

DIRECTORATE OF LEARNING AND SKILLS
**Consultation Response
Report**

On the proposal to provide additional school places to meet the future demand for Welsh Medium education by expanding Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021.



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Background

This report presents the feedback received during the consultation, undertaken from 8 January 2019 to 22 February 2019, in response to the Council's proposal to provide additional school places to meet the future demand for Welsh Medium education by expanding Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021.

This report outlines the consultation process, provides an overview of responses to the consultation, and offers further details of the key issues and favourable comments raised by stakeholders.

Outline of the consultation process

The consultation processes followed Welsh Government guidelines, in compliance with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The consultation processes gave prescribed consultees the opportunity to learn about the proposal and for the Council to hear the views of all those with an interest so that they can be taken into account before any decisions are made.

Publication of the consultation

Formal consultations were conducted through a consultation document and response form distributed electronically to prescribed consultees and published on the Vale of Glamorgan website on the 8 January 2019. Consultees were also provided with an email link to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website.

The publication of a consultation document is central to the consultation process for school reorganisation and is prescribed by Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation document outlined the proposal being considered, the rationale for the proposal and the details of the consultation exercise. The consultation document also incorporated an individual response form. Consultees were advised of the availability of an online version to complete.

Consultation stakeholder engagement

Engagement for both consultations on the proposal was undertaken with prescribed consultees as contained within the School Organisation Code 2018.

The Council consulted with the following groups:

Staff (teaching and non-teaching) at Ysgol Sant Baruc	Governing Body of Ysgol Sant Baruc
Parents/Carers and Guardians of children attending Ysgol Sant Baruc	Barry Town Council
Vale of Glamorgan Children and Young People's Programme Board, where present	Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development Partnership (EYDCP)
Assembly Members (AM's) / Members of Parliament (MP's) / Regional Assembly Members	Local Councillors

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)	Welsh Language Commissioner
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG)	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan
Estyn	Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
Welsh Government Ministers	Trades Unions
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Directors of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities
Council's Transportation Department	Diocesan Directors of Education

Table 1 – List of groups consulted as part of the consultation process

Consultees were invited to complete a formal consultation response form which could be completed in hard copy or online via the Council's website at:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/expanding-ysgol-sant-baruc

Consultation meetings and drop in sessions

Meetings were held with the staff and governors at Ysgol Sant Baruc which were attended by Council officers. The main points of the consultation document were highlighted as well as an explanation of the statutory process.

Drop in sessions were held for parents and members of the community to ask questions about the proposals and provide informal comments.

Nature of consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Staff meeting	16 January 2019, 3.30pm – 4.30pm	Ysgol Sant Baruc, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, CF62 8HT
Governors' meeting	16 January 2019, 6pm – 7pm	Ysgol Sant Baruc, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, CF62 8HT
Parents and Community drop in session	17 January 2019, 8.30am – 9.30am 3pm – 4pm	Ysgol Sant Baruc, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, CF62 8HT
Pupil engagement session	17 January 2019	Ysgol Sant Baruc, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, CF62 8HT
Community drop in session	30 January 2019, 2.30pm – 6pm	Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU

Table 2 – Staff, Governor and Parents meetings

Consultation with children and young people

A consultation session was undertaken with the School Council of Ysgol Sant Baruc to engage the pupils in the consultation process. A report on the outcome of this session can be found at Annex D.

Consultation Questions

Consultees were asked for their opinion on a key question:

Do you support the proposal to expand Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021?

Consultees were also offered the opportunity to comment further:

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

Any other comments?

Consultation responses

The consultation responses received in writing between 8 January 2019 and 22 February 2019 are outlined below.

Results of the feedback from all stakeholders

The authority received 261 individual responses by the consultation closing date of the 22 February 2019. Of the total 261 individual responses received, 232 were in favour of the proposal, 25 were opposed, and 4 provided no opinion either way. Estyn formally responded to the consultation and their full response is contained in Annex E.

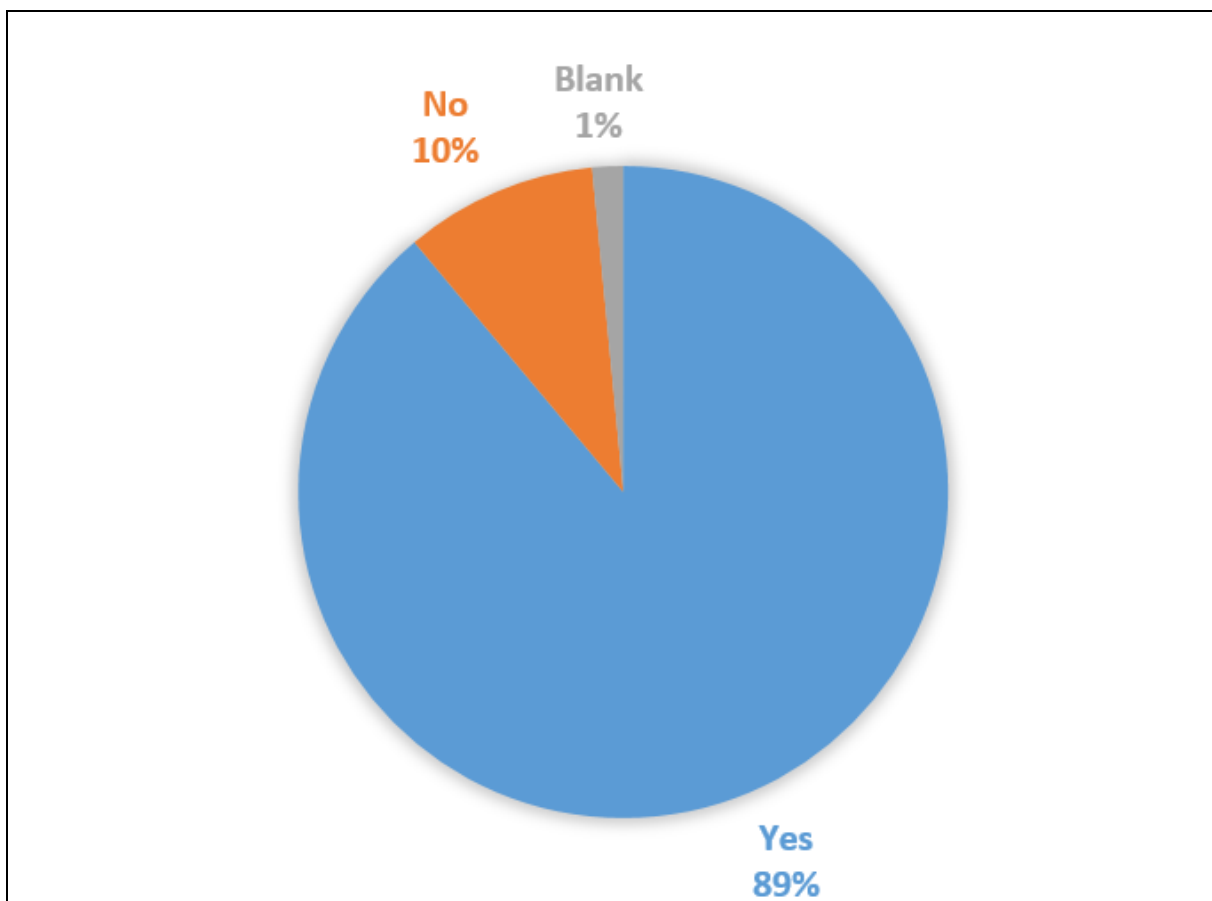


Chart 1 – Split of responses supporting or not supporting the consultation, and those responses left blank

It has been noted that not all consultees provided a response to each of the questions and that some forms were not fully completed. In these cases we have accepted the responses to the questions that they have chosen to answer.

Feedback from consultation meetings and drop in sessions are not included in this report as it was stated clearly in the consultation document that the Council would only accept responses using the official consultation response form. Consultees were advised of this at the drop in sessions.

Profile of respondents

Respondents were asked to indicate their role in relation to the proposal, respondents were able to tick more than one option.

