

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. A joint response was received from the Canton Councillors (Cllr Stephen Cunnah, Cllr Susan Elsmore and Cllr Ramesh Patel) which included the following points:
 - *We agree with the consultation's initial principle that there is a need for a workable proposal to be taken forward as soon as possible. A catchment must be created for the new Ysgol Gymraeg Hamadryad (Hamadryad) in order to provide a level of certainty for this school and its neighbouring schools. As a result of the founding of Hamadryad and the impending creation of its catchment, we agree also that changes must be made to balance the catchment areas of those nearby Welsh-medium primary schools.*
 - *For those families with only-children or eldest siblings who will be new to schooling from 2021 onwards, or those who are moving into the area with school-age children, since we consider both Treganna and Pwll Coch to be great schools, for these families we do not consider that it will make a detrimental difference where the catchment boundary falls within our ward.*

Protection for all residents through changes to oversubscription criteria

- *For those families who already have older children attending Welsh-medium schools, our first priority is for all Canton residents to have protection from unnecessary inconvenience and anxiety over their children's expected pathway through Cardiff's schools. In practice because any proposal resulting from the consultation is likely to result in parts of Treganna's catchment being transferred to Pwll Coch, and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr's (Plasmawr) catchment to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf (Glantaf), we believe there should be additional protections in place for families with children currently attending either Treganna or Plasmawr. The additional protections that we believe are required can be achieved by simple changes to the secondary school oversubscription criteria.*
- *Looking first at the current primary school oversubscription criteria, we note that Point 5 gives priority to children who have a sibling attending a particular school admitted before any catchment area change, over and above those children in the catchment without an older sibling. In practice, this means it is extremely unlikely that any family with older children in Treganna, who*

are affected by any catchment area change, would fail to have a place in Treganna for their younger children. We support and hope for the continuation of this criteria.

- *Looking next to secondary school catchments, there are no similar protections in the oversubscription criteria with regard to siblings. We would like to see changes in the criteria that reflect Point 5 in the primary school oversubscription criteria – i.e. that those with older siblings have priority. Although we can understand that secondary school pupils are by and large able to travel more independently, we still believe that for many reasons it is both important to wellbeing, and convenient for families if their children attend the same school should they wish them to.*
- *We also believe that there should be an additional protection in the oversubscription criteria for pupils already enrolled at Treganna, regardless of whether they have an older sibling. Since the numbers forecast as being impacted by a proposed catchment boundary change are relatively small, and Treganna is a three-form entry school, we are aware of pupils who may be the only child in their class affected by this change. We feel it is unnecessarily unfair for this minority of parents and pupils who may have long expected to attend Plasmawr, to have cause for anxiety about going to a different secondary school than their classmates as a result of the local authority's decision to change catchment areas partway through their school careers. Therefore, we would like to see this reflected in the oversubscription criteria.*
- *We understand that based on the local authority's forecasted pupil numbers in the consultation document, Plasmawr is likely to be undersubscribed, while Glantaf may be oversubscribed. Therefore, we believe that formalising the right for current Treganna pupils to attend Plasmawr will have the important benefit of providing some formal assurance to a small number of Canton residents, while having little or no impact on the balance of secondary school places.*

Balancing numbers in primary schools

- *If, as we hope, the concerns of our residents can be met by changes to oversubscription criteria as set out above, our second priority would be to aim for a fair balance between the numbers in the catchment for each affected school. We believe that, on the whole, the local connection to primary school catchments is more important than that of secondary schools, and that, in the worst-case scenario, if disruption does occur it is more manageable with older pupils attending secondary school. Therefore, we hope the decision on the boundary will be taken first and foremost on the basis of the needs of both local primary schools and their pupils.*

Appraisal of views expressed

4. The Council welcomes the support for establishing a catchment area for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad.

5. Criteria that prioritise the admission of families affected by changes to catchment areas are not mentioned in the School Admissions Code, but were implemented by the Council as measures to mitigate the difficulties faced by parents when unable to admit their child to their former catchment area school, and to reduce the impact of catchment area changes and/or the outcome of school reorganisations.
6. The consultation on admission arrangements for the 2019/20 academic year included a proposal to remove these criteria within the primary and secondary school oversubscription criteria as some pupils benefited by securing places where they met the criteria, and were prioritised over children resident within the catchment area of a school. This caused resource planning issues for some schools, and there was a cumulative effect for those in-catchment pupils who in turn are unable to attend their catchment area school.
7. Following concerns raised around the potential difficulties, particularly at primary level when the logistical challenge of transporting siblings to different schools would present the most difficulties, the criterion (criterion 5a within the proposed arrangements) was retained for admissions to primary school.
8. The reintroduction of this criterion at secondary level has not been consulted on as part of the 2021/22 Admissions Policy and it would not be appropriate to include without undertaking consultation and considering the impact on stakeholders in a city-wide context.
9. The changes proposed to primary school catchment areas would provide a better balance between the number of places available in schools and the number of children in each area. The following benefits are expected to be achieved:
 - increasing the percentage of children who are able to gain a place at their local Welsh-medium school;
 - increasing the percentage of children who are able to gain a place at their preferred Welsh-medium school;
 - reducing the overall distance that children travel to their local Welsh-medium school;
 - supporting Cardiff in making its contribution to meeting the national Cymraeg 2050 targets, by:
 - enabling an increase in the percentage of Cardiff children entering Welsh-medium primary education
 - enabling an increase in the percentage of Cardiff children transferring to Welsh-medium secondary education.
10. The majority of pupils affected by the change would be within closer proximity to the proposed catchment area school than they are at present. This would

increase the likelihood of children gaining admission to their catchment area school.

11. The prioritisation of Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna pupils for admission to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr would in effect be a feeder school arrangement.
12. The Council previously consulted on the introduction of a feeder school system and the reasons for not implementing this in Cardiff were summarised in the report on School Admission Arrangements considered by the Cabinet at its meeting of 15 March 2018. Arrangements which give priority to pupils based on attendance at a specific primary school potentially disadvantage:
 - families moving to Cardiff to take up job opportunities as the local economy grows
 - pupils from some ethnic groups who are more likely to move home including asylum seekers, refugees and members of some BAME communities
 - families moving house because of housing relocation or other family reasons, including vulnerable, low income families who do not maintain permanent, secure accommodation
 - pupils wishing to transfer from a faith primary school to a community secondary school, particularly pupils who do not meet the faith school priority admission criteria
 - pupils wishing to transfer from a Welsh-medium primary school to English-medium secondary school (or vice versa), and this may deter parents from considering Welsh-medium primary education
13. The admission of pupils under a feeder school arrangement would mean that pupils resident within the catchment area of a school, who were not enrolled at a feeder school, would be less likely to gain admission unless the feeder school criterion was of a lower priority. These pupils may be further disadvantaged when seeking admission to alternative schools.

Assembly Member Response

14. A response from Assembly Member Mark Drakeford included the following points:
 - *I note that point five of the existing primary school oversubscription criteria will still apply under the proposed arrangements, prioritising children with an older sibling already attending a school who were admitted before a catchment area change.*
 - *It would be helpful for the Council to be clearer that this virtually guarantees younger siblings a place at the same school as an older sibling, if the family have been affected by the boundary change. The absence of such an assurance in the consultation document has led to anxiety among some affected parents that this would not be the case.*

- *I also note that point five of the existing primary school oversubscription criteria is not replicated in the current or proposed secondary school oversubscription criteria. I feel replicating this point in the secondary school criteria would be a valuable addition in the current circumstances, further reassuring parents that any younger children will be able to attend the same secondary school as older siblings.*
- *Furthermore, I hope the Council will consider adding another additional point to the secondary school oversubscription criteria, which is specific to this context, so that children affected by the proposed changes will be able to continue to secondary school with the rest of their peer group from primary school. In practice this would mean that any children in affected areas who are already attending Ysgol Treganna would be prioritised for places at Ysgol Plasmawr and those already attending Ysgol Pwll Coch would be prioritised for places at Ysgol Glantaf, in the same way as under the existing catchment areas.*
- *It is important to consider that no Welsh-medium secondary schools were oversubscribed this year, that only Ysgol Glantaf is projected to be oversubscribed in upcoming years, and that the number of families affected by the proposed changes will be relatively small. It is therefore unlikely that any of the suggestions made here will have a significant impact on overall admissions numbers, but they would provide valuable assurances to the affected families.*

Appraisal of views expressed

15. The Cardiff Council Admission to Schools Booklet, published as guidance for parents each year, explains the existing Primary Admissions Oversubscription Criteria (pg. 34-35) and outlines what the policy means for individual applicants.
16. Criterion 5(a) in the Council's oversubscription criteria for entry to primary education states that where an older sibling was admitted to and continues to attend a school that was previously the catchment area school for the home address of the family at the time of the older sibling's admission, if the parent applies, the Council will give priority to younger siblings to the former catchment school. The policy states that the sibling must be currently attending the school. The school's catchment area has changed, meaning the applicant now lives out of catchment.
17. Criterion 5(b) states that where an older sibling was admitted to and continues to attend a newly established community school without a determined catchment area, if the parent applies, the Council will give priority to younger siblings to this school. The policy states that the sibling must be attending the new community school. The school has no defined catchment area.
18. In accordance with the requirements of the Admissions Code, the Council should not indicate that residence within an area provides a guarantee; however, applicants who meet this oversubscription criterion would have a high

level of priority over other applicants including those resident within the catchment area who do not have compelling medical/ social grounds or siblings enrolled at the school.

19. The point raised regarding the replication of the primary school oversubscription within secondary oversubscription criteria is addressed at paragraphs 5-8.
20. The point raised regarding the inclusion of an additional point to the secondary school oversubscription criteria specific to children transferring to secondary school with their peer group is addressed at paragraphs 12 – 13.

