

Consultation Report

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC

January 2024

Continuation of Free
Breakfast Club Provision
in Primary and Special Schools with
the Introduction of a Charge for the
Additional Childcare Element



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of the consultation on the continuation of free breakfast club provision, with the introduction of a charge for the additional childcare element.
- The consultation was conducted in-house. The consultation period ran from the 27th November 2023 and ended on the 8th January 2024.
- An email was sent to all schools who could be potentially impacted by the proposal. The email was sent to Headteachers, Chair of Governors and Breakfast Club Staff members, to be forwarded on to all parents and carers. An email was also sent to key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation in the online survey.
- Respondents were also given the option to write in using a dedicated email address consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk, and a telephone option was also in place through the Council's contact centre.
- The Council held 3 public engagement events, where officers were on hand to answer any questions on the proposal and encourage or assist people to take part in the survey.
- The majority of respondents were service users, pupils, parents or carers (80.3%).
- Respondents who stated that they were service users were asked how often they used the breakfast club provision. The majority said that on average they used the provision 5 times a week (54%).
- Service users were also asked why they used the breakfast club provision, with the majority stating that they use it for the free healthy breakfast and free childcare (53%).
- Of the 20% (218) who stated other uses for the breakfast club provision, responses can be grouped under the following;
 - Work related reasons and commitments.
 - The benefits of social interaction
 - The help they provide to working Single Parents
 - Managing multiple school attendance
- The majority of respondents (73%) **disagreed** with the proposal to introduce a charge for the additional childcare element of breakfast club.
- The 18.9% of respondents who agreed with the introduction of a charge were asked if they agreed with the charge being set at £1 per day (rounded down to £60 per term) and implemented from April 2024. 82% of those who agreed with the proposal agreed with a charge of £1 per day.

- In addition, those who agreed with the overall proposal were asked what level of termly fee they would be willing to pay for the additional childcare element of breakfast club? 36% of respondents suggested a level termly fee of £60, with 30% stating they would be willing to pay £50.
- The majority of respondents (57%) agreed that there should be a cap on any charge for parents/carers.
- 52% of respondents said that they would continue to use the free breakfast club provision, if charging is introduced and they decided not to make use of the additional childcare element of the provision, with 22% stating they wouldn't and 26% stating they do not know what they would do.
- The respondents were asked how the proposal would impact them or their families. A number of themes were identified, as follows;
 - **Financial Strain:** Many parents express concerns about the additional financial burden, especially during a cost-of-living crisis.
 - **Impact on Working Parents:** The proposed charge is seen as affecting working parents who rely on the breakfast club for childcare, allowing them to maintain full-time employment.
 - **General Disagreement with Charge:** Several individuals express strong disagreement with the introduction of charges, emphasising the initial purpose of the breakfast club and its role in supporting families.
 - **Concerns about Implementation:** Some express concerns about the practicalities of payment, potential refunds, and the impact on children if payments are missed.
 - **Mixed Opinions on Service Use:** Opinions vary on whether the breakfast club is primarily used for childcare or for providing a nutritious start to the day.
- A number of comments were received in relation to the potential impacts of the proposal on protected characteristics of residents, particularly for people with disabilities and the impact on women.
- The majority of the respondents (55%) said that the proposal does not treat the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language.
- Overall, 1351 responses were received to the consultation survey and 10 emails were received.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the consultation on the continuation of free breakfast club provision, with the introduction of a charge for the additional childcare element.
- 1.2 Section 2 outlines some brief background to the consultation process.
- 1.3 Section 3 details the methodology.
- 1.4 Section 4 provides the results of the survey.
- 1.5 Section 5 presents the feedback received from written responses.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is facing significant financial challenges and is considering a range of options to contribute to addressing the shortfall in funding. In RCTCBC, all 92 primary schools and 3 special schools provide a free breakfast club and all pupils, from Nursery to Year Six, are eligible to attend. The Council's Education Catering Services supply the staffing and the food to primary and special schools to facilitate access to free breakfast clubs.
- 2.2 The Council initiated a consultation to introduce a fee of £1 per day for the extra half hour of additional childcare provision prior to the free breakfast club provision that is currently in place for children within our primary and special schools. Children who have been assessed as eligible for Free School Meals (not Universal Primary Free School Meals) would be exempt from any charge under the proposal. If implemented, all income generated would be re-invested back into schools' funding to offset cost pressures. The proposed charge would be introduced from the start of April 2024.
- 2.3 It is important to highlight that this additional childcare proposal would in no way affect pupils' access to breakfast club and a healthy breakfast free of charge, which would remain available for all pupils from Nursery to Year 6 in the 30-minute period before the start of the school day. Breakfast club typically takes place between 8.30 a.m.-9.00 a.m. but timings do vary from setting to setting. The proposed £1 charge (rounded down to £60 per term) relates to a period of childcare, offered by some schools before the start of the school day (typically from 8.00 a.m.-8.30 a.m.) and prior to breakfast club. It would amount to an annual charge for parents/carers of £180.
- 2.4 The consultation also sought views in relation to other possible concessions to the £1 charge that could be introduced – such as families with more than one child using the provision.
- 2.5 The full details of the proposal are outlined in the [Cabinet Report](#) that initiated the consultation.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The Breakfast Club consultation was conducted in-house, running from the 27th November 2023 and ending on the 8th January 2024. This section of the report presents the methodology which was used to promote and collect the data.
- 3.2 The consultation used an online survey which was built using Snap XMP. The survey aimed to gain feedback on the proposals.
- 3.3 An email was sent to all schools who could be potentially impacted by the proposal to Headteachers, Chair of Governors and Breakfast Club Staff members, to be forwarded on to all parents and carers.
- 3.4 To ensure wide outreach and involvement of the wider community the consultation was promoted on the [Councils online consultation webpage](#). An FAQ was developed to provide further information.
- 3.5 An email was also sent to key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation in the online survey.
- 3.6 Respondents were also given the option to write in using a dedicated email address consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk, in order to allow them to share their views. Overall, there were a total of 10 emails received from the public or organisations relating to the consultation.
- 3.7 A telephone consultation option was also in place, through the Council's contact centre. This option allows people to discuss their views or request consultation materials. Individual call backs were available on request and a consultation Freepost address was available for postal responses.
- 3.8 The Council held 3 public engagement events, where officers were on hand to answer any questions on the proposal and to help or encourage people to take part in in the survey.
- Rhondda Sports Centre, Ystrad 4th December 2023, 4pm-7pm
 - Llantrisant Leisure Centre, Llantrisant 6th December 2023, 12pm-2pm & 4pm-7pm
 - Michael Sobell Sports Centre, Aberdare 11th December 2023, 4pm-7pm
- 3.9 The proposals were presented and discussed at the [Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#) on the 13th December 2023.
- 3.10 Overall, 1351 survey responses and 10 emails were received to the consultation. The map on the following page shows the distribution of responses.