Respondent groups	Number of responses from respondent groups	% of responses from respondent groups
Parent	109	42
Pupil	5	2
Governor	11	4
Member of staff	16	6
Local resident	86	33
Other	71	27

Table 3 – Number and percentage of responses from respondent groups

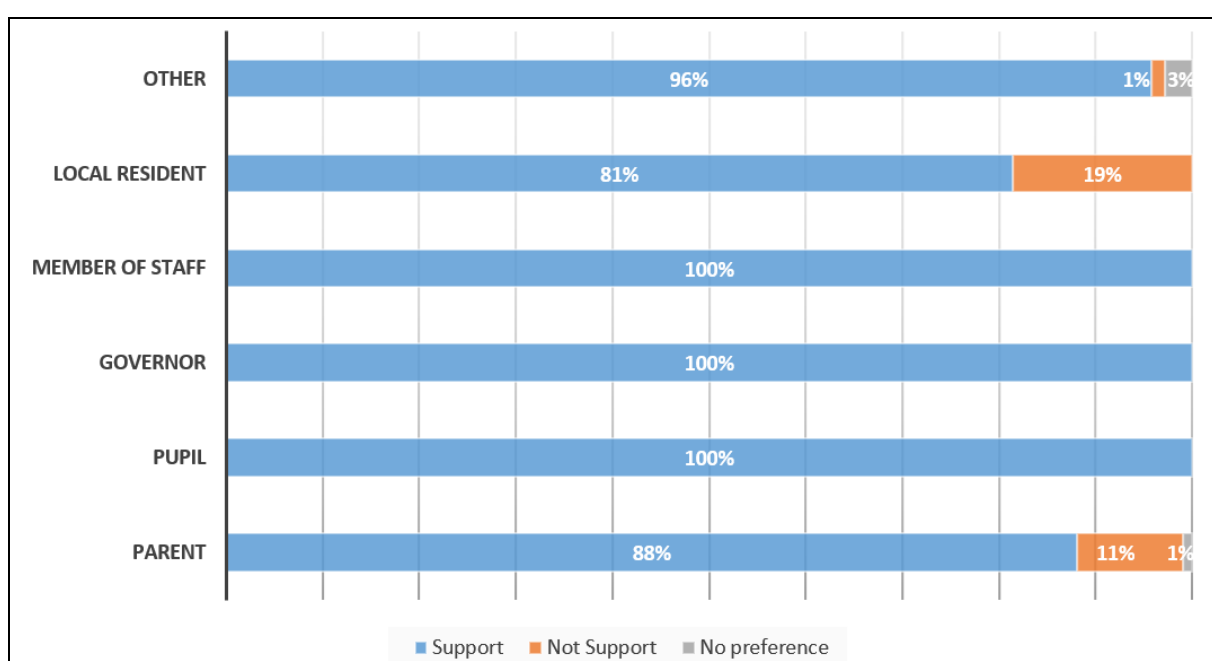


Chart 2 – Split of responses from respondent groups supporting or not supporting the consultation, and those responses left blank

Responses by theme

A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees and the response to those issues from the Vale of Glamorgan Council is contained in Annex A. A summary of the comments received in favour of the proposal is contained in Annex B.

The frequently asked questions (FAQs) document has been updated to include the key questions raised during the engagement sessions (Annex C).

A consultation session was undertaken with the School Council of Ysgol Sant Baruc to engage the pupils in the consultation process. A report on the outcome of this session can be found at Annex D. A formal response was submitted by Estyn and can be found at Annex E.

The consultation document was referred to the Learning & Culture Scrutiny Committee on 12 February 2019. The minutes of this meeting can be found at Annex F.

Prior to the consultation, a number of questions were submitted by the Barry Waterfront Residents' Association. A copy of the Council's response can be found at Annex G.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the responses received throughout the consultation period, the Council has revisited the proposal to determine the likely impact on: quality and standards in education, the local community and travel arrangements.

Quality and standards in education

This proposal would likely have a positive impact on the quality and standards in education. A number of responses from parents, governors and members of staff have noted the limitations with the existing site which would make fully implementing the new curriculum difficult to achieve. Estyn has also responded to the consultation, stating 'Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to maintain or improve current standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management.'

Community impact

A Community Impact Assessment was undertaken and published alongside the consultation document. No comments were received regarding the content contained within the assessment. The assessment concludes that the proposal would likely have a positive impact on the local community through increased community facilities, a more efficient supply and demand for school places and locating the school more centrally within the catchment area.

Travel arrangements

A number of concerns were raised during the consultation regarding increased travel due to the location of the new school building. However, as outlined above, the location of the new school building would result in a more central location within the catchment area.

Annex A - A summary of key issues raised by statutory consultees and the response to those issues from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The following summarises the key issues raised during the formal consultation period. The issues present an overview of responses and are not intended to be verbatim. All written responses have been made available to Cabinet Members.

Issue 1

More places are required in English Medium Primary Schools for new residents of the Barry Waterfront development. Barry Waterfront residents are having to travel large distances to get to English Medium primary schools.

There are several responses indicating that some residents of the Barry Waterfront development bought their properties with the intention of sending their children to an English medium school. There are concerns that those residents would need to travel further to existing English medium schools within Barry. Some respondents feel there will be higher demand for an English medium primary school from the Barry Waterfront development than a Welsh medium primary school. This already impacts upon current families unable to send their children to their first preference English medium schools.

Council's response to the concerns raised

There are 11 English medium primary schools within 2 miles of the Barry Waterfront development. In all, there are 13 English medium primary schools across Barry. The table below shows the number of surplus places in each of the 13 Barry primary schools. In total, there is a surplus capacity of 177 school places across the Barry schools.

School	School Capacity	Total NOR	Total Surplus Capacity
All Saints	210	206	4
Barry Island	210	208	2
Cadoxton	420	409	11
Colcot	315	293	22
Gwenfo	210	205	5
Gladstone	420	397	23
High Street	210	213	0
Holton	420	389	31
Jenner Park	210	212	0
Oakfield	210	170	40
Palmerston	210	205	5
Romilly	630	621	9
St Helens	308	283	25
Total	3983	3811	177

Table 4 – Capacity of English medium primary schools within 2 miles of the Barry Waterfront development

High Street, Romilly, Barry Island and Holton Primary Schools are the nearest English medium primary schools to the Barry Waterfront development. There is limited capacity at Barry Island, Romilly and High Street primary schools. However, the table below shows the outcome of the first round of the September 2018 reception admissions intake.

School	Permitted Admission Number	Allocations	Looked After Children	Special Education Needs	Catchment	Medical/Social	Sibling	Proximity
Barry Island	30	30	1	0	16	0	2	11
High Street	30	27	0	0	14	1	3	9
Holton	60	42	0	0	34	0	2	6
Romilly	90	90	0	0	59	0	8	23

Table 5 – Allocation of school places at nearest English medium primaries to Barry Waterfront development

The table shows that over a third of allocated places were to pupils not living within the school catchment area. Both High Street and Holton Primary Schools had spaces available following the first round of admissions.

Allocating a place in a school outside of normal admissions rounds (e.g. in year transfers) is more challenging as schools often reach capacity at reception intake. However, the table above shows that a large number of these pupils are not resident from within the catchment area.

Projections indicate that there is an anticipated modest shortfall of English medium primary school places by 2022. This demand could be met through a reassessment of capacity at Holton and Jenner Park primary schools. Over the last 5 years capacity has been removed from Holton and Jenner Park primary schools through a re-designation of room uses. The schools had previous surplus capacity that could be made available to increase the number of English medium places available. Both of these schools are within 2 miles of the Barry Waterfront development. However, it is anticipated that as demand for Welsh medium increases, there will be a corresponding decrease in the demand for English medium school places. Since 1998, the Barry area has seen a 5.8% decline in the demand for English medium education, and an increased demand for Welsh medium education of 6.7%.

Issue 2

Council funding should be spent in priority areas such as Social Services.

There are concerns that funding should be allocated to maintaining existing schools and social services. There are suggestions for private housing developers to cover the expense of providing additional educational infrastructure.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council has secured 65% of funding for the proposal under Band B of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme subject to approval of a business case. This funding is only available for long term investment in the educational estate across Wales. The remaining funding for the new school building is subject to a Section 106 agreement with the consortium of house builders developing the Barry Waterfront area. This means the potential investment in the new school building would not take funding away from existing schools or other public services. The consortium of house builders will be responsible for the construction of the new school building.

