

APPENDIX 7

Formal responses to consultation:

- Local Members for Gabalfa - Cllrs Rhys Taylor and Ashley Wood
- Estyn
- Cathays High School Governing Body
- Cathays High School Headteacher
- Gladstone Primary School Chair of Governors
- Whitchurch High School Headteacher
- Cardiff Ajax Cycling Club
- Cardiff Junior Triathlon Club
- Whitchurch Cycling Club

The expansion and redevelopment of Cathays High School

Cllr Rhys Taylor

Cllr 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.

Estyn's response to the proposed redevelopment of Cathays High School

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.

Cathays High School Governing Body

The Cathays High School Governing Body gave their response via the online consultation form:

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

- The Governing Body recognises the rationale for increasing the numbers at Cathays High and increasing to an 8 FE intake. We appreciate the Local Authority's recognition of Cathays High School's sustained success as a Green school with a good Estyn judgement and that Cathays' success with ensuring all pupils make progress. We would agree, therefore, that the school is well-placed in terms of teaching, learning, wellbeing and leadership capacity to increase in size. The Governing Body also recognises the improved opportunities in terms of economies of scale of increasing to a more optimum 8FE from the current 6FE. The school is well placed to receive pupils from all over the city due to our proximity to main public transport routes. This will enable an increase in numbers without significant increases in traffic or air pollution.

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

- The Governing Body is in complete agreement that the school will benefit significantly from a new school building and enhanced community facilities. These are urgently needed so that our pupils, families, staff and community have access to the state-of-the-art, 21st century facilities to which other school communities have been able to enjoy. The new facilities will be integral to ensuring we continue our journey as an excellent school. It will allow us to develop our new curriculum for Wales at Cathays with flexible and purpose-built facilities. As a school, we will also use these facilities to ensure the very best teaching and learning in every classroom and that we continue to be an inclusive and welcoming community.
- Having a new build will mean that these aims can be built into the very fabric of the building from the outset, ensuring that they are integrated parts of the school. We will use the new facilities to become a school at the heart of our community taking the opportunity to use these facilities to build a strong local community for Cathays and Cardiff, ensuring that we develop young people invested in, and feeling a clear sense of belonging to, their local society.

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?

- The Governing Body totally supports the proposal to increase the size of the SRB from 16 to 50. As a school, we pride ourselves on our strong inclusive culture and ethos. We have developed an outstanding SRB that has seen many young people successfully overcome barriers to learning and social inclusion to gain strong qualifications, improved social skills and clear learning and career pathways after

their time with us ends. The main barrier to us expanding this successful provision and supporting more young people is the physical limitations of our school, even though we currently have 21 students within the SRB. The new, purpose-built facilities will allow us to use our expertise and experience to support more young people who would otherwise not be able to access the facilities and provision.

Are there any changes you think could improve these proposals?

- It is vital that the school has the sporting facilities on-site that have been promised in the initial consultation. Students of Cathays High School have been significantly disadvantaged over many years with a lack of on-site sporting pitches and facilities and this needs to be rectified in the new design and build. We need to ensure that there is ample on-site parking for those staff that are unable to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to school. In other recent school site developments, this has not been ensured and staff have ended up having to park in the residential streets. The Governing Body would whole-heartedly support a more developed active travel plan for those students and staff where this was a feasible option. The security of the site needs to be of paramount importance. The Governing Body understands that new designs have to follow Welsh Government regulations on site security but would like to emphasise the importance of this. The Governing Body would also wish to emphasise the need for a building that is as carbon neutral as possible in both the building process and the finished design and build.

Cathays High School – Headteacher

The Headteacher of Cathays High School gave their response via the online consultation form:

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

- The additional places are needed to support all children in Cardiff being able to have high quality secondary education. Cathays High School is a good school with strong outcomes for all pupils and very high quality teaching and learning which can benefit more young people in the city. Furthermore, the school is perfectly situated geographically to take pupils from all over the city given the ample public transport links with the rest of the city which will mean the increase in pupils should not see a correspondingly high increase in the amount of traffic as a result.
- The increase for the school will take it to an 8 form of entry which is a more optimal number in terms of securing value for money without losing the benefits that having a close-knit community brings in terms of all colleagues knowing the needs of all the young people we support. It will also ensure that we are able to ensure that other schools across the city do not go over the 10FE optimal number which could make them less effective.

