



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

15TH MAY 2023

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSALS TO REALIGN ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS MAINSTREAM LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS PROVISION WITHIN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS

Author: Ceri Jones, Head of Inclusion Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an opportunity to consider proposals for the realignment of mainstream Learning Support Class (LSC) provision within Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members consider:

- 2.1 The information contained within this report.
- 2.2 Proposals for the realignment of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) mainstream LSC provision within the context of the School Organisation Code (2018), the 21st Century School Modernisation Programme and the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (ALNET) Act (Wales) 2018.
- 2.3 Formal approval to commence consultation on the following proposals:
- 2.3.1 To relocate the Observation and Assessment LSC at Penrhiwceiber Primary School to Abercynon Community Primary School taking effect from April 2024.
- 2.3.2 To transfer the LSC for pupils in Years 3-6 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Abercynon Community Primary School to create a through provision in the Primary Phase at Perthcelyn Primary School taking effect from April 2024.

- 2.3.3 To establish one Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Abercynon Primary School. The proposal will take effect from April 2024.
- 2.3.4 To establish two Welsh medium primary phase LSCs at the new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin for pupils with significant ALN. The proposal will take effect from September 2024.
- 2.3.5 To establish one LSC for pupils in Years 7-11 with ASD at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site taking effect from September 2024.
- 2.4 To receive a further report in 2023/24 (academic year) on proposals to establish three Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) LSCs provisions for pupils in Years 7-11, utilising funding already set aside following the suspension of a previous statutory consultation which was started prior to the pandemic. The earliest the provisions will be operational will be September 2024.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To progress the proposal in accordance with the process outlined in the School Organisation Code (011/2018) so that an improved continuum of Welsh and English medium Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision can be achieved in RCT and to ensure that the Council undertakes its statutory duties in relation to the ALNET Act and the Welsh Government's requirement for the Council to implement an effective Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Considerable changes were made in Wales in relation to the statutory provision required to meet the needs of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN). The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) (ALNET) Act was introduced in January 2018. The Act requires local authorities to keep under review the arrangements for supporting pupils with ALN within their area and consider whether these are sufficient. This includes a statutory requirement to take all reasonable steps to create a bilingual system of support for pupils with ALN. The Act is supported by a new statutory Additional Learning Needs Code (2021). The Code is based on the following principles:
- meeting the needs of pupils with ALN should be part of a whole school approach to school improvement;
 - pupils must be supported to participate in mainstream education and in the National Curriculum as fully as possible wherever this is feasible.
- 4.2 For pupils with more significant needs for whom it is challenging to make appropriate learning provision within mainstream education, more specialist placements are required. RCT has a range of specialist provisions which

includes: 45 LSCs, 2 Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and 4 Special Schools. These placements are agreed by Access and Inclusion Service panels.

- 4.3 RCT has an excellent range of LSC provisions attached to mainstream schools. However, it has become increasingly apparent that the range of LSC provisions currently available is disproportionate to the level of need in some areas. In view of this, an in-depth data analysis exercise was undertaken to inform proposals for change.
- 4.4 Currently, there is only one LSC providing Welsh medium provision for pupils in Years 7-11 with significant ALN. The local authority does not have discreet Welsh medium LSC for pupils in the primary phase. In light of the requirements of the ALNET Act, it is vital that this shortfall is addressed, and approval is sought to create additional specialist LSC provision for pupils with significant ALN in the primary phase.
- 4.5 Data analysis confirms that:
- there is currently insufficient provision in the secondary sector for pupils with ASD;
 - the absence of cross phase specialist provision on some school sites means that some learners experience unnecessary transitions;
 - one LSC would benefit from relocation to fully accessible schools that have benefited from the Sustainable Communities for Learning investment;
 - there is insufficient provision to meet the needs of learners in the early years.

In light of these findings, the proposals for change seek to achieve the following aims:

- developing a robust continuum of provision that effectively addresses a wide range of need across all year groups;
- avoiding unnecessary transition across schools by establishing cross phase specialist provisions within individual schools where possible;
- establishing LSC provisions in fully accessible settings that provide a learning environment fit for the 21st Century.

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 RCT spends in the region of £4.7M annually on the provision of LSCs. There are currently approximately 403 pupils accessing the 45 LSC provisions within RCT across a range of needs. Table 1 outlines the range of mainstream LSCs currently available:

Table 1: Current Mainstream Learning Support Classes

ALN Learning Support Classes	Academic Years	Number of classes	Percentage of Overall LSCs
Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	Reception - Year 2	5	38%
	Years 3-6	6	
	Years 7-11	6	
Significant ALN (Welsh Medium)	Years 7-11	1	2%
Complex Learning Difficulties	Reception - Year 2	3	27%
	Years 3-6	6	
	Years 7- 11	3	
Hearing Impairment	Primary Phase	1	2%
Observation & Assessment	Nursery – Year 2	1	7%
Early Years Assessment and Intervention	Nursery	2	
Nurture	Reception - Year 2	2	17%
Social, Emotional & Behavioural Difficulties	Years 3-6	4	
	Years 7-11	2	
Speech and Language Difficulties	Primary Phase	2	7%
	Years 7- 11	1	
Total		45	100%

- 5.2 Since the inception of the Early Years Forum in September 2021 to comply with the new statutory requirements of the ALNET Act for children aged 0-3 years data as at 30th January 2023 demonstrates that 294 pupils have been discussed by the Forum. Of these pupils, 40 have been allocated placements within specialist settings and an additional 14 pupils have changed placement from mainstream to specialist provision following a period of assessment. It has been identified that the LA needs to establish additional Early Years LSC provision to support pre-statutory school age pupils with significant ALN.
- 5.3 Currently Welsh medium pupils with significant additional learning needs who would meet the criteria for LSC provision within English medium settings are supported by a specialist peripatetic team. The team, which includes a Welsh medium specialist teacher and two learning support assistants, provide support through an inclusive delivery model whereby pupils are provided with specialist support within their mainstream Welsh medium settings.
- 5.4 During the academic year 2022/23, the Welsh Complex Needs Team supported 12 pupils with an age range of Year 2 to Year 11 of which:
- 1 attended reception – Year 2 (formerly Foundation Phase);
 - 4 attended Year 3-6 (formerly Key Stage 2);

- 7 attended Year 7-11 (formerly Key Stage 3/4).