£600k is set aside each year within the capital programme for the renewal of educational assets. This is utilised for priority maintenance required across schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

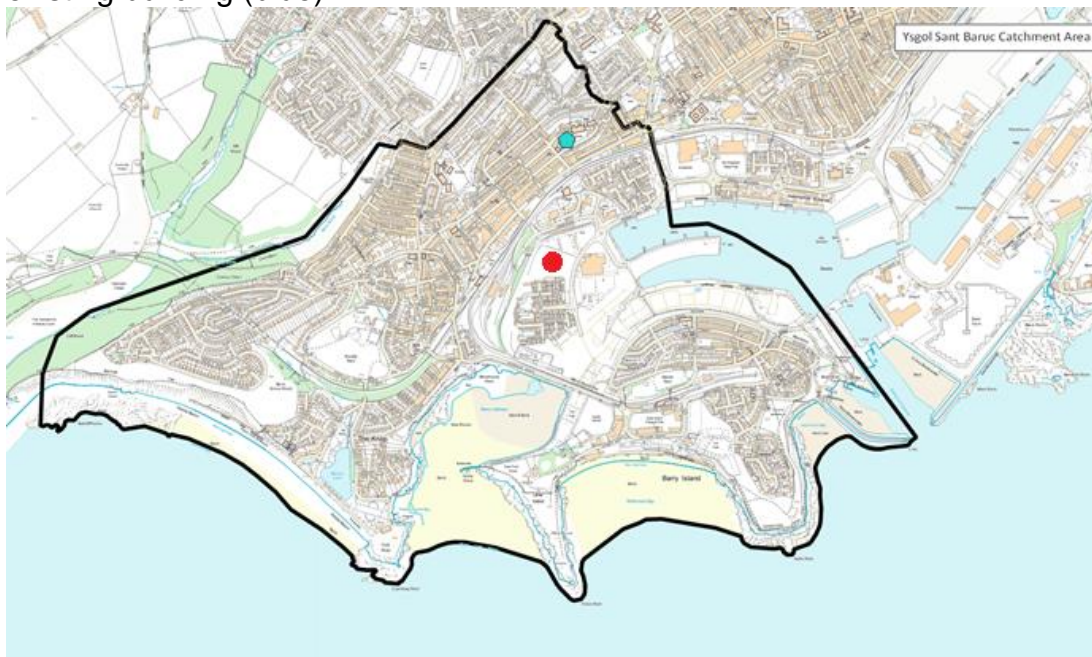
Issue 3

Existing Ysgol Sant Baruc pupils would have to travel further to get to the new school building.

There are concerns that existing pupils and faculty of Ysgol Sant Baruc would need to travel further to the proposed site, leading to increased traffic problems affecting the Barry Waterfront development. Some respondents would like to ensure there are adequate safe walking routes to the new site for the benefit of children's health and well-being.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Ysgol Sant Baruc's catchment area would not be changed as a result of this proposal. The following map compares the site of the new school (red) and the existing building (blue).



Map 1 – Existing and proposed location of Ysgol Sant Baruc site with catchment area marked

The site of the new school building would result in a more central location within the catchment area. This could result in reduced travel time for a number of existing pupils.

The new school building would include car parking facilities for staff. This is not currently provided at Ysgol Sant Baruc. The existing access around Ysgol Sant Baruc can become congested during peak hours, particularly due to the shared access road with High Street Primary School.

The design of the new school building would consider transport implications, including safe walking routes. A full transport assessment would be undertaken and the design would be subject to planning approval.

Issue 4

Parents were advised the new school on the Barry Waterfront development would be English Medium.

There are several responses indicating prospective Barry Waterfront residents were previously informed that the proposed primary school would be English medium. Some responses suggest moving High Street primary school to the Barry Waterfront development to provide English medium education, and Ysgol Sant Baruc should expand into their building.

Council's response to the concerns raised

No decisions or consultations have been undertaken previously regarding the new school at Barry Waterfront.

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 provides that the Council shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education and secondary education are available in the Council's area. Schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity for appropriate education.

The School Organisation Code 2018 includes statutory guidance to which relevant bodies must have regard and sets out the policy context, general principles and factors that should be taken into account by those bringing forward proposals to reconfigure school provision and by those responsible for determining proposals. Paragraph 1.1 of the Code sets out the key background principles and policies, which should be taken into account by the Council in developing school organisation proposals. These include:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (see below)
- Cymraeg 2050, A Million Welsh Speakers
- Action Plan, Cymraeg 2050
- One Wales: One planet, a new sustainable development scheme for Wales May 2009 or any successor strategy
- Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (issued February 2011 Information document number 95/2011), or any successor strategy
- Faith in Education

- Local plans for economic or housing development
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (made under part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013)
- Children and Young People's Plans (or successor plans)
- 21st Century Schools – Capital Investment Programme and the relevant wave of investment
- Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014: <https://beta.gov.wales/learner-travel-statutory-provision-and-operational-guidance>
- Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales, Circular No: 021/2011: <https://beta.gov.wales/measuring-capacity-schools-guidance>
- Children and Young People's National Participation Standards

When developing this proposal increasing Welsh-medium school places was considered to be the preferred option as it supports the following challenges.

- Contributes effectively to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020.
- Contributes effectively to the Welsh Government's target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- Provides additional Welsh-medium primary school places for the West of Barry.
- Ensures the Council is able to accommodate anticipated future demand for Welsh-medium education in line with current trends.
- Provides additional primary places to meet the increased demand as a result of recent housing developments.
- Addresses the poor suitability of the existing Ysgol Sant Baruc buildings.

Expanding High Street Primary School and transferring the school to the new school at Barry Waterfront was considered as an option. However it was discounted for the following reasons:

- It would not address the current site issues at Ysgol Sant Baruc.
- High Street Primary School has sufficient space as outlined by Building Bulletin 99 Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects.
- It would go against the trend in parents increasingly choosing Welsh medium education.
- There is sufficient English medium capacity to meet anticipated demand.
- It would not support the Council in meeting its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 priorities and does not contribute to the Welsh Government's National Cymraeg 2050 strategy.

Issue 5

The process is taking too long and there are trust issues between residents and the consortium.

There are several responses indicating prospective Barry Waterfront residents were previously informed that the proposed primary school would be completed sooner than the timeframe put forward in the consultation. There are also concerns over the building consortium's motivation to deliver the primary school within the timeframe. Related to this are concerns that if the school is not completed by September 2021 (as proposed) then this would negatively impact upon

preparations for the new curriculum, due to be implemented in 2022.

Council's response to the concerns raised

A new 420 place school at Barry Waterfront has been included as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools programme. Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme does not commence until April 2019. The new school at Barry Waterfront has been identified as a priority project and would be delivered at the beginning of the 5 year programme. Work would be due to commence on site from January 2020 with an 18-month build programme. The school would be completed for September 2021. This timeframe is based on experiences building similar primary schools within Band A of the programme.

The Council's 21st Century Schools Team would work closely with the Consortium and their appointed contractor throughout the design and build of the new school. An agreement would be formulated which would include timescales for completion.

On 3 December 2018, the Council served the consortium of house builders with a formal Breach of Planning Condition Enforcement Notice prohibiting further occupation of new homes on the South Quay Parkside part of Barry Waterfront until the completion of the café and restaurant units in the District Centre.

Issue 6

English medium would be more useful to the future economic prospects of learners and wider community.

There are concerns the Welsh language would not be as useful in an increasingly global society as English medium education. Some of the responses suggested that providing places for Welsh medium education caters to a niche minority and is therefore a poor economic decision. There are suggestions to provide more funding for English medium education to increase ties with the rest of the United Kingdom.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Learning a second language at a young age helps children develop an ear for languages and gives them a head start at learning a third or fourth language as they get older. Bilingual children tend to achieve higher within the curriculum and perform better in exams. On average bilingual people earn 11% more than monolinguals. In Wales speaking Welsh is a workplace skill, especially within the public and service sectors, and due to recent changes to the law more and more employers will need a bilingual workforce. Learning through another language helps children develop a greater sensitivity to other cultures and backgrounds. Speaking Welsh also gives people a closer relationship with the history, heritage and traditions of Wales.

Every public services organisation in Wales must comply with the Welsh Language Standards, ensuring Welsh is treated no less favourable than English. Implementation of the Welsh Language Standards has provided greater demand for a bilingual workforce.

The Estyn (May 2018) report highlights that nearly all Ysgol Sant Baruc pupils have

exceptionally good oracy skills, communicate confidently and naturally in Welsh and English by the end of key stage 2, and are very proud that they are able to speak Welsh and use their language to a very high standard both inside and outside the school. 39 consultation responses made special mention of the high standards of education they feel Ysgol Sant Baruc provides, particularly in spite of inadequate building and site facilities.

The Council has made significant investment in Welsh medium education which has seen an increase in bilingual learners and aims to continue this trend to ensure there is sufficient capacity over the long-term. 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.

