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## AGENDA

<b>Committee</b>	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
<b>Date and Time of Meeting</b>	TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2016, 11.00 AM
<b>Venue</b>	COMMITTEE ROOM 4, COUNTY HALL, ATLANTIC WHARF, CARDIFF
<b>Membership</b>	Councillor Richard Cook (Chairperson) Councillors Boyle, Chaundy, Gordon, Joyce, Morgan, Murphy, Dianne Rees and Lynda Thorne  Mrs P Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative), Carol Cobert (Church in Wales representative) and Mrs Hayley Smith (Parent Governor Representative)

		<i>Time approx.</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  To receive apologies for absence.	11.00 am
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  To be made at the start of the agenda item in question, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Schools Organisation Planning: Schools Catchment Area Consultation - Consideration of Called-in Cabinet Decision CAB/15/84 (Pages 1 - 98)</b>  Report of the Director for Education and Lifelong Learning.  (a) Operational Manager Scrutiny Services to explain the Call-in process to Members;  (b) Councillors Dianne Rees, Paul Mitchell and Neil McEvoy to explain the reasons for calling in this decision;  (c) Members' question and answer session;  (d) Councillor Sarah Merry, Cabinet Member for Education to give a	11.05 am

statement and presentation in response to the reasons for calling in that decision. She will be supported by Officers from the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate;

- (e) Members' question and answer session;
- (f) Witnesses who have expressed an interest in making a statement on the proposals to be invited to make a statement to the Committee;
- (g) Members' question and answer session.

#### **4 Consideration of Written Statements**

- (a) Members will consider any further written evidence to be circulated at the meeting.

#### **5 Summing Up**

- (a) Councillor Sarah Merry and Officers from the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate will be provided with the opportunity to readdress the Committee on the matters raised by witnesses and presented in the any witness statements;
- (b) Members' question and answer session;
- (c) Councillors Dianne Rees, Paul Mitchell and Neil McEvoy will be provided with the opportunity to sum up;
- (d) Questions from Committee Members

#### **6 Way Forward**

- The Chair to seek the Committee's views regarding whether to refer the matter to Cabinet or not.
- The Chair to seek the Committee's views regarding whether, if any, comments, observations or recommendations the Committee wish to send to the Cabinet.

**David Marr**

**Interim Monitoring Officer**

Date: Wednesday, 11 May 2016

Contact: Mandy Farnham,

029 2087 2618, [Mandy.Farnham@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:Mandy.Farnham@cardiff.gov.uk)

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**CITY & COUNTY OF CARDIFF  
DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD**

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**17 MAY 2016**

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**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: SCHOOLS CATCHMENT AREA  
CONSULTATION – CONSIDERATION OF CALLED-IN CABINET DECISION  
CAB/15/84**

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**Background**

1. The Council's Constitution makes provision for a Call-In Procedure which provides that any non-Cabinet Member may call-in a decision of which notice has been given, by giving notice in writing to the Operational Manager of Scrutiny Services within the Call-In Period (within seven clear working days after publication of the decision). The Operational Manager shall then notify the Cabinet Business Office and call a meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, where possible after consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee, and in any case within five clear working days of the decision to call-in.
2. Cabinet Decisions, for purposes of the Call-In Procedure, are those made by the Cabinet, a Committee of the Cabinet, the Leader, a Cabinet Member, the Chief Executive or a Corporate Director (or other post holder/s within the same tier of management or responsibility).
3. During the Call-In Period after the Cabinet meeting of the 21 March 2016 three non-executive Councillors submitted requests to Call-In the decision on the item titled '*School Organisation Planning: Schools catchment Area Consultation*'. The report sought approval for the recommendations on the proposed changes to the Welsh-medium high school catchment areas of Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf through transfer of Ysgol Pencae

catchment from Ysgol Plasmawr to Ysgol Glantaf catchment, with effect from September 2017.

4. The Cabinet Decision CAB/15/84 made on 21 March 2016, published on 23 March 2015 and with a proposed implementation date of 26 April 2016, resolved that:

- Officers be authorised to carry out a review of options for secondary provision in the area concerned, in order to better match supply and demand and to secure consistently high standards of education provision.
- Changes to the English-medium high school catchments of Fitzalan High School and Cantonian High School and associated English-medium primary school catchment areas would not proceed currently.
- The proposed changes to the Welsh-medium high school catchment areas of Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glan Taf through transfer of Ysgol Pencae catchment from Ysgol Plasmawr to Ysgol Glantaf catchment to take effect from September 2017 be approved.

5. The reasons provided in the decision register for taking this decision were:

- To approve changes to English-medium and Welsh-medium primary and secondary school catchment areas in order to achieve a balance between the supply of and demand for school places.

6. Attached as **Appendix A** is the report to the Cabinet Business Meeting of 21 March 2016. Also attached are three of the appendices to **Appendix A**, these are:

- **Appendix 1** – Catchment area map detailing the proposed catchment areas that would be implemented in September 2017 (English and Welsh medium);



- **Appendix 3** – Statutory Screening Tool (Welsh-medium Catchment Changes); and
- **Appendix 5** – Formal consultation responses (Welsh-medium Catchment Changes).

7. Three non-executive Councillors have requested that this decision is called-in for Scrutiny Committee consideration. Copies of the reasons submitted by those Councillors for the Call-in are attached at **Appendix B, C and D**. The reasons set out by Members include:

- The change is ill-conceived, a short term answer to Welsh-medium secondary provision in the catchment areas of both Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf. Consideration of post-2017 data on the capacity of the city's three Welsh-medium high schools, and likely growth in demand for school places could have led to different options being considered;
- The socio-economic impact of these changes on Ysgol Plasmawr has not been fully examined, and the views of important stakeholders have not been taken into account;
- Several key stakeholders have expressed concerns that the change could have unwelcome consequences for the social and academic wellbeing of pupils;
- The consultation exercise appeared to disregard the views of a large majority of respondents;
- The apparent short notice of the consultation with Ysgol Pencae;
- Any discussion of secondary provision should include laying out a timetable for a fourth Welsh Medium school in Cardiff;

- The view that the Council's whole approach to Welsh medium education is reactive and piece meal;
  - The decision should therefore be called-in, and officers advised to carry out a review of options for Welsh-medium secondary provision in the existing catchment areas of the two schools and across the City.
8. The Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference were last agreed by Full Council on 25 June 2015. These cover a wide range of topics including English and Welsh Medium Education and Catchment areas.
9. The role of Scrutiny Committees calling-in a decision is:
- To test the merits of the decision;
  - To consider the process by which the decision has been formulated;
  - To make recommendations (to support the decision, change aspects of the decision or to invite the decision making body to reconsider);
  - To suggest further steps before a decision is made.

### **Scope of Scrutiny**

10. The Committee therefore needs to consider this call-In in accordance with the requirements of the Call-In Procedure. The scope of this scrutiny is limited to exploring the reasons for the call-in listed in paragraph 9.
11. It is important that Members focus their questions directly on the decision taken by Cabinet on 21 March 2016. Should questions be evaluated as probing decisions not within the remit of the call-in then the Chair will deem it necessary to disallow the line of inquiry.
12. Under the Call-In Procedure, the relevant Scrutiny Committee may consider the called-in decision itself, or decide to refer the issue to the Council for

Scrutiny if the matter is of general significance and importance to the Council as a whole. A Council meeting to consider this issue must take place within 10 clear working days of such a referral, unless otherwise agreed between the Leader and the Chairperson of the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

13. Having considered the decision, the Scrutiny Committee may refer it back to the decision maker for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns. The decision maker shall then reconsider the matter before adopting a final decision, arranging for the decision to be changed to reflect points made by the Scrutiny Committee, or formally deferring the matter for further consideration. The relevant Scrutiny Committee or Council as appropriate will be advised of the outcome at its next meeting.
14. If following a Call-In, the matter is not referred back to the decision maker, the decision shall take effect on the date of the relevant Scrutiny Committee or Council meeting which considers the issues, or the expiry of the Scrutiny Period or the Council Scrutiny Period as appropriate, whichever is the later.

### **Way Forward**

15. Councillors Dianne Rees, Paul Mitchell and Neil McEvoy (the Councillors calling-in the Decision) has been invited to explain their reasons for the call-in and provide evidence to the Committee.
16. Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education) and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) supported by other Council Officers, have been invited to attend Committee to respond to the call-in and answer Members' questions.
17. Representatives from local schools have asked to speak at Committee and to answer Members' questions.

## **Legal Implications**

18. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

19. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to consider Cabinet Decision CAB/15/84 in accordance with the Call-In Procedure.

**David Marr**  
**Interim Monitoring Officer**  
**11 May 2016**

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**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: SCHOOLS CATCHMENT  
AREA CONSULTATION**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG  
LEARNING**

**ITEM: 5**

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**PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)**

**Reason for this Report**

1. To inform the Cabinet of responses received following consultation on catchment area arrangements relating to English-medium and Welsh-medium primary and secondary school provision, to present an evaluation of the responses and to request that the Cabinet considers the recommendation to make changes to some catchment boundaries.

**Background**

2. The supply of and demand for school places, is under continual review within the context of school organisation planning to ensure a good match between the supply of and demand for places in each part of the Local Authority.
3. Catchment areas need to be of a size and geographical area that can sustain schools at their proposed pupil capacities and are sufficiently convenient for the majority of pupils and parents in the locality.
4. The Welsh Government School Admissions Code guidance includes the requirement to consult on school catchment areas where this is appropriate.

**Catchment area consultations**

5. As part of this review public consultation was undertaken between 02 February and 01 March on revising catchment area arrangements for the following schools:
6. English-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area Consultation: Revised catchment area arrangements for:

Cantonian High School

Fitzalan High School

Kitchener Primary School  
Radnor Primary School

Lansdowne Primary School  
Severn Primary School

7. Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area Consultation; Revised catchment area arrangements for:

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf  
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr  
Ysgol Pencae

### **Consultation**

8. Public consultations on the proposed catchment area changes were held between 02 February and 01 March 2016. Headteachers, Governors, parents and others in the local community were invited to respond to the consultations.
9. The consultation process involved the distribution of a letter and proposed catchment area map. Documents have been distributed to all relevant stakeholders. The document offered consultees the opportunity to comment on the proposals by post or e-mail.
10. Views expressed on paper or electronically, through the appropriate channels, have been recorded.

### **English-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Areas**

11. At present Kitchener, Lansdowne, Radnor and Severn primary schools serve catchment areas that include parts of Canton, Llandaff and Riverside. The catchment area of these four primary school currently fall within the secondary school catchment area of Fitzalan High School.
12. Projections indicate that the demand for English-medium places from within the existing catchment area of Fitzalan High School will exceed the number of places available at entry to the school, whilst demand from within the existing catchment area of Cantonian High School is less than the school is able to accommodate.
13. The proposed changes to catchment areas seek to achieve a balance between the revised catchment areas of these high schools, and also between the catchment areas of Kitchener, Lansdowne, Radnor and Severn primary schools.
14. The proposal was that the boundary between the catchment areas of Lansdowne, Kitchener and Severn primary schools be amended such that:
- part of the existing Lansdowne catchment transfers to the catchment of Kitchener Primary School.
  - part of the existing Kitchener catchment transfers to the catchment of Severn Primary School.



15. The remaining catchment areas of Lansdowne Primary School and Radnor Primary School would also transfer from the secondary school catchment area of Fitzalan High School to Cantonian High School.
16. A copy of the catchment area map details in the proposed catchment areas that would be implemented in September 2017 can be seen at Appendix 1.

## Background

### Demand for English-medium community secondary school places – existing catchment areas

17. The catchment areas of Cantonian High School and Fitzalan High School are, like other Community secondary schools in Cardiff, made up of a number of community primary school catchment areas.

### Cantonian High School

18. The catchment area of Cantonian High School is made up of the primary school catchment areas of:
  - Fairwater Primary School
  - Pentrebane Primary School
  - Peter Lea Primary School
19. The total number of places available at entry to Cantonian High School (the Published Admission Number) is 181. The combined number of places available at entry to the three community primary schools within Cantonian High School (the Published Admission Number) total 119.
20. The most recent verified Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data collated in 2015 indicated that the pupil population of primary school age within the catchment area of Cantonian High School totalled 1,297 pupils of which 733 pupils (56.5%) were attending English-medium community primary schools.
21. Table 1 below details the number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Cantonian High School catchment area that are enrolled in English-medium community primary education.

Table 1: Number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Cantonian High School catchment area that are enrolled in English-medium community primary education (PLASC 2015)							
Year Group:	6	5	4	3	2	1	Reception
(Enters Sec Education)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Catchment							
Fairwater	20	29	40	30	39	34	37
Pentrebane	26	32	23	38	48	34	44
Peter Lea	27	37	29	38	39	41	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>129</b>

22. Table 2 below sets out the projected demand for places at a community secondary school within each of the primary school catchment areas within the Cantonian High School catchment areas. These take account of the number of pupils enrolled in English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith education in each of the primary school catchment areas, and of the percentage of pupils transferring to community education in recent years.
23. For the purpose of clarity, the net loss of pupils to other sectors (e.g. to Faith schools, private education, schools in other Local Authorities) is also detailed.

Table 2: Number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Cantonian High School catchment area projected to promote to an English-medium community school							
Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Catchment:</b>							
Fairwater	17	23	31	21	29	23	26
Pentrebane	23	28	20	33	43	28	36
Peter Lea	26	38	28	35	36	39	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Catchment surplus</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>70</b>
Projected net loss – Faith, private etc	7	9	13	17	18	19	18
As % of primary cohort promoting	90%	91%	86%	84%	86%	83%	86%

### Fitzalan High School

24. The catchment area of Fitzalan High School is made up of the primary school catchment areas of:
- Grangetown Primary School
  - Kitchener Primary School
  - Lansdowne Primary School
  - Mount Stuart Primary School
  - Ninian Park Primary School
  - Radnor Primary School
  - Severn Primary School
  - St Mary The Virgin Church in Wales Primary School
25. There is also an additional ‘shared area’ in Canton within which pupils are considered to live within the catchment areas of both Lansdowne and Radnor.
26. The total number of places available at entry to Fitzalan High School (the Published Admission Number) is currently 286. This will (subject to the approval of separate admission arrangements) increase to 300 places from September 2017 to reflect extension of the school.
27. The combined number of places available at entry to the seven community primary schools within Fitzalan High School (the Published Admission Number) currently total 405.

28. The most recent PLASC census data indicated that the pupil population of primary school age within the catchment area of Fitzalan High School totalled 4,745 pupils of which 2736 pupils (57.7%) were attending English-medium community primary schools
29. Table 3 below details the number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Fitzalan High School catchment area that are enrolled in English-medium community primary education.

Table 3: Number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Fitzalan High School catchment area that are enrolled in English-medium community primary education (PLASC 2015)

<b>Year Group:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Reception</b>	
<b>Enters Sec Ed</b>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
<b>Catchment:</b>								
Grangetown	85	87	93	84	112	103	100	
Kitchener	80	86	74	69	103	87	77	
Lansdowne	37	42	36	43	35	33	40	
Mount Stuart	21	25	20	32	26	39	29	
Ninian Park	78	74	80	71	29	67	74	
Radnor	19	20	17	25	24	23	20	
Severn	32	47	28	38	45	44	47	
St Mary The Virgin*	9	11	10	12	10	17	4	
Shared area	0	5	4	5	2	5	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>393</b>	

30. \* Whilst St Mary The Virgin School has a discrete catchment area, pupils attending the school are enrolled in a Faith school and are therefore not included in the above data. The above data therefore reflects pupils resident within that geographical area but attending English-medium community schools e.g. Mount Stuart Primary, Grangetown Primary etc.
31. It is evident from the above table that the total number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas enrolled in English-medium community primary education exceeds the number of places available at entry to Fitzalan High School.
32. Table 4 overleaf sets out the projected demand for places at a community secondary school within each of the primary school catchment areas within the Fitzalan High School catchment area that are enrolled in English-medium community primary education. These take account of the number of pupils enrolled in English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith education in each of the primary school catchment areas and take account of the percentage of pupils transferring to community education in recent years.

<b>Table 4: Number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Fitzalan High School catchment area projected to promote to an English-medium community school</b>							
<b>Enters Sec Ed</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Catchment:</b>							
Grangetown	71	74	79	77	108	107	110
Kitchener	65	72	62	57	81	72	65
Lansdowne	37	38	34	41	34	33	39
Mount Stuart	20	25	19	38	32	46	40
Ninian Park	63	61	66	59	58	54	64
Radnor	13	16	14	19	18	18	15
Severn	27	40	24	32	36	36	36
St Mary The Virgin*	19	21	19	20	14	26	6
Shared area	0	2	1	2	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Catchment deficit</b>	<b>-29</b>	<b>-63</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>-82</b>	<b>-93</b>	<b>-75</b>
Projected Net loss	46	48	44	44	14	25	18
As % of primary cohort promoting	87%	88%	88%	91%	96%	94%	95%

33. It is evident when comparing PLASC pupil data that similar proportions of pupils in the Cantonian and Fitzalan catchment areas attend English-medium community primary schools (56.5% and 57.7% respectively) , and projections indicate that broadly similar proportions of pupils are expected to promote to English-medium community secondary schools.
34. However, the difference in size of the eligible population in the Cantonian and Fitzalan catchment areas (1,297 and 4,745 respectively), and in turn the numbers of pupils expected to promote to English-medium secondary schools is significant.
35. Taking into account the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) at each school, projections indicate:
- Approximately 3.4FE surplus capacity in September 2017, falling to 2.4FE surplus capacity in September 2019 at entry to Year 7 at Cantonian High School
  - Approximately 0.6FE excess demand in September 2017, rising to 2.7FE excess demand in September 2019 at entry to Year 7 at Fitzalan High School.
36. Projections take account of pupils enrolled in schools and changes to populations over recent years and use a cohort survival model. The above projections do not include the additional demand for English-medium places (of up to 3FE) from proposed housing developments within the Fitzalan High School catchment area
37. Recent consultation on proposals for the Four Wards noted the projected shortfall of primary school places in Grangetown and to meet the expected yield from planned housing developments in the Butetown, Grangetown, Canton and Riverside areas including:

- Prospect Place, Grangetown
  - International Sports Village, Grangetown
  - Ely Mill (former Arjo Wiggins site), Canton
  - West of Dumballs Road, Butetown
  - Bessemer Fruit Market, Grangetown
  - Gas Works site, Ferry Road, Grangetown
  - Porth Teigr (Roath Basin), Butetown
38. Building works have resumed on the Prospect Place site and works have commenced on the ISV site. The timing of the commencement, completion and composition/ size of the dwellings in other developments remains unclear at this stage; however, based on information currently available the combined projected yield of these developments when completed amounts to a further 111 pupils per year group of which up to 83 pupils may wish to attend English-medium schools.

### **Entry to Secondary Education - September 2016**

39. For entry to Year 7 to Fitzalan High School in September 2015, the Council received a total of **381** preferences by the published closing date of Monday, 30 November 2015. Following consideration of all the preferences received approval was given for the admission of the following **286** pupils in accordance with the Council's published admission arrangements: -
- **1** pupil who is looked after/previously looked after by a Local Authority (as defined by section 22 of the Children Act 1989)
  - **5** pupils who are subject of a statement of Special Educational Needs
  - **280** pupils who are resident within the catchment area on grounds of closest proximity of home address Fitzalan High School.
40. The Council has a duty to admit those children who are looked after/previously looked after by a Local Authority and those who are the subject of a statement of SEN.
41. The Council was not able to admit all children from within the catchment area that requested a place. In the first round of admissions, **47** children resident in the catchment area of the school, who applied by the closing date for preferences, were refused admission to the school.

### **Summary**

42. Implementation of the proposed change would provide a closer match of the supply of and demand for places from 2017/18.
43. It is clear that from the above that if the status quo is retained and the proposal is not implemented that the number of children in the Fitzalan catchment who will not be able to gain a place at their catchment school

will increase over the coming years with those pupils furthest from the catchment from the school being most likely to be adversely affected.