5.5 However, despite positive feedback regarding the provision made by the Welsh medium Complex Needs Team, pupils with very significant and complex ALN are unable to access full time specialist Welsh medium provision in the primary phase.

5.6 Table 2 shows the capacity of LSC provision for pupils with ASD and the current number of placements deemed optimal for these provisions. The shortfall of provision is most notable in Years 7-11 as the classes currently exceed their optimal capacity and will continue to do so in 2023/24.

Table 2: Learning Support Class Provision for Pupils with ASD

ASD	
Current number of classes	17
Optimal placements available	172
Current number of pupils attending ASD provision	184
Difference in placements to pupils	-12
Current Year to 2023/24 Transition	
Optimal places available – Years 7-11 in 2023/24	3
Potential number of children transitioning in 2023/24 (Year 6 to Year 7) without Year 7 placement	14
Difference in placements	-11

5.7 In December 2019, Cabinet agreed to the Access and Inclusion Service undertaking a consultation on proposals to enhance LSC provision for pupils with Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) within RCT during the spring term 2020. However, due to the impact of restrictions incurred by the COVID-19 pandemic at both a local and national level, it was not practical to progress with the consultation process and in March 2020, the Cabinet Member for Education, approved a delegated decision to redirect the £330k funding set aside to establish three new SEBD LSCs to enhance a pilot to enable a second tranche of mainstream secondary schools to establish their own alternative curriculum provision (Step 4 provision) or pupil referral unit for learners with significant social, emotional and behavioural needs.

6. PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE

6.1 Following the data analysis above, the proposals for change are as follows in summary:

- 43 Mainstream LSCs remain unaltered
- 2 Mainstream LSCs are relocated

- 4 additional Mainstream LSCs are opened
- Total number of LCSs to increase from 45 to 49.

6.2 It is proposed the following **LSC relocations** take place from April 2024:

- Observation and Assessment LSC at Penrhiwceiber Primary to relocate to Abercynon Community Primary School. This LSC will continue to support pupils aged 3-7 years old
- LSC for pupils in Years 3-6 with ASD at Abercynon Community Primary School to relocate to create a through Primary Phase provision at Perthcelyn Primary School.

6.3 It is proposed to relocate the LSC from Penrhiwceiber Primary to Abercynon Community Primary to premises which are more accessible and better equipped to meet a range of needs. The proposal will ensure greater compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and relocation to significantly improved premises which have benefited from the 21st Century Schools Modernisation Programme and investment. There are currently 8 pupils attending the Observation and Assessment LSC. It is proposed that these pupils transfer to the new setting once the class has been relocated.

6.4 The proposal to relocate the class at Abercynon Community Primary to Perthcelyn Primary will minimise unnecessary transition for pupils with ASD, provide continuity in their educational placement and ensure that a higher number of specialist LSC provisions provide equity for pupils in LSCs to remain in one setting until transition to secondary provision in line with their mainstream peers. There are currently 8 pupils accessing the LSC for pupils in Years 3–6 with ASD and these pupils will move to the new hosting school once it has been established.

6.5 It is proposed new **LSCs are established** as follows:

- The establishment of one Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSC at Abercynon Primary School taking effect from April 2024. This LSC will support pre-school aged pupils.
- The establishment of two primary phase Welsh medium LSCs for pupils with significant ALN at the new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin taking effect from September 2024.
- The establishment of one LSC for pupils in Years 7-11 with ASD at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site taking effect from September 2024.

6.6 The LA has only one dedicated LSC provision to support pupils with additional learning needs via the medium of Welsh. Since September 2021, the ALNET Act has placed a statutory duty upon LAs to work proactively towards establishing a fully bi-lingual ALN system and therefore it is imperative that the above Welsh medium provision is put in place as soon as possible.

- 6.7 Through its data analysis of current pupil data and future placement prediction data the LA has identified the need for an increase in both Year 7-11 ASD and Early Years LSCs. Therefore, it is proposed that new provisions are established to address gaps in existing provisions.
- 6.8. Based on the continued need for an effective continuum of SEBD provision within RCT, it is proposed that Cabinet consider providing approval to Access and Inclusion to revisit the proposal to establish additional SEBD LSCs during academic year 2023/24.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 7.1 The Council has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics.
- 7.2 Equality and Community Impact Assessments are being prepared in respect of this proposal and will be published on the Council's website as a part of the Consultation Documentation in accordance with the requirements of Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018) (the "Code"). These will be shared with the review panel as a part of the consultation process.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment will be prepared in respect of this proposal and will be published on the Council's website as a part of the Consultation Documentation in accordance with the requirements of Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018) (the "Code"). This will also be shared with the review panel as a part of the consultation process.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 9.1 The consultation process in respect of this proposal will be undertaken under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (011/2018). These arrangements stipulate that consultation must be undertaken when the proposal is at a formative stage and that a consultation document must be prepared and circulated to prescribed consultees, as well as being published on the Council's website.
- 9.2 The consultation document for the proposal outlined in this report is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The consultation period, if it is agreed to progress this matter, will run from the 5th June 2023 until 14th July 2023.