Welsh medium education has seen significant growth within the Vale of Glamorgan over the last 18 years since the opening of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg and investment in Welsh medium primaries. Ysgol Dewi Sant in Llantwit Major is one such example of a popular Welsh medium primary school. It opened in September 2011 with a reception intake of 3 pupils, and just 7 years later the September 2018 intake was oversubscribed with 32 applicants for 30 places. Ysgol Sant Baruc has received more than 30 applications for the September 2019 reception intake meaning the school is oversubscribed. Since 1998, the Barry area has seen a 5.8% decline in the demand for English medium education, and an increased demand for Welsh medium education of 6.7%.

The vast majority of parents who send their children to Welsh medium schools in the Vale do not speak Welsh themselves; in the case of Ysgol Sant Baruc 75% of parents do not speak Welsh. Welsh medium schools in the Vale of Glamorgan always communicate with parents in both Welsh and English. Ysgol Sant Baruc provides all correspondence bilingually, including letters, tweets, homework, presentations for parents in school, and PTA meetings. There is an open door policy at the school for parents to receive help with words or pronunciation if there are any difficulties. Adult Welsh education is promoted across the Vale of Glamorgan with a wide range of courses available from beginners to proficiency. A number of Ysgol Sant Baruc parents have been attending Welsh courses for three or four years. There are also a number of Welsh medium pre-school playgroups in the Vale run by the organisation Mudiad Meithrin. More information can be found from the being bilingual booklet:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Working/Education%20and%20Skills/Admissions-Guide/Being-Bilingual-booklet-English.pdf>

Issue 7

Maintenance costs and resources required to support a larger school would be higher and may not be adequately provided by the council.

There are suggestions that whilst increasing the capacity of the school is necessary to meet rising demand, this would have implications for the school budget. Some responses emphasise the need to provide adequate funding and teachers to meet increases in pupil numbers. There are concerns over schools generally being

underfunded and teaching resources being overstretched.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 provides that the Council shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education and secondary education are available in the Council's area. Schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity for appropriate education.

Additional revenue funding would be required to meet the operational costs of the new school. The additional revenue costs of the increased pupil numbers would be met through the school funding formula which allocates the majority of funding for schools on the basis of pupil numbers. As pupil numbers increase, so would the overall level of funding.

This proposal would lead to an increase in employment opportunities at the school as additional pupil numbers would lead to growth in future staffing levels. If the move to a new school site takes place, the governing body and headteacher would need to consider an increase in the staffing structure for the additional pupil numbers from September 2021. Any proposed changes to staffing would be subject to full consultation with staff and the relevant trade unions where necessary. The pupil intake will increase over several years meaning appropriate staffing levels can be adjusted with reasonable notice of future requirements.

There are also opportunities to utilise the new building and site assets as a means of income generation for the school. Previous schools within Band A of the 21st Century Schools programme have been able to rent out meeting rooms and sports or performance facilities to the wider community. Members of the residents association have already expressed an interest in having a place within the new Barry Waterfront development to come together for community meetings and events.

The new building would meet BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellent standards and be built to an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) A rating. This means the ongoing maintenance and energy costs would be reduced by having efficient facilities built to modern standards. Photovoltaic panels would also be installed, reducing the amount of energy required to be bought from the grid. Currently the backlog maintenance costs for Ysgol Sant Baruc stand at £80,800. By investing in a new building the school would have less immediate financial pressure.

Part of the 21st Century Schools investment would go into modern teaching equipment, such as ICT provision. "Legacy planning" of significant or transferrable items is also designed with the schools to help ease the transition to the new facilities, maintain a connection to the school's history, and avoid wasting resources. These factors would reduce the need for schools to directly purchase costly equipment.

Issue 8

The proposed Barry Waterfront school should be a new, separate school just to serve new housing developments.

There are several responses indicating a preference for an entirely new school to be provided for the residents of the Barry Waterfront development.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Opening a new school would result in additional overhead costs which would need to be funded by the Council. This would have a negative impact on other schools across the Vale of Glamorgan. On average, a 210 place primary school's annual budget is £790k. Ysgol Sant Baruc's 2018/19 revenue budget is £760k. If a new 210 place school was to be proposed for Barry Waterfront, the likely cost of running the two schools would be £1,550k. The estimated running cost of operating a 420 place school is £1,430k. Therefore, opening a new 210 school would cost £120k per annum more than the proposed option.

A key objective of the 21st Century Schools Programme is to address the condition of educational assets. Building an entirely new school for the Barry Waterfront development would not address the condition of existing educational assets. Ysgol Sant Baruc is comprised of a main Victorian building and a two classroom block built in the 1980s. Whilst the buildings are generally in a reasonable condition, the current provision is not fit for purpose in terms of the following;

- The school is on a very confined sloping site with limited outdoor recreational space and no prospect of substantially increasing the site to meet 21st Century schools standards
- The school currently uses the dining facilities at the adjacent High Street Primary School as there is no catering provision at the school
- In addition, 6 of the 8 classrooms are not large enough to accommodate 30 pupils.

The latest Estyn report highlights that the lack of dining facilities and inadequate recreational space negatively impacts upon pupils' wellbeing.

Issue 9

The proposed site is on reclaimed land and close to the railway line.

There are concerns over the air and soil quality on the proposed site. Surveys and remedial works are suggested to ensure the site is adequate for the proposed new school. There are also concerns the proposed new site will be close to the existing railway line, which may cause noise pollution impacting upon learning.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Site investigations are currently underway. The land would be remediated to ensure it meets standards that are appropriate for a school environment.

Acoustic testing would be undertaken as part of the project and the building would be designed to meet acoustic requirements as outlined in Building Bulletin 99. The railway behind the school is not part of the main line between Cardiff and Barry.

Issue 10

Barry Waterfront residents have not been asked their views.

There are several responses expressing concerns that the Barry Waterfront residents were not asked their preferences prior to the proposal being developed. These concerns are particularly linked to the language choice and transport arrangements of the proposed school.

Council's response to the concerns raised

Proposals under the 21st Century Schools programme are based on multiple factors; such as suitability of educational facilities, trends in admissions to particular schools, building condition surveys, population trends, legislative changes, and financial viability. Multiple options are considered from examining the collected data and a preferred proposal is then submitted to Cabinet, along with alternatives, for approval to consultation stage. This means the proposals are based on best available robust evidence, the needs of the school, and the considerations of multiple Council departments before they are opened to public feedback.

Prior to the Ysgol Sant Baruc consultation, the 21st Century Schools Team met with a representative of the Barry Waterfront Residents Association and discussed questions submitted by residents as part of the survey undertaken by the Residents Association. The Council responded to the queries raised by the residents and integrated them into the consultation document FAQs (annex G).

The Council has offered a variety of opportunities for interested parties to engage as part of the consultation process in order to seek feedback on this proposal. The feedback provided to date has been incredibly valuable, has been carefully considered and is summarised in this report and the Community and Equality Impact Assessment. All feedback from individuals or organisations on the additional information will be considered before a decision is taken by the Cabinet.

The Vale of Glamorgan 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.

A number of engagement sessions were arranged as part of the consultation as follows:

Nature of consultation	Date/Time	Venue
Staff meeting	16 January 2019, 3.30pm – 4.30pm	Ysgol Sant Baruc, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, CF62 8HT
Governors' meeting	16 January 2019, 6pm – 7pm	Ysgol Sant Baruc, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, CF62 8HT
Parents and Community drop in session	17 January 2019, 8.30am – 9.30am 3pm – 4pm	Ysgol Sant Baruc, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, CF62 8HT
Pupil engagement session	17 January 2019	Ysgol Sant Baruc, St Pauls Avenue, Barry, CF62 8HT
Community drop in session	30 January 2019, 2.30pm – 6pm	Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU

Table 6 – Engagement sessions with different stakeholders held as part of the consultation

Issue 11

The small school ethos would be lost by expanding the school capacity.

There are some concerns that the close knit community of the school would be reduced by increasing the number of pupils and working within a larger building.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Sant Baruc are confident that the ethos of the school would remain unchanged as a result of this proposal. All staff and governors would transfer to the new site from September 2021. The design of the new school would include communal areas and breakout spaces.

The increase in pupil numbers would be gradual with the admission number increasing from 30 to 60 from September 2021. It wouldn't be until September 2027 that the school could have 420 pupils.

Staff and pupils would be fully supported through the transition and would be involved throughout the design and build process.

Issue 12

The new school should cater for both Welsh and English medium.

Some responses suggest the proposed school on the Waterfront site to provide 50% Welsh and 50% English medium education to cater for all preferences.

Council's response to the concerns raised

The Council has previously looked into dual-stream primary schools, providing both English-medium and Welsh-medium education. However, the Council still has a number of concerns regarding this model, in particular with regards to immersion, admissions and effective management of revenue funding.

