

### Summary of the responses received an appraisal of views expressed

1. The points of view received as part of the consultation are set out in italics and have been grouped according to the points raised where appropriate.
2. The Council's response to each point can be seen underneath, under the heading "Appraisal of views expressed."

### Assembly Member Response

3. A response from Mark Drakeford Assembly Member for Cardiff West included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 5)
  - *Very pleased to see a proposal and consultation for the first new primary school planned as part of the Plasdŵr development in North-West Cardiff;*
  - *The pace of housebuilding should not outstrip the pace of infrastructure development .It is essential that additional primary school provision is available as soon as possible and would not wish to see any delay to the ambitious opening date of September 2021;*
  - *The proposed location of the school will make it convenient for families in many parts of the surrounding area, including new residents at Parc Plymouth and Cae St Fagans;*
  - *Alternative access to the site should be provide with active travel options priorities in order to avoid adding to the already overburdened Llantrisant Road and Heol Isaf. Alternative travel options must be provided no later than the school's opening date;*
  - *All parents in Cardiff West should have the choice of whether to educate their children through the medium of Welsh or English. This proposal will offer this choice using a dual-stream system;*
  - *The proposed model fits well with Cardiff Council's continued support for Welsh-language education and the Welsh Government's target for reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050;*
  - *There are also challenges associated with the implementation of dual-stream education, meaning that governance arrangements and monitoring of progress at the school will be particularly important.*
  - *Delighted to see the first of the five new schools proposed for the Plasdŵr site being progressed and look forward to the momentum*

*being carried forwards in the coming years with proposals for further school, so that the whole community will receive proper education provision.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

4. The Council welcomes the support for the proposal.
5. The Council is committed to providing local schools for local children where possible. The new school is being procured by the site developer as part of the planning agreement with the Council to meet the needs of the new development and future housing planned. The proposed opening date is September 2021 and it is not anticipated that there will be any delay to this timetable (subject to statutory process/approval).
6. The Council's Local Development Plan (2006-2026) includes a target of 50% of all journeys to be made by sustainable transport. Minimising the proportion of school journeys made by car and maximising opportunities for travel to school by active and sustainable modes can make an important contribution to achieving this target and reducing pressures on the transport network at peak times.
7. Increasing travel to school by active modes will have a positive impact on children's health and wellbeing and will support the delivery of key actions and outcomes under Goal 5 the Council's Child Friendly City Strategy (2018), which relates to ensuring access to safe outdoor environments for formal and informal play, walking, cycling and scooting and active travel to school.
8. The Council's current Corporate Plan includes a commitment to every school in Cardiff developing an Active Travel Plan. Such a plan will identify actions by the school to support and encourage active travel to school and also any improvements to on-site and off-site infrastructure required to facilitate active journeys.
9. The master plan for the Plasdŵr development has been designed to facilitate trips within and beyond the housing development by walking and cycling. This includes provision of a network of cycling routes including routes segregated from traffic.
10. An Active Travel Plan will be developed in conjunction with the planning design and delivery of the new school and is likely to be made a condition of the planning consent.
11. Officers from the Council's transport team will work closely with colleagues within the planning and education teams to develop the Active Travel Plan and to ensure it is fully tailored to the setting of the school and its future needs.
12. The Welsh Government published its Cymraeg 2050 strategy in 2017 which set out a vision of reaching 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

13. The aim of the strategy is for 40 percent of children in Wales, in each year group, to be educated in Welsh-medium education, with each one reporting that they are able to speak Welsh fluently. Key to this strategy is that half of the remaining 60 percent of children in English-medium education also report that they are able to speak Welsh (details of the strategy can be seen at Appendix 9).
14. As set out in the Cardiff 2030 the Council is committed to championing the Welsh language, Welsh heritage/culture and facilitating the use of the Welsh language much more widely.
15. The targets within Cymraeg 2050 in Cardiff cannot be achieved solely through the establishment of new Welsh-medium schools. The Council must also achieve a significant changes in how children in English-medium schools are enabled to achieve a greater fluency in Welsh and the confidence to use the language.
16. The Council is committed to providing schools places in both Welsh and English. The proposed model would enable children within and in close proximity to the new development at Plasdŵr to access a local primary school and to be educated in a Welsh-medium or English-medium setting, whichever is their preference.
17. If this proposal is progressed, a temporary Governing Body would be established for any new school following the publication of a statutory notice. A range of stakeholders would be represented on the temporary governing body, including parents, teachers (from local schools), non-teaching staff (from local schools), Local Authority representatives and community partners. The Council would appoint the Local Authority, non-teaching staff and parent governors and the temporary governing body would appoint the teacher and community governors.
18. The governing body would be responsible for appointing a Headteacher, agreeing a staffing structure and deciding on other aspects such as the school name, uniform and logo.
19. The temporary Governing Body and the Headteacher elect will also need to consider Human Resources policies and procedures that would need to be adopted in relation to recruitment and once the school is established, in relation to the management of staff. The Council would advocate the adoption of Cardiff Council policies as these have been subject to consultation with trade union representatives.
20. Cardiff Council has a responsibility to ensure that a sufficient number and variety of school places at primary and secondary level are available to meet the needs of the population of the county.
21. As set out in Cardiff Planning Obligations SPG (Supplementary Planning Guidance), the Council will seek the provision of new school places in circumstances where the need generated by a proposed development cannot reasonably be met by existing schools, because the capacity at the

schools in whose catchment areas the new housing development is proposed would, as a result of the development, be exceeded by demand.

