

Agenda



Delegated Decisions - Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years

Date: Friday, 21 March 2025

To: Councillor D Davies

Item		Wards Affected
1	<u>School Reorganisation Proposal – Establishment of a new primary school at Great Milton Park</u> (Pages 3 - 28)	Llanwern

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Date of Issue: Wednesday, 12 March 2025

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Report

Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years

Part 1

Date: 21 March 2025

Subject **School Reorganisation Proposal – Establishment of a new primary school at Great Milton Park**

Purpose To move to publish a statutory notice on the school reorganisation proposal “to establish a new primary school for pupils aged between 3 years and 11 years on the Great Milton Park housing development with effect from September 2026”.

Author Assistant Head of Education – Resources

Ward Llanwern

Summary Formal consultation has now concluded on the school reorganisation proposal being progressed by the Council “to establish a new primary school for pupils aged between 3 years and 11 years on the Great Milton Park housing development with effect from September 2026”. The proposal launched in November 2024, with formal consultation running between 11th November 2024 and 22nd December 2024.

A consultation report, which describes in detail the consultation process and the feedback received, has been prepared and accompanies this report. It has also been published on the Newport City Council website and shared with stakeholders. This decision report references the findings, the result of which recommends that the Council moves to publish a statutory proposal. Any legal objections lodged during the statutory proposal period will be considered when making the final determination.

Proposal **To move to publish a statutory notice for a period of 28 days in respect of the proposal to establish a new primary school at Great Milton Park with effect from September 2026.**

Action by Head of Education

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Corporate Management Team
- Education Senior Management Team
- Senior HR and Finance Business Partners

Signed

Background

All school reorganisation proposals are undertaken in accordance with Welsh Government's statutory School Organisation Code. Accordingly, formal consultation on the proposal to establish a new primary school at Great Milton Park with effect from September 2026 took place between 11th November 2024 and 22nd December 2024. Following the conclusion of this process, a consultation report was prepared, published on the Newport City Council website, and shared with stakeholders.

Great Milton Park is a new housing development in the Llanwern area of Newport, with outline planning permission for up to 1,100 dwellings. Due to the size of the development, the planning agreement between the developer and the Council includes a requirement for a new 1.5 form entry primary school to serve the new community. This means that there will be 45 pupil places available per year group. The new school will also benefit from a Learning Resource Base providing 10 places for pupils with Additional Learning Needs and a 24 place nursery class able to take 48 children in total over the two morning and afternoon sessions.

The new school is being provided by the housing developer, Redrow Homes PLC, as part of the planning agreement with the Council to meet the needs of the local community and is planned to open in September 2026. By this time however the housing development will not be fully complete, and indeed this is not expected to be the case until 2038. To support this, it is proposed that the new school will be established as a growing school to support the growth of the Great Milton Park development. Taking this approach allows the school to grow in size as the population of the development increases over a six-year period. Under this model, admission to the school would be capped at an agreed rate over the growth period. A similar growing school model has been implemented at two other developer-led primary schools which opened in Newport in recent years.

The Consultation Report concludes that the proposal remains the preferred option to meet the need for additional school places on the Great Milton Park development. Accordingly, the Council is now required to move to the next stage in this reorganisation process, which is the publication of a statutory proposal. During this stage, any stakeholder can lodge a legal objection to the proposal. These legal objections will be considered before a final determination takes place. A copy of the Consultation Report accompanies this report, but there now follows a synopsis of the feedback received.

Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation went to an extensive list of stakeholders, by email, with hard copies of all consultation documentation available on request. Hard copies were also provided to the sales office at the Great Milton Park housing development and to two local schools. All documentation was made available bilingually in Welsh and English, and in other languages on request.

Whilst no face-to-face drop-in events were arranged to support this consultation, all documentation and the Council's website noted that questions could be submitted to a dedicated email address at the Council, with a guaranteed response turnaround of 7 days. No such email enquiries were received during the consultation period.

