

PLEASE NOTE THAT A WELSH VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE  
PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CONSULTATION REPORT

**Proposal : To establish new Primary Education provision to serve the new housing development at Llanilid, Llanharan.**

#### 1. Purpose of the Consultation Report

This report is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, statutory document 011/2018. Its purpose is to inform the outcome of the consultation held during the period 1st October 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 between all stakeholders and interested parties listed below.

#### 2. Who did we consult with?

A copy of a consultation document which fully outlined and explained our proposal was sent to the following stakeholders. The document was also published on the Council website at [www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

- The governing body of Dolau Primary School
- Pupils of Dolau Primary School
- Parents, carers, and staff members of Dolau Primary School
- The governors, pupils, parents, carers and staff members of Ysgol Llanhari and Y Pant Comprehensive School
- Other governing bodies of neighbouring primary schools, including those in adjacent local authority areas
- The governing body of Pencoed Comprehensive School
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- Welsh Minister for Education & Skills
- Assembly Members for the Rhondda
- Members of Parliament for the Rhondda Cynon Taf constituencies
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- Central South Education Consortium
- South East Wales Transport Association
- South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- Cwm Taf Local Health Board
- The Early Years and Childcare Partnership
- Llanharan Community Council
- Llanharry Community Council
- The Welsh Language Commissioner
- Menter Iaith
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Neighbouring local authorities

Cynon Taf constituencies and regional Assembly Members for the area

Copies were also sent to all local authorities that share a boundary with Rhondda Cynon Taf.

### **3. The Proposal**

Outline planning consent for the construction of up to 1,850 homes at the former Llanilid Opencast Site, Llanharan, was granted by the Council's Development Control Committee in January 2016.

As part of the planning process, the Council will collect a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on each dwelling constructed, which will be utilised to provide the essential infrastructure that is required to support a housing development of this size. A new Primary school building, of 540 places in total (including Nursery provision) will form part of the essential infrastructure.

The Council has undertaken a full assessment of the potential impact of this large development on existing school provision in this area and has also calculated the numbers of children that are likely to reside on this development. To ensure that the demand for school places can be met in future years, through the preferred language medium of the parents' choice, it is proposed that the new school building be established, in the first instance, as an extension to the dual language school provision of Dolau Primary School.

The developers are proposing to construct the new school building in a single phase, so when it opens in 2021 it will initially have considerable surplus capacity. This capacity will be filled as and when the new homes are constructed and become occupied, but in order to avoid the unacceptable scenario of a new school opening with very few pupils on day 1, we have instead decided to treat the new building as an extension to an already well established school in the first instance. The Headteacher of Dolau will be able to utilise the new building to accommodate classes between the two buildings as he sees fit, to make the best use of all available resources. The school will then 'grow' as more houses are constructed.

The construction of 1,850 dwellings is considered to be the first phase of what is likely to be a much larger development in forthcoming years. The new school building will form part of the education provision that will serve this wider area and by this time, its provision will be firmly established under the management and guidance of Dolau Primary School. At this point in time, the Council will make an assessment of the requirements and demand for school places, including the likely language medium choices being expressed by parents, and will consider establishing the Llanilid primary school building as a new school in its own right.

Details of the proposal and the rationale behind it are fully outlined in the consultation document that was circulated to all the stakeholders listed overleaf which is attached as Appendix 1.

#### **4. The Consultation Process**

All stakeholders identified in Section 2 overleaf were sent paper or electronic copies of our consultation documentation. The following meetings were also convened:

School Affected	Group	Time/Date	Venue
Dolau Primary School	Governing Body and Staff Meeting	Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2018, 3.30 – 4.15pm	Dolau Primary School
Dolau Primary School	School Council	Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2018, 2pm	Dolau Primary School
Members of the local community	Parents and public drop in session and exhibition	Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2018, 4.30 – 6pm	Dolau Primary School

Notes of all of the above meetings were taken and are attached as Appendix 2. These notes record questions raised, comments and statements made, with responses provided where appropriate.

An open evening/exhibition was held at Dolau Primary School on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the purpose of which was to provide further information on the proposal, answer any questions and give people the opportunity to ask questions. Officers from the Education and Inclusion Services Directorate and Persimmon were in attendance. This event was attended by approximately 25 people which included school governors, pupils, parents and local residents.

#### **5. Summary of Responses to Consultation**

Responses to the matters raised at the meetings outlined above are, as indicated, summarised in the notes of the meetings attached as Appendix 2. In addition to this 6 written responses were received, and 10 comments were submitted during the public drop-in session on post-it notes via the ‘Have your say’ board. All comments have been collated and are attached at Appendix 3. No questionnaires or feedback opposing the proposals were received.