22. New school places will either be provided through the expansion of existing schools (where a site is capable of accommodating additional pupil places), or through the provision of new build schools.
23. Contributions sought may be financial, land or built infrastructure and will relate to the number of pupils expected to be generated by the proposed development.
24. The ongoing development of Plasdŵr will see the establishment of a further three primary school and one high school these proposals being brought forward at the appropriate time.

### **Estyn**

25. A response from Estyn included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 5)
  - *The proposal is in line with the Welsh Government's objective of achieving the target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050 (Cymraeg 2050: One Million Welsh Speakers), by increasing the use of the Welsh language in education in Cardiff;*
  - *The proposal is reasonable in addressing the need to provide more English and Welsh medium places by building a new school for the new Plasdŵr housing development;*
  - *The Council has considered a range of options appropriately and has selected the proposal as set out;*
  - *Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is at least likely to maintain current educational standards.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

26. The Council acknowledges the conclusions of Estyn on the overall merits of the proposals.

### **Cardiff Welsh Education Forum**

27. The role of the Welsh Education Forum is to contribute to the development and implementation of a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, to actively inform the planning of Welsh-medium places, to contribute to the development and promotion of Welsh-medium education, and to contribute to the aspirations for Welsh-medium education to be fully integrated into the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy (2017-2022).
28. The Welsh Education Forum includes early years representatives, Headteachers of Welsh-medium primary and secondary schools, further

and higher education representatives and members representing Welsh Government, Central South Consortium, Rheini Dros Addysg Gymraeg, Menter Caerdydd and Menter Iaith.

29. A response from the Welsh Education Forum included the following points (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 5).
30. The Forum considered the proposal in the context of information provided by Meirion Prys Jones regarding the Welsh Government review of Defining Schools according to Welsh Medium Provision information document.
31. The Forum support the proposal to establish a dual stream two form entry primary school to serve the early phases of the Plasdŵr development. The proposal ensures the provision of Welsh-medium education locally and provides an alternative approach to further develop the Welsh language.
32. The success of the school will be dependent upon strong leadership and the development of a Welsh ethos across both streams. It will also be necessary to ensure that parents are clear what predominantly English with significant use of Welsh means in terms of Welsh language fluency and the need for immersion prior to transfer to Welsh-medium secondary school for those choosing this option.

#### **Appraisal of views expressed**

33. The Council welcomes the Welsh Education Forum's support for the proposal.
34. The need for strong leadership and the development of a Welsh ethos across both streams is recognised. The Council will work with the governing body to ensure that leadership arrangements which support the development of bilingual education and a Welsh ethos are put in place.
35. Information regarding language fluency will be provided for parents as part of the Admissions process.
36. Welsh language immersion provision will be available for those who wish to transfer to Welsh-medium secondary provision.

#### **Future Generations Commissioner for Wales**

37. The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales responded to the consultation attaching some Future Generations Frameworks to support the proposal: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 5).
  - *The frameworks set up prompts to guide public bodies in formulating policies and developing projects, but also to scrutinize such decisions or policies;*
  - *It is important that well-being objectives (of both public bodies and public services boards), the well-being assessments and plans, the*

*statutory goals and the sustainable development principle (including the 5 ways of working) are considered throughout the process;*

- *The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales is currently developing a new framework for public buildings in collaboration with 21st Century Schools, to ensure that the Act is properly applied and that public buildings are fit for purpose.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

38. The Council welcomes the frameworks provided by The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and will consider the well-being assessments throughout the project if the proposals are progressed.

### **Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod y Garth Governing Body**

39. A response from the Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governors of Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod y Garth included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 5)

- *Governors welcome the Council's intention to provide more Welsh medium education in the area;*
- *Governors would appreciate more information on the potential impact the new school could have on the number of pupils attending Ysgol Gwaelod y Garth.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

40. The Council welcomes the support for the proposal.

41. A number of new housing developments have been proposed in North West Cardiff in recent years which will increase the number of children in the area seeking school places, and will impact on the availability of school places.

42. The additional school capacity of two forms of entry would sufficiently meet the needs of the development. The school would also provide sufficient surplus capacity to meet the projected demand for school places from the 290 dwellings planned on the site South of Pentrebane Road (phase 2), and part of the projected demand from the larger North West Cardiff site of up to 5,000 dwellings in later phases.