Learner Voice

The Council is committed to gaining the views of learners when taking forward school reorganisation proposals. As such, the Headteachers of five local schools were contacted to offer of specific learner voice sessions, and as a result sessions took place at Milton Primary School, Ringland Primary School and Llanwern High School.

Further information about these sessions, including the questions raised and feedback received from these pupils, is included on pages 3-6 of the accompanying Consultation Report. The Council is very grateful to the pupils who took part in these sessions and would like to thank them for their valuable contributions to the consultation process.

Consultation Responses

Overall, a total of 81 responses were received during the consultation period from a variety of stakeholders; 79 of these were received via the online response pro-forma from a variety of stakeholders, and 2 were written responses from a Trade Union and from Estyn.

The online response pro-forma offered the opportunity for respondents to directly answer whether or not they supported the proposal. In response to this question, 48 out of the 79 respondents (61%) stated that they supported the proposal and a further 22 respondents (28%) stated that they supported the proposal in part. The remaining 9 respondents (11%) stated that they did not support the proposal.

The comments received via the online response pro-forma, alongside responses from the Council to these comments, are included in detail on pages 7-10 of the accompanying Consultation Report.

Trade Union

The response from a Trade Union noted concerns around the affordability of the proposal and the potential impact that it might have on pupil funding across the city, and the long-term impact of a new school on numbers on roll and staffing at other schools. The Council's responses to these comments are outlined on page 10 of the accompanying Consultation Report.

Estyn

The full response from Estyn is included at Appendix B of the accompanying Consultation Report. However, in summary, the response states that the proposal is likely to at least improve the standard of education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area. A summary of the comments included in Estyn's response is detailed on pages 10 and 11 of the Consultation Report.

Financial Summary

Capital

The new school is being provided by the housing developer, Redrow Homes PLC, as part of the planning agreement with the Council to meet the needs of the local community. Under this agreement however, responsibility for the fixtures, fittings and fit-out of the new school remains with the Council. In addition, since the planning agreement was determined, Welsh Government and the Council have introduced new requirements in relation to Net Zero Carbon targets. These costs will therefore be met jointly by Welsh Government and the Council through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme at an estimated cost to the Council of £230k.

Revenue

The growth of the new school will be incremental over a 6-year period, and as a maintained setting, these places will be funded through the school's Individual School Budget (ISB), distributed by the Council according to the prescribed funding formula as follows:

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33
School Name	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Great Milton Park	655	579	161	116	93	91	38

The revenue costs associated with this proposal are currently included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). If these are not funded, the ISB funding available for all other schools will be diluted.

Risks

It is important to identify and manage any project or scheme's exposure to risk and have in place controls to deal with those risks.

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) <i>What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?</i>	Risk Owner <i>Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?</i>
Failure to move to statutory notice	H	L	There has been a full consultation process in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. The proposal cannot be progressed without publishing a statutory notice.	Chief Education Officer
More applications than places available in the first year	L	L	The Council's over-subscription criteria will be used to determine priority.	Chief Education Officer
Insufficient applications in the first year	L	L	Funding for growing schools is based on places available rather than places taken, and the growth model is based on some mixed-age classes to operate in the first two years	Chief Education Officer
The temporary governing body having insufficient time to appoint a Headteacher	H	L	The temporary governing body could decide to appoint an Executive Headteacher whilst permanent recruitment is ongoing.	Chief Education Officer

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
Corporate Plan
Education Service Plan
Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme

Options Available and considered

Option 1: To move to the next stage in this school reorganisation process, which is the publication of a statutory proposal (notice) for a period of 28 days and is an opportunity for stakeholders to lodge any legal objections against the proposal.

Option 2: To withdraw the proposal following consideration of the feedback received during the formal consultation period and outlined in detail within the attached Consultation Report.