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

- Cathays High's building was first opened in 1932 as two single-sex grammar schools for around 500 students combined. We are now a high school of over 1,000 students with less space than the original grammar had. The subsequent temporary accommodation is inadequate to meet our needs in many places. We are also a very over-crowded site with limited space for young people and staff to work, learn, play at break and lunch or undertake extra-curricular activities. There are no sports pitches at Cathays and children and staff have to be transported to Heath Park to undertake field sports which limits what can be undertaken and cuts into the curriculum time for the PE team.
- Also, our ability to support the local community with sports, cultural and activity space is very limited. This is an area we would love to be able to provide a better service in and to develop links with community groups so that we can utilise the knowledge and expertise in our curriculum to enable our young people to learn new skills and have new experiences. This would hopefully ensure that the new facilities will be a key part of building strong local communities with young people invested in their local area, giving them a feeling of belonging and care for Cathays, Cardiff and Wales.

- Cathays High School is an excellent school in many ways with very talented, committed and hard-working pupils and staff. What we don't have at the moment is an outstanding building, facilities or site. The young people, families, staff and wider community of Cathays deserve the chance to live, work, and have access to these state-of-the-art buildings and facilities.

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?

- Cathays High's SRB is well-established and has been judged as providing excellent support and education for young people on the autistic spectrum. It has secured excellent outcomes from starting points of all the children who have been part of the provision enabling them to have onward learning pathways once they have completed their secondary education. The colleagues of the SRB develop strong and meaningful relationships with the families of the young people who access the SRB and have ensured that they work together to provide the very best support for our students. Therefore, it is a sensible and well-reasoned plan to increase the number of places available in the SRB on a purpose-built site.
- There are increasing needs for SRB placements within Cardiff that often outstrip the supply of places across the city. Cathays High is currently limited by our small site and facilities from expanding the SRB any further. It is imperative therefore, that a well-established and successful SRB is allowed to expand to meet this increased need in a cost-effective and value-for-money provision.

Are there any changes you think could improve these proposals?

- I would urge the cabinet to consider the closure of Crown Way to through traffic as it is currently a hazard to children attending the school and requires a significant amount of resource to supervise the starts and ends of each school day.

Do you have any other comments?

- I think it is absolutely essential to the continued success of Cathays High that it has a new site and facility to bring into the 21st century and provides the young people, their families, the staff and the wider-community of Cathays and Cardiff with access to purpose-built state of the art facilities. It will enable us to plan a meaningful new curriculum which meets the needs of our community and recognises and celebrates the diversity of our community and our similarities as citizens of Cardiff, Wales and the world. As a school, we would relish the opportunity to better meet the needs of our wider-community through building on the success of our Family Learning Group and providing access to our facilities and engagement in our pupils' curriculum.

Gladstone Primary School – Chair of Governors

A response from the Chair of Governors at Gladstone Primary School included the following points:

- All pupils attending all schools in the Cathays and Gabalfa area need access to 'green' outdoor space which is at a premium on all sites. It is vital that the plans for the expansion of Cathays High School do not adversely impact upon the local primaries ability to access the facilities currently offered at the Maindy site. For example swimming lessons in the pool, use of the area inside the velodrome to develop cycling skills, use of the site for sports days and other sporting events.

Whitchurch High School - Headteacher

The Headteacher at Whitchurch High School gave their response via the online consultation form:

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

- Assuming that the need in the southern part of the city is confirmed and that this increase doesn't affect pupil numbers in neighbouring schools.

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

- The current school building is clearly no longer fit for 21st century learning.

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?

- Given the projected need, this would make sense.

Do you have any other comments?

- I think that there would need to be an absolute commitment that increasing pupil numbers in Cathays does not have a detrimental effect on pupil numbers in neighbouring secondary schools.

Cardiff Ajax Cycling Club

The proposals overall appear to be potentially beneficial to the community as a whole. The Cycling Club's interest is in relation to the closure and relocation of the velodrome as a result of the proposed expansion.

Cardiff Junior Triathlon Club

Maindy Leisure Centre is our home training facility. We ask that when the school is designed some area is made available for us to continue to be able to run & cycle in a safe enclosed area.

Whitchurch Cycling Club

- 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.