43. As set out in the consultation document, it is anticipated that the potential impact of the new school on other local primary schools would be limited as the school would only operate one nursery class, one Reception class and one mixed Year 1/Year 2 class in each stream at the time of establishment.

44. Opening all year groups in the proposed new school with a high admission number is not considered to be a sustainable solution as this may

negatively impact other schools in the local area. This could encourage children from other areas to take up places in the school.

45. In November 2018, there were 25 pupils of primary age (Nursery – Year 6) who were resident on the early phase of the Plasdŵr development. These pupils attend eight primary schools throughout the city. At this time, the maximum number of pupils attending a specific school was three. The majority of these schools, enrolled three pupils or fewer.

### **Cylch Meithrin Creigiau**

46. A response from Cylch Meithrin Creigiau included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 5)

- *Having considered the potential impact on pre-school childcare provision in the area local to Creigiau, Cylch Meithrin Creigiau would like to ask how we might all be best positioned to proceed in providing the best possible service of care and learning to new and future clients;*
- *There will be a need to expand the currently available provision and as the experienced and established local Cylch Meithrin, Cylch Meithrin Creigiau would be keen to work with the Council in examining how they could play a role in caring and adequately providing for this expanding community and bringing the provision of the best Welsh language and bilingual pre-school services to the new site;*
- *The existing Cylch facilities limit working to 18 per session. Prior discussions with both the Council and Mudiad Meithrin have included questions of expanding the current premises or moving to a new one but have not considered the opportunity at Plasdŵr.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

47. A key aim of Cymraeg 2050 is to expand Welsh-medium provision in the early years as an access point for Welsh-medium education.
48. The Council recognises that the provision of a Cylch Meithrin partnered to a Welsh-medium primary school would provide a natural progression for statutory schooling age progression and welcomes Cylch Meithrin Creigiau's expression of interest.
49. This will also encourage skills development and closer partnership working at early years to ensure successful transition. The Council and Mudiad Meithrin will work together to capture the operational requirements and the feasibility of these arrangements.

### **Cymdeithas yr Iaith**

50. A response from Cymdeithas yr Iaith included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 5)

- *The new school at Plasdŵr should be a designated Welsh medium school with two Welsh streams, not a bilingual school;*
- *We welcome the proposal to establish nursery provision on the site along with the school, but we believe that this should be a Welsh medium nursery only;*
- *We welcome the proposal to provide services and activities at the site, such as breakfast clubs and holiday clubs, and we believe that these should be Welsh medium services;*
- *All the new schools that will be opened as part of the Plasdŵr development should be Welsh medium schools only, in order to ensure that all young people in the Community can grow up speaking Welsh;*
- *In order for Cardiff to make the necessary contribution needed towards the national aim of a million Welsh speakers, the city has to make a dramatic and rapid increase in the percentage of children in Welsh medium education in the city, therefore a Welsh medium school is what is needed at Plasdŵr;*
- *Opening a brand new school for this housing development presents a golden opportunity to rapidly increase Welsh medium education provision in the area and start normalising Welsh language education in the city. By not using the funds available from the development to open a designated Welsh medium school, the council would be preventing the growth of Welsh in the area and the wishes of most of the people of the area to restore the Welsh language and to see our young people fluent in it;*
- *The Council leader committed to Welsh medium schools being a central part of the Plasdŵr development and it is unclear why the Council Cabinet decided to consult on the proposal to establish a bilingual school, and to break this public promise made by the leader;*
- *The argument that expanding Welsh-medium education too rapidly would destabilise some of the Welsh primary school local to the new school doesn't stand up to scrutiny. The population is going to grow substantially, and the tendencies of most people moving to live in the area will be to send their children to the nearest school, whatever the medium. This is therefore a golden opportunity to make Welsh medium education the norm in this new community by opening a designated Welsh medium school as the first school, and the schools that are to follow as well;*

- *Only by establishing a designated Welsh medium school will the Council ensure that every pupil leaving school is a fluent Welsh speaker. Bilingual schools do not ensure that children achieve fluency in the same way. With this proposal, the Council would at the same time be denying fluency in Welsh to pupils in the English stream, as well as endangering the linguistic environment and use of Welsh in the Welsh medium stream;*
- *In response to this consultation, the Cardiff Branch have presented a petition to the Council with the signatures of 876 people who support the call to open a designated two stream Welsh medium school, rather than a bilingual school. The Council's proposal doesn't reflect the strong and wide support amongst the people of Cardiff to see the Welsh language prosper, and for all children to be fluent Welsh speakers when leaving school;*
- *In order to reach the goal of a million Welsh speakers by 2050, it is imperative that county councils increase their Welsh medium education provision now, and as Wales' largest city, Cardiff has a key role to play if we are to reach the target;*
- *Cardiff has to ensure a dramatic and rapid increase in the number of pupils that attend Welsh medium schools, in order to contribute to creating a million Welsh speakers by 2050;*
- *In 2014, only 15.1% of seven year olds in Cardiff were receiving Welsh medium education. It is therefore clear that a number of new Welsh medium schools need to be opened, as well as increasing Welsh language in the city's current schools, which is essential so that Cardiff can reach its targets to contribute to the national aim;*
- *Opening a designated Welsh medium school as the first school in this massive development would be a tremendous boost to the language in the area and Cardiff as a whole – setting a precedent to opening designated Welsh medium schools in other new developments and normalising Welsh medium education in all communities – and not only in the capital itself, but as an example to be followed by other counties in Wales that are experiencing population growth and similar new housing developments. This is a chance for Cardiff to lead the way;*
- *In our opinion, cases such as these show the need for a Welsh Education for All Act, which would ensure that Welsh medium education is the norm in our education system throughout the country by replacing the current system of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans with statutory, irreversible local and national targets. It is not right that we continue with the current system that deprives most young people of their right to speak Welsh due to the arbitrary decisions of county councils.*