Moorland Primary School

21. The Headteacher of Moorland Primary School submitted the following response:
 - *I am not sure if you are consulting on the whole policy or just the bits that have changed but I feel very strongly about the issue below and would like to raise it as an on-going concern.*
 - *I have copied this paragraph from the policy:*
 - *“Cardiff Council is committed to equality of opportunity and to eliminating discrimination. In respect of admissions to schools, all pupils and prospective pupils are treated equitably, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, nationality, language, ability / disability or religious / non-religious belief. Steps are taken to ensure that admission procedures do not unfairly advantage or disadvantage any groups through the application of rules or conditions that cannot be complied with equally by all.”*
 - *I believe that the on-line application process is potentially discriminatory towards vulnerable groups and I am keen to work more closely with the Council to improve admissions processes.*
 - *If parents cannot read or write and do not have email addresses then they are clearly going to find it harder to apply than the majority of the population. This obviously affects new arrivals to the UK, Gypsy, Roma and Travellers and some BME groups disproportionately. We have also found that some parents with mental health difficulties have been caused undue stress by this process and fail to get their applications in on time. My views are supported by the circumstances of many of the families who continue to remain on our waiting list for a place in our current reception class, some of whom have not sent their children to reception at all as they cannot get a place in Moorland. At the other end of the spectrum, we have families living way out of catchment who do get places for their children as they are easily able to comply with the requirements of the process. They take precedence over those children living really close to the school and with children with siblings already in the school, who have failed to get their applications in on time because they have struggled with the process. It is also a huge additional workload for staff in schools like Moorland, trying to support*

families to set up email addresses and find ways of helping them to remember their passwords.

- *I am pleased that the Council has committed to work together and to engage in further discussion around this issue, and that steps will be taken to assist our most vulnerable families. I trust that these measures will be in place in good time for the next intakes.*

Appraisal of views expressed

22. The Council acknowledges the views expressed and is keen to support parents and schools through the admissions process. A work programme in partnership with Headteachers is underway to ensure that parents are better able to understand and undertake the required admissions processes.

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad

23. A response from the Chair of Governors at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad included the following points:

- *Ysgol Hamadryad has now rooted itself strongly in the Grangetown and Butetown communities and manages to attract an increasing number of pupils from all backgrounds to Welsh medium education. We're very proud of our achievement here and glad that both options that are proposed with regards to catchments establish Grangetown and Butetown as a catchment for Ysgol Hamadryad. This completely and clearly reflects the choices being made by parents and guardians.*
- *Whilst we are very supportive of the proposed catchment for Ysgol Hamadryad, we are concerned as to how the Secondary school catchment will work in practice. Hamadryad is part of the Glantaf cluster and we had expected that Hamadryad pupils would in due course go to Ysgol Glantaf. However we now understand that Glantaf is rather full according to projection numbers. As a result there is a danger that some children from schools that feed into Ysgol Glantaf will not get a place at the school.*
- *Due to Hamadryad's geographical position it is possible that it will be Hamadryad children that will be the furthest from Glantaf and so Hamadryad children would be the first to lose out on a place at Glantaf. We are generally concerned about this, but I would also like to emphasise the equality aspect of this. Hamadryad is very proud of being a school that attracts children from all backgrounds. We have a large percentage of pupils who do not come from a white British / Welsh background – and we take pride in the fact that we introduce Welsh medium education to a number of families that haven't experienced Welsh medium education previously. There is a real danger therefore that the children that will be refused a place at Glantaf will be Hamadryad children from Butetown – a number of them from Black and*

Minority Ethnic backgrounds. Needless to say such a situation would wholly unacceptable.

Appraisal of views expressed

24. The Council welcomes the support of the Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad Governing Body for the establishment of a catchment area for the school.
25. Ysgol Hamadryad currently has primary aged pupils in the Reception to Year 3 age groups, with the first pupils from the school due to promote to secondary education in September 2023.
26. The number of pupils entering Welsh-medium secondary education is projected to rise until September 2023. Projections, taking account of the reduced intakes to primary education since 2017, indicate that there will be a three year period in which the number of pupils entering will be at a lower level city-wide.
27. The Council will bring forward measures to ensure there are sufficient places available to allow for all pupils including those from Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad to access Welsh-medium secondary school provision at the appropriate time. Parental preference information, projected demand within each area and available capacity within each school and catchments will support this.
28. The Council expects to consult on its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2021 – 2030 during the 2020/21 academic year with proposals to expand Welsh-medium education and to ensure sufficiency of Welsh-medium primary and secondary school places included as part of this.

Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau

29. A response from the Chair of Governors at Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau included the following points:
 - *I am writing on behalf of the Governors of Nant Caerau to officially respond to the recent consultation on proposed changes to Welsh-medium catchment areas in Cardiff.*
 - *It is the body's view that we approve most of the catchment area changes proposed for Hamadryad, Pwll Coch and Canton - they are a sensible development according to demand in west Cardiff, and it is encouraging to see the growth, and the Council's response to it.*
 - *We also support RhAG's comprehensive response on the issue. We respect their expertise in Welsh medium education in the capital, and therefore will not elaborate further on the changes to other west Cardiff primary schools.*

- *However, as the Governing Body of Nant Caerau, we want to express concern about the loss of a section of our catchment area in south Caerau around Ely Bridge, with no other part of the area being added. Although we understand that the Canton catchment area needs to be adjusted, we are concerned that this will affect the numbers of Nant Caerau, especially with plans to extend it into two streams as part of the Council's Band B developments. We are also aware that this can be interpreted as a lack of respect by parents in the area - again, priority is given to schools in other areas.*
- *We have a very limited catchment area at present, and under the current system, families living a stone's throw from school (Ely side of Cowbridge Road) have to send their children miles away to Code y Gof if they want Welsh education. This has created tension and misery in the past, with neighbouring families who had their eldest child accommodated having to move from Nant Caerau as there was no room for a sibling a year or two later, even though they lived from within walking distance. This then contributes to unnecessary traffic congestion, which will get worse once all the new housing estates in the surrounding area are completed.*
- *We therefore propose that the Council consider modifying part of the Coed y Gof catchment and include it in the Nant Caerau catchment (ie the Ely area between the cemetery, up to Plymouth Wood, and down to where Grand Avenue meets Cowbridge Road near the fire station). This is to ensure that there will be a catchment large enough to support the two proposed streams, and to continue the constructive change in this consultation so that all the west Cardiff catchments make sense, geographically, socially, ecologically and economically.*
- *Finally, we are also concerned about the plans to change the catchment areas of Welsh-medium secondary schools. The worry is the picture this creates - it looks like the social and economic background of the proposed Plasmawr catchment area will lean too heavily towards challenging areas, while the Glantaf catchment would be skewed towards those more prosperous communities of Llandaff and Canton. This can have a detrimental effect on the status of Welsh-medium secondary education in the Ely and Caerau area, and can lead to a decline in the numbers wishing to send their children to Ysgol Nant Caerau. Care should be taken, as far as possible, to include a mix of diverse communities in the catchment areas of the two secondary schools, Plasmawr and Glantaf. That is the strength of Welsh language education provision over the years: ensuring that equal opportunities are available to all.*

Appraisal of views expressed

30. The Council welcomes the support of the Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau Governing Body for the establishment of a catchment area for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad.
31. The proposed expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau is part of the Council's 21st Century School Band B Programme. Consultation on the proposal and any associated catchment area changes will be brought forward at the appropriate time.
32. The Governing Body suggestion that part of the Ysgol Gymraeg Coed y Gof catchment be transferred to the Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau catchment is noted.
33. The Ysgol Coed y Gof catchment area covers Ely, Fairwater/Pentrebane and parts of Llandaff, Radyr/ Morganstown and St Fagans. At October 2019 the number of primary aged pupils on roll at the school was 317. The school is not fully subscribed and there are no plans to transfer part of the Ysgol Coed y Gof catchment to the Ysgol Nant Caerau catchment at this time.
34. The proposed catchment area changes in Canton and Riverside, and in Adamsdown Splott and Tremorfa, would each reduce the percentage of children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) within the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and would increase the percentage in both Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Ederm respectively. The FSM measure is most commonly used to compare relative deprivation within schools as it is directly attributable to individual pupils. However, the percentages of pupils in receipt of FSM in Welsh-medium schools are relatively low when compared to other English-medium schools in Cardiff.
35. The table overleaf sets out the number of pupils in each catchment area, in receipt of FSM, in the most recent entry year recorded in school census data.

Pupil population resident in Welsh-medium Primary catchment areas eligible for Free School Meals (FSM): Reception Year (PLASC 2019 dataset)						
School Catchment	Current arrangement (all pupils)	Option A (all pupils)	Option B (all pupils)	Current (pupils in WM education)	Option A (pupils in WM education)	Option B (pupils in WM education)
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	64	53	53	14	14	14
Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch	114	47	45	4	6	4
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	22	25	27	4	1	3
Ysgol Hamadryad	N/A	87	87	N/A	1	1
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	38	27	27	1	1	1
Pupil population resident in Welsh-medium Secondary Catchments eligible for Free School Meals (FSMe): Year 7, PLASC 2019 dataset.						
School Catchment	Current arrangement (all pupils)	Option A (all pupils)	Option B (all pupils)	Current (pupils in WM education)	Option A (pupils in WM education)	Option B (pupils in WM education)
Ysgol Bro Edern	306	413	413	27	38	38
Ysgol Glantaf	336	236	236	31	21	22
Ysgol Plasmawr	241	232	232	17	16	15

36. Further analysis of the number of pupils resident in the areas ranked in the top 10% Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation also indicates that each option would decrease the number of pupils resident in these WIMD areas in the Ysgol Glantaf catchment, and would increase those in the other two catchment areas. However, proportionately few children enrolled in Welsh-medium schools are resident in those areas (c10% of the most recent intake), and a relatively low proportion of children in the 10% most deprived WIMD areas are enrolled in Welsh-medium secondary schools in Cardiff (c4% of the most recent intake).

