

## Appendix 7

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

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

### Local Member response

3. Cllrs Rhys Taylor and Ashley Wood submitted a response which included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6)
  - *We welcome the intention to grow the provision of Welsh medium education in the community and that the council secured funding to expand the provision of Welsh medium education in the area in 2018.*
  - *The lack of a long-term solution, while perhaps well intentioned, will likely delay the point at which YMB is able to grow and admit the number of parents within catchment who wish for their children to attend a local Welsh medium primary school.*
  - *Our view has always been that the council should have entered into informal discussion with schools in the area about the potential options in order to identify whether schools would be amenable to exploring these further, in advance of any statutory consultation.*
  - *During the public meetings, many residents contacted us feeling that the council had failed to recognise the valid concerns about the proposals and the impact of temporary arrangements on staff, children, and their experiences, including concerns about language immersion, demographics, and safeguarding.*
  - *During the course of the consultation window, we have repeatedly heard about the stark differences in the backgrounds and characteristics of the children in attendance at the two schools. Whilst this is borne out in the evidence, we are concerned about the perception of Welsh medium education as exclusive or exclusionary.*

### Appraisal of views expressed

4. The Council welcomes the support for the proposed expansion of Welsh-medium primary school provision.

5. The Council is committed to the development and expansion of Welsh-medium education, and to meeting the targets set by the Welsh Government in its Cymraeg 2050 strategy.
6. In accordance with the timetable set by Welsh Government, the Council is working closely with its partners on the Cardiff Welsh Education Forum to develop the new ten year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for the city. It is expected the plan will be available for public consultation in autumn 2021 before being submitted for approval to the Welsh Government in early 2022. The first ten year Plan will commence on 1 September 2022 and expire on 31 August 2032.
7. Consultation on the draft WESP will seek views on how best to grow Welsh-medium education and on how to meet the local targets set by Welsh Government, in order to inform future proposals. The consultation on the WESP will seek the views of a wide range of stakeholders city-wide, and also in the communities who responded to this consultation.
8. As part of the consultation the Council sought the views of schools, parents and the wider community on a how best to provide primary school places to serve the area in the long term, taking into account the need to expand Welsh-medium provision serving the existing catchment area of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan by 1 form of entry and a reduction in English-medium surplus places to serve the combined catchment areas of Allensbank Primary School, Albany Primary School and Gladstone Primary School.
9. A number of suggestions have been put forward and these will be considered in detail ahead of proposed options for a long term solution being brought forward. There is sufficient capacity across the wider area to accommodate demand for Welsh-medium places in September 2021 and until the 2023/24 school year based on the current pattern of uptake of places; however, longer term changes to provision would need to be made in order to make progress towards the Cymraeg 2050 targets.
10. School organisation proposals are consulted on at the formative stage. A range of views have been expressed during the consultation and these will be considered fully as part of the decision making process.
11. The option of Welsh-medium education is available to all pupils in Cardiff and parents are made aware of this when applying for a school place. It is acknowledged that the Welsh-medium schools are less diverse than English-medium schools. The Council is committed to the development of Welsh-medium education and as part of the development of its 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which is due for adoption in 2022, consideration is being given to ways in which Welsh-medium can be expanded to include children from all backgrounds.

**Estyn**

12. Estyn submitted a response which included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6)
- *The proposal that is outlined within this consultation document will enable more children to take advantage of the Welsh-medium education that is available at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan by extending provision further by sharing a site with Allensbank Primary School, which is a local English-medium primary school. The proposal supports the growth of Welsh-medium education in Cardiff suitably, and supports Welsh Government's aspirations in line with Cymraeg 2050. When considering the risks in relation to the possibility that there may not be an increase in the number of pupils requiring Welsh-medium education, in comparison with an increase in demand for English-medium education in the future, the proposer states that the Council will monitor this situation while planning further for accommodation at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary School.*
  - *Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to maintain the existing standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management for children in the area in the short term.*
  - *The proposer notes that the proposal addresses the shortfall in terms of access to Welsh medium in the area in the short term in the Mynydd Bychan catchment. The proposal also references the need for a long term solution to ensuring accessible entry to Welsh medium education, and mentions the potential of locating a new build Welsh medium school in the area. The proposer cites that there isn't a suitable location available at present. However in a separate consultation, the proposer is considering expanding the existing Cathays High school with a new build accommodation on the Maindy Centre site. The proposer does not explain why this site is not a potential option for a new Welsh medium primary school.*
  - *The proposer outlines relevant information about the proposal's effect on the schools' standards; learning experiences; care, support and guidance; and leadership and management. The information shows that implementing this proposal will not have a detrimental effect on pupils at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary School in these areas. However, there is no reference to implementing the Curriculum for Wales in September 2022 or the way in which both schools will be able to develop the philosophy of the foundation phase further. The buildings and sites of both schools are not suitable to expand provision to develop learners' skills by using the outdoor space more proactively. In addition, the proposer does not elaborate on promoting pupils' health and wellbeing within the constrained sites of both schools effectively enough.*
  - *The proposer gives appropriate consideration to the proposal's effect on different groups of pupils. The information that is provided highlights that diversity is an integral part of the community, with a wide range of pupils who are identified as belonging to minority ethnic groups at both schools, for example 13.5% at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, and 76.7% at Allensbank Primary School. However, the proposer does not anticipate that any particular group*

*of pupils, including those who are eligible for free school meals, will be at a disadvantage as a result of implementing this proposal. Overall, the information within this proposal outlines the Council's lack of strategic long-term planning in relation to Welsh-medium education. As a result, this causes ambiguity and discontent among leaders, practitioners, governing bodies and parents within the city as they seek to forward-plan provision in their schools purposefully within their local communities.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

13. The Council acknowledges the conclusions of Estyn on the overall merits of the proposals.
14. The proposed expansion and redevelopment of Cathays High school is subject to a separate consultation. Part of the existing school site is to be retained in order that the proposed expanded Cathays High School may meet the site area requirements set out for schools on confined sites in Building Bulletin guidance. There is insufficient space to accommodate a primary school on the site.
15. There is sufficient capacity available within the existing school estate to accommodate the number of Welsh-medium and English-medium places to serve the area in both the short and long term. As set out in the consultation document, reorganising primary school provision within the local area would result in creating additional Welsh-medium primary provision whilst retaining an appropriate number of English-medium places to meet demand within the locality based on population projections and historic take up patterns.
16. As set out in the consultation document the Council works closely with the governing bodies of schools to ensure that standards in schools are high, that teaching is good and that leadership and governance is strong. As part of this the Council has been working with schools to develop provision including the philosophy of the Foundation Phase ahead of implementation of the Curriculum for Wales in 2022.
17. The buildings and sites of both schools are suitable to expand provision to develop learners' skills by using the outdoor space more proactively. The Council does not expect this proposal to have any negative impact on the quality of standards of education or the delivery of the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.
18. Pupils' health and wellbeing is an ongoing priority. All schools have a suitable range of policies and provision in place to promote pupils' health and wellbeing. Schools are committed to fostering school communities in which learning is valued and pupils achieve their potential in a happy and safe environment in which they show respect and tolerance for others. The Council would work with the leadership of each of the schools to make sure everyone at the school understands their responsibility for helping to improve and sustain care, support and guidance.

19. Schools serve a diverse range of communities and largely reflect their local population, however it is acknowledged that the Welsh-medium schools are at present less diverse than English-medium schools. The Council is committed to the development of Welsh-medium education and as part of the development of its 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which is due for adoption in 2022 consideration is being given to ways in which Welsh-medium can be expanded to increase the number of children from all backgrounds attending.
20. Issues related to the long term development of Welsh-medium education are addressed at paragraph(s) 5 – 9.

### **Member of Parliament response**

21. Anna McMorris MP submitted a response which included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6)
  - *As your consultation rightly seeks to address, there is a clear need to ensure the appropriate balance of Welsh medium and English medium primary school places in the constituency. Yet the short-term nature of these proposals does not seem conducive to adequate advancement of Welsh medium education provision, whilst also having an apparent detrimental impact on Allensbank as an English medium school.*
  - *I understand that the current proposals will use the Welsh Government capital grant funding for Welsh medium provision to temporarily refurbish the English medium provision at Allensbank to accommodate Welsh medium pupils. I do not feel that this is appropriate use of this capital grant funding. The grant was given to support the increase in Welsh medium provision and shouldn't therefore be used on inadequate, temporary refurbishments in an English medium school, especially when both Allensbank and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan are unanimously against these proposals.*
  - *I have previously highlighted with the Council the option of redeveloping the Cathays High school site as an example to form a purpose built Welsh language school to meet current demands and future needs and I'd be interested to know whether this is a feasible option that is being considered.*
  - *The reduction of space for Allensbank by housing pupils from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan is likely to have a detrimental impact on Allensbank staff morale. Similarly, there are concerns that Ysgol Mynydd Bychan's pupils on the Allensbank site would not have the same quality of education because of the lack of outside space for them. Staff and pupils would be segregated and isolated from participating as part of the wider school community at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan. This loss of a sense of school community would be a devastating and detrimental to overall staff and pupil wellbeing.*
  - *Both Headteachers have relayed the health and safety concerns that the proposals present. For Allensbank those concerns are more immediate given the plans for September 2021. I understand that Allensbank is already undoing significant building and repair work and with the added factor of*