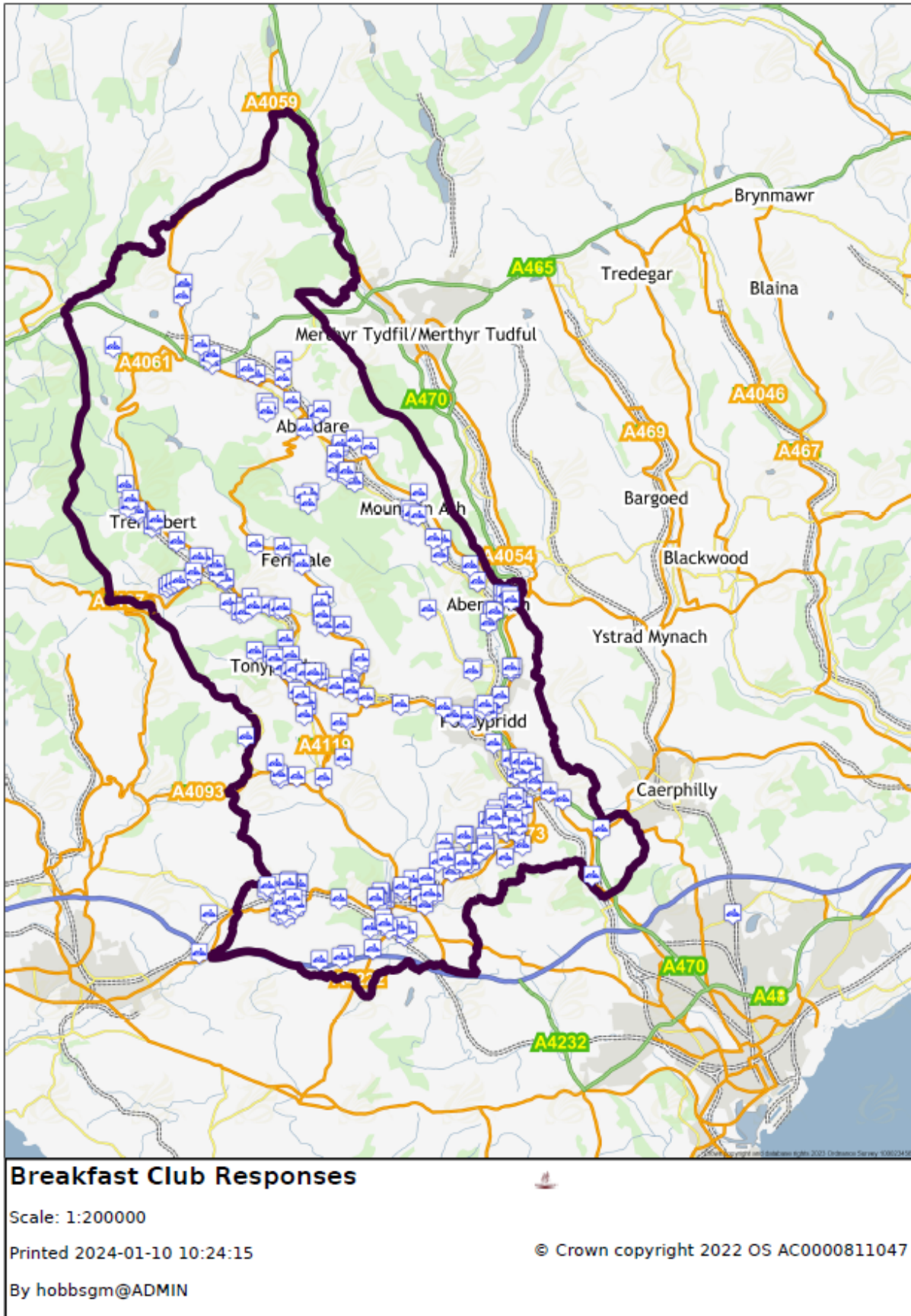


Figure 1 – Map of Respondents

4 Questionnaire Results

- 4.1 The following section outlines the results from the online and paper questionnaires, which received 1351 responses. A selection of comments are provided and the full list of the comments will be provided to senior officers to assist with decision making.
- 4.2 Respondents were asked whether they were responding as a service user of breakfast clubs, a member of the public, a member of the governing body or staff. The table below shows that the majority of respondents were service users, pupils, parents or carers (80.3%).

Note: the tables that include type of respondent do not add up to 100% as this was a multiple response question. The base is the total number of respondents, some of whom will have provided more than 1 response.

Table 1: Respondents

Counts	
Analysis %	
Respondents	
Base	1351
Are you?:	
A service user of breakfast clubs, i.e. pupil, parent/carer	1085 80.3%
A member of breakfast club staff	39 2.9%
A member of school staff	92 6.8%
A member of the Governing Body	48 3.6%
A member of the public	163 12.1%
Other	35 2.6%

Those who stated other included;

- Potential future service users
- Other family member
- Councillor
- Neighbouring Local Authority (not stated).

4.3 Respondents who stated that they were service users were asked how often they used the breakfast club provision. The majority said that on average they used the provision 5 times a week (54%).

On average, how often do you use the breakfast club provision?