Pupil population resident in Welsh-medium Primary Catchments in the top 10% Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation: Reception (PLASC 2019 dataset)						
School Catchment	Current arrangement (all pupils)	Option A (all pupils)	Option B (all pupils)	Current (pupils in WM education)	Option A (pupils in WM education)	Option B (pupils in WM education)
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	101	90	90	21	20	20
Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch	155	97	97	8	7	7
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	0	10	10	0	1	1
Ysgol Hamadryad	N/A	66	66	N/A	1	1
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	2	1	1	0	0	0
Pupil population resident in Welsh-medium Secondary Catchments in the top 10% Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation: Year 7 (PLASC 2019 dataset)						
School Catchment	Current arrangement (all pupils)	Option A (all pupils)	Option B (all pupils)	Current (pupils in WM education)	Option A (pupils in WM education)	Option B (pupils in WM education)
Ysgol Bro Edern	347	490	490	28	38	39
Ysgol Glantaf	300	179	179	20	19	10
Ysgol Plasmawr	393	371	371	45	44	44

37. The proposed changes to the Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch/ Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna boundary in Canton and Riverside would improve the balance between the number of Welsh-medium primary school places and the demand for these places. Conversely, the balance in the secondary sector, in 2021/22 and the years that follow, would be worsened by implementing a change in the boundary between Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr.
38. Within the next five years, the ongoing housing developments at Ely Mill in Canton and Plasdwr in north west Cardiff, within the catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr, are expected to increase the projected demand for places in the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr catchment area.

Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch

39. A response from the Governing Body of Ysgol Pwll Coch included the following points:

- *The Governing Body is pleased that Welsh Medium Education in the Capital City is thriving and fully supports the creation of a catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad.*
- *We welcome the Local Authority's consultation on proposals to change catchment areas for Welsh Medium Schools in Cardiff. Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch has seen falling rolls in recent years as a result of developments in the provision of Welsh Medium Primary Education in the local area.*
- *We support the re-balance of catchment areas which will increase and stabilise the number of pupils admitted to Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch and other schools.*
- *In light of the proposed creation of a catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad, we request a significantly increased catchment in the Canton area to mitigate the loss from our current catchment boundary. We feel that Ysgol Treganna will benefit significantly from the residential development at 'The Mill' and parts of Ely.*
- *The Governing Body is clear that Welsh Medium pupil numbers across the city are not decreasing as the consultation document states and that this has not been the pattern of previous years. We believe that a decline in uptake has only been the case for one year and that the predicted future demand for Welsh Medium school places has been based upon this. This is misleading in respect of predicting the suitability of catchment areas in the short and long term.*
- *We are in favour of a provision being added to the Local Authority's Admissions Policy to prioritise admission for children who already have siblings attending a Welsh Medium Primary and/or Secondary School.*
- *Having considered the options, the Governing Body is strongly in favour of the following being included as part of Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch's catchment area:*
 - *Areas including in both Options A and B*
 - *Cathedral Road and surrounding roads*
 - *As far south as possible towards Grangetown*
- *We feel that neither Option A or B alone would provide Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch with sufficient pupil numbers to operate as a two form entry school.*
- *The Governing Body is clear that our new catchment area must increase pupil numbers to allow us to function as a two form entry school with an admissions number of 60 pupils. This is especially important considering that the number of pupils attending Welsh Medium Education in Cardiff is increasing, contrary to the findings of the consultation document.*

Appraisal of views expressed

40. The Council welcomes the support of the Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch Governing Body for the establishment of a catchment area for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad.
41. As set out in the consultation document, the 840 Welsh-medium places available at entry to Reception Year could accommodate up to 22% of the projected population with further growth supported by changes to some catchment areas.
42. Demand for Welsh-medium education is kept under review and the Council will bring forward measures as required to ensure there are sufficient places available for all those wishing to take up this option.
43. The point regarding the prioritisation for admission of children who already have siblings attending a Welsh-medium primary and/or secondary school are addressed at paragraphs 5 – 8.
44. The Council acknowledges the wishes of the Governing Body to ensure there are sufficient pupils numbers for the school to operate as a two form entry school. However, the suggestion put forward by the Governing Body that areas included in both Options A and B, Cathedral Road and surrounding areas and as far south as possible towards Grangetown be included as part of the school's catchment area, did not form part of the proposed changes consulted on.

Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna

45. A response from the Governing Body of Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna Governing Body included the following points:
 - *Any change in catchment area, although inevitable with the growth of Welsh-medium education in our city, creates a rift in society and a family so carefully built up over the years. We wish to note our sadness at seeing the streets on the borders of Canton and Pontcanna being removed from the Treganna and Plasmawr family. These communities have been part of our family since 1987 and were of key importance in the struggle to build and establish Ysgol Treganna in a new building.*
 - *We consider that option B offers the lowest level of disruption to this fragile ecology. Having changed the catchments of Canton and Pwll Coch, we assume that there will be a reduction in the School's number of pupils in the short term. With the growth and development of the Mill estate on Sanatorium Road, it is possible that the School's numbers will rise once more leading to enable the maintenance of three streams of 90 pupils.*
 - *The fall in numbers would result in unreasonable pressure on the school's finances due to AWP. There will be a need to protect and maintain over*

this period the teaching staff which has been built up since 2013. We would therefore like the authority to guarantee the School's annual funding, based on pupil numbers, as a minimum at the 2018/2019 budget for a period of three years until September 2024.

46. A response from Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna Headteacher included the following points:
- *Any change in catchment area, although inevitable with the growth of WM education in the city, creates a divide between the community and family built carefully over the years. We must say we are sad to see the boundary streets in Canton and Pontcanna leaving the Treganna and Plasmawr family. These communities have been part of the family since 1987 and are vitally important in the endeavour to build and establish the School in a new building.*
 - *Although we cannot agree on any of the options in the consultation – we believe that Option B is least damaging to this delicate ecology.*
 - *After changing the Treganna and Pwll Coch catchment areas, there will be a short-term reduction in the number of pupils in the School. With the growth and development on the Mill estate on Sanatorium Road, it is likely that the numbers in the school will grow again to include the three flows of 90 pupils.*
 - *The reduction in the numbers will lead to unreasonable pressure on the School's finances due to AWPU. The learning staff build since 2013 will need to be maintained and protected during this period. We would therefore like the Authority to ensure the School's annual budget, based upon pupil numbers, on the AWPU budget minimum level 2020/21 for a period of three years until September 2024.*

Appraisal of views expressed

47. The support of the Governing Body and Headteacher for Option B is noted.
48. The concerns regarding funding are noted. The Council works closely with schools to ensure that the level of funding available is appropriate for the number of children at the school in any given year. The Council consults on funding arrangements with school representatives on the School Budget Forum each year.
49. At primary level, admission arrangements priority is given to children who have a brother or sister attending a school, admitted before catchment area changes. The responses to the consultation from parents indicate that many younger children within the areas proposed to transfer from Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna to Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch would continue to express a preference for Ysgol Treganna. This would limit the impact on Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna in the short to medium term. Within the next five years, the Ely Mill housing development

is also anticipated to positively affect the number of pupils stating a preference for admission to Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna.

Fitzalan High School Cardiff

50. A response from the Assistant Headteacher at Fitzalan High School included the following points:

- *Whilst in principle we agree with the admission arrangements our greatest concern as a school is the fact that as an oversubscribed school we do have a large number of pupils in our catchment that do not get places at Fitzalan when they transfer from primary school.*
- *Due to the nature of the families they find it very difficult to get to schools when there is no school transport. They then remain out of school for long periods of time, which is very detrimental to the education of some of the most vulnerable learners.*
- *We are keen to work with County to ensure that all pupils are placed successfully within Cardiff by September 1st to avoid stress for families and placing children at risk.*

Specific feedback on points

- *7.2 If a pupil moves out of catchment before starting at the school, it is vital that the admissions team are clear and explicit with their communication to us of the name and address of the pupil so they can be removed from our pre-admissions prior to them starting. This would be better facilitated if the admissions team are contactable during the summer holidays and the first few weeks of term.*
- *9.4 There should be NO pupils without a school place for September. Families need to be supported by County to ensure this happens.*

Appraisal of views expressed

51. The Council employs a number of measures to encourage all children eligible for a place to apply as part of the annual admissions round.
52. As part of the application process, parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to submit up to five preferences for entry to secondary school. In the event that less than three preferences are expressed, those applicants are contacted advising that their chances of receiving a school offer are substantially reduced if they fail to submit additional preferences.
53. Following the notification of places, the Council ensures that children who are without an offer of a school place or those who have not applied for a school place are engaged with in order to allow for them to secure a school place. This includes regular communication via letter and e-mail to parents/guardians, and the provision of lists of children with no offer to primary schools, with the aim of ensuring that all children without a school place have the opportunity to apply or to submit an alternative preference.

54. Following this, details of any children without a school offer are passed to Education Welfare as potential cases for Children Missing in Education.
55. Parents/guardians will also be contacted with provisional offers and are asked to confirm their preference.
56. Every effort is made to ensure that the information provided to schools is as accurate as possible and details of children who will not be attending a school as previously thought are provided as soon as known. However, the Council may not be able to process admission requests if school staff are uncontactable during the school summer holiday.
57. As outlined in paragraph 22, a work programme in partnership with Headteachers is underway to ensure that parents are better able to understand and undertake the required admissions processes.