9.3 The proposed potential timetable for completion of the statutory process is set out in the following table:

Table 3: Proposed Timetable

Action	Detail	Dates
Cabinet permission to consult	Cabinet to consider this proposal and give approval to commence consultation.	15 th May 2023
Statutory public consultation	Consultation document to be published on the Council website for a minimum of 6 weeks.	5 th June – 14 th July 2023
Report back to Cabinet	Cabinet to consider the consultation report and determine whether to publish the report and approve the publication of the proposal in the form of a statutory notice.	September 2023
Publish Statutory Notice	Statutory Notice to be published for a 28-day period (if approved by Cabinet).	September/October 2023
Decision by Cabinet	Cabinet to consider a report on the outcome of the statutory notice period including details of objections received, and an appropriate recommendation.	October/November 2023
Implementation	In accordance with Cabinet decision, continue with status quo or implement proposal.	April or September 2024

The Consultation Document attached is in draft subject to Cabinet approval.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

10.1 Subject to the outcome of the consultation process, the additional costs of the proposals total £424k plus transportation. Funding has already been set aside for this purpose via resources built into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan alongside maximising available grant funding opportunities.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

11.1 Section 316A of the Education Act 1996 specifies that children with SEN/ALN should normally be educated in mainstream schools if this is compatible with them receiving the special educational/additional learning provision that their learning difficulty requires; the efficient education of other children, and the efficient use of resources.

11.2 Section 315 of the Education Act 1996 also requires local authorities to ensure that SEN/ALN provision is kept under review. The ALN Code for Wales (2021) places a statutory duty upon the LA to keep under review the overall Additional

Learning Provision (ALP) available in its area and supporting arrangements, to ensure provision is sufficient to meet the overall needs of its population of learners with ALN and that provision is available in Welsh.

12. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

12.1 The proposals will ensure that two of the Council's three key priorities will be met. These include:

- Economy: Building a strong economy
- People: Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.

12.2 There are links to RCTCBC's Education and Inclusion Services Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2025 and its mission: '*To deliver equity and excellence in Education and enhanced well-being for all*'. The proposal will also support delivery against the five strategic priorities, most notably:

- Strategic Priority 2: Supporting educational settings to deliver a transformational curriculum, high quality teaching and learning and improved outcomes for all.
- Strategic Priority 3: Ensuring equity and support for vulnerable learners and their families
- Strategic Priority 4: Delivering 21st Century Learning Environments and innovative services for our learners and communities.

12.3 The proposals will ensure there is renewed capacity to focus on prevention which is a key statutory requirement of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act and a key element of the Council's Corporate Plan.

12.4 The information in the report contributes to the priorities within RCTCBC's Corporate Plan, 'Making a Difference'.

12.5 The proposals will also assist the directorate in achieving Outcome 6 of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) annual workplan.

13. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

13.1 Given the considerable changes in Wales in relation to the statutory provision required to meet the needs of learners with the implementation of the ALNET Act (2018) and the ALN Code (2021) the above proposals to secure additional capacity and resources will ensure that the Council successfully delivers on its statutory obligations, and as such is a strategic proposal relevant to all wards.

14. CONCLUSION

14.1 Section 315 of the Education Act 1996 and the statutory ALN Code for Wales requires LAs to regularly review arrangements for supporting pupils with ALN

and to ensure that provision is sufficient, meets the needs of its communities and is available in Welsh.

- 14.2 The priority for the Education and Inclusion Services Directorate is to continue to focus on driving up standards in schools and to improve the outcomes for all children and young people. In light of the Welsh Government ALN Transformation Agenda and the Council's vision to increase the number of Welsh medium learners in its schools by responding proactively to both national and local strategies such as the Welsh Government Welsh Language Strategy: Cymraeg 2050, Rhondda Cynon Taf's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan it is essential to enhance current Welsh medium ALN provision within RCT.
- 14.3 The proposed additional LSCs will increase the available provision to support pupils with a range of ALN in mainstream settings. The proposed additional LSCs will also ensure that the Council has an enhanced focus on providing more effective mainstream inclusion opportunities for Welsh medium pupils with significant Additional Learning Needs. The importance of mainstream inclusion for pupils with ALN is reflected in the Estyn Common Inspection Framework which highlights that judgements of achievement for all learners including those with additional learning needs should take account of progress made in relation to agreed learning goals from individual starting points. The framework also recognises the positive impact that the expertise within a LSC can have on enhancing practice and improving outcomes for learners with ALN across the whole school.
- 14.4 It is recommended therefore, that approval is given to commence consultation on the proposed realignment of RCT's current mainstream LSC provision so that we can urgently address the demand for of Welsh medium, Early Years and ASD Years 7-11 LSC provision within RCT thus ensuring that the Council is able to fulfil its statutory duties as laid down in the new ALN legislation.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Education and Inclusion Services Scrutiny

Contact Officer

Ceri Jones, Head of Inclusion Services

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

15TH MAY 2023

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS

Item: CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSALS TO REALIGN ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS MAINSTREAM LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS PROVISION WITHIN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Background Papers:

Officer to contact: Ceri Jones, Head of Inclusion Services



CYFLAWNI **TEGWCH** A RHAGORIAETH MEWN **ADDYSG** A **GWELL**
LLES I BAWB

EQUITY AND **EXCELLENCE** IN **EDUCATION** AND **ENHANCED**
WELLBEING FOR ALL

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSALS TO RECONFIGURE ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS MAINSTREAM LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS PROVISION WITHIN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

MAY 2023

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Section 1

Introduction

Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) County Borough Council wishes to seek the views of a wide range of stakeholders on proposals for the reconfiguration of mainstream Learning Support Class (LSC) provision within RCT.

The proposals will address capacity pressures in relation to pupils with significant ALN in the Early Years and Years 7–11 (formerly Key Stage 3/4), reduce the number of transitions necessary for pupils accessing Primary Phase LSC provision and ensure a higher number of LSCs are situated within 21st Century School environments. The proposals also seek to address the need to create additional Welsh medium specialist LSC provision, in line with the requirements of the Additional Learning Needs Education Tribunal (ALNET) Act (2018) to develop a bilingual Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system.