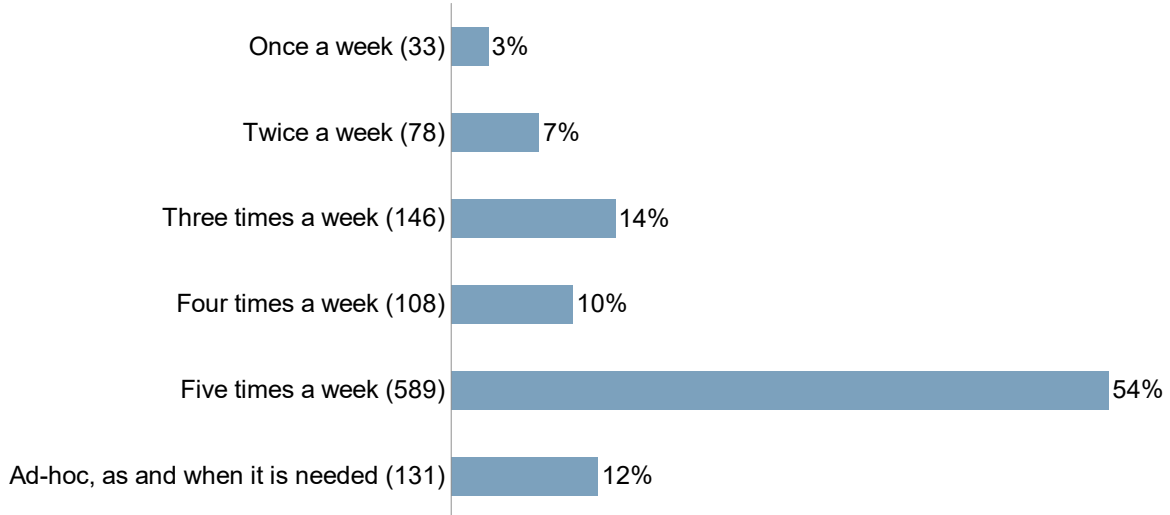


Figure 2: Breakfast Club Usage

4.4 Service users were also asked why they used the breakfast club provision, with the majority stating that they use it for the free healthy breakfast and free childcare (53%).

Why do you use the breakfast club provision?

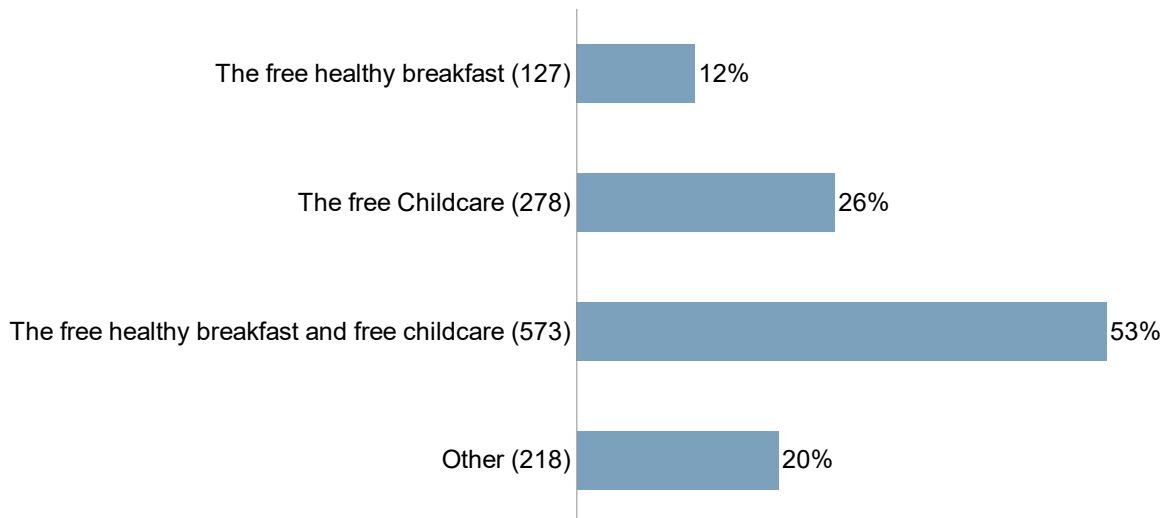


Figure 3: Why do you use the breakfast club provision.

- 4.5 Of the 20% (218) who stated “other”, responses can be grouped under the following;

Work Related

“Work commitments so no other choice”

“So I can get to work on time as I work in a Primary School”

“its not free childcare, its to enable working parents to get to work in time”.

“I work in a secondary school and without this service I would not be able to work the hours my job requires.”

“I work for the local authority as a social worker. Without breakfast club, I cannot work.”

Social Skills/Interaction

“All or the above and for social interaction with peers before the structured school day begins.”

“Child likes going and requests to go to socialise before school”

“Ensures young carer gets food and to be a child before school day starts”

“For my child to interact with other children off all ages for his social skills”

“Going to breakfast club helps with my daughter's separation anxiety”.

“It helps with school refusal - breakfast club makes it easier for my son to start the day and attend school.”

“My child who is autistic likes to spend the extra time in school with her friends”.

“Our boys love to socialise with pupils from other classes”

“my child loves going and interacting with his friends. He also loves the staff and is genuinely excited to see them every morning.”

Working Single Parents

“Working single mum who has to start work at 9am, also because the school have reduced the hours and do not open doors until 9am where they used to be opened at 8.50, and also pick up time is 3pm when it used to be 3.15pm which means I'm late for work and have to finish early I'm losing time every working day and owe my employer time at both the start and end of my working day.”

Due to being a full time working Mum, with no other support who can take my child to school.”

“I am on minimum wage and struggling to make ends meet as it is with out another bill. I also have a child that is due to start to school next September. I rely on breakfast club to make sure my child has a breakfast and I can make it to work to keep a roof over my child's head.”

“I am a single parent, i work I breakfast and my children attend the same school, therefore they have to come with me. I have 3 children.”

Managing multiple school attendance

“My son starts secondary school at 8.20 so breakfast club is the best option for my daughter otherwise we would be hanging around until 9am for her to start”.

“My children start at different times, so using the breakfast club service it save my children waiting 30 minutes outside in the cold or wet weather.”

“If my son doesn't go to breakfast club then I can get my daughter to high school on time as there is no school buses for her In my area”

“I have children in two different schools and the only way I can get them all to school on time is to use breakfast club”

“Coordinate drop off with other schools for sibling.”

- 4.6 All respondents were asked if they agreed with the proposal to introduce a charge for the additional childcare element of breakfast club. The majority of respondents (73%) **disagreed**.

Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a charge for the additional childcare element of breakfast club?