Ysgol Glan Morfa

58. A response from the Headteacher of Ysgol Glan Morfa included the following points:
 - *As the Headteacher of Ysgol Glan Morfa I welcome the possibility of moving into the Bro Edern cluster. I have started meeting with Bro Edern since January due to increased numbers of our pupils attending the school. 26 out of 28 pupils attended Bro Edern last year due to lack of space at Ysgol Glantaf even though we are a part of the catchment area. Professionally I find the Bro Edern cluster very welcoming but also a cluster which is similar in demographic terms which makes our pupils very similar which is advantageous whilst working together. They are close to us geographically which makes it easier for our parents to pick up and drop off in the mornings or after school clubs as the drive to Glantaf is particularly difficult at certain times of the day and getting on a bus from Splott to Llandaff North does cause challenges with the numerous bus changes that have to be made.*
 - *My main concern however is the transport situation. We have a very high free school meal intake at Glan Morfa of 34% (and rising) and therefore getting to Bro Edern can be tricky in terms of catching a bus into town then going on another bus to reach Bro Edern by around 08:15 in the morning. I've had many parents raising this concern to me and therefore if the Council could provide a bus then this would ensure that the pupils are taken safely there and back. The parents that I have spoken to are not expecting a free service but they have concerns about their children going on different buses and particularly into town when it's dark in winter without any supervision. If the council and Bro Edern could come to some arrangements then that I believe this would be very beneficial. Another concern would be that if this isn't sorted then we might lose children to English medium education due to parents who have no means or transport in taking them to Bro Edern*

daily. This would go against the Council's 2030 vision and Welsh Government's 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050 campaign.

- To summarise I have no doubt that Glan Morfa joining the Bro Edern cluster is the best thing for the school. I am looking forward to joining them officially and working together to give the pupils of our area the best possible education.*

Appraisal of views expressed

59. The Council welcomes the support of the Ysgol Glan Morfa Headteacher for the proposed transfer of the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment area from the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment into the Ysgol Bro Edern catchment.
60. The Council's duties to provide school transport for pupils are set out in the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. Under the Measure, the Council has no statutory responsibility to provide free home to school transport to pupils attending the nearest available school provided, the pupil resides under the statutory walking distance of 3 miles from the nearest available secondary school. The nearest available school can be an English Medium, Welsh Medium, Roman Catholic or Church in Wales School.
61. The Council exceeds the requirements of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure, by continuing to provide free transport to pupils residing 3 or more miles from their nearest appropriate secondary school, where the type of school is decided by the parents/carers. The Council would provide free transport to nearest appropriate school be it an English Medium Community School, a Welsh Medium Community School, a Foundation School, a Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School or a Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided School. If parents/carers choose to send their child to a school other than the nearest appropriate school, the pupil will not be entitled to free school transport, even if the pupil lives beyond the statutory walking distance.
62. Under these proposals there are no plans to change the Council's policy on the transport of children to and from schools. Any pupils affected by these proposals as a result of changes to the catchment area will be offered the same support with transport as is provided throughout Cardiff and in accordance with the same criteria that apply across Cardiff.
63. Pupils resident within the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment area currently qualify for free home to school transport to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf. All addresses within the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment have an available walking route within 3 miles of the Ysgol Bro Edern site.
64. A route is considered 'available' if a child without a disability or learning difficulty can walk the route alone or is accompanied as appropriate by a responsible person if the pupil's age and levels of understanding requires it. In accordance

with the Learner Travel Measure all routes are assessed on the assumption that pupils are accompanied as necessary by a responsible person. It is for a parent to decide whether or not a child needs supervision on their journey, and this is for the parent/carer to arrange if they are unable to do it themselves.

65. The Cardiff Council Passenger Transport Team would be able to provide families with advice on available walking routes to Ysgol Bro Edern based on individual home addresses.
66. The proposal to amend the Ysgol Bro Edern catchment area should see an increase in the numbers of pupils in the Adamsdown, Tremorfa and Splott areas attending Ysgol Bro Edern as there would be no transport available to Ysgol Glantaf.
67. The Council would not be providing fee-paying school transport from the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment area to Ysgol Bro Edern as all pupils live within walking distance. There is no funding available to provide this service and to do so could set a precedent for other pupils within a similar distance of their nearest appropriate secondary school.
68. The Council is liaising with commercial bus operators with a view to providing a fare paying service from the Adamsdown, Tremorfa and Splott areas to Ysgol Bro Edern. A route has previously operated from this area to Ysgol Bro Edern but was withdrawn by the operator owing to low take up of the service at that time.
69. The Council offers Streetwise training to year 6 pupils in Cardiff. The aim of the Streetwise initiative is to raise awareness of road safety to ensure that children have the skills needed to travel safely and independently to their secondary school. Streetwise training of Year 6 pupils at Ysgol Glan Morfa commenced in February 2020.
70. The Streetwise program consists of an initial classroom based session for all pupils, followed by practical training in small groups on roads surrounding their primary schools. The program finishes with another classroom based session for the full class. The training includes route planning, how to catch a bus and read timetables, how to walk safely to school, what to do if something unexpected happens, how to navigate busy roads, parked cars, busy junctions and safe places to cross. It also teaches pupils the importance of staying safe and why they should avoid using their mobile phones or listening to music when crossing.
71. For pupils who have a statement of Special Education Needs, the Council also offers Independent Travel Training, which is a 1:1 bespoke training program to allow the pupil to travel independently on a bus or walking instead of in a taxi. This gives pupils the life skill of independent travel and ensures that as they progress through education and employment, they can travel independently. This scheme requires a referral from the school for each pupil and the agreement of the pupil and their parent/guardian.

72. All schools also have National Standard Cycle Training, which is an on road cycling course over 4 days. This gives pupils the skills and knowledge to ride their bikes to and from school and within their community.

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern

73. A response from the Headteacher of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern included the following points:

- *The suggestion of changing Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Glan Morfa from the current Glantaf catchment area to the Bro Edern catchment area was discussed.*
- *School senior leaders are unanimous that this suggestion is sensible for a number of reasons, including:*
- *Glan Morfa is geographically closer to Bro Edern than it is to Glantaf. An increasing number of Glan Morfa pupils transfer to Bro Edern at the end of year 6, including 24 pupils in September 2019.*
- *The current situation causes a lack of continuity for Glan Morfa - they attend some Bro Edern cluster events and some Glan Taf cluster events*
- *The current situation is making it more difficult to plan an effective transition between Glan Morfa and Bro Edern pupils.*
- *Being an official part of the cluster would facilitate this and improve the transition process for Glan Morfa pupils ensuring that they have the same experiences as their peers.*
- *The recommendation is a step towards ensuring that the three Comprehensive schools are viable in terms of numbers.*
- *Pupils who come to Bro Edern integrate fully with the rest of the school pupils and there is no reason to think that this would not continue.*
- *One of the barriers identified was travel. There is currently no bus traveling from the Glan Morfa catchment area past Bro Edern. The cluster would like to suggest if the authority's education transport department can work with the NAT bus company to establish a viable route to Bro Edern. NAT currently provides three buses (nos. 810, 811 and 812) from the east of the city to Bro Edern. There was a fourth bus until February half term - the 815 - but this service was withdrawn because it was not viable to run. The 815 was traveling south in the cluster - so I wonder if it is possible to look at reintroducing the 815 in September, and that its route includes Adamsdown and Splott en route to Bro Edern? This could be a relatively easy to introduce short-term option that would also allay the fears of Glan Morfa parents.*

Appraisal of views expressed

74. The Council welcomes the support of the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern Headteacher and senior leaders for the proposed transfer of the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment area.
75. The points raised regarding travel from the catchment area of Ysgol Glan Morfa to the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern site are addressed at paragraphs 60 – 68.

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern cluster of schools

76. A joint response from the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern cluster of schools (Ysgol Bro Eirwg, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen Y Groes, Ysgol Pen Y Pil, Ysgol Y Berllan Deg and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern) reflected the points raised in the response from the Headteacher of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern.

Appraisal of views expressed

77. The Council welcomes the support of the five schools within the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern cluster for the proposed transfer of the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment area.
78. The point raised regarding travel is addressed at paragraphs 61 – 73.

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf

79. A response from the Headteacher of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf included the following points:
 - *I see that the proposals are a sensible attempt, generally to achieve a better balance between pupil numbers and available places within the city's Welsh-medium primary and secondary catchment areas. It is inevitable, however, that in responding to the proposals for the suggested changes, aspects of the solutions themselves have negative consequences and these should be minimised in determining the best way forward.*
 - *Proposal: Transfer the catchment area of Ysgol Glan Morfa from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern -We agree.*
 - *Rationale: We see this as sensible enough. The LEA has a responsibility to secure places and to plan for the viability of the three Welsh Comprehensive Schools. This would mean less travel for Glan Morfa pupils and promote better distribution of numbers thus reducing surplus places in Bro Edern.*
 - *Changing boundaries between the catchment areas of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr, on the primary school boundary between Ysgol Pwll Coch and Ysgol Treganna - We*

agree, recognizing that Option B will have the least adverse impact on Plasmawr.