The proposals seek to achieve the following aims:

- reducing unnecessary transition across schools by establishing cross phase specialist provisions within individual schools where possible
- developing a robust continuum of provision that effectively addresses a wide range of need across all year groups and builds upon effective early intervention and prevention approaches.
- establishing LSC provisions in fully accessible settings that provide a learning environment fit for the 21st Century.
- enhance specialist Welsh-medium provision to facilitate the learning of pupils with significant ALN in the Primary Phase.

To achieve these aims, the proposals include:

1. Relocation of provision

It is proposed that the following relocations take effect from April 2024:

- Observation and Assessment LSC at Penrhiwceiber Primary School to relocate to Abercynon Community Primary School.
- LSC for pupils Years 3-6 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Abercynon Primary Community School to relocate to Perthcelyn Primary School to create a through Primary Phase provision.

2. Proposed new provisions

It is proposed that the following classes are established to take effect from September 2024:

- One Early Years Assessment & Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Abercynon Primary School.
- Two Primary Phase Welsh medium LSCs at the new Welsh medium primary school at Rhydyfelin for pupils with significant ALN.
- One Autistic Spectrum Disorder LSC provision for pupils in Years 7–11 at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site.

Who will we consult?

We are seeking the views of the following stakeholders:

- The Governing Bodies, parents/carers and staff of the respective schools.
- Governing Bodies, parents/carers of pupils attending primary schools within the catchment area of the proposed host secondary school
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- The Governing Body of Coleg Y Cymoedd
- The Governing Body of the University of South Wales
- Welsh Ministers including Welsh Minister for Education and Skills
- Menter Iaith
- Assembly Members and members of Parliament for all constituencies and regional areas serving Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Estyn
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Local Health Board
- Teaching and Support staff trade unions
- Central South Consortium Joint Education Service
- South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Early Years and Childcare Partnership
- South East Wales Transport Association
- The local Communities First Partnerships
- The Welsh Language Commissioner
- Neighbouring local authorities
- SNAP Cymru

What will the consultation process entail?

The consultation will start on the 5th June 2023 and will be completed at 5pm on 14th July 2023. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and summarised and a report presented to the Council's Cabinet in September 2023. This consultation report will be available for all persons to view on the Council website and copies can be obtained on request from the address detailed on www.rctcbc.gov.uk.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the report, based on the feedback, and decide whether to proceed with the proposals, make changes to the proposal or not to proceed with the proposal. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of these proposals for the foreseeable future.

If the Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposals, Statutory Notices will be published in September/October 2023 providing a 28-day notice period for objections.

The School Organisation Code (011/2018) requires that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections **must** be made in writing or by email, and sent to the Council within 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published.

If there are objections, the Council's Director of Education & Inclusion Services will publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and her response to them within 7 days of the determination decision by the Council's Cabinet. This report will also be available for all persons to view on the Council's website and copies can be obtained on request from the address detailed in Appendix 1.

If the Council's Cabinet approve the proposal, the proposal will be implemented in accordance with the date given in the statutory notice or any subsequently modified date. In the case of these proposal, the implementation date is the April 2024 and September 2024.

What do you now have to consider?

The remainder of the consultation document sets out the rationale for the proposed reconfiguration of current LSC provision.

We would like you to consider the information contained within this document and to hear your views as to whether or not you support the proposal.

How do you make your views known?

A consultation questionnaire is attached (Appendix 1) and is also available on the Council's internet site at www.rctcbc.gov.uk. The questionnaire also enables consultees to register their wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report to the Council's Cabinet. Schools will also be offered opportunities to consult with pupils and are advised to consult with School Council representatives to seek pupil views. You are also entitled to put your views in writing to:

**Director of Education and Inclusion Services,
Education Directorate,
Ty Trevithick,
Abercynon
CF45 4UQ**

Telephone: (01443) 744333 E-mail: A&IService@rctcbc.gov.uk

All correspondence should be received **14th July 2023**

Please note that responses to the consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal. Objections can only be forwarded following the publication of the

Statutory Notice. The consultation documentation will be distributed in both English and Welsh.

Consultation events will be held, and you are welcome to attend the appropriate meeting.

Consultation Events

The following consultation events have been arranged:

School Affected	Group-Pupils/ Staff/Parents	Time	Date	Venue
Abercynon Primary Community School	School Council	14:15 – 15:00pm	12 th June 2023	Abercynon Primary Community School
	Parents	15:15 – 16:00pm		
	Staff/Governing Body	16:00 – 16:45pm		
Perthcelyn Primary School	School Council	14:15 – 15:00pm	13 th June 2023	Perthcelyn Primary School
	Parents	15:15 – 16:00pm		
	Staff/Governing Body	16:00 – 16:45pm		
Penrhiwceiber Primary School	School Council	14:15 – 15:00pm	14 th June 2023	Penrhiwceiber Primary School
	Parents	15:15 – 16:00pm		
	Staff/Governing Body	16:00 – 16:45pm		
New 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site	School Council	14:15 – 15:00pm	15 th June 2023	TBC
	Parents	15:15 – 16:00pm		
	Staff/Governing Body	16:00 – 16:45pm		
New Welsh medium School	School Council	14:15 – 15:00pm	16 th June 2023	TBC
	Parents	15:15 – 16:00pm		
	Staff/Governing Body	16:00 – 16:45pm		

Section 2

Background

RCT has an excellent range of ALN provisions which allows the majority of pupils to attend schools near to where they live. These include 45 LSCs attached to mainstream settings, 4 special schools and 2 Pupil Referral Units (PRUs). However, RCT currently only has 1 Welsh medium specialist provision.