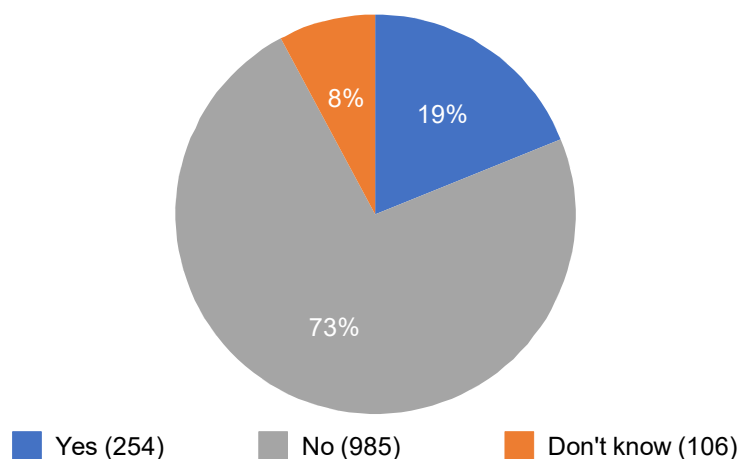


Figure 4: Agreement with introduction of a charge

Comments Against

4.7 The majority of the comments were statements against the proposal. The ones that went into more detail are similar to those in section 4.15, outlined later in the report.

“Absolutely disgraceful to charge working parents (because I bet the ones that don’t work won’t be charged) for half an hour childcare (which is all I need to be able to get to work on time) RCT should be ashamed of themselves!”

“Another expense on top of everything else which has gone up. I am a single mum (and dad rolled into one for both my kids) and this is just another stress factor for me. There aren’t enough hours in the day to work to pay for everything”.

<i>“Ddim yn cytuno ar godi am tymor, mae rhai rhieni yn dod bob dydd Llun, neu diwrnod arall, dim yn ei ddefnyddio yn ddyddiol”.</i>	<i>“Don't agree on charging for a term, some parents come every Monday, or another day, and don't use it daily.”</i>
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“How would you manage ad hoc users? Plus for 2 children that could be £180 a term. Also the service doesn't start early enough to actually benefit working parents that much”

“I cannot see how introducing a childcare element would resolve the councils debt. If 'childcare' is offered then it would require inspections from CIW and need to be compliant with CIW standards, staff would need to hold relevant childcare qualifications and childcare ratios would need to be adhered to.”

“I don’t have a choice but to use it as I start work early. I have 2 children so would cost me double the amount. I just about have enough money each month to get by as it is.”

A Member of the School Budget Forum referenced the rights of children under the UN Convention in respect of the proposed charge for the childcare element of Breakfast Clubs and the Member felt that the proposal was a step too far at the wrong time.

Comments in Agreement

4.8 19% of respondents agreed with the proposal, with the following reasons a summary of the comments received;

1. Support for Payment: Many respondents express a willingness to pay for the breakfast club, understanding the need for financial contributions, especially if it helps maintain the service.

“If it means keeping breakfast club open then £1 is valuable.”

“I would be happy to pay towards breakfast club. As I understand some families need the free meal for financial reasons.”

"More than happy to pay for the excellent childcare. There is very little alternative childcare availability in the area."

2. Concerns about Misuse: Some respondents highlight concerns about the misuse of the breakfast club, emphasising the need for a small charge to deter those using it solely as free childcare.

"Breakfast club should only be available to working parents' children so that they are able to attend work."

"Unfortunately the service of Breakfast club is constantly abused and not used for the service intended I think the introduction of a small cost will eliminate some of that misuse."

3. Timing and Availability: Several comments mention the importance of the breakfast club's timing, with requests for an earlier start time to better accommodate working parents.

"The school we attend opens at 8.10am not 8am so I will be paying for a 20 mins service."

"Yes but it should go back to the earlier start time of 7.50 or 8.00am"

"Yes as long as the school offer the full combined hour for breakfast and 'childcare'. currently the school offers 50 minutes as school starts at 8:55 and you can take children from 8:05 for breakfast club."

4. Different Perspectives on Free Services: There's a range of opinions on whether certain services, like free school meals or breakfast clubs, should be universally provided or if payment should be considered based on individual circumstances.

"I do not agree that it applies to those parents that pay for school meals only. It should apply to all not just working parents"

"I think it would be better to have free breakfast club and pay for dinners (in this case I would make a packed lunch daily)"

"Seems ridiculous to charge for breakfast club when far more money is being spent on Universal free school meals!"

"You should be looking at UFSM provision for all instead. There are many pupils who do not need FSM provision and the savings there could offset breakfast costs."

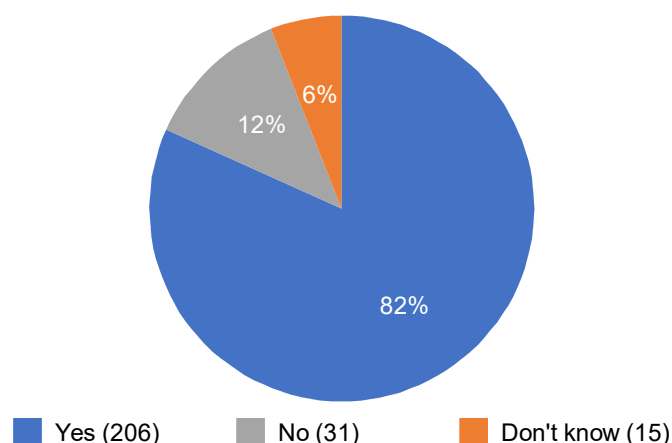
- 4.9 When we consider the type of respondent against those who agree with the proposal we can see that members of the public are more likely to agree with the proposal (30.2%), when compared to the service users themselves (15.5%).

Table 2: Agreement with charge for childcare by respondent

Counts Analysis % Respondents	Total	Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a charge for the additional childcare element of breakfast club?		
		Yes	No	Don't know
Base Are you?:	1345	254 18.9%	985 73.2%	106 7.9%
A service user of breakfast clubs, i.e. pupil, parent/carer	1082	168 15.5%	825 76.2%	89 8.2%
A member of breakfast club staff	38	5 13.2%	30 78.9%	3 7.9%
A member of school staff	92	25 27.2%	60 65.2%	7 7.6%
A member of the Governing Body	47	11 23.4%	31 66.0%	5 10.6%
A member of the public	162	49 30.2%	108 66.7%	5 3.1%
Other	35	8 22.9%	23 65.7%	4 11.4%

4.10 The 19% of respondents who agreed with the introduction of a charge were then asked if they agreed with the charge being set at £1 per day (rounded down to £60 per term) and implemented from April 2024. 82% of those who agreed with the proposal agreed with a charge of £1 per day.