Preferred Option and Why

The preferred option is Option 1. Following conclusion of the public consultation period, the Council maintains the view that the proposal is appropriate and supports the need for additional school places on the Great Milton Park development. The publication of a statutory notice is the next stage in this school reorganisation proposal. This 28-day period will provide all consultees and stakeholders with an opportunity to further consider, and if necessary lodge legal objections to, the proposal.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

Capital

The estimated cost of this scheme forms part of the Council's outline proposal for the next stage of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which was recently approved by Welsh Government. The request to add the programme as an addition to the capital programme is included within the Capital and Treasury Strategy for 2025/26.

Revenue

The revenue funding required for the operation of the primary school will need to be provided through the Council's overall school's budget (ISB). The profiled additional budget requirements to maintain the 'funding per pupil' at current levels have been included within the Council's medium term financial plan (MTFP) for consideration within future budget decisions.

The table included in the financial summary, shows the financial impact of this decision over the life of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and beyond. As the school will open as a growing school it will take 7 years to reach the point of being fully established due to the incremental approach to growth.

If this proposal is approved, there will be an unavoidable requirement to fund the budget impact of this new school, whether or not the proposal for growth within the Council's MTFP is accepted. If increased funding is not made available, it will dilute the current overall school's budget across all existing Newport schools, many of whom are facing significant financial challenges.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The report is compliant with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Welsh Government School Organisation Code, which sets out the process to be followed when making a proposal to open a maintained school. An appropriate consultation has been undertaken. The next step, in accordance with the Code, is to publish a statutory notice setting out the proposal. It is within Cabinet Member delegation to determine whether to publish any statutory notices.

Comments of Head of People, Policy, and Transformation

The Cabinet Member seeks support to move to publish a statutory notice for a period of 28 days in respect to the proposal to establish a new primary school at Great Milton Park from September 2026.

This is in line with the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27, while the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its five ways of working are supported. The proposal ensures the long-term needs for the area are met ensuring sufficient primary places are available and has been developed through full consultation and engagement with stakeholders and local residents.

A Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment has been developed considering all relevant impacts of the proposal. No direct staffing or HR related issues arise from this report but would need consideration should the proposal move forward.

Scrutiny Committees

None

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

A full Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) has been undertaken and is published on the Council's website (available in Welsh [here](#) and English [here](#)).

The Council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. A FEIA was completed to support the decision to launch this proposal and has now been reviewed to reflect the feedback received during the formal consultation period. It will be reviewed again to support the final determination of this proposal following the publication of the statutory notice. This school reorganisation proposal was undertaken in accordance with the legislation outlined in the statutory School Organisation Code. This Code outlines the key stakeholders that should be consulted with as part of the process, but this is not exclusive, and the Council has extended this list because of feedback received in relation to previous proposals. An invitation to engage in the consultation process was emailed to identified stakeholders. The proposal was also published on the Newport City Council website, and on social media platforms. The consultation documents contained a response pro-forma, and there was an opportunity for any questions or concerns to be submitted. All consultation documents were available bilingually in Welsh and English. During the consultation, pupil voice sessions were facilitated at three local schools. A Consultation Report has now been prepared and published and will be used by the Cabinet Member for Education & Early Years in deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

The FEIA has identified positive impacts of the proposal in relation to *Age* and *Disability*. The establishment of a new school on the Great Milton Park development will support the demand for school places in an area where 1,100 dwellings are expected to be built. The school will be a 1.5 form entry 3-11 provision, meaning there will be capacity for 315 pupils of statutory school age, plus a 24 place nursery class providing 48 places over the morning and afternoon sessions. The proposal will provide a school in this new community, supporting cohesion arrangements for children and families. The new school will be fully accessible for pupils with mobility and sensory impairments. The Council is committed to providing Learning Resource Base (LRB) facilities in all new school builds to support a more inclusive approach for pupils with additional learning needs, therefore a 10-place LRB will be established in the new school.