In addition to this, £7.25M is delegated Enhanced Capacity Funding (ECF) annually to support pupils with severe and persistent needs in mainstream settings. This is in line with RCT's vision for inclusive education and the right for children with ALN to be educated in their local mainstream school where appropriate.

The Additional Learning Needs Education Tribunal (ALNET) Act provides detailed guidance on the duties and responsibilities of local authorities (LAs) in meeting the ALN of children and young people. Children and young people have ALN if they have a learning difficulty which calls for an additional learning provision to be made for them. A learning difficulty is evident when children and young people have:

- significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children and young people of the same age; or
- a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children and young people of the same age in schools within the area of the locality.

The ALN Code for Wales (2021) recommends that Early Years and school settings adopt a graduated response to meeting ALN. A graduated response means that progressively greater expertise and support can be brought in to address the difficulties a child or young person may be experiencing. Additional or different provision should be made depending on the severity of the child/young person's level of need.

Section 316A of the Education Act 1996 specifies that children with ALN should normally be educated in mainstream schools so long as this is compatible with them receiving the additional learning provision that their learning difficulty calls for, the efficient education of other children, and the efficient use of resources. For those pupils who have very significant needs, more specialist placements are required, and this might result in a placement in one of our specialist provisions. These placements are agreed by the Access & Inclusion Service panels.

Despite the wide range of LSC provisions attached to mainstream schools, in light of the requirements of the ALNET Act (2018) it is felt necessary to enhance the current

LSC provision to address the current gap in provision and to ensure the LA complies with its new legislative duty. Whilst the LA does provide Welsh medium peripatetic support it is evident that this should now be enhanced.

In the context of the above, the proposals for change seek to achieve the following aims:

- To realign current provision to match the current profile of needs of children with ALN.
- To establish additional Welsh medium LSCs to enable pupils with significant ALN to access full time specialist Welsh medium provision.
- To reduce the number of transitions between placements for some of our most vulnerable pupils
- To enhance Early Years provision to meet the rising demands for early intervention.

Overview of the Proposal

RCT County Borough Council wishes to seek the view of a wide range of stakeholders on the proposals to:

- To relocate the Observation and Assessment LSC at Penrhiwceiber Primary School to Abercynon Community Primary School with effect from April 2024.
- To transfer the LSC for pupils in Years 3–6 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Abercynon Community Primary School to create a through Primary Phase provision at Perthcelyn Primary School taking effect from April 2024.
- To establish one Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Abercynon Primary School. The proposal will take effect from April 2024.
- To establish two Primary Phase Welsh medium LSCs at the new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin for pupils with significant ALN. The proposal will take effect from September 2024.
- To establish one LSC for pupils in Years 7–11 with ASD at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site taking effect from September 2024.

What is the basis for this proposal?

Section 315 of the Education Act 1996 requires LAs to regularly review arrangements for supporting pupils with ALN and to ensure that provision is sufficient and meets the needs of its communities.

The priority for the Education and Inclusion Service Directorate is to continue to focus on driving up standards in schools and to improve the outcomes for all children and young people. In light of the Welsh Government ALNET Act and the Council's vision to increase the number of Welsh medium learners in its schools by responding

proactively to both national and local strategies, such as the Welsh Government Welsh Language Strategy: Cymraeg 2050, Rhondda Cynon Taf's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the current 21st Century Schools plan to increase and improve Welsh medium provision RCT, it is essential to enhance current Welsh medium ALN provision within RCT. The proposed additional Welsh medium LSCs will ensure that the LA has an enhanced focus on providing more effective mainstream inclusion opportunities for Welsh medium pupils with significant ALN.

The proposed relocations and establishment of LSCs will ensure that the LA has an enhanced focus on providing more effective mainstream inclusion opportunities for pupils with a wide range of ALN. The proposals ensure that the best possible use of resources and a more equitable continuum of provision is achieved for pupils with significant ALN.

The importance of mainstream inclusion for pupils with ALN is reflected in the Estyn Common Inspection Framework which highlights that judgements of achievement for all learners including those with additional learning needs should take account of progress made in relation to agreed learning goals from individual starting points. The framework also recognises the positive impact that the expertise within a LSC can have on enhancing practice and improving outcomes for learners with ALN across the whole school.

What is the educational case for the proposal to create additional LSC provision?

The advantages of implementing the proposed changes includes:

- an enhanced focus on improved mainstream LSC provision which provides improved life chances for our most vulnerable learners;
- appropriate continuum of provision which is well matched to pupils' primary needs;
- improved educational outcomes and pupil engagement due to effectively meeting pupil needs;
- greater opportunities for mainstream inclusion in local community schools;
- ensuring that LSC provision is situated within education settings that are accessible and appropriate for the needs of pupils with wide ranging needs, including physical and medical needs;
- improving the range and quality of facilities and learning resources available to the benefit of all pupils;
- LSC provisions hosted by schools that have the capacity for the development of an additional class due to surplus spaces and can accommodate the additional pupils who will be placed in the school.

What are the financial implications of the proposal?

The LA proposal if agreed will have a positive impact on pupils with ALN across RCT as it will mean that the funding will be directed to establish provisions that address identified areas of need. The proposal will ensure that the County Borough Council continues in its commitment to meeting the needs of learners with ALN effectively by future proofing its existing provision in terms of quality and sufficiency.

The schools will be delegated sufficient funding to establish the proposed provision. The funding will cover staffing and capitation costs. The proposal does not involve any transfer or disposal of land.

The creation of the new LSCs will incur a transportation cost in line with the Council's Learner Travel Policy. However, this increase in cost is seen as a necessity in order to enhance provision for RCT's most vulnerable pupils. Costs cannot be predicted at this time as placements are pupil led.

What is the likely impact of the proposals on school pupils?

It is anticipated that the proposals will have a significantly positive impact on pupils with significant ALN by providing an inclusive model of specialist provision hosted by mainstream schools whereby pupils have their needs met within their local community.