Do you agree with the charge being set at £1 per day (rounded down to £60 per term) and implemented from April 2024?

**Figure 5: Agreement with charge per term**

4.11 In addition, those who agreed with the overall proposal were asked what level of termly fee they would be willing to pay for the additional childcare element of breakfast club? 36% of respondents suggested they would be willing to pay a termly fee of £60, with 30% stating they would be willing to pay £50.

What level of termly fee would you be willing to pay for the additional childcare element of breakfast club?

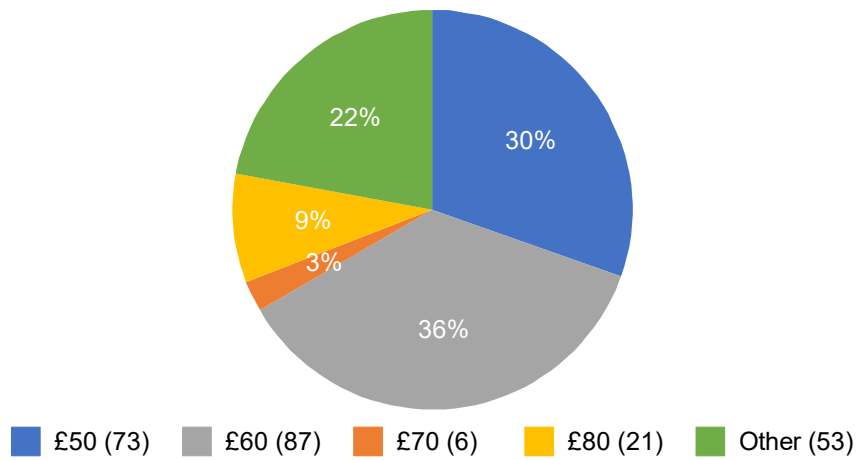


Figure 6: Level of Termly Fee

The other responses included;

- Would depend on income, which could change over time.
- Fees lower than suggested (£20, £30, £40).
- Charging more than £1 a day.
- Recover full costs of providing the service.
- Happy with £1 a day.

4.12 All respondents were asked if they agreed that the Council should consider a cap on any charge for parents/carers. The majority (57%) agreed that there should be a cap.

Do you agree that the Council should consider a cap on any charge for parents/carers?

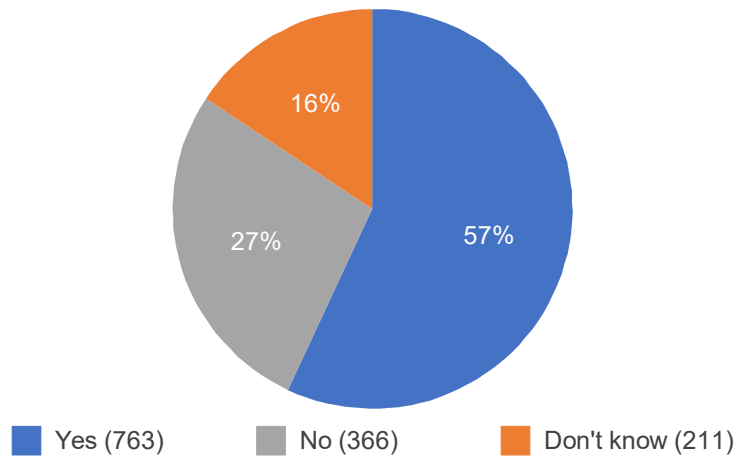


Figure 7: Should the fee have a cap?

4.13 Of the 57% who said there should be a cap, a further question asked at what level the cap should be introduced at. The majority of respondents said that the cap should be at more than one child (72%).

At what level should the cap be introduced?

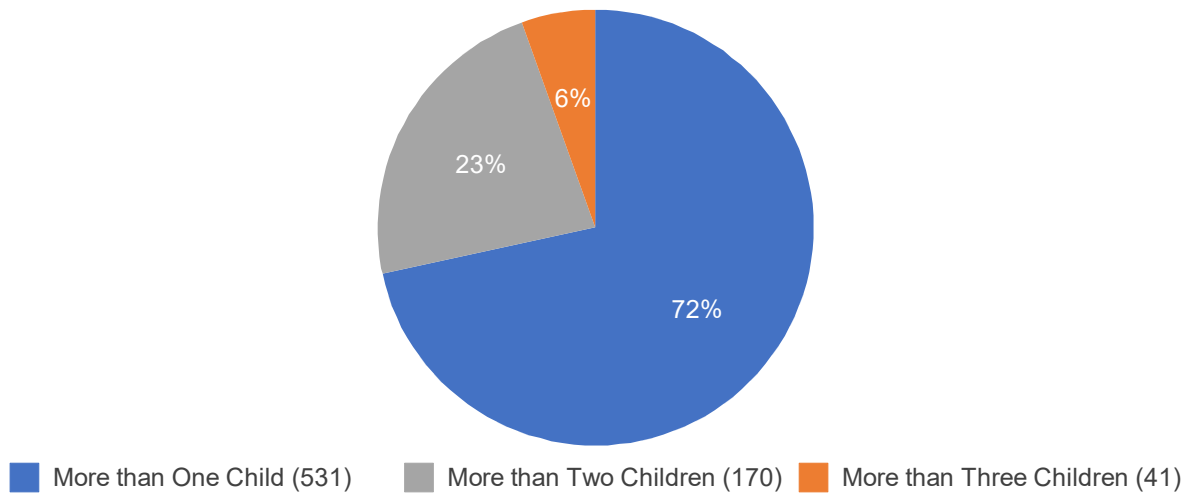


Figure 8: Level of any cap

Note: %'s may not total 100% due to rounding.

4.14 Respondents were asked if they would continue to use the free breakfast club provision, if charging is introduced and they decided not to make use of the additional childcare element of the provision. 52% of respondents said that they

would continue to use, with 22% stating no and 26% stating they do not know what they would do.

If charging is introduced and you decide not to make use of the additional childcare element provision, would you continue to make use of the free breakfast club provision (typically offered 30 minutes before the start of the School day)?