- *Rationale: It can be seen that this is a result of ensuring that surplus places created are established after establishing a new catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad and consequently filling vacancies at Ysgol Pwll Coch by taking pupils from Treganna to Pwll Coch. There is little long term impact on Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and so we see that the logic is sensible. The consultation states:*
- *All addresses in the Canton and Riverside areas, which are expected to transfer from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr to Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf catchment area, are closer to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf than Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr. The traveling distance from home to school would be significantly reduced - Again, the logic can therefore be agreed as an attempt to move towards reducing surplus places and reducing travel.*
- *Option A or B is seen to be proposed. Options A and B mean a net loss (pupil numbers in a catchment area) for Glantaf compared with no change, but as there is a higher forecasted demand than places available in Glantaf and as Bro Edern numbers become more viable by transferring Glan Morfa, we are of the opinion that these options are understandable.*
- *If there was no change in the catchment areas in Glantaf 274 pupils within the catchment area are predicted for year 7 2021/22 (Max 240). Option A means 271 and Option B: 265. We would have 9 (net) fewer, therefore under Option B:*
- *For Plasmawr, no change would mean 184 (Max 210). Option A means 164 and Option B: 170. They would have 14 (net) fewer under Option B. Option B is less of a blow to Plasmawr numbers but this means more vacancies at Pwll Coch as Treganna retains more of its current pupils.*
- *In practice, Glantaf in that year will have lost 23 to Bro Edern and gained 14 of the current Plasmawr catchment area under Option B = -9. However, on page 25 of the Consultation it states:*
- *Parents would still be able to identify a priority for any school and be admitted to that school if there were enough places available.*
- *Under these proposals and catchment numbers, there will be places available at Plasmawr for all 14 priority groups and they will get a place at Plasmawr if they wish. Likewise in subsequent years until 2024 according to consultation tables 4, 5 and 6 (pages 17-18)*
- *I know that a co-head teacher expressed concern that there would be unevenness in the social constitution with Glantaf serving a more socially advantaged catchment area. However, we note that the % free school meals of the three Schools are:*

- Bro Edern 10.7%
- Glantaf 9.2%
- Plasmawr 6.8%

- *I don't see, therefore, that the changes put one comprehensive school at a disadvantage.*
- *We also agree with the plans for establishing the Hamadryad catchment.*

Appraisal of views expressed

80. The Council welcomes the support the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf Headteacher for the proposed transfer of the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment from the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment to the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern Catchment and the proposed establishment of a catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad.
81. The support expressed for Option B is noted.
82. The point raised regarding the socio-demographic balance of the Welsh-medium secondary schools is addressed at paragraphs 34 – 37.

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr Headteacher

83. A response from the Headteacher of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr included the following points:
- *The consultation on Welsh-medium primary and secondary school catchment areas has two main aims:*
 - (1) establish a catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad and,*
 - (2) balance the numbers of the city's Welsh-medium secondary schools.*
 - *I agree with the first aim that Ysgol Hamadryad needs a clear catchment area for it to grow into a mature school.*
 - *I agree and welcome the second aim of balancing the numbers of Welsh-medium secondary schools in the city but unfortunately neither option offered in the consultation offers a valid way of achieving this. For option A and option B, Ysgol Plasmawr's pupil numbers decrease significantly over time (78% capacity in 2021) and Ysgol Glantaf's pupil numbers increase significantly over time (116% capacity in 2024). This does not respond to the aim of the consultation of balancing secondary school pupil numbers.*
 - *I also believe that consideration needs to be given to balancing the nature and socio-economic composition of the three schools for the future benefit of Welsh-medium education in the Capital. The decisions at the end of this consultation process could have a far-reaching negative impact on Welsh-*

medium secondary education across the city that would go against the vision for city education in the Cardiff 2030 document.

- The consultation proposes a change to the boundary between the catchment area of Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf. In this case (option A and B) the Pontcanna area of the city would move out of the Ysgol Plasmawr catchment and into the catchment area of Ysgol Glantaf.*
- The loss of the Pontcanna area out of the Ysgol Plasmawr catchment area would have a similar effect to when the Ysgol Pencae (Llandaf) catchment area was moved out of the Plasmawr catchment and into Ysgol Glantaf's catchment in September 2017. Pupils living in privileged areas of the city such as Llandaf and Pontcanna tend to be successful, independent learners who usually stay on to sixth forms. 11% of our current 6th form population live in the Pontcanna area. The loss of this area of the school catchment area would have a negative impact on the standards of the school, a devastating blow to our 6th form which is likely to create a gap in standards between two nearby Welsh-medium secondary schools.*
- The proposal to change the boundary between Ysgol Plasmawr and Glantaf is likely to worsen the socio-economic balance between the two schools. The table below summarizes the impact of the change on the three Welsh-medium secondary schools. The county's multiple deprivation index shows the obvious differences between the socio-economic backgrounds of the three schools which will have far-reaching effects on the future of Welsh medium education in the city.*
- I welcome the vision and ambition for education and learning in Cardiff in the Cardiff 2030 document, but the document also refers to the need to address the "significant gap in educational outcomes between pupils from low income families and those from more affluent backgrounds in Cardiff. With a Cardiff-wide focus on tackling inequality in the city, a major effort is needed to close the attainment gap between those eligible for free school meals and the rest". The proposal to change the boundary between Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf increases the inequality between two neighboring secondary schools within the city and is contrary to the city's vision. The principle of social inclusion across the city's schools is central to Cardiff's vision for the education of its children but is failed in these proposals.*

	Plasmawr (6/7 fe)	Glantaf (8 fe)	Bro Ederm (6 fe)
Cardiff Regions	West	North / Central	East
<i>Areas of Cardiff within the school catchment areas</i>	<i>Pentyrch; Creigiau; Radyr; Pentrebane; Fairwater; Danescourt; Canton; Caerau; Ely.</i>	<i>Thornhill; Llanishen; Lisvane; Rhiwbeina; Whitchurch; Llandaf North; Heath; Cathays; Llandaf; Pontcanna; Leckwith; Grangetown; Riverside, Butetown.</i>	<i>Pontprenau; Pentwyn; Cyncoed; Penylan; Llanrumney; Rumney; St Mellons; Llanedeyrn; Splott; Roath.</i>
<i>Primary schools within catchment areas as proposed in consultation (f/e)</i>	<i>Treganna (2); Gwaelod y Garth (1), Coed-y-Gof (1); Creigiau (1); Nant Caerau (1)</i>	<i>Melin Gruffydd (2); y Wern (2/3); Mynydd Bychan (1); Pwll Coch (2); Pencae (1); Glan Ceubal (1); Hamadryad (2); Treganna (1)</i>	<i>Berllan Deg (2); Bro Eirwg (2); Pen-y-Pil (1); Pen-y-Groes (1); Glan Morfa (2)</i>
<i>Likely size of mature school (f/e)</i>	6 (7)	13	6 (7)
<i>A brief summary of the catchment area</i>	<i>Polarizing in socio-economic groups. One third of the catchment live in some of the most deprived areas of Cardiff.</i>	<i>Still mixed with most including the most privileged areas of Cardiff.</i>	<i>Mixed catchment with high% of pupils living in very deprived areas.</i>

- *Cardiff Council has invested tens of millions of pounds in building new English-medium schools in the east and west of the city in a bid to respond to long-term problems in the English-medium secondary sector where there have been disparities between high-performing schools and others performing lower. There is a danger in this proposal that the Local Authority may be repeating past problems in the Welsh-medium sector by creating a Welsh-medium Cardiff High.*
- *Should this proposal go ahead, Plasmawr's academic performance is likely to decline and fewer pupils will remain in the Sixth Form. Families who want a Welsh-medium education for their children are likely to move to areas of central and north Cardiff and we risk losing a significant number of pupils out of the Welsh-medium sector altogether. This proposal is going to undermine one secondary school at the expense of another. The polarization of schools should be avoided at all such times and instead the search for much more positive and creative solutions should be prioritized.*
- *The consultation document states that the Council has worked closely with its partners on the Cardiff Welsh Education Forum to identify catchment area changes that would offer a sustainable and strategic solution to*

support the growth of Welsh medium education in Cardiff. There is no evidence in the document to support this logic as no consideration has been given to the impact of new residential developments (LDP) on future Welsh-medium pupil numbers. It is likely that the catchment areas of the city's Welsh medium secondary schools will need to be revisited as the population of the LDP (Plas Dŵr) increases and therefore the solution proposed in this document is unsustainable.

- *I kindly ask you not to agree to a scheme that would damage Welsh-medium secondary education across the city and call on the Local Authority for a more sustainable and equitable long-term plan that would serve the interests of all Welsh-medium sector stakeholders into the future.*
- *I would be delighted if Cardiff Council considered the following proposals in response to the consultation:*
 - *Establish a catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad.*
 - *Continue with the change to the primary catchment areas which have the least impact on primary school numbers - option B.*
 - *Retain the existing secondary school catchment areas and not change the boundary between the Plasmawr and Glantaf catchment areas until a full review has been completed of the impact of the city's LDP developments (Plas Dŵr, The Mill and the BBC site) on Welsh-medium primary and secondary pupil numbers in the city in the future.*

Appraisal of views expressed

84. The Council welcomes the support of the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr Headteacher for the proposed establishment of a catchment area for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad.
85. The point regarding the socio-economic balance of Welsh-medium secondary schools is addressed at paragraphs 34 – 37.

Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG)

86. A response from RhAG included the following points:
 - *Cardiff RhAG is pleased that Welsh-medium education is thriving in the city of Cardiff. We know that this internationally recognised model of immersion education is established by the Welsh Government as the only model working to create fully bilingual citizens, in areas where over 90% of pupils come from non-Welsh speaking homes. One of the consequences of the growth and success of Welsh medium education is the need to adapt catchment areas to ensure that every school has a suitable catchment area. We therefore accept from time to time that the county needs to adapt Welsh medium catchment areas in a sensitive, appropriate and reasonable manner.*

- *RhAG does not accept that Welsh-medium intake will be expected to fall due to population decline (p.3). This is not the pattern over the last decade although there was a slight decrease last year. Nor should the county anticipate a decline in the sector, but encourage growth. To express that 15% of surplus places exist this year which allows for growth is misleading. Places are often not in the right location for parents, and more local places must be secured which will in itself encourage growth. This was evidenced by an increase in parents' first preference for Hamadryad's reception class for 2020, which proves that the figures in this document do not hold water. We cannot therefore accept the figures on pg 5/6 and pg 17/18 as realistic ones for the Welsh-medium primary and secondary schools, and the county must plan for increased capacity in certain areas.*
- *RhAG has long called for a suitable catchment area for Ysgol Hamadryad so that the school can thrive in its community, and is pleased that this is happening.*
- *We support the fact that Hamadryad is going to serve the Grangetown area, and having a catchment area will surely increase the school's admission numbers, as the school gets a place on the county's official admission list for parents.*
- *We recognize that Hamadryad is located in the Pwll Coch catchment area, and therefore the county must ensure a suitable catchment area for Pwll Coch in order for that school to thrive. Ysgol Pwll Coch has fallen in recent years as a result of the opening of Hamadryad, and therefore needs a suitable catchment area which will enable it to reach the full capacity of two streams in the coming years.*
- *As neither option A nor option B is likely to give Ysgol Pwll Coch two streams based on current figures, the Pwll Coch catchment area should be increased by more than just one of these options, which will take pressure off Treganna / Nant Caerau in the next two years as well (especially given that new houses are being built in the Treganna catchment). This would ensure that all schools are viable and make use of available places.*
- *We want to see the council respond to the call of parents to secure sibling places in primary / secondary schools, if the county has changed the catchment area of their home.*
- *The bottom part of Caerau is moving to be part of the Treganna catchment. We would like assurance that this will not affect the county's promise to convert Ysgol Nant Caerau into a dual stream school within the next few years, and that this will not mean that any plans will be delayed.*
- *We believe that switching Glan Morfa to Bro Eder is reasonable, but we are concerned that transport assistance will be withdrawn for pupils from this disadvantaged catchment area, which could have a detrimental effect on transfer numbers to a Welsh-medium secondary school.*

- *We agree that it is sensible that Ysgol Hamadryad feeds Ysgol Glantaf, both geographically and also in terms of the social balance of Welsh-medium secondary schools in the city.*
- *The figures in this document are not credible in terms of intake, so planning for the future of the sector should not be based on it. We agree that Hamadryad should be given a suitable catchment area. It must be ensured that Pwll Coch, as it has lost the Grangetown area in its catchment, receives a new catchment area which will create two viable streams. The impact on the Nant Caerau catchment area should not delay the development of the school as a dual stream school.*

Appraisal of views expressed

87. The Council welcomes RhAG's support for the establishment of a catchment area for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad and the proposed transfer of the Ysgol Glan Morfa catchment from the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment to the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Eder catchment.
88. Number on roll data supplied by Cardiff schools in Table 1 (overleaf) confirms that the number of children entering Welsh-medium primary education city-wide fluctuated between 2009/10 to 2016/17. Consistent with the overall population, the number of children entering Welsh-medium education was on an upward trend in this period. The number of children entering Welsh-medium reception classes city-wide peaked in 2016/17 at 744 pupils, but has fallen since.
89. The below overleaf sets out this Number on Roll (NoR) data for Welsh-medium primary schools in Cardiff, and projected intakes based on recent demand. These intakes do not represent forecasts nor targets.

Table : Recent and projected numbers of children enrolled in Welsh-medium Reception Year in Cardiff schools			
School Year	Total pupils (English-medium, Welsh-medium and Faith schools)	Pupils in Welsh- medium schools and classes	% in Welsh- medium schools and classes
January 2010 (NoR)	3683	572	15.5%
January 2011 (NoR)	3859	594	15.4%
January 2012 (NoR)	4019	651	16.2%
January 2013 (NoR)	4221	686	16.3%
January 2014 (NoR)	4256	678	15.9%
January 2015 (NoR)	4270	708	16.6%
January 2016 (NoR)	4345	690	15.9%
January 2017 (NoR)	4340	744	17.1%
January 2018 (NoR)	4098	709	17.1%
January 2019 (NoR)	4125	702	16.9%
October 2019 (NoR)	4116	684	16.6%
2020/21 (projected)	4107	715	17.4%
2021/22 (projected)	3721	648	17.4%
2022/23 (projected)	3682	641	17.4%

90. In the most recent intake to primary education, one Welsh-medium primary school of 17 in Cardiff was oversubscribed with applicants resident within its catchment area. In this intake, 19% of Welsh-medium primary school places were unfilled.
91. NHS GP registration data provides a robust basis for projecting pupil populations in each intake year. The total pupil population entering Reception year will reduce in the 2021/22 and 2023/23 intake years. As set out in the consultation document, the 840 Welsh-medium places available at entry to Reception Year could therefore accommodate up to 22% of the projected population with further growth supported by changes to some catchment areas.
92. The Council works closely and constructively with partners on its Welsh Education Forum, which includes representatives of nursery, primary, secondary and further education, childcare, RhAG and the Welsh Government. The Forum actively informs the planning of Welsh-medium places, to continue to drive the Council's plan to sustainably increase the number of learners within Welsh-medium schools and those learning Welsh in English-medium schools.

93. The Council, and its partners on the Welsh Education Forum, are committed to driving the increase in number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh, to meet the targets within Cardiff's WESP, and to meet the targets set out in the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy. The Council must ensure that the expansion of school provision is brought forward in a strategic and timely manner, which does not compromise existing provision.
94. The proposed changes to the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch are addressed at paragraph 44.
95. The prioritisation for admission of children who already have siblings attending a Welsh-medium primary and/or secondary school is addressed at paragraphs 5 – 8.
96. The proposal to expand Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau is addressed at paragraph 31.
97. The point regarding transport assistance is addressed at paragraphs 60 – 68.

Other responses received:

98. A number of responses expressed support for some or all of the proposed changes, however a number of concerns were also raised.
99. Of those who responded to the consultation in respect of changes to primary school catchment areas, six respondents generally supported changes, three specifically supported option A, 23 supported option B and 20 did not support any changes to primary school catchment areas.
100. Of those who responded to the consultation in respect of changes to secondary school catchment areas, 15 respondents generally supported changes, three specifically supported option A, 22 supported option B and 44 did not support any changes to secondary school catchment areas.

Support for the proposed changes to Welsh-medium catchments

101. *I would like to express my support for the proposed changes. As a parent whose children attend Ysgol Treganna and living in Pontcanna, I feel that it makes more sense for children in certain parts of Pontcanna/ Canton to attend Ysgol Glantaf as it is much more accessible on foot or by bike. This is very positive for physical health and for tackling the traffic congestion in the city.*
102. *I support the splitting of the Ysgol Treganna catchment as I feel that it is positive for the children of Ysgol Treganna to be sent to different high school so that the opportunity to make new friendships is increased.*

103. *As a parent of children in Ysgol Glan Morfa I support the transfer of catchment from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Eder in principle and feel this is a sensible change given that the majority of year 6 pupils from Ysgol Glan Morfa were not offered spaces in Ysgol Glan Taff last academic year.*
104. *I fully understand the need to adjust catchment areas in response to changes in school provision and changes in demand for places.*
105. *I am aware that many parents are opposed to the proposed changes and I of course appreciate their concerns. However, I felt that I needed to highlight the fact that there is also a lot of support for these changes amongst many parents including myself.*
106. *I think it makes a lot of sense to decrease the catchment area for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan. The school is oversubscribed every year highlighting a clear need for Welsh medium education in this particular area of the Heath where available places are currently insufficient for the demand.*
107. *It makes a lot of sense to decrease the catchment area for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan. Hopefully this catchment change will ensure that more children in the Heath area are given access to Welsh medium education to fuel the Welsh Government's drive towards 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.*
108. *It is sensible that Ysgol Hamadryad feeds Ysgol Glantaf, both geographically and also in terms of the social balance of Welsh-medium secondary schools in the city.*
109. *The current situation causes a lack of continuity for Ysgol Glan Morfa. The Bro Eder cluster is very welcoming but also similar in demographic terms which makes our pupils very similar which is advantageous whilst working together.*
110. *The recommendation is a step towards ensuring that the three comprehensive schools are viable in terms of numbers.*

Appraisal of views expressed

111. The views expressed in support of the proposed changes are noted.

Preference for Option A

112. Parents expressing support for primary catchments Option A over Option B explained how the Option A would represent no change to their current circumstances, and was therefore preferred.

Appraisal of views expressed

113. The views expressed in support of Option A are noted.

Preference for Option B

114. The majority of parents expressing support for primary catchments Option B over Option A explained how the Option B would represent no change to their current circumstances, and was therefore preferred.
115. *Option B as it has two clear advantages. It results in far fewer increased journeys for pupils to primary school and provides for a better balance of school places across the three secondary schools. Option A involves the potential of children who live close by both Treganna and Pwll Coch having to walk or otherwise travel away from a school on their doorstep to a school further away.*
116. *As a teacher, long-term I would favour Option B – as we won't lose the streets of Brunswick, York and Northumberland from our community.*
117. *Option B doesn't affect negatively on the traffic issues that currently exist. With regards to option A, it's a different matter. For a council with far-reaching and exciting plans for public transport in the future, it would mean adding to the cars on a network that can't cope with the current levels of traffic. The quality of public transport as it is isn't adequate for such morning journeys. Placing more cars on the roads would also have a very negative effect on air quality in a city that needs to improve in that respect as well.*
118. *Option B would ensure that brothers and sisters would have the right to attend the same school. I believe that this should be obvious to anybody. Not only on a practical level, but on a social and emotional level also.*
119. *Option B would take us closer to ensuring that groups of local friends would not be separated when transitioning from primary to secondary schools and would ensure that the emotional wellbeing of children was the priority.*

Appraisal of views expressed

120. The views expressed in support of Option B are noted.

Transport and walking routes to schools

121. *The options around change to the Treganna catchment means that large parts of the 'Canton' area will not be attending the local school that is closest to their homes. Families will have to travel along roads that are already extremely busy to a school that is further away, thereby changing the ethos of a community school. Families that live between Grosvenor St and Alexandra Rd can walk effortlessly to school at Treganna. If the catchments of all these streets change then using a car would become essential and would create new congestion on a road that's busy already.*

