

The Expansion & Redevelopment of Cathays High School

REPORT FINDINGS



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Background

The Welsh Government wants all schools in Wales to be fit for the 21st century, with high quality buildings, modern facilities and enough places for pupils of all ages.

Proposals

- Expand Cathays High School from 1,072 places (5.5 Forms of Entry with 247 sixth form places) to 1,450 places (8 Forms of Entry with 250 sixth form places), from September 2023;
- Replace the Cathays High School buildings with new build accommodation on the Maindy Centre site adjacent to Crown Way and North Road;
- Expand the current Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 16 to 50 places in purpose-built accommodation in the new school buildings;
- Upgrade community facilities in Cathays and Gabalfa through the significantly enhanced school facilities being made available for shared use with the wider local community;
- Provide space for the local community to continue to have access to off-road open spaces for informal leisure use, recognising this is the current use at the Maindy site.

Methodology

Cathays High Survey - Open from Friday 29th January to Friday 12th March

- A letter was sent to all parents of pupils in the schools affected, providing them with information explaining how to take part in the consultation.
- A communication campaign was conducted via social media

Cathays High Pupil Survey - Open from Friday 12th March to Friday 19th March

- Survey links were sent to the head teachers with the intention of teachers guiding pupils through the survey.

Comments regarding the surveys could be sent via surveyschoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk

Responses

There were 494 responses received in total across the 2 consultations:

- Cathays High main survey – 194
- Cathays High pupil survey – 291

There were 9 emails / letters received in relation to the consultation, these can be viewed in Appendix A.

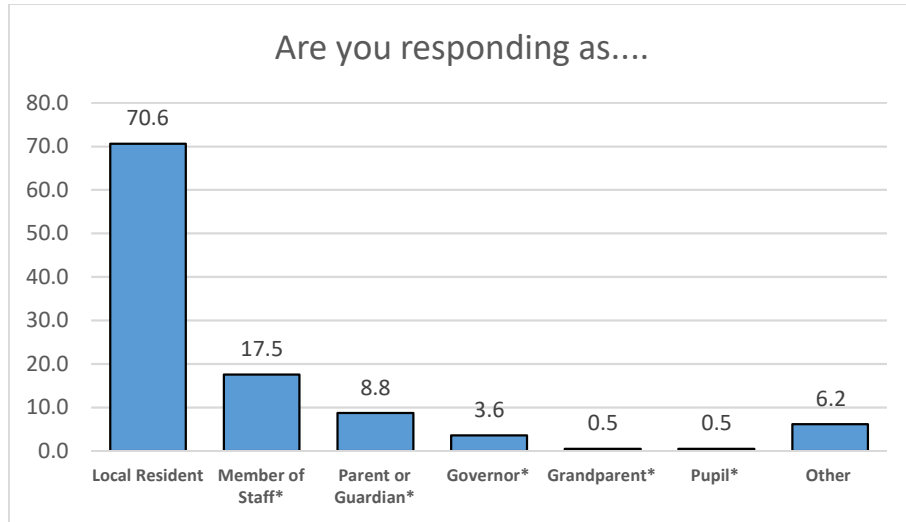
CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCH FINDINGS

Results

Cathays High Parents Survey

Are you responding as.....

Seven in ten (70.6%) responses to the survey were from local residents, this was followed by around one in six (17.5%) that came from members of staff.



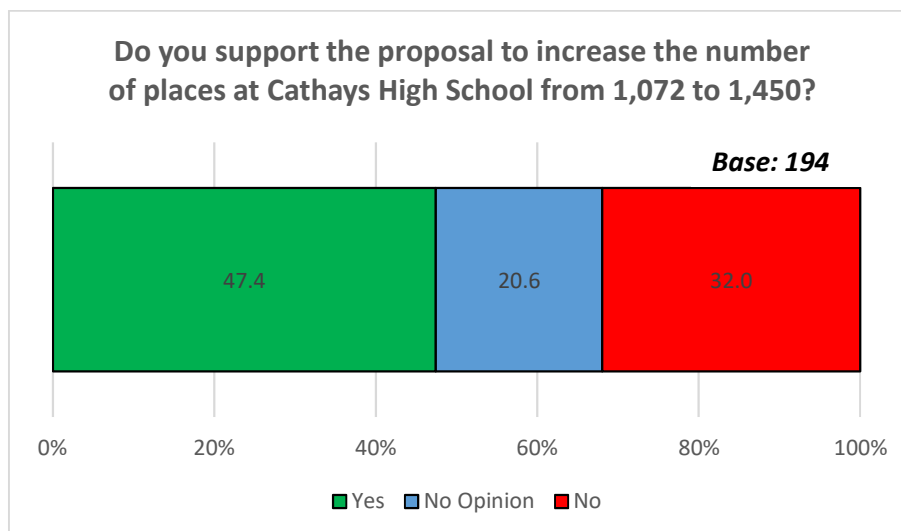
N.B. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents could select more than one option

Please confirm which school/s you are affiliated with:

	No.
Cathays High School	41
Cathays	3
Albany Primary School	1
Gladstone, Cathays	1
Joint response of the Governing Body of Cathays High School	1
local resident whose children attended Welsh medium school	1
Maindy Flyers	1
Marlborough and st teilos	1
Marlborough Primary	1
Marlborough Primary & Cardiff High	1
Rhiwbeina Primary	1
Whitchurch	1
YMB, Allensbank, Cathays	1
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	1
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan & Ysgol Glantaf	1
Total	57

Do you support the proposal to increase the number of places at Cathays High School from 1,072 to 1,450?

Just under a half (47.4%) of respondents agree with the proposal to increase the number of spaces at Cathays High School, this figure rises to three in five (59.7%) if the respondents that selected no opinion are excluded from the analysis.



Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning for supporting / not supporting the proposal, all valid comments were then grouped into themes; these themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comment
General agreement with the proposal	36	29.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the community and Cardiff with modern education facility. Investment in young people, especially now, is so important. Cathays High School is a central school in the city and serves many children in the surrounding communities. If there is need to take in more pupils then it seems ok. Good to expand!
Protect local green spaces / facilities	22	17.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My concern is about losing the cycle track in this area of Cardiff. I don't support it if it's at the expense of valuable community sport facilities. This space is a god send for me as a parent. We use the bike track regularly. It is a great space and has a great community feel with both old and young using it together.
Demand for places	17	13.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To fulfil the local demand for school places in the area. Strong need for extra places in the community.

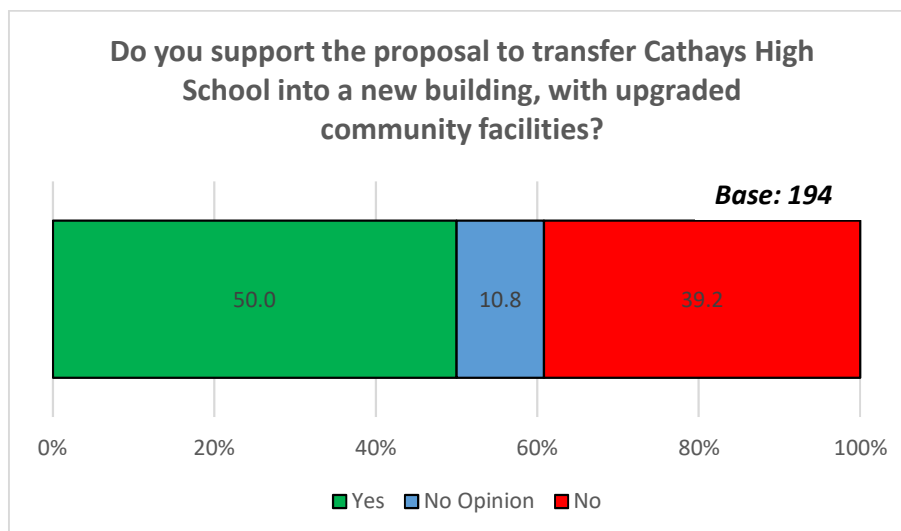
The Expansion & Redevelopment of Cathays High School

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently as a school we have seen an increasing demand for places. At times, parents are requesting Cathays over schools in their catchment areas. It would be good to fulfil their requests and increase numbers in the school.
No Opinion / More information required	13	10.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We haven't thought about high school yet. Cannot gauge from the information provided by initial proposal docs or the consultation sessions what the new site for the school would entail to accommodate these numbers of pupils.
Concerns over access links / increased traffic in area	12	9.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am a local resident and I feel that this number of pupils for a residential area is too many as it was cause a huge increase in traffic in the residential area. Currently the junction of Cosmeston St and Gelligaer Street is congested at times due to parents dropping off and collecting their children. In an area that is already saturated with traffic, parked cars and litter this development would be a nail in the coffin for local residents.
Generally against the idea	9	7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More students could lead to more problems. Once again this will impact the surrounding residents and facilities.
Extra Spaces are not required	9	7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council's projections for the catchment show that this capacity is not required. Focus should be on adding capacity at schools that are already oversubscribed. I do not believe there is the demand in the local area to justify the expansion.
ASB / Litter Concerns	6	4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am concerned as resident immediately adjacent to the current school and moving to gelligaer street about anti-social behaviour, noise and fear of leaving the house. The pupils at Cathays High are often rude using foul language around primary school children and they leave large amounts of litter in the areas surrounding the school.
Current School not fit for purpose	4	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only if the new school building is there, the current building is not fit for the number of pupils currently.
Misc. / Other	5	4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have no objection to expansion only your proposals.
Total Respondents	124	-	

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

Do you support the proposal to transfer Cathays High School into a new building, with upgraded community facilities?

