2 of the 8 measures assessed. Overall, the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community.

The proposal would enable the expansion of YYD to provide innovative and creative learning environments which are adaptable to change and would challenge and support children to reach their full potential. The proposal would increase the level of community access and interaction through the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the complex needs of pupils.

Transport implications would need to be carefully considered during the design of the new school to limit the impact of the increase pupils traveling to the site.

It is concluded from the Community Impact Assessment that the proposal would better meet the needs of the community to ensure the sustainable balance between supply and demand for school places.

The full Community Impact Assessment can be viewed via the following link:
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ysgolyderiexpansion

Contributions to the Wellbeing of Future Generations

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the Act puts in place seven Wellbeing goals and five ways-of-working which must inform the decision-making processes of public bodies.

The proposal has been appraised in terms of how it contributes to delivering upon the aspirations of the Act, the Wellbeing goals, and the ways-of-working. This is does not form part of the statutory consultation process but was considered beneficial to meeting the spirit of the Act.

The full appraisal of this proposal's contributions to the Wellbeing of Future Generations can be viewed via the following link: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ysgolyderiexpansion

Alternatives considered

Option 1: Expand Ysgol Y Deri on its current site

Why was this option discounted?

YYD was originally constructed to accommodate 205 pupils but currently has 262 pupils on roll. The Council has discounted expanding the existing YYD buildings due to the significant loss of external space and impact this would have on the local highway infrastructure. Penarth Learning Community already accommodates more than 1,400 learners. It is proposed a new building would be constructed on a site in Cosmeston which would operate as an additional site of YYD.

Option 2: Expand the school at an alternative site in the Vale of Glamorgan

Why was this option discounted?

The Council considered a number of sites to accommodate the new school building. The Council started with reviewing Council-owned land before exploring options to purchase land. The proposed site was identified as the preferred option as it is in close proximity to YYD and provides sufficient space to accommodate the building. The site is also in close proximity to Cosmeston Country Park and the coast which could enhance wellbeing.

Option 3: Establish a new special school with its own governing body and headteacher

Why was this option discounted?

It is recognised that YYD is the organisation with the experience and skills to best support ALN pupils. Their most recent National Categorisation Report noted that 'standards in the school are very good and most pupils make good or excellent progress relative of their low starting points and additional learning needs' and in their most recent Estyn inspection, YYD's leadership was assessed to be 'Excellent'. This proposal would ensure YYD is able to continue providing high quality education whilst catering for a greater pupil population without the risk of establishing a new school and management structure. Establishing a new special school would also result in increased revenue costs, such as an additional headteacher.

Expanding Ysgol Y Deri ensures continuity across special education provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Statutory Consultation process

The Statutory Consultation process

Table 4 - Outline of the statutory consultation process

Steps	Description
Step 1: Develop a proposal	An initial proposal will be developed and considered by the Council's Cabinet. Section 2 of the School Organisation Code outlines when the statutory procedure is required.
Step 2: Cabinet consideration	The Council's Cabinet to consider the proposal and approval to consult. On 2 November 2020, the Council's Cabinet authorised the Director of Learning & Skills to undertake a consultation from Friday 6 November 2020 to Sunday 20 December 2020 on a proposal to expand Ysgol Y Deri (YYD).
Step 3: Consultation	A consultation document must be published on the Council website. The consultation document must be published on a school day and consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days. Stakeholders identified in section 3.4 of the School Organisation Code (2018) must be notified by letter/email. The consultation period for this proposal starts on Monday 2 November 2020 and ends on Sunday 20 December 2020. See page 28 for further details of how to respond and make your views known. Within 13 weeks of 20 December 2020 a consultation report will be published on the Council's and website. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees during the consultation period and responses to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposals. In February 2021 Cabinet will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to progress to the next stage. If the Council decides to continue with the proposals it must publish a statutory notice.
Step 4: Consultation response report	Feedback submitted during the consultation period will be considered and a response report will be developed and presented to Cabinet for consideration.
Step 5: Cabinet consideration	Cabinet will consider the consultation response report and determine whether to publish the report and to approve the publication of the proposal in the form of a statutory notice.
Step 6: Statutory notice	The statutory notice must be published on a school day and as outlined in section 4.1 of the School Organisation Code (2018). The statutory notice would be published on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website and posted at or near the main entrance to Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Copies of the notice would be distributed to pupils, parents, guardians, and staff members. The school may also distribute the notice by email. The notice would set out the details of the proposals and invite anyone who wishes

	to object to do so in writing within the specified period.
Step 7: Objection period	Anyone wishing to make objections to a proposal has the opportunity to do so. Objections must be made in writing or by email and sent to the proposer before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice was published.
Step 8: Objection report	Under section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").
Step 9: Cabinet consideration	Cabinet consider the objection report for final determination on the proposal. The Council would determine the proposal. Cabinet may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposals with modifications. In doing so, the Council would consider any statutory objections that it has received.
Step 10: Decision letter	Confirmation of the decision and objection report availability will be issued to stakeholders. Following determination of proposals all interested parties would be informed of the decision which will be published electronically on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website.