Annex B - A summary of comments received in favour of the proposal.

This section provides a selection of comments raised during the formal consultation period by those in favour of the proposal. The following presents an overview of responses and are not exhaustive or intended to be verbatim. All written responses have been made available to cabinet members.

Comment 1

Access to adequate catering and outdoor facilities would benefit pupils' health and wellbeing.

Ysgol Sant Baruc would greatly benefit from improved facilities such as its own canteen and grass play areas. Currently the pupils are taken to High Street primary school for hot meals, significantly reducing the time pupils have to eat their lunch and meaning staff must focus on chaperoning rather than providing extra activities. It is hoped adequate canteen provision would increase time available for socialising and learning. In terms of outdoor space, pupils frequently fall on the hard, sloped tarmac resulting in a number of injuries. It is also difficult to provide sports education to a level developed in other local primaries due to the restricted site. Responses highlight the benefits improved outdoor facilities would enable in terms of health, sporting aptitude, and learning.

Comment 2

The proposed new facilities would enhance educational standards and extra-curricular activities at the school.

The current site is not fit for purpose. Better facilities are needed to support the teaching staff in delivering the excellent standards they achieve currently on a wider scale. The benefits the new site can offer would enable this to happen. Currently there is not enough space in some of the classrooms for pupils to have an adequate work area, there are no specific facilities for extra-curricular activities like music lessons, and suitable spaces for ALN provision is severely limited. ICT requirements of the curriculum are also difficult to deliver due to insufficient facilities. Responses hope the proposed new facilities would better support curriculum delivery to a wider range of pupils and enable additional activities to take place, such as sports and digital learning.

Comment 3

Increasing access to a bilingual education is beneficial for future learners.

There are significant benefits to receiving bilingual education. There is a wealth of research evidence indicating that children benefit greatly from being bilingual, both cognitively, culturally and socially. Parents of children already attending Ysgol Sant Baruc who do not speak Welsh have commented on their happiness in being able to expose their children to Welsh language education which they were not able to experience. There is support for both celebrating Welsh culture and providing opportunities for children's future job prospects through bilingual education.

Comment 4

Welsh medium education is expanding within the local area and an expansion of the school would support this growth.

The expansion would fill a growing demand in the Western side of Barry, including the Waterfront, for Welsh medium education. By building a new school, fit for purpose in the 21st Century, parents would have an attractive option of a well performing school housed in an environment that can be inclusive and conducive to learning and growing. This would help the council to achieve its target for number of Welsh speakers within the Vale. Responses support the opportunity for more children to receive bilingual education by locating the proposed site in a newly populated area of Barry.

Comment 5

The small school ethos can be maintained if managed correctly.

The ethos of a school is developed over time by staff, pupils and governors, all of whom would be transferrin to the new building. There is confidence amongst staff, governors and Council officers that the transition and expansion of Ysgol Sant Baruc would be well managed. This would be helped by staff maintaining the caring ethos of the school and by pupil numbers increasing in a managed way over the course of several years.

Comment 6

Increased access to community facilities at the proposed new school site would be beneficial to local residents.

The Waterfront residents and wider Barry area would benefit from increased access to community facilities. The proposal would maintain and increase the level of community access and interaction through the use of the school's educational facilities whilst meeting the needs of the school. Responses encourage the availability of facilities for early years and adult Welsh language education as one of the possibilities of community use.

Comment 7

Traffic around the current Ysgol Sant Baruc site would be lessened and driving to the new site may be easier than what parents currently experience.

Moving to the new site would ease traffic congestion in the heavily built up area near the current Ysgol Sant Baruc site. The streets surrounding the current Ysgol Sant Baruc site also serve High Street primary school and local residents, making pick-up and drop-off times particularly congested. The proposed new site would be in the centre of Ysgol Sant Baruc's catchment which may lead to more families from the Barry Waterfront and surrounding areas being able to walk to the relocated school.

Annex C - Frequently asked questions.

This section provides updated frequently asked questions in relation to the proposal.

What if I live in Barry Waterfront and want to send my child to English medium education?

The Council has projected the pupil yield from the additional 900 houses due to be built on the Barry Waterfront development. These pupils will be accommodated utilising existing surplus capacity at schools (see tables 5 and 6). However, there is an anticipated modest shortfall of English medium primary school places by 2022. This demand could be met through a reassessment of capacity at Holton and Jenner Park primary schools. Over the last 5 years capacity has been removed from Holton and Jenner Park primary schools through a re-designation of room uses. The schools had previous surplus capacity that could be made available to increase the number of English medium places available. Both of these schools are within 2 miles of the Barry Waterfront development. It is anticipated that as demand for Welsh medium increases, there will be a corresponding decrease in the demand for English medium school places. There are 11 English medium primaries available within the local area (2 mile radius) and further information can be found here:

<http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/admissions/primary/Primary-School-Admissions.aspx>

What if the increased demand for Welsh medium education does not materialise?

The Council is confident that there is sufficient evidence to suggest demand for Welsh medium education will continue to grow, reflective of Welsh Government's national strategy. It is anticipated that the requirement and pro-active nature of promoting bilingual education and creating additional provision to support parents and pupils who decide to transition into Welsh medium education via an immersion centre or similar provision as outlined in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will further increase uptake over the long term. Any surplus capacity within schools would be managed as it would with any other school or Council asset.

What are the advantages of Welsh medium education?

Bilingual children tend to achieve higher within the curriculum and perform better in exams. Learning a second language at a young age helps children develop an ear for languages and gives them a head start at learning a third or fourth language as they get older. In Wales speaking Welsh is a workplace skill, especially within the public and service sectors, and due to recent changes to the law more and more employers will need a bilingual workforce. Learning through another language helps children develop a greater sensitivity to other cultures and backgrounds. Speaking Welsh gives people a closer relationship with the history, heritage and traditions of Wales.

What support is available for parents who do not speak Welsh?

The vast majority of parents who send their children to Welsh medium schools in the Vale don't speak Welsh themselves. This is why Welsh medium schools in the Vale of Glamorgan always communicate with parents in both Welsh and English. In almost all cases homework will have an English explanation provided with it so all

parents can help their children with the work. There are also a number of Welsh medium pre-school playgroups in the Vale run by the organisation Mudiad Meithrin. Adult Welsh education is also promoted across the Vale of Glamorgan with a wide range of courses available from beginners to proficiency. More information can be found from the being bilingual booklet:

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Working/Education%20and%20Skills/Admissions-Guide/Being-Bilingual-booklet-English.pdf>

What is the intended timescale of development?

It is intended building would start on the new school site by January 2020 and be completed by September 2021.

When would staff and pupils transfer to the new school building?

The proposal is that the new school would open by September 2021.

Would there be a new headteacher?

All staff employed at the school on the date of transfer would transfer automatically to the new site with no change to their terms and conditions of employment.

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

The Council's 21st Century Schools Team would work closely with the Consortium and the contractor responsible for the build. 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.

Where would the new school building be located?

The new school would be located near to the Barry Waterfront development. The map below shows the exact location of the proposed new school building. Please note this is just a representative site plan and not a design for the new school.



Map 2 – Proposed site of Ysgol Sant Baruc expansion near to Barry Waterfront development

How would the movement of resources be managed into the new school building?

The Council's 21st Century Schools team would manage the movement of resources into the new building. Previous projects have utilised INSET days either side of a weekend or school holiday break to provide staff with sufficient time to establish the environment ready for teaching and learning.

Would the Nursery provision be integrated into the new building?

The nursery provision would be fully integrated into the design of the new school building to ensure continuity and progression in children's learning from the age of three. This would ensure there is a consistent approach to planning and delivery of the foundation phase (nursery to year two).

Annex D - Consultation undertaken with young people.

Consultation with a representation of Ysgol Sant Baruc School Council on behalf of Vale of Glamorgan Council on the proposal to expand Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places from September 2021.

Background and Aim

- In their Consultation document on the above proposal the Vale of Glamorgan Council note the importance of making suitable arrangements to consult with pupils and where possible those pupils likely to attend the school: ' The Council firmly believes that the pupils of Sant Baruc Primary School should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal'.
- A consultation workshop was arranged with the school council of Sant Baruc Primary School to gather their views about the proposal.
- The information gathered from this session will be included in the final consultation report. The full report will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet for consideration following the consultation period.

