

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

To the parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending Coety Primary School; headteacher, staff and governing body of Coety Primary School, prescribed consultees

Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd | Education and Family Support

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 642617

Ein cyf / Our ref: Ysgol Gynradd Coety Primary School
Eich cyf / Your ref: Ysgol Gynradd Coety Primary School

Dyddiad / Date: 20 September 2023

Dear consultee

Proposal to make a regulated alteration to Coety Primary School, Ffordd Yr Hebog, Coity, Bridgend CF35 6DH by enlarging the school from 2-form-entry to 2.5-form-entry, with effect from January 2025

In line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 (the Code), a consultation exercise with prescribed consultees and other interested parties was undertaken from 12 December 2022 to 25 January 2023. The aim of the consultation was to inform consultees about the above proposal and solicit views.

On 9 May 2023, the outcome of the consultation was reported to Cabinet and a consultation report was published on the Council's website. The report provided an overview of feedback received during the consultation period and outlined the Council's response to any issues raised.

On 9 May, following consideration of the consultation report, Cabinet approval was received to progress the proposal through the publication of a statutory notice. The statutory public notice was published on 5 June 2023 for 28 days and consultees were advised accordingly. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and School Organisation Code 2018 provides 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 proposer before the end of 28 days, beginning with the day on which the notice was published ("the objection period"). Two objections were received during the objection period.

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Cyfnewid testun: Rhowch 18001 o flaen unrhyw un o'n rhifau ffon ar gyfer y gwasanaeth trosglwyddo testun

Text relay: Put 18001 before any of our phone numbers for the text relay service

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os yw eich dewis iaith yw'r Gymraeg

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh

On 19 September 2023, Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet carefully considered the published proposal, the statutory objections received and the local authority's response. The objection report is available to view and download from the Council's website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/consultations/closed-consultations/coety-primary-school-consultation/>

Hard copies and alternative formats of the Cabinet report are available on request from:

Contact Officer: Education and Family Support Directorate (Directorate Support Unit)

Telephone: (01656) 643643

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The proposal will result in enlarging Coety Primary School by providing a two-storey, four-classroom extension and associated ancillary areas. The capacity of the school will increase from 420 places to 525 places for 4 to 11-year-olds (that is, 2.5-form-entry school). The nursery will have 84 full-time-equivalent nursery places (that is, 75 full-time places for pupils aged 3-4, and 9 full-time-equivalent places for part-time Nursery pupils, following their third birthday). The new school will have a Published Admission Number of 75. The new provision will open with effect from January 2025.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet were satisfied that the proposal will:

- enable the Council to comply with the legislative requirements in meeting its duty to secure efficient education in the area;
- provide a provision which will support the delivery of the National Curriculum; and
- addresses the increasing demand for pupil places.

The reasons for the decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

Quality and standards in education

In response to the consultation, Estyn's view that the proposal is likely to, at least, maintain the standard of provision in the area.

The proposal gives appropriate attention to the school's building suitability, outlining the funding necessary to resolve condition issues in addition to information regarding funding the scheme to enlarge the school. The proposal gives appropriate attention to the school's current capacity. It considers the impact of the increase to the admission number on the expected future demand for school places in the area and considers the effect on pupil numbers in other schools in the area and on transfer to secondary schools. The current building does not appear to be able to adequately meet the demand for school places at present.

The Council provides a clear description of the projected timetable for statutory procedures and for implementation of the proposals. The strengths and weaknesses in each of the options considered are suitably detailed. The proposal's potential impact is outlined, including information on the impact on the local environment and in relation to safe walking routes.

The proposal considers a range of alternatives and provides a rationale for the preferred option. The proposal projects an increase in pupil numbers based on over-subscription, new housing and further planned new homes in the area. The proposal provides comprehensive information on the capacity of other schools in the area and indicates that the proposal is likely to have limited impact on them.

The Council has taken sufficient account of the impact of the proposals on Welsh-medium provision under its own Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and indicates that it may impact on Welsh-medium schools. It clearly outlines the level of demand for Welsh language provision and includes details of approved plans for increased capacity at a Welsh-medium school in the locality due to open at the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

In considering the impact of the proposal on learning; wellbeing and attitudes to learning; teaching and learning experiences; care support and guidance and leadership and management, the Council has referred to the most recent Estyn inspection outcomes. In its last inspection in March 2018 Coety Primary School was judged to be good in standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning and care, support and guidance. It was judged to be adequate and in need of improvement in teaching and learning experiences and leadership and management. The proposal briefly suggests the ways in which it will enable the leadership team to shape the teaching and learning provision to support the delivery of the curriculum. It includes the local authority's current view on the quality of leadership and management.

Bridgend County Borough Council considers the impact of the scheme on wellbeing and care well. It makes a link between the new build and strengthening learning provision across the age range of the school. The local authority indicates that the proposal will improve accessibility in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010.