## **Appraisal of views expressed**

51. Cymraeg 2050 sets out three interdependent strategic themes:

- Increasing the number of Welsh speakers
- Increasing the use of Welsh
- Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context

52. There are two main methods of achieving a million speakers:

- Transmitting the Welsh language from one generation to the next in the family
- Developing and sustaining skills through education and training from the early years to Welsh language provision for adults.

53. The strategy notes that whilst Welsh-medium immersion education is the principle method for ensuring that children can develop their Welsh language skills, and for creating new speakers, all learners should have the opportunity to be bilingual.

54. As set out in the Cymraeg 2050, the English-medium sector has an important contribution to make to the aim of developing Welsh speakers. To reach a million Welsh speakers, there is a need to transform how Welsh is taught to learners in all others schools. The Welsh Government intend to develop a single continuum for the teaching of Welsh as a language, with an emphasis on learning Welsh predominantly as a means of communication, particularly oral communication.

55. All schools in Wales will be required to introduce the language continuum to all learners over time, and embed the acquisition of Welsh language skills across the curriculum. The new Curriculum in Wales sets new expectations for schools and learners. There will be a single curriculum for Wales that will apply in Welsh-medium, English-medium and bilingual schools. The expectations for those learning Welsh in English-medium school will gradually be increased as the first cohorts learn through the new curriculum in order to realise the ambition of one millions Welsh speakers by 2050. The new Welsh language pathway expects, that whilst learners will progress at a different pace in English-medium, Welsh-medium or bilingual schools, all children will be able to use Welsh.

56. Cardiff Council is committed to the promoting the benefits of Welsh-medium education to all Cardiff communities, improving standards in Welsh in both Welsh-medium and English-medium schools, developing opportunities for children and young people in English-medium setting to positively connect with the Welsh language and improving rates of progression between early years to post-16 education (Bilingual Cardiff Strategy).

57. The past five years has seen the expansion of and investment in Welsh-medium primary provision including the expansion and transfer of Ysgol Glan Morfa into new build accommodation, the establishment of and

provision of new build accommodation for Ysgol Hamadryad, the provision of new build accommodation for Ysgol Glan Ceubal, and the expansion of Ysgol Y Wern. This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of places available.

58. Despite this the take up of Welsh-medium places has remained constant over this period with places available to meet demand over and above current levels:

<b>PLASC/Projections Year</b>	<b>WM Reception Pupil Numbers</b>	<b>Total Reception Cohort</b>	<b>Percentage WM Place Uptake</b>
2015	708	4304	16.4%
2016	690	4371	15.8%
2017	744	4367	17.0%
2018	709	4128	17.2%
2019	702	4157	16.9%
2020	701	4091	17.1%
2021	707	4126	17.1%
2022	640	3738	17.1%
2023	634	3698	17.1%

Source: PLASC 2015-2019 All pupils, Cardiff schools

59. The targets within Cymraeg 2015 in Cardiff cannot be achieved solely through the establishment of new Welsh-medium schools. The Council must also achieve a significant change in how children in English-medium education also report that they are able to speak Welsh.
60. One of the main examples of a dual stream model can be seen in the Spanish Basque region. The system there allows for children to be educated through the medium of Spanish (Model A), a bilingual model for Spanish speakers who want to be bilingual in Basque and Spanish (Model B) and through the medium of Basque (Model D).
61. Model B involves both languages being used for up to 50% of time, however this varies from school to school. The system was established in 1983 and has led to c90% of children in the region being educated through Models B and D increasing the level of bilingualism.
62. The proposed dual stream school would enable close partnership working of the streams through and sharing a site and facilities, would facilitate full language immersion for children within the Welsh-medium stream and would also enable the children within the predominantly English-medium stream to build more secure Welsh language acquisition.
63. The establishment of a new two form entry Welsh-medium only school would significantly increase the number of Welsh-medium places serving the wider area, there is a significant risk that an additional two form entry Welsh-medium only school may attract too many pupils from other Welsh-medium schools and catchment areas and may cause those schools to be under subscribed, making them less financially secure. This may, in turn,

inhibit the growth in take up of Welsh-medium places in the wider area for an extended period of time.