Methodology

- An interactive workshop which gave pupils an opportunity to discuss and share ideas together.
- It started with a discussion on the meaning of consultation and why it was important to talk to pupils
- Agreement was reached on what made a good discussion/consultation
- The consultation document was then explained to them, including the background and the timeline for the activity.
- The pupils were divided into 2 groups to share and note their own ideas. The two groups then merged to have further discussion on these ideas, based on the rules of engagement as agreed at the beginning of the session.
- Following the feedback pupils were given information on the advantages and shortcomings noted in the consultation document, they were reminded of the timeline and it was explained to them that their comments would be fed into a report on this session and that it would be presented to the council as part of the evidence gathered on this consultation.

Pupils responses (11 pupils Yr3-6, School Council representatives)

What makes a good discussion:

- Giving your own opinion
- Speaking one at a time
- Have a strong opinion
- Listening to each other

- You have a right to disagree
- Put your hand up when you want to speak
- Everyone to have a chance to give their opinion
- Working together

Benefits of the proposed plan

- More people will learn Welsh
- It will create more Welsh speakers
- There'll be more space e.g. more cloakrooms
- More space to learn and play
- There's be a better opportunity for people down in the Waterfront to go to a Welsh school
- More people will want to come to the school
- It will create more jobs and therefore there'll be more teachers
- Better play areas
- Having our own canteen instead of going over to High St
- Bigger classrooms and more classrooms suitable for disabled people
- More resources
- The opportunity to make more friends
- Better facilities
- More opportunities to enjoy
- More experiences

Possible pitfalls of the proposed plan

- The people living on the 'Waterfront' will quickly come to school but what about those living in town?
- There's a greater chance of getting lost
- Too much noise
- We've always been a small family but we're moving to a bigger school and therefore we're worried that we could lose the close relationship that we have between each other
- Traffic problems

General comments

The importance of preserving the family ethos (which is a great strength of the present school) in the new school became evident in their responses.

However, there was great excitement amongst all the pupils and they were positively in favour of the development.

The challenge therefore is to ensure that any shortcomings noted are given due attention to ensure that the current Sant Baruc, with all its strengths, are not lost.

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Annex E - Response from Estyn

In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, a copy of the consultation document was sent to Estyn.

Estyn's response to the proposal to expand Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places in a new building at Barry Waterfront from September 2021

Introduction

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

This proposal is submitted by Vale of Glamorgan Council to expand Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places in a new building at Barry Waterfront from September 2021.

Summary/Conclusion

The proposer has provided useful and thorough information that explains the rationale behind this proposal. The increasing trend for Welsh-medium education provision in the Barry area is causing difficulties, as there are not enough places to admit more pupils to Welsh-medium schools. In addition, Ysgol Sant Baruc's current building and grounds are not suitable and do not allow the space necessary to expand the current provision. Following a significant increase in dwellings being built in the Barry Waterfront area, this proposal incorporates a new and suitable building for Ysgol Sant Baruc in order to meet the need for Welsh-medium education in the area.

After outlining the considerations for and against implementing this proposal, the advantages lean favourably towards implementing the proposal and moving Ysgol Sant Baruc from its current site to a new site, and expanding provision from 210 to 420 places at the Barry Waterfront site by September 2021.

Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to maintain or improve current standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management.

Description and benefits

The rationale for this proposal is coherent, and valid considerations have been identified clearly in comprehensive documentation.

The proposer has identified the expected advantages and disadvantages compared with the status quo. They have considered the proposal's implications within their vision of achieving the objective of an 'Aspirational Vale', namely to raise overall standards of achievement by modernising education in the Vale in order to ensure education of the highest standard. In addition, they have considered section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018. As a result, considerations include the proposal's effect on the local community, for example children who live in the local catchment area who attend the local school, in addition to community facilities that are provided and activities that are held on the school grounds. The advantages and disadvantages are identified clearly and transparently in a summative document, namely the 'Community Impact Assessment'.

By giving these considerations a particular score, overall, it becomes apparent that the proposal would be likely to have a positive effect on the local community. The proposal would enable the school to continue its success in providing Welsh-medium education to more pupils. The proposal would enable the community to continue to use and interact with the school, and to do so more frequently by using the school's educational facilities.

By implementing this proposal, it would meet the needs of the school and the community at the same time.

By scrutinising the Community Impact Assessment document, the proposer concludes that the number of places at Ysgol Sant Baruc would meet the needs of the wider community better and ensure a sustainable balance between the supply and demand for places.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has given suitable consideration to the effect of the proposal on the quality of outcomes, provision, and leadership and management.

The proposer suggests that there would not be much change for pupils who currently attend Ysgol Sant Baruc. Their voice will be heard and acted upon as part of the consultation in order to ensure their commitment to the school while moving site.

The proposer has analysed Ysgol Sant Baruc's Estyn report (May 2018) in detail, and has identified the strengths and areas to be acted upon clearly. One of these strengths is the 'Wellbeing and attitudes to learning' inspection area, in which the school received an 'Excellent' judgement. This shows that standards and quality of wellbeing at the school are sustainable over time and, as a result, the proposer claims that this will be maintained effectively during the site-moving process.

The proposer identifies that Ysgol Sant Baruc does not have access to its own canteen facilities due to site limitations. Pupils are accompanied to High Street Primary School next door during lunchtime. This was identified by Estyn in the

recent inspection, in which it was expressed that pupils are unable to make the most of their lunch break. Ysgol Sant Baruc is the only school in the Vale of Glamorgan without its own canteen facilities.

By accepting and implementing this proposal, pupils will be taught in a modern, good quality building that will be able to support the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils in the foundation phase and key stage 2. It is suggested that it would provide innovative and creative learning environments that would be able to adapt to changes, while challenging and supporting pupils to achieve their full potential. Overall, the proposer expresses that the standards and progress of all pupils, including pupils who belong to specific groups, for example pupils with additional learning needs, would improve and have a positive effect over time.

The proposer identifies that all of the school's current staff would transfer to the new building in September 2021 without any adverse effects. External implications would not have an effect on this situation. The headteacher and governing body would need to increase the number of staff as the school grows to its full capacity over time.

No changes are proposed to the catchment area of Ysgol Sant Baruc as a result of this proposal. The proposer suggests that there would be no change to the way in which pupils travel to school and, therefore, there would be no further implications in terms of travel costs. The new school will be on a site that is approximately a mile from its current site.

Since 1998, there has been a decrease of 5.8% in the demand for English-medium education and an increase of 6.7% in the demand for Welsh-medium education in the Barry area. It is suggested that the proposal complies fully with the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-2020, and provides continuous access to Welsh and English-medium primary and secondary education in Barry. It is anticipated that Welsh-medium provision at the new school will be at least as good, if not better, than the current provision and that it would meet the need for Welsh-medium education in the part of the town.

In order to ensure an efficient relationship between the supply of Welsh-medium school places in Barry and the demand for those places, additional capacity will be needed in the south west of Barry. As a result, this proposal meets the need for Welsh-medium education in the local catchment area.

Following a recent inspection of the current site of Ysgol Sant Baruc, a 'poor' judgement was awarded for the current condition of the school building, and 'satisfactory' for the suitability of the school building. The cost of adapting the school's current site would be at least £80,800. As a result, the proposer suggests that moving the existing school to a suitable building would ensure better use of funding. The new building would be judged to be 'Excellent' in terms of BREEAM building quality validation. It is estimated that a total of £7.417 million of capital funding would be required to build the new school, including the installation of utilities and highway provision.

Estyn's report from May 2018 shows that Ysgol Sant Baruc received four 'Good' grades and one 'Excellent' grade in the five inspection areas. The school is in the 'yellow' colour category and has a 'B' grade for the capacity to improve. As a result, the school is performing well over time.

Annex F - Minutes of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee on the proposal

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Extract from the Minutes of a meeting held on 12th February, 2019.

739 PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PRIMARY WELSH MEDIUM SCHOOL PLACES IN BARRY (REF) –

Cabinet had, at its meeting on 17th December, 2018, referred the report to the Scrutiny Committee as part of the consultation process. The report was seeking approval to consult on a proposal to move Ysgol Sant Baruc from its current location on St. Paul's Avenue in Barry to a newly constructed 420 place school building with 96 part time nursery places on the Barry Waterfront development.

The Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources, in presenting the report, drew attention to paragraph 35 advising that since 1998 the Barry area had seen a 5.8% decline in the demand for English medium education and an increased demand for Welsh medium education of 6.7%.

Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers was published in July 2017, and set out the long-term vision for the Welsh language. Increasing the number of Welsh speakers was one of the three key themes, and the following key transformational changes would be required within the education sector in order to achieve the vision:

- Increase the proportion of each school year group receiving Welsh-medium education from 22% (based on 7,700 seven-year-old learners in 2015/16) to 30% (about 10,500 in each year group) by 2031, and then 40% (about 14,000 in each year group) by 2050;
- Transform how the Council taught Welsh to all learners in order that by 2050 at least 70% of those learners reported that they could speak Welsh by the time they left school;
- Increase the number of primary teachers who could teach in Welsh from 2,900 to 3,900 by 2031 and 5,200 by 2050; increase the number of secondary teachers who could teach Welsh from 500 to 900 by 2031 and 1,200 by 2050; and increase the number of secondary teachers who could teach through the medium of Welsh from 1,800 to 3,200 by 2031 and 4,200 by 2050.

It was noted that approximately 1,700 dwellings would be built by 2022. 756 units in total had been built and occupied to date with children placed at schools serving the area. The Barry Waterfront Development currently served High Street and Holton Primary Schools for English medium primary provision, Ysgol Sant Baruc for Welsh medium provision and All Saints and St. Helen's Primary Schools for denominational education.

Having regard to paragraph 74 of the report, the Head of Service referred to a typo in that the report noted the estimated revenue cost of operating a new 420 place

school would be £1.43m. This should have read £1.33m. It was noted that the difference from the revenue budget for Ysgol Sant Baruc of £760k to the £1.33m would be found from within individual schools' budgets generated by the additional revenue from the increase in pupil numbers from the new housing developments.

The Project Manager for the 21st Century Schools, Mr. Matthew Curtis, was introduced to the Committee and in referring to Appendix A, the proposed timetable for increasing the number of primary Welsh medium school places in Barry, advised that the consultation period would end on 22nd February, 2019 and had been undertaken in line with the School Organisational Code. To date it had also been published on the Council's website and a decent response rate had been received. To assist the consultation process a number of public sessions had been held (around 20) with comments being received, for example around funding, travel and hiring implications. The Project Manager advised that a large percentage of those consulted were in favour of the proposals, with positive responses having been received.

Following the presentation of the report, the Chairman then asked the first speaker, Mr. G. Griffiths, to make his representations to the Committee.

Mr. Griffiths advised that he was an Local Authority Governor of Ysgol Sant Curig and Ysgol Gwaun y Nant schools, but that he was speaking in a personal capacity to the Committee. Mr. Griffiths stated that he would be making personal comments / observations based on research he had carried out and listening to fellow Governors at recent meetings. He stated that he was sure that in due course there would be formal representations made by each Board of Governors in respect of the proposal. Mr. Griffiths advised that he was a former Bilingual Qualified Teacher and as such knew the challenges that Bilingual Schools faced in predominately English speaking parts of Wales.

Mr. Griffiths stated that Towns and Cities were a collection of Urban Villages and each was different and needed different facilities to help them survive and grow.

There seemed he stated, in his view, two issues to consider:

Numbers attracted to each school. Sant Baruc 234 / Sant Curig 425 / Gwaun y Nant 252

"New Schools attract new Pupils Sant Baruc will be moving to the Waterfront so no issue there – but could Sant Curig and Gwaun y Nant see a significant drop in numbers at a time when ALAN / new Curriculum are in training and could this see staff wishing to move to a New School.

Schools look to promote themselves and social media has become key in this. If you Google each school there are up to nine different sites where Parents / Guardians can get information. Who is responsible for those sites – updating them and / or passing on relevant information to sites which are not School or Vale of Glamorgan?"

Mr. M. Bowen, the second member of the public who had registered to speak, was then invited by the Chairman to make his representations.

Mr. Bowen explained that he was a parent of a child at Ysgol Sant Baruc, but was not a Governor of the school. He was also involved in one of the forums for parents centred around the Waterfront development and had also wished to provide the Committee with the local RhaG perspective and support of the proposals, advising that they were good proposals both for Sant Curig and Sant Baruc. He was also confident for the future, being aware that a number of parents were supporting Welsh medium education and the proposal would assist the target for 2050 of increasing Welsh medium by a third. If the proposal went ahead he advised there would be a 17% increase for Barry and 10% for the Vale of Glamorgan. Mr. Bowen also referred to the lack of catering facilities at Sant Baruc and that having this facility would be a significant advantage for the school.

With regard to paragraph 49 of the report, he advised that for the Reception year the school was full and in his view, there was so much demand that this statistic was only going to grow.

Councillor S. Wiliam, not a Member of the Committee but with permission to speak, advised that he was a local Member and referred to two major benefits of the proposals, the access to Welsh medium education in the locality and to community benefits. The support in the area he stated was extensive and that all the people he had talked to were pleased with the proposals. There was also an excellent English medium school on the Island and that the proposals would be future proofing the Vale in moving to further promote the Welsh language throughout the county.

Councillor Dr. I. Johnson, not a Member of the Committee but with permission to speak, stated that he was a Local Authority Governor of Gladstone Primary. He took the opportunity to thank the officers for hosting the meetings for Local Ward Members the previous week and trusted that this would continue through to the planning process. He was aware through the consultation that 90% had responded in favour of the proposals and this was something he said was to be extremely welcomed. As local Member he was aware of the constraints of the current site, there being no parking facilities and that it was not a good situation for staff, pupils, parents or residents.

Mr. Gapper, the Welsh Medium Education Representative on the Scrutiny Committee, stated that in representing the Welsh Medium sector he thought the case for expanding and relocating had been well made by the previous speakers and, in his view, the report had provided an excellent rationale for the proposal and he thanked the officers for the information provided. Mr. Gapper also considered that there was a high level of support for the proposal and took the opportunity to refer to two specific points. Aware of the developing issue in relation to Welsh medium education, he considered that the rate of increase was likely to increase further in the future and with the 2050 policy this would lead to a greater demand for Welsh medium education in the future. Secondly, although it was necessary to respond to the demand it was also not just a numbers game, the benefits were clear and he considered that the Welsh medium education proposal would achieve such benefits.

Having heard the speakers, the Chairman then referred the representations and the report for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

A number of Members considered that the proposals appeared to be well thought out and the arguments by the speakers who had spoken clearly shaped the way forward. A Member also queried whether there was geographical data available for the breakdown of responses and was informed that although there was no specific geographical data, the information could be broken down in respect of the type of respondent i.e. parent, local resident, etc. Reference was also made to the need to ensure the continuity between further education and officers were urged to consider such matters.

Following a query as to how the proposal had been reached in the first instance, the Head of Service for Strategy, Community Learning and Resources in response advised that there had been a number of historical discussions that had taken place. He also referred to the conditions in the schools, in particular Sant Baruc did not have a kitchen and staff time was taken up in taking children back and forth over two sites. The point had also been made in relation to the need to ensure Welsh medium education was supported and the rationale to offer choice. There was already existing capacity in High Street and Barry Island Schools and in referring to further education advised that opportunities in order to support families within the communities was one of the drivers in promoting the proposal.

Councillor Hodges, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, stated that he had heard nothing but praise and excitement from the people on the Waterfront about the proposals and he was also aware that organisations within the community were also keen to use the facilities in the school.

The Youth Forum Representative stated that in his view, the proposal was an amazing opportunity and that through his school years he had seen the provision of the Welsh language change and he asked whether all Members on the Committee agreed with the proposal in order that he could inform the new Welsh Parliament Forum Member who attended Bro Morgannwg School.

The Chairman also advised that she was hugely supportive of the steps that had been taken to promote and encourage the Welsh language but took issue with some of the figures contained within the report and, in her view, using percentages was also strictly not comparing like with like. She also queried the information in relation surplus places, advising that the report needed to be accurate in order for Committee Members to make informed decisions. She also took the opportunity to ask the Committee to consider making a recommendation to Cabinet for a strategic review of all schools in the Vale as, in her view, there were a number of Victorian Schools which required refurbishment and that these should not be overlooked. Her main focus was to ensure equity in provision across the primary sector.

Members, although concurring with the sentiments of the Chairman, felt that a further report could be presented to the Scrutiny Committee under its work programme in relation to a review of school buildings.

The Cabinet Member, with permission to speak, took the opportunity to reassure the Committee that in preparing the proposals he had been extremely mindful of the need to ensure that Welsh medium provision was not introduced at the expense of English medium provision.

Having fully considered the report, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet be informed that the Scrutiny Committee unanimously supports the proposal to increase the number of primary Welsh medium schools places in Barry as contained within the report.

(2) T H A T a further report on school buildings in the primary sector be presented to the Scrutiny Committee under its work programme.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having considered the report and in view of the overwhelming support for the proposal.