44. This will result in an increased number of children being required to access high school provision in neighbouring English-medium catchments with many children required to travel in excess of 3 miles to their nearest local high school and therefore eligible for free home to school transport. This will have associated transport costs over an extended period to be met by the Council until the children concerned have left statutory education which will increase year on year until catchment areas change.

### **Responses received during the consultation period**

45. In total 451 responses were received. Of these 14 were in support and 437 were in opposition. In addition a petition with 460 signatories was also received in opposition to the proposal. Formal responses received can be seen at Appendix 5.
46. A summary of the main views expressed and the Council's response are set out below. Views expressed by respondents are in bold italicised font with the Council's response following.

### **Consultation process and length**

47. ***The time allowed for the consultation is too short and does not allow adequate time for people to make their views known given the amount of information that requires consideration by stakeholders.***
48. The consultation was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006 as it is a proposed change to the admission arrangements (rather than an alteration to a School which would be under the School Organisation Code and the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013.)
49. The School Admissions Code is not as detailed as the School Organisation Code in relation to consultation and although the principles are similar, the timescales are different and there is no requirement within the School Admissions Code to publish proposals or to consult parents. In line with the requirement of the School Admissions Code, admission arrangements must be consulted upon between 1 September and 1 March (and set by 15 April each year) in relation to the school year two years later – in this case 2017/18. There is no minimum consultation period, which there is in the School Organisation Code (42 days which is to include 20 school days.)
50. Reference in the School Admissions Code is made under paragraph 2.6 to bodies that the Admission Authority should consult where a significant change is proposed; this includes the Admissions Forum and

parents of children likely to be affected. This is made in the context of consulting on admission arrangements prior to their determination.

51. Parents of Pupils attending primary schools subject to catchment boundary changes (namely Radnor, Lansdowne, Severn and Kitchener) and parents of pupils in Years 7-11 at Cantonian and Fitzalan have each received hard copies of the document (sent out through schools).
52. Parents of children of primary school age, who are resident in the primary school catchment areas of Radnor, Lansdowne, Severn and Kitchener but attending other schools in Cardiff, have also received hard copies of the document (sent via post).
53. Parents of children of pre-school age, who are resident in the affected primary school catchment areas of Radnor, Lansdowne, Severn and Kitchener have also received hard copies of the document (sent via post).
54. Admission arrangements for other schools are unaffected by the proposed changes, however the Headteacher and Chair of Governors all schools in Cardiff were also advised of the consultation and e-mailed the weblink to the consultation document.
55. ***The material for consultation was not supplied in minority languages and therefore not all families would be able to engage meaningfully as not all would be able to understand the proposal put forward.***
56. The principle of consultation involves publishing full, clear details of the proposals and inviting responses from interested parties. The consultation showing the proposed changes to catchment areas was published on the website on 2 February 2016 in compliance with the School Admissions Code. The headteachers of schools directly affected by the proposed changes were informed on 1 February.
57. Hard copies of the map and address for views to be sent to, were sent to all children at these schools the following week, as well as parents of children not yet of school age, and parents of families who were resident in the areas but whose children attend other English Community schools. The proposal was also publicised on the Council's social media forums as is standard on Council consultations of this type. It has therefore been publicised by the Council consistent with established publicity methods.
58. The School Admissions Code refers to the use of catchment areas and in particular, states that they should be designed so that the boundary is reasonable and clearly defined, and states that admission authorities must make maps of the specified areas available. The proposals were supported by a clear map with colour coded clear boundaries.
59. Written material for the purpose of consultation meets the statutory requirements of being provided bilingually. The issue of providing this

information has been discussed with schools. The standard community languages form used by the service to support school organisation proposals was sent out as requested by specific schools. This form has enabled parents to state whether they wished to receive the catchment consultation information in their home language and translated responses were issued accordingly.

### **Quality of Education**

60. ***Concerns were raised regarding the standard of education offered at Cantonian High School which is banded as a 'Red' school by comparison with that offered at Fitzalan High School which is banded as a 'Green' school.***
61. ***Concerns were raised with regard to the facilities at Cantonian High School and that they are not on par with those available at Fitzalan High School which means the schools cannot make the same offer.***

### **Welsh Government School Categorisation**

62. It is recognised that the National School Categorisation banding for Fitzalan High School are currently higher than for Cantonian High School. However, both provide comprehensive education for their pupils and appropriate measures are in place to support each in the areas identified for their improvement.
63. The main purpose of the WG School Categorisation is to identify which schools are in the most need of support. The system ensures that, in partnership with local authorities and consortia direct support and resources are directed to improve the school system and as a result raise standards and performance in Wales.
64. The system is about providing support and encouraging collaborative improvement by putting schools into a position that enables them to identify the factors that contribute to their progress and achievement, or what areas to focus on to achieve further development.
65. The categorisation colour shows the level of support a school needs – green, yellow, amber or red (with the schools in the green category needing the least support and those in the red category needing the most intensive support). Each school will receive a tailored programme of support, challenge and intervention based on their category to develop their strategies for leadership and teaching and learning.
66. Cantonian High School is receiving support from the Central South Consortium (CSC) and is making significant and continued progress under this support.
67. Additionally, Cantonian High School is part of the Welsh Government Challenge Cymru initiative under which the school is receiving additional resources and expertise over and above the CSC support to



undertake a programme of swift, sustainable improvement. The school is judged to be making good progress to date.

## Estyn

68. Cantonian High School was last inspected in February 2015. The school's performance was judged to be adequate with prospects for improvement judged to be unsatisfactory.
69. Fitzalan High School was last inspected in September 2010. The school's performance was judged to be good with prospects for improvement judged to be good.
70. Following the Estyn inspection of Cantonian High School, the Local Authority took action to strengthen governance at the school and to secure improvement in the quality of education provided.
71. Cantonian High School has made improvements against all recommendations as set out in the Estyn inspection in February 2015. It is the view of the Local Authority and the CSC this progress made is expected to continue and this will be recognised in future inspections and bandings.
72. It is recognised that at this stage the view of the professional advisors involved with the school is yet to be endorsed by external inspectorate bodies. An Estyn revisit is expected to take place in coming months and the LA is confident the improvements made at the school in terms of standards of leadership, quality of teaching and the outcomes of children will be recognised.
73. The view with regard to the facilities at the respective schools is acknowledged. Both schools are being considered for reorganisation and investment as part of the Band B 21st Century Schools programme as it is recognised that in order to support the continued improvement at both schools they will need enhanced facilities. The prioritisation with regard to which schools the LA would invest in has been discussed with Welsh Government Officers. However the programme has not yet been confirmed with regard to value and borrowing mechanisms.
74. If a Band B submission were to be agreed in the future concerning Cantonian and Fitzalan High, facilities would be equitable between the two schools enabling enhanced provision for both their learners.

## Community Cohesion

75. ***Concerns have been raised that changes to the catchment area would have an adverse impact on the community cohesion because the diversity of pupils attending Fitzalan High School would be reduced. It is argued that to date children have had the experience of a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-faith and socially diverse education that is reflective of their community and that***

***this proposal would be detrimental to the affected schools, the communities and the children if it were to be implemented.***

76. Populations do not remain static and residential areas can change over time, often relatively quickly. In Cardiff there are high levels of in migration and established migration networks with people from a diverse range of different ethnicities, religions, faiths, social backgrounds and cultures coexisting in a relatively compact geographical area. Parts of the city have greater densities of particular minority ethnic and/or socio-economic groups than others. Each school is required to take account of these differences and educate their pupils effectively in line with their needs.
77. Fitzalan High School is one that benefits from a pupil intake which covers a range of different ethnic groups (57) (PLASC 2016) and has a spectrum of socio-economic areas within its local catchment area. It has demonstrated its ability to improve standards and provide a good standard of education and pastoral care for the wide range of pupils attending the school.
78. Cantonian High School has also demonstrated its ability to cater to a wide spectrum of learners and in recent years the school has seen a rapid increase in the number of minority ethnic learners including those with English as an additional language. Pupils access a diverse range of education experiences based on a multi faith multi-cultural and multi-language curriculum. In addition Cantonian caters effectively for a range of pupils with additional learning needs and provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) is recognised as a strength of the school.
79. In its document 'Getting Along Together: A Community Cohesion Strategy for Wales' the term "community cohesion", is used by the Welsh Government to describe *'how everyone in a geographical area lives alongside each other with mutual understanding and respect, where every person has the equal chance to participate and has equal access to services. It is about integration, valuing difference and focusing on the shared values that join people together. It conveys a sense of acceptance and integration and of developing shared values. It is also concerned with supporting communities to be resilient when problems and tensions arise'*, (Welsh Assembly Government 2009 Getting Along Together: A Community Cohesion Strategy for Wales).
80. Potentially more important than the ethnic mix of pupils is the way the school provides for its pupils and supports their understanding of themselves and each other as part of wider society. Much research has been done in the area of 'community cohesion' and how schools foster positive relations amongst their different pupil populations with guidance produced in both Wales and other parts of the UK designed to support this. As set out in the aforementioned document *'Schools directly support local community cohesion by providing children and young people with strong and positive messages to encourage mutual understanding and respect...Schools can promote respect for local*

*cultural history and work to build respect for cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity amongst the school community’ (Ibid).*

81. In Wales, the curriculum for all maintained schools promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, development of pupils at the school and of society, and prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. Furthermore all schools have a duty to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups.
82. Taking all factors into account there would be a full expectation that both Cantonian and Fitzalan High Schools would provide effective and appropriate education to all children and young people attending.

#### **Health and Safety, logistics and ‘local schools for local children’**

83. ***A range of stakeholders have raised concern regarding the safe routes to school for children travelling from Canton to Fairwater to attend Cantonian (particularly with regard to crossing the A48), along with the increased travel distance for some pupils to get to school.***
84. ***Furthermore some also suggested that the proposal would result in increased vehicular use and/or polluting modes of transport.***
85. ***Respondents have raised that as part of its 21st Century Schools Programme Cardiff Council has consistently committed to providing ‘local schools for local children’ with respondents stating that this proposed change to catchment areas is inconsistent with this aim.***
86. Should the proposal be implemented projections indicate that the number of pupils in the Lansdowne and Radnor catchments attending English-medium secondary schools amounts to c2FE (60 pupils per year group).
87. The majority of pupils affected by the change would remain within 1 mile of Cantonian High School, and a significant proportion would be resident within 0.5 miles of the school.
88. Over half of the secondary school pupils in this area presently commute to Welsh medium schools or faith schools, the majority of which attend Ysgol Plasmawr (Fairwater) or The Bishop of Llandaff CW High School (Llandaff). Ysgol Plasmawr is significantly further for any pupils in the affected area and The Bishop of Llandaff CW High School would also be further for all but a small proportion of addresses within the affected area. Many pupils attending these schools walk to school and it is expected that the number of pupils that are affected by the proposal and who are both further from their local secondary school and also opting to use more polluting forms of transport would be few.

89. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils in Llandaff, Grangetown and Butetown would likely continue using existing forms of travel. Should the proposal not be implemented, pupils in the Canton, North Grangetown and Llandaff would likely continue using existing forms of travel.
90. Projections indicate that many pupils in South Grangetown and Butetown (i.e. those resident within the Fitzalan High School catchment area, but furthest from the school) would be unable to gain admission to the school. Those pupils would reside more than 2 miles from the next nearest English-medium secondary school (Willows High School). Some pupils would reside in excess of 3 miles from a local English-medium secondary school and would therefore also qualify for free home to school transport.
91. Siblings of children already in Fitzalan would continue to get priority to attend the school and all parents and therefore families with more than one child on high school would not be in a position of transporting children to two separate schools as a direct result of this proposal.
92. Traffic and transport officers have been consulted as part of this process and confirmed that the road crossings are suitable for the increased number of children that would potential walk to school if this proposal were to be implemented. The School Transport Team are able to advise regarding safe routes to school for families from their residence to their school.

## **Summary**

93. The LA is confident that standards of education at Cantonian High School have improved and will continue to do so. It is recognised this view is yet to be endorsed by external inspectorate bodies and because of this there remains a public perception that there is a difference in the quality of education between the two schools. This perception is expected to change once there is published information available publically regarding the improvements made and standards being realised at Cantonian High School.
94. Whilst both schools are being considered for reorganisation and investment as part of the Band B 21st Century Schools programme, the programme has not yet been confirmed and therefore it is recognised that a greater measure of certainty over future investment strategy for both schools is not currently available.
95. Were changes to catchment areas not to be made, there would remain significant concerns regarding the increasing numbers of children that will not be able to access their catchment school along with increased transport costs over a sustained period to enable them to access secondary education.

96. In the event of catchment area applications exceeding the number of places available, it is those children living furthest from the school that are least likely to secure a place. In the case of Fitzalan High School, the current secondary school catchment area arrangements disadvantage those families applying for secondary school places for their children in the parts of the catchment area furthest from the school (including South Grangetown and Butetown) where the distance to alternative English-medium high school provision would be greatest.
97. The next nearest secondary schools to pupils in these areas, namely Cathays High School and Willows High School are each more than 2.5 miles from addresses in Grangetown and Butetown. Demand for places from within the catchment area of each of these schools is also projected to rise in future, which is evidenced by the expansion of primary school provision serving these areas in recent years.
98. However, in view of the above factors, it is on balance deemed advisable to defer consideration of changes to catchment relating to Cantonian and Fitzalan High Schools until the impact of improvement at Cantonian is evidenced in annual performance results and there is greater certainty about the future investment strategy for both schools.

### **Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Areas**

99. At present Ysgol Pencae serves a catchment area that includes parts of Canton, Fairwater, Llandaff and Riverside. The catchment area of Ysgol Pencae falls entirely within the secondary school catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr.
100. At present Ysgol Pencae serves a catchment area that includes parts of Canton, Fairwater, Llandaff and Riverside. The catchment area of Ysgol Pencae falls entirely within the secondary school catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr.
101. Projections indicate that the demand for Welsh-medium places from within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr will exceed the number of places available at entry to the school from September 2017, whilst demand from within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf will be less than the school is able to accommodate.
102. It is therefore proposed that the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae transfers from the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. The proposed changes seek to achieve a balance between the revised catchment areas of each of the schools.
103. A copy of the catchment area map detailing the proposed catchment areas that would be implemented in September 2017 can be seen at Appendix 2.

## Background

### Demand for Welsh-medium community secondary school places – existing catchment areas

104. The catchment areas of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf are, like other Community secondary schools in Cardiff, made up of a number of community primary school catchment areas.

#### Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf

105. The catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf is made up of the primary school catchment areas of:

- Ysgol Glan Ceubal
- Ysgol Glan Morfa
- Ysgol Melin Gruffydd
- Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
- Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch
- Ysgol Y Wern

106. The total number of places available at entry to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf (the Published Admission Number) is 240. The combined number of places available at entry to the six community primary schools within Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf (the Published Admission Number) total 283.

107. Table 5 below details the number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment area that are enrolled in Welsh-medium community primary education.

<b>Year Group:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Reception</b>
(Enters Sec Education)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Catchment:</b>							
Glan Ceubal	23	18	16	26	21	25	30
Glan Morfa	21	18	27	30	36	28	32
Melin Gruffydd	44	45	51	48	50	42	51
Mynydd Bychan	25	18	24	21	31	31	25
Pwll Coch	24	50	41	51	57	54	60
Y Wern	53	57	54	50	66	68	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>268</b>

108. Table 6 overleaf sets out the projected demand for places at a Welsh-medium community secondary school within each of the primary school catchment areas within the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment areas. These take account of the number of pupils enrolled in English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith education in each of the primary

school catchment areas, and of the percentage of pupils transferring to community education in recent years.

<b>Table 6: Number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment area projected to promote to a Welsh-medium community school</b>							
<b>Enters Sec Ed</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Catchment:</b>							
Glan Ceubal*	23	18	16	26	21	25	30
Glan Morfa	19	16	22	25	28	21	22
Melin Gruffydd	42	43	49	45	46	39	47
Mynydd Bychan*	25	18	24	21	31	31	25
Pwll Coch**	25	48	38	47	51	48	52
Y Wern	50	54	52	48	63	65	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>Catchment surplus/ deficit</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-1</b>
As % of primary cohort promoting	97	96	94	94	92	92	90
Projected net loss – EM, Faith, private etc	6	9	12	14	21	20	27

\*Catchment area changes prevent CSR being calculated; projection assumes 100% pupils retained

\*\*2 Year Weighted Average Cohort Survival Model used, as recent catchment area changes prevent 3 Year CSR being calculated

109. For the purpose of clarity, the net loss of pupils to other sectors (e.g. to English-medium schools, Faith schools, private education, schools in other Local Authorities) is also detailed.

### **Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr**

110. The catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr is made up of the primary school catchment areas of:

- Ysgol Coed-y-Gof
- Ysgol Creigiau
- Ysgol Gwaelod Y Garth
- Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau
- Ysgol Pencae
- Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna

111. The Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment also includes an additional area including parts of Taffs Well and Nantgarw which was part of the Ysgol Gwaelod Y Garth catchment area until September 2015.

112. The total number of places available at entry to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr (the Published Admission Number) is currently 180. The combined number of places available at entry to the six community

primary schools within Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr (the Published Admission Number) currently total 265.

113. Table 7 below table details the number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment area that are enrolled in Welsh-medium community primary education.

<b>Year Group:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Reception</b>
Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Catchment:</b>							
Coed Y Gof	58	53	61	62	74	80	67
Creigiau	19	18	20	18	19	15	17
Gwaelod Y Garth	17	9	11	10	14	21	17
Nant Caerau	17	18	40	30	36	42	36
Pencaer	29	26	24	25	29	25	35
Treganna	51	52	70	68	65	74	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>255</b>

114. Table 8 below sets out the projected demand for places at a Welsh-medium community secondary school within each of the primary school catchment areas within the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment area that are enrolled in Welsh-medium community primary education. These take account of the number of pupils enrolled in English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith education in each of the primary school catchment areas and take account of the percentage of pupils transferring to community education in recent years.

<b>Enters Sec Ed</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Catchment:</b>							
Coed Y Gof	54	47	53	50	58	61	49
Creigiau	19	18	20	18	19	15	17
Gwaelod Y Garth	17	9	11	10	14	21	17
Nant Caerau	16	16	37	26	31	34	30
Pencaer*	29	26	24	25	29	25	35
Treganna**	50	51	65	64	60	68	80
<b>Total (in County only)</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>228</b>
<b>Catchment surplus/ deficit</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>-44</b>	<b>-48</b>
Projected Net loss	6	15	16	20	26	33	37
As % of primary cohort promoting	97	91	93	91	89	87	89

\*Catchment area changes prevent CSR being calculated; projection assumes 100% pupils retained

\*\*2 Year Weighted Average Cohort Survival Model used, as recent catchment area changes prevent 3 Year CSR being calculated



## Combined Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr demand

115. Table 9 below sets out the projected demand for places at a Welsh-medium community secondary school in the existing catchment areas of Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr.

Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Catchment:</b>							
Glantaf	184	197	201	212	240	229	241
Plasmawr	185	161	210	193	211	224	228
<b>Combined demand</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>469</b>
<b>Combined Catchment surplus/ deficit</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>-33</b>	<b>-49</b>

116. Table 10 overleaf sets out the projected demand for places at a Welsh-medium community secondary school in the existing catchment areas of Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr.

Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Catchment:</b>							
Glantaf	184	197	225	237	269	254	276
Plasmawr	185	161	186	168	182	199	193
<b>Combined demand</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>469</b>
<b>Combined Catchment surplus/ deficit</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>-33</b>	<b>-49</b>

## Summary

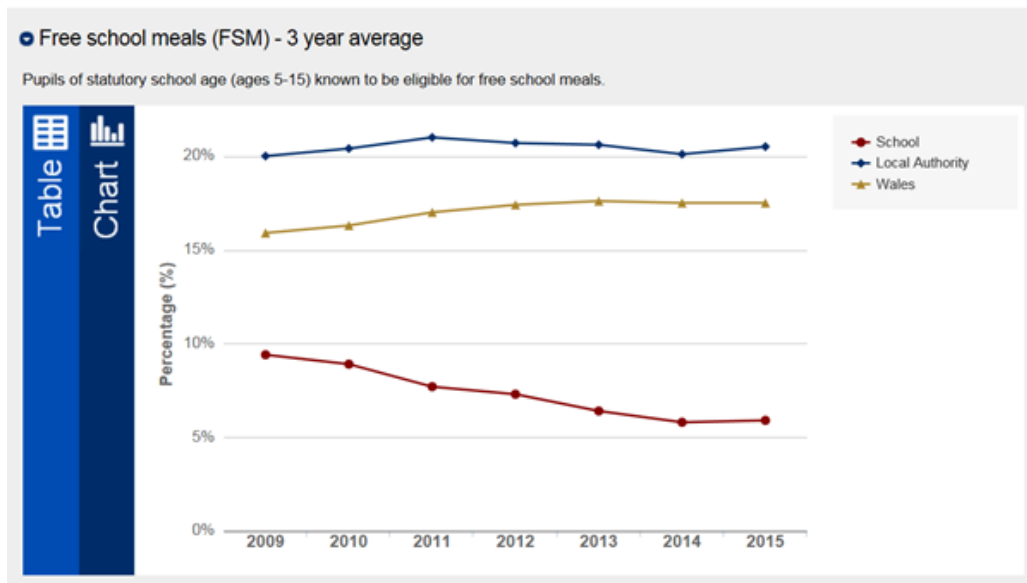
117. Implementation of the proposed change would provide an improved balance in the supply of and demand for places from 2017/18.
118. It is acknowledged that the combined projected demand for places from within the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment areas exceeds the combined number of places available at entry from September 2019; however, the admission arrangements that may be required beyond the 2017/18 intake can not be consulted on at this time.
119. Projections indicate that the city-wide demand for places at entry to Year 7 will in time exceed the overall supply between the three Welsh-medium secondary school Ysgol Glantaf, Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Bro Edern and detailed proposals to meet this growing demand will be brought forward at the appropriate time. The timing of this will be determined in part by the progress of planning applications for housing sites including the strategic sites planned for North West Cardiff (each within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Plasmawr) and North East

Cardiff (partially within existing catchment area of Ysgol Glantaf, and largely within the catchment area of Ysgol Bro Edern).

### Responses received during the consultation period

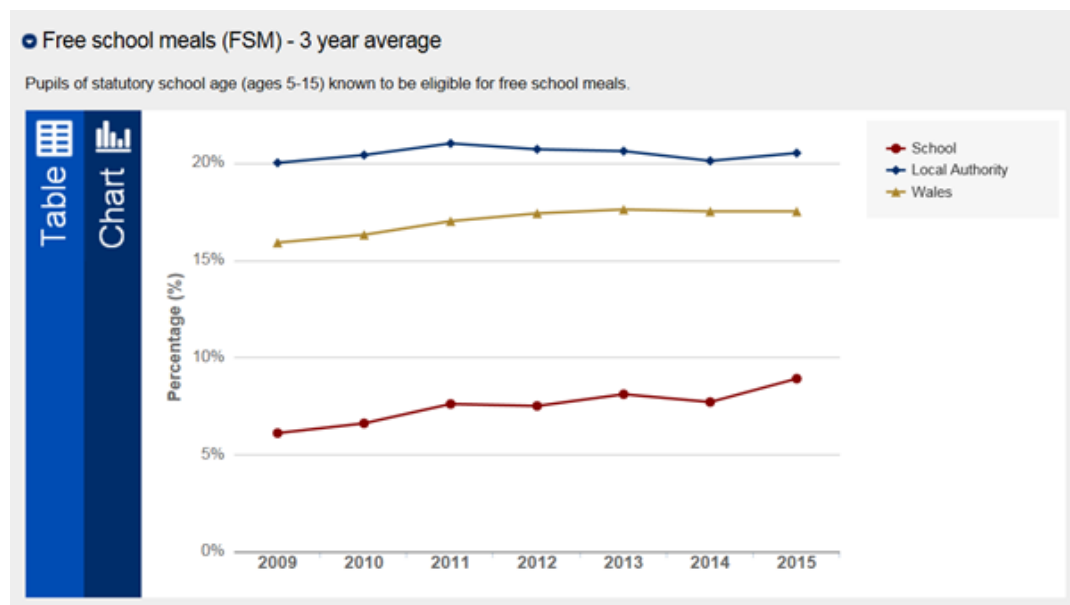
120. In total 368 responses were received. Of which 87 were in support and 281 were in opposition to the proposal, whilst in addition a pupil petition with 471 signatories was received objecting to the proposal. Formal responses received can be seen at Appendix 6.
121. A summary of the main views expressed and the Council's response are set out below. Views expressed by respondents are in bold italicised font with the Council's response following.
122. **Concern expressed as to whether projected growth of pupil numbers at Glantaf (particularly in relation to two of its feeder schools – Glan Ceubal and Pwll Coch) has been taken fully into account and that the authority is planning places in the secondary sector in a strategic way which looks beyond the short-term scenario forecast for 2017.**
123. The proposed change to the catchment areas of Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf has been drawn up to provide each with a sufficient pupil population, whilst retaining sufficient space to allow for the projected pupil numbers within its catchment area that would be admitted to the school in future years.
124. **Concern expressed that moving Ysgol Pencae to the Glantaf catchment area would have an adverse effect on the socio-economic fabric of Plasmawr and would also have far-reaching implications for the wider demographic of Welsh-medium secondary provision in Cardiff. The proposal to move the high performing and affluent catchment of Ysgol Pencae out of Ysgol Plasmawr would run the risk of reinforcing the status of Ysgol Glantaf, as a centre of excellence for aspirational parents, to the detriment of both Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Bro Edern.**
125. The commonly used benchmark dataset employed to compare the relative deprivation of the pupils enrolled at schools is that of pupil in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM).
126. There are 5 national benchmarking groups for secondary schools based on the proportion of pupils in receipt of FSM; <8%, 8-16%, 16-24%, 24-32% and >32%.
127. The Wales and Cardiff averages for proportion of pupils in receipt of free school meals in the secondary sector are 17.5% and 20.5% respectively.
128. The below table indicates that the proportion of pupils of statutory school age attending Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr who are in receipt of FSM has fallen in recent years to 6.9% (benchmark group 1).

## Ysgol Plasmawr – pupils in receipt of FSM



129. The proportion of pupils of statutory school age attending Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf who are in receipt of FSM has increased in recent years to 9.8% (benchmark group 2).

## Ysgol Glantaf – pupils in receipt of FSM:



130. The proportion of pupils who are currently in receipt of FSM is lower than that expected to promote to Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr in the future.
131. Table 11 overleaf indicates the proportions of pupils in receipt of FSM attending each of the Welsh-medium or bilingual schools that are located within the secondary school catchment areas, which is considered by schools as indicative of the future 'feed' of pupils to each of the secondary schools.

**Table 11: Number of pupils enrolled and percentage of pupils in receipt of free school meals in primary schools that fall within the catchments of Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr**

<b>School attended</b>	<b>NOR</b>	<b>Percentage in receipt of FSM</b>
Creigiau Primary School*	189	3.6%
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	351	25.4%
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	160	26.9%
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	451	3.5%
Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod Y Garth Primary School*	194	4.8%
Ysgol Pencae	207	3.4%
<b>Existing Ysgol Plasmawr catchment schools</b>	<b>1552</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	62	37.1%
Ysgol Glan Morfa	168	28.6%
Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd	411	4.1%
Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch	449	8.5%
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	200	7.5%
Ysgol Y Wern	446	5.2%
<b>Existing Ysgol Glantaf catchment schools</b>	<b>1736</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
<b>Ysgol Plasmawr catchment schools - removing Y.Pencae</b>	<b>1345</b>	<b>12.2%</b>
<b>Ysgol Glantaf catchment schools - adding Y.Pencae</b>	<b>1943</b>	<b>8.8%</b>

\*NOR reduced to reflect proportionate WM cohort in dual stream school; FSM % not adjusted (i.e. retained at % recorded in PLASC)

132. Table 11 above table indicates that, when considering the combined totals of pupils attending Welsh-medium primary school in receipt of FSM, the proportion of primary age pupils in receipt of FSM in the Plasmawr catchment would increase from 11.0% (existing configuration) to 12.2% (if Ysgol Pencae were removed). The proportion of primary age pupils in receipt of FSM in the Glantaf catchment would reduce from 9.4% (existing configuration) to 8.8% (if Ysgol Pencae were removed).

133. Table 12 below indicates the proportions of pupils in receipt of FSM attending any Welsh-medium or bilingual school residing within each of the primary and secondary school catchment areas.

**Table 12: Number of pupils attending Welsh-medium or bilingual primary schools in each primary catchment area that fall within the catchments of Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr, and percentage of pupils in receipt of free school meals**

<b>Catchment area – pupils attending any WM or bilingual school</b>	<b>NOR</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Creigiau Primary School	248	4.8%
Gwaelod Y Garth Primary School	99	6.1%
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof	455	18.9%
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	219	25.6%
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	463	2.6%

Ysgol Pencae	193	3.1%
<b>Existing Ysgol Plasmawr catchment</b>	<b>1677</b>	<b>10.6%</b>
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	159	20.1%
Ysgol Glan Morfa	192	29.7%
Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd	331	2.1%
Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch	337	11.0%
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	175	5.7%
Ysgol Y Wern	418	5.0%
<b>Existing Ysgol Glantaf catchment</b>	<b>1612</b>	<b>10.2%</b>
<b>Ysgol Plasmawr catchment - removing Y.Pencae</b>	<b>1484</b>	<b>11.6%</b>
<b>Ysgol Glantaf catchment - adding Y.Pencae</b>	<b>1805</b>	<b>9.4%</b>

134. Table 12 indicates that, when considering the combined totals of pupils attending any Welsh-medium primary school who are in receipt of FSM, the proportion of primary age pupils in receipt of FSM in the Plasmawr catchment would increase from 10.6% (existing configuration) to 11.0% (if Ysgol Pencae were removed). The proportion of primary age pupils in receipt of FSM in the Glantaf catchment would reduce from 10.2% (existing configuration) to 9.4% (if Ysgol Pencae were removed).
135. The above data takes account of all pupils in the primary sector in 2015. It is possible to conclude that the proportion of pupils in receipt of free school meals is very similar under the existing configuration and the proposed configuration; each data set for Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr falling at the lower end of the 8-16% FSM benchmark.
136. It is likely that each school will admit an increased proportion of pupils in receipt of FSM in future years whether or not the proposed change is implemented, and each data set would remain significantly below the Wales and Cardiff averages.
137. ***Catchment areas should take account of the medium to long term rather than seeking an easy short term, taking account of the growth in Welsh medium education and the Local Development Plan.***
138. ***The proposal is only a short term solution, as pupil numbers will grow with the implementation of the Local Development Plan (LDP).***
139. Please see paragraphs 117 and 121 above.
140. ***The socio-economic mix of the schools would be affected. Transferring Pencae from the Plasmawr catchment to the Glantaf catchment would be to the detriment of Plasmawr because Glantaf would have a much higher proportion of affluent catchment schools and Plasmawr would have more struggling catchment schools leading to polarised schools.***

141. ***The ability of Ysgol Plasmawr to market Welsh-medium education to parents will be reduced if the proposal goes ahead.***
142. Please see paras 123 – 134 above
143. ***Exam standards at Plasmawr will fall due to having pupils from more deprived areas. There could be a long term detrimental effect on Plasmawr which could have a negative effect on sixth form provision in the long term.***
144. Figures for the percentage of pupils who have reached the expected level in the Key Stage 2 Core Subject Indicator demonstrate the outcomes for Year 6 pupils in each primary school. Within the Ysgol Plasmawr catchment area, the school with the highest percentage of FSM pupils is Ysgol Nant Caerau, which has 100% of pupils attaining the expected level. Across the two Welsh-medium secondary catchment areas, the school with the lowest attainment in the Core Subject Indicator is Ysgol Glan Morfa, which has 78.9%. Ysgol Glan Morfa is within the Ysgol Glantaf catchment area.
145. ***Ysgol Plasmawr's budget will be affected and this could lead to redundancies.***
146. School budgets are primarily funded by formula funding mechanism which uses pupil numbers as its main driver. Any increase or decrease in pupil numbers at individual schools would need to be reflected in the revenue budget of the school.
147. The proposals will ensure a fairer and more equitable distribution of funding between mainstream schools within the Cardiff area. It is anticipated that the numbers of pupils at Plasmawr will remain at present levels therefore it is not expected that there will be any negative impact on the school's budget.
148. ***Ysgol Pencae parents have been committed to Ysgol Plasmawr over the years and have provided vital parental involvement, which would be lost were the school to transfer to the Ysgol Glantaf catchment area.***
149. The Council acknowledges and values the positive contribution that parents and families make to their children's schools. It is anticipated that the parents and families of children attending Ysgol Plasmawr and its catchment primary schools will continue to contribute toward the success of the school and support the ongoing development of Welsh-medium education as part of the wider school community.

### **Siblings**

150. ***Pupils that currently have siblings in Ysgol Plasmawr may end up having to attend a different school to their siblings.***

151. ***Some pupils may have to make a decision about whether to attend high school with their siblings or with their friends.***
152. Pupils with older siblings at Ysgol Plasmawr will be able to state a preference for a place at the school in line with the Council's Admissions Policy. A parental preference will be complied with wherever possible. However, should a school be fully subscribed, the Council's oversubscription criteria takes account of older siblings being in attendance during the academic year to which the application relates.
153. Furthermore, the Council's school admissions policy includes the following criterion, which in fact gives priority over pupils who would remain resident in the reduced Ysgol Plasmawr catchment area:
154. "Where an older sibling was directed by the Council to an alternative school because the alternative school was previously the catchment area school, if the parent desires, the Council will admit younger siblings to the alternative school. This applies only where the older sibling is in attendance at the alternative school during the academic year to which the application relates. In addition the younger sibling must be residing in the same address (or an address within the catchment area that was the subject of the change before it was implemented) in the City of Cardiff that the older sibling was living at the time of the original application."
155. This criterion would assist such parents with siblings already in attendance at Ysgol Plasmawr.

#### **Safe routes to schools**

156. ***Some parents expressed concern about the safety of the route their child would have to take to school were they to attend Ysgol Glantaf rather than Ysgol Plasmawr.***
157. ***Travelling to Ysgol Glantaf would be more dangerous for children currently living close to Ysgol Plasmawr, as they would have to cross several busy roads.***
158. Consideration has been given to the routes that pupils would be required to use when travelling to and from school.
159. The most distant residential addresses within the Ysgol Pencae catchment area would 1.1 miles from Ysgol Glantaf. The proposed catchment area changes would, in the majority of cases, reduce the walking distances for the pupils to their catchment area school.
160. Children who are resident within the Ysgol Plasmawr catchment area but outside of the Ysgol Pencae catchment area and who currently attend Ysgol Pencae will remain residing within the Ysgol Plasmawr catchment area.

## Consultation process/information

161. ***The consultation document did not provide enough information to make such an important decision.***
162. The principle of consultation involves publishing full, clear details of the proposals and inviting responses from interested parties. The consultation showing the proposed changes to catchment areas was published on the website on 2 February 2016 in compliance with the School Admissions Code. The schools who were directly affected by the proposed changes were informed on 1 February and they informed the children/parents at their schools.
163. Hard copies of the map and address for views to be sent to, were sent to all children at these schools the following week, as well as parents of children not yet of school age, and parents of families who were resident in the areas but whose children attend other Welsh-medium Community schools. The proposal was also publicised on social media, It has therefore been widely publicised.
164. The School Admissions Code refers to the use of catchment areas and in particular, states that they should be designed so that the boundary is reasonable and clearly defined, and states that admission authorities must make maps of the specified areas available. The proposals were supported by a clear map with colour coded clear boundaries.

## Impact on Welsh Language

165. ***The proposed changes could significantly reduce the percentage of children from Welsh speaking families transferring to Ysgol Plasmawr. This could affect the school's 'language landscape' potentially creating a situation which will impact on the wider use of the language making it harder for the children who want to, to use Welsh in the yard and socially within the school and with co-pupils outside of school.***
166. The Council has considered the future development of Welsh medium education in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017. The continued growth in demand for Welsh-medium education will continue to impact positively on the development of the language in the wider community
167. It is not anticipated that the proposed changes will impact on pupils' ability to engage socially through the medium of Welsh.
168. The Welsh Government Welsh Medium Strategy 083/2010 sets out a strategic aim of ensuring that all learners develop their Welsh-language skills to their full potential and encourages sound linguistic progression from one phase of education and training to the next.



169. The majority of the pupils transferring to Ysgol Plasmawr from its partner primary schools have levels of Welsh language fluency that allow them to access both the full curriculum and social opportunities in and out of school.
170. The Strategy document notes that *“Analysis of the linguistic data following through cohorts of learners over the last ten years clearly indicates that there is a discontinuity in linguistic progression between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. Currently 15% of learners across Wales do not progress in their study of Welsh (first language) from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3.”*
171. Were the proposal not to be implemented some children currently resident within the catchment area of Ysgol Plasmawr, would be unable to attend their Welsh-medium secondary catchment school. A clear risk of not providing a balance in the supply of and demand for Welsh-medium places is that the proportion of pupils not progressing from KS2 to KS3 could potentially increase and were this to be the case potentially have a negative impact on the wider use of the language.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

172. To approve changes to English-medium and Welsh-medium primary and secondary school catchment areas in order to achieve a balance between the supply of and demand for school places.

### **Legal Implications**

173. A catchment area is part of a school's admissions arrangements. Where a Local Education Authority (LEA) propose to revise the catchment areas for an existing school the LEA must publish and consult on those proposals in the same way as any other admission arrangements. The Local Education Authority must have regard to Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006, and the Education (Relevant Area for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 which requires Admission Authorities to consult and determine school admission arrangements annually. The regulations set a timescale for the consultation and determination of admission arrangements. Where a local authority plan to establish a catchment area for a new school they must also have regard to the New School (Admissions) (Wales) Regulations 2006.
174. Any proposals must be the subject of full and fair consultation and regard must be had by the Executive to the responses before a final decision is taken.
175. The Council has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality

of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics.

176. Protected characteristics are:
- Age
  - Gender reassignment
  - Sex
  - Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality
  - Disability
  - Pregnancy and maternity
  - Marriage and civil partnership
  - Sexual orientation
  - Religion or belief – including a lack of belief
177. As such the decision on whether to proceed to publish intention to implement the proposal has to be made in the context of the Council's equality act public sector duties.
178. The report identifies that an Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is included in the Statutory Screening Tool at Appendices 3 and 4. The purpose of the Equality Impact Assessment is to ensure that the Council has understood the potential impacts of the proposal in terms of equality so that it can ensure that it is making proportionate and rational decisions having due regard to its public sector equality duty. The decision maker must have due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment in making its decision.
179. The Council also has to comply with the relevant legislation in relation to the Welsh language. The Council was issued with a Compliance Notice on 30 September 2015 with the Welsh Language standards it must comply with under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2015, the date for compliance with these standards is 30 March 2015. Until that date, the Council's Welsh Language Scheme 2014 (which was agreed under the Welsh Language Act 1993) and which states "The council is committed to mainstreaming Welsh into key policies and will assess the linguistic consequences of all new policies and initiatives, by using the Policy Integration Toolkit and/or Equality Impact Assessments (Appendix C), and will make sure that those new or updated policies and initiatives conform to the commitments given in this scheme." This report considers the Welsh language impact and complies with this requirement. The Council has also considered Welsh in Education and formed the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for April 2014 to March 2017 which complies with the Welsh Government guidelines.