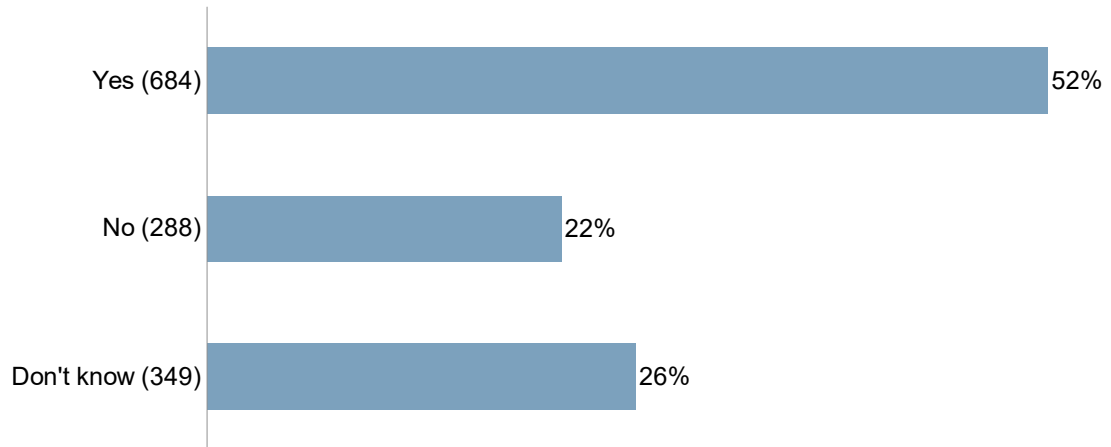


Figure 9: Continuation of Free Breakfast Provision

4.15 Finally, the respondents were asked how the proposal would impact them or their families. A number of themes were identified, including;

- **Financial Strain:** Many parents express concerns about the additional financial burden, especially during a cost-of-living crisis.

“with 3 children in school that would be £180 a term that I simply don’t have.”

“We can just about afford to live, I'm living pay check to pay check, don't need anymore outgoings”

“It would have a huge impact on our financial state due to having to pay for 2 children to use the service in order for myself and their dad to work.”

“I wouldn’t be able to afford it. And then wouldn’t be able to work also because I start at 8:30-8pm most days.”

“I would have to find another way as need to have them here because of work commitments but couldn't afford to pay”

“As a family already struggling with the cost of living it could mean losing a week's worth of food shopping money over a month period or having to cut my working hours and losing money through that”

- **Impact on Working Parents:** The proposed charge is seen as affecting working parents who rely on the breakfast club for childcare, allowing them to maintain full-time employment.

“Would need to liaise with employer about working hours as start time would need to change due to commute time.”

“Working hours will need to change to be able to accommodate not sending my children to breakfast club as I would not be able to afford it for 3 children.”

“If this is the case and I have to wait until 8.30 I will be over half hour late and could end up jobless.”

“Parents need to work. Without such support, jobs are not going to want to employ parents.”

“leave us with less money to live on as I work part time hours to work around my children in school. I start work at 8:30 which breakfast club helps out a lot as I don't have any help with my children and they rely on me and my job to allow them to have food in their bellies and clothes on their back.”

- **General Disagreement with Charge:** Several individuals express strong disagreement with the introduction of charges, emphasising the initial purpose of the breakfast club and its role in supporting families.

“Breakfast club has always been a free and healthy option for families since I was in school 25 years ago. Why it now needs to be chargeable is disgusting and it is clear it's just another attempt to rinse working class peoples bank accounts and take away things that the community needs most.”

“For me it can make a difference between heating and eating and I know I am not the only parent in this situation. You make life a little easier for me as a working parent by cutting school dinner costs for my youngest 2 to only now try and make money back another way. I pay full tax and national insurance along with council tax and believe all children should be entitled to a free healthy breakfast in these current hard times.”

“I have worked in Breakfast club for 15yrs , our school was a pilot school , and I really do believe that Breakfast Clubs should remain free for all children .”

- **Concerns about Implementation:** Some express concerns about the practicalities of payment, potential refunds, and the impact on children if payments are missed.

“as we don't use it every day, I don't see why we should be charged for every day.”

“At the moment breakfast club doesn't open until 8.15 and usually the queue is so bad that if opened at 8.30 instead there's a chance some children will have very little time to get in and eat their food”

“I certainly will not be paying £180 for a few times a month if that. I would rather be able to pay £1 as and when they go”.

“Worry that my child will be declined breakfast or feel embarrassed if I cannot pay one month “.

“I would not send my children for the 10 additional minutes but I would refuse to pay for the 30 minutes paid for by the government as this is funding for the children and NOT FUNDING for the council!”

“The way our school currently run breakfast club, the club closes at 8.20, so logistically I imagine it would be more challenging for those running breakfast club if they either had to reopen for those only sending their children to the breakfast element or staying open longer. I don't think the split element would work in practice (and suggest that councillors speak to those who run it before making any decisions!!)”.

“I think the option of how parents would like to pay it, should be available i.e whether they pay daily, weekly, termly etc and I don't think it should be more than £30 as families are already struggling enough.”

“My child wouldn't be able to use the provision on the odd days like she does, and I would be late for work on the occasions when we NEED to use the provision”

“There would be the financial impact particularly if a term is required to be paid in full in advance. Potentially monthly charges would work better as that's how people are paid.”

- **Mixed Opinions on Service Use:** Opinions vary on whether the breakfast club is primarily used for childcare or for providing a nutritious start to the day.

“I could not get to work on time. Hardly anyone used this service for a healthy breakfast. The 8-8:30 childcare is far more important than a piece of toast”

“I use breakfast club as a way of providing a healthy breakfast, it helps my little one focus as she has used a large burst of her energy running around so she is able to achieve more and helps me get to work .”

“Negative impact in getting to work which the majority of parents would say is the main use - including many council staff!”

Any Other Comments/Alternative options

- 4.16 Similar themes appeared here as in the previous question, along with some additional suggestions:

“With almost 100 schools in the area could these facilities not be utilised outside of the schooling day or on weekends more than they are so they can generate their own income. ... I just feel there needs to be a renewed strategy for improving the utilisation of schools assets to generate funds for the schools.”

“Charge families that are working and earning over a considerable amount. These will be families that are using the facility for childcare only. The concern is that parents that are working and just above the poverty line will be charged which makes working less attractive. Money could also be generated from wealthier families paying for school meals.”