A half (50.0%) of respondents support the proposal to transfer Cathays High School into a new building with upgraded community facilities, this figure rises slightly (56.1%) if no opinion responses are discarded.



Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning for supporting / not supporting the proposal, all valid comments were then grouped into themes; these themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comment
Protect local green spaces / facilities	57	38.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing Maindy centre is so important to me and my family's wellbeing physically and mentally. The increased urban footprint of a green site squanders precious green space. I use the Maindy track and feel that it's an important part of community culture. It is important that open, green spaces are available for the community. The current track area is used so its loss without any open air space in its place would be felt. Loss of Maindy track would severely detriment local community.
Current School not fit for purpose	37	25.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definitely needed, the current building looks old and tired and not a suitable and exciting learning environment. The current school building is clearly no longer for 21st century learning. The building is not fit for purpose for current future learning requirements for young people.

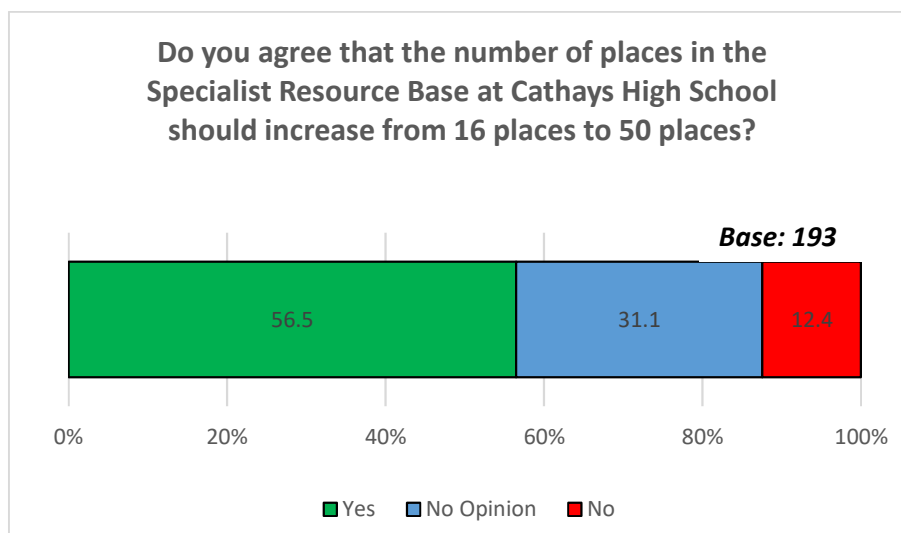
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current state of the school building and the lack of space and facilities for students
General Agreement with proposals	29	19.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is needed. It will be beneficial to the community. If current building can't facilitate.
No Opinion / More information required	10	6.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't have children. There has been no information provided on the new building, other than it will have a serious negative impact on local green space areas and parking for local residents. I would want more detailed information on exactly what building work is planned, disruption during construction period and final impact on the surroundings.
Upgrade / Develop on existing site	9	6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because there is enough room to rebuild the school safely on the existing site with it fenced off. Huge hospitals have been built in a short time so it could be done over the summer. I support a new building but on the same site as at present.
Misc. / Other	12	8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community services should be up graded if need be independently of whether the new school is built. They are 2 separate issues. Maindy centre is a gift from marques of bute, cannot build on site. Companies house adjacent to school makes more sense.
Total Respondents	148	-	

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

Do you agree that the number of places in the Specialist Resource Base at Cathays High School should increase from 16 places to 50 places?

Over a half (56.5%) of respondents agree that the number of places in the Specialist Resource Base at Cathays High School should increase from 16 places to 50 places. However, if no opinion responses are excluded from the analysis, agreement with this increases to around four in five (82.0%).



Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning for supporting / not supporting the proposal, all valid comments were then grouped into themes; these themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comment
General agreement with proposals	67	65.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It should be part of the community. • Such an important and valuable resource. • Again, given the projected need, this would make sense. • If needed and facilities available, it makes sense. • Having specialist resources to support these pupils is fantastic!
No Opinion / More information required	18	17.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't have any children in education. • Don't have enough knowledge to say either way. • As a local resident, I am unsure about the issues regarding this in the school and don't feel its appropriate for me to comment on something I don't know enough about.
Protect local green spaces / facilities	11	10.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep our track for health and wellbeing. • I do not support it due to the destruction of important local infrastructure like the cycling track.

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General disagreement with proposals	9	8.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far too many children in the school already. Unsure whether SRB units really gain from such a significant expansion. The pupils benefit from being in small, focussed environment to feel supported. A more than double increase would be unsettling.
Misc. / Other	2	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a loaded question designed to get a particular response and justify a decision that has already been made.
Total Respondents	102	-	

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

Are there any changes you think could improve these proposals?

Respondents were invited to highlight any changes they feel could improve the proposals. All valid comments were then grouped into themes; these themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comment
Protect local green spaces / facilities	58	49.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure green space, trees etc. kept and ability for community to still walk dogs, run around the Maindy site walkers. Please ensure that there is still a well-lit park space in the local area to walk in the evening. I currently use Maindy centre because it is accessible and well lit. Keeping proper open areas for residents who walk in the area around Maindy Centre and the cycle track. Making sure that the playground and surrounding green areas are protected. Don't get rid of the Maindy velodrome and facilities. It's hard to get to the bay. We have nothing in Cathays.
Develop on existing site	17	14.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the existing building and develop on the existing site. Refurbish the existing building. Build on the site you currently have.
More information required	15	12.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient information with regard to facilities currently available at Maindy, it is more than just a cycle track, what about the swimming pool, Gym and fitness facilities. A fuller review of options, greater engagement with residents, plans that are more fully formed. It's rather

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			<p>terrible to expect people to give an opinion based on such little information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information provided so far is not sufficient, an actual plan would be useful, particularly to assess the impact on the Maindy leisure centre.
Alternative site suggestions	11	9.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use companies house site instead. A rethink to approaching other public sector owned sites in the area.
Concerns around traffic / parking issues	6	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think real consideration needs to take place regarding the impact on community areas, traffic congestion and the wellbeing of local residents and primary school aged children with the increased number of high school pupils and potentially large/tall buildings taking up public space.
Misc. / Other	14	12.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more places in the catchment areas of the children that are traveling in. How does the cycle superhighway fit in with active travel plans? Has this been incorporated into the travel plans?
Total Respondents	117	-	

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

Are there any alternative options you would like to suggest?

Respondents were then given the opportunity to suggest any alternative options they had in relation to the proposals. All valid comments were then grouped into themes; these themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comment
Develop on existing site	35	35.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To further develop the existing site. Improve the existing building and develop on the existing site. I would like the current building at Cathays high to be rebuilt and developed. Knock down and rebuild the school instead of destroying Maindy velodrome.
Alternative site suggestions	29	29.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternately look for existing industrial or commercial sites in the local area - including the Maindy Barracks, the public office next to the Heath Hospital etc.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why not build the school on the site of the barracks? It's a big site, hardly used, in public ownership. • Why not move into companies house grounds instead of across the road thus preserving the cycle track.
Protect local green spaces / facilities	25	25.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not expanding the school and improving the current site without expanding on green areas or changing the current facilities that are highly valued by the local community. • The current green space at Maindy should be preserved. Moving it to the Bay is of no use to local residents. Crowbarring even more building works into the area following the major high rise development on lower end of Maindy Road would be overwhelming. if you do have to expand the site, you could relocate caretaker's house to New Zealand road and expand across the pedestrian path. - this would release a considerable space to develop? Consulting with Companies House re compulsory purchase of strip of additional land may be beneficial - they're employees will also be affected? could also develop separate ALN provision in grass area behind barracks on Crown Way or on old bowling green site, keeping the current public amenities largely unchanged. Expanding into Maindy track with unavoidable main roadway through school yard is impractical. • I fail to see why the cycle track cannot remain when it is unlikely that the area can be built upon due to its history as a clay pit now filled with historic waste.
Concerns around traffic / parking issues	4	4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure proposals do not impact on traffic in local streets. Crown way traffic pre pandemic is absolutely horrendous given the newish traffic lights at the bottom and crossing by pool North rd side limits cars turning left during rush hour causing tailbacks along Whitchurch Rd. Parents dropping grown children off also double park along crown way when dropping off and picking up causing problems.
Misc. / Other	17	17.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop favouring Welsh language education at the cost of English language education. • Share space with other organisations when not in sure to make it sustainable.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think before you commit to it, better planning would be a start.
Total Respondents	99	-	

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

Do you have any other comments?