Whilst no negative impacts have been identified, it is acknowledged that this proposal will not contribute to the Council's targets in relation to Cymraeg 2050. Newport's current Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) proposes to establish more Welsh-medium provision in Newport between 2022-2032. The Council notes that establishing this new school as English-medium could be seen as a missed opportunity towards these targets; however, it believes that establishing another Welsh-medium primary school so close to Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd and so soon after opening Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Gwenlli and whilst it is still growing, could destabilise the current offer and have a detrimental impact. It is acknowledged therefore that in proposing to open the new school as an English-medium school, Welsh-language provision is not being given the same level of priority in this instance and, on this basis, the Welsh language is being treated less fairly. Measures being taken to mitigate this impact are outlined in part 3 of the FEIA.

The sustainable development principle and 5 ways of working set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act have been considered as outlined below:

- Long term: the importance of balancing short- term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs. **The proposal seeks to establish a new school on the Great Milton Park development. The development has outline planning permission for up to 1,100 dwellings, and the planning agreement between the developer and the Council includes a requirement for a 1.5 form entry primary school to serve the site. The proposal seeks to establish the school as a growing school allowing the school population to grow over a six year period as the development population grows. This arrangement will allow the school to grow incrementally over a six year period capping numbers in the first five years. The growing school model mitigates the risk that the school could prematurely reach its maximum capacity with out-of-catchment applicants or that the new school has a detrimental effect on pupil numbers in existing schools in the surrounding areas. Great Milton Park is a permanent development in Newport and the school will be established to meet the needs of the**

community for the foreseeable future. The life expectancy of the new school building is at least 60 years.

- **Prevention:** How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help us meet our objectives. **Establishing a new school to serve the Great Milton Park development will ensure a sufficiency of primary pupil places in the area, thereby contributing to the Council’s statutory duty. The growth model also increases the possibility of siblings being able to attend the same local school.**
- **Integration:** Consider how the proposals will impact on our wellbeing objectives, our wellbeing goals, other objectives, or those of other public bodies. **A formal statutory consultation has been carried out and the proposal is supported by a FEIA. This proposal supports the “A prosperous Wales”, “A more equal Wales” and “A Wales of cohesive communities” Well-being Goals and has no adverse effect on any of the other Well-being Goals. In addition, this proposal supports the Gwent Public Services Board’s Well-being Plan 2023-28 and One Newport Local Action Plan 2023-28, and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act’s Wellbeing Goal to create a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.**
- **Collaboration:** have you considered how acting in collaboration with any other person, or any other part of our organisation could help meet our wellbeing objectives. **A formal consultation has been carried out with the opportunity for engagement with all stakeholders, supported by a FEIA. The school is being designed and delivered by Redrow Homes PLC, the developers at Great Milton Park, on behalf of and in collaboration with the Council and with support from Welsh Government through the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.**
- **Involvement:** The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the City we serve. **The Council has engaged with stakeholders affected by the proposal by issuing an invitation to participate in the consultation and supporting access to all consultation documentation. This included learner voice opportunities facilitated through the Headteachers of three local schools. Following conclusion of the formal consultation period, a Consultation Report has been prepared, published, and distributed to all identified stakeholders.**

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Not applicable

Consultation

Stakeholder consultation has taken place as outlined in the attached consultation report.

Background Papers

Consultation Report

FEIA

Welsh Government School Organisation Code – second edition (November 2018)

Dated: 21 March 2025

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Newport City Council

School Reorganisation Proposal

Consultation Report

Proposal to establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026

Formal Consultation Period:

11 November 2024 – 22 December 2024

Purpose

This report is published in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, November 2018.

This consultation report includes the following sections:

- The Proposal
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Learner Voice
- Consultation Responses
- Estyn's Response
- Impact on the Welsh Language
- Assessment of the Proposal
- Recommendations
- Appendices

The Proposal

This consultation report concerns a proposal to establish a new primary school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years on the Great Milton Park housing development with effect from September 2026.