“Charging for meals on wheels, increasing parking fees, reducing the money spent on Eisteddfod”.

“Surely if you decide to charge and the numbers of children drop there are risks the breakfast clubs will close altogether, raising unemployment for these staff that work there and again reducing the options for childcare, there is very limited childcare anyway - I don't think this is the way to go.”

“Why is children's food intake being cut , when my village is full of unnecessary Christmas lights and flower bouquets , but kids eating food is what you decide to cut?”

“Leave things as they are and save money from the top overpaid tier of Council Senior Management and Directorate. Stop cutting frontline services and cut overheads instead.”

“As a breakfast club worker myself. I'm now concerned about my job. If people wont pay for the 1st half hour would our jobs be safe and staff wont be needed. Also if parents only send the children in for the free half hour. How are we expected to feed a large amount of kids in such a short period of time. This hasn't been though through. I really hope this doesn't go ahead.”

“It's begin to cost a lot if you have more than one child in school. School trips are ridiculously over priced, school diners are expensive for the amount of food or choice available and now the introduction of paying for breakfast club with limited choice. All seems a bit unfair to families who struggle financially to make ends meet”

<i>“Mae plant rhai staff RCT yn defnyddio clwb breceast er mwyn cyrraedd ysgolion/ swyddfeidd yn y bore. Staff sydd ddim ar amser flexy a sydd ddim yn cael tal am weithio oriau ychwanegol. Dylse RCT helpu eu gweithwyr sydd yn gweithio'n galed dros RCTCBC.”</i>	<i>“The children of some RCT staff use breakfast club in order to get to schools/offices in the morning. Staff who are not on flexi time and are not paid for working extra hours. RCT should help their employees who work hard for RCTCBC.”</i>
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About you

4.17 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. Respondents were asked how the proposals affect you because of?:

1. Gender
2. Age
3. Ethnicity
4. Disability
5. Sexuality
6. Religion / belief
7. Gender identity
8. Relationship status
9. Pregnancy
10. Preferred language

The following are a selection of the comments received.

Disability

"It would be detrimental to my son who has a diagnosis of ASD as he needs 1-1 support to attend breakfast club, which is currently funded by Catering. Presumably I will be asked to contribute far more than the £1 if a charge is introduced, if this 1-1 support will be available at all. By extension this will affect me as an unpaid carer, having to find new ways to juggle childcare and work commitments."

"I'm disabled, I have a spine problem. Not being able to take my child to school early means I won't be able to rely on my partner to take my child to school, which means I will have to take her and then won't be able to get to my job on time. I'm also autistic and this change will have a massive negative impact on my mental health and ability to regulate"

"Disability, I have limited mobility and breakfast club gives my child extra time to eat her breakfast when I may not be fast enough"

Sex

"It will have a negative impact on women as we are generally lower paid and the primary carers so we are likely to be the ones who are expected to change working hours etc to accommodate this."

"I think this idea impacts women, single mothers, single parents, those in poverty, unfairly. It doesn't feel like the council cares at all."

"1 this proposal affects women more than men as we are the main carers. 9. I'm also pregnant so breakfast club is a godsend and once baby comes."

Pregnancy/ Maternity

“It will disadvantage me as I will likely be on maternity leave and unable to afford to send my child next year.”

Serving Armed Forces Personnel

“As a serving member of the air force this would negatively affect my relationship status as my partner would be unable to work or have to move to continue our current living arrangements”.

Carers

“I am disabled, my child is a young carer. The 50 mins breakfast club before school makes sure she eats and gets to have the pressure off her before school starts. It makes a big difference to my family, it's important to me as a disabled parent.”

Socio-economic factors

“I'm a widow, so extra costs for essential services can impact our single parent family (two children).”

- 4.18 As part of our Welsh Impact Assessment (WIA) process, the Council has identified that there is a possibility of impacts on the Welsh Language. Respondents were asked for views after considering the WIA.

The following are a selection of comments regarding potential impacts that were received:

“Welsh language students usually attend school out of area. If I do drop offs, I personally have to travel in the opposite direction from my workplace adding on commuting time. I greatly appreciate breakfast club provision which enables me to get to work on time. Either my work and the finances of my family is impacted, or my children are unable to attend a Welsh-language school.”

“There will be an impact on welsh language development on children in Welsh education, less opportunities to speak the language and be immersed in an environment yn Gymraeg”

“The Welsh language could be impacted as parents will not be able to afford Welsh books or reading / learning provisions to aid their children.”

“The breakfast club provision is the only option we have for Welsh language childcare provision. We would have to reduce or stop using the provision if we have pay and thus it will have an impact on the children's exposure to extra curricular Welsh language.”

“One of the reasons people choose Evan James is due to it's wrap around options. This encourages people to choose Welsh language education.”

“Of course there is, an extra hour in the mornings children can be talking and learning the Welsh language. Huge impact on this.”

“My daughter does not have any Welsh speakers at home , so uses Welsh at school , this removes an opportunity to speak Welsh outside of the classroom”

“If you want children speaking Welsh then this tends to be in school not at home so you need to provide a long, free breakfast club to enable children to access the Welsh language, this applies to English school too because they heavily use Welsh there too”

“Both our kids go to Welsh Language school. Neither parent speaks Welsh and this will impact the opportunity to practice their Welsh in a social setting”

“My daughter is exposed to more Welsh language due to the time in breakfast club as I am not a Welsh speaker myself”

<p><i>“Mae y ffaith bod yr ysgol yn cynnig clwb brechwast am ddim, a nifer o deuluoedd yn ei ddefnyddio yn help i hybu'r iaith gymraeg gyda staff yr ysgol yn gweithio yn clwb brechwast . Mae hwn bendantbyn un elfen pam bod y rhieni yn danfon i'r ysgol gymraeg. Gall gwneud i rhieni dalu am glwb brechwast cael effaith ar ddewis addysg gymraeg .”</i></p>	<p><i>“The fact that the school offers a free breakfast club, and many families use it, helps to promote the Welsh language with the school staff working in the breakfast club. This is definitely one element why the parents send their children to the Welsh school. Making parents pay for a breakfast club could have an impact on choosing Welsh education.”</i></p>
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4.19 With regards to the proposals, and the impact it may have, respondents were asked “How do you feel the proposal could impact on opportunities for pupils and staff to use and promote the Welsh Language?”