### **Financial Implications**

180. School budgets are primarily funded by formula funding mechanism which uses as its main driver pupil numbers. Any increase/reduction in pupil numbers will increase/reduce the budget share of that individual school.

181. Any financial implications of changing transport provision would need to be identified and considered through the Medium Term Financial Plan, as appropriate.

### **Human Resources Implications**

182. The changes to the catchment area of Ysgol Plasmawr should not impact greatly on staffing as pupil numbers are expected to remain at similar levels. However, the enlarged catchment area for Ysgol Glantaf along with the projected increased pupil numbers may require additional staff to be recruited to the school.
183. A requirement to recruit additional staff will create new employment opportunities and HR People Services will support the school and the Governing Body with this process. Where the school has adopted the Council's Redeployment and Redundancy Policy, new employment opportunities would need to be considered as redeployment opportunities for staff on the school redeployment register.
184. A Human Resources Framework is in place for school reorganisations which provides the basis for managing the human resources issues associated with School Organisation Planning. In line with this, HR People Services will encourage the leadership and Governing Bodies of both schools to consider their staffing requirement and structure in advance of any change being implemented.

### **Traffic and Transport**

#### **Proposed English-medium secondary school catchment area changes: Cantonian/Fitzalan**

185. There is currently an existing 20mph speed limit on Fairwater Road, which includes speed cushions. It is recommended that these are replaced with full width speed tables, enhanced signage and a tabled zebra crossing as part of a School Safety Zone.
186. An initial assessment suggests that in order to improve the pedestrian access from the Canton area to Cantonian High school the following improvements will be required.
- New pedestrian school gates required on Doyle Avenue and on Kenilworth Court
  - New controlled pedestrian crossing facilities on St Fagans Road
  - Existing crossing facilities on Western Avenue to be reviewed and upgraded if necessary.
  - As part of the new development on the Ely Paper Mill site, a new controlled crossing will be provided on Cowbridge Road West.
187. All addresses within the catchment areas of Cantonian High School are within 3 miles of the site, and therefore no pupils resident in the catchment area of the school wishing to attend an English-medium community secondary school would qualify for free home to school

transport. This is only provided for secondary age pupils who live three or more miles from the nearest appropriate catchment area school.

188. In the event the proposals were to proceed, discussion would be held with the Commercial bus operators in the area to review current commercial services.
189. The reduction of the Fitzalan High School catchment area is expected to reduce the Council's overall liability towards providing school transport in the short to medium term. This would enable increased numbers of pupils in south Grangetown and Butetown to attend the school; this would not happen without implementing the proposed catchment change.
190. Cardiff Council School Transport section would be able to provide families with advice on safe walking routes to school based on individual home addresses.
191. In the event the proposed catchment area changes are not implemented there is an expectation that there will be increased eligibility for free home to school transport and therefore greater costs for the Council to provide this service. Projected costs associated with transporting pupils from Grangetown to the next nearest secondary school, assuming that all pupils are able to be admitted to one school. These are set out in the table below.

Table 13: Cumulative transport costs in the event no catchment area change is made.						
	Year of entry					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Qualifying pupils	10	24	33	55	71	93
Transport required	1 x Minibus	1 x coach	1 x coach	1 x coach	1 x coach, + 1 x minibus	2 x coach
<b>Cumulative cost (academic years)</b>	<b>£17,100</b>	<b>£45,600</b>	<b>£74,100</b>	<b>£102,600</b>	<b>£148,200</b>	<b>£205,200</b>

### **Proposed English-medium primary school catchment area changes**

192. The proposed catchment area changes to the Kitchener, Lansdowne and Severn Primary School catchment areas will increase the walking distances for some pupils, and decrease distance for some others; however, the increases or decreases would be minimal (less than 0.4 miles).
193. In summary, it is likely there would be no change to school transport costs should the proposed changes be implemented or not implemented.

**Proposed Welsh-medium secondary school catchment area changes:  
Ysgol Plasmawr/ Glantaf**

194. The proposed catchment area changes to the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment areas would increase the walking distances for some pupils, and decrease distance for some others. The maximum increase in walking distance, for those pupils resident in closest proximity to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr, would be approximately 1.1 miles. All pupils within the area proposed to transfer live within 1.1 miles of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf.
195. Should the proposed catchment area changes not be implemented it is likely pupils in parts of Creigiau and Pentrych would be unable to attend Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr and would be expected to attend the next nearest secondary school, namely Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf.
196. These pupils currently qualify for free home to school transport to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr and should the proposal be implemented would qualify for free home to school transport to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr. In summary, it is likely there would little change to school transport costs should the proposed changes be implemented or not implemented.
197. Under this proposal there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools. Any pupils affected by these proposals will be offered the same support with transport as is provided throughout Cardiff and in accordance with the same criteria that apply across Cardiff. The Council's transport policy for school children can be viewed on the Council's website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)). In order to improve the pedestrian access and reduce vehicle speeds in the vicinity of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf a School Safety Zone is required on Gabalfa Road, this will include signage, speed tables and a zebra crossing.
198. An initial assessment suggests that pedestrian crossing improvements may also be required from the Radyr Court Road area.
199. All addresses within the Ysgol Pencae catchment area, that would transfer to the Ysgol Glantaf catchment areas, are within 3 miles of the Ysgol Glantaf site, and therefore no pupils resident in the Ysgol Pencae catchment area wishing to attend an English-medium community secondary school would qualify for free home to school transport. This is only provided for secondary age pupils who live three or more miles from the nearest appropriate catchment area school.
200. No fee-paying school transport would be provided from the Ysgol Pencae catchment area to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf as all pupils living within this area live within three miles walking distance of each school. Discussion will be held with the Commercial bus operators in the area to review commercial services although it is unlikely that any

changes would be made to the existing routes to divert via any of the school proposals above.

201. The reduction of the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment area is expected to reduce the Council's overall liability towards providing school transport in the short to medium term. This would enable increased numbers of pupils in catchment to attend the school; this would not happen without implementing the proposed catchment change.
202. Cardiff Council School Transport section would be able to provide families with advice on safe walking routes to school based on individual home addresses.
203. Under this proposal there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools. Any pupils affected by these proposals will be offered the same support with transport as is provided throughout Cardiff and in accordance with the same criteria that apply across Cardiff. The Council's transport policy for school children can be viewed on the Council's website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)).

### **Statutory Screening Tool/Equality Impact Assessment**

204. The Statutory Screening Tool has been completed and includes the Equality Impact Assessment for the English medium School proposal as at Appendix 3. The Equality Impact Assessment for the Welsh Medium school proposals is included as at Appendix 4. It has been concluded that there would be no adverse impact on a particular group in society with either proposal.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. authorise Officers to carry out a review of options for secondary provision in the area concerned, in order to better match supply and demand and to secure consistently high standards of education provision.
2. not proceed currently with changes to the English-medium high school catchments of Fitzalan High School and Cantonian High School and associated English-medium primary school catchment areas.
3. approve the proposed changes to the Welsh-medium high school catchment areas of Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glan Taf through transfer of Ysgol Pencae catchment from Ysgol Plasmawr to Ysgol Glan Taf catchment to take effect from September 2017.

**NICK BATCHELAR**

Director

15 March 2016

The following appendices are attached

Appendix 1 – Catchment area map detailing the proposed catchment areas that would be implemented in September 2017 (English-medium).

Appendix 2 – Catchment area map detailing the proposed catchment areas that would be implemented in September 2017 (Welsh-medium)

Appendix 3 – Statutory Screening tool English-medium Catchment Changes

Appendix 4 - Statutory Screening tool Welsh-medium Catchment Changes

Appendix 5 – Formal responses English-medium Catchment Changes

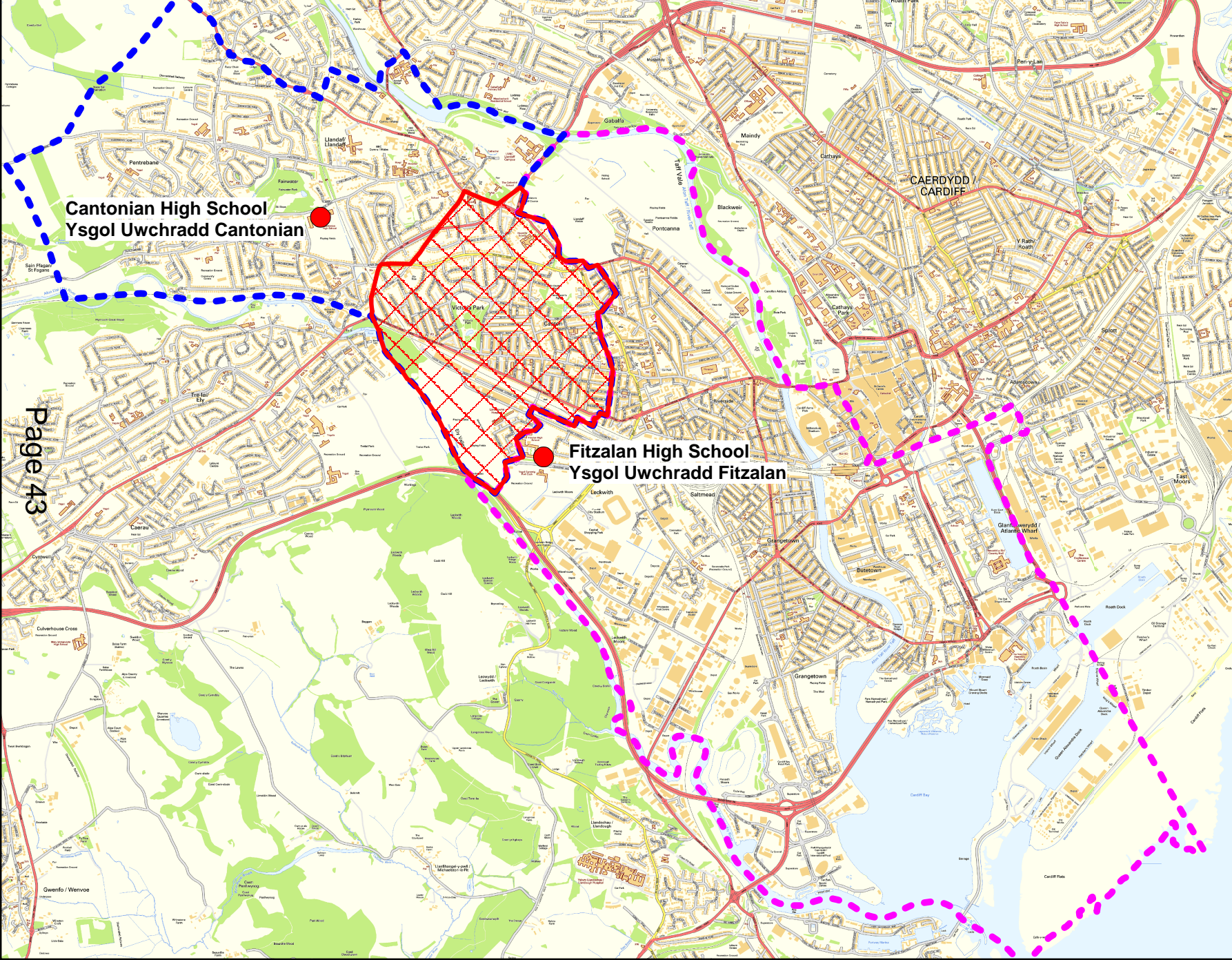
Appendix 6 – Formal responses Welsh-medium Catchment Changes

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**Proposed revised catchment area arrangements: September 2017**

**Trefniadau dalgylch diwygiedig arfaethedig: Medi 2017**



Existing Cantonian High School catchment area

Dalgylch presennol Ysgol Uwchradd Cantonian

Area proposed to transfer from the Fitzalan High School catchment area to the Cantonian High School catchment area

Yr ardal y cynigir ei throsglwyddo i ddalgylch Ysgol Uwchradd Fitzalan o ddalgylch presennol Ysgol Uwchradd Cantonian

Proposed Fitzalan High School catchment area

Dalgylch arfaethedig Ysgol Gyfun Fitzalan

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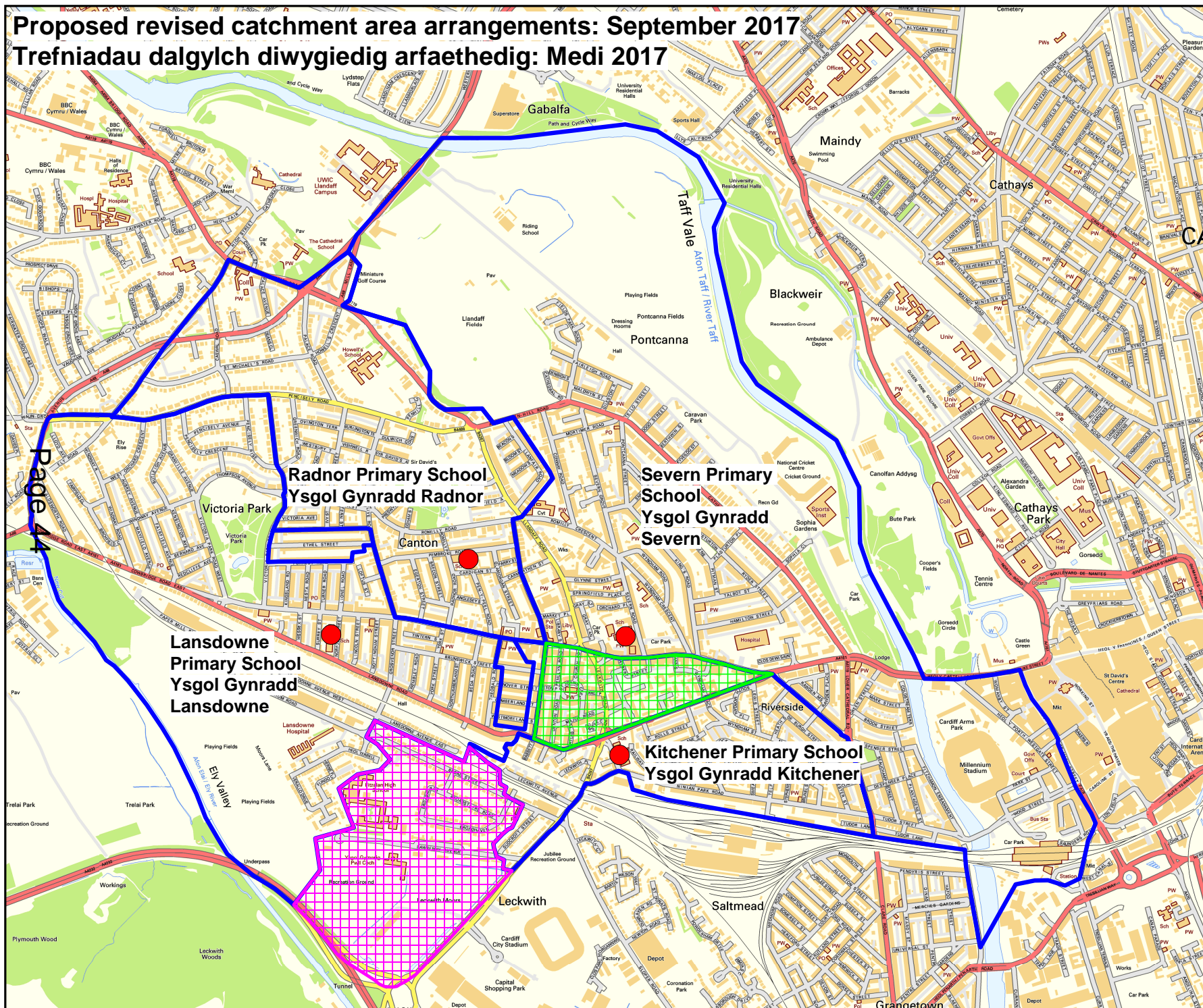
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# Proposed revised catchment area arrangements: September 2017


## Trefniadau dalgylch diwygiedig arfaethedig: Medi 2017





### Appendix 1


 Existing catchment area boundaries of Kitchener, Lansdowne, Radnor and Severn primary schools - proposed to be retained

 Ffiniau dalgylchoedd presennol Ysgolion Cynradd Kitchener, Lansdowne, Radnor a Severn – cynigir eu cadw

 Area proposed to transfer from the Lansdowne Primary school catchment area to the Kitchener Primary School catchment area

 Yr ardal y cynigir ei throsglwyddo i ddalgylch Ysgol Gynradd Lansdowne o ddalgylch presennol Ysgol Gynradd Kitchener

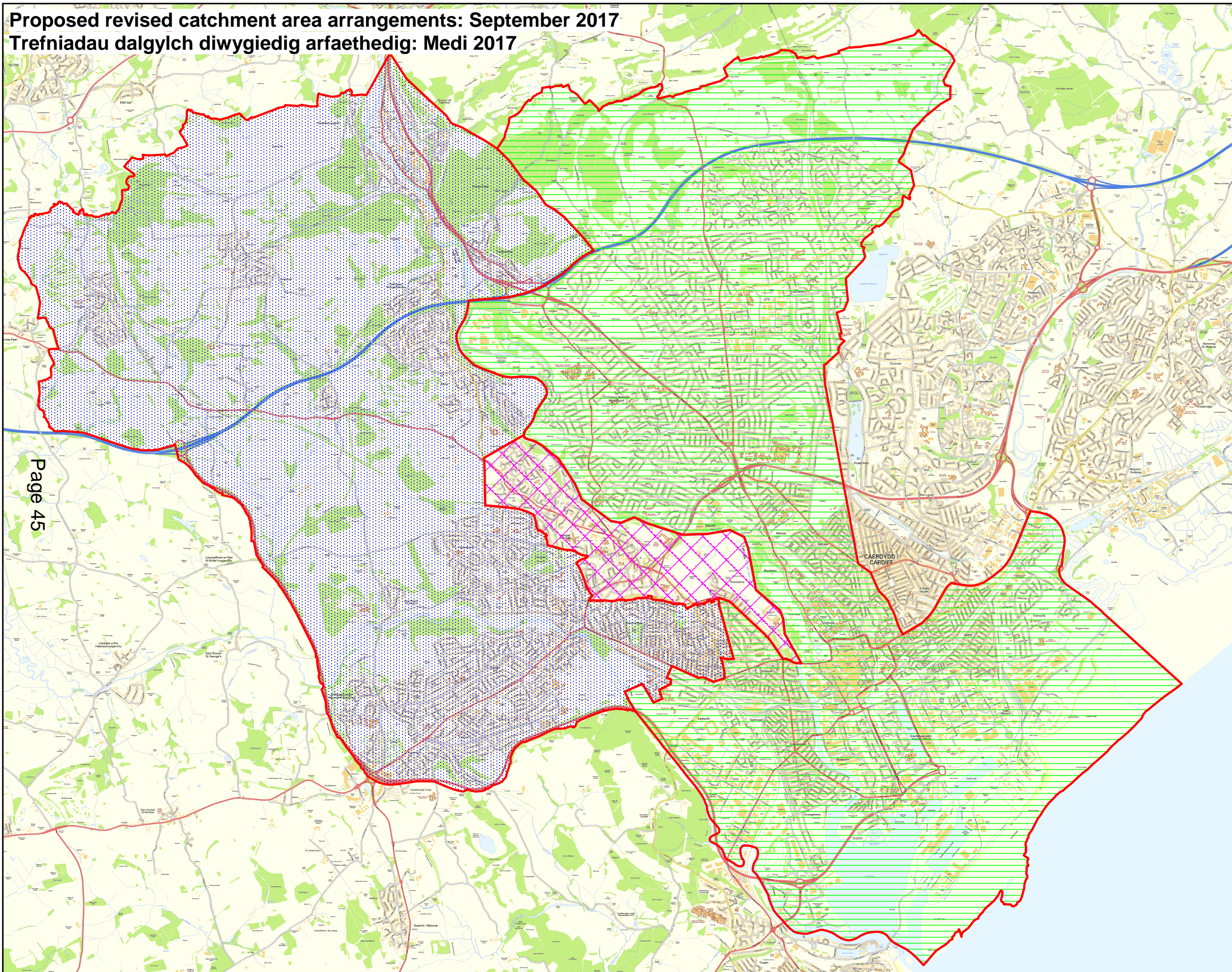
 Area proposed to transfer from the Kitchener Primary school catchment area to the Severn Primary School catchment area









 Yr ardal y cynigir ei throsglwyddo i ddalgylch Ysgol Gynradd Kitchener o ddalgylch presennol Ysgol Gynradd Severn

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**Proposed revised catchment area arrangements: September 2017**  
**Trefniadau dalgyllch diwygiedig arfaethedig: Medi 2017**



- Appendix 2
-  Existing Welsh-medium secondary school catchment area boundaries
  -  Ffiniau presennol dalgyllchoedd ysgolion uwchradd Cymraeg
  -  Existing Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment area
  -  Dalgyllch presennol Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf
  -  Existing Ysgol Pencae catchment area - proposed to transfer from the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment area to the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment area, from September 2017
  -  Dalgyllch presennol Ysgol Pencae - cynigiwyd i'w drosglwyddo o ddalgyllch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr i ddalgyllch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, o fis Medi 2017
  -  Proposed Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment area
  -  Dalgyllch arfaethedig Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

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## Cardiff Council

### Statutory Screening Tool Guidance

If you are developing a strategy, policy or activity that is likely to impact people, communities or land use in any way then there are a number of statutory requirements that apply. Failure to comply with these requirements, or demonstrate due regard, can expose the Council to legal challenge or other forms of reproach.