Stakeholder Engagement

An invitation to take part in the statutory consultation was issued to the stakeholders outlined below, with a link to the consultation pack on the Council's website sent by e-mail:

- Parents, carers and guardians of pupils attending all schools affected or potentially affected by this proposal;
- Pupils attending all schools affected or potentially affected by this proposal;
- Members of staff currently employed at all schools affected or potentially affected by this proposal;
- Neighbouring Local Authorities across the South East Wales Consortium area;
- The Headteacher and Governing Bodies of all Newport schools;
- All Newport City Council elected members;
- All Newport Community Councils;
- The Welsh Ministers;
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by the school subject to the proposal;
- The South East Wales Education Achievement Service;
- The Church in Wales, Diocese of Monmouth;
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese;
- Estyn;
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and staff employed at all schools affected by this proposal;
- The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Newport's Welsh in Education Forum;
- The Welsh Language Commissioner
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent;
- Gwent Police;
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service;
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board;
- Public Health Wales;
- Newport Serennu Centre;
- SNAP Cymru;
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations;
- Preventative Services;
- Redrow sales office at Great Milton Park.

Affected Schools

Llanwern High School will be affected by this proposal, as the size of the Year 6 cohort in the cluster that would usually transition to Year 7 each year will eventually increase by up to 45 pupils.

The following schools could also potentially be affected by this proposal due to them being within 2 miles of the new development:

- Milton Primary School (0.6 miles)
- Ringland Primary School (1.2 miles)
- Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd (1.3 miles)
- Alway Primary School (1.7 miles)

Distribution of Information

In addition to the formal (main) consultation document, a Children & Young People's Everyday Summary version was also produced. All documents were available bilingually in Welsh and English.

Hard copies of the full consultation document and the Children and Young People's Everyday Summary version were provided to the sales office at the Great Milton Park housing development, Llanwern High School, and Milton Primary School.

Hard copies could also be requested by emailing school.reorg@newport.gov.uk or telephoning 01633 656656 and these were available bilingually in Welsh and English. The document was also offered in other languages on request, although no such requests were received.

The consultation information has been shared on the Newport City Council's Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) accounts.

Questions

It was noted in the consultation documents and via the Council's website that questions could be submitted by email to school.reorg@newport.gov.uk and Council officers would provide a response within 7 days.

Learner Voice

The Council is keen to gain the views of learners, and this was facilitated through sessions held with pupils at Milton Primary School, Ringland Primary School, and Llanwern High School.

Alway Primary School and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd were also invited to carry out pupil voice sessions, but these schools chose not to take up the offer.

Milton Primary School

A pupil voice session took place with pupils at Milton Primary School on Monday 18th November 2024. The following attendees were present:

- Education Transformation Manager
- Education Information and Development Officer
- Headteacher
- Assistant Headteacher / School Council Leader
- 9 pupils made up of Pupil Leaders and members of the School Council across Years 5 & 6

The pupils had been briefly informed about the proposal prior to the session, but further details were provided about the housing development and the agreement by the developer to provide a new school. The school's proposed catchment area, site plan and floor plans were discussed, as were changes being made to new schools due to climate change and the Council's plan to become Carbon Neutral by 2030. Officers outlined the consultation process, and the following questions were asked by pupils throughout the session:

Question/Comment	Council's Response
Why is the school being built behind the golf course?	As the developer owns the land, they could decide where the school would be built.
What will the school be called? Can the school be called Llanwern Primary School?	If the Council makes the decision to open the school, a temporary governing body will be established. The temporary governing body will then choose the school name and decide on the school uniform.
Can they connect the primary school with Llanwern High School?	There is a walking route between the housing development and Llanwern High School, but improvements will need to be made to ensure the route is safe.
In the consultation document it says that the school will cost £9m. Is that true?	Yes, that is the cost estimate for the school. The money to build the school will come from the housing developer and the Council will contribute some funding to provide furniture and equipment.
There is a big field next to Llanwern High School. Could this be used for a primary school?	No, as these are the playing fields for Llanwern High School.