How do you feel the proposal could impact on opportunities for pupils and staff to use and promote the Welsh Language?

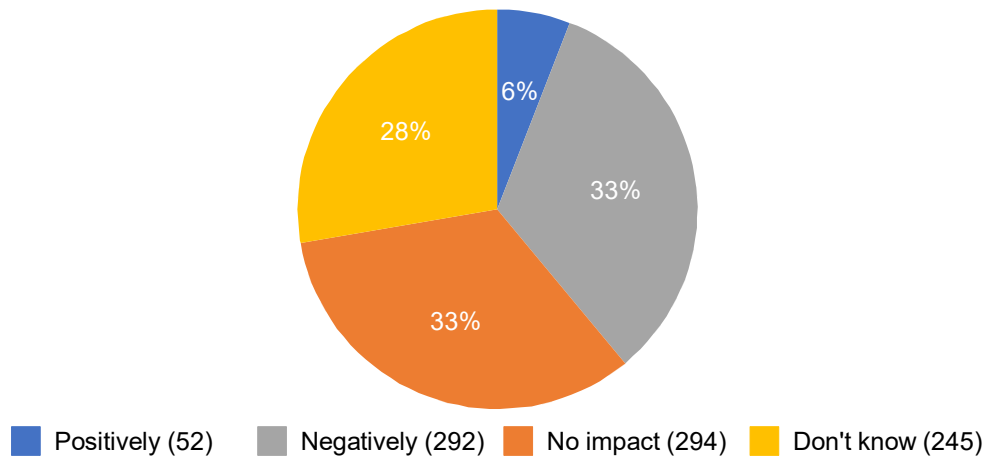


Figure 10: Impact on Opportunities to promote Welsh Language

33% of respondents thought that the proposal would have no impact on opportunities to promote the Welsh Language, with 33% feeling that the proposal would have a negative impact.

- 4.20 Respondents were asked how any positive effects could be increased, or negative effects be decreased. The following are a selection of comments received;

“Well if this proposal deters children who only have opportunity to speak Welsh at their education provision then this reduces the opportunity.”

“Use Welsh speaking staff”

“They would not received Welsh language exposure at home unlike in school breakfast club”

“The opportunity to speak welsh to other learners and teachers during that valuable time in the morning will be lost”

“Pupils have a chance to engage with pupils of all ages in smaller groups, as well as staff members, promoting the use of the Welsh language and confidence.”

“Positive effects increase- keep the club free, and open longer so more pupils can access it/speak welsh with teachers and friends Negative effects decrease- keep the club free and open longer so more pupils can access it/speak welsh with teachers and friends”

“My daughter uses the Welsh language more in school than at home so the longer she’s in school the more she talks welsh”

“Most child care providers do not provide care through the medium of welsh for school age children. Charging for childcare during breakfast club will make that less accessible for low income families in deprived areas who have chosen to send their children to a Welsh medium school.”

“If there's a cost less people would use the service and if they come from English speaking homes they will miss out on the opportunity to practice for that extra 30 minutes every day.”

“Children attending the whole hour will be able to practice their conversational Welsh with their friends , where some children whose parents do not speak Welsh this will be an advantage when learning the language in schools”

“Breakfast club could include the opportunity for reading sessions or quiet areas for colouring or homework etc to help promote learning. Could be really positive impact on the school and pupils.”

4.21 The majority of the respondents (55%) said that the proposal does not treat the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language.

Does the proposal, in any way, treat the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language?

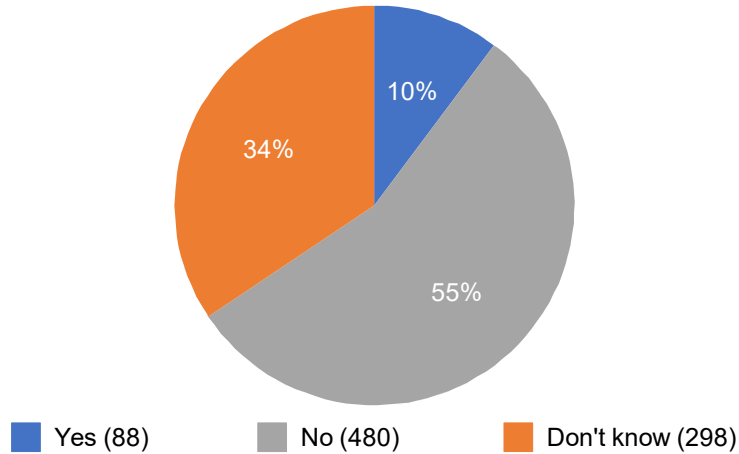


Figure 11: Welsh Language

Note: %'s may not total 100% due to rounding.

The comments received for the above questions have been made available to officers for the development of the associated impact assessments.

Respondent Demographics

4.22 Respondents were provided with an option to provide further demographic information. The full data will be used to inform the Impact Assessments where relevant. The tables below provide some of the demographic data provided by respondents.

Counts	
Analysis %	
Respondents	
Base	464
Age	
15 or under	1 0.2%

16-24	-
25-34	123 26.5%
35-44	258 55.6%
45-54	54 11.6%
55-64	17 3.7%
65-74	5 1.1%
75+	-
Prefer not to say	6 1.3%

Table 3 - Age

Table 4 -Sex

Counts Analysis % Respondents	
Base	535
Sex Are you	
Female	442 82.6%
Male	82 15.3%
Prefer not to say	11 2.1%

Table 5 - Disability (Do you

consider yourself to be disabled?)

Counts Analysis % Respondents	
Base	521
Yes	46 8.8%
No	458 87.9%
Prefer not to say	17 3.3%

Tables 3 – 5 Respondent Demographics

5 Written Responses

- 5.1 The following section outlines the written responses received from residents and organisations within the local community. The responses are similar in nature to those outlined in the main report. Some of the emails provide examples of the impact of the proposal and/or they include specific information or questions.

The full responses are outlined in Appendix 1.

- 5.2 A total of 10 emails or letters were received. Responses were received from;

- 6 Individual residents
- Member of the Senedd for Cynon Valley – Vikki Howells
- Hirwaun & Penderyn Community Council
- Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central – Heledd Fychan
- Clybiau Plant Cymru

Appendix 1 – Written Responses (see separate document)