For instance, this will apply to strategies (i.e. Housing Strategy or Disabled Play Strategy), policies (i.e. Procurement Policy) or activity (i.e. developing new play area).

Completing the Statutory Screening Tool will ensure that all Cardiff Council strategies, policies and activities comply with relevant statutory obligations and responsibilities. Where a more detailed consideration of an issue is required, the Screening Tool will identify if there is a need for a full impact assessment, as relevant.

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The main

statutory requirements that strategies, policies or activities must reflect include:

- **Equality Act 2010 - Equality Impact Assessment**
- **Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Bill**
- **Welsh Government's Statutory Guidance - Shared Purpose Shared Delivery**
- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**
- **United Nations Principles for Older Persons**
- **Welsh Language Measure 2011**
- **Health Impact Assessment**
- **Habitats Regulations Assessment**
- **Strategic Environmental Assessment**

This Statutory Screening Tool allows us to meet all the requirements of all these pieces of legislation as part of an integrated screening method that usually taken no longer than an hour.

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The Screening Tool can be completed as a self assessment or as part of a facilitated session, should further support be needed. For further information or if you require a facilitated session please contact the Policy, Partnerships and Citizen Focus Team on 2078 8563 e-mail: siadavies@cardiff.gov.uk. Please note:

- **The completed Screening Tool must be submitted as an appendix with the Cabinet report.**
- **The completed screening tool will be published on the intranet.**



## Statutory Screening Tool

<p><b>Name of Strategy / Policy / Activity:</b>          Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area Consultation:          - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf          - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr          - Ysgol Pencae</p>	<p><b>Date of Screening:</b>          January 2016</p>
<p><b>Service Area/Section:</b> Education</p> <p><b>Attendees:</b>          Self assessment</p>	<p><b>Lead Officer:</b> Janine Nightingale</p>

<b>What are the objectives of the Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function</b>	<b>Please provide background information on the Policy/Strategy/Project/Procedure/Service/Function and any research done [e.g. service users data against demographic statistics, similar EIAs done etc.]</b>
<p><b>Proposal:</b>          Changes to catchment areas are proposed that seek to achieve a balance between the revised catchment areas of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf; Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr and Ysgol Pencae.</p>	<p>At present, Ysgol Pencae serves a catchment area that include parts of Canton, Fairwater, Llandaff and Riverside The catchment area of Ysgol Pencae falls entirely within the secondary school catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr.</p> <p>Projections indicate that the demand for Welsh-medium places from within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr will exceed the number of places available at entry to the school from September 2017, whilst demand from within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf will be less than the school is able to accommodate.</p> <p>It is therefore proposed that the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae transfers from the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. The proposed changes seek to achieve a balance between the revised catchment areas of each of the schools.</p>

## Part 1: Impact on outcomes and due regard to Sustainable Development

Please use the following scale when considering what contribution the activity makes:

	Positive contribution to the outcome
+	Positive contribution to the outcome
-	Negative contribution to the outcome
ntrl	Neutral contribution to the outcome
Uncertain	Uncertain if any contribution is made to the outcome

	Has the Strategy/Policy/Activity considered how it will impact one or more of Cardiff's 7 Citizen focused Outcomes?	Please Tick			Un-Crtn	Evidence or suggestion for improvement/mitigation
		+	-	Ntrl		
1.1	<p><b>People in Cardiff are healthy;</b>  <i>Consider the potential impact on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>the promotion of good health, prevention of damaging behaviour, promote healthy eating/active lifestyles etc,</i></li> <li><i>vulnerable citizens and areas of multiple deprivation</i></li> <li><i>Addressing instances of inequality in health</i></li> </ul>			X		<p><b>Should the proposal be implemented</b> the majority of pupils affected by the change would remain within 1 mile of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, and a significant proportion would be resident within 0.5 miles of the school. There may be a small increase in the number of pupils in the Fairwater area (those in close proximity to the Plasmawr site) choosing more polluting forms of travel.</p>
1.2	<p><b>People in Cardiff have a clean, attractive and sustainable environment;</b>  <i>Consider the potential impact on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>the causes and consequences of Climate Change and creating a carbon lite city</i></li> <li><i>encouraging walking, cycling, and use of public transport and improving access to countryside and open space</i></li> <li><i>reducing environmental pollution (land, air, noise and water)</i></li> </ul>			X	X	<p>Less than half of the total secondary school age pupil population in this area presently commute to English medium schools or faith schools. The majority of these attend Cantonian High School (located in Fairwater); Fitzalan High School (located in Leckwith) or The Bishop of Llandaff CW High School (located in Llandaff). Many pupils attending these schools walk to school and it is expected that the number of pupils that are affected by the proposal and who are both further from their local secondary school and also opting to use more polluting forms of transport will be few.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented pupils in Cathays and Gabalfa and some parts of Canton; Fairwater; Llandaff North and Riverside would likely continue using existing forms of travel.</p>

Has the Strategy/Policy/Activity considered how it will impact one or more of Cardiff's 7 Citizen focused Outcomes?	Please Tick			Un-Crtn	Evidence or suggestion for improvement/mitigation
	+	-	Ntrl		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reducing consumption and encouraging waste reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery</li> <li>encouraging biodiversity</li> </ul>					<p><b>Should the proposal not be implemented</b>, pupils in Llandaff and other parts of Canton; Fairwater and Riverside would likely continue using existing forms of travel.</p> <p>In summary, implementing the proposal would most likely have a positive effect as a result of a net reduction of pupils using polluting modes of travel, compared to not implementing the proposal.</p> <p><b>Primary catchment:</b> The proposed revision of the primary catchment of Ysgol Pencae to achieve a balance between the revised catchment areas of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr should stabilise the supply to cater for the demand for Welsh-medium school places in the affected areas and therefore encourage walking and cycling to and from school.</p> <p><b>All parents of pupils would still retain the right to express a preference for their child's admission to any of the schools concerned.</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>1.3 People in Cardiff are safe and feel safe;</b> Consider the potential impact on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reducing crime, fear of crime and increasing safety of individuals</li> <li>addressing anti-social behaviour</li> <li>protecting vulnerable adults and children in Cardiff from harm or abuse</li> </ul>					<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>1.4 Cardiff has a thriving and prosperous economy;</b> Consider the potential impact on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>economic competitiveness (enterprise activity, social enterprises, average earnings, improve productivity)</li> </ul>					<p>N/A</p>



		Please Tick			Evidence or suggestion for improvement/mitigation
		+	-	Ntrl	
<p><b>Has the Strategy/Policy/Activity considered how it will impact one or more of Cardiff's 7 Citizen focused Outcomes?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisting those Not in Education, Employment or Training</li> <li>attracting and retaining workers (new employment and training opportunities, increase the value of employment,)</li> <li>promoting local procurement opportunities or enhancing the capacity of local companies to compete</li> </ul>					
1.5	<p><b>People in Cardiff achieve their full potential;</b>  <i>Consider the potential impact on</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>promoting and improving access to life-long learning in Cardiff</i></li> <li><i>raising levels of skills and qualifications</i></li> <li><i>giving children the best start</i></li> <li><i>improving the understanding of sustainability</i></li> <li><i>addressing child poverty (financial poverty, access poverty, participation poverty)</i></li> <li><i>the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child and Principles for Older persons</i></li> </ul>	x			<p><b>Secondary catchments:</b>  The transfer of catchment area (Ysgol Pencae) is not expected to have a detrimental impact on the numbers of children attending Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr as there is significant demand in excess of supply from within catchment. As such the school will continue to benefit from the current levels of per pupil funding and therefore the range of subjects offered together with the specialisms of staff to offer a comprehensive range of subjects would not be affected.</p> <p>The transfer of catchment area into the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr will increase the number of children likely to attend Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. An increased number of children will result in increased funding for Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf (based on the per pupil funding allocation) thereby allowing for a greater range of subjects and staff specialists which would improve the offer to existing and future pupils at the school.</p> <p>Both schools offer a full and comprehensive education to their pupils and work together with other schools as part of the 14-19 partnership offer across Cardiff.</p> <p><b>Primary catchments:</b>  The proposed revision of the primary catchment of Ysgol Pencae to achieve a balance between the revised catchment areas of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr should stabilise the supply to cater for the demand for Welsh-medium school places in the affected areas and therefore encourage walking and cycling to and from school.</p>

	Has the Strategy/Policy/Activity considered how it will impact one or more of Cardiff's 7 Citizen focused Outcomes?	Please Tick			Evidence or suggestion for improvement/mitigation
		+	-	Ntrl	
1.6	<p><b>Cardiff is a Great Place to Live, Work and Play</b></p> <p>Consider the potential impact on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promoting the cultural diversity of Cardiff</li> <li>• encouraging participation and access for all to physical activity, leisure &amp; culture</li> <li>• play opportunities for Children and Young People</li> <li>• protecting and enhancing the landscape and historic heritage of Cardiff</li> <li>• promoting the City's international links</li> </ul>			X	In the event the proposal were to proceed to implementation all schools concerned would continue to have a mixed intake of pupils. Whilst proportions may change students will continue to benefit from the full complement of cultural and education experiences they have received to date, the proposed change does not impact on the quality of education nor limit the offer specific to cultural diversity, physical activity, leisure or culture offered by each school.
1.7	<p><b>Cardiff is a fair, just and inclusive society.</b></p> <p>Consider the potential impact on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the elimination of discrimination, harassment or victimisation for equality groups</li> </ul>			X	All schools have appropriate policies in place to deal with any issues that present and have a duty to ensure discrimination of any of the equality groups is not tolerated.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has the community or stakeholders been engaged in developing the strategy/policy/activity?</li> <li>• how will citizen participation be encouraged (encouraging actions that consider different forms of consultation, through more in depth engagement to full participation in service development and delivery)?</li> </ul>	X			The consultation process is compliant with the Welsh Government admissions code intended to engage stakeholders with the views put forward as part of this intended to inform the decision making specific to the proposed change.
	<p><b>EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Will this Policy/Strategy/Project have a differential impact on any of the following:</p>				Please give details/consequences of the differential impact (positive and negative), and what action(s) can you take to address any negative implications?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age (including children and young people aged 0-25 and older people over 65 in line with the United Nations Conventions)</li> </ul>	X			See 1.1. and 1.2 <b>Children with siblings attending a school affected by catchment area change:</b> There would not be an impact on younger siblings resident within Cardiff attending the same school as their older siblings if a school were to become part of another catchment area:

Has the Strategy/Policy/Activity considered how it will impact one or more of Cardiff's 7 Citizen focused Outcomes?	Please Tick			Evidence or suggestion for improvement/mitigation
	+	-	Un-Crtn	
				<p>Oversubscription criterion 1a:            "Where an older sibling was directed by the Council to an alternative school because the alternative school was previously the catchment area school, if the parent desires, the Council will admit younger siblings to the alternative school. This applies only where the older sibling is in attendance at the alternative school during the academic year to which the application relates. In addition the younger sibling must be residing in the same address (or an address within the catchment area that was the subject of the change before it was implemented) in the City of Cardiff that the older sibling was living at the time of the original application."</p> <p>This would not apply to siblings living outside of Cardiff. However, pupils resident outside of Cardiff would retain the right to express a preference for admission to any school in Cardiff.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability</li> </ul>			x	<p>Catchment changes could result in a child living closer or further away from their local school. Pupil transport needs are assessed on an individual basis.</p> <p>Catchment changes do not require a pupil to change schools if the school they currently attend becomes part of another catchment area.</p> <p>Reasonable adjustments to adapt school premises are made in order to meet the needs of applicants to schools. Otherwise, children are directed to attend alternative provision.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender Reassignment</li> </ul>				N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</li> </ul>				N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</li> </ul>				N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Race</li> </ul>			x	<p>Catchment changes would not have a differential impact upon one particular ethnic group as educational provision is available to all irrespective of race.</p>

Has the Strategy/Policy/Activity considered how it will impact one or more of Cardiff's 7 Citizen focused Outcomes?	Please Tick			Un-Cr:n	Evidence or suggestion for improvement/mitigation
	+	-	Ntrl		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Religion/Belief</li> </ul>			X		Community school catchment proposals do not affect the catchments of faith schools. All schools directly affected by the proposed changes are community schools and are taught in line with the relevant national curriculum for their age including personal, social health education and religious education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sex</li> </ul>					N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sexual Orientation</li> </ul>					N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Language</li> </ul>					The demand for Welsh Medium education has been conducted in accordance with regulations made under Section 86 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and takes into consideration the Welsh-Medium Education Strategy incorporating a focus on the sustainability of Welsh medium provision in the local 14-19 network and wider area to promote access to availability of Welsh medium courses in post-16 education.
<p>The Council delivers positive outcomes for the city and its citizens through strong partnerships</p> <p>Consider the potential impact on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strengthening partnerships with business and voluntary sectors</li> <li>the collaboration agenda and the potential for shared services, cross-boundary working and efficiency savings</li> </ul>					N/A

**SUMMARY OF APPRAISAL (highlight positive and negative effects of the policy / plan / project being assessed, demonstrating how it contributes to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the city):**

The proposed changes to the catchment areas are intended to have a positive impact by seeking to allow a greater proportion of children to attend their local catchment area school and providing families applying for school places in each catchment area with a reasonable expectation of admission to their local catchment area school.

The current secondary school catchment area arrangements are disadvantaging those families applying for secondary school places for their children in the parts of the Ysgol Penciae catchment area furthest from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr (including parts of Fairwater; Llandaff and Riverside) where the distance to alternative Welsh-medium high school provision would be greatest and where there are high proportions of families on low incomes.

The proposed changes would mean a fairer distribution of secondary school places albeit it is acknowledged that for some children living in very close proximity to the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr site there could be increased travel distances to their catchment school. All pupils directly affected by changes would be under 2 miles from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and safe walking routes are available, many of which are already used by children accessing the faith and English-medium schools serving the locality.

Both Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr provide comprehensive education for their pupils and appropriate measures are in place to support each in the areas identified for their improvement. All children impacted by the proposal will have equal access to education appropriate to their age and stage of development regardless of all protected characteristics and take into account Cardiff's 7 citizen focussed outcomes.

The proposed changes would mean a fairer distribution of secondary school places and provide better assurance for parents in being able to attend their local catchment area school.

**WHAT ACTIONS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED OR CHANGES BEEN MADE TO THE POLICY / PLAN / PROJECT AS A RESULT OF THIS APPRAISAL:**

The proposed changes to catchment areas are at the point of consultation with stakeholders. Once the outcome of this process is known and in the event any negative impact being substantiated appropriate consideration of mitigation would be undertaken.

## Part 2: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

		Yes	No
2.1	Does the plan or programme set the framework for future development consent?		x
2.2	Is the plan or programme likely to have significant, positive or negative, environmental effects?		x

Is a Full Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Needed?	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If yes has been ticked to both questions 2.1 and 2.2 then the answer is yes</li> <li>▪ If a full SEA Screening is required then please contact the Sustainable Development Unit to arrange (details below)</li> </ul>		X

If you have any doubt on your answers to the above questions regarding SEA then please consult with the Sustainable Development Unit on 2087 3228 [sustainabledevelopment@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:sustainabledevelopment@cardiff.gov.uk)

## Part 3: Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)

		Yes	No	Unsure
3.1	Will the plan, project or programme results in an activity which is known to affect a European site, such as the Severn Estuary or the Cardiff Beech Woods?		x	
3.2	Will the plan, project or programme which steers development towards an area that includes a European site, such as the Severn Estuary or the Cardiff Beech Woods or may indirectly affect a European site?		x	
3.3	Is a full HRA needed?		x	

Details of the strategy will be sent to the County Ecologist on completion of the process to determine if a Habitat Regulation Assessment is needed. For further information please phone 2087 3215 or email [biodiversity@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversity@cardiff.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1 – Statutory Requirements

It is possible that the Impact Screening Tool will identify the need to undertake specific statutory assessments:

- **Equality Impact Assessment:** *This assessment is required by the Equality Act 2010 and Welsh Government's Equality Regulations 2011.*
- **Sustainable Development Bill:** *The Bill, when it comes into effect, will require sustainable development (SD) to be a central organising principle for the organisation. This means that there is a duty to consider SD in the strategic decision making processes.*
- **Shared Purpose Shared Delivery-** *The Welsh Government requires local authorities to produce a single integrated plan to meet statutory requirements under a range of legislation. Cardiff Council must therefore demonstrate its contribution towards Cardiff's own integrated plan; "What Matters".*
- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:** *The Children Act 2004 guidance for Wales requires local authorities and their partners to have regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child.*
- **United Nations Principles for Older Persons:** *The principles require a consideration of independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity.*
- **The Welsh Language Measure 2011:** *The measure sets out official status for the Welsh language, a Welsh language Commissioner, and the freedom to speak Welsh.*
- **Health Impact Assessment:** *(HIA) considers policies, programmes or projects for their potential effects on the health of a population*
- **Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment:** *A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an European Directive for plans, programmes and policies with land use implications and significant environmental effects.*
- **Habitats Regulations Assessment:** *The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 provides a requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of land use plans.*

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**Phillips, Rosalie**

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**From:** Davies-Warner, Kirsty (Cllr)  
**Sent:** 11 February 2016 12:40  
**To:** School Responses  
**Subject:** Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area Consultation: • Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf • Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr • Ysgol Pencae

consultation response:

These proposals seem entirely reasonable and I would support them with the proviso that families who already have one child in a Welsh Medium high school have the option to send siblings to the same school. Not only is it important not just for parents convenience but also for school and community cohesion. We know that the best performing schools often have strong PTA's but also good links with parents and the community. The more invested a family is in a school the more likely they are to participate in the life of the school, and their children's education. This becomes more problematic, in a family with 3 children (1 I primary and 2 in separate schools) where theoretically there could be three schools the parents have to engage with.

These proposals are more likely to be welcomed by pre to if this concession is made.

Best  
Kirsty Davies-Warner

Councillor for Llandaff and Danescourt  
E: [kirsty.davies-warner@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.davies-warner@cardiff.gov.uk) T: 07900692898



**Subject:** FW: Proposed consultations on school catchment areas

**From:** McEvoy, Neil (Cllr)

**Sent:** 01 February 2016 21:30

**To:** Duddridge-Hossain, Michele; Ford, Lisa (Cllr); Mitchell, Paul (Cllr); Aubrey, Gareth (Cllr); Davies-Warner, Kirsty (Cllr); Cook, Richard (Cllr); Elsmore, Susan (Cllr); Patel, Ramesh (Cllr); Wild, Caro (Cllr); Gordon, Iona (Cllr); Williams, Darren (Cllr)

**Cc:** Merry, Sarah (Cllr); Batchelar, Nick; Nightingale, Janine; Andrewartha, Brett

**Subject:** RE: Proposed consultations on school catchment areas

1 caveat : that the sibling link is protected.