Transportation would be provided in line with the Council's Learner Travel Policy and placement made in the nearest and most appropriate specialist setting. If placed within a LSC pupils may be required to travel out of catchment although Access & Inclusion will endeavour to place pupils in the nearest appropriate LSC to their home address.

The Welsh Government and the Council has adopted the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which is expressed in seven core aims that all children and young people:

1. Have a flying start in life;
2. Have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities;
3. Enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation;
4. Have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities;
5. Are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised;
6. Have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing;
7. Are not disadvantaged by poverty.

We consider that this proposal benefits children in their communities in accordance with the seven core aims set out above.

What is the likely impact of the proposal on the staff of the LSCs?

There will be no negative impact on existing LSC staff as current LSCs will be unaffected by the proposal. The proposal will have a positive impact creating 4 LSC teaching posts and 5 learning support assistant LSC posts. Those staff working in a LSC that is proposed to be relocated will move with the LSC pupils to ensure their expertise is maintained and that the pupils have continuity of staff supporting them.

What is the likely impact of the proposal on the local communities?

A Community Impact Assessment has been completed and is included as an appendix. These proposals will not have any significant impact on the local community as more local children will be able to access specialist provision within their local community and the new provision will address a gap in existing provision. The schools will make effective use of any surplus space within the school and develop a resource that will be of benefit to vulnerable children and young people and their parents/carers. The proposed establishment of the LSCs will enhance the overall capacity of the host school to meet a diverse range of needs as there will be further specialist ALN expertise within the school.

In addition, Equality Impact and Welsh Language Assessments have been completed for these proposals and are attached as appendices. These will be updated after the consultation has been completed to ensure that they include pertinent issues that have arisen and need to be taken into account. The assessments will be presented to the Council's Cabinet in the report that sets out the consultation feedback received in respect of the proposals.

What are the disadvantages of this proposal?

Implementing this plan will be of benefit to pupils with significant ALN across RCT and will ensure greater equality and access to specialist provision.

LSC re-alignment will inevitably cause some disruption and uncertainty for parents and pupils for a period of time, although experience shows that this can be kept to a minimum and the children's education and wellbeing does not suffer. Access & Inclusion will provide support to eradicate or minimise any potential negative impact.

The relocation of the named LSCs could potentially cause some limited disruption to the proposed host schools. However, it is recognised that hosting a specialist LSC provision has a positive impact on enhancing practice and improving outcomes for pupils with ALN across the whole school.

The relocation of the LSC provision aims to provide more continuity for our most vulnerable learners to access cross phase specialist provision, reduce unnecessary

transition and travel with the opportunity to provide through provision for all primary ages.

The Council considers that the educational advantages of the proposals outweigh the short-term impact of the changes for the pupils and parents.

What alternative options have been considered?

In light of the requirements of the ALNET Act to do nothing would mean that RCT would not be meeting its statutory duty to meet the identified ALN of some of its most vulnerable pupils.

There is clearly identified need for this provision within RCT and it would be in children and young people's best interest to address this. Some consideration was given to re-directing resources to further enhance the capacity of mainstream schools to meet need in local community schools. However, in so doing this could make the continuum of provision more fragmented.

Whilst alternative options have been considered, these have not been pursued given the obvious benefits of implementing these changes. These are summarised as follows:

- *Proposed relocations:* the proposed relocations have been specifically selected as they allow for greater opportunities for ALN/SEN pupils to access high quality cross phase educational provision within accessible school environments that have benefited from school modernisation and investment programmes.
- *Proposed new provisions:* alternative schools could be approached to establish a specialist provision. However, Abercynon Community Primary School, the new Welsh medium primary school at Rhydyfelin and the new 3-16 school planned for the Hawthorn Primary/High School site were selected because of their inclusive practice and success in supporting pupils with ALN/SEN in the mainstream and/or significant investment from the 21st Century Schools Modernisation Programme. Furthermore, the location of the settings will address local needs. Establishing these provisions will reduce the demand for special school placements which can then be safeguarded for pupils with more complex learning, medical and physical needs.

Community, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessments

Community Impact, Equality Impact and Welsh Language Assessments have been prepared in respect of the proposals and are attached as appendices. Copies will also be published on the Council's website hard copies can be obtained by emailing a request to A&IService@rctcbc.gov.uk or by telephoning 01443 744333.

Section 3

Proposed Relocation of LSCs

- RCT proposes to relocate the Observation and Assessment LSC hosted at Penrhiwceiber Primary School to Abercynon Community Primary School with effect from April 2024 accommodating 8 pupils with significant presenting ALN
- RCT County Borough Council proposes to relocate the LSC for pupils in Years 3–6 with ASD hosted at Abercynon Community Primary School to Perthcelyn Primary School with effect from April 2024 accommodating 10 pupils with ASD

Background to the relocation of LSC's

Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's key priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable pupils will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our provisions are well matched to the needs of pupils is central to pupils achieving positive outcomes. The relocation of the LSC provision provides a more coordinated approach and improved continuum of ASD provision for pupils in the Cynon Valley. The move will allow pupils who meet criteria to remain at Perthcelyn Primary School throughout the Primary Phase if appropriate.

Relocating the LSC currently hosted at Penrhiwceiber Primary School will ensure the pupils have access to suitable outdoor play areas which is fundamental to Early Years learning. It is proposed that creation of the Early Years Assessment & Intervention LSC and the relocation of Observation and Assessment LSC at Abercynon Community Primary School will support Early Years pupils with significant presenting needs from both the Cynon Valley and Taf areas.

By locating specialist provision within mainstream settings, pupils will have the opportunity for increased inclusion. This is supported by the Estyn Common Inspection Framework, which highlights the positive impact that the expertise within a LSC can have on enhancing practice and improving outcomes for learners with ALN across the whole school.