Respondents had the chance to leave any other comments they had in relation to the proposals. All valid comments were then grouped into themes; these themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comment
Protect local green spaces / facilities	44	40.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have no real objections to the school side of things, but worry that you are taking a leisure centre away from the local community that contains a swimming pool, cycle track, gym. These shouldn't be replaced half way across the city!! Local facilities helps to cut down on traffic congestion. The current school site should be used to replace what has been taken away. I am concerned the site will just be sold to the highest bidder. More greenspace and community facilities please. I think it would be a shame for the velodrome to go, it's been used by a large number of people throughout lockdown and I expect this will continue. Unless good, always available, green area alternatives are provided on the site of the old school this will be a huge loss and real shame. Stop erasing green spaces and local amenities. Stop thinking about cash from developers before the welfare of Cardiff residents. Taking the cycle track away from this site is a terrible idea - it is still used by many children / families - not just the professional cyclists. This is important to maintain local exercise and training on bikes. Removal of bike track would be detrimental to the local community.
Traffic / Parking / Pollution / Litter Concerns	22	20.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My main concerns as a local resident is a) parking b) litter. Litter always increases during term time, particularly around the bus stop. If School organised litter picks were a regular event I would be happy with the new arrangements. Please ensure pupils are taught not to litter or that fines are given. There is an enormous amount of litter around the school and local areas.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly opposed to any changes to allow New Zealand road to become a through road.
More information required / More consultation work needs to be carried out	21	19.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has any attempt been made to inform local residents of the proposals? I live at the top of Lisvane Street and I've had no letter about it - there's no information at the site itself. The only reason I know about the plans is because I follow the Cardiff Social Cycling facebook page. Whilst i'm supportive of the principle of expanding the school onto a new site, I would find it helpful to have more detail on what the impact will be to those residents who currently use the Maindy site. I think it is really important to include this in a wider discussion about access to open spaces and leisure facilities in Cathays. It is unclear if the cycling track or the pool will remain and those are big concerns.
General agreement with the proposals	14	13.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The children of the Cathays/Roath area deserve to learn in an appropriate learning environment. Improved facilities and increased spaces is a good thing. We just need to ensure that the staffing and resources are appropriate for the increasing amount of children.
Alternative site suggestions	5	4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about the loss of Maindy cycle track. Surely this being where it is far more sustainable than shoving it down the bay, where quite frankly, a lot more people will have to drive their bikes there. Can't land at the government offices on Crown Way be used instead?
Overdevelopment	5	4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have been bludgeoned by large builds in immediate vicinity of school - see large Maindy road build. Maindy area is an enjoyed green space for local residents. It should remain so without interference or erosion.
Misc. / Other	10	9.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is nothing mentioned about green energy programme built into the school and building for the future of Cardiff. The school would require green energy programme which would teach the kids about green energy. I do hope the new build will have MORE than JUST sport!! Drama? Auditorium? Local theatre groups? IT facilities?!
Total Respondents	108	-	

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

About You

What was your age on your last birthday?

Over a half (54.8%) of respondents were aged 35-54.

	No	%
Under 16	1	0.5
16-24	15	8.2
25-34	36	19.6
35-44	54	29.3
45-54	47	25.5
55-64	14	7.6
65-74	8	4.3
75+	1	0.5
Prefer not to say	8	4.3
Total Respondents	184	100.0

Are you...?

Almost three in five (58.7%) respondents were female.

	No	%
Female	108	58.7
Male	69	37.5
Other	1	0.5
Prefer not to say	6	3.3
Total Respondents	184	100.0

Do you identify as a disabled person?

Nine in ten (90.1%) respondents do not identify as disabled.

	No.	%
Yes	6	3.3
No	163	90.1
Prefer not to say	12	6.6
Total Respondents	181	100.0

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Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

30 people stated they had one or more of the health conditions listed.

	No	%
Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, HIV, diabetes or asthma)	9	30.0
Mental health difficulties	7	23.3
Learning impairment/difficulties	3	10.0
Visual impairment	2	6.7
Deaf/Deafened/Hard of Hearing	1	3.3
Mobility impairment	1	3.3
Wheelchair user	0	0.0
Prefer not to say	11	36.7
Other	0	0.0
Total Respondents	30	-

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents could select multiple conditions

What is your ethnic group?

Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these.

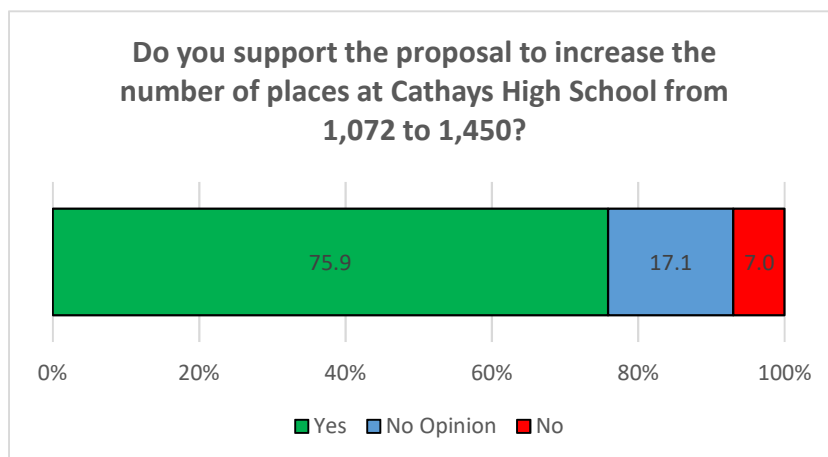
Respondents of a White British background make up 82.5% of all those responding to the survey.

	No.	%
White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	151	82.5
White - Any other white background	5	2.7
Asian/Asian Welsh/British – Pakistani	3	1.6
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Indian	2	1.1
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Any other	2	1.1
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian	1	0.5
White - Irish	1	0.5
Prefer not to say	18	9.8
Total Respondents	183	100.0

**CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL
(PUPIL SURVEY)
RESEARCH FINDINGS**

Do you support the proposal to increase the number of places at Cathays High School from 1,072 to 1,450?

Three quarters (75.9%) of pupils responding to this question agree with the proposals to increase the number of places at Cathays High School. However, if no opinion responses are discarded this figure rises to over nine in ten (91.6%).



Pupils were then given the opportunity to explain their reasons for supporting / not supporting the proposal. These comments were then grouped into themes; these themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
General agreement with proposals	65	34.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because i think it will be good. • Because it will allow Cathays to accept more students. • The more pupils the better. • Yes, as we will gain more areas for learning. • So other students who come to Cathays can express the fun in Cathays.
Gives more people the opportunity of a good education	52	27.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree because Cathays High School is a really good school and to be able to have more places would be nice. • Yes, it ensures that there is more space available for new year 7s (especially). • It will give more children the chance to have education at Cathays high. • It will allow more people to have the opportunity of great education and will ensure that if the numbers

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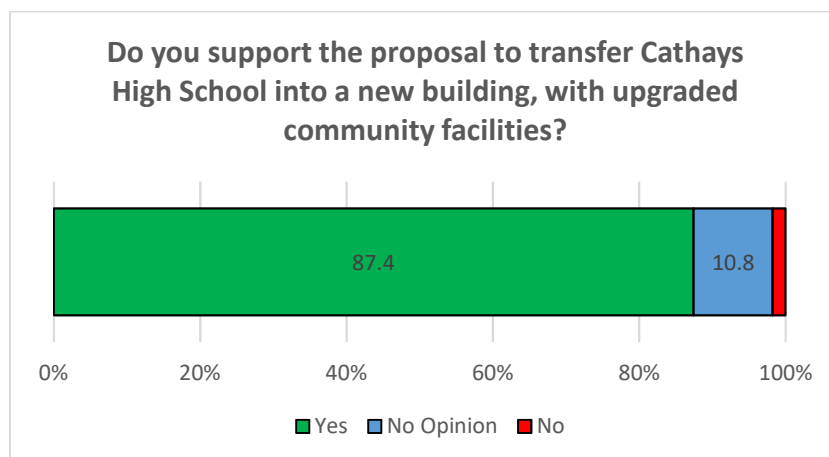
			of students increase, there is enough places for them.
More Space	19	10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing spaces means more facilities and opportunities. This can help students to learn different subjects. More room and spaces are included.
No Opinion	19	10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I don't really mind. It doesn't really effect my education.
General disagreement with proposals	17	9.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I personally have objections to expanding the numbers of places. I disagree because the more children they add the less attention children get.
More Friends	11	5.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is nice to have more people in school as you can make new friends and meet new people.
Good for the school / area	6	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So the school becomes more popular and more people have the chance to get on.
Total Respondents	188	-	

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

Do you support the proposal to transfer Cathays High School into a new building, with upgraded community facilities?

More than four in five (87.4%) pupils responding to this question agree with the proposal to transfer Cathays High School into a new building with upgraded community facilities. This figure increase to 98.0% if no opinion responses are discarded from the analysis.