Sent with Good ([www.good.com](http://www.good.com))

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Duddridge-Hossain, Michele

**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2016 03:05 PM GMT Standard Time

**To:** Ford, Lisa (Cllr); McEvoy, Neil (Cllr); Mitchell, Paul (Cllr); Aubrey, Gareth (Cllr); Davies-Warner, Kirsty (Cllr); Cook, Richard (Cllr); Elsmore, Susan (Cllr); Patel, Ramesh (Cllr); Wild, Caro (Cllr); Gordon, Iona (Cllr); Williams, Darren (Cllr)

**Cc:** Merry, Sarah (Cllr); Batchelar, Nick; Nightingale, Janine; Andrewartha, Brett

**Subject:** Proposed consultations on school catchment areas

Dear Councillor,

We are contacting you as a local member of a ward in which we are undertaking consultation regarding proposed changes to catchment areas which if agreed would take effect from September 2017.

The consultation is due to start **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** and run for 4 weeks ending on the **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March**. The consultation will be sent via email to the statutory stakeholders; displayed online on the Council's website and hard copies of the maps will be sent to the families of the areas affected through schools and via post to those in catchment in the 0-3 age group.

The schools within your ward that would be directly affected and the rationale for the proposed changes are as follows:

- Ysgol Plasmawr
- Ysgol Glan Taf
- Ysgol Pencae

The proposal is to realign the Ysgol Plasmawr/Ysgol Glan Taf catchment area boundary, by transferring the Ysgol Pencae catchment from Ysgol Plasmawr to Ysgol Glan Taf.

Wards affected: Fairwater  
Llandaff

Ysgol Plasmawr is experiencing increased levels of in catchment demand which is now exceeding supply and this is set to grow over the coming years which will disadvantages those families living furthest from the school. In contrast Ysgol Glan Taf has insufficient catchment demand which is presenting issues with regard to offering a broad and balanced curriculum with the school now facing budgetary challenges.

The rationale for proposing these catchment area changes is therefore primarily to support an improved balance in the supply and demand of Welsh-medium high school places across the area and to provide greater transparency and parity at application for all families across this locality.

We would like to brief you more fully and to listen to your views of the proposed changes and therefore would like to offer the opportunity to attend a meeting to discuss these at , **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 11am-12pm, Committee Room 4**. Alternatively if this time is not convenient, an officer can contact you to brief you via telephone, if this option is better for you could you please indicate times that it would be appropriate for officers to contact.

Should you wish to attend could you please notify me via return email.

Regards,

Michele

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**MICHELE DUDDRIDGE HOSSAIN** | School Organisation Planning Manager / Rheolwr Cynllunio Trefniadaeth Ysgolion | ☎ 029 2087 3943

♻️ Please consider the environment - do you really need to print this email? / ♻️ Ystyriwch yr amgylchedd - oes angen argraffu'r e-bost hwn mewn gwirionedd?

**From:** Davies, Alun (Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf)  
**Sent:** 23 February 2016 12:03  
**To:** School Responses  
**Subject:** WM Primary and Secondary Catchment Area Consultation

**Hoffwn gefnogi'r cynnig i adleoli dalgych Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pencae o ddalgych Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr i ddalgych Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. Teimlaf fod hyn yn gam synhwyrol gan gydnabod dyletswydd i sicrhau dosbarthiad rhesymol o ddisgyblion yn ol lleoedd gwag ac er mwyn sicrhau defnydd priodol ac effeithiol o adnoddau'r Cyngor sydd eisoes mewn bod. Nid yw cynlluniau blaenorol wedi cyflawni'r nod yma ond hyderaf y byddai'r cynnig hwn yn annerch y broblem ac yn galluogi'r ysgolion a enwir i ddatblygu a chwrdd a'r galw cynyddol am Addysg Gymraeg.**

**I would wish to express my support for the proposal that the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae transfers from the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. I feel that this proposal is reasonable and also recognises the duty to ensure an appropriate distribution of pupils according to available spaces while also making appropriate and effective use of available Council resources. The previous School Organisation Plan failed, at the point of implementation, to achieve this aim. This current proposal, however, does address this issue and will, I believe, allow all of the named schools to develop and meet the ongoing growth in demand for Welsh medium education in Cardiff. Admissions will have full supporting evidence showing that our admission number has been well below capacity, and continues to be so, since the removal of feeder primaries from our catchment area in 2012 to establish Ysgol Gyfun Bro Edern. It was always integral to the council's SOP that this shortfall in student numbers created in Glantaf be relieved by the growth in the Plasmawr catchment numbers and reallocation of catchments. While I understand that a sister school will be reluctant to lose a 'high achieving' primary feeder, I fear that its retention would inevitably lead to students lost to the WM sector as a whole, avoidable capital expenditure and avoidable creation of surplus places at Glantaf. While I do not feel that either school can plead significant social deprivation I would point out that the FSM % at Glantaf is higher than that at Plasmawr and that the transfer of pupils from Pencae, far from creating, social imbalance between the schools, would actually help address this issue. I have consistently, stressed that W.M education is comprehensive and needs to cater for all learners. I can envisage a time when catchment areas for all three schools will need further consideration in order to cater for demand and view the required setting aside of purely personal interest as incumbent upon ourselves as Headteachers, in co-operation with the Council, in order to adequately plan for future placements and the development of WM education across the city. The current proposal, does, I believe, require the same vision for the long term sustainability of provision.**

Yours faithfully

**Alun G. Davies**

Alun G. Davies

Pennaeth / Headteacher

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf

Linell Uniongyrchol / Direct Line: 02920838804

Sent: 29 February 2016 13:50

To: School Responses <SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: Ymgynghoriad ar gyfer Dalgylch Ysgolion Cynradd ac Uwchradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg / Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area

**Ymgynghoriad ar gyfer Dalgylch Ysgolion Cynradd ac Uwchradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg / Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area**

28 Chwefror / February 2016

Michele Duddridge Hossain

Schools Organisation Planning Manager

Room 219, County Hall

Cardiff CF10 4UW

Dear Michele

As the Chair of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf Governing Body I wish to express the full support of the Body to the current proposals to transfer Ysgol Pencae's catchment area from that of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf.

Fel Corff Llywodraethol Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, hoffem gefnogi'r cynnig i adleoli dalgylch Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pencae o ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr i ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. Teimlwn bod hyn yn gam synhwyrol gan gydnabod dyletswydd i sicrhau dosbarthiad rhesymol o ddisgyblion yn ôl lleoedd gwag (gweler isod), ac er mwyn sicrhau defnydd priodol ac effeithiol o adnoddau cyfredol y Cyngor; adnoddau sydd, fel y gwyddoch, eisoes mewn bod.

As a Governing Body we feel that this proposal is reasonable and also recognises the duty to ensure an appropriate distribution of pupils according to available spaces (see below), while also making appropriate and effective use of available Council resources.

In my letter to the Director of Education on 17 July 2015 I outlined in some detail the concerns of the Glantaf Governing Body regarding pupil allocation and catchment areas. In summary, when established, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern took as its catchment the area to the east of the river formerly feeding Glantaf. This was, necessarily, at the expense of Glantaf's former catchment and was effectively achieved by removing two existing schools with 2FE each from the Glantaf catchment. To this re-arrangement Glantaf had, and has no objection. The effect of this reduction by 4FE from 2012 onwards did however leave Glantaf dependent on admissions from children in the primary catchment areas of Melin Gruffydd, Y Wern, Mynydd Bychan and Glan Morfa. This meant that in 2013 Glantaf anticipated receiving 5FE (i.e. approx 150 pupils) while having capacity for 8FE (approx. 240 pupils). Likely growth in the immediate future also meant that this figure would not exceed 6FE. Although Glantaf was to receive pupils from the new school at Glan

Ceubal, this was not opened until 2009 with the first children moving to secondary level in 2017 and even then in numbers below 10. In response to this situation, the Authority proposed that Glantaf's catchment should be extended to include the whole of the catchment of Pwll Coch that at that time fed Plasmawr. This was an eminently sensible suggestion but as you will be aware, and I will not go into details here (please see my earlier letter to the Director), incorrect letters being sent from the Council and failure to apply the admissions' policy strictly unfortunately resulted in much confusion and pupil allocation shortage.

In July 2015, the consequences of all of this became apparent. Again, the figures are well known to the Council's 'Admissions' Officers so I will not reiterate them; what they underline, and the reasoning for the current consultation, is that it was clearly necessary to revisit the assigned catchment areas of Glantaf and Plasmawr.

In my letter of 17 July 2015 I outlined two steps which we, as a Governing Body, thought appropriate to alleviate and correct the imbalance. Firstly, a strong indication to Pwll Coch parents that the majority of children leaving that school should, as specified in the revised catchment arrangements, transfer to Glantaf where there room is for them. Secondly, a transfer of the Pencae catchment from Plasmawr to Glantaf. By such means, the Glantaf catchment will be increased and restored to 8FE (1FE from Pwll Coch and 1FE from Pencae) and the numbers seeking entry to Plasmawr will be reduced to that approaching capacity at the school (i.e. reduced from 230 to approximately 170 by removing 2FE to enable Plasmawr to accept the extra 20 children to be expected from the growing numbers at Nant Caerau).

The current proposal addresses specifically this second suggestion and will, we believe, allow all of the named schools to develop and meet the ongoing growth in demand for Welsh medium education in Cardiff.

Yours sincerely

Hefin

Dr Hefin Jones



CA16 10m 57

# Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

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Pennaeth: Mr John D Hayes

Headteacher: Mr John D Hayes

Mr N. Batchelor  
Director of Education  
County Hall  
Cardiff



February 23rd, 2016

Dear Nick

I am writing to you to oppose in the strongest possible terms the proposal to move the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae away from the catchment area of Ysgol Plasmawr and into the catchment area of Ysgol Glantaf.

As demand for Welsh medium education continues to grow and the Local Development Plans for Cardiff become a reality it is vital that the catchment areas for the three Welsh medium secondary schools are viewed in the medium to long term rather than seeking an easy short term and short-sighted fix to address the current small imbalance in pupil numbers which could be extremely detrimental to one school or another and which could have long lasting educational legacy issues for the whole of Cardiff.

Clear principles were agreed during the planning phase leading to the opening of Ysgol Plasmawr in 1998 which included ensuring that the catchment areas of both Plasmawr and Glantaf were as similar as possible in terms of socio-economic indicators i.e. it was deemed to be essential that both schools had an equitable social mix to ensure that they had an equal opportunity to flourish and succeed.

Currently both Plasmawr and Glantaf have relatively diverse socio-economic catchment areas as illustrated in table A below. Moving Ysgol Pencae into the Glantaf catchment would change the socio-economic balance of both schools and would be to the detriment of the Plasmawr school community.

**Table A:** %FSM per catchment Welsh medium primary school as an indicator of socio-economic backgrounds (2015).

Plasmawr catchment School	%FSM
Nant Caerau	28.80%
Pencae	2.70%
Coed Y Gof	24.20%
Gwaelod y Garth	5.40%
Creigiau	3.20%
Treganna	3.70%

Glantaf catchment School	%FSM
Melin Gruffydd	3.70%
Y Wern	4.90%
Pwll Coch	7.10%
Mynydd Bychan	9.80%
Glan Morfa	28.30%

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd  
Cardiff County Council



# Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

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Headteacher: Mr John D Hayes

The consultation proposal is an easy, short term, practical solution based solely on the geographical proximity of the Pencae catchment area to the Glantaf catchment area. In purely theoretical terms it is a logical solution, however the proposal has shortcomings in terms of educational principles and would have a lasting effect on Welsh medium education across the city. Ysgol Pencae is a high performing primary school benefiting from a prosperous and affluent catchment area. If Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment area it would strengthen what is already an extremely successful and high performing secondary school and would be to the detriment of Ysgol Plasmawr. Plasmawr's attainment standards are likely to suffer and our sixth form retention rates would reduce as we would annually lose in the region of 30 pupils who normally attain well at KS4 and who historically have continued into the sixth form at Plasmawr. This knee-jerk proposal is setting Plasmawr up to fail.

I am extremely proud of Plasmawr's strong academic record (highest performing school in Cardiff at A level for the past three years) and our excellent wellbeing and inclusive ethos which has been built over the past 18 years. The strength of our school community is the fact that we are such a comprehensive secondary school serving the whole of the west of Cardiff including some of the most deprived and some of the most affluent wards in Cardiff. Moving Pencae one of our founder catchment primary schools from our catchment will polarise differences between Plasmawr and Glantaf, turning Glantaf into a far more attractive school for prospective parents.

This proposal if approved would in my opinion create a centrally located elite Welsh medium school serving some of the most affluent wards in Cardiff and would result in Plasmawr serving primarily the western fringe of Cardiff which includes some of the most socially deprived and challenging areas of Cardiff. This decision would challenge the founding principles of establishing Plasmawr as an equal to Glantaf in terms of nature of catchment areas. This decision if accepted would realistically result in aspirational parents actively seeking to move to live into the Glantaf catchment area exaggerating the difficult situation facing Plasmawr, creating in effect a Welsh medium equivalent of Cardiff High school in central Cardiff. Polarising Welsh medium schools should be avoided at all costs and actively seeking other far more positive short term solutions should be the priority.

Moving Ysgol Pencae into the Glantaf catchment will create its own capacity problems for Glantaf. The number of forms of entry feeding Glantaf indicate that within a brief period of time it will significantly exceed its own admission number of 8 forms of entry (Table B). I fail to comprehend how moving Pencae into Glantaf's catchment will solve any medium to long term capacity issues for Welsh medium education in the city and in fact it can only be seen as a short term measure which will create its own set of problems which will have to be addressed.

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd  
Cardiff County Council



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# Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

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**Table B:** September 2017 catchment areas if Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment including potential forms of entry.

	F/E	FSM
<b>Plasmawr (6 f/e)</b>		
Nant Caerau	1	28.80%
Coed Y Gof	1.5	24.20%
Gwaelod y Garth	0.7	5.40%
Creigiau	0.8	3.20%
Treganna	2	3.70%
	<b>6.0</b>	

	F/E	FSM
<b>Glantaf (8 f/e)</b>		
Melin Gruffydd	2	3.70%
Y Wern	2/3	4.90%
Pwll Coch	2	7.10%
Mynydd Bychan	1	9.80%
Glan Morfa	1	28.30%
Pencae	1	2.70%
Glan Ceubal	1	32.60%
	<b>10/11</b>	

My own proposal would be to maintain the current catchment area provision and temporarily change the Plasmawr admission number to 210 (7 forms of entry) and ensure that Glantaf are supported until their pupil numbers grow through the primary sector within their existing catchment. The issues arising from this proposal are summarised in the table below:

+ve	-ve
<p>No further short term disruption to catchment areas until a decision is taken on medium to long term catchment issues for the three WM high schools.</p> <p>Allows ample time to plan accurately for future growth in secondary Welsh medium education taking into account new housing development plans etc.</p> <p>No need for knee jerk reaction decisions which could have long term effect on Welsh medium education.</p> <p>Allows for creative capacity building solutions in terms of sharing facilities with local leisure centre and / or Waterhall Youth Centre.</p> <p>Maintains parental satisfaction throughout.</p>	<p>Capacity building solution required to cater for temporary growth in numbers which may have some cost implications e.g. develop Fairwater leisure centre / Waterhall Youth centre.</p>



# Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

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In conclusion, I would urge you to think not only in terms of short term, quick wins which will bring with them massive repercussions, but rather to pause and take a measured medium to long term view on the growth of Welsh medium education in Cardiff.

Yours faithfully

John



CA16/WM/62

# Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

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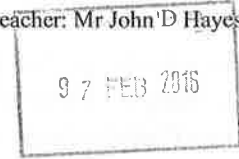
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Mr N. Batchelor

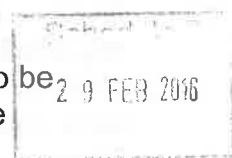
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Cardiff Local Authority

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear Mr Batchelor

We wish to express our strong objection to the proposal for Ysgol Pencae to be transferred from the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment area to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf.



The consultation notes the following:

*'Projections indicate that the demand for Welsh-medium places from within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr will exceed the number of places available at the school from September 2017. However, demand from within the existing catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf is predicted to be less than the number of places at the school.'*

As data to support this statement is not provided as part of the consultation it is difficult to ascertain to what extent, and at what point, demand for places at Ysgol Glantaf may also begin to exceed capacity. On the basis of the number of forms of entry being admitted to Ysgol Glantaf, it may well exceed its standard admission number in 2017, and if not will probably do so in 2018.

Evidence suggests that the vast majority of pupils from Ysgol Pwll Coch will transfer to Ysgol Glantaf in September 2016, firmly establishing Pwll Coch as one of Glantaf's feeder primary schools. In the absence of supporting data, we feel it is reasonable to ask whether projected growth of pupil numbers at Glantaf (particularly in relation to two of its feeder schools – Glan Ceubal and Pwll Coch) has been taken fully into account.

In view of the growing demand for Welsh-medium provision across Cardiff, we wish to have an assurance that the authority is planning places in the secondary sector in a strategic way which looks beyond the short-term scenario forecast for 2017. We recognise that such planning presents a number of challenges – not least because of the significant demographic changes and projected population growth in parts of the city over the coming years. However, we have serious concerns about the risks associated with seeking a short-term – if seemingly tidy and straightforward – solution to one aspect of the challenge. We urge you to delay any decisions until a more strategic mid- to long-term assessment has been taken of projected demand

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd  
Cardiff County Council



# Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

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and capacity. We would expect this assessment to take into account not only capacity in Ysgol Plasmawr and Glantaf but also in Ysgol Bro Edern. The consultation does not make any reference to the way in which projected capacity/demand across the city is likely to impact on wider considerations relating to the authority's vision for strategic delivery of Welsh-medium provision.

As Plasmawr has continued to grow over recent years we have been heartened by the school's ability to adhere to its fundamental goal of seeking excellence in all its endeavours. Its ability to deliver this aim is based on the principle of nurturing high expectations in an inclusive environment. This is achieved through providing a stimulating and caring environment for pupils from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds to learn alongside each other. We are concerned that moving Ysgol Pencae to the Glantaf catchment area would have an adverse effect on the socio-economic fabric of Plasmawr and would also have far-reaching implications for the wider demographic of Welsh-medium secondary provision in Cardiff. Ysgol Pencae is a high-performing primary school benefiting from a prosperous and affluent catchment area. The proposal under discussion would run the risk of reinforcing the status of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, an already successful and high-performing school, as a centre of excellence for aspirational parents, to the detriment of both Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Bro Edern. The potential implications of such a development are, in our view, significant, spanning a range of considerations such as raising school standards, capacity to deliver effective and equitable post-16 provision, and promoting a sense of civic awareness and responsibility in our pupils.

Whilst it could be argued that some degree of socio-economic segmentation is almost inevitable in the secondary school sector across a city such as Cardiff, it is our view that the Welsh-medium sector presents the authority with an opportunity to plan comprehensive school provision in a way that will reduce the risk of socio-economic polarisation. Viewing the current challenge as an opportunity to refine this strategic approach would, we suggest, be entirely in keeping with the vision set out in Professor Donaldson's *Successful Futures*, where 'ambitious, capable learners' are also to be viewed as 'members of a diverse society'.

We therefore urge you to pause and to consider the mid- and long-term implications of the proposal to modify Ysgol Pencae's current catchment area. We are fully aware of the need to consider alternatives in the short term in order to ease the pressure on places in 2017, and we would be very happy to participate in discussions with you and other partners to consider interim solutions that would not require a modification to catchment areas.

The risks associated with pursuing the current proposal, we conclude, are significant. Furthermore, implementing the proposal would be a missed opportunity to plan strategically for a thriving Welsh-medium sector in the capital.