64. The Welsh-medium primary schools within closest proximity of the proposed new school are Ysgol Pencae and Ysgol Gymraeg Coed y Gof. Ysgol Pencae has been highly subscribed for many years. The number of pupils on roll at Reception age at Ysgol Gymraeg Coed y Gof has reduced over the past three years. There is a risk that additional Welsh-medium places in close proximity to Ysgol Coed y Gof may further reduce intakes to this school.
65. The model proposed is consistent with the themes set out in Cymraeg 2050, will support development of the Curriculum for Wales, contribute toward the aspiration of one million Welsh speakers, meet the projected demand for places from the current phases of the development and contribute towards meeting the demand from future phases of the Plasdŵr development.
66. The model will also allow for those who wish to educate their child at an English-medium school to access provision locally and reduce the number of families commuting to school by non-active modes of travel, such as a car.
67. The provision of nursery places in both Welsh and English is consistent with the dual language model proposed. Children in Cardiff can attend a part-time nursery place in school from the start of term after their third birthday. Nursery education is non-statutory and does not exempt parents from applying for a place in either language stream for transfer to statutory education.
68. Demand for nursery places in both streams will be kept under review and in the event of there being demand in excess of supply for nursery education places in either language stream, consideration will be given to how best to meet this demand.
69. There is significant support for the provision of additional services including breakfast, after school and holiday clubs. The provision of any services will be developed in conjunction with the school and consideration given to the language medium as part of this.
70. The suggestion that the current system of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans should be replaced with a Welsh Education for All Act is a matter for the Welsh Government to consider.
71. The Welsh Government undertook a consultation on the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plans Regulations (Wales) 2019 and Guidance between 30 May and 13 September 2019.
72. The proposed new school is the first of five schools (4 primary and 1 high school) that will form part of the wider Plasdŵr development. The language medium of these schools will be considered and proposals brought forward in line with the progression of the development.

73. The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019 and Guidance. These regulations sets out statutory duties pursuant of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 which require local authorities to produce a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. It is intended for these Regulations and Guidance to provide a framework for planning Welsh-medium education provision which is consistent with the current and future expectation growth.

### **Mudiad Meithrin**

74. A response from Mudiad Meithrin included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 5)

- *We welcome the council's wish to expand Welsh medium education in this area. We are totally supportive of this expansion. We agree that establishing a new school that will accept 60 children a year from reception class onwards will ensure provision for the new housing that is occurring in north-west Cardiff, and as a result the greater number of children who will require school places in the area.*
- *We are concerned that developing a two stream school will undermine the Cymraeg 2050 strategy of Welsh Government that has provided a clear vision of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050.*
- *The Cardiff Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2021 clearly shows the need for greater capacity in the Welsh medium sector in order to reach the targets (% and numbers) for the number of 7 year old children that receive a Welsh medium education. Establishing the school at Plasdŵr as a designated Welsh medium school would be a way of contributing towards minimising the gap between the projected numbers and the target numbers set out in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).*
- *There is a surplus of 31 primary places in the current supply in English medium for Reception age in the area, and a deficiency of an average of 10 places in the current supply of Welsh medium places.*
- *Welsh Government's national target is that 40% of children in Wales, in each year group, should receive a Welsh medium education, with all pupils able to state that they are fluent. An adequate supply of Welsh medium school places is required, in order to encourage parents to make that choice and to create growth for Welsh medium education across Wales;*
- *Language immersion in Welsh medium schools is the best model of ensuring both English and Welsh language acquisition amongst pupils. Research worldwide acknowledges that through immersion in*

*the second language the child masters fluency (in this context, fluency in Welsh);*

- *Fluency and ability to teach in Welsh would be essential for all members of staff – the Head, the teachers, classroom assistants and lunchtime supervisors. It should also be ensured that Welsh is not only confined to being the language of the classroom. Time must be guaranteed for playtime, lunch, school trips / visits, after school clubs and so on to be through the medium of Welsh. This shouldn't be compromised on as English would drown Welsh and would affect the children's language acquisition;*
- *What would happen if a two stream school was established (rather than a designated Welsh medium school), and the Welsh medium stream were to become full. Would Cardiff Council guarantee that all parents in Plasdŵr school catchment area could take advantage of a Welsh medium education, ensuring that all of the 60 places offered at reception onwards would be available for the Welsh stream if that was appropriate?;*
- *If the intention is to create a dual stream school with substantial use of Welsh in the English stream, then it would be better for all 96 part-time nursery places to be Welsh medium only giving the children an opportunity to be immersed in the language and to normalise the language for them before they opt for 'derbyn' or 'reception';*
- *Establishing a Cylch Meithrin on site would encourage parents to choose a Welsh medium education for their children, and allow the parents a chance to become used to Welsh and attend the site themselves for provision of care and early years education for children 2 years old and onwards. This would encourage continuity for Welsh medium nursery provision at 3 years of age, and then on to full time Welsh medium education from reception class onwards.*
- *It is important that Mudiad Meithrin in any discussions regarding nursery provision at the Plasdŵr school so that cylchoedd meithrin development plans, and the pre-school provision in the area coincide with this local vision in the long term.*
- *Consideration needs to be given to ensuring an adequate level of provision that runs alongside part-time nursery education for 3 year olds. In order to satisfy the requirements of the 30 hours of Care Offer, utilising the expertise of Mudiad, and other partners of CWLWM to establish a range of other services that would assist working parents*
- *This would include providing before and after school clubs to facilitate commuting to and from work for parents, and provide a wraparound service for parents of 2 and 4 year old children in part-time education*