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Pupils were then given the opportunity to explain their reasons for supporting / not supporting the proposal. These comments were then grouped into themes; these themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
Will improve learning	74	37.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would make a better learning environment. • I think this is a great idea because we could have more space to do more creative things. • So we can fit more people and have better facilities. • I believe a better learning environment and a new one at that will help improve productivity and learning experience. • Pupils would feel more happy and relaxed in the building, resulting in better mental wellbeing and academic success. We would have better facilities for our sports teams. More facilities to look after pupil wellbeing. Better physical health for pupils and teachers with warmer classrooms and nicer toilets. Better facilities for the arts and technology. Easier access to get around the school. More places to sit undercover outside.
Current facilities outdated / Building not fit for purpose	59	29.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The old building is outdated and it is not suited to 21st century education. • Because most of the stuff there is pretty old, we need some new things to enhance our learning ability. • Yes because in some parts of the school, some places may need a lot of constructions and needed to be fixed so i think yes. • Cathays has needed a new school building for the longest, it's literally falling apart and not an encouraging environment to work in.

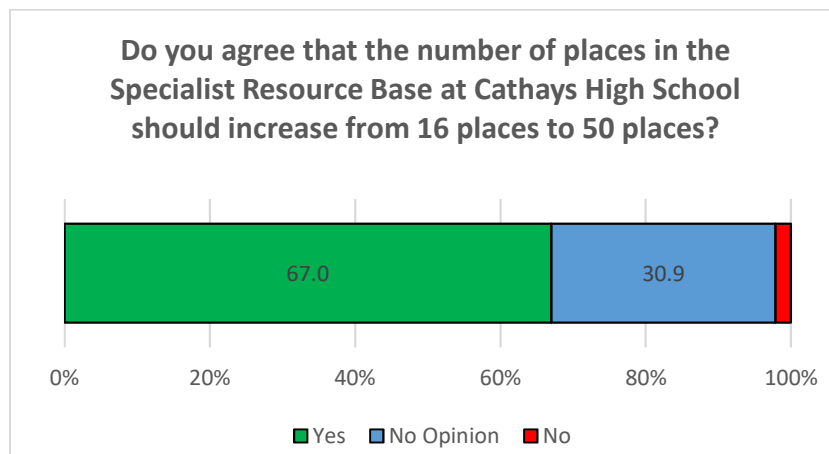
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General agreement with the proposals	48	24.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So it is more modern. • Because that would be a nice change. • I think it's great to have a new building.
No Opinion	14	7.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't have an opinion on this. • I don't mind.
General disagreement with proposals	4	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think its fine as it is.
Misc. / Other	5	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So it doesn't look like a church.
Total Respondents	200	-	

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

Do you agree that the number of places in the Specialist Resource Base at Cathays High School should increase from 16 places to 50 places?

Two thirds (67.0%) of pupils responding to this question agree with the proposal to increase the number of places at the Specialist Resource Base. This figure increase to 96.9% if no opinion responses are discarded from the analysis.



The Expansion & Redevelopment of Cathays High School

Pupils were then given the opportunity to explain their reasons for supporting / not supporting the proposal. These comments were then grouped into themes; these themes along with example comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

Theme	No.	%	Example Comments
Ensures all children can get an education	78	56.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because it would tell autistic people they are always welcome. • Kids with special needs deserve to have Cathays as an option. • There are many children in Cardiff who deserve this support and are being turned away to lack of spaces by upgrading the SRB we will make sure every child is happy. • Because illnesses shouldn't stop you from getting an education. • Main stream students shouldn't be the only one focused on. If there's were able to be more places for the specialist base, children who require these resources would be able to receive them.
No opinion / unsure	35	25.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know if they should increase. • I don't have any experience with the specialist resource base. • I have no opinion on this.
General agreement with the proposal	19	13.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's good to have a good place. • I just think it's a good idea.
General disagreement with proposal	7	5.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many places
Total Respondents	139	-	

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

Are there any changes you think could improve these proposals?

Pupils were given the opportunity to suggest any improvements that they'd like to see to the proposals. 65 pupils left a valid response, resulting in 4 main themes, these can be viewed below:

- Installation of lockers
- Sports facility suggestions
- Bigger / Improved canteen
- Improved teaching facilities

Are there any alternative options you would like to suggest?

Pupils were given the opportunity to suggest any alternative options that they'd like to see to the proposals. 74 pupils left a valid response, resulting in 4 main themes, these can be viewed below:

- Sports facility suggestions
- Installation of lockers
- More Space / Wider corridors
- Prayer room / Quiet areas

Do you have any other comments?

There were 37 valid comments received to this question spreading across many themes, these comments have been passed on to the relevant team.

What things do you like about Cathays High School at present?

Sports facilities / Outside areas (28.2%) was the thing pupils liked most about their school at present, this was followed by the teachers (22.7%).

Theme	No.	%
Sports Facilities / Outside Areas	61	28.2
The Teachers	49	22.7
Specific Classes	28	13.0
Size / Layout of School	24	11.1
Friends	11	5.1
The community / location of the school	10	4.6
Diversity in the school	8	3.7
Variety of Lessons / Clubs	6	2.8
Canteen / The Food	5	2.3
Misc. / Other	43	19.9
Total Respondents	216	-

The Expansion & Redevelopment of Cathays High School

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

What things do you dislike about Cathays High School at present?

Around seven in ten (68.9%) pupils that left a response to this question feel that the current state of the building is the thing they dislike most about Cathays High School.

Theme	No.	%
School is rundown / Outdated / Too small	131	68.9
Outside facilities / area	12	6.3
Pupils / Bullies	9	4.7
No Lockers	8	4.2
No Library	7	3.7
Lack of Sports Facilities	6	3.2
Canteen	5	2.6
Teachers	5	2.6
Misc. / Other	29	15.3
Total Respondents	190	-

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

Which of the following things would you like to see in your new build school (tick all that apply)

New equipment and facilities (87.1%) was deemed the most important thing that pupils would like to see at their new build school, this was followed by new learning environments (74.6%) and a library (72.4%). Although perceived at the least important thing to see in the new school, around two fifths (41.9%) of pupils would like to see a new drama / dance studio.

	No.	%
New equipment and facilities	243	87.1
New learning environments	208	74.6
Library	202	72.4
Sports facilities such as an all-weather 3G pitch	190	68.1
Improved ICT	185	66.3
Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)	180	64.5
New drama / dance studio	117	41.9
Other (please specify)	59	21.1
Total Respondents	279	-

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' options could fall into multiple themes

Is there anything that you are worried or concerned about when thinking about the proposal?

Pupils were given the opportunity to leave feedback around any worries / concerns they had with the proposals. 42 pupils left a valid response, resulting in 4 main themes, these can be viewed below:

- Getting Lost / Finding way around new building.
- Facilities at new school.
- Time it'll take to build.
- Disruption to Education.

TRAVEL

How do you currently travel to school?

Walking and travelling by Car were the most common ways that pupils travel to Cathays High School (46.2% and 43.4% respectively), this was followed by just over a third (35.0%) that travel by Bus.

	No.	%
Walk	132	46.2
By Car	124	43.4
By Bus	100	35.0
Cycle	12	4.2
Scooter	1	0.3
Total Respondents	286	-

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' mode of travel could fall into multiple themes

Is there anything that the Council could do to help encourage you to actively travel to school? (E.g. bike shelters)

Pupils felt that the installation of bike shelters / racks was the key element in encouraging them to actively travel to school (58.0%), this was followed by an improved / free bus service (17.0%).

Theme	No.	%
Bike Shelters / Racks	58	58.0
Improved / free Bus Service	17	17.0
Better Car Parking	8	8.0
Free Bikes / Scooters	6	6.0
Other	17	17.0
Total Respondents	100	-

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents' opinions could fall into multiple themes

About You

What is your age group?

Four fifths (79.4%) of responses were from the 11-15 age group.

	No.	%
11-15	228	79.4
16-18	47	16.4
Prefer not to say	12	4.2
Total Respondents	287	100.0

Are you...?

A half (50.9%) of responses were from females, compared with 43.2% that were from males.

	No.	%
Female	146	50.9
Male	124	43.2
Prefer not to say	12	4.2
Other	5	1.7
Total Respondents	287	100.0

Do you identify as a disabled person?

Over nine tenths (94.4%) of respondents do not identify as disabled.

	No.	%
Yes	9	3.2
No	268	94.4
Prefer not to say	7	2.5
Total Respondents	284	100.0

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

Of the 88 respondents that indicated they have one or more of the following conditions, around a fifth suffered with a long standing illness / mental health difficulties (20.5% and 19.3% respectively).

	No.	%
Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)	18	20.5
Mental health difficulties	17	19.3
Learning impairment/ difficulties	11	12.5
Visual impairment	8	9.1
Deaf/ Deafened/ Hard of hearing	3	3.4
Mobility impairment	1	1.1
Prefer not to say	27	30.7
Other	23	26.1
Total Respondents	88	-

N.B. Percentages do not sum 100% because respondents could select multiple options

Do you consider yourself to be Welsh?