Cyngor Sir Caerdydd  
Cardiff County Council



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# Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

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Headteacher: Mr John D Hayes

Yours sincerely

Mair Parry-Jones

Chair of Governors

(on behalf of the Full Governing Body)





Department of  
Chemistry  
University of California  
Berkeley, California

Department of  
Chemistry  
University of California  
Berkeley, California

Department of Chemistry

Department of Chemistry

Department of Chemistry

Department of Chemistry

Department of Chemistry



**From:** Thomas, Richard (Ysgol Pencae)  
**Sent:** 29 February 2016 10:42  
**To:** School Responses <[SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Ysgol Pencae's Response

Good morning,

Regarding changing Ysgol Pencae's catchment

Here are my comments as the Head Teacher of Ysgol Pencae:

1. It was disappointing being informed that a change in catchments is underway – two days before the consultation went to parents/the public! Myself and the Governing Body should have been informed of this months in advance in order to seriously discuss it over a period of time. This has caused bad feelings in the school's community and it looks bad on me as a Head Teacher and on the school's Governing Body.
2. What is the County's LONG TERM plan regarding Ysgol Pencae's catchments as well as the capital city's other Welsh schools? I DO NOT want the catchments to change within the next two or three years. I would like the County's Officers to come and discuss this with members of Ysgol Pencae's Governing Body promptly.
3. I'm concerned that Ysgol Glantaf is going to be a Welsh elite school with Ysgol Plasmawr losing a cohort of pupils who are well supported by their parents. The social mixture is so important for the good and education of every pupil and I do not want Ysgol Plasmawr to develop to be a 'difficult' school which services less disadvantaged catchments and as a result become a disadvantaged school.
4. This consultation is very distressing to parents, especially parents of the current Years 3-5 because it means that the classes will be split i.e. friends in the class will be separated because parents decide to send their children to the secondary school which is more appropriate and more convenient for them. This transition period is a deeply emotional period for children and so this can have a harmful effect on the pupils.

Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf are two very good schools and are an asset to Cardiff County's education system. I, as the Head Teacher of Ysgol Pencae, support the two schools and want to ensure that Ysgol Pencae pupils develop on the strong foundation which they have received in this school.

With thanks,

R Richard Thomas  
Head

10/1/2014

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re: [Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

Sent: 01 March 2016 09:26

To: School Responses <SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: Consultation: Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area

### **Consultation: Welsh-medium Primary and Secondary Schools Catchment Area**

Dear Sir/Madam,

In order to draft a response to this consultation, members of the Governing Body of Ysgol Pencae have met with the parent representatives from each class, members of staff and have also taken into account the responses made directly by parents to the School.

The Governing Body is pleased to recognise that this proposed change in catchment area will not affect unduly the academic or extracurricular opportunities available to our pupils. Ysgol Pencae is very fortunate to be located in close proximity to two high-quality Welsh-medium secondary schools, both of which offer secondary education of the highest standard.

The Governing Body does however have some concerns regarding this proposed change that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. We would therefore appreciate if the Council could respond to the questions we have noted below:

1. What are the Council's medium to long term plans to deal with growth in Welsh medium education?

It does not appear that the Council has a strategic approach to dealing with the growth in Welsh medium education in Cardiff. This decision to change catchment areas appears to be a reactive measure to deal with one school apparently being oversubscribed whilst the other has some capacity. A decision made purely on short term capacity will always be problematic. We would therefore like to know:

2. On what basis is this proposed change being made?

Since Ysgol Pencae opened in 1991, its pupils and their parents have always known that they will be attending Ysgol Plasmawr. Ysgol Pencae has therefore developed strong and longstanding relationships with the other feeder schools for Ysgol Plasmawr and also with the school itself. These relationships take time to develop and are crucial to ensuring a smooth transition for pupils from primary to secondary education. It is therefore extremely disappointing that this proposed change may come into effect with a little over one academic year to prepare for such a significant change.

With the expected increase in the number of homes in the areas surrounding Ysgol Pencae and those feeding Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf, there is real concern that this proposed change will only be for a short period of time. We are concerned that if the Council does not have an appropriate strategy to manage this growth, there will be further issues with oversubscription in both secondary and primary schools and yet another short term solution will be found that could further disrupt pupils at Ysgol Pencae. We would therefore like to know:

3. If this change does occur, for how long will this new catchment be guaranteed?

The wellbeing of our pupils is the key concern for all at Ysgol Pencae and even though, as we have already noted, both secondary schools will be able to offer high quality experiences for our pupils, introducing this change from Ysgol Plasmawr to Ysgol Glantaf at such short notice will have a considerable effect on the oldest children at Ysgol Pencae. Many of them and their parents will either have to decide to leave their friends to be with older siblings at Ysgol Plasmawr or continue with their friends and attend a different school from their siblings with all the practical issues and challenges that this will bring to parents.

We would therefore appreciate if you could respond to the following:

4. Will children with siblings already at Ysgol Plasmawr be guaranteed places at Plasmawr if this change occurs? and
5. Will pupils in Years 4 and 5 be guaranteed places at Ysgol Glantaf even if they are outside the current catchment area?

There are some pupils that fall into this last category and there are concerns that if they are not allowed to progress with their classmates then this would have a negative effect on their development.

Concerns have also been raised regarding the safety of children travelling from the Highfields area to Ysgol Glantaf. The steps leading from the area down to Ysgol Glantaf are poorly lit and there is no appropriate crossing to reach Ysgol Glantaf.

Can you also therefore confirm:

6. If this change does come about, that it will ensure a safe route and appropriate road crossings for pupils to reach Ysgol Glantaf?

The Governing Body would be grateful if you could address the questions asked in this letter as soon as possible. We would also appreciate the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Council in person to discuss these proposed changes and the effect that they will have on Ysgol Pencae.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Rhys Tiplady

Chair of Governors

Ysgol Pencae

Sent: 29 February 2016 14:49

To: School Responses <SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: Ysgol Pencae catchment area proposal

Hoffwn gefnogi'r cynnig i adleoli dalgych Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pencae o ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr i ddalgych Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. Teimlaf fod hyn yn gam synhwyrol gan gydnabod dyletswydd i sicrhau dosbarthiad rhesymol o ddisgyblion yn ol lleoedd gwag ac er mwyn sicrhau defnydd priodol ac effeithiol o adnoddau'r Cyngor sydd eisoes mewn bod. Nid yw cynlluniau blaenorol wedi cyflawni'r nod yma ond hyderaf y byddai'r cynnig hwn yn annerch y broblem ac yn galluogi'r ysgolion a enwir i ddatblygu a chwrdd a'r galw cynyddol am Addysg Gymraeg.

I would wish to express my support for the proposal that the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae transfers from the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. I feel that this proposal is reasonable and also recognises the duty to ensure an appropriate distribution of pupils according to available spaces while also making appropriate and effective use of available Council resources. The previous School Organisation Plan failed, at the point of implementation, to achieve this aim. This current proposal, however, does address this issue and will, I believe, allow all of the named schools to develop and meet the ongoing growth in demand for Welsh medium education in Cardiff. The removal of schools from Glantaf catchment area to provide pupils for the newly formed Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern on the eastern side of the city has had a dramatic impact on Glantaf intake, without proper realignment of schools on the western side of the city to redress the balance. It was always integral to the council's SOP that this shortfall in student numbers created in Glantaf be relieved by the growth in the Plasmawr catchment numbers and reallocation of catchments. I can envisage a time when catchment areas for all three schools will need further consideration in order to cater for demand and view the required setting aside of purely personal interest as incumbent upon ourselves as Headteachers, in co-operation with the Council, in order to adequately plan for future placements and the development of WM education across the city. The current proposal, does, I believe, require the same vision for the long term sustainability of provision.

Elinor Patchell

Chair/Cadeirydd Ysgol Gyfun Bro Edern.

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a name or title.

Main body of the document containing several paragraphs of text, which is mostly illegible due to blurriness and low contrast.

**From:** Hayes, Mike (Schools)  
**Sent:** 29 February 2016 09:23  
**To:** School Responses  
**Subject:** Response - Plasmawr Glantaf Pencae  
**Attachments:** Plasmawr - Glantaf - Pencae Catchment Consultation.doc

Mike Hayes  
Pennaeth / Headteacher  
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-Y-Gof  
Beechley Drive  
Pentrebaen  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF5 3SG  
029 20564585

I strongly oppose the proposal to transfer the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae from Plasmawr to Glantaf.

I do not believe the numbers have been properly calculated in the short to medium term.

If Pwll Coch pupils all transfer to Glantaf (as should be the case), then they will have their allocated 8 forms of entry: Melin Gruffydd, Y Wern, Pwll Coch all 2 form entry and Mynydd Bychan & Glan Morfa providing 1 form entry each. Glan Ceubal will be providing more pupils as the numbers there increase, and Y Wern will soon have a third stream coming through.

The transfer of Pencae can only be seen as a short-term solution which will have long term, serious consequences for Plasmawr. There will be a real change in the social mix in Plasmawr and the knock-on effect will be severe for the school.


I note with interest the proposal to change the catchment areas of Fitzalan and Cantonian. Ironically, taking out Pencae from Plasmawr will be creating a very similar situation that the Council is trying to address in Cantonian.

I urge you to re-think the transfer of Pencae from one catchment to the other as the only option for solving the current, temporary admissions dilemma.

Sincerely,

Mike Hayes



  
29 February 2016

Mr N Batchelar  
Education Director  
Cardiff Council

Dear Mr Batchelar

### **The Future of Welsh Secondary Education in Cardiff**

The purpose of this letter is to add Ysgol Gyfun Gwaelod-y-Garth's voice to those who oppose the proposal to transfer Ysgol Pencae from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment.

Our interest derives from our desire to ensure a bright future for Plasmawr, because that is the school which receives so many of our pupils, after they have left us.

The reasons for opposing are mentioned below, in a letter which I have also signed, and in a paper by John Hayes, Head teacher of Plasmawr.

I believe that the figures which suggest how big the pressure will be on Ysgol Glantaf, by 2017, clearly show that your current plan does not offer a long term solution to the problems we face.

Instead, it will disrupt Plasmawr's development – and discriminate against that school, its pupils and its parents, by greatly impairing on the school's ability to attract pupils from every ability and background – and thereby ensuring that the school still possesses an atmosphere that will enable it to develop educational and social potential of a wide and varied range of pupils (whilst also serving as an organization which reflects the varied communities which exist in West Cardiff).

At the same time, you will be transferring the problem in terms of a lack of capacity to Ysgol Glantaf which will be crowded by 2017.

Therefore with your plan you will have succeeded to create problems for both schools, impairing on their development and their ability to offer consummate education, whilst also creating confusion and uncertainty for staff, pupils and parents of Plasmawr and Glantaf.

Therefore Ysgol Gwaleod y Garth strongly supports Mr Hayes' proposal, namely the need to consider all of this in a long term context, and in the context of opening the fourth Welsh secondary school.

By following his ideas, a long term solution can be developed, whilst avoiding hurting Plasmawr and Glantaf.

I understand that he has consummate ideas in terms of creating extra space (temporarily) which will be needed in Plasmawr – and the education authority should consider them in detail, accepting that it will be a very valuable thing if there were a way to make them a reality, in order to protect the two schools.

I would like to remind you, also, that there's a statutory responsibility to impose on the education authority, in the near future, to consider the effect of your decisions and policies on people's ability to use Welsh (according to the Welsh Language Measure). Changing Plasmawr's catchment, in the way you have proposed, can significantly reduce the percentage of children from Welsh families who go there. Research shows that using Welsh at home makes you a lot more likely to use it socially. If you were to make this plan a reality, then, you would change the school's 'language landscape' and the pattern of the pupils language background. It will become harder, then, for the children who want to do this, to use Welsh in the yard and socially within the school – and with co-pupils outside of the school walls. You will be, therefore, in real danger of creating a situation which reduces the ability of people to use Welsh, contrary to the language standards.

Because of this, I'm copying this letter to the Welsh Commissioner. I know that she will respond to the situation.

With thanks – and with best wishes.

Huw Jones

Huw Onllwyn Jones  
Chairman  
Governing Board Ysgol Gwaelod-y-Garth

Mr N. Batchelor

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Cardiff Council

### **Schools catchment area consultation – Ysgol Pencae.**

Dear Mr Batchelor

I strongly oppose the proposal to transfer the catchment area of Ysgol Pencae from the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf for the following reasons:

- I believe that the proposal is a short-term solution which will have far-reaching implications for Ysgol Plasmawr in terms of the nature of its catchment area and to Ysgol Glantaf in terms of exceeding its own admission number in the medium term.
- I do not believe that the information provided in the consultation document (2 February 2016) provides sufficient evidence to be able to make an informed decision on this important issue.
- Ysgol Pencae is a high performing primary school. If Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment area it would be to the detriment of Ysgol Plasmawr in terms of its academic and participation profile, sixth form retention rate and would have a lasting negative effect on Welsh medium education across the city.
- The proposal challenges the founding principle of establishing Ysgol Plasmawr in 1998 as an equal to Ysgol Glantaf in terms of the socio-economic nature of both catchment areas. I firmly believe that both schools should continue to be given an equal opportunity to flourish and prosper over the medium to long term. This proposal undermines the principle that both schools should have an equitable social mix of pupils.

I strongly believe that a longer term solution for the catchment areas of both Welsh medium secondary schools is required taking into account the additional projected growth in demand for Welsh medium education as large new residential developments are built in Cardiff.

Local short term solutions should be sought to ensure the viability of both Plasmawr and Glantaf and maintaining their mixed socio-economic foundations rather than addressing catchment area changes which are likely to have to change again as the new population growth in the west of Cardiff begin to have an impact on school admission figures.

I would urge the School Organisation Team to think not only in terms of short term, quick wins which will bring with them massive repercussions particularly for the Ysgol Plasmawr community but rather to take a far more measured medium to long term view on the growth of Welsh medium education in Cardiff.

Yours sincerely

Signature:

Name:

Mr N. Batchelar

Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes

Cyngor Caerdydd

## Ymgynghoriad ar gyfer dalgylch Ysgol Pencae.

Annwyl Mr Batchelor

Rwyf yn anghytuno'n gryf â'r cynnig i drosglwyddo Ysgol Pencae o ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr i ddalgylch Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf am y rhesymau canlynol:

- Credaf fod y cynnig yn ddatrysiad tymor byr yn unig fyddai'n arwain at oblygiadau hir dymor i Ysgol Plasmawr yn nhermau natur ei dalgylch ac i Ysgol Glantaf yn nhermau creu problemau gorlenwi yn y tymor canolig.
- Nid yw'r wybodaeth a roddwyd yn y ddogfen ymgynghori (2 Chwefror 2016) yn ddigonol i fedru dod i benderfyniad mor bwysig ar natur dalgylch ysgolion.
- Mae Ysgol Pencae yn ysgol sydd yn perfformio'n dda iawn yn academiaidd. Pe bai Ysgol Pencae yn symud i ddalgylch Ysgol Glantaf fe fyddai Ysgol Plasmawr yn dioddef yn nhermau ei phroffil academiaidd a chyfranogiad, y nifer o fyfyrwyr fyddai'n aros i'r Chweched Dosbarth ac fe fyddai'n cael effaith hir dymor ar addysg Gymraeg ar draws y ddinas.
- Mae'r cynnig yn herio un o egwyddorion sylfaenol sefydlu Ysgol Plasmawr yn 1998 sef i sicrhau fod Plasmawr a Glantaf yn hafal yn nhermau natur dalgylchoedd y ddwy ysgol. Credaf ei fod yn bwysig bod y ddwy ysgol yn cael cyfle teg i barhau i lwyddo sy'n golygu cadw Ysgol Pencae o fewn dalgylch Plasmawr. Mae'r cynnig hwn yn tansilio'r egwyddor bod angen i'r ddwy ysgol gael dalgylchoedd sydd â chymysgedd cymdeithasol-economaidd debyg.

Credaf bod angen datrysiad hir dymor i'r twf cynyddol yn y niferoedd o ddisgyblion sydd am dderbyn addysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn y Brifddinas, nid ymateb yn fyrbwyll fel bod angen ail-edrych ar dalgylchoedd yr ysgolion eto mewn rhai blynyddoedd.

Dylid ymchwilio i ddatrysiadau tymor byr i broblemau lleol y ddwy ysgol er mwyn sicrhau fod Ysgol Pencae yn aros o fewn dalgylch Plasmawr fyddai'n cadw natur y dalgylchoedd yn hafal.

Rwyf yn erfyn ar y Tîm Cynllunio Ysgolion i ystyried yr effaith negyddol fyddai colli Ysgol Pencae yn ei gael ar gymuned Ysgol Plasmawr ac i osgoi datrysiadau byr dymor fyddai'n cael effaith pell-gyrhaeddol ar addysg Gymraeg ar draws y Brifddinas.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir

Llofnod: Huw Jones

Enw: Huw Onllwyn Jones

## The future of secondary Welsh medium education in Cardiff.

As pupil numbers continue to grow and the Local Development Plans for Cardiff become a reality it is vital that the catchment areas for the three existing Welsh Medium high schools are viewed in the medium to long term rather than seeking to find an easy short term and short-sighted fix to address a current imbalance in pupil numbers which could be extremely detrimental to one school or another and have long lasting educational legacy issues for the whole of Cardiff.

Careful consideration should be given to the future catchment areas of all three Welsh Medium secondary schools in Cardiff in order to ensure that all three schools are given equal opportunities to flourish and prosper over the medium to long term. Clear principles were agreed during the planning phase leading to the opening of Ysgol Plasmawr in 1998 and Ysgol Bro Edern in 2012 which included ensuring that the catchment areas of all three school were as similar as possible in terms of socio-economic indicators i.e. it was deemed to be essential that all schools had an equitable social mix.

Currently all three schools have a relatively diverse socio-economic catchment area as illustrated in table A below, although Bro Edern serving the eastern side of Cardiff may challenge the accuracy of this statement.

**Table A:** %FSM per catchment Welsh medium primary school as an indicator of socio-economic backgrounds (2015).

School	%FSM
<b>Plasmawr</b>	
Nant Caerau	28.80%
Pencae	2.70%
Coed Y Gof	24.20%
Gwaelod y Garth	5.40%
Creigiau	3.20%
Treganna	3.70%

School	%FSM
<b>Glantaf</b>	
Melin Gruffydd	3.70%
Y Wern	4.90%
Pwll Coch	7.10%
Mynydd Bychan	9.80%
Glan Morfa	28.30%

School	%FSM
<b>Bro Edern</b>	
Berllan Deg	7.60%
Bro Eirwg	19.0%
Pen y Pil	28.80%
Pen y Groes	15.30%

### The argument for change:

Evidence suggests that the vast majority of pupils from Ysgol Pwll Coch will transfer to Ysgol Glantaf in September 2016 firmly establishing Pwll Coch as one of Glantaf's feeder primary schools. The numbers of Year 6 pupils currently living in the Plasmawr catchment area indicate that Plasmawr will be close to its admission number of 180 in September 2016. Current catchment area data for primary school pupils indicate that the numbers of pupils in the Plasmawr catchment area will exceed its standard admission number of 180 (6 f/e) in September 2017 (see table B below) which is the main argument for change.

**Table B:** Projected numbers of pupils in the Plasmawr catchment area 2016 – 2020.

Year	Treganna	Gwaelod	Creigiau	Nant Caerau	Pencae	Coed-Y-Gof	Total
2016/2017	55	23	25	7	29	45	184
2017/2018	60	22	27	31	31	47	218
2018/2019	60	31	21	27	30	46	215
2019/2020	90	27	29	29	30	54	259

The number of pupils transferring annually to Plasmawr from Pencae, Creigiau and Gwaelod y Garth are always less than the numbers indicated due to a range of different factors.

Ysgol Glantaf are likely to remain in the short term below their standard admission number of 240 (8 f/e) but this will change over the coming years as the increasing numbers of pupils in the primary phase work their way annually through the primary system. The data in table C strongly suggests that Glantaf will exceed its standard admission number in 2017.