An appropriate equality impact assessment has been carried out and found that there is no negative discriminatory impact anticipated on most groups. Positive impacts are identified in relation to disability and gender. The possible negative impact identified on admissions to Welsh-medium education have been mitigated by the planned replacement and increased capacity of the local Welsh-medium school due to open in the autumn term 2025.

The proposal identifies possible disruption to learners whilst building work is underway.

Need for places and the impact in accessibility of schools

Coety Primary School's catchment area has been subject to major housing developments (that is, Parc Derwen and the Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon sites at Brackla northeast) and there is significant demand for pupil places in this area in general. The school is currently operating at capacity and with additional housing being constructed within the immediate and surrounding areas, a long-term solution in the form of a two-storey, four-classroom extension will provide additional places for pupils that reside within the school's catchment area.

The school building and external spaces will be suitably designed to ensure compliance with the Equalities Act 2010.

Travel arrangements

Pupils will be provided with free school transport in accordance with Bridgend County Borough Council's current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy. Free school transport is currently provided in the county borough for walking distances greater than 1.5 miles by available walking routes for nursery-aged pupils and for walking distances greater than 2 miles by available walking routes for primary pupils.

The Home-to-School/College Transport Policy is available to view on the Council website:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/5632/home-to-school-or-college-transport-policy-v2.pdf>

Coety Primary School is located within the Parc Derwen housing development, and it is anticipated that those currently living directly surrounding the school can use active methods of travel, such as walking, cycling and scooters.

Resourcing of education and other financial implications

£1.65m has been allocated in the capital programme for this project. The local authority has entered into a separate s106 agreement in respect of additional housing in the area. Once the s106 contribution has been received (approximately £300k in total), this funding will displace some of the BCBC funding. Any changes to the total cost of the scheme will be reported back to Cabinet and Council as appropriate.

Any revenue implications resulting as a consequence of enlarging Coety Primary School, including increases to the schools' delegated budget to cover a larger premises area and an increase in pupil numbers, along with any potential increases in school transport costs (which would depend on the school admission process and the applications made at that time), will not be known until the scheme is developed further.

Equality Impact Assessment

A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has identified that there could be a negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language.

This proposal creates additional English-medium places in the catchment area and the parents of pupils in this area who might currently be considering a Welsh-medium education due to some of the difficulties in securing a place for their child at Coety Primary School due to the oversubscription at the school, may no longer consider this. There have been positive impacts identified, including disability and gender. Successful implementation of the proposal will enable compliance with the Equality Act 2010, for example by providing a fully accessible building with gender-neutral facilities. The Equality Impact Assessment can be viewed on page 18 (appendix C) of the Coety Primary School – Consultation Report

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/em2lqcu/primary-school-enlargement-consultation-document.pdf>

Community Impact

The four-classroom extension will be located at the existing school site and will provide additional classroom space for pupils residing in the local catchment area. There will be no change in community use of the school building; the community groups that already use the school will continue to do so. No negative impact on the community is anticipated.

The extension will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equalities Act 2010. A positive impact is anticipated as a result of the provision of modern, accessible facilities.

The classroom extension will be designed to support the Bridgend 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy in respect of delivering an extension that is net zero carbon.

As much additional yard area as possible will be created, and options will be explored to provide a fenced path between the main school site and the 4G pitch to allow pupils a safe route to additional play space.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

The local authority is committed to taking forward plans to strategically grow the Welsh language and with effective strategic planning and significant investment, aims to significantly contribute to achieving Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050' vision of one million Welsh speakers across Wales. The local authority's current Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) can be viewed via the following link:

Welsh Version:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/cy/fy-nghyngor/cydraddoldeb-ac-ymgysylltu/y-gymraeg/>

English Version:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/equalities-and-engagement/welsh-language>

A Welsh Impact Assessment was undertaken in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018 which concluded that there would be no significant impact on the Welsh language provision currently experienced by pupils at the school and that Welsh would continue to be taught through the curriculum as presently.

Nursery classes

The new school will have a Published Admission Number of 75. The nursery will have 84 full-time-equivalent nursery places (that is, 75 full-time places for pupils aged 3-4, and 9 full-time-equivalent places for part-time Nursery pupils, following their third birthday).

Children aged three-to-four years attending full-time nursery should be able to transfer into reception as the PAN aligns to the number of full-time nursery places. This proposal is aimed at improving the position of those children who currently are unable to transition from nursery into reception. The statutory school admissions process will apply, as per the School Admissions Code.

The Cabinet decision of 19 September 2023 is subject to the call-in procedures as set out in Part 4 Rules of Procedure in the Council's Constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet but yet to be implemented to be reviewed. Should a valid call-in notice from an Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received, all stakeholders would be informed.

Yours sincerely



Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey (Mr)
Corporate Director – Education and Family Support
Bridgend County Borough Council