Three fifths (61.4%) of respondents do not class themselves as Welsh

	No.	%
No	170	61.4
Yes	107	38.6
Total Respondents	277	100.0

Are you....

A third (33.8%) of respondents are Asian, this was followed by just over a quarter (26.3%) who are White.

	No.	%
Asian	95	33.8
White	74	26.3
Black	37	13.2
Mixed	27	9.6
Prefer not to say	26	9.3
Other	22	7.8
Total Respondents	281	100.0

APPENDIX A - RECEIVED EMAILS / LETTERS

Local Resident Response

We would like to make the follow response to the public consultation carried out in regard to the expansion proposed for Cathays High School:

There is no denying that we feel very saddened by the prospect of losing the benefits of the Maindy site as it currently exists. For over 20 years we as a family have made significant use of the cycle track, the swimming pool and the open-air amenities surrounding the track itself for exercising, dog walking and generally enjoying the open green space.

Therefore, while appreciating that Cardiff children need good quality education provision, and this must be provided in appropriate and modern buildings, we feel it is also essential to preserve as much as possible of the current open air space. Consequently reference within the consultation document to the area “south of the cycle track” for this purpose strikes us as worrying inadequate.

Accepting that an extension to Cathays High School will be built in order to secure high quality education for Cardiff children in future years, we feel that it is imperative that local residents also have extensive ‘out of school hours’ access to the new facilities (this could for example be administered by the management at Maindy Leisure Centre);. Local primary school children should also be given full access to benefit from the new facilities which are being promised to pupils at Cathays High school, since the Maindy site is currently used by nearby primary schools for outdoor PE and sports lessons.

Done in the spirit that this is a project resulting in the mutual benefit for the whole community and not just for those children enrolled in Cathays High School, there is great potential for an exciting integrated school / community project, which would maximise the investment the council is proposing. Anything other than this would be a sacrifice of a much loved and used community open space, with nothing in return.

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Local Resident Response

Hi,

I'm writing to you today as a resident on New Zealand Road and I'm concerned about a proposal to increase capacity of Cathays high school. I wish to object to this proposal. My concerns are the reduction of well-lit green space to walk local to New Zealand road, increase of traffic on New Zealand Road due to construction and the school operation, and an increase in litter which we see a lot of on the street due to the school. Please reply with the registration of my objection.

Local Resident Response

I am writing regarding the Cathays High School expansion/redevelopment.

I am very concerned at the lack of information regarding how this expansion will happen and how one can "replace the Cathays High School buildings with new build accommodation on the Maindy Centre site", The young lady who provided me with information on the phone said that the velodrome area would not be built on and that Maindy pool would not be demolished. How then will you propose to fit a new larger school on the site? It is obvious, as reported in several news outlets that the velodrome area must be used to some degree.

I strongly object to the building of a large school building on the velodrome and was assured that Maindy pool will not be affected, so I hope this is the case. I am also very dismayed that a PFI type contract is being used to finance a school project.

Please send me more information on this project

Local Resident Response

I am emailing to give a better indication of my viewpoint as a local Cathays resident regarding the proposed Cathays High School improvements. The brief survey was not fit for purpose as the questions were leading, did not mention any negatives of the proposals so I was unable to update you on local opinion. Please find my opinion below. Please add my opinion to the consultation document.

I oppose any plan that would remove the cycle track. It is too useful and historic to remove. It is well used and loved by Cathays residents and clubs from around the area. Not just Maindy flyers as stated, but also by Cardiff university triathlon club, Cardiff university cycling club, Ajax, and others. The proposed replacement in the Bay is too far away. Any proposal to remove the track would be fought against by these groups.

Shared use of the track (School use in day, club use in evenings and weekends) would seem a fair compromise to me.

If the middle of the track was repurposed from a cycling proficiency site to a school playing field in the weekday daytimes I would not oppose this, provided an alternate same size venue for cycling proficiency was created elsewhere in Cathays.

There are beautiful and mature trees at the North part of Maindy track. Cardiff Council has loudly stated its commitment to maintaining trees. I would strongly oppose any plan to remove any trees.

There is a running and exercise station that runs along the outside of the track. I would oppose any plan that does not maintain this.

There is no mention in the plans for changes to Maindy sports centre. I assume this is safe from any planned changes? I would oppose any changes to the centre.

I see from one report that the bike pump track is not planned for any changes. I welcome this.

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I do not have strong opinions about the number of car parking spaces for Maindy sports centre since I walk to it. It would seem sensible to me however to ensure plans maintained to same number of spaces as I have frequently seen the car park full.

At present there is a recycling area in the carpark. I would oppose any plan that does not maintain these.

I hope that you are able to take opinions of Maindy track users into account and come up with a plan that allows school improvements without damaging other areas of the community.

Local Resident Response

I write with a number of concerns regarding the above proposal.

1. **Additional unnecessary traffic/ environmental impact.** A large proportion of Cathays high school children already travel from other areas of Cardiff. I believe it would therefore be preferable to expand schools in the catchment areas that require the places.
2. **Location far from children's communities** - There are no housing developments planned for Cathays, however there are for the south of Cardiff. This confirms point 1 above that expansion of schools would be best targeted towards those areas.
3. **Traffic** An over 40 percent increase in student places (additional 400 places) will definitely increase traffic in this existing busy area. Even with a traffic management plan this will have an additional adverse effect on the residential community. I believe it would be unwise to close Crown way and have a detrimental effects on the residential areas..
4. **Downscaling of Existing size community green space** -Maindy green area is an open space which is enjoyed daily by 100s of adults, children, dog walkers, cyclists, skateboarders, runners daily. This area is recognised as one of the few spaces for residents in Cathays/ Gabalfa and Maindy. There is a circular walk on the external perimeter of the cycle track lined with trees/ grass which is enjoyed by the whole community. Many people visiting several times a day. Bute park is a considerable extra distance to get to especially for those who are elderly, disabilities and young children. Our concern is that losing this Green space will lead to the community just pounding the streets as there would not be any other short circular walks available.
5. **Trees** - As you'll see from either visiting the Maindy site or page 17 of the Consultation document, it is a very green area. There are many mature trees around the 'bowling green' and the 'green belt' itself around the cycling track. There are over 140 trees in the Maindy site (additional trees in the bowling green). Some of these trees are ever green/ conifers, well established oak trees etc. Rather than uprooting the existing trees and planting new trees which would take several decades to develop, it would be wise to preserve existing trees.
6. **Value contradiction** This current proposal contradicts /conflict with the need to preserve green space for emotional and physical well-being and the environmental issues of unnecessary travelling across Cities/ pollution. In addition, the current

proposal of the number of places is unnecessary to serve the Cathays catchment area

The scenario proposed is very much a 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' ...ie 'robbing Cathays to pay Fitzalan High school, Willows High School, Cardiff High school' etc

Suggestions and 'Hopes'

1. A Scoping exercise to determine how many existing Cathays pupils are travelling from outside the Cathays catchment area.
2. Consideration that additional school places are built in areas that require them i.e. where Demand is - rather than creating additional congestion in Cathays community of Buses/ teachers/ support staff/ children trekking from outside the Cathays Catchment areas.
3. If the proposal goes ahead as a very minimum I would like to see that the green area circular perimeter of the cycling track is kept for the residential community to use daily as it is currently – we dearly love this area. In addition, that the pupil numbers are reduced to be in line of what's needed/ demand in Cathays area ie that schools are expanded in other areas of Cardiff where the places are needed in those communities.
4. When the original idea of rebuilding Cathays school was proposed, it was on the assumption that it would be unlikely that there would be an issue building on the cycling track. Now that this has been realised that it's not possible to build directly on the cycling track it will inevitably be a larger financial commitment to optimise each inch of the other parts of space in that area. This leads me to wondering if anyone has considered any of these 2 options?
Option 1 Relocating the school into a section of Bute park and compensating for this by providing upgraded green facilities at Maindy.
Or **Option 2** Rebuilding the 1000 place school in Maindy and building a 400 place school on the south of Cardiff ie Splitting the school into 2 ie with one part in the south of Cardiff for approximately 400 places (because there are insufficient places in the Fitzalan: willow school for the south). For example this could be next to the new proposed cycling track or nearby. This idea may sound drastic to split the school in 2 separate schools but if you consider where the demand for school places are, additional congestion if all in Maindy and the realisation now that the space in Maindy isn't as much as initially suspected this is highly likely to be a better financial and environmental option for the short and longer term.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I would be grateful if you could take this concerns on board for our community and Cardiff as a whole.

Local Resident Response

I am a parent of primary school aged children in north Cardiff, and a regular user of Maindy cycle track. My children (aged 6 and 9), together with my husband and I are all members of Whitchurch Cycling Club, and my oldest child is also a member of Cardiff Junior Triathlon Club. Pre-lockdown, my family were using the cycle track twice a week for club activities so are well placed to comments on the proposals.