*Covid-19 and associated precautions this will not only cause challenges for staff but Allensbank believe that this will lead to working conditions that are contrary to their health and safety measures. If teachers ultimately don't feel safe in their workplace then schools could face issues with staff retention.*

- *The percentage of ethnic minority pupils at Allensbank stands at 75%, with Ysgol Mynydd Bychan standing at less than 15%. It is therefore important for the Council to consider any potential impact these proposals may have on ethnic minority communities and diversity and inclusion.*
- *A notable concern from both schools is the poor timing of the consultation and the negative impact it will have on the wellbeing of staff at an already incredibly difficult time. When schools' main focus is overcoming the major challenges this pandemic has thrown at them, it is understandable that schools feel that this consultation is poorly timed.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

22. Local authorities must ensure that there are sufficient schools providing primary and secondary education for their area.
23. Issues related to the long term provision of primary school places to serve the area are addressed at paragraph(s) 5 – 9.
24. Issues related to the Cathays High School site are addressed paragraph(s) 14.
25. Any works required to adapt the Allensbank Primary Schools buildings to accommodate an expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in the interim would be funded through the Council's asset programme. The Welsh Government capital grant funding would only be used for permanent changes to increase the number of Welsh-medium places available.
26. The operation of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan over a split site would enable pupils to have increased access to outdoor space overall. The Council has not proposed the segregation of outdoor space between the schools.
27. The Council acknowledges the need to consider the morale for staff and pupils. School staff have been central to the continued education of children during the course of the pandemic. All schools have policies and practices in place to support staff and pupils with a range of wellbeing resources also available.
28. In the event of the proposal being progressed the Council would work with both schools to ensure that staff and pupils were appropriately supported and that quality and standards of education were maintained.
29. The Council works with schools to ensure that all necessary health and safety measures are in place across Cardiff and that working environments are both safe and appropriate. This would continue to be the case.
30. Access to education in Cardiff is on an equal basis. All schools operate in accordance with the requirements of the Equalities Act and policies and practices

are in place to support this. Schools also have a duty to produce a Strategic Equality Plan to support equality of opportunity.

### **Member of the Senedd Response**

31. Julie Morgan AS/MS submitted a response which included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6)

- *The proposals outlined in the consultation document go some way to alleviating the problems surrounding the lack of Welsh-medium school provision in Cardiff North. However, it is felt that the plans are not sustainable in the long-term as a solution to tackling the demand for Welsh-medium school places.*
- *Concerns have been expressed to me about the lack of detail about what would happen to both schools when these temporary measures end. Would this be the start of the end for Allensbank Primary, for example.*
- *Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary school are demographically very different schools. In Allensbank, the percentage of ethnic minority pupils within the school is 75%, whereas Ysgol Mynydd Bychan is 15%. As a result, Allensbank needs to accommodate English as a second or third language support lessons and needs the space and facility to do this.*
- *I have also been told that should there be a split-site at Allensbank Primary, the playground would be segregated to keep the children apart so that Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils could remain immersed in the Welsh language throughout the whole of the school day. I also understand that there would be separate entrances and separate toilet facilities for both of the schools. I and others are concerned that this will create a feeling of ‘otherness’ between the children.*
- *I understand that the proposals mean that Allensbank Primary would see some refurbishment, solely because of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan forming part of the site. I have been lobbying for many years for Allensbank Primary to receive much-needed maintenance and refurbishment work as the building is in a worrying state of repair. Whilst I am pleased that the proposal would mean that some of this work would be done, I am concerned that without it the work would not have been undertaken.*
- *I understand that a proposal has been discussed in the past about a school swap between the two schools so I do feel that this should be looked into and discussed again. I would also like to broach the idea of a purpose-built joint English and Welsh medium school, such as Ysgol Glan Ceubal and Gabalfa Primary school, in place of the present Cathays High school when its new building has been completed. This could then form the basis of a community hub in the area where playing fields and facilities which would be available for the whole community to use.*

## **Appraisal of views expressed**

32. Issues related to the long term provision of primary school places to serve the area are addressed at paragraph(s) 5 – 9.
33. The published capacity of Allensbank Primary School is 315, arranged over separate infant and junior buildings. The school also operates a 64 place nursery provision and a Speech and Language early intervention class for up to 8 Foundation Phase pupils.
34. The school could however accommodate up to 420 pupils plus nursery, or up to 360 pupils plus nursery and an Early Intervention Class provision.
35. The take up of places at the school has been consistently lower than the number of places available with the school operating with c41% surplus capacity, compared to its published capacity of 315 places (January 2020), but much higher when compared to its total available places. The available capacity and configuration of the site would allow for additional provision to be accommodated on site without Allensbank Primary School provision being adversely affected.
36. Site sharing arrangements exist on a number of school sites across Cardiff successfully. The day to day running of the schools would be a matter for the Headteachers and Governing Bodies to agree with support from the Council.
37. The Council is investing in Allensbank Primary School as part of the Asset Management Programme. Any changes needed to accommodate an expanded Ysgol Mynydd Bychan would be in addition to this.
38. The alternative proposal put forward is noted. A number of alternatives have been put forward during the consultation and these will be considered as part of the assessment of a long term solution for the area.
39. Issues related to the Cathays High School site are addressed paragraph(s) 14.

## **Allensbank Primary School Governing Body**

40. A response from Allensbank Primary School Governing Body included the following points: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6)
  - *Since the appointment of the current Head teacher in 2013 Allensbank Primary School has made continuous improvement in its performance, moving from category red, through orange to yellow. All staff have worked tirelessly to realise this accomplishment.*
  - *As an illustration during the academic year 2019/20 there were 22 more pupils (190) on roll in July than in September (168) and more pertinently, between July and September there were 32 pupils who left Allensbank and 48 new pupils who started. This means that the total number of pupils*

receiving education at Allensbank for at least a part of the school year was 238 (not including nursery).

- *Allensbank Primary prides itself on its inclusivity and if the pupils of Mynydd Bychan were to be integrated into the school community then we would welcome the addition.*
- *However, having considered the proposals in more depth, it is plain that this is not to be the case. It would appear that session times including playtimes would be different and there would be separate use of facilities for outdoor education, toilet access etc. The governing body is therefore concerned that the practical logistics of the proposed shared provision will prevent the development of inclusivity in a collaborative school setting.*
- *We also have practical concerns about space and how the space will be used. Allensbank does have surplus classrooms but due to the nature of our pupil population we need the capacity to accommodate different groupings of pupils so as to engage with them in different ways. In addition our outdoor space is very limited and extra demands on it will be detrimental to our delivery of the outdoor curriculum learning to Allensbank pupils.*
- *This disparity is startling and whilst the provision may well 'be accessible to all ethnic groups' as is the current provision, that is a very different matter from, 'will be accessed by all ethnic groups'... There is clear discrimination here, if not by intent then certainly by practice. There will in addition be exacerbating segregation by language and socio-economic status.*
- *There would be a possible negative effect on the morale of the staff of Allensbank due to the reduction of space and facilities especially if the timing was coincident with any redundancies or staff restructuring. There would undoubtedly be a negative effect on the morale of the Mynydd Bychan staff on the Allensbank site who would be isolated from their colleagues both socially and in terms of professional support.*
- *There would be the possibility of resentment among parents of Allensbank pupils caused by the reduction of space and facilities. The observable differences in ethnicity between the two groups of pupils could aggravate any grievance felt. There would be probable disappointment among parents of Mynydd Bychan pupils due to the loss of regular social interaction with other parents and also to the reduction both of their children's socialisation and Welsh language immersion through mixing with pupils of different ages.*
- *There would be a possible negative effect on the morale of pupils of Allensbank due to the reduction of space and facilities, especially if the timing was coincident with the loss of members of staff. Again the*

*observable differences in ethnicity between the two groups of pupils could aggravate any grievance felt.*

- There would be a feeling of isolation among Mynydd Bychan pupils on being separated from the rest of their school whilst at the same time being segregated from Allensbank pupils. They will miss the friendship and support of children of different ages as well as possibly siblings. They will also miss the Welsh language support that a larger grouping of staff and pupils provides.*
- The staffing by Mynydd Bychan to support such a small number of pupils in isolation will be disproportionate resulting either in understaffing at the main site or strain on their budget.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

41. It is acknowledged that the Governing Body of Allensbank Primary School have a number of concerns regarding the proposed changes.
42. The Council recognises that Allensbank Primary School is a good school that has progressed from a category red to category yellow school and commends the work of the Governing Body, the Headteacher and staff.
43. The take up of places at Allensbank Primary School has been consistently far lower than the number of places available with the school operating with c41% surplus capacity, compared to its published capacity of 315 places (January 2020). This is expected to remain the case.
44. Consultation on the 2022/23 admission arrangements for community schools took place from 18 December 2020 – 5 February 2021 in accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code. The consultation included the proposed changes to the Published Admission Number of Allensbank Primary School.
45. At its meeting on 18 March 2021 the Cabinet agreed the Council's School Admission Arrangements 2022/2023 as set out in the Admission Policy 2022/2023.
46. The integration of any Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils at Allensbank Primary School would be a matter for both Headteachers and Governing Bodies. There are successful site sharing arrangements across Cardiff and the proposal would provide opportunities for the further development of partnership working to the benefit of both schools. The day to day workings of schools are the responsibility of Headteachers and Governing Bodies and agreement around session times etc would be a matter for both schools.
47. Issues related to accommodation are addressed at paragraphs 34 – 36.
48. The Council does not accept the Allensbank Governing Body's assertion that pupils would be discriminated against. Access to education in Cardiff in on an

equal basis and all schools operate in accordance with the requirements of the Equalities Act with policies and procedures in place to support this.