If this proposal is accepted, multiple site surveys would then be completed as part of the design process for the new school building; including a full transport assessment. The final design would be subject to planning permission. The planning process includes a statutory consultation with local residents.

Key dates

Feedback from this education consultation will be collated and summarised and a report presented to Cabinet. The consultation report will be available for everybody to view on the Council's website. Copies can also be obtained on request by using the contact details within this document.

There are further stages that the Council will have to go through before a final decision is made. These stages are set out below:

Table 5 – Key dates of the process	
Statutory Process	Timescale
Issue consultation document	October 2020
Closing date for views on the proposals	6 November – 20 December 2020
Consultation report considered by Cabinet and published on the school and Council's website	8 February 2021
Subject to Cabinet approval, Statutory notice issued during which time formal written objections will be invited	22 February 2021
End of Statutory Notice Period	22 March 2021
Determination by Cabinet with objection report.	26 April 2021

Decision notification	28 April 2021
Construction period (if planning accepted)	January 2022 – August 2023
Proposal implemented	September 2023

The proposed timetable may be subject to change.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the intended timescale of development?

It is intended that the proposal would be implemented by September 2023. Construction of the new school would commence by January 2022 and be completed by August 2023.

How would potential transport implications be considered as part of this proposal?

The Council's 21st Century Schools Team would be responsible for the build process. A contractor would be appointed and a full transport assessment would be undertaken as part of the design process. Any implications identified would be factored into the design of the new building. The contractor would submit a full planning application for the new building.

Who would manage the construction of the new school building?

The Council's 21st Century Schools Team would be responsible for managing the build process. A contractor would be appointed using the SEWSCAP framework. SEWSCAP is a construction framework used by 16 local authorities and provides pre-qualified and suitably experienced Contractors to deliver the 21st Century Schools Programme, and other public buildings, relating to both new build and refurbishment projects over £1.5 million. A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the Council, contractor and school.

How would we be involved throughout the design process?

A programme of engagement would be devised to ensure all stakeholders are informed of progress and are able to feed into the design process. There would be regular meetings between the Council, contractor and school. Any feedback or thoughts can be sent to the 21st Century Schools Team on: 21stcenturyschools@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Any further Frequently Asked Questions posed during the consultation will be added to the consultation webpage.



Involving stakeholders and responding to the consultation

Involving school stakeholders in the consultation

Our consultation process follows Welsh Government guidelines outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018). A range of individuals and groups are being asked for their views about these proposals.

Before any decisions are made, the Council needs to ensure that it offers a number of opportunities for individuals and interested groups to make their views and opinions on the proposals known to enable Cabinet to consider these views as part of the decision-making process.

The Council is consulting with the following groups:

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at YYD	Governing Body of YYD
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children YYD	Diocesan Directors of Education
Town and Community Councils	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)
Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Programme Board	Local Councillors
Assembly Members (AM's) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Welsh Language Commissioner
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Estyn	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Welsh Government Ministers	Trade Unions
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities
Council's Transportation Department	

Involving children in the consultation

It is important that when bringing forward proposals, Councils must make suitable arrangements to consult with pupils and, where possible, those pupils likely to attend the school. The Council firmly believes that the pupils of YYD should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal.

Consultation workshops are normally held with the school councils of all schools affected by the proposals. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation it may not be possible to hold consultation workshops, however the Council will endeavour to ensure the views of children are represented as part of the consultation. As always, pupils can submit a consultation response via the form or online survey linked below.

How you can find out more and give your views

Find out more

This document and further supporting information can be found on the Vale of Glamorgan website: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ysgolyderiexpansion

Any updates can also be found on social media through the [Vale of Glamorgan Council Twitter](#) feed and via the [Vale of Glamorgan Council Facebook page](#).

You can also contact us on **01446 709828** or 21stcenturyschools@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk for further information on the proposal.

Give your views

The consultation period will run from **2 November to 20 December 2020**. You can respond to our proposals at any time during this period. Your views are important to us, and there are a number of ways that you can let us know.