I wish to object to the proposals for a number of reasons. My comments are arranged into seven main areas of concern:

- Proposed size of the school
- Impact on Whitchurch Cycling Club
- Lack of Consultation
- Conflict with planning policy
- Maindy track is not developable
- Proposed new velodrome at International Sports Village not a suitable
- Impact on Cardiff Junior Triathlon Club

Proposed size of the school

We accept that the existing Cathays High School buildings are rated as category “C” and are therefore in poor condition, and we do not object in principle to a replacement school. However, we have significant concerns that a school of the size proposed is not justified by the evidence that is contained in the consultation document and other sources. The consequence of building a school of this size is the loss of an excellent cycling facility that is well used by residents from across Cardiff.

If a smaller school was proposed, in line with the extensive evidence on the number of pupils living within the local catchment area, this would require a smaller footprint and could potentially be accommodated within the existing school site, together with the former bowling greens and tennis courts between the cycle track and Maindy Barracks. This could be achieved without the need for Maindy cycle track to be lost.

We have the following concerns about the evidence justifying an 8 FE expansion:

- The consultation states that *“based on the numbers of pupils in existing housing in the Cathays High School catchment area an English-medium community secondary school of three forms of entry, providing 90 places per year group, would be sufficient to serve the existing catchment area.”* This is clearly supported in the figures, with Table 5 showing forecasts of between 68 and 105 pupils in the catchment per annum. This is not projected to increase as a result of new housing development.
- The consultation identifies that there is insufficient capacity in Fitzalan High to accommodate the number of pupils living within the Fitzalan catchment and it is therefore proposed that Cathays High would accommodate the excess demand. This is considered a wholly inappropriate approach. A replacement Fitzalan School has recently been granted planning permission, which would have offered the

opportunity to address known capacity issues. However, the replacement Fitzalan school has the same capacity as the existing school. Why wasn't it expanded to meet forecast need? When this was questioned at the online public meeting, two reasons were given. The first was that 8-10 FE was the optimum size for schools, and Fitzalan is a 10 FE. However, other schools in Cardiff exceed this – Whitchurch High is listed in the school admissions booklet as 13 FE.

- The second reason given was around limiting the number of different communities mixing in the school. This isn't logical, as the Fitzalan catchment has not changed as a result of the redevelopment – the same communities are still within the catchment area.
- It is not appropriate to expect children to travel across Cardiff to attend secondary school due to insufficient space within their catchment schools. This conflicts with Cardiff's own policy aim in the adopted LDP, which "seeks to minimise travel demand". Places should be available within catchment schools and where this is not possible, action should be taken to address this by increasing capacity in that school, not expecting other schools to address the deficit.
- It was advised at the public meeting that there will be changes to the catchment areas once the 21st Century Schools Band B proposals have been implemented. Why have these proposed changes not been included within this proposal? Any proposed changes to catchment area should have formed part of this consultation as this will influence the responses of consultees.
- A summary of the allocation of school places for 2021/22 was published on 1st March 2021. This identified that the published admission number for Cathays High School was 240, which conflicts with the consultation document, which states that the published admission number is 165. It is concerning that provision is already being made for an 8FE school in advance of the outcome of the consultation.
- A total of 164 out of the 240 places allocated were for pupils living outside of the catchment. No information has been provided on how many of these pupils listed Cathays High as a first choice. However, both Fitzalan High and Cardiff High were unable to cater for all catchment area children, so it is assumed that a significant proportion of children allocated to Cathays High would have expressed a first preference to attend their local catchment school. Why should Cathays High have to accommodate pupils from other areas due to insufficient capacity?
- The furthest distance someone was admitted to Cathays High was 6.083 miles. It is neither appropriate nor sustainable for pupils to have to travel over 6 miles to school, when other closer options should be available.

Impact on Whitchurch Cycling Club

Whitchurch Cycling Club is a Cardiff based club with over 200 active members aged from 3 to over 60. A significant number of our members live in north Cardiff, where Maindy track is easily accessible.

The Club has a weekly track booking, which alternates between an adult session jointly with Cardiff Social Cycling, and a children's session. The children's sessions have seen our younger members aged between 3 and 14 riding on the track in a safe environment, where they can learn valuable cycling skills. My own children have been riding on the track since the age of 4 and have gained a great deal from having a local facility which caters for a range of abilities in such a good location.

Whitchurch CC members, particularly those with young children, will be adversely affected by the relocation of the facility to the International Sports Village due to the distance. This is discussed further below.

Lack of Consultation

Maindy cycle track is a well-used cycling facility used by a number of Cardiff-based clubs. It is disappointing that the consultation document only refers to Maindy Flyers and doesn't mention the other clubs that use the facility on a regular basis, such as Whitchurch Cycling Club, Cardiff Social Cycling, Ajax, JIF, Cardiff University and Cardiff Junior Triathlon Club. All regular club users of the facility should have been consulted on the proposals.

Furthermore, the consultation form does not seek views on the proposed loss of the cycle track, which will have discouraged interested parties from making comments about this important element of the proposal. Furthermore, the wording of question one implies that you are only entitled to an opinion if you are affiliated to a local school. The poor wording and limited scope of the consultation form means that it will not provide a true picture of the strength of opposition to the loss of the track.

Conflict with Planning Policy

It is considered that the proposed replacement cycle track would be contrary to Policy C2 of the adopted Local Development Plan on the Protection of Existing Community Facilities. This policy states:

Proposals involving the loss or change of use of buildings currently or last used for community facilities will only be permitted if:

- i. An alternative facility of at least equal quality and scale to meet community needs is available or will be provided within the vicinity or;*
- ii. It can be demonstrated that the existing provision is surplus to the needs of the community.*

The supporting text for the policy states that this policy would apply to both commercial and non-commercial uses and both land and buildings. As the facility is not surplus to requirements, the alternative cycle track would need to be provided in the 'vicinity.' The proposed alternative site in the Bay is 4.3 miles away or a 23-minute cycle (as identified on Google Maps using National Cycle Network route 8). This alternative site is not 'in the vicinity.'

In the lighter summer months in particular, many of our younger members can ride to Maindy to take part in sessions, as the track is currently in a very accessible location to the main centre of population. Given the distance of proposed replacement site at the International Sports Village, this would involve many of our members having to travel by car to the venue, as it is too far to expect young children to cycle to the alternative venue, take part in a coached cycling session, then cycle home. Other members may be reluctant to travel at all, which may affect the financial viability of the club being able to offer such sessions.

Maindy track is not developable

We are aware that ground investigations have been carried out due to former use of Maindy track as a clay pit and it is understood that the track itself is not suitable for built development and would therefore need to be used for the school sports provision. If this is the case, it would be logical to retain the track as part of the school's sports facilities. There is land in the centre of the track that is under-utilised and could offer additional sports provision such as a pitch or series of five-a-side pitches.

It is recognised that there is a potential safety issue if ball sports were played in close proximity to cyclists on the track. However, the facilities would be used at different times. The peak demand for the cycle track would be at weekends and evening, whereas pitches would be during the school day. An alternative could be to erect a high fence around the central part of the track to prevent balls entering the track. A bridge could provide access from outside the track into the centre to avoid pupils and other users having to cross the track.

The retention of the cycle track would also generate an income and help the financial viability of the Maindy Centre.

Alternatively, there appears to be no reason why any pitches could not be accommodated on the site of the existing school once the buildings are demolished. In the interim, the school could continue to use the pitches at Heath Park, as per the current situation.

Proposed new velodrome at International Sports Village not a suitable replacement

Unfortunately, Whitchurch Cycling Club have received no information on the proposed new facility to determine whether it would meet the needs of our club. Whilst I understand the Maindy Flyers have been in discussions about the proposals and are supportive, they are not the only cycling club in Cardiff that uses Maindy track. If the scheme is going to be a Council funded scheme rather than a private facility for Maindy Flyers, then all clubs should have been consulted.

It is disappointing that initial information on the replacement track only became publicly available on 11th March, just a week before this consultation ends, which gives interested parties insufficient time to assess and respond to the information. It should be noted that Whitchurch Cycling Club obtained the details of the new track from social media, rather than being notified by the Council.

The Cabinet report for the International Sports Village only contains partial information on the proposal, as 5 of the key Appendices that would have provided some clarity are listed as confidential. We therefore do not have full details to assess whether the proposal is indeed a like-for-like replacement. We have concerns that the track is shorter than Maindy (333m compared to 450m). This will mean that banking will need to be steeper, making it unsuitable for free wheel bikes. This will have a drastic effect on most users if they do not have a fixed wheel track bike, and it won't be suitable for our youngest members, who currently ride at Maindy. In addition, you will be unable to cycle to the facility on a track bike, as it is law you bike must have a brake. We note that a 1km closed circuit loop is proposed, and this is welcomed, but it would appear to be something that is open access rather than something a club could use exclusively for training. It also won't give our members the velodrome experience that they currently have at Maindy. We have been provided with no information on the costs for users of the facilities or what availability there would be for clubs other than Maindy Flyers. In the absence of such information, it is difficult to determine if the proposed velodrome would be a suitable replacement.