49. Issues related to the racial makeup of schools is addressed at paragraph(s) 19.
50. Issues related to staff and pupil morale are addressed at paragraph(s) 27 – 28.
51. The staffing structure of a school is directly related to the number of pupils on roll. The proposal for an expanded Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to be accommodated at Allensbank Primary School would not impact on the staffing levels at Allensbank Primary School. The number of pupils enrolled at Allensbank Primary School has already fallen below one form of entry. It is the responsibility of schools to ensure that any staffing changes are managed in line with agreed policies and communicated to pupils and parents in an appropriate way.
52. In the event that the proposal is progressed, the facilities available would be suitable for all pupils. The Council would work with both schools to ensure that the proposed changes were communicated to parents in a clear and concise way with the opportunity for any queries or concerns to be addressed and to support continued good relations with all parents and the local community.
53. It is acknowledged that pupils at Allensbank Primary School have concerns due to a potential reduction in space compared to the additional space that is available at present as a consequence of a high level of surplus places. The Council would work with both schools to ensure that the spaces and facilities available for both sets of pupils was appropriate.
54. Any Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils accommodated on the Allensbank Primary School site would remain on the roll of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and the expectation is that these pupils would continue to be appropriately supported, educationally and emotionally.
55. The staffing of any Ysgol Mynydd Bychan provision on the Allensbank Primary School site would be a matter for the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan Headteacher and Governing Body to consider with any increase in the number of children on roll at the school reflected in the school budget.

#### **Allensbank Primary School Headteacher**

56. A response from the Headteacher of Allensbank Primary School included the following: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6):
  - *As headteacher since September 2013, I have been privileged to work with a highly dedicated and caring staff in order to bring about ongoing improvement in terms of school performance. This has resulted in a strong report from ESTYN in January 2020 which I as Headteacher am very proud of. This report highlights the supportive ethos of the school which caters effectively for the diverse community which it serves in an environment where everyone is equally valued.*

- *Since July 2020 there have been a total of 17 pupils either joining or leaving this cohort. Although the number of pupils shown on roll remains static to those viewing our data through simplistic snapshots, the number of pupils catered for within this cohort since just July 2020 is already above 40. With the Local Authority projecting an increase in the number of pupils within the Allensbank catchment area, increasing numbers of parents choosing Allensbank based on reputation and ongoing high levels of mobility, we expect to see pupil numbers continuing to fluctuate beyond the level of 1FE. A reduction in the size of Allensbank would negatively impact upon Cardiff's ability as a city to meet the needs of a diverse and mobile society moving forward.*
- *It is my opinion that rather than focusing on short term, temporary solutions this available funding for Welsh medium provision would be best used to develop Welsh medium provision that is fit for 2050. The current proposals seek to temporarily refurbish the English medium provision at Allensbank to accommodate Welsh medium pupils.*
- *Exploring the use/redevelopment of the Cathays High school site for example would allow the provision of a centrally placed school within the city with the potential to increase capacity beyond 2FE.*
- *I have huge concerns on an operational level regarding the proposal to house pupils from another school on our site. I strongly feel that this will negatively impact staff and pupil well-being for both Allensbank and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan. The whole ethos of Allensbank is based around inclusivity. Having pupils from two separate school communities entering and leaving the building separately and using separate facilities goes completely against this culture.*
- *There is likely to be a negative impact on staff morale due to a reduction in space within the building and the burden of sharing facilities on a site that already imposes severe restrictions on teaching and learning due to the nature of the buildings and the limited amount of outdoor learning space. The lack of a long-term solution or outcome within the proposals also means that staff face an extended period of uncertainty linked to the security of their positions. There would also be a negative effect on Mynydd Bychan staff as they would have colleagues isolated on the Allensbank site. This would lead to problems around social interaction, professional development and also cause concern in relation to health and safety and safeguarding arrangements.*

- *There is likely to be a negative affect on the morale of pupils of Allensbank due to the reduction space and facilities on site. This will affect pupils most in terms of their access and use of outdoor provision. Currently the use of the outdoor learning environment by Allensbank pupils is limited due to the physicality of the building and the need to juggle the use of the outdoors alongside managing break and lunch times which make use of a single outdoor space. If there was a need to further manage the times when free flow access could be achieved due to the site being accessed by pupils, parents or staff from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, this would severely impact on the school's ability to offer provision in line with the Foundation Phase Curriculum.*
- *The negative impact for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils would arise through being segregated from the rest of their school as well as being kept apart from Allensbank pupils. They would not benefit from older role models when developing their use of the Welsh language, nor would they have any feeling of school community in a situation where they would need to be walked up and down the road in order to participate in whole school events.*
- *I am deeply concerned about how parents will view the reduction in terms of Allensbank provision as a school in order to cater for a small number of pupils within new facilities within the building. Any newly constructed areas within the building are currently planned to house Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils rather than benefiting Allensbank pupils in any way.*
- *The percentage of Ethnic minority pupils within each Primary School within the Cathays area is currently Allensbank Primary (75%), Gladstone Primary (80%), Albany Primary (80%), St Monica's (70%) and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan less than 15%. From these figures it is a significant concern that the ethnic minority community around Allensbank will be impacted upon by the planned proposals.*
- *Finally, given the current situation surrounding Covid-19, my overriding concerns surround the changes that are planned for September 2021 and the implications of building work on site.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

57. It is acknowledged that the Headteacher of Allensbank Primary School has a number of concerns regarding the proposed changes.
58. The Council recognises the school's positive Estyn report in January 2020 and commends the work of the Governing Body, the Headteacher and staff.

59. Allensbank Primary School has the highest level of surplus places, and the greatest number of surplus classrooms, not used as classbases, in the local area. There is a significant level of surplus places in English-medium primary schools in the wider area.
60. The table below sets out details of the number of children on roll at Allensbank Primary School from 2015 – 2019.

**Number of Pupils on Roll at Allensbank Primary School 2015 - 2019**

	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jan-16	40	32	45	35	38	27	29	246
Jan-17	24	48	30	43	37	29	22	233
Jan-18	25	25	36	26	39	29	22	202
Jan-19	30	26	25	34	30	33	26	204
Jan-20	19	27	25	26	30	27	31	185

61. In January 2020, 185 pupils were enrolled, compared to a maximum capacity in the school buildings of up to 420 pupils. The high level of unfilled places at Allensbank Primary School is projected to continue. There is no data available to suggest that the number of pupils enrolling at Allensbank Primary School would exceed 210 in future years.
62. Where there is a higher than necessary number of school places, resources are having to be utilised that could be better used to improve the quality of education for all learners. Combined with this are the difficulties associated with operating a primary school with a high proportion of its places unfilled. The size of the school, and the relatively low number of pupils on roll, means that the school will face financial difficulties.
63. Issues related to the long term development of Welsh-medium education are addressed at paragraph(s) 5 – 9.
64. Issues related to the Cathays High School site area addressed at paragraph(s) 14.
65. Issues related to staff and pupil wellbeing and morale are addressed at paragraph(s) 27 - 28.
66. It is not expected that there will be any reduction in the provision available at Allensbank Primary School with sufficient space available to provide appropriately for all pupils. Issues related to the parental views of accommodation area addressed at paragraph 52.
67. It is not expected that there would be any negative impact on the ethnic minority community around Allensbank. There is no data available to suggest that the number of pupils enrolling at Allensbank Primary School would exceed 210 in future years and there would be sufficient places available at the school and in the wider area for all those seeking an English-medium place.