*in the nursery class, and who could transfer to the Cylch meithrin provision on site for the extra time.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

75. Concerns around Cymraeg 2050 and Welsh school places are addressed at paragraphs 12-16 and 51-66.
76. It is acknowledged that the fluency and ability to teach in Welsh would be essential for all members of staff. The development of the language across the school both in and out of the classroom would be a matter for the school with the expectation that appropriate arrangements would be put in place to encourage the use of Welsh.
77. The take up of places in both streams will be kept under review in the event of there being demand in excess of supply for places in either language stream, consideration will be given to how best to meet this demand.
78. Concerns around nursery provision are addressed at paragraphs 67-68.
79. Concerns around cylch meithrin provision are addressed at paragraphs 48-49.
80. Concerns around before and after school clubs are addressed at paragraph 69.

### **Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG)**

81. A response from RhAG included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 5)
  - *RhAG are supportive of and welcome the expansion of Welsh-medium education which will ensure that parents living on the new development can choose Welsh-medium education that is convenient and local.*
  - *RhAG are supportive of opening a Welsh medium school sharing a site with an English medium school, with a federal Headteacher if the Head is a fluent Welsh speaker.*
  - *An alternative to the preferred model, is the establishment of an independent Welsh stream in a two stream school, sharing a Headteacher if the Head is a fluent Welsh speaker is supported.*
  - *Wholly Welsh-medium education is required in order for pupils to become fluent speakers.*

- *The development of the proposed model should not be at the expense of Welsh-medium education which is the only model that creates completely bilingual outcomes*
- *The successful model of immersive education based on the Headteacher and all of the staff being Welsh speakers and the use of the language with pupils at all times must be safeguarded.*
- *The English-medium/partly English medium stream must remain independent of the Welsh stream in order to ensure the continued success of immersive Welsh-medium education. They must be run independently, separate services, play-time, extra-curricular activities, sport and clubs.*
- *In the Welsh stream, it has to be ensured that Welsh is essential as the mode of communication. The consultation document makes reference to English being “introduced as ..... medium of instruction for some elements of the curriculum”. This goes against the principles of immersive education and will result in English becoming the language of communication and education in lessons/practice between pupils. It will weaken the grasp of Welsh that pupils from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds have.*
- *The established practice is for all subjects apart from English to be taught through the medium of Welsh. Any move away from this will disadvantage pupils and could have a detrimental effect on the number of children that transfer to Welsh-medium secondary schools where all subjects are taught through the medium of Welsh.*
- *Dual stream school provision can result in parents choosing the most popular stream impacting on the viability of the other stream. It can be difficult to avoid two streams in rural areas but in an urban area there is an opportunity to do that.*
- *RhAG do not want to lose the opportunity for an extra Welsh-medium stream however the unquestioned immersive conditions in the Welsh-medium stream must be guaranteed.*
- *The proposed model has been tried elsewhere and has not been successful with pupils in non-Welsh speaking areas falling behind those in Welsh-medium and pupils failing to cope with Welsh-medium secondary education. This has resulted in other local authorities progressing plans to turn their dual stream schools into Welsh-medium school over the next few years.*
- *Teachers with fluent Welsh language skills need to be appointed to work in the English-medium stream. There is a shortage of teachers, particularly Welsh-medium shortages which would mean that staff*

*with good Welsh language skills would have to be appointed. This will not allow for the model of using Welsh, informally as it will always be easier for pupils to communicate in English and Welsh will not be a communicating requirement. This will impact on the ability of pupils to develop language pattern and Welsh will not be used either formally or informally. This will impact on the long term viability of the stream.*

- *How will teachers operate linguistically. By not making Welsh an essential requirement, pupils will use English naturally. It is high unlikely to create fluent Welsh speakers.*
- *The proposal gives the false impression that a Welsh language immersion model can be compared with an experimental English-medium model. It is completely misleading to assert that pupils would gain the same linguistic skills in both streams.*
- *Progression options for pupils are not clear with pupils unlikely to be able to successfully transfer to Welsh-medium secondary level. What plans are there to expand and develop the Immersion Unit to allow for a greater number of pupils to access this provision.*
- *The establishment of nursery provision for the Welsh-medium stream is welcomed. The establishment of a cylch meithrin on the site would provide the opportunity for Welsh-medium education at an earlier stage, strengthen the language continuum and establish a clear pathway for parents as they make their decisions on their children's education.*
- *The expansion of Ysgol Plasmawr is welcomed however the expansion of primary provision will increase demand for Welsh-medium secondary places and the Council must act immediately to bring forward proposals to address this situation.*
- *Consultation on catchment area arrangements need to happen as soon as possible in order to give assurance and clarity to parents in the area and to provide assurance and stability to nearly Welsh-medium schools.*
- *The success of Cymraeg 2050 will require huge investment and a of the education establishment. Only Welsh-medium schools can give every pupil complete Welsh language skills.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