122. *I am dismayed by the lack of transport planning in the proposals for primary. No consideration appears to have been given about how children will travel to school, in particular travelling from Ely and the Mill to Canton for Treganna and options for those travelling from Grangetown to Butetown to the Hamadryad school. Serious consideration needs to be given to that as part of the planning process.*
123. *I am concerned that without adequate public transport from the Splott/Tremorfa area to Bro Edern, a high number of parents are going to be forced to drive their children to and from school. This is in conflict with the Cardiff Council's Transport White paper which aims to reduce car usage and increase the use of public transport. In an age of Climate Emergency, poor air quality and congestion, it is confusing that the council are proposing a change in catchment area that, without suitable transport, will lead to an increase in traffic along an already significantly busy stretch of road.*
124. *While I understand the current transport policy is not to provide a school bus for children living less than 3 miles from the school, this needs to be re-assessed to consider the risks to children who have to cross busy, dangerous roads with poor air quality (such as Newport road) in order to walk to school. It is not safe from a road safety or public health perspective for our children to walk from Splott/Tremorfa to Bro Edern twice daily. I strongly suggest that the council reassess the school transport policy as a matter of urgency in line with this proposed change in catchment.*
125. *I would be concerned to allow my 11 year old child either walk or have to take 2 buses or 1 bus and a long walk to get to school. I feel this situation would make many families feel the need to use personal transport to get children to and pick up from school on a daily basis. This will just increase the congestions and add to the already high levels of pollution in the area.*
126. *I am happy for the transfer of catchment with regards to the education of my child but would urge the council to either provide a free school bus for the journey for students from Tremorfa / Splott or at the very least, to look at providing a direct bus route. If this is not addressed I would very much object to the proposals to change catchment!*
127. *A direct bus should be sourced via Cardiff Bus (with a fare) to ensure the safety of the students for the Ysgol Glan Morfa children. I know that if there is a need for this service Cardiff bus will look to supply as they have done for other routes within Cardiff.*
128. *Whilst the catchment area of Ysgol Bro Edern is within the authorities '3 mile' radius this includes the link road to the A48. As you are aware, Splott is classed as a 'deprived area' yet you are taking the school transport from the students which reside here and are giving it to a more affluent area. There is no direct bus route which would take the children to school.*

129. *The cost of bus transportation. Currently the children receive a free bus to Ysgol Glantaf but they would not get a free bus pass to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern. Many people in the area of proposed changes are from a lower incomes and are not necessarily eligible for help with travel expenses (I am one of these parents). The extra expense would put an extreme strain on my finances and I am sure it will many others too. It feels like yet another drag down and disadvantage for lower income families.*

Appraisal of views expressed

130. The majority of pupils affected by the proposed changes at secondary level would be within closer proximity to their proposed catchment school than they are at present.
131. Some addresses within Canton and Riverside which are proposed to transfer from the catchment area of Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna to Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch, are further from Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch than from the current catchment area school of Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna. However, the increased distance for any of these addresses is less than 0.3 miles.
132. The points regarding transport to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern are addressed at paragraphs 60 - 72.

Socio economic concerns

133. *The proposal will stop children from a lower income area attending a more established school (after a primary education being in such a low performing school), which by reports and results make it clear that the standard of education and extra-curricular activities are better at Ysgol Glantaf than Ysgol Bro Edern. So yet again keeping children from an already disadvantaged area potentially missing out by not being able to attend Ysgol Glantaf.*

Appraisal of views expressed

134. Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern was inspected by Estyn in November 2017. Estyn were of the view that 'a successful new Welsh-medium comprehensive school had been established'. Standards at the school were judged as good, wellbeing and attitudes to learning as excellent, teaching and learning experiences as excellent, care support and guidance as good and leadership and management as good.
135. In the most recent Welsh Government School Categorisation at January 2020, the school was categorised as Green (a highly effective school which is well run, has a strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement).

136. The transfer of the school is supported by the Headteachers of both Ysgol Glan Morfa and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern and is reflected in the increased number of children stating a preference for the school in recent years.

Siblings and friendships

137. *My concern is for those who fall outside the catchment area but who already have a sibling at the school. The logistics of taking children to more than one school for any parents, but in particular working parents, is increasingly difficult, especially whilst taking varying start/finish times and traffic issues into consideration.*
138. *The proposed changes would not only separate my two sons as brothers but would also mean that my eldest son would be taken from his close group of friends and entered into a different school at a critical stage in his life. I have grave concerns on how this would affect both my children at such a key development age in their lives with special concerns on how such a significant life upheaval and separation from peer group would affect the mental wellbeing of my eldest child at such a delicate time.*
139. *Based on the new plan you will be splitting families and in a situation where brothers and sisters will have to attend different schools. With so much pressure on families in this age here we have even more unnecessary pressure that will create stress and mental health issues for parents and brothers and sisters without any need for it.*
140. *The new arrangement would split friends. Ysgol Treganna is a happy community school that plays a vital part in the community of this area. The last inspection showed the strengths of the school and the care for children's wellbeing there and here is a plan that means that a successful community will be split with friends having to decide on different schools and as noted above, creating unnecessary stress and anxiety.*
141. *We recognise that the catchment balance needs to change but what we'd ask is that it isn't just 1 or 2 children that should be affected by the change but that it should be a larger group. Being split off from your peers at this age is challenging, especially if it is only 1 or 2 children being split off. Better to split off a group of children so that at least they have some familiarity when starting comprehensive school, ie. Ysgol Glantaf. Managing this change and transition for pupils is probably of the most paramount importance; rather than the change itself.*

Appraisal of views expressed

142. The points regarding the attendance of siblings at the same school and retention of friendship groups are address at paragraphs 5 – 8 and 11 – 13.

Childcare

143. Several parents raised concerns regarding childcare arrangements, if the catchment area changes proposed are progressed. Their views included the following:
144. *The proposals could leave us in an impossible situation logistically, and could mean switching childcare providers- an unsettling experience for young children – as not many offer wraparound care for both schools.*

Appraisal of views expressed

145. The views expressed are noted. Advice and support for families on matters related to childcare is provided by the Council Family Information Service (FIS).

Request for transition period for siblings

146. *I would like to encourage you greatly to think about a transition period over the next 4-7 years whereby secondary schools would be able to accept all the children from primary schools currently within their catchments. This is the only way that I can see of avoiding long term effects on those children currently in the system, both emotionally and socially, with changes that treat them as numbers on paper completely forgetting Welsh Government's emphasis on children's wellbeing.*
147. *For reasons of fairness, siblings no longer in catchment should be given the same priority as siblings who continue to live in catchment. This ensures fairness for all (option A and B) who could be negatively affected by a change and it need only apply over a transitional period of a few years until there are no more siblings/families left who may be adversely affected.*
148. *These proposed changes will make life harder for working families, particularly for mothers who bear most of the burden for childcare. While I appreciate that you must make adjustments, please consider the families who already have children in the school system and, at the very least, offer a long transition period for those supporting either Option A or B to ensure children remain with siblings and friends.*
149. *I would urge you to not implement changes which would effect children currently living in catchment. All changes should only affect those starting in the academic year 2021/22 thus reducing negative impact on current students.*
150. *We should have been informed of this proposal at least a year ago. This would have given a lot more time to uproot a family or for a child to come to terms with the changes. High school is a big enough adjustment for 11 year old children and parents, but adding the fact of a different high school away from what they*

know is alarming for them. It is also not enough time to relocate to become a resident in a catchment area and I feel this is unfair.

Appraisal of views expressed

151. The Council is required to consult on admission arrangements annually with agreed admission arrangements applying to all community schools.
152. In order to comply with the legislation above, School Admission Arrangements for implementation in the 2021/2022 academic year (i.e. from September 2021) must be determined on or before 15 April 2020.
153. The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006 and the School Admissions Code set out the procedure which admission authorities should follow when determining their admission arrangements, including that proper consultation must be carried out and that the arrangements should be determined by 15th April in the school year beginning two years before the school year which the arrangements will be for.
154. The Council is unable to consult at this time on arrangements that would take effect later than the 2021/2022 academic year.

Impact on Ysgol Bro Edern

155. Several respondents raised the following concerns.
156. *As a parent of two children at Bro Edeyrn, I am dismayed that alongside children from Trowbridge, Rumney and Llanrumney the school will now also accommodate children from Glan Morfa.*
157. *The general feeling of parents is that the lack of mix of children from different backgrounds in Bro Edern has not only discouraged children from other schools wanting to send their children to the school, but as a parent I feel it is having a detrimental effect on the behaviour and future prospects of my children.*
158. *The school needs diversity I agree but it appears the areas of the lowest socio-economic class are all being sent to Bro Edern, to the detriment of the school and it's pupils.*

Appraisal of views expressed

159. The point raised regarding the socio-economic balance of schools is addressed at paragraphs 34 – 37.
160. The point raised regarding standards at the school is addressed at paragraphs 134 – 136.

Alternative suggestions received during consultation:

161. *Ysgol y Wern should come to Bro Edern instead of Glan Morfa to have a better cross-section.*
162. *The transfer of Ysgol Y Wern into the Ysgol Bro Edern catchment would allow for a more even distribution of children from Welsh first language homes between Ysgol Bro Edern and Ysgol Glantaf.*
163. *Can someone explain to me why Ysgol y Wern are being allowed to still send their children to Glantaf whilst it would make more sense for them geographically to attend Bro Edern?*

Appraisal of views expressed

164. There are no plans to transfer Ysgol y Wern from the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf catchment into the Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern catchment. There would not be sufficient places at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern to add the number of pupils within the catchment area of Ysgol y Wern (c70 – 90 pupils per year group) to its existing catchment.