68. This is reflected in the initial round of allocations for entry to Reception in September 2021. On 16 April 2021, the Council agreed the admission of all 21 applicants for admission to Allensbank Primary School, including 17 children within the catchment area of the school, compared to 45 places available at the school.
69. There was an increased intake to the Welsh-medium Reception age group in September 2020. Demand within the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan catchment area for places at entry into Reception Year in September 2020 was greater than the 30 places available at entry to Reception Year in the school. The Council received 39 first choice preferences for the school from children resident within the school's catchment area. The total demand for places within the catchment area, including lower preferences, amounted to 45 pupils.
70. However, intakes to primary schools city-wide are expected to reduce overall in coming years as the number of children in each pre-school age is lower than in recent intakes. In line with this, the Council received 33 first choice preferences for the school from children within the school's catchment area for places at entry into Reception Year in September 2021.
71. Whilst Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd (60 reception places) and Ysgol Y Wern (90 reception places) were fully subscribed at entry, each school was able to admit all applicants seeking a place in their catchment school (53 and 85 in catchment allocations respectively).
72. City-wide, whilst the percentage of children enrolling in Welsh-medium Reception places in September 2021 is similar to that in September 2020 (c18.5%), the number of places allocated has fallen from c760 to c680 as a consequence of reduced population. City-wide admissions data for the September 2021 intake confirms the anticipated reduced take up of places in Welsh-medium and English-medium schools city-wide as a consequence of a falling population.
73. City-wide, admissions data indicates that Welsh-medium Reception classes will retain c19% surplus places in the September 2021. There is sufficient capacity across the wider area to accommodate demand for Welsh-medium places in September 2021 and until the 2023/24 school year based on the current pattern of uptake of places. Therefore there will be no change to the number of places available at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in September 2021.

### **Ysgol Mynydd Bychan Governing Body**

74. A response from the Governing Body of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan included the following: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6):

*YMB is fully supportive of the Welsh Government's long-term aim of significantly increasing the number of Welsh speakers as set out in its Cymraeg 2050 strategy document – this includes the aim for 40% of all children to be in Welsh-medium education by 2050. YMB is also pleased to see that the Council has been proactive in seeking, and successfully obtaining, grant funding to support capital investments that facilitate growth in Welsh-medium education and use of the*

*Welsh language. Given the consistent oversubscription for places at YMB over several years, it is recognised that YMB's current catchment area is one of many areas within the city of Cardiff where there is scope to increase the number of children in Welsh-medium education.*

*However, the collective view of the Governors is that there would be a number of disadvantages and potential risks associated with the Council's shared site proposal. These include the following:*

- A separation between the two sites might damage the overall ethos of the school, with pupils on the Allensbank Primary School site not having the opportunity to fully assimilate with the values of YMB.*
- On a more practical level, it is likely that there would be difficulties in developing pupils' everyday use of the Welsh language, particularly if yards and other areas would be shared between the two schools – this would be the case for all pupil ages but is particularly important at the foundation phase, as many of these pupils will not be from a Welsh-speaking background and so an early focus on their Welsh language skills is critical. The language immersion method practised by Welsh medium schools holds that only the immersion language is used with and around the children in the early years – through this method, it is understood that children acquire skills in that language as they play and interact with both adults and other children at the school setting.*
- There would be significant operational challenges, and potential disadvantages, in managing a school over a dual site.*
- There would be challenges in ensuring the wellbeing of YMB staff members teaching (potentially alone) on another site. There could also be potential implications in terms of safeguarding and the need to have a safeguarding officer present on another site.*
- From our current knowledge of the Allensbank Primary School site, we believe that it does not offer the same facilities as are present at YMB's current site. This includes a lack of outside learning areas including weather-proof canopies, soft/landscaped areas and disabled access/lift. We therefore feel that any pupils located on the Allensbank Primary School site would be immediately disadvantaged when compared to the facilities available at YMB's current site.*
- There are concerns, which we understand are shared by the Governing Body of Allensbank Primary School, that a school site being shared by two sets of pupils being educated in different languages may result in division and possibly a feeling of resentment from the parents of Allensbank pupils as their site is gradually occupied more and more by YMB pupils over time.*
- There is a risk that prospective parents of YMB may in fact be dissuaded from applying for places at YMB due to concerns over a shared site arrangement and a fear of their child's classroom being located on a*

*different site – this could have the effect of reducing the number of Welsh-medium places applied for from within the catchment area.*

- *Given the proposal for an additional 0.5 entry to YMB to join the Allensbank Primary School site every year, this would necessitate building works each year to adapt additional areas of the site, which would be disruptive to the pupils' education.*
- *The significant expenditure that would need to be incurred in adapting part of the Allensbank Primary School building for use by YMB on a temporary basis may reduce the prospects of the Council having the necessary funding in place and a willingness to spend it on a more suitable long-term solution.*
- *As indicated above, the Governing Body is generally fully supportive of the aim of ensuring that all demand for Welsh-medium primary education places within the catchment area is able to be met. It is simply that the Council's current proposals are not an acceptable solution given the lack of certainty that this will only be on a limited, short-term basis. We are also concerned at the risk that if the anticipated increase in demand for Welsh-medium education does not materialise to an extent which enables YMB to expand to a 1.5 or 2 form entry in the future, then YMB will be left straddled across two sites indefinitely.*
- *For these reasons, the Governing Body is of the firm view that any expansion of YMB needs to take place en bloc, rather than on the piecemeal basis that is currently being proposed, which we do not consider to be an appropriate or acceptable way to proceed. If the Council's proposal to relocate Cathays High School to a new site at the current Maindy cycle track proceeds, the current site of Cathays High School seems an obvious possibility for a new school site in the locality that would meet the increased capacity in Welsh-medium education which the Council intends to pursue –*
- *If a new school site is not going to be forthcoming, and the Council's preferred long-term solution would be a site swap between YMB and another existing school site within the local area, then it is essential that the necessary investment is put in place to deliver a scheme of improvement works which ensures that YMB's 'new' site offers the same, if not better, level of facilities as its current site. This is essential to enable YMB to continue being able to offer the level of education and opportunities to its pupils as at present, as well as to achieve the 'buy in' from YMB's parents that will be an important factor in ensuring that YMB's sense of community continues to flourish.*
- *The Governing Body is of the view that in order to allow time for a more appropriate permanent solution to be delivered, there are other options to meet the small excess demand in the short term which should be considered. It might be possible to increase the current capacity of YMB through relatively minor building alterations (e.g. utilising the current library room) – clearly, this would not be an ideal solution given that YMB is*

*already operating above its stated school capacity, but given the relatively small numbers projected over the next 2 years we feel this could be workable solution on a strictly short term basis until a permanent solution is put in place.*

- *If the long-term solution is to be a straight swap between YMB and Allensbank Primary School's existing sites, then we have considered how this could be implemented in a way which would (a) enable each school to continue operating from a single site at all times, and (b) provide an opportunity for necessary improvement works to be carried out whilst minimising the disruption to both schools:*
  - a. *In September 2022, YMB accepts additional pupils (to meet all projected applications within the catchment area) on its existing site – in all likelihood using its current library to do this.*
  - b. *In September 2022, Allensbank Primary School move every class into the two-storey building on the eastern side of the site. This would leave the one-storey building on the western side of the site vacant so that the necessary adjustment/improvement works could be made to that building prior to September 2023. The one-storey building could be improved to incorporate the Foundation Phase.*
  - c. *In September 2023, all of YMB could move into Allensbank Primary School's current site and all of Allensbank Primary School could move into YMB's current site. YMB's Foundation Phase could move into the newly-improved one-storey building on the western side of the site, and the resources that YMB would want on the yard (e.g. football pitch, goals, green area) would be in place by then. Key Stage 2 would move into one floor of the two-storey building. The necessary improvements could be made to the other floor of that building during the 2023/24 academic year.*
  - d. *For September 2024, YMB's Key Stage 2 classes could move into the newly-improved floor of the two-storey building whilst improvements are made to the rest of that building to cater for the continued increase to YMB's capacity.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

75. The Council welcomes the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan support for the proposed expansion of Welsh-medium provision. It is however acknowledged that this support does not extend to the proposed expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan as consulted on.
76. The points raised echo those raised by the Allensbank Primary School Governing Body and Headteacher.
77. Logistics associated with site sharing are matters that would be agreed between both schools with support from the Council.

78. The concerns around of the Governing Body around how the school would support language acquisition are acknowledged; however, many Welsh-medium schools in Cardiff presently share sites.
79. The next nearest Welsh-medium primary school, Ysgol Glan Ceubal, shares its site and building with Gabalfa Primary School. Similar permanent arrangements are in place at other schools including Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen Y Groes and Bryn Celyn Primary School. The majority of Welsh-medium primary schools in Cardiff have been established on sites of existing Welsh-medium schools. Cardiff has two dual stream primary schools, namely Creigiau Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod Y Garth Primary School. It is highly likely that the expansion of Welsh-medium provision to meet Cymraeg 2050 targets in future will require some site sharing arrangements in the short term or permanently.
80. The layout of the Allensbank site also includes separate buildings, which would further allay any concerns around immersion.
81. It is acknowledged that there would be challenges associated with managing a school across two sites, however an increase in the number of pupils on roll at the school would be reflected in the school budget and allow for an increased number of staff to support this.
82. Any facilities on the Allensbank Primary School site would be appropriate to the age range of pupils.
83. The cost of any works required would be met from Asset funding and would not impact on funding for any long term solution. Additionally, the Welsh Government will be investing an additional £30m to develop more Welsh-medium schools across Wales, and it is anticipated that Cardiff will receive part of this funding.
84. Issues related to the long term development of Welsh-medium education are addressed at paragraph(s) 5 – 9.
85. The concerns around anticipated increase in demand for Welsh-medium education not materialising to an extent which enables Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to expand to a 1.5 or 2 form entry in the future are acknowledged. The Council is committed to the expansion of Welsh-medium education, however intakes to primary schools city-wide are expected to reduce overall in coming years as the number of children in each pre-school age is lower than in recent intakes.
86. In the short term there is sufficient capacity across the wider area to accommodate demand for places.
87. The proposals put forward to support the development of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in the longer term are noted and will be considered in detail prior to the Council bringing forward proposals for a long term solution.