82. The Council welcomes RhAG's support for the additional Welsh-medium provision being proposed.

83. Providing two separate schools, would mean that both schools would be smaller and not able to make the most of the resources available. Each school would be less financially secure than a larger school.
84. Two separate schools would not be able to benefit from the greater degree of stability at all levels of leadership which a larger school can attract and maintain.
85. Concerns around the provision of Welsh-medium education are addressed at paragraphs 12-16 and 51-66.
86. Pupils in the Welsh-medium stream will be taught in line with established practices. All pupils in the Foundation Phase will experience the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh. Welsh will be the main teaching medium at KS2 with at least 70% of teaching through the medium of Welsh. English is introduced formally as a subject at Key Stage 2 and is taught through the medium of English, and English may occasionally be used for some aspects of some subjects.
87. This is consistent with the Welsh Government description of Welsh-medium education as set out in the Defining Schools according to Welsh Medium Provision information document.
88. The proposed Welsh-medium stream would be expected to implement a teaching model consistent with other successful Welsh-medium primary schools and streams in Cardiff.
89. Welsh will be the language of the day to day business of the Welsh-medium stream. Welsh will be used as the language of communication with pupils and for administration. Communication with parents will be in both languages.
90. The normal expectation is that pupils, regardless of home language, will be able to transfer easily to Welsh-medium secondary provision and by the end of Key Stage 2 will have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in the predominantly English-medium stream.
91. There are examples of successful dual stream schools operating in Cardiff and in other local authorities and the expectation is that children in the Welsh stream will continue to benefit from full language immersion whilst those in the predominantly English-medium with significant use of Welsh stream will have the opportunity to build a more secure second language base.
92. Concerns around staff fluency are addressed at paragraph 76.
93. Concerns around nursery provision are addressed at paragraphs 67-68.
94. The day to day operation of the school in terms of language, clubs, extra-curricular activities and the development of a Welsh ethos will be a matter for the school however the expectation is that the school will be run on the basis of developing language skills for all pupils and ensuring that

opportunities to support both formal and informal use of Welsh will be maximised.

95. Whilst it is acknowledged that language skills for those pupils in the Welsh-medium stream are likely to be higher than those in the predominantly English-medium with significant use of Welsh stream the proposal seeks to develop the Welsh language skills of all pupils at the school. One of the aims of the proposed model is that parent could have confidence that their child could flourish equally in either medium.
96. Pupils would have the option to apply for transfer to either English-medium or Welsh-medium secondary education. For those transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision, they would be well support, with appropriate Welsh immersion opportunities to enable them to reach the required fluency to access the full range of the curriculum through the medium of Welsh.
97. Should the proposals to establish new school provision proceed, it would be necessary to consult at a later date on revising catchment area arrangements in order to achieve a better match of future catchment population to the local school capacities.

#### **Other responses received**

##### **Cymraeg 2050**

98. *The language model proposed will not support progress towards the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy (2017) of reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050.*

##### **Appraisal of views expressed**

99. Concerns around Cymraeg 2050 are addressed at paragraphs 12-16 and 51-66.

##### **Language immersion**

100. *Language immersion in Welsh medium schools is the best model of ensuring both English and Welsh language acquisition amongst pupils. This can only be achieved through the establishment of a 2FE Welsh-medium school.*
101. *Welsh is essential as the means of communication in the Welsh speaking stream in order to ensure complete language immersion*
102. *Both streams must remain independent in order to ensure the continued success of Immersive Welsh-medium education.*
103. *The partnership between the two streams must not undermine Welsh-medium immersive education.*

##### **Appraisal of views expressed**

104. Concerns around Welsh language immersion are addressed at paragraphs 86-91.

### **Staffing**

105. *For the model proposed to be successful, the school will need to be led by and staffed by trained fluent Welsh speakers. Is there going to be enough suitably qualified staff at all levels to allow for this.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

106. Concerns around staff fluency are addressed at paragraph 76.

107. The need to create an adequate supply of teachers and practitioners in the right places to teach children and young people through the medium of Welsh is recognised in Cymraeg 2050.

108. The strategy sets out need to increase the system's capacity to meet the need to expand Welsh-medium education and training, and to meet the need to improve how Welsh is taught in English-medium schools.

109. This involves workforce planning in order to train new teachers, support trainee teachers and teaching assistants and expand sabbatical schemes and professional learning opportunities for the current workforce.