The easy, short term, practical solution being consulted upon is to transfer Ysgol Pencae from Plasmawr's catchment into Glantaf's catchment on the basis of geographical proximity. In purely theoretical terms it is the most logical solution, however this suggestion is flawed in terms of educational principles and would have a lasting effect on Welsh medium education across the city. Ysgol Pencae is a high performing primary school benefiting from a prosperous and affluent catchment area. If Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment area it would strengthen what is already an extremely successful and high performing secondary school and would be to the detriment of Ysgol Plasmawr.

This decision if approved would result in Glantaf serving a large swathe of central Cardiff with a high proportion of affluent wards and would result in Plasmawr and Bro Edern serving primarily the western and eastern fringes of Cardiff which also include some of the most socially deprived and challenging areas of Cardiff. This decision would challenge the founding principles of establishing Plasmawr and Bro Edern as equals to Glantaf in terms of nature of catchment areas. This decision would in my opinion undermine Cardiff's vision for Welsh medium education and challenge one of its main principles as stated in Cardiff's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan:

"To support the wider vision for a Bi-lingual Cardiff through educational provision where:

Welsh medium education is inclusive, overcoming barriers and the ability of any young person to achieve a good education through the medium of Welsh".

**Table C:** September 2017 catchment areas if Pencae was to move into the Glantaf catchment including potential forms of entry.

	6 FoE	FSM
<b>Plasmawr</b>		
Nant Caerau	1	28.80%
Coed Y Gof	1.5	24.20%
Gwaelod y Garth	0.8	5.40%
Creigiau	1	3.20%
Treganna	2	3.70%
	6.3	

	8 FoE	FSM
<b>Glantaf</b>		
Melin Gruffydd	2	3.70%
Y Wern	2	4.90%
Pwll Coch	2	7.10%
Mynydd Bychan	1	9.80%
Glan Morfa	1	28.30%
Pencae	1	2.70%
Glan Ceubal	1	32.60%
	9/10	

	6 FoE	FSM
<b>Bro Edern</b>		
Berllan Deg	2	7.60%
Bro Eirwg	2	19%
Pen y Pil	1	28.80%
Pen y Groes	1	15.30%
	6	

*It is worth noting that several primary schools may not yet have full class sizes and therefore the actual pupil numbers could be significantly less than suggested by the form of entry data in the table.*

This current proposal to change the Plasmawr and Glantaf catchment areas can only be viewed as a short term solution which in itself will create further additional capacity issues for Ysgol Glantaf by 2017 as it is highly likely to exceed its admission number. I would argue that a longer term solution is required at this point taking into account the additional projected growth in demand for Welsh medium education as large new residential developments are built in Cardiff.

Local short term solutions should be sought to ensure the viability of both Plasmawr and Glantaf and maintaining their mixed socio-economic foundations rather than addressing catchment area changes which are likely to have to

change again as the new population growth in the West of Cardiff begin to have an impact on school admission figures and a fourth Welsh medium high school becomes a necessity.

**Longer term solutions in light of Local Development Plans, Paper Mill development (Ely Bridge) and BBC residential project (Llandaf):**

Possible long term catchment area solutions based on potential forms of entry for primary schools:

Glantaf	8 FE	Plasmawr	6 FE	Bro Edern	6 FE	4th WM school	7 FE
Melin Gruffydd	2	Creigiau	1	Berllan Deg	2	Pwll Coch	2
Y Wern	3	Gwaelod y Garth	1	Bro Eirwg	2	Treganna	3
Mynydd Bychan	1	Coed y Gof	2	Pen y Pil	1	New Grangetown	2
Glan Morfa	1/2	Pencae	1	Pen y Groes	1		
Glan Ceubal	1	Nant Caerau	1				
	<b>8/9</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>

It appears that the opening of a 4<sup>th</sup> Welsh medium secondary school is inevitable considering the current capacity for growth in the Welsh medium primary schools. The numbers of forms of entry in the table above does not take into account the opening of any new Welsh medium primary schools as part of the LDP which will only lead to further capacity issues in the existing 3 WM secondary schools. The planning for such a project must begin as soon as possible to ensure that all considerations are taken into account. With the building of a new 2 form Welsh medium, primary school in Grangetown it is abundantly clear that a secondary solution is required to serve the south west of Cardiff.

**In conclusion:**

I would urge the School Development Team to think not only in terms of short term, quick wins which will bring with them massive repercussions, but rather to take a far more measured medium to long term view on the growth of Welsh medium education in Cardiff. We have one opportunity to get this right for the current and future pupils and parents of Cardiff and we must thoroughly explore every avenue before firm decisions are made.

J.D. Hayes

Headteacher

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr

February 2016

Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit	Price	Total
1	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...
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**Call In Request:**

**Cabinet Decision CAB/15/84, made 21/03/2016.**

**Change to the Welsh Medium catchment areas of Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf through transfer of Ysgol Pencae catchment from Ysgol Plasmawr to Ysgol Glantaf catchment to take effect from September 2017.**

**I would like to Call In this decision for the following reasons:**

**1) The change is ill conceived. It is a short term answer to Welsh medium secondary provision in the catchment areas of both Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf.**

- The combined projected demand for places from within the Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr catchment areas exceeds the combined number of places available at entry September 2019, yet figures for past 2017 were not taken into account in making the decision. This is despite the fact that they were taken into account in the decision not to proceed currently with changes to the English medium high school catchments of Fitzalan High School and Cantonian High School and associated English medium primary school catchment areas.
- Only the projected demand for 2017 at Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr was consulted on that is where there would be 201 pupils looking for places at Ysgol Glantaf which has 240 places at present and 210 pupils looking for places at Ysgol Plasmawr which currently has 180 places available.
- The decision taken to move Ysgol Pencae catchment area from Ysgol Plasmawr is a short term measure to deal with more demand for places at Ysgol Plasmawr and less demand than places at Ysgol Glantaf in 2017. It takes no account of projected demand for 2019 when Glantaf would be full with 240 pupils seeking places at Glantaf.
- Even if Ysgol Pencae catchment is moved into Ysgol Glantaf catchment, Ysgol Plasmawr would be full by 2020/2021 .

**2) Several key stakeholders have expressed their concerns that the change could have unwelcome consequences for the social and academic wellbeing of pupils.**

- The proposal to remove Ysgol Pencae Primary School from the Plasmawr catchment area would mean that Ysgol Glantaf would then receive all three best performing Welsh medium primary schools, leaving Plasmawr with a less well mixed population. The change would adversely affect the socio economic balance of Plasmawr, and risks creating a perception among aspirational parents that Ysgol Glantaf is an “elite” school. Many people consider

Free Schools Meals data is a crude method of judging socio economic mix and does not give an accurate representation of Cardiff areas.

- Removing Ysgol Pencae from the Plasmawr catchment could impact negatively on pupils' ability to engage socially through the medium of Welsh.
- Removing Ysgol Pencae from the Plasmawr catchment could have a negative effect on sixth form provision.

### **3) The consultation exercise disregards the views of a large majority of people.**

The number of objections received is similar to those received in the consultation on changes to catchment areas of the English medium schools, but whereas the Cabinet were recommended to not proceed currently with changes to the English medium school catchment areas, the Cabinet approved the changes to the Welsh medium catchment areas. Moreover, large numbers of objections from pupils were also disregarded.

- Catchment areas have already been subject to considerable change in recent years. Further short term changes are unnecessarily disruptive, will be detrimental to confidence in Welsh medium schools secondary provision and most importantly will not address the issue of medium to long term sufficiency of Welsh medium secondary school places in the catchment areas of the two schools and across the City.

### **4) The decision should be called in and officers advised to carry out a review of options for Welsh medium secondary provision in the existing catchment areas of the two schools and across the City.**

- Key stakeholders should be offered the opportunity to air their views on the catchment area changes in the Call In process.
- The decision should be withdrawn and, as with the English medium high school catchment area changes in this part of the City, the changes should not be proceeded with until such time as an early review can be conducted.

**Councillor Dianne Rees**  
**Member of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**  
**5 April 2016**

## CALL-IN RE WELSH-MEDIUM CATCHMENT REVIEW - ITEM 5 CABINET 21 MAR 2016

**Dear Paul**

The following forms the basis of the call-in request. I am mindful that this call-in may delay implementation, if the original decision is upheld, until Sep 2018 as the determination year normally is scheduled to cut off at April 15<sup>th</sup>. I am advised that this cannot be extended but would ask that dispensation be sought to extend this deadline given the circumstances e.g. election purdah.

I am particularly mindful of the Ysgol Glantaf location with two nearby single form entry primaries (Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Glan Ceubal) as well as two single-form entry EM schools nearby as well. I note from looking at the map and reports that the Council is sustaining FOUR single-form entry schools on four sites in such a relatively small geographical area: I would not be surprised if consolidation into two double-form entry schools may have to be considered as Government funding continues to be cut in the foreseeable future.

### **BACKGROUND**

As you know, I have had representations from the parents, Chair, governors and teachers relayed to me primarily via a senior teacher at Ysgol Plasmawr. I have also been informed that the number of respondents opposed to the change was around 300 with a petition with over 400 signatures which was documented in the report. Whilst most respondents do understand that a consultation is NOT a referendum and whilst I appreciate those in favour are less likely to respond, I feel that a substantial volume of concerns raised by stakeholders to this point does merit further considerations during a call-in.

Ysgol Plasmawr has worked on the 14-19 agenda for many years in partnership with Ysgol Glantaf and I am assured that all support the Authority's need to have a clear strategy for the development of Welsh Medium education in Cardiff. It is also widely acknowledged that rising demand suggests that a 4th secondary school may be required but this will need longer-term planning and extensive consultation. Furthermore, the timing and scale of the Plasdŵr developments along Llantrisant Road will also make it difficult to predict the future demand and pressures upon the schools concerned in the medium to long-term.

They acknowledge the over-supply concerns encapsulated in Table 8 of the report (see below) but argue that moving a school catchment area for the sake of 30 or so pupils for 2 years when numbers are projected to dip at Ysgol Plasmawr in 2018 seems to be a reactive and short-term decision and may create further issues especially as many families may well choose to follow siblings to Plasmawr in 2017 and 2018.

It is further acknowledged by many that the council has a duty to operate on a council-wide basis with the difficulty of dealing with three tiers of sometimes conflicting placement allocations involving two mediums of education and faith-based schools. It is appreciated that Government guidelines prescribe certain actions but there are key issues that they wish me to raise at the call-in on their behalf which are as follows.

## 1. CONSIDERATION OF POST-2017 DATA:

It can be argued that the proposal was based on balancing the demand for and supply of school places yet appeared to consider data only for 2017/18 despite the projections clearly showing that the demand and supply for places at Ysgol Glantaf (see table 6 below) will balance naturally without any changes in catchment areas by 2019/20:

Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Catchment:</b>							
Glan Ceubal*	23	18	16	26	21	25	30
Glan Morfa	19	16	22	25	28	21	22
Melin Gruffydd	42	43	49	45	46	39	47
Mynydd Bychan*	25	18	24	21	31	31	25
Pwll Coch**	25	48	38	47	51	48	52
Y Wern	50	54	52	48	63	65	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>Catchment surplus/ deficit</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-1</b>

I would certainly welcome clarification as to why the report states in paragraph 118 that *'the admission arrangements that may be required beyond 2017/18 cannot be consulted on at this time'*. This appears to be in sharp contrast to the Published Admission Numbers or PANs arguments used in discussing Fitzalan and Cantonian catchment areas (paragraph 35 of the report) where projections for 2019/20 are used.

They conclude, as I do, that admission arrangements are subject to future PAN data and have referred me to the precedent for the use of longer-term projections set in July 2014 with the report on the provision of Welsh medium education in Llanishen which used projections for WM primary education provision (which is difficult to predict) up to 2019/20 - a full five years after the report.

They also cite the 3 years worth of future projections that were used in consultation prior to establishing Ysgol Glan Ceubal in 2014 where it was stated that *'The permanent establishment of Ysgol Glan Ceubal at 1 form of entry is expected to closely match the future demand for places at the school and from within its catchment area.'*

I note demand for places is evaluated within the Cabinet report, pages 16 to 19; projections are clearly set out for September 2015 until 2021 (i.e. seven years after Reception intake of 2015) and is therefore the longest projection period available using verified school census data). I also note the combined demand from within the two catchments would exceed places available at entry to Year 7 in 2019 so I would expect there would be solid data on which to query and question admission arrangements as these are number-dependent.

I appreciate Ysgol Glantaf currently has surplus spaces across the school having operated at 6FE in recent years and could, if necessary; admit in excess of 8FE at that point in 2021.

However, there is also surplus at Ysgol Bro Edern (to the East of Glantaf) and by 2019 the Council will have greater certainty in respect of LDP developments and numbers and should, in my view, review the potential to add extra forms to Plasmawr and Glantaf for 2021 onwards. I further argue that Ysgol Glantaf could then expand in a more manageable fashion to an 8+-form entry in 2011 and beyond as the strategic site developments progress.

The Council may argue at this point that Welsh Government legislation may prevent consultations on admission arrangements that could be implemented to balance the Glantaf/ Bro Edern catchments in 2019 e.g. such as transferring the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment to Ysgol Bro Edern.

I also note the argument that it may not be beneficial to do so at this stage when the catchment population within the current Glantaf catchment would be reduced.

However my primary suggestion of imposing equal form admission caps of 210 on both schools in the short-term will allow a more realistic and far more extensive review in 2019 once timescales and demands from the additional dwellings planned in West Cardiff become evident especially those that will fall within the catchment of Ysgol Plasmawr.

I further agree that it is extremely unlikely that the number of statutory school age pupils on roll at Ysgol Plasmawr would fall by any significant margin and I therefore believe a more cohesive solution – possibly including plans for a fourth secondary school – will be more significantly advanced by then based on more robust PAN data projections.

I must therefore again express sympathy with the argument put by respondents that it seems illogical to use long term projections in most cases yet only short term projections in this one particular case even given the above considerations.

Furthermore, the impacts of the two discussed WM primaries in Central Cardiff may also be a future, and as yet unspecified, factor in the catchment boundary reviews and PANs post 2019 and those pupil numbers may require some clarification during the call-in and again boost the argument that a short term equal admissions policy is appropriate.

## **2. YSGOL PLASMAWR CAPACITY:**

It is accepted that the demand for places at Ysgol Plasmawr shows an increase to 210 in 2017 whilst the intake capacity is set at 180 as a 6 form entry school. This has remained unchanged since 1998 despite three large building projects on site having been undertaken substantially increasing the potential capacity. A 4-storey extension with an additional 8 classrooms has been added since this limit was set and the Waterhall Youth Centre will be taken over by the school this summer adding another 2 additional rooms to the site.

It is acknowledged that the Assembly Government would not easily countenance one school being over-subscribed through inaction whilst a nearby school was under-subscribed so the simple question arising from this is this: why conduct a short-term catchment review at all when resetting the capacity-limit of both schools to 210 each would negate that review. It would also allow a much longer lead time to prepare schools and parents for changes that

development pressures will bring and also allow for thought-through consolidations of single-form entry schools should they ever be required in future.

Table 8: Number of pupils resident in each of the primary school catchment areas within the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment area projected to promote to a Welsh-medium community school							
Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Catchment:							
Coed Y Gof	54	47	53	50	58	61	49
Creigiau	19	18	20	18	19	15	17
Gwaelod Y Garth	17	9	11	10	14	21	17
Nant Caerau	16	16	37	26	31	34	30
Pencaer*	29	26	24	25	29	25	35
Treganna**	50	51	65	64	60	68	80
Total (in County only)	185	161	210	193	211	224	228
Catchment surplus/ deficit	-5	19	-30	-13	-31	-44	-48

Ysgol Plasmawr argues that the capacity intake number is outdated and that the cabinet and committees should have been informed that they believe the school can easily accept 210 pupils and therefore contend that the report assumptions are open to challenge.

If the capacity issues were recognised and addressed then it is argued that this would negate short-term concerns that an over-subscribed Ysgol Plasmawr will have the transport cost implications of Ely and Caerau pupils failing to get into Ysgol Plasmawr and having increased travel times and journeys (and council costs) in order to attend Ysgol Glantaf.

They quote WG School Capacity guidelines that capacity should be decided '*pending extensive discussions with Head and Governors to agree an appropriate way forward within the context of demand for places and the capacity of the premises*' and were concerned that this had not taken place in revising that intake capacity prior to the catchment review.

They point to the report that states that its aim is to address the balance of supply and demand and argue that the most sustainable long-term outcome is to create 3 Welsh medium secondary schools in Cardiff of comparable size to create a better geographical and educational balance in the supply of WM education in the longer term especially as they felt the environmental impact assessments were inadequate i.e. the unquantified statement "*In summary, implementing the proposal would most likely have a positive effect as a net result of pupils using polluting modes of travel.*"

## CONSULTATION AND YSGOL PENCAE

I note the arguments around the transfer of Ysgol Pencae and its unique parent-supported and low FSM cohort and I do not believe this to be a major factor in the decision as the data shows, in my view, the FSM data show a minimal benefit/disbenefit. The head of Ysgol Gyfan Glantaf picked up this theme (CA16/WM/47) among others pointing out the FSM argument so I am asking those of you making the decision should not reduce the argument

to the simplistic scenario of two equivalent schools simply wrangling over a 'high performance' feeder primary when the issues are far more complex than that.

I also note the detailed and opposing responses from the heads and chairs of the two affected secondary schools but I draw your attention specifically to the email from The Head of Ysgol Pencae (CA16/WM/372) as critical as he leads the primary school at the centre of the review. Although due process was technically followed it appears from his comments that he was briefed only two days before the consultation began. This could unfortunately have the unintended effect of undermining the reputation of Head and governors as they have would not have a reasonable amount of time, in my view as a governor myself, to discuss such a major matter before the consultation was launched.

The reverse argument about not wanting Ysgol Glantaf to be an 'elite school' is made – again I would ask that it be noted but not made an overriding factor in the decision. More importantly, is the lack of briefing about the longer-term proposals to the governing body and the impact upon parents of years 3-5 that the short notice does not allow them to plan for the impact on their children of groups being split up by changes in parental choices and appeals over sibling cohesion mentioned previously.

I therefore argue that a call-in and my suggestions will allow the governors of Pencae a longer lead in time to consider and adapt to the major changes and pressures in 2019.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Regards**  
**Cllr Paul Mitchell**  
**Cllr for Fairwater and Pentrebane**  
**Chair Environmental Scrutiny Committee**  
**Member Audit Committee**  
**Governor Cantonian High School**  
**Governor Fairwater Primary School**

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## **CABINET DECISION CAB/15/84 – Schools Organisation Planning (Welsh School Catchment Areas)**

### **Call-in Request from Councillor Neil McEvoy**

Dear Paul,

I would like to call in decision CAB/15/84.

My reasoning that the whole approach of the Council to Welsh medium education is reactive and piece meal. The plan to change the catchment areas is short term and no discussion of secondary provision can realistically take place without the laying out the timetable for the fourth Welsh medium school in Cardiff, which is clearly needed. The need is more acute due to the opening of the new Ysgol Hamadryad.

What we see constantly from Cardiff Council is consistent resistance to supporting the Welsh language, with some honourable exceptions. Parents of all classes and all ethnicities are choosing Welsh medium education and Cardiff has a duty to cater for this without resorting to an approach with could arguably be said to put governing body against governing body and community against community.

I understand from campaigners that two other councillors are calling in this decision on the same grounds as me, other than the fourth Welsh medium school as referred to above. I will therefore save the Committee the duty of having to read identical submissions and simply add that formally that the socioeconomic impact on Plasmawr has not been fully examined and the views of important stakeholders have not been taken into account.

I would like the Scrutiny Committee to fully examine Cabinet decision CAB/15/84

Yours sincerely,  
Cllr Neil McEvoy  
5 April 2016

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