You can:

- Complete the online response form at:
<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160450035150>
- or
- Complete the consultation response form at the end of this document and send to:

Freepost RTGU-JGBH-YYJZ
Ysgol Y Deri Expansion Consultation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU

Please note that all comments submitted in writing should contain the full name and postcode of the person making the comments.

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 20 December 2020. Unfortunately, responses received after this date will not be considered by the Council. All responses given to us will be considered by Cabinet before it decides whether or not to publish a statutory notice about the proposals.

Responses received from consultees who are opposed to these proposals, although considered as part of the consultation report, will not be treated as statutory objections. A statutory objection would form part of the statutory notice period, if it is approved at the next stage by the Council's Cabinet. If you wish to object to the notice at the next stage of the process, should it proceed, you will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period. These key dates are outlined on page 24.

Consultation Response Form

Your views matter. Please tell us what you think about the proposal by:

- **completing the online response form** at <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160450035150>
- or
- answering the consultation questions and **adding your points of view on this form**

Please return the form to the postal address:

Freepost RTGU-JGBH-YYJZ
Transforming Special Education Consultation
Corporate and Customer Services
The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices,
Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

The closing date for responses to this consultation is 20 December 2020. Unfortunately, no responses received after this date can be considered.

Consultation responses will not be counted as objections to the proposals, although considered by the Council when making its decision. Objections can only be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

Please note that all comments should contain the full name and postcode of the person making the comments.

Any responses received can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and may have to be made public. However, any information that would identify an individual such as name, email address and postal address would be removed.

Your Full Name:					
Postcode:					
Please tell us whether you are responding as (tick all which apply):					
Parent or Guardian*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandparent*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pupil*	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of Staff*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governor*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)					

*Please confirm which school/s you are affiliated with:	
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1. Do you support the proposal to transform specialist education by:

- Increasing the capacity of Ysgol Y Deri to accommodate an additional 150 pupils; and**
- Constructing a new school building on the preferred site located in Cosmeston, Penarth for September 2023 which would operate as an additional site under the management of Ysgol Y Deri. (Please indicate your response below)**

Yes		No		No opinion either way	
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Please explain why:

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2. If you would like to suggest any changes or alternatives to the proposals, please detail these below.

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3. Any other comments?

Thank you for your comments.

Please return this form to the Vale of Glamorgan Council by no later than **20 December 2020**.

If you wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report via email or post, please provide the relevant details below:

I wish to be notified via: (please delete as appropriate)		Email / Post
Email address:		
Postal address:		

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page. It is intended for the user to write their notes.

Vale of Glamorgan Equality Monitoring Form

Gender and Gender Identity				
What is your gender?		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male		
At birth were you described as?		<input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Intersex <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		
Disability				
Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a physical or mental health condition, illness or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, 12 months or more?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – limited a lot <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – limited a little <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		
Age				
What is your date of birth?				
National Identity				
National Identity – how would you describe your national identity?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/> English	<input type="checkbox"/> Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> British
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		
Ethnic Group				
Ethnicity – how would you describe your ethnic group?				
White				
<input type="checkbox"/> Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British			<input type="checkbox"/> Irish	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish Traveller		<input type="checkbox"/> Any other white background (please specify):		
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups				
<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> White and Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> White and Asian		
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other mixed/multiple ethnic background (please specify):				
Asian/Asian British				
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background (please specify):				
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British				
<input type="checkbox"/> African		<input type="checkbox"/> Caribbean		
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please specify):				
Other ethnic group				
<input type="checkbox"/> Arab				
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group (please specify):				
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say				

Welsh Language				
Please describe your Welsh language ability by ticking the relevant box(es) below.				
	Understand	Speak	Read	Write
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fluent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Identity				
Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?				
<input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual / straight	<input type="checkbox"/> Gay or lesbian	<input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Religion				
What is your religion?				
<input type="checkbox"/> No religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian (all denominations)	<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/> Sikh	
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other religion (please specify):		<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		
Pregnancy and Maternity				
Are you currently pregnant or have you been pregnant within the last year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Have you taken maternity leave within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			
Marriage and Civil Partnership				
What is your legal marital or same sex civil partnership status?	<input type="checkbox"/> Single, that is never married and never registered in a same sex civil partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Married and living with husband/wife <input type="checkbox"/> Separated but still legally married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> In a registered same-sex civil partnership and living with your partner <input type="checkbox"/> Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved <input type="checkbox"/> Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say			