110. The strategy also sets out that Welsh language and Welsh-medium training for early years practitioners will be provided by means of several programmes.

111. There will also be greater attention to training on Welsh-medium and Welsh language pedagogy and methodology, in order to ensure that the skills and knowledge of the workforce are informed by evidence about effective immersion methods and Welsh-medium and bilingual teaching.

### **Cylch Meithrin Provision**

112. *Consideration needs to be given to the establishment of cylch meithrin provision on site*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

113. Concerns around cylch meithrin provision are addressed at paragraphs 48-49.

### **Nursery education**

114. *The proposed nursery provision should be Welsh-medium only to allow for early immersion.*

115. *Having a greater number of nursery places (48) causes difficulties when children are transferring to primary where the number of places is limited to 30.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

116. Concerns around nursery provision are addressed at paragraphs 67-68.

117. Children in Cardiff are entitled to a nursery place in the term following their third birthday and will attend nursery for a maximum of five terms. Having a greater number of nursery places allows for a greater number of children born during the autumn and spring terms to access provision in the term following their third birthday.

### **Secondary School Provision**

118. *Will there be sufficient places available at high schools to allow for the increase in pupils*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

119. Phase 1 of the Plasdŵr development, within which the new school will be located, overlaps the catchment areas of Cantonian High School, Radyr Comprehensive School and is also within the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr.

120. The development is also served by The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School and Corpus Christi R.C. High School, although admissions to these schools give priority to criteria that are faith based and/ or based on attendance at a school of the same faith.

121. Demand from within the catchment area for English-medium places at entry to secondary education at Radyr Comprehensive School is below the Published Admission Number of 210 places. Projections indicate that demand from existing housing within the catchment area of Radyr Comprehensive School will not exceed the number of places available.

122. Demand from within the catchment area for English-medium places at entry to secondary education at Cantonian High School is below the current Published Admission Number of 181 places. Projections indicate that demand from existing housing within the catchment area of Cantonian High School will not exceed the number of places available.

123. The Council has published a proposal to expand Cantonian High School from six to eight forms of entry (a Published Admission Number of 240 places). If this proposal is implemented, this would provide sufficient capacity to accommodate all pupils in existing housing within its catchment area and will provide additional capacity to meet part of the excess demand in other areas.

124. The additional demand for English-medium secondary school places from the early phases of the Plasdŵr development can be accommodated within the existing school provision.
125. Based on recent trends, combined demand across the three Welsh-medium high school catchment areas is projected to exceed overall capacity at Year 7 in 2020/2021.
126. To meet anticipated demand Ysgol Plasmawr is to increase its intake from 180 to 210 from September 2020. Separate proposals will be brought forward to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet the demand for Welsh-medium places in each Welsh-medium secondary school catchment area.
127. A s106 agreement for the North West Cardiff development of up to 5,970 dwellings includes agreement to provide a new secondary school site and financial contributions towards construction. S106 agreements for other developments in the area, including the Land South of Pentrebane Road, Goitre Fach Farm and Junction 33 would also provide financial contributions towards the expansion of English-medium and Welsh-medium secondary school provision.
128. Owing to the scale of development in Cardiff over the next several years, English-medium and Welsh-medium secondary school catchment areas will face challenges without re-organisation of provision. The large-scale housing developments underway in the West and proposed in the North of the city in particular will require additional secondary school places.
129. Any proposals brought forward to expand secondary school provision to meet the demand from additional housing could impact on the existing organisation and pattern of schools. Proposals will be brought forward in good time to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet the increased demand for secondary school places in each language medium that the new housing development will bring.

#### **Catchment area arrangements**

130. *The establishment of appropriate catchment areas that do not impact other schools is vital.*

#### **Appraisal of views expressed**

131. Concerns around catchment area arrangements are addressed at paragraph 97.

#### **Future school provision**

132. *All new schools proposed as part of the Plasdŵr development should be Welsh-medium only.*

#### **Appraisal of views expressed**

133. Concerns around future school provision on the Plasdŵr development are addressed at paragraphs 15-16 and 20-24.

### **The School**

134. *Breakfast, after school and holiday clubs should be Welsh-medium only.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

135. Concerns around breakfast, after school and holiday clubs are addressed at paragraph 69.

### **Language Medium**

136. *Welsh is being imposed rather than being an active choice. The proposed new school should be 1FE Welsh-medium and 1FE English-medium not 1FE predominately English with significant use of Welsh.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

137. Concerns around language medium are addressed at paragraphs 12-16 and 51-66.

### **Traffic congestion**

138. *Concerned that the proposal will lead to increased traffic congestion and there will be a need for safer paths or pedestrians and cyclists.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

139. Concerns around traffic are addressed at paragraphs 6-11.

### **Timeline**

140. The timeline needs to be brought forward as families are moving in now.

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

141. Concerns around the timeline are addressed at paragraphs 5 and 44-45.