The Headteacher then asked some additional questions on behalf of the pupils, and these are detailed below:

Question/Comment	Council's Response
What happens to the consultation responses?	Once the consultation period is over, all of the responses received will be summarised and included in a consultation report. This report will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Education & Early Years when she decides whether to move to the next stage of the process.

<p>What happens if the Cabinet Member decides not to proceed with the proposal?</p>	<p>If the school is not established as set out in this proposal, the Council could consult on a different proposal for the school. If no school is established on the site, the land could be used by the developer for something else.</p>
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The pupils were given the opportunity to complete the consultation response pro-forma. These were completed and then returned to the Council.

Llanwern High School

A pupil voice session took place with pupils at Llanwern High School on Thursday 21st November 2024. The following attendees were present:

- Education Transformation Manager
- Education Information and Development Officer
- Assistant Headteacher
- 18 pupils from across Year 11 and the school Senedd.

The pupils had been briefly informed about the proposal prior to the session. Officers than provided some background information about the housing development and the agreement with the developer to provide the new school. This included details around how pupil calculations informed the proposed capacity of the new primary school and how the number of houses built each year informed the decision to open the school on a phased basis. The following question was asked during the session:

Question/Comment	Council's Response
<p>When will the new primary school open?</p>	<p>The proposed opening for the new primary school is September 2026. This allows time for the temporary Governing Body to be set up and for a Headteacher and other staff to be appointed. All year groups will be operational from September 2026, but the capacity will be capped and will increase each year until eventually there are 45 pupil places available in each year group.</p>

The pupils were given the opportunity to complete hard copies of the Consultation Response Pro-forma during the session. These were completed and the responses have been recorded.

Ringland Primary School

A pupil voice session took place with pupils at Ringland Primary School on Thursday 28th November 2024. The following attendees were present:

- Education Transformation Manager
- Education Information and Development Officer
- 6 x Pupils from the School Council across Years 4 to 6

Officers explained the consultation process and provided some background information about the housing development. The group discussed the capacities of local primary schools, and the pupils agreed that opening a new school would be a good idea as there are not enough places available at local primary schools. Officers then explained the difference between English-medium and Welsh-medium schools and outlined the reasons for the new school being an English-medium provision. The following table shows questions the pupils asked throughout the session:

Question/Comment	Council's Response
Which other schools have you spoken to about the proposal?	We offered to meet with Milton Primary, Ringland Primary, Alway Primary, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd and Llanwern High School. Up to now, we have met with Milton Primary School and Llanwern High School.
Why don't you build a Welsh-medium school and an English-medium school on the site?	Unfortunately, there is not enough room on the site for two schools.
Will you build another high school?	No, there are no plans to build another high school. The Great Milton Park development is within the catchment area for Llanwern High School. There is a walking route between the housing development and Llanwern High School, although this will need some improvements. The Council will receive some money from the housing developer to support secondary education provision but there are no plans for this currently.

The pupils were given the opportunity to complete hard copies of the Consultation Response Pro-forma during the session. These were completed and the responses have been recorded.

The Council is very grateful to the staff and pupils who took part in these sessions and would like to thank them for their valuable contributions to this consultation process.