#### **Ysgol Mynydd Bychan Staff response**

88. A response from the staff of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan included the following: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6):

- *Ysgol Mynydd Bychan is fully supportive of the Welsh Government's long-term aim of significantly increasing the number of Welsh speakers as set out in its Cymraeg 2050 strategy document. Ysgol Mynydd Bychan is also pleased to see that the Council has been proactive in seeking, and successfully obtaining, grant funding to support capital investments that facilitate growth in Welsh-medium education and use of the Welsh language. Given the consistent over-subscription for places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan over several years, it is recognised that Ysgol Mynydd Bychan's current catchment area is one of many areas within the city of Cardiff where there is scope to increase the number of children in Welsh-medium education.*
- *However, we are disappointed that the Council did not start the consultation to develop Welsh-medium education places in this area before 2021, e.g in 2020, 15 children failed to secure a place at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan. They all lived in the school's catchment area. As a result, these pupils have to travel out of their catchment area and across the city to attend other Welsh-medium schools.*
- *The collective view of the members of staff at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan is that there would be a number of disadvantages and potential risks associated with the Council's shared site proposal. These include the following:*
  - *the pupils across both sites would not be given the same opportunities;*
  - *it is not possible to offer the same facilities to pupils across both sites eg external classes for Foundation Phase pupils. We feel that any pupils placed on the Allensbank Primary School site would be immediately disadvantaged compared to the facilities available on the current site of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan;*
  - *the difficulties in developing pupils' daily use of Welsh given the importance of language immersion at an early age; as many of these pupils will not be from a Welsh speaking background, it is therefore essential to focus on their Welsh language skills at an early stage.*
  - *the negative impact on the overall ethos of the school and the opportunity for all pupils to fully assimilate to the values of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan;*
  - *there would be challenges in ensuring the welfare of staff at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan teaching (perhaps alone) at another site;*
  - *there may also be potential implications for safeguarding and the need to have a safeguarding officer present at another site;*
  - *the operational and personnel challenges running a school across separate sites. These include scheduling pupil interventions; availability of office staff;*
  - *there are concerns that a school site shared by two sets of pupils taught in different languages could lead to division and possibly a feeling of resentment among parents;*
  - *there is a risk that prospective parents of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan will be deterred from applying for places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan due to concerns*

over a shared site arrangement. As a result this could lead to a reduction in the number of applications for Welsh places within the catchment area;

- the disruption caused by the construction work that would be required to accommodate an additional 0.5 entry at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan on the Allensbank Primary School site each year, which would be disruptive to the pupils' education;
- the significant expenditure that would need to be incurred in adapting part of the Allensbank Primary School building for use by Ysgol Mynydd Bychan on a temporary basis may reduce the prospects of the Council having the necessary funding in place and a willingness to spend it on a more suitable long-term solution.
- We are also concerned at the risk that if the anticipated increase in demand for Welsh-medium education does not materialise to an extent which enables Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to expand to a 1.5 or 2 form entry in the future, then Ysgol Mynydd Bychan will be left straddled across two sites indefinitely.
- In our view this should take the form of a new school building and site which is suitable and fit for purpose as assessed against the expectations for school facilities in the 21st century.
  - a) we feel that if the Council's proposal to relocate Cathays High School to a new site at the current Maindy cycle track proceeds, the current site of Cathays High School seems an obvious possibility for a new school site in the locality that would meet the increased capacity in Welsh-medium education which the Council intends to pursue;
  - b) we feel that further efforts should be made to explore the possibility of delivering a new school site at this location or elsewhere within the area.
  - c) the Welsh Education Minister announced on 11/03/21 that the Welsh Government is investing an additional £30m to develop more Welsh-medium schools across Wales, will Cardiff County receive part of this funding to develop Welsh-medium schools in Cardiff?
- If a new school site is not going to be forthcoming, and the Council's preferred long-term solution would be a site swap between Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and another existing school site within the local area, then it is essential that the necessary investment is put in place to deliver a scheme of improvement works which ensures that Ysgol Mynydd Bychan's 'new' site offers the same, if not better, level of facilities as its current site. This is essential to enable Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to continue being able to offer the level of education and opportunities to its pupils as at present, as well as to achieve the 'buy in' from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan's parents that will be an important factor in ensuring that Ysgol Mynydd Bychan's sense of community continues to flourish.
- It might be possible to increase the current capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan through relatively minor building alterations (e.g. utilising the current library room) – clearly, this would not be an ideal solution given that YMB is already operating above its stated school capacity, but given

*the relatively small numbers projected over the next 2 years we feel this could be workable solution on a strictly short-term basis until a permanent solution is put in place. This would avoid the risks and operational challenges associated with Ysgol Mynydd Bychan having to operate across two sites.*

- If the long-term solution is to be a straight swap between Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary School's existing sites, then we have considered how this could be implemented in a way which would (a) enable each school to continue operating from a single site at all times, and (b) provide an opportunity for necessary improvement works to be carried out whilst minimising the disruption to both schools:*
- In September 2022, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan accepts additional pupils (to meet all projected applications within the catchment area) on its existing site – in all likelihood using its current library to do this.*
- In September 2022, Allensbank Primary School move every class into the two-storey building on the eastern side of the site. This would leave the one-storey building on the western side of the site vacant so that the necessary adjustment/improvement works could be made to that building prior to September 2023. The one-storey building could be improved to incorporate the Foundation Phase. Alterations could also be made to the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan building to meet the requirements of Allensbank Primary School.*
- In September 2023, all of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan could move into Allensbank Primary School's current site and all of Allensbank Primary School could move into Ysgol Mynydd Bychan's current site. Ysgol Mynydd Bychan's Foundation Phase could move into the newly-improved one-storey building on the western side of the site, and the resources that Ysgol Mynydd Bychan would want on the yard (e.g. outside areas for the Foundation Phase pupils, football pitch, goals, green area) would be in place by then. Key Stage 2 would move into one floor of the two-storey building. The necessary improvements could be made to the other floor of that building during the 2023/24 academic year.*
- For September 2024, YMB's Key Stage 2 classes could move into the newly-improved floor of the two-storey building whilst improvements are made to the rest of that building to cater for the continued increase to Ysgol Mynydd Bychan's capacity.*
- This is an example of how a site swap could be delivered in a way which enables Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary School to continue operating from a single site at all times, whilst also minimising the disruption to both schools while necessary improvements are carried out.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

89. The Council welcomes the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan staff support for the proposed expansion of Welsh-medium provision. It is however recognised that this support does not extend to the proposed expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan as consulted on.
90. The points raised echo those expressed by the Governing Body which are addressed at paragraph(s) 76 – 86.

### **Governing Body of Gladstone Primary School**

91. A response from the Governing Body of Gladstone Primary School included the following: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6):
- *Clearly there is a need to increase the number of WM places in the area and siting these on the Allensbank site would appear to be a possible solution however we are not aware of any other options which were considered. A split site Primary School will create challenges for staff, pupils and parents/carers. Two schools can successfully share a single site and it is an arrangement currently operating in several places within Cardiff.*
  - *In the longer term, investment in the Boat House would provide additional opportunities for space which could be utilised during the day by both schools, and during the weekend and evenings could be available to the local community.*
  - *All schools referenced in this consultation document would benefit from investment in their buildings. However, all schools have adapted and developed their spaces to meet the needs of the pupils and curriculum requirements within the constraints placed by budgets and limitations of their sites.*
  - *We believe it is vital that there is sufficient capacity to respond to any demographic changes which could lead to an increased demand for EM places within the area and restricting this to a single 2FE site, possibly shared, would not allow for this flexibility. We have seen over many years how the school age population can fluctuate rapidly.*
  - *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 HS do not adversely impact upon the local primaries ability to access the facilities currently offered at the Maindy site.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

92. The views of the Gladstone Governing Body are noted.
93. It is acknowledged that all schools in the area would benefit from investment. The Council is actively investing in schools through the Asset Management

Programme and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme and will continue to review the needs of school and respond accordingly.

94. Pupil projections are kept under review and proposals brought forward to ensure a sufficiency of places as required.
95. The proposed development of Cathays High School is expected to result in a range of improved school and community facilities which would be available to local primary schools also.