Information on the schools affected by the proposal

Penrhiwceiber Primary School

General Information

Penrhiwceiber Primary is located in Church Street, Penrhiwceiber, Mountain Ash, CF45 3YD. The school is an English-medium school established in 2004, providing

education to Primary Phase pupils The site is split level. The school buildings consist of 2 main blocks. The nursery block is located at the southeast of the site and the junior block at the Northwest of the site. Both buildings are single storey and are of traditional stone / masonry construction with a pitched slate roof. At the upper level of the site there is a detached timber-framed building which acts as both an educational building and a community centre for functions and facilities outside of the school remit. In addition to this the upper level of the site also contains one single and one double demountable classroom which are now redundant and are falling into disrepair. The school has received multiple works in accordance with the 21st Century Schools guidelines. Unfortunately, there is insufficient outside play area for our pupils from the LSC to access. Therefore, in line with new curriculum requirements, the LSC would be better placed in Abercynon Community Primary School which has sufficient space to accommodate the pupils.

Pupil Projections

The pupil numbers and forecast information for Penrhiwceiber Primary School from 2022/23 are shown below and are obtained from the statutory PLASC which is undertaken in January each year. The pupil forecasts for Penrhiwceiber Primary School are calculated in accordance with guidance issued by Welsh Government.

Penrhiwceiber Primary	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
School Total N1-Y6	157	144	154	142	134	137	130	135	126	126
Total (R-Y6)	127	127	132	124	115	118	111	117	107	108
Excl. LSC Pupils	124	124	129	121	112	115	108	114	104	105

The numbers shown exclude nursery age pupils, as required by Welsh Government's Statutory School Organisation Code.

Pupil Numbers and forecast information:
Capacity: 141

Quality and Standards

Penrhiwceiber Primary School was last inspected by Estyn in June 2015. The inspection comments were summarised as follows:

Inspection Area	Judgement
The School's Current Performance	Good
The School's Prospects for Improvement	Good

Unfortunately, there is insufficient out-door space to support the required learning through the play element of the curriculum for pupils attending the provision. There are currently 8 pupils attending the Observation and Assessment LSC. It is proposed that these pupils transfer to the new setting once the class has been relocated. The LSC will continue to support pupils aged 3-7 years.

Abercynon Community Primary School

General Information

Abercynon Community Primary School is located on 26 Ynysmeurig Rd, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4SY. The school is an amalgamation of three schools: Abercynon Infants, Abertaf Primary School and Carnetown Primary school. The brand new school opened in September 2013 on the site of the old infants school.

Pupil Projections

The pupil numbers and forecast information for Abercynon Community Primary School 2022/23 are shown below and are obtained from the statutory PLASC which is undertaken in January each year. The pupil forecasts for Abercynon Community Primary School are calculated in accordance with guidance issued by Welsh Government. The numbers shown exclude nursery age pupils, as required by Welsh Government's Statutory School Organisation Code.

Pupil Numbers and forecast information:

Abercynon Primary	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
School Total (N1-Y6)	341	336	349	337	333	322	316	296	291	278
Total (R-Y6)	296	290	304	297	301	285	278	260	254	242
Excl. LSC Pupils	291	285	299	292	296	280	273	255	249	237

Capacity: 325

Quality and Standards

Abercynon Community Primary School was last inspected by Estyn in March 2015. The inspection comments were summarised as follows:

Inspection Area	Judgement
The School's Current Performance	Good
The School's Prospects for Improvement	Good

There are currently 8 pupils accessing the LSC for pupils in Years 3–6 with ASD and these pupils will move to the new hosting school once it has been established. This proposal provides continuity in their educational placements and ensures that a higher number of specialist LSC provisions provide equity for pupils in LSCs so that they remain in one setting until transition to secondary provision in line with their mainstream peers.

Perthcelyn Community Primary School

General Information

Perthcelyn Primary School is located at Glamorgan Street, Perthcelyn, Mountain Ash, CF45 3RJ. The school is an English-medium school established 1999. **Perthcelyn Primary School is a white curvilinear formed school, with a playground and steep parkland below and a banked-up terrace with a games pitch above.**

Pupil Projections

The pupil numbers and forecast information for Perthcelyn Community Primary School 2022/23 are shown below and are obtained from the statutory PLASC which is undertaken in January each year. The pupil forecasts for Perthcelyn Community Primary School are calculated in accordance with guidance issued by Welsh Government. The numbers shown exclude nursery age pupils, as required by Welsh Government's Statutory School Organisation Code.

Pupil Numbers and forecast information:

Perthcelyn Primary	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
N1-Y6	123	124	128	117	118	118	117	119	121	121
Total (R-Y6)	109	107	113	101	98	101	100	101	104	103
Excl. LSC Pupils	102	100	106	94	91	94	93	94	97	96

Capacity: 160

Quality and Standards

Perthcelyn Community Primary School was last inspected by Estyn in April 2018. The inspection comments were summarised as follows:

Inspection Area	Judgement
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Excellent
Teaching and learning experiences	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good

The school currently hosts a LSC for pupils Reception – Year 2 with ASD. The proposals will create an enhanced through provision which will ensure pupils are not

required to undertake any additional transitions and will allow those pupils who meet the criteria for the LSC to remain at the provision until the end of Year 6.

Section 4

Proposed New Provision

- RCT proposes to create a new Early Years Assessment LSC provision with effect from April 2024 for pupils with significant ALN at Abercynon Primary School accommodating 8 pre-school aged pupils.
- RCT proposes to create two new Primary Phase Welsh-medium LSC provisions with effect from September 2024 for pupils with significant ALN at the new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin accommodating 18 Primary Phase pupils.
- RCT proposes create a new LSC for pupils in Years 7–11 with ASD with effect from September 2024 at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site accommodating 14 pupils.

