

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

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

ITEM: 5

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
Total	73	98	92	106	126	109	129

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
Catchment:							
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
Total	66	89	79	89	108	90	111
Catchment surplus	115	92	102	92	73	91	70
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)								
Year Group:	6	5	4	3	2	1	Reception	
Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Catchment:								
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	
Total	361	397	362	379	396	418	393	

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.

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							
Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Catchment:							
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
Total	315	349	318	345	382	393	375
Catchment deficit	-29	-63	-18	-45	-82	-93	-75
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.

Year Group:	6	5	4	3	2	1	Reception
(Enters Sec Education)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Catchment:							
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
Total	190	206	213	226	261	249	268

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.

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							
Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Catchment:							
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
Total	184	197	201	212	240	229	241
Catchment surplus/ deficit	56	43	39	28	0	11	-1
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.

Year Group:	6	5	4	3	2	1	Reception
Enters Sec Ed	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Catchment:							
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
Total	191	176	226	213	237	257	255

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.

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
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
Catchment:							
Glantaf	184	197	201	212	240	229	241
Plasmawr	185	161	210	193	211	224	228
Combined demand	369	358	411	405	451	453	469
Combined Catchment surplus/ deficit	51	62	9	15	-31	-33	-49

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
Catchment:							
Glantaf	184	197	225	237	269	254	276
Plasmawr	185	161	186	168	182	199	193
Combined demand	369	358	411	405	451	453	469
Combined Catchment surplus/ deficit	51	62	9	15	-31	-33	-49

Summary

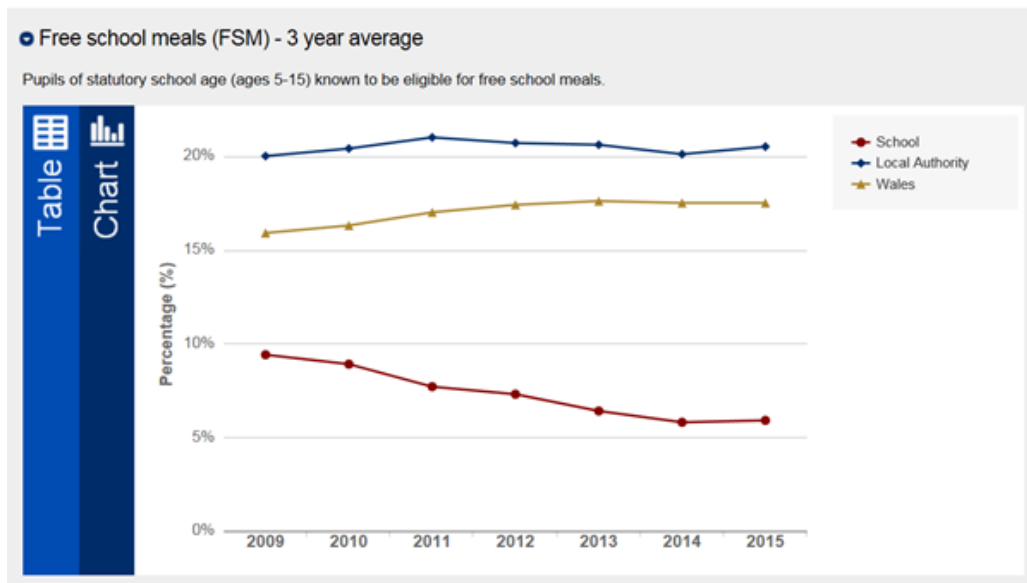
117. Implementation of the proposed change would provide an improved balance in the supply of and demand for places from 2017/18.
118. It is acknowledged that the combined projected demand for places from within the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment areas exceeds 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

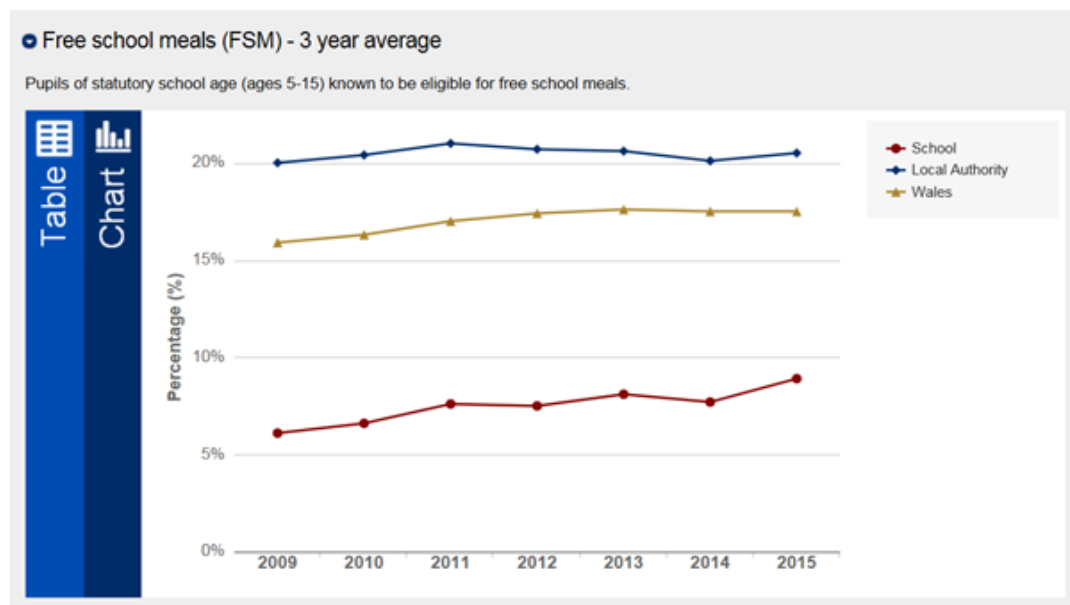
120. In total 368 responses were received. Of which 87 were in support and 281 were in opposition to the proposal, whilst in addition a pupil petition with 471 signatories was received objecting to the proposal. Formal responses received can be seen at Appendix 6.
121. A summary of the main views expressed 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

School attended	NOR	Percentage in receipt of FSM
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%
Existing Ysgol Plasmawr catchment schools	1552	11.0%
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%
Existing Ysgol Glantaf catchment schools	1736	9.4%
Ysgol Plasmawr catchment schools - removing Y.Pencae	1345	12.2%
Ysgol Glantaf catchment schools - adding Y.Pencae	1943	8.8%

*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

Catchment area – pupils attending any WM or bilingual school	NOR	Percentage
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%
Existing Ysgol Plasmawr catchment	1677	10.6%
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%
Existing Ysgol Glantaf catchment	1612	10.2%
Ysgol Plasmawr catchment - removing Y.Pencae	1484	11.6%
Ysgol Glantaf catchment - adding Y.Pencae	1805	9.4%

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
Cumulative cost (academic years)	£17,100	£45,600	£74,100	£102,600	£148,200	£205,200

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). 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).

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