### **Governing Body of St Monica's CIW Primary School**

96. A response from the Governing Body of St Monica's CIW Primary School included the following: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6):

- *Figures presented in your consultation document clearly evidence the need for increased capacity of Welsh medium places and reduced capacity of English-medium places. For this reason we support your proposals to increase the capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to 1.5FE from September 2022, and it seems logical to locate these places in the nearest school building with space to Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, in this case being Allensbank Primary School site.*
- *The proposal to reduce the capacity of Allensbank Primary School to 1FE may be felt as a negative step for the community of the school, however the new proposed capacity of Allensbank Primary School (210 places) is higher than the number of children on roll in the school in January 2020 (185). We trust that the proposed new capacity will not have an adverse effect on the current day-to-day operations of the school and within the context of this reasoning, we support the proposal to reduce the capacity of Allensbank Primary School to 1FE from September 2022.*
- *The lack of nursery provision in St Monica's is something we feel has hampered our ability to serve the local community, and those who choose a faith-based education for their children. This lack is due to the limitations of the physical school site and buildings, which do not give either to indoor or outdoor space required for it.*
- *Assuming that Welsh-medium provision is further expanded in the coming years it makes no sense for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to be split across two sites. It should instead be based on one site, either the Allensbank site or the shared Gladstone / St Monica's site. This would lead not only to a more consistent education for the pupils than if split across two sites, as well as greater operational and financial efficiencies for the school.*
- *In terms of English-medium community provision, Albany Primary School is currently the largest primary school in the Cathays area and suits the site it is currently located on. Outside of this the projected combined requirement for the remaining English-medium community provision in the longer-term*

*could be housed in a 2FE single site, either the Allensbank or the shared Gladstone / St Monica's site.*

- If St Monica's was to be able to offer a Church in Wales nursery to the local community it would, as outlined above, need a larger site than the one it is currently accommodated on. This could be achieved in a number of ways, one of which being the utilisation of the current Ysgol Mynydd Bychan site, if they were to relocate to a single site to accommodate ongoing growth.*
- The school building condition categories demonstrate that all of the school buildings in the Cathays area need ongoing maintenance and investment. The reality is that some of these buildings are Grade 2 listed (including St Monica's) and therefore require significant finance to keep them safe and secure for the children educated in them. This is unfortunate but as no other sites are available within the Cathays area this investment must be made in order to fulfil the requirements of all Welsh-medium and English-medium provision.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

97. The Council acknowledges the support of the Governing Body.
98. Issues related to the level of surplus places at Allensbank Primary School are addressed at paragraphs 53 – 54 and 66.
99. The school's desire for nursery provision to be established at the school is noted.
100. The views put forward regarding the long term organisation of schools are noted and will be considered in detail prior to the Council bringing forward proposals for a long term solution.

### **Governing Body of Ysgol Glan Ceubal**

101. A response from the Governing Body of Ysgol Glan Ceubal included the following: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6):
  - As a Welsh-medium primary school within the area of Gabalfa, which borders Whitchurch, Llandaff North and the southern area of Heath, we would like to celebrate the fact that there is a need for an increase of Welsh-medium school places in this area of Cardiff.*
  - The additional capacity of 123 pupils for Mynydd Bychan will ensure it has a long-term future as a centre for Welsh education in Cardiff.*
  - We appreciate that this expansion in numbers will resolve issues of pupils, with siblings in the school, being able to attend the school, and whilst we see this as a positive step in the greater picture of Welsh-medium education in our city, it does cause us significant concern regarding our place in the local authority's plans for the area and the future.*

- *Because we existed for several years without an official catchment area, when we were allocated a catchment area, we found we were restricted to it being only the Gabalfa estate and Llandaff North up to Hilton Place. This area contained lots of fields and parkland areas bordering the River Taff towards the city centre.*
- *In the 2019 academic year, we enrolled all the pupils, who wanted a Welsh-medium education from our catchment area into our school. This amounted to only 13 pupils. We had to make budget amendments and staffing cuts, even after a funding package was provided by the Local Authority.*
- *Compared to the other schools bordering us, our catchment area is tiny, not just in its geographical area, but in the number of pupils within it. If we consider the catchment areas of Pencae and Mynydd Bychan, both one form entry schools like Glan Ceubal, they are far larger, with far more housing distribution and do not cover Bute Park. Mynydd Bychan had a profile showing more pupils than us, within a compact, suitably diverse area. To the north was Melin Gruffydd whose geographical area and numbers, were perhaps 300% larger than us. Cllr Burke-Davies has argued that a re-define of these catchment areas could be made to ensure a more equal distribution of pupil numbers.*
- *We are deeply concerned that those additional pupil places in Mynydd Bychan will have a long-term adverse effect on our pupil numbers and our long-term viability.*

### **What Do We Need?**

- *A full and frank conversation with the Local Authority to reassure us that we have a future and that there is a long-term plan/vision, not only for Glan Ceubal but also for all Welsh-medium schools across the city.*
- *An understanding that whilst we wholeheartedly support an expansion of places for Welsh-medium education, there is, however, a great need to support existing schools, such as ours, who have smaller numbers on roll.*
- *An understanding and commitment that in the next few years we need to be supported.*
- *Support from the Local Authority to ensure that we will be able to continue the educational development of the school.*
- *Financial support to ensure the viability of the school over the next few years.*
- *Ultimately, we need the Local Authority to make, what we perceive, to be a fairer re-distribution to the catchment areas around us, so that we can have the opportunity to grow as a school.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

102. The Council welcomes the Ysgol Glan Ceubal Governing Body support for the proposed expansion of Welsh-medium education.

103. It is acknowledged that the Governing Body has concerns regarding the potential impact of an enlarged Ysgol Mynydd Bychan on Ysgol Glan Ceubal, the school catchment area and the number of pupils enrolling at the school.
104. The Council is committed to the development and expansion of Welsh-medium education, and to meeting the targets set by the Welsh Government in its Cymraeg 2050 strategy.
105. Whilst there is sufficient capacity across the wider area to accommodate growth in Welsh-medium in the short term, the expected level of surplus places would not be sufficient to greatly increase Welsh-medium take up in the longer term to meet the Cymraeg 2050 targets.
106. In some areas of the city, such as the area served by Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, any further increase in demand could only be balanced by changes to school catchment areas or by increasing the number of places available. Whilst changes to catchment areas could help to improve the balance between the number of places available and children requiring a place in the short term, such changes would not support long term growth.
107. Whilst Ysgol Mynydd Bychan admits up to 30 pupils per year group allowing for efficient class organisation, the calculated capacity of the school within its existing accommodation is 192 places (18 places fewer than the 210 places for a 1FE school).
108. The expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to 1.5FE (315 places) in the first instance was proposed as this would provide an appropriate number of places to meet the expected demand for places, whilst minimising the impact on neighbouring Welsh-medium schools, and would enable an efficient class structure to operate whilst the school grows.
109. The proposed changes would implement changes in such a way that the potential for negative impact on any schools is limited.
110. It would not be appropriate to bring forward short term changes to school catchment areas ahead of agreement on a long term strategy to ensure a sustainable balance and distribution of primary school places to serve the area.

### **RhAG response**

111. A response from RhAG included the following: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix 6):
  - *We welcome the fact that Cardiff Council is finally responding to the significant growth in demand for Welsh-medium education in the central Cardiff area and the increasing pressure on places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan (YMB) seen over recent years.*

- *We know that YMB has been operating over capacity for some time. The site constraints mean that the present building cannot be expanded or enlarged. Naturally such a situation is unsustainable.*
- *We know that it is only children who live within an average of 0.5 miles (this was as little as 0.3 miles in 2017) to YMB have any realistic chance of getting a place in the school. Several families living on the outskirts of the catchment area have failed to get a place over recent years and there are several families who are concerned about that now as they choose schools over the next few years. Therefore because of the pressure on places, it is essential to recognise that the actual catchment area of the school is much smaller than the official catchment area that has been set.*
- *Cardiff Council's commitment to developing and expanding Welsh-medium education across the city and to achieve the targets set by the Welsh Government in order to realise the Cymraeg 2050 strategy is very commendable.*
- *We are concerned to understand from several parents that the experience of attending the consultation meetings have been very unsatisfactory. We accept that exceptional circumstances last year meant that LAs had to actively work in new ways and to use technology on a scale that was never done before, and in that regard we commend the County for actively acting in progressive ways.*
- *Nevertheless, we note that the organisation and structure of meetings has been awkward and because of that parents were unable to ask questions as the meeting proceeded. Further to that, one of the meetings, the one held on the night of Wednesday 3 March, was advertised as a meeting that would be held through the medium of Welsh. But providing a recording of the presentation through the medium of Welsh and the provision of a simultaneous translation service does not mean that this meeting was held through the medium of Welsh. It is clear that arrangements should have been put in place to ensure that a Welsh speaker was available to chair the meeting and to facilitate the discussion in order to allow the officers to answer questions.*
- *Following consultation with the school's parents, unfortunately RhAG is now of the opinion that it is not possible for us to support the proposal in its current form. RhAG doesn't lightly reject a proposal that aims to increase the number of Welsh medium places but we feel that it would be unwise to support a proposal that in our opinion is lacking in detail and certainty for the long term.*
- *We set out below the reasons that have led to our adoption of that position:*
  - ***Lack of clarity of commitment to accept all applications for a place in September 2021***  
*RhAG understood (following the discussions of the Welsh Education Forum) that interim arrangements would be made for September 2021 to accommodate all pupils applying for a place at YMB **on the YMB site**. But*