Background to the opening of new LSC's

Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's key priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable pupils will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our provisions are well matched to the needs of pupils is central to pupils achieving positive outcomes.

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. This will assist the local authority in working towards the Cymraeg 2050 Welsh Government target of having 1 million people in Wales able to speak Welsh by 2050. We consider that this proposal will address the existing lack of Welsh medium LSC provision, allowing Primary Phase Welsh medium pupils with significant ALN to remain in a Welsh medium education setting, thus supporting the Council's WESP. The establishment of the additional Welsh medium LSC provision for pupils with significant ALN will address a current gap in LSC provision.

By locating specialist provision within mainstream settings, pupils will have the opportunity for increased inclusion. This is supported by the Estyn Common Inspection Framework, which highlights the positive impact that the expertise within a LSC can have on enhancing practice and improving outcomes for learners with ALN across the whole school.

Information on the schools affected by the proposal

Abercynon Community Primary School

General Information

Abercynon Community Primary School is located on 26 Ynysmeurig Rd, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4SY. The school is an amalgamation of three schools: Abercynon Infants, Abertaf Primary School and Carnetown Primary school. The brand new school opened in September 2013 on the site of the old infants school.

Pupil Projections

The pupil numbers and forecast information for Abercynon Community Primary School from 2022/23 are shown below and are obtained from the statutory PLASC which is undertaken in January each year. The pupil forecasts for Abercynon Community Primary School are calculated in accordance with guidance issued by Welsh Government. The numbers shown exclude nursery age pupils, as required by Welsh Government's Statutory School Organisation Code.

Pupil Numbers and forecast information:

Abercynon Primary	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027
School Total (N1-Y6)	341	336	349	337	333	322	316	296	291	278
Total (R-Y6)	296	290	304	297	301	285	278	260	254	242
Excl. LSC Pupils	291	285	299	292	296	280	273	255	249	237

Capacity: 325

Quality and Standards

Abercynon Community Primary School was last inspected by Estyn in March 2015. The inspection comments were summarised as follows:

Inspection Area	Judgement
The School's Current Performance	Good
The School's Prospects for Improvement	Good

There are currently 8 pupils accessing the LSC for pupils in Years 3–6 with ASD and these pupils will move to the new hosting school April 2024.

If the proposal is progressed, the new Early Years Assessment & Intervention LSC will support 8 pre-statutory school aged pupils with significant presenting needs.

New Welsh medium primary school at Rhydyfelin

General Information

The new Welsh medium primary school is currently being built in Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd

Pupil Projections

At present it is not possible to project pupil numbers and forecast information for the new Welsh medium school. Capacity has been built into the new building design to accommodate the proposed LSCs.

Quality and Standards

As this will be a new education setting there are no Estyn reports currently available. This proposal does not adversely impact any children as it is proposed that the provision is established to meet an identified need. The proposal will ensure that the current gap in primary LSC provision for Welsh medium pupils with significant ALN is addressed.

New 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site.

The new 3-16 all through school will be built on the current Hawthorn Primary/High School grounds, School Lane, Hawthorn, Pontypridd, CF37 5AL by September 2024.

Pupil Projections

At present it is not possible to project pupil numbers and forecast information for the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site. Capacity has been built into the new building design to accommodate the proposed LSC.

Quality and Standards

As this will be a new education setting there are no Estyn reports currently available. This proposal does not adversely impact any children as it is proposed that the provision is established to meet an identified need.

If the proposal is progressed, then the school will host a LSC for pupils in Years 7–11 with ASD alongside the current LSC for pupils in Years 7–11 with Speech and Language difficulties.

Consultation Response Pro-forma

In order to help the Council reach a decision, it would be very helpful if you could answer the following questions. This survey is anonymous, please do not provide any personal information in the free text boxes. However, if you wish to be contacted about the outcome of consultation, please provide your name and contact details below. To learn more about how the Council uses your personal information, please visit our Data Protection page at www.rctcbc.gov.uk/dataprotection

(Optional)

Name:

Address:

Email Address:

Proposal 1: Relocation of Learning Support Class Provision

It is proposed that the following **relocations** take effect from April 2024 at:

- Observation and Assessment LSC at Penrhiwceiber Primary School to relocate to Abercynon Community Primary School.
- Year 3 – Year 6 (formerly Key Stage 2) LSC for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder at Abercynon Primary Community School to relocate to create Primary Phase provision at Perthcelyn Primary School (Reception – Year 6).

1. Do you agree with the proposal? Yes No Not sure

Please let us know the reasons for your choice

Proposal 2: Establishment of Learning Support Class Provision

It is proposed that the following classes are **established** to take effect from September 2024 at:

- One Early Years Assessment & Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Abercynon Primary School.
- Two Primary Phase Welsh medium LSCs at the new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin for pupils with significant ALN (1 x Reception to Year 2 and 1 x Year 3 – Year 6).
- One ASD LSC provision for pupils Years 7 – 11 at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site.

2. Do you agree with the proposal? Yes No Not sure

Please let us know the reasons for your choice

3. Please state any alternative options, additional views or points which you would like to be taken into account (attach additional sheets if necessary)

4. Under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duties, the Council has a legal duty to look at how its decisions impact on people because they may have particular characteristics. How would the Council's proposal affect you because of your:

- a. Sex
- b. Age
- c. Ethnicity
- d. Disability
- e. Sexuality
- f. Religion / Belief
- g. Gender identity
- h. Relationship status
- i. Pregnancy
- j. Preferred language

5. With regards to the Council's proposal, and the impact it may have, please let us know: If you feel it could impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language (Positive or Negative) and if in any way, it treats the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language?

6. Please state how positive effects could be increased, or negative effects be decreased?

Please indicate who you are (e.g. parent of a pupil at named school, governor at named school etc.)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. The deadline for all responses is 5pm on 14th July 2023.