Other responses

165. *As Ysgol Plasmawr & Ysgol Bro Edern are both under subscribed how was it decided that Canton / Leckwith was added to the Glantaf Catchment area but Splott was taken out? If you are looking to make the catchment areas more even how does taking one catchment area out to make room for a different area. I do not agree with this process and believe there should be a fair way of changing the border by reduction only for Ysgol Glantaf.*
166. *Ysgol Treganna is popular and successful. There is a new housing development at the paper mill - with many new families hoping to attend Treganna, and yet you plan to cut the school size to create a false catchment for Hamadryad. Why are Canton children being penalised to create a catchment for a school that was built in the wrong area? Surely when the council granted planning permission for the Paper Mill it was time to consider whether an additional welsh school would be better in that part of town rather than Grangetown.*

Appraisal of view expressed

167. The objection to the proposed changes is noted. Overall the proposed changes would improve the balance of children and the number of primary school places serving each area.
168. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad was established in 2016, and was intended to serve the communities for Butetown and South Grangetown. The school was temporarily accommodated on the Ninian Park Primary School site

in Grangetown and transferred to its current site in Butetown in the 2018/19 school year. The number of children at the school is increasing year on year with the majority of these from the local area.

169. The establishment of a catchment area of the school and associated amendment of other catchment areas, would allow local families to better understand the school options available and allow more parents to be able to access a local place.
170. The changes proposed to other primary school catchment areas would provide a better balance of places available in schools and the number of children in each area.
171. There is no change proposed to the size of Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna.
172. Within the next five years, it is expected that children from the Ely Mill housing development will positively affect the number of pupils stating a preference for admission to Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna.

Online Petition

173. In addition to the response received, a 356 signature online petition was received.

Online petition- “Cardiff Welsh-medium School Boundary Changes: Keep Siblings and Friends Together”.

- *Cardiff Council is consulting on plans to change the boundaries of Welsh-medium primary and secondary schools in the city. However, under current Council policy, children in areas affected by boundary changes will find themselves less likely to join older siblings at the same school and more likely to be split apart from friendship groups at their transition to secondary school.*
- *This petition is therefore calling for the Council to update their admissions policy to ensure these children are not unfairly relegated to lower priority statuses at those schools that allow them to stay with family and friends.*
- *These children will see their sibling priority status either moderately reduced (in the case of primary, where they will be considered lower priority than the younger siblings of children in catchment unaffected by boundary change, but higher than other children out of catchment) or significantly reduced (in the case of secondary, where they will be considered under lower priority than all children within catchment regardless of sibling link). At over-subscribed schools there is therefore a high risk of families from these areas being separated.*
- *Having children attend different schools is hugely difficult logistically (for drop off and pick up) and also removes shared experiences between*

siblings who would otherwise be part of the same school community. Additionally, in those cases where the boundary affects not only primary but also secondary catchment, children in the affected areas will be relegated to a much lower priority status for the secondary school associated with the primary school they attend. They will simply be treated as out of catchment. They will therefore be much less likely to join their primary school cohort at secondary school - splitting them from supportive friendship groups at a time of unsettling transition.

- *Children living in the areas of boundary change have as much of a right to continuity and cohesion as the children from areas that are not changing catchment. We call on the Council to review its policies to ensure the boundary changes are implemented in a way that is sensitive, gradual and fair to all children.*

Appraisal of views expressed

174. The points raised regarding siblings and friends are addressed at paragraphs 5 – 8 and 11 – 13.

Replacing the proximity test with a longevity of residence test, or a feeder school system

175. *The continued use of proximity as a tie-breaker denies access to oversubscribed schools to all but the wealthiest children, whose parents can afford to buy or rent closest to those secondary schools.*

176. *A longevity of residence test, or a feeder school system, would be clear and easily understood by all. This would ensure that oversubscribed secondary schools remain inclusive schools that offer equal access to children from diverse backgrounds and economic circumstances, drawn from a wider geographic area.*

177. *It would limit the ability of wealthy parents to "shop around" for whichever secondary school was flying highest in the league tables at the time. It would prevent the school admissions policy from polarising society even further.*

178. *The oversubscribed school becomes effectively a private school (available only to the rich), funded by the general population, who have no hope of accessing it themselves. Wealthy parents choose the oversubscribed school in preference to a private school, because it is just as elite, and provides their children with the same privileges.*

179. *Replacing the proximity test with a longevity of residence test, or a feeder school system, would counteract this unfairness. It would allow a less wealthy, more socially and ethnically diverse population to enter the school, drawn from a wider geographic area. It would benefit the pupils already in the school, as well as those who join it, to be part of a more mixed school population.*

Appraisal of views expressed

180. As set out in the report to Cabinet on 15 March 2018, School Admissions Arrangements 2019/20, the introduction of a 'length of catchment area residence' criterion would not be recognised as best practice.
181. This point is referenced in the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code 2.63 which refers to feeder primary schools and states that if Admission Authorities use this criterion, to do so with caution, as such arrangements can unduly disadvantage children who move into an area at a late stage and should consider the impact that such arrangements have on the ability of a school to serve its local area.
182. The same caution and potential disadvantage would apply to a 'length of catchment area residence' criterion. Under Section 19 of the Equality Act 2010, indirect discrimination is prohibited and under Section 85 discrimination in relation to School Admissions is also prohibited.
183. The Council is also bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty in all of its decisions. A 'length of catchment area residence' criterion is an example of a potentially indirect discrimination as those who would be disadvantaged by this criterion are more likely to come from vulnerable social groups with protected characteristics; for example, Gypsy and Traveller children, Asylum Seeker/Refugees and some other Foreign pupils.

PLASC data

184. *The Equality Impact Assessment that was produced previously was misleading in its use of PLASC data. It identified the percentage of each ethnic group who remained in one school throughout their primary education, but did not identify the percentage of each ethnic group who could afford to move during their primary education to within close proximity of an oversubscribed secondary school. If the latter statistic was not available, the former statistic should not have been quoted. It is well-known that decision-makers are unconsciously biased towards arguments that cite statistics, and against those that do not, and yet this was the only set of statistics referred to in the entire report.*
185. *To put the figures quoted on page 7 of the Equality Impact Assessment into proper context, it seems highly likely that Black/African/Caribbean/Black British pupils, Traveller families and Other ethnic groups suffer more indirect discrimination in the current non-feeder school system (where access to oversubscribed schools depends on having the wealth to move into closer proximity) than they would do in a feeder school system (which would protect access to places for the vast majority, 75.5% to 81.1%).*

Appraisal of views expressed

186. Cardiff Council does not ask Parents/ Guardians for details of their financial status, as income is not a determining factor when allocating school places.
187. All applications for school places are treated equally irrespective of ethnic identity.

Stability for pupils

188. *One of the most important needs of children is stability. They should be able to expect to move from primary school to secondary school along with their friendship groups. This reduces the stress of an important transition, especially for the more vulnerable amongst them. A stressful transition impacts on educational attainment not only during the first terms of secondary school but also the last terms of primary school. It affects everyone in the classroom (pupils and teachers), as well as a whole community of families at home. Paragraph 2.63 of the statutory School Admissions Code 05/2013 states explicitly that "the use of named feeder primary schools as an oversubscription criterion can allow better continuity for pupils". Primary schools and secondary schools both benefit from close working partnerships in these systems.*
189. *Professor Chris Taylor's October 2017 report on 'Cardiff Council: Admission Criteria' points out that "staff in primary schools generally argue that it is particularly important that vulnerable children remain within their friendship groups (Robinson et al. 2016)". There is no point in a vulnerable pupil being offered a place at an oversubscribed secondary school under priority criteria, unless their friendship group moves with them. A longevity of residence test, or a feeder school system, would ensure that such vulnerable children retain the peer support that they need, in order to thrive.*

Appraisal of views expressed

190. The point raised regarding the introduction of a feeder school system is addressed at paragraphs 11 – 13.

Cardiff High catchment

191. *Figures requested by Councillor Joe Boyle from the Council's database show just how quickly many children move out of the Cardiff High catchment area after obtaining their place at Cardiff High School. They show that by 7th December 2016:*
- *Only 230 of the 240 Year 7 pupils still had addresses within the Cardiff High School catchment area (this was only three months after starting at the school)*

- Only 199 of the 240 Year 8 pupils still had addresses within the Cardiff High School catchment area
- Only 192 of the 240 Year 9 pupils still had addresses within the Cardiff High School catchment area
- Only 200 of the 240 Year 10 pupils still had addresses within the Cardiff High School catchment area
- Only 176 of the 240 Year 11 pupils still had addresses within the Cardiff High School catchment area

(data extracted from Cardiff Council's EMS One Live database on 7th December 2016)

192. *So almost a quarter of all pupils in Year 11 no longer lived in the catchment area for Cardiff High School. And at least ten 11-year olds who started school in September 2016 no longer lived in the catchment area three months later. This does not reflect the Cardiff 2020 vision of "local schools for local children".*

Appraisal of views expressed

193. The Council is committed to providing local schools for local children where possible.
194. The above summary incorrectly interprets school roll data, suggesting that a significant proportion of pupils 'no longer lived in the catchment area'. These year groups were not fully subscribed with pupils resident within the catchment area of the school at any date from admission in Year 7 to Year 11.
195. Cardiff Council is committed to equality of opportunity and to eliminating discrimination. In respect of admissions to schools, all pupils and prospective pupils are treated equitably, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, nationality, language, ability / disability or religious / non-religious belief. Steps are taken to ensure that admission procedures do not unfairly advantage or disadvantage any groups through the application of rules or conditions that cannot be complied with equally by all.
196. Applications are assessed based on the relevant criteria, e.g. the pupils' home address. Cardiff Council checks that pupils live at the address given on their application. This is done by checking the council tax register and electoral register. If there is any doubt about the address, the Council also asks for evidence of address from the parents. An example of evidence is child benefit information.
197. Offers of places may be withdrawn if the pupil does not live at the address they have given on their application. To have a place the pupil must live at the address given from the date of application to the start of term. Any information

about where another pupil lives should be provided to the Council. This can be done anonymously. It will not be considered during an appeal hearing.