Consultation Responses

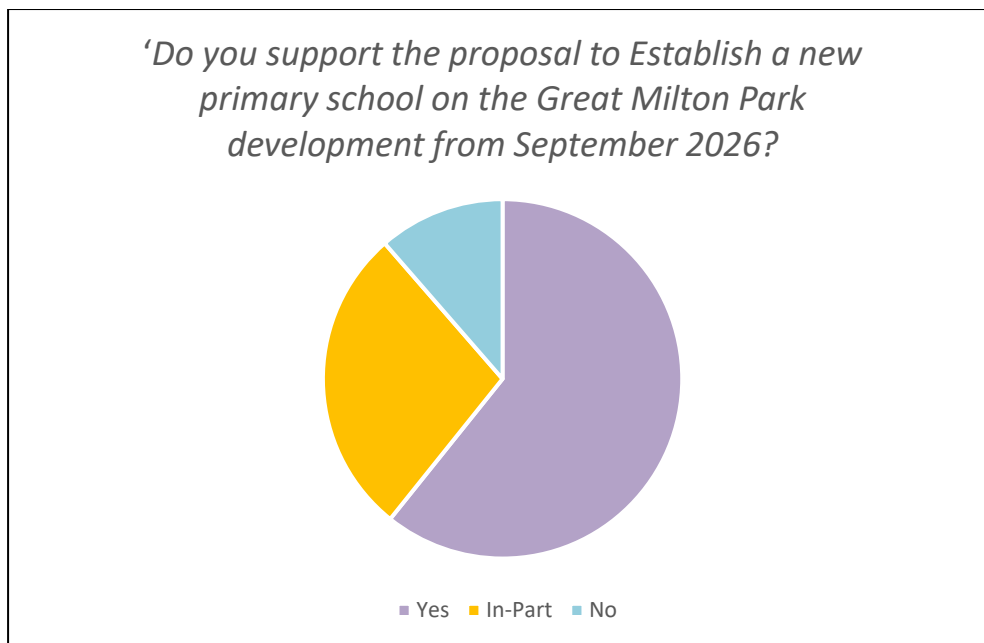
Overall, a total of 81 responses were received during the consultation period. 79 responses were received via the response pro-forma (see Appendix A) by a variety of stakeholders including:

- Parents/Carers
- Residents at the Great Milton Park development
- Newport residents
- Pupils
- Governor of local school

There were also 2 written responses, received from a Teachers' Trade Union and Estyn (His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales).

The response pro-forma offered the opportunity for respondents to answer the following direct question in relation to the proposal:

'Do you support the proposal to establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026?'



48 out of 79 respondents (61%) supported the proposal, with the majority of respondents stating that the school is needed on the housing development.

22 out of 79 respondents (28%) supported the proposal in part. The comments raised via these forms have been summarised below, alongside a response from the Council:

Comment	No. of similar comments	Council's Response
There are already other primary schools in close proximity with spaces available.	4	Although there is some surplus capacity within the primary schools nearby (Alway Primary, Milton Primary, Ringland Primary, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd), this is not sufficient to accommodate all the children likely to emerge from the housing development. Without the new school, children living on the new development might potentially have to attend different primary schools across the local area, causing issues for families.

<p>Establishing a new school may impact funding at other local/nearby primary schools.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>The capital cost is mainly being met by the developer, with a small amount committed by the Council and Welsh Government to support fixtures, fittings and equipment, and meeting net zero carbon targets. The associated revenue costs are included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and will be reviewed annually.</p>
<p>The school will likely be empty for the first few years as children living on the development will already be attending other Primary Schools.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The new school will be established as a growing school to support the growth of the development. Under this model, admission to the school will be capped over the growth period to allow the school to grow with the size of the development. This model has previously been used successfully at Jubilee Park and Glan Llyn primary schools. Both schools were well subscribed from the first year of opening. The school will be fully grown from the start of the sixth year, in September 2031.</p>
<p>The proposed location for the new school will impact on traffic and congestion at the start and end of the school day.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>The approved masterplan for the development has always featured a primary school in the proposed location, and the site infrastructure has been developed accordingly, with permeability throughout to encourage active travel. The Council encourages and expects the majority of pupils attending the school to use active travel options.</p>
<p>The school site should be arranged so that it doesn't affect residents' outlook, and that noise pollution to neighbours is minimised.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>The school will be set out to maximise use of the available space on a sloping site. The sports court and pitch will feature acoustic barrier fencing to reduce noise.</p>
<p>Consideration should be given to investing in additional secondary provision to serve the local area as the new housing developments are not yet well served in terms of adequate transport links to either Llanwern High or Lliswerry High.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>The new primary school will be within the Llanwern High School cluster. Llanwern High School currently has 27.5% surplus places. The Council will receive money (Section 106 funding) from the housing developer to increase and improve secondary facilities in the area and to accommodate the additional pupils coming from the housing development. There is a walking route between the housing development and Llanwern High School which will need improvements.</p>