*we understand that parents have been informed that this would now happen on the Allensbank School site. This lack of consistency is worrying but also assumes the outcome of the consultation in question. There is a risk that prospective YMB parents may not apply for school places due to concerns about the arrangement of a shared site.*

- ***The practical implications of sharing a site with an English-medium school.***

*The consultation has highlighted a lack of understanding by the County of the principles and basic elements of immersive education and the process of language acquisition. It has to be understood that proposing to establish Welsh-medium classes in a school operating entirely through the medium of English presents significant challenges and that they need to be dealt with in a manner that demonstrates linguistic sensitivity.*

- ***Lack of detail about a long-term plan***

*Dividing the school over two sites would not be ideal at all, from the neither the pupils nor staff's point of view. Splitting the school without a timetabled guarantee to move beyond the temporary arrangement in question is unacceptable.*

- *We believe that the County should have proposed a timetable setting out concrete steps with regards to the journey, starting with the temporary arrangement, the transition period to towards a long-term solution. Given all this, we believe that the most sensible long-term solution – would be a full exchange of premises between YMB and another existing school site in the local area.*

- *Should the County decide that the preferred solution is a direct exchange between the existing YMB sites and Allensbank Primary School, then we agree with YMB governors' position that this could be achieved in a way that would*
  - (a) *allow all schools to continue to operate from one site throughout, and*
  - (b) *ensure opportunities for significant improvements to the buildings causing the minimum possible disturbance to both schools.*

- *We endorse the YMB governors' call that greater efforts should be made to explore the possibility of achieving this on the existing site of Cathays High School, assuming that the proposal of the Council to relocate Cathays High School to a new school site on the current Maendy cycle track is progressed.*

- *We understand that the County received funding under the Welsh Government's Welsh Education Capital Grant, in 2018 to address the situation in question, specifically to expand the provision of Welsh-medium primary education in Central Cardiff by 1FE. We understand that this grant amounted to £3 million. But there's a suggestion now that the funding has shrunk to £1.8 million. We would be grateful if it could be confirmed whether or not that is the case. And if so, why is the amount now significantly lower?*

## **Appraisal of views expressed**

112. The Council welcomes the support of RhAG for the proposed expansion of Welsh-medium education. It is however acknowledged that this support does not extend to the proposed expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan as consulted on.
113. The public health restrictions arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic have required the way in which consultations are run to be modified and it is acknowledged that technological challenges have not made it possible to replicate real life meetings. In addition to two public meetings there were also opportunities for parents and interested parties to attend online drop in sessions where officers were available to speak with directly and for any questions to be addressed.
114. Consideration was given to how demand for places in September 2021 could be met and did not form part of the public consultation. There is sufficient capacity across the wider area to accommodate demand for places in September 2021 and no change is planned to the number of places available at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in September 2021.
115. Issues related to the long term development of Welsh-medium education are addressed at paragraph(s) 5 – 9.
116. Issues related to the Cathays High School site area addressed at paragraph(s) 14.
117. The views expressed regarding a long term solution are noted and will be considered in detail ahead of long term proposals being brought forward.
118. The Council was successful in securing funds from the Welsh Government Increasing Welsh-medium Provision Capital Grant scheme. The purpose is to support capital investments that facilitate growth in Welsh medium education and use of the Welsh language.
119. The successful bid included proposals to :
- Develop 3 new Cylch Meithrin settings linked to primary schools.
  - Expand Welsh-medium primary provision by 0.5FE and include training facilities in North Cardiff.
  - Reorganise primary provision in the central area of Cardiff and expand by 1FE additional Welsh-medium primary places.
120. The expansion of Welsh-medium provision by 0.5FE at Ysgol y Wern from 2.5FE to 3FE, and the development of training facilities at the school, was completed in October 2020.

### **Cymdeithas yr Iaith response**

121. A response from Cymdeithas yr Iaith included the following: (a copy of the full response can be seen at Appendix ):
- *Although the scheme that the Council has introduced appears to be one that wants to see Welsh-medium education in the city expanded on paper, from*

*examining the document and listening to Council officials explaining the policy, it is now clear that this is not its purpose. Instead, this seems to be an attempt to seek a short-term solution to the latest example of a problem that Welsh-medium education in the city has faced for decades; the Council's inability to plan strategically for the provision and growth of Welsh-medium education in the city.*

- *Following a number of discussions with parents, teachers and governors we as a cell have concluded that this scheme is totally inadequate and indeed represents a detrimental attitude towards the Welsh language and therefore as a result detrimental to the growth of Welsh-medium education in the city. There are several reasons for this, some of which are outlined below:*

*1. First, the proposal to open a Welsh class at Allensbank School without any long-term planning about how this would affect the long-term future of Mynydd Bychan or Allensbank pupils is one that shows that these proposals are not part of a carefully considered and stable scheme. Instead, this is a temporary council solution for a problem that has and will re-appear time and again if sustainable solutions are not found for growing Welsh-medium education in the city.*

*The Council's intention to open a Welsh class in an English-medium school without any consideration of how this would impact on the children's education or its ability to learn and be immersed in the language properly is regrettable.*

*2. Secondly, the consultation leaves Ysgol Glan Ceubal in a precarious place in terms of numbers and therefore a budget. The pupils of Glan Ceubal deserve a long-term commitment from the Council to ensure that it is a thriving school that can realise its full potential. It is important that the Council is committed to supporting Welsh-medium schools to grow, in whatever part of the city they happen to be, and not to contribute to a trend that turns access to Welsh-medium education into a postcode lottery or promotes some areas above others when it comes to Welsh-medium education.*

*4. Nor is there anything here about reorganising the city's catchment areas so that they represent communities and the needs of schools as they exist today. There must be a systematic approach to dealing with this problem if the Council is to avoid the same problems arising again and again.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

122. Issues related to the long term development of Welsh-medium education are addressed at paragraph(s) 5 – 9.
123. Issues related to the ability of Cardiff's schools to successfully implement immersion in the Welsh language on a shared school site are addressed at paragraphs 79 to 81.

124. Issues related to Ysgol Glan Ceubal are addressed at paragraph(s) 103 – 110.

### **Allensbank Primary School Pupil representation**

125. Officers met virtually via Microsoft Teams with year 6 pupils of Allensbank Primary School to present the proposal and discuss the proposals and gather their opinions.

126. The points raised by the pupils included the following:

- Questions regarding potential changes to demand for Allensbank Primary School and what this would mean for the school
- The benefits of interacting with other pupils, making new friends and learning from each other
- The opportunity for more pupils to attend Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
- Potential for communication issues due to language differences
- Concerns for potential splitting of siblings and impact on parents having to attend two sites
- Concerns around lack of space during the pandemic
- Concerns around reduced playground space and time
- Perceived disruption to learning

127. Notes of the meeting can be seen in Appendix 3.

### **Ysgol Mynydd Bychan Pupil representation**

128. Officers met virtually via Microsoft Teams with years 4, 5 and 6 pupils of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to discuss the proposals and gather their opinions.

129. The points raised by the pupils included the following:

- Questions regarding whether the short term solution will remain permanent
- Questions regarding alternative available land
- The benefits of interacting with English speaking pupils in improving their Welsh
- The increase of Welsh speakers across Cardiff and positive contribution to Cymraeg 2050 targets

- Concerns around splitting of friends and siblings across sites and the upset this could cause
- Perceived difficulties for parents potentially going to two sites
- Concerns around the negative impact on acquisition of Welsh and potential loss of language
- Perceived difference in resources available at Allensbank Primary School
- Pupils stated a preference a new build 2FE school

130. Notes of the meeting can be seen in Appendix 3.

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

131. The Council acknowledges the views of pupils.
132. The Council appreciates that the pupils in both schools are able to see the benefits of a Welsh medium and English medium school sharing a site.
133. The Council acknowledges pupil concerns regarding the potential for siblings at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to be on different sites. Pupils will be fully consulted with and informed at the appropriate time of any proposal that impacts them in order to make any change as least disruptive as possible. The expectation is that any Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils accommodated on the Allensbank Primary School site would be appropriately supported, educationally and emotionally.
134. Issues related to potential space concerns and perceived differences in resources are addressed at paragraph(s) 53 – 54 and 66.
135. The Council welcomes the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils support for the proposed expansion of Welsh-medium provision.
136. The views put forward regarding the long term position are noted and will be considered in detail prior to the Council bringing forward proposals for a long term solution.