It is welcomed that there is a commitment that any replacement facility would be operational before the proposed closure of Maindy, but we have concerns over the timescales. Given that a detailed business case has not been developed or approved by Cardiff Council, and the proposal has yet to reach planning application stage, completion in 2022 seems unrealistic. There is therefore a real danger that the city could be left without a facility. If the existing track was retained, the timescales would be less critical.

Impact of Cardiff Junior Triathlon Club

Cardiff Junior Triathlon Club is currently based at Maindy, offering four sessions a week for young people aged 8-14. Maindy is an excellent venue as it allows members to participate in all three disciplines on a single site – the first hour is running and cycling on the track and the second hour is swimming. Maindy has also been used as a venue for a number of Junior and Adult triathlon races, which have attracted participants from across South Wales. It is one of the few locations in Wales that can accommodate all disciplines on a single site.

If the cycle track is lost, there is no other facility in Cardiff that could offer this provision. Whilst Cardiff International Pool would be located in closed proximity to the proposed velodrome, it is likely that they would be run by different operators and therefore running a combined triathlon session may not be possible, particularly as it is understood that there are limited slots available for lane swimming at the International Pool.

Furthermore, some Junior Triathlon Club members may be unwilling or unable to travel to the Sports Village to train if they are local to Maindy due to the distance.

Local Councillor – Ashley Wood

The consultation provides comments on the council's proposals to:

- Expand Cathays High School from 1,072 places (5.5 Forms of Entry with 247 sixth form places) to 1,450 places (8 Forms of Entry with 250 sixth form places), from September 2023;
- Replace the Cathays High School buildings with new build accommodation on the Maindy Centre site adjacent to Crown Way and North Road;
- Expand the current Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 16 to 50 places in purpose-built accommodation in the new school buildings;
- Upgrade community facilities in Cathays and Gabalfa through the significantly enhanced school facilities being made available for shared use with the wider local community;
- Provide space for the local community to continue to have access to off-road open spaces for informal leisure use, recognising this is the current use at the Maindy site.

We recognise projected demand for places at Cathays High and welcome the proposed investment in 21st century school and the associated facilities.

Our comments relate to the wider implications of the proposals, namely the loss of Maindy cycle track and open access space, the potential closure of Crown Way to through traffic, and comments regarding the potential for New Zealand Road to be re-opened to through traffic as a result.

We note the challenges of the staged statutory consultation process for school reorganisation and the ability of this stage of the consultation to address some of the wider questions generated by such a scheme. This has however created uncertainty and concern with residents feeling unable to engage fully with the process.

Crown Way

There is significant concern about the potential for the closure of Crown Way to through traffic. Whilst we understand the rationale, given that the new school site may be situated across the current and new site, however there are significant implications for traffic through Gabalfa should the road be closed. Whitchurch Road is already – in a pre-pandemic context – congested, and the restriction of through traffic along Crown Way will have implications for traffic travelling via Crwys Road and City Road and up to North Road.

The council must be creative in addressing the challenges posed by a split site, for example could a bridge be constructed to connect the sites.

New Zealand Road

We understand that during the public meetings on the consultation, officers made reference to the potential for New Zealand Road to be re-opened to through traffic. We understand that the design proposals will be subject to a full traffic assessment, but we cannot envisage any scenario where re-opening the road would be suitable or desirable. It would be contradictory to the council's intention to create low-traffic neighbourhoods by funnelling traffic down a compact residential street, and ongoing discussions with officers around proposals to designate New Zealand Road as a school street.

21st century school facilities

It is important that local primary schools and the public are able to make full use of the recreational facilities that form part of 21st century schools. There is a distinct lack of such facilities in the immediate area, especially for local primary schools who currently travel in order to access facilities for sport activities.

With regards to the cycle track, we note that cycling groups are content with the proposals and that the council has committed to maintaining the cycle track at Maindy until the proposed velodrome at the International Sports Village is operational.

Support for the relocation of the track is not universally shared amongst residents. Many are concerned about the loss of the track from the area and open space as a result of the proposals. We also have concerns about any potential revenue implications for Maindy Leisure centre should the proposals for Cathays High not materialise as envisaged and the council opening a competing facility in the Bay.

Residents are also concerned about the loss and distancing of facilities and open public space from the area, which many will find harder to access.

Green spaces

We would welcome further detail and consultation in future on the maximisation of open green space and both the retention and growth of tree cover as a result of the scheme.

Whitchurch Cycling Club

Whitchurch Cycling Club is a Cardiff based club with over 200 active members aged from 3 to over 60. A significant number of our members live in north Cardiff, where Maindy track is easily accessible.

The Club has a weekly track booking, which alternates between an adult session jointly with Cardiff Social Cycling, and a children's session. The children's sessions have seen our younger members aged between 3 and 14 riding on the track in a safe environment, where they can learn valuable cycling skills.

Whitchurch Cycling Club are supportive **in principle** of improvements to cycling infrastructure in Cardiff and welcome the investment in improved facilities. However, we consider that the new track proposed at the International Sports Village should be **in addition** to existing facilities in Cardiff. The replacement of an existing facility that is well located and fit for purpose, with an alternative edge of city location is not appropriate. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a welcome increase in the number of cyclists within the city and it is important that these cyclists are encouraged to continue to participate in the sport both for exercise and for active travel in the future. The Maindy cycle track is in an excellent position in a central location within the city in close proximity to the Taff trail and other local cycle routes and should be supported moving forward as part of a network of cycling facilities.

We therefore **object** to the proposed loss of Maindy track as part of the Cathays High School redevelopment proposals for the reasons set out below.

Lack of Consultation

Maindy cycle track is a well-used cycling facility used by a number of Cardiff-based clubs. It is disappointing that the consultation document only refers to Maindy Flyers and doesn't mention the other clubs that use the facility on a regular basis, such as Whitchurch Cycling Club, Cardiff Social Cycling, Ajax, JIF, Cardiff University and Cardiff Junior Triathlon Club. All regular club users of the facility should have been consulted on the proposals.

Furthermore, the consultation form does not seek views on the proposed loss of the cycle track, which will have discouraged interested parties from making comments about this important element of the proposal. Furthermore, the wording of question one implies that you are only entitled to an opinion if you are affiliated to a local school. The poor wording and limited scope of the consultation form means that it will not provide a true picture of the strength of opposition to the loss of the track.

Conflict with Planning Policy

It is considered that the proposed replacement cycle track would be contrary to Policy C2 of the adopted Local Development Plan on the Protection of Existing Community Facilities. This policy states:

Proposals involving the loss or change of use of buildings currently or last used for community facilities will only be permitted if:

- i. An alternative facility of at least equal quality and scale to meet community needs is available or will be provided within the vicinity or;*
- ii. It can be demonstrated that the existing provision is surplus to the needs of the community.*

The supporting text for the policy states that this policy would apply to both commercial and non-commercial uses and both land and buildings. As the facility is not surplus to requirements, the alternative cycle track would need to be provided in the 'vicinity.' The proposed alternative site in the Bay is 4.3 miles away or a 23-minute cycle (as identified on Google Maps using National Cycle Network route 8). This alternative site is not 'in the vicinity.'

In the lighter summer months in particular, many of our younger members can ride to Maindy to take part in sessions, as the track is currently in a very accessible location to the main centre of population. Given the distance of proposed replacement site at the International Sports Village, this would involve many of our members having to travel by car to the venue, as it is too far to expect young children to cycle to the alternative venue, take part in a coached cycling session, then cycle home. Other members may be reluctant to travel at all, which may affect the financial viability of the club being able to offer such sessions.

Maindy track is not developable

We are aware that ground investigations have been carried out due to former use of Maindy track as a clay pit and it is understood that the track itself is not suitable for built development and would therefore need to be used for the school sports provision. If this is the case, it would be logical to retain the track as part of the school's sports facilities. There is land in the centre of the track that is under-utilised and could offer additional sports provision such as a pitch or series of five-a-side pitches.

It is recognised that there is a potential safety issue if ball sports were played in close proximity to cyclists on the track. However, the facilities would be used at different times. The peak demand for the cycle track would be at weekends and evening, whereas pitches would be during the school day. An alternative could be to erect a high fence around the central part of the track to prevent balls entering the track. A bridge could provide access from outside the track into the centre to avoid pupils and other users having to cross the track.

The retention of the cycle track would also generate an income and help the financial viability of the Maindy Centre.

Alternatively, there appears to be no reason why any pitches could not be accommodated on the site of the existing school once the buildings are demolished. In the interim, the school could continue to use the pitches at Heath Park, as per the current situation.

Proposed new velodrome at International Sports Village not a suitable replacement

Unfortunately, Whitchurch Cycling Club have received no information on the proposed new facility to determine whether it would meet the needs of our club. Whilst I understand the Maindy Flyers have been in discussions about the proposals and are supportive, they are not the only cycling club in Cardiff that uses Maindy track. If the scheme is going to be a Council funded scheme rather than a private facility for Maindy Flyers, then all clubs should have been consulted.