(2) In order that the Committee can consider primary provision of school buildings and their fabric.

Annex G – Council’s Response to the Barry Waterfront Residents Association survey

Proposal to Increase the Number of Primary Welsh Medium School Places in Barry

Information Sheet for Barry Waterfront Residents Association



The proposal

What is the Council proposing?

The Council is proposing that additional Welsh medium school places are provided by expanding Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places. Due to the existing site limitations, Ysgol Sant Baruc would be moved to the new school on Barry Waterfront from September 2021. This proposal would address the poor condition of the existing school building and lack of facilities. The new school would be within 1 mile of the existing site. There would be no change for existing staff and pupils as they would all transfer to the new building upon completion.

Will there be a nursery?

Ysgol Sant Baruc currently offers 48 part time nursery places. As a result of the expansion, this would increase to 96 part time nursery places.

Welsh Language

Why is the proposed school Welsh medium?

The Council has made significant investment in Welsh medium education which has seen an increase in bilingual learners and aims to continue this trend to ensure there is sufficient capacity over the long-term. 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.

Welsh medium education is increasing in popularity and has seen significant growth over the last 18 years since the opening of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg. This has been evident in the recent 'Transforming Secondary Education in Barry' project which has seen a reduction in the number of English medium secondary places available in Barry from 2754 to 2200 and an increase in the number of Welsh medium secondary places available from 1151 to 1450.

Ysgol Dewi Sant is a Welsh medium primary school in Llantwit Major that opened in September 2011. In the first year of opening, the reception intake contained just 3 pupils. Just 7 years later, the September 2018 intake was oversubscribed with 32 applicants for 30 places.

Ysgol Sant Baruc’s existing school building is in poor condition. The existing building does not meet 21st century school standards. Ysgol Sant Baruc is also the only school in the Vale of Glamorgan that does not have its own kitchen facilities. Pupils are currently escorted to the neighbouring High Street Primary School for school meals.

Catchment

Will local residents get priority to new school?

The catchment area for Ysgol Sant Baruc would not be changed as a result of this proposal. In the event that a school received more applications than the number of places available, the oversubscription criteria is applied. The oversubscription criteria for primary education is as follows.

Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs, when the school is named as the most appropriate setting, will be admitted before applying the oversubscription criteria.

1. Children where evidence has been supplied to confirm that they are looked after, or have been previously looked after in accordance with section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

2. Children who are currently permanently resident within the designated catchment area of the school on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone the LA will allocate places in the following order of priority to produce an order of preference. The address provided will be checked with Council Tax and other sources.

(a) Children in respect of whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to a specified primary school i.e. those children recommended for placement with regard to medical, psychological or social reasons. Evidence from an appropriate professional person (medical consultant, social worker etc.) must be supplied to the school access team no later than the closing date to qualify under this criterion.

(b) Children who have a brother or sister in attendance at the school during the academic year in which the child is to be admitted. The council will determine priority and allocate places by reference to the age of the pupil's youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority.

(c) Children who live furthest from an alternative school with a place available as measured by the councils Geographical Information System (GIS). Those living furthest from an alternative school will have priority.

In these circumstances, pupils outside of the catchment area would not be considered.

3. Children not currently permanently resident within the designated catchment area of the school whose parents have satisfied the Council (by providing appropriate written evidence such as a rental agreement or confirmation of house purchase), on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms, that the child will be taking up residence within the catchment area by the commencement of the school term to which the application relates. Evidence of permanent residence within the catchment area must be supplied with the application form. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone the Council will allocate

places in the following order of priority to produce an order of preference.

- (a) Children in respect of whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to a specified primary school i.e. those children recommended for placement with regard to medical, psychological or social reasons. Evidence from an appropriate professional person (medical consultant, social worker etc.) must be supplied to the school access team no later than the closing date to qualify under this criterion.
- (b) Children who have a brother or sister in attendance at the school during the academic year in which the child is to be admitted. The council will determine priority and allocate places by reference to the age of the pupil's youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority.
- (c) Children who live furthest from an alternative school with a place available as measured by the councils Geographical Information System (GIS). Those living furthest from an alternative school will have priority.

4. Children in respect of whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to a specified primary school i.e. those children recommended for placement with regard to medical, psychological or social reasons. Evidence from an appropriate professional person (medical consultant, social worker etc.) must be supplied to the school access team no later than the closing date to qualify under this criterion. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone criteria (5) and (6), in order of priority, would be applied to produce an order of preference.

5. Children who have a brother or sister in attendance at the school during the academic year in which the child is to be admitted. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone, the council will determine priority and allocate places by reference to the age of the pupil's youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority.

6. In determining applications for admission in respect of other pupils in the age group, the Council gives particular regard to the degree of proximity of the pupil's home to the school, as measured by the shortest available walking route; those living nearest will have priority. The council uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) to calculate home to school distances.

Table 7 – Oversubscription criteria for primary education

How will English medium catchment areas be affected by the proposal?

All catchment and feeder arrangement in place within the Vale of Glamorgan are subject to regular review and a widespread review is scheduled to take place during the academic year 2018/19. Any purposed changes would be reflected in a future admission arrangements consultation.

Capacity

Will there be an option for those who would prefer English medium education?

The table below shows the number on roll per year group at Barry English medium primary schools. There are 11 English medium primary schools within 2 miles of Barry Waterfront.

School	School Capacity	Total NOR	Total Surplus Capacity
All Saints	210	206	4
Barry Island	210	208	2
Cadoxton	420	409	11
Colcot	315	293	22
Gwenfo	210	205	5
Gladstone	420	397	23
High Street	210	213	0
Holton	420	389	31
Jenner Park	210	212	0
Oakfield	210	170	40
Palmerston	210	205	5
Romilly	630	621	9
St Helens	308	283	25
Total	3983	3811	177

Table 8 – Capacity of English medium primary schools within 2 miles of the Barry Waterfront development

There is limited capacity at Barry Island, Romilly and High Street primary schools. However, admissions data from the previous three years' reception intake indicate that pupils were only refused based on proximity. Therefore, all applications received from catchment pupils were accepted.

There is an anticipated modest shortfall of English medium primary school places by 2022. This demand could be met through a reassessment of capacity at Holton and Jenner Park primary schools. Over the last 5 years capacity has been removed from Holton and Jenner Park primary schools through a re-designation of room uses. The schools had previous surplus capacity that could be made available to increase the number of English medium places available. Both of these schools are within 2 miles of the Barry Waterfront development.

It is anticipated that as demand for Welsh medium increases, there will be a corresponding decrease in the demand for English medium school places. Since 1998, the Barry area has seen a 5.8% decline in the demand for English medium education, and an increased demand for Welsh medium education of 6.7%.

Why is Barry Waterfront not getting its own school, in addition to expanding Ysgol Sant Baruc?

As part of the Section 106 agreement for the Barry Waterfront development, a new school was to be provided to meet the needs of additional pupils generated by the development. It was determined that a 210 place school would be required in order to meet these needs.

In order to prevent the increased revenue costs associated with the opening of a brand new school, the Council sought 21st Century Schools funding from Welsh

Government. This funding would be used to increase the school size from 210 places to 420 places so that Ysgol Sant Baruc would be able to transfer to the site whilst still providing the 210 additional places.

Transport

How will the Council mitigate the impact this school would have on traffic congestion and parking?

Traffic and transport implications are being 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.

Timescales

When will the new school open?

It is intended building would start on the new school site by January 2020 and be completed by September 2021. The build would be based on previous new build schools in the Vale of Glamorgan such as, Oak Field Primary, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Ysgol Dewi Sant and Ysgol Y Ddraig.

Communication

How will residents be involved during the consultation?

The Council will publish the consultation document on 8th January 2019, requesting feedback is received by 22nd February 2019. A community drop in session has been arranged at the Civic Offices in Barry on 30th January 2019 between 2.30pm and 6pm.

You can respond to our proposals at any time during the consultation 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 on the Council's website
- Attend a drop-in session and speak to us in person. This is a good way to be able to get answers to any questions you may have about the proposals. We will still ask that you complete a consultation response form, as we can only accept views in writing. You can also contact us on 01446 709828 for further information on the proposal.
- Complete the consultation response form at the end of the consultation document and send to:

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

All responses given to us in writing will be considered by Cabinet before it decides whether or not to publish a statutory notice about the proposals. We will continue to work with the Residents Association so address any queries.

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.
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.
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).
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.
Step 10: Decision letter	Confirmation of the decision and objection report availability will be issued to stakeholders.

Table 9 – Outline of the statutory consultation process