### **Other Responses Received**

#### **Demand for places**

137. *The current demand for Welsh education is not being met.*
138. *YMB is currently oversubscribed suggesting there is more demand for Welsh school places than can currently be offered.*
139. *There are not enough welsh medium places for children at this school within catchment.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

140. Intakes to primary schools city-wide are expected to reduce overall in coming years as the number of children in each pre-school age is lower than in recent intakes.
141. This is reflected in number of applications for entry to Reception in September 2021. In the initial round of allocations on 16 April 2021, the Council had processed 37 applications for admission to Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, including 33 within the catchment area of the school, for the 30 places available. The Council agreed the admission of all 21 applicants for admission to Allensbank Primary School, including 17 children within the catchment area of the school, compared to 45 places available at the school.
142. The number of applicants offered places at Ysgol Glan Ceubal, Albany Primary School and Gladstone Primary School were 20, 28 and 24 respectively.
143. Whilst Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd (60 reception places) and Ysgol Y Wern (90 reception places) were fully subscribed at entry, each school was able to admit all applicants seeking a place in their catchment school (53 and 85 in catchment allocations respectively).
144. City-wide, whilst the percentage of children enrolling in Welsh-medium Reception places in September 2021 is similar to that in September 2020 (c18.5%), the number of places allocated has fallen from c760 to c680 as a consequence of reduced population.
145. City-wide, admissions data indicates that Welsh-medium Reception classes will retain c19% surplus places in the September 2021. There is sufficient capacity across the wider area to accommodate demand for Welsh-medium places in September 2021 and until the 2023/24 school year based on the current pattern of uptake of places. However, longer term changes to provision would need to be made in order to make progress towards the Cymraeg 2050 targets.

### **Timing of proposed changes**

146. *In the current pandemic circumstances, I would postpone any changes. People have more than enough worries on their shoulders with the pandemic, they do not deserve the additional anxiety rising from this. For increasing YMB, I would suggest trying to find additional temporary spaces near YMB (but not in other schools); these don't need to be big if they are near YMB*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

147. The views expressed are noted.

### **The consultation process**

148. *If indeed the decision to increase the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to 1.5 FE is already made then to my mind this has not gone through the consultation process. Surely this is contrary to Cardiff Council procedures?*
149. *I have seen some correspondence indicating that as the September 2021 increase to 1.5 FE is a Temporary implementation and therefore a consultation is not required. However, I fail to see how an instigation to 1.5 FE in September 2021 can be reversed i.e. once Mynydd Bychan has a x1.5 2021 Year Group then that is permanent, or please advise otherwise? Indeed during the Q&A, the very same question was raised and a council representative even confirmed as much that this isn't what is being consulted upon.*
150. *That being the case that a decision for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan will be 1.5 FE from 2021 then a formal Consultation process hasn't been carried out for this. Could you please advise why this is not the case? A reference to a "Temporary Measure" cannot be used in an instance when something clearly cannot be reversed.*

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

151. Issues related to admissions in September 2021 are addressed at paragraph 145.

#### **Traffic concerns**

152. *Please please please consider traffic at drop off and pick ups. I am a mum of a nursery pupil at YMB but we also reside on Llanishen street and have the nightmare of parents clogging streets and parking in permit areas. Be good to have 'car drop off area'*
153. *I am concerned with sharing a site and pupils/parents moving from one site to another. Whitchurch Road has a lot of traffic.*
154. *Llanishen Street is already very busy at pick up and drop off time, this arrangement would increase the difficulties around this.*

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

155. Since schools re-opened in September 2020, concerns have been raised by parents and ward members regarding traffic and parking outside Ysgol Mynydd Bychan on New Zealand Road. The Council plans to seek Welsh Government funding to create a School Street on New Zealand Road which would restrict vehicular access along the street to residents, blue badge holders and authorised permit holders during drop off and pick up times. This would make the environment outside the school safer and more conducive to walking and cycling.
156. The expansion of capacity at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and the issues of traffic and parking at both Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary underline the need to introduce measures which discourage car travel and promote active travel to both school sites. One such measure is the introduction of a School

Street. Plans are already being progressed for a School Street on New Zealand Road. There is also potential to do this on part of Llanishen Street. However, both proposals will require consultation with residents and local businesses.

### **Alternative options**

157. *Could the YMB site be expanded across New Zealand Road onto some of the Companies House Land? As Cathays is being re-built could the existing building be used for YMB?*
158. *Unaware of any empty sites which are council owned and no development plans. What about around Maindy leisure centre?*
159. *The trend in reduced demand for places is obvious. It would be a better solution perhaps for both schools to swap sites.*
160. *There has to be a balance and the places need to be allocated where there is more demand. The best thing to do would be to swap sites completely and have Allensbank on the Mynydd Bychan site and vice versa.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

161. The Council has investigated alternative site options that may be available and centrally located within the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan catchment area. There is no suitable vacant site available that could accommodate an enlarged Ysgol Mynydd Bychan.
162. Issues related to the Cathays High School site are addressed at paragraph(s) 14.
163. The alternative options put forward will be considered in detail prior to the Council bringing forward proposals for a long term solution.

### **Perceived negative impact on surrounding schools**

164. *Glan Ceubal's catchment currently covers areas like Bute Park where nobody lives and it seems to put our school and our children at a disadvantage to start over with Mynydd Bychan. I am obviously biased but Glan Ceubal is an amazing school and the demographic of the immediate Gabalfa area (and the catchment covering unoccupied geographical areas) means it was never going to be immediately full.*
165. *Glan Ceubal is a new build (not a new school) but has recieved significant Council funding for the new building. I am aware that some children attending our school would fall under Mynydd Bychan catchment area and as such we risk, with the proposed expansion further reducing the possible intake for Ysgol Glan Ceubal. I do not understand why following significant investment in our school you would choose to extend another Welsh medium primary when Glan Ceubal is not full and would benefit from council support rather than what feels like the council working against them.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

Issues related to Ysgol Glan Ceubal area addressed at paragraph(s) 103 – 110.

### **Racial makeup of schools**

166. *We can see why these proposals would benefit Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, but we are not clear how they would do anything good for our children or the future of our school. More broadly, we are concerned about the issues of racial inequality these proposals will have on the community. Identified in your own report, these issues will adversely affect non-white community members and we worry about how this will affect our school, the community and the future relations between Welsh language and non-Welsh language residents.*
167. *My son is a white child in an all white reception year (90 pupils). I do not impute bad motives onto anyone around this issue, but the existence of that situation should bother anyone concerned to make children's experience of education inclusive and diverse. An ethnic and social contrast exists between the intakes of Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank/Gladstone. In my view, Cardiff Council needs to recognize this problem and ensure that you don't just end up with a bigger whiter Welsh-medium school with English-medium provision increasingly non-white British. I really think this is the elephant in the room for Welsh-medium education. I do not underestimate the difficulty in addressing this. Ideally, universalizing Welsh-medium education would address it. However, since that's not going to happen any time soon, in the meantime is there any way head teachers and governors of Welsh-medium schools could be assisted and incentivized to improve their outreach?*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

168. Issues related to the racial makeup of schools is addressed at paragraph(s) 19.

### **Capacity in nearby schools**

169. *There is a surplus of spaces in existing Welsh Medium Schools. There are 149 free spaces currently in Welsh medium schools in the local area!!!*
170. *All welsh medium schools within the area (detailed in the consultation document) have a surplus of spaces, with the exception of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan. There are a total of 149 available places in welsh medium schools. Why aren't these being filled in the first instance? Mynydd Bychan are currently only oversubscribed by 10 places.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

171. Issues related to capacity within Welsh-medium provision are addressed at paragraph(s) 105 - 110.

### **Health and Safety**

172. *The site is not suitable from a health and safety point of view with regards to maintaining 2 separate entrances/exits and playgrounds?*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

173. Issues related to Health and Safety are addressed at paragraph(s) 29.

### **Loss of school ethos**

174. *What message does it give to our young people to have 2 schools co-located but the pupils not mixing due to language differences? Allensbank has a strong ethos of inclusivity and the celebration of different languages and cultures. This segregation arrangement will create a 'them and us' situation. It may be better if the pupils shared spaces at playtimes/assemblies etc. in the spirit of learning together and from each other*

175. *The schools small size and caring and nurturing ethos is why most parents send their kids to this school. Nearly doubling the size and being between two sites would inevitably compromise this.*

176. *Ideally, I would like to see the whole school on the same site. It is very important for the ethos of a Welsh-medium school that everyone is together so that the smallest ones can hear the oldest ones speaking Welsh in the yard etc. Also, by sharing with an English-medium school, I fear that it will undermine efforts to immerse non-Welsh speaking children in the language.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

177. Issues related to pupil integration are addressed at paragraph(s) 46.

178. The proposals consulted on is an interim solution ahead of long term proposals for primary school provision to serve the area being developed. The expectation is that both schools would work together and it is not expected that there would be any long term impact on the ethos of either school.

### **Condition of school buildings**

179. *Allensbank school building is in poor condition (category C - why has no significant improvement been made to Allensbank school facilities as the Council recognises the importance of school facilities for an improved learning environment?). Mynydd Bychan's building is in slightly better condition but is managed exceptionally well to make best use of the space thanks to the governing body, staff, PTA and parents. Children need good learning facilities.*

### **Appraisal of views expressed**

180. The development and maintenance of the school estate is a Council priority. Any facilities on the Allensbank Primary School site would be appropriate to the age range of pupils.