

Proposals to Establish Primary Education Provision for the Llanilid Housing Development, Llanharan

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Annex C of the School Organisation Code.

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, following over six years of discussion and consideration of the proposals between Council officers and agents representing the landowners. 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. It has already been agreed that a new Primary school building, of 540 places in total (including Nursery provision) will form part of the essential infrastructure.

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**. As part of the Welsh Government initiative to increase the number of people in Wales who can speak the Welsh Language to at least 1 million by 2050, the Council is aiming to increase capacity in the Welsh Language school sector, to encourage more parents to choose this medium of education for their children. Dolau offers provision in both languages, with parents given the freedom to choose which language they wish for their child to be educated in.

It is proposed that the new school building will accommodate up to 480 pupils, plus 60 part time Nursery places, for children aged between 3 and 11 years. It will be created and established as an extension to Dolau Primary School in the first instance, and will thus increase the total available capacity of this dual language school to 921, plus 124 part time Nursery places. We consider that this capacity will be sufficient to cater for current and forecasted pupil demand and it will also allow for growth in the Welsh Medium sector.

All services provided by Dolau Primary School outside of school hours, such as breakfast clubs, after school clubs and other community facilities will continue in the new, extended school campus. Any links with outside organisations such as the Urdd, Menter Iaith etc will be maintained and hopefully strengthened and expanded. The new and existing school buildings will have spare capacity initially that can be utilised by community groups and organisations and the headteacher will be encouraged to consider using these facilities to increase participation in the Welsh Language. This may include offering opportunities to parents and other community members to learn Welsh, and possibly providing the potential

to invite outside organisations to provide childcare and 'wrap around' care provision on the school site if requested and if there is recognised demand for such facilities .

Information on the standards of provision at Dolau Primary School is again contained within the consultation document. It must be stressed that this proposal is to treat the new school building as an extension to Dolau Primary School; it is not creating a brand new school and as such we have not outlined how an alternative school provision will improve on current standards, which are recognised as being of a high quality.

One of the main targets outlined in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is to increase the number of children receiving education through the medium of Welsh, which will assist the local authority in working towards the Welsh Government target of having 1 million people in Wales able to speak Welsh by 2050. We consider that this proposal will provide extra pupil capacity through the medium of Welsh in a new, state of the art building and will hopefully encourage more parents to choose a Welsh Medium education for their children.