A summary of comments raised during the consultation period are below. Where appropriate our responses are included:

- **Concerns were raised in relation to the existing highway infrastructure, and whether it would cope with the increase in traffic that the school could generate**

A further planning application will be submitted specifically for the new school, and as a part of this there will be a Traffic Impact Assessment undertaken focussing on both the immediate and surrounding area. This assessment will not only look at the current capacity of the highway, but also the impact of any increase in traffic flow, on not just the highway but also on pedestrian and cycling routes.

The expectation is that this report will contain recommendations in relation to improving the existing highway infrastructure as well as incorporating pedestrian safety measures which could include traffic calming or additional pedestrian crossing points.

- **The size of the primary school was raised as a concern.**

The exact pupil numbers that will be generated from the housing development are not yet known, nor do we have control of the timescales, but it is likely that as the school grows a decision will be made to split the school and create 2 separate primary schools. If this does occur, then this will be subject to another consultation.

- **The impact upon secondary school places in the area was raised as a concern.**

The Council has a statutory duty to manage the supply and demand for pupil school places. The Council acts in the best interests of all local children and ensures there is sufficient capacity for language and faith choice in the local Community. The Council monitors the situation continually and will ensure that appropriate strategies are in place to manage any future demand from the proposed housing developments in the area and will collaborate cross border with other local authorities should the need arise.

- **Will additional community services and infrastructure be catered for?**

The Council will ensure that it collaborates with all parties who have a vested interest in the community.

**Estyn's response to the consultation by Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council to establish new primary school provision for the Llanilid housing development, by extending the provision of Dolau primary school, from September 2021.**

### ***Introduction***

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

*Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn.*

*However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.*

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

### **Summary/ Conclusion**

*The proposal appropriately sets out the need for additional educational provision to accommodate both the planned and potential for further housing development at Llanilid, Llanharan. It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of educational provision in the area.*

### **Description and benefits**

*The proposal sets out clearly the need for additional nursery and pupil places arising from the planned housing developments and the potential for further developments in the area. The proposal appropriately considers the advantages and disadvantages associated with the extension of the current school, through the creative use of a new school build, alongside the construction of a major new housing development.*

*The proposal usefully explains how the current primary school at Dolau will respond to the increasing population expected within the new housing development, by using the new build as an extension to the existing school. The benefits of this approach are well set out within the proposal, which include the management of an 'ad hoc' demand for new places throughout the school year, associated with the arrivals of new residents. The proposer also explains well the disadvantages associated with the alternative of opening a brand new school immediately without full capacity.*

*The current primary school at Dolau is a dual stream school, and the expansion will accommodate both language preferences, therefore maintaining parental choice and should provide sufficient places as demand increases in the short term. However, the intended change from an extension to the existing school to the creation of a separate new school, and its language preference remains deferred until an unspecified time in the future.*

*The proposer sets out well the current local authority practice for the provision of school transport, which is more generous than the statutory minimum. The proposal sets out clearly that the policy will be applied for pupils attending this school, and also takes into account the risk assessments for the walking routes to school, which are considered to be unsuitable for pupil foot traffic. Additionally the proposals sets out clearly the implications for secondary aged pupils who will live on this new housing development, and their options for either the closest school which is in neighbouring local authority, or the nearest English medium and Welsh medium schools in the proposer's local authority. The proposer also*

*clarifies how the local authority's current policy for home to school transport will apply for these pupils.*

*The proposer provides detailed past and projected nursery places and pupil numbers for Dolau primary school, which take account of the expected numbers based on the current catchment, and the planned new development.*

### ***Educational aspects of the proposal***

*The construction of the new school, and its initial use as an extension to the current school should not represent a risk to the school and its education provision. The opportunities arising from additional space, state of the art classroom design and new outdoors facilities are likely to enhance the learning opportunities for pupils.*

*The proposal appropriately considers the likely impact of the new school on standards, provision and leadership by referring to the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspections, as well as the Regional Consortium's categorisation of the school. In July 2015, Estyn judged the school's performance to be good, and its prospects for improvement also good. The local consortium categorises the school as green.*

*This information supports the proposer's reasonable claim that Dolau Primary school should be able to maintain its current standards during the expansion.*

## **6. Assessment of Consultation**

In view of the responses and comments received during the consultation period, a further assessment of the proposals, which are included within the consultation document, has been undertaken. The proposals have been revisited and the impact of the proposals on the quality and standards of education, the community, and transport arrangements, have been reassessed.

After further consideration, the proposals are deemed to be the most appropriate and as such no amendments have been made.

## **7. Conclusion**

No information that has been presented during the consultation period has been deemed to necessitate a change to the consultation document and so the information remains unchanged. As such it is considered that these proposals should be wholly implemented.

The recommendation is that this report is published, and at the appropriate time a statutory notice be published as consulted upon with no modifications, in order to progress this proposal.