It is disappointing that initial information on the replacement track only became publicly available on 11th March, just a week before this consultation ends, which gives interested parties insufficient time to assess and respond to the information. It should be noted that Whitchurch Cycling Club obtained the details of the new track from social media, rather than being notified by the Council.

The Cabinet report for the International Sports Village only contains partial information on the proposal, as 5 of the key Appendices that would have provided some clarity are listed as confidential. We therefore do not have full details to assess whether the proposal is indeed a like-for-like replacement. We have concerns that the track is shorter than Maindy (333m compared to 450m). This will mean that banking will need to be steeper, making it unsuitable for free wheel bikes. This will have a drastic effect on most users if they do not have a fixed wheel track bike, and it won't be suitable for our youngest members, who currently ride at Maindy. In addition, you will be unable to cycle to the facility on a track bike, as it is law you bike must have a brake. We note that a 1km closed circuit loop is proposed, and this is welcomed, but it would appear to be something that is open access rather than something a club could use exclusively for training. It also won't give our members the velodrome experience that they currently have at Maindy. We have been provided with no information on the costs for users of the facilities or what availability there would be for clubs other than Maindy Flyers. In the absence of such information, it is difficult to determine if the proposed velodrome would be a suitable replacement.

It is welcomed that there is a commitment that any replacement facility would be operational before the proposed closure of Maindy, but we have concerns over the timescales. Given that a detailed business case has not been developed or approved by Cardiff Council, and the proposal has yet to reach planning application stage, completion in 2022 seems unrealistic. There is therefore a real danger that the city could be left without a facility. If the existing track was retained, the timescales would be less critical.

Estyn

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

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

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

Introduction

The proposal is by Cardiff City Council.

The proposal is for the expansion and redevelopment of Cathays High School in line with Band B 21st Century Schools priority schemes. Five secondary schools are included in Cardiff's Band B 21st Century schools programme, including Cathays High School.

Summary / Conclusion

The proposer outlines the benefits of the proposal in addressing the expansion and redevelopment of Cathays High School in line with Band B 21st Century Schools priority schemes. These proposals take account of the projected increasing intakes to secondary education in a number of areas of Cardiff in the period until 2024, and the continuing need for these places in the period that follows. The proposal addresses a plan to provide sufficient capacity to allow the projected number of children within the Cathays High School catchment area who require a place in an English-medium community high school.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has provided a clear rationale for the proposal. It is to expand Cathays High School from 1,072 places (5.5 Forms of Entry with 247 sixth form places) to 1,450 places (8 Forms of Entry with 250 sixth form places), from September 2023.

Cathays High School is rated as a "C" category for condition, which means the buildings are poor condition with major defects. A significant percentage of its accommodation is demountable accommodation. To support the Council's aim to ensure that school facilities are fit for purpose, the proposal describes the intention to replace the Cathays High School

buildings with new build accommodation on the Maindy Centre site adjacent to Crown Way and North Road.

Currently a Specialist Resource Base for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) is located at Cathays High School and supports up to 16 pupils aged 11-18.

The proposed expansion of Cathays High School in new build, 21st Century accommodation presents an opportunity to develop further the specialist provision within the school and to increase the number of places available from 16 to 50. This development would help to ensure there are sufficient places to meet increased demand arising out of a growing pupil population and a growing incidence and identification of ASC in Cardiff.

The proposal highlights the challenges posed by the constrained school site, which limits access for pupils to outdoor facilities and does not include any full-size school pitch provision for pupils. It identifies that enhanced school facilities would be made available for shared use with the wider local community.

The proposer considers advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. For example, Cathays High School buildings have a backlog of maintenance issues and addressing the maintenance backlog would only address health and safety issues. This would not provide a sustainable school for the future. However, when identifying a potential increase in traffic as a disadvantage, the proposal offers little information as to how the local authority will deal with this.

The local authority identifies suitably a number of potential risks linked with the proposal, including unidentified development constraints, the possibility that they cannot secure Welsh Government funding and that the projected increase in the number of pupils does not happen. The proposer considers that based on the number of pupils in primary schools in Cardiff and proposed new housing in a number of areas of Cardiff, the last of these appears unlikely.

The proposer outlines that the proposed scheme forms part of the 21st Century School Programme and is to be funded through a Mutual Investment Model (MIM). They recognise the potential risk if the Council does not get the funding from the Welsh Government, and as a result the Council would be fully responsible for all costs relating to the proposal. In this case, the council would have to review investment options to ensure the delivery of sufficient school places. However, the proposer does not consider suitably how the reduction in places in neighbouring schools, due to the increased capacity at Cathays High, will affect the budgets of these schools.

The proposer identifies a few other options that they have considered. They note that they have considered the impact of refurbishing the current building at Cathays High School and this would address the capacity needs to Cathays High School. However, it considers that this would not be cost effective and would not significantly improve the learning environment or address the increase in the number of English-medium places required at secondary age over a wider area. The proposer identifies that the construction of new facilities for Cathays High School would take place on the nearby Maindy Centre site and

potentially on a proportion of the existing site, which it thinks is the most suitable site for the expansion and will support open community access.

The proposer gives due regard to the potential disruption to pupils during the construction work. It notes that pupils enrolled at Cathays High School would remain on their current site until the new build school facilities are ready. The Council acknowledges that change in routine and environment can be unsettling and upsetting for pupils on the Autism Spectrum. The ASC staff would support the pupils who attend the ASC SRB to enable them to adapt to the changes proposed

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on learner travel arrangements, which is likely to be limited. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's home to school transport policy. It further recognises the Council's policy to increase the use of sustainable modes of transport. The proposer supports the objectives in the Active Travel Plan ensuring that they will make improvements to on-site and off-site infrastructure required to facilitate active journeys.

The proposal shows clearly how surplus places will be affected at the school and in neighbouring schools. However, the rationale for creating extra spaces at Cathays High School appears to be based on the need to address overspill from other areas.

The proposal document identifies that the local demand for places at Cathays High School is projected to drop off slightly. It bases the proposal to create extra spaces at the school on an expectation of additional demand from new housing citywide, and notes that 'Currently there are no large planned residential developments within, or in close proximity to, the Cathays High School catchment area. This means there would be no significant increase in the child population within the catchment area as a result of new housing developments'. As a result, when considering alternative options the local authority does not provide sufficient detail as to why they have discounted expanding provision elsewhere while providing better facilities of a similar size at the new Cathays site. The proposer identifies that they have completed a suitable equalities impact assessment, although it has not included this assessment in the proposal. The proposer believes that the proposal neither enhances nor impacts negatively on equality.

The proposer has completed a suitable Welsh language impact assessment. It does not expect any negative impact on the Welsh Language from this proposal and the proposal would not change the number of Welsh-medium secondary school places available in the area.

The proposer has completed a suitable community impact assessment. The proposer believes that the proposal will enhance the opportunities for a number of community organisations to make use of Cathays High site outside of school hours.

These organisations will be consulted on the proposed changes and consideration will be given to how to support these organisations in the proposed new build school have minimal impact on the wider community. It identifies appropriately positive impacts on the community. It recognises that there are very few open spaces for residents in this area and

therefore the new development will provide space and access for the community to continue these informal activities in community green spaces. It believes that the newly built accommodation will improve access and facilities for pupils with special educational needs.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal does not provide sufficient information on the school's current performance, the standards of pupils' wellbeing, the quality of teaching or the effectiveness of leadership at the school. The proposer notes only that in 2020 the regional consortia placed the school in the green colour coded support category. The proposer has outlined the most recent Estyn inspection outcomes, however, this report is from 2013.

The proposer gives an overarching statement on how it considers standards in education will be maintained and improved. It states that it works closely with the governing bodies of schools to make sure that, standards in schools are high, that teaching is good and that leadership and governance is strong. It highlights that it does not expect the proposal to have any negative impact on the quality of standards of education. The proposer expects that 21st century school facilities will better support the delivery of high quality education.

The proposer stipulates that the proposed new 21st Century School will meet the needs of the new 'Curriculum for Wales' for learners (3-16) which is due to be implemented in Welsh schools from 2022. It proposes that the expansion and redevelopment of Cathays High School will provide facilities that allow for real-world practical learning with local organisations and employers context. The proposer mitigates the risk of the proposed changes, by ensuring that they would be planned carefully so that the schools leadership and governance are not disrupted, which could have a negative impact on educational outcomes.

The proposer suitably considered that the proposal would strengthen the current provision offered for pupils with special educational needs. There is currently a Specialist Resource Base for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) located at Cathays High School which supports up to 16 pupils aged 11-18. The proposed new school, as a 21st Century school building would tailor the new SRB facilities to the needs of the young people who access it. The proposer aims to design the new resource base to fit the pupils' learning needs and to provide a calm and structured environment to help with anxiety and sensory challenges.

The proposer does not believe there will be any impact on pupils with English as an additional language. There is no information available that suggests that the proposals would have a negative effect on pupils at the school who receive Free School Meals. The proposer notes that there would be no negative effect on provision for any ethnic group. The options, suggest that Cathays High School will enhance the learning experiences and opportunities to all ethnic groups by making use of the expertise and skills within the local area.