Extra school places are needed on the Glan Llyn development as new residents cannot get their children into the local primary school as it is full.	1	A second primary school will be established on the Glan Llyn development once the 2000th house has been occupied on the site. There are surplus places in nearby schools to accommodate additional pupils in the meantime.
The Council has experienced delays in establishing new schools previously. Is this likely in relation to this proposal?	1	A proposed estimated timeframe for the new school can be found in the consultation document. Work to deliver the new school is currently on track. Delay is a potential risk, and this will be monitored by the Council. Stakeholders will be kept informed on progress at all stages.
The consultation document also does not accurately describe the provision that will be available for children with additional needs.	1	This has been reviewed and the description in the consultation document concerning access to ALN class bases has been confirmed as accurate.

9 out of 79 respondents (11%) did not support the proposal. The comments raised via these forms have been summarised, together with a response from the Council as follows:

Comment	No. of similar comments	Council's Response
The new school will impact on the privacy and outlook of local residents, increase traffic congestion and cause issues with illegal parking .	3	The location of the proposed school was included on all of Redrow's development site plans which would have been available to residents before they purchased their home. Privacy and the visual impact of the development will be taken into account as part of the planning application process. The approved masterplan for the development has always featured a primary school in the proposed location, and the site infrastructure has been developed accordingly with permeability throughout to encourage active travel. The Council expects pupils to consider active travel options.
The establishment of a brand new school will have an impact on other local schools where buildings are older and in a poorer condition.	1	The new school will be established on a growing school basis to support the growing Great Milton Park development. Under this model, admission to the school will be capped over the growth period to allow the school to grow with the size of the development. As a result, there is expected to be very little impact on other schools in the local area.

Rather than building another new primary school, consideration should have been given to increasing and improving provision for secondary age pupils with additional learning needs.	1	As part of the planning permission for the new housing development, the developer is required to provide Newport City Council with a new primary school building.
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The written response received from a School Trade Union included the following comments which are responded to below:

'We note that no other local authority in Wales funds children to a lesser degree than Newport in terms of delegated school expenditure per pupil (Welsh Government statistical release, October 2024). We are concerned, therefore, about the affordability of the proposal and the potential impact that this will have on per-pupil funding across the city.'

Council response:

In relation to the statistical release issued by Stats Wales on 'reserves held by schools', whilst Newport is shown as having the lowest delegated school expenditure per pupil in the table, these figures are gross and include the total resources available to schools including the use of reserves which will have an influence on the delegated expenditure per pupil figure.

It is important to note that Newport had one of the highest reserves per pupil, at £465 per pupil (5 out of 22) in 23/24 and is currently ranked 18 out of 22 in relation to the delegated school budget per pupil for 24/25.

'We note the statement that the "new community-maintained English-medium primary school would not have any staffing implications at this time". We would welcome, however, a statement on the long-term impact of the new school upon (i) the roll at other primaries in Newport and (ii) consequently the impact upon staffing at other schools.'

Council response:

The opening of the new school is proposed in a phased manner, over a period of six years, to mitigate the risk of a disproportionate number of out-of-catchment pupils being allocated places, at the detriment of other local schools. In the longer term, we anticipate that the school will be fully subscribed, with only in-catchment pupils living on the development securing places. We therefore consider that the proposal will provide a number of job and development opportunities within the city, without detrimentally affecting the staffing levels required at other schools.

Estyn's Response

The full response from Estyn is included at Appendix B of this report. In summary, the response notes that the proposal is likely to at least improve the standard of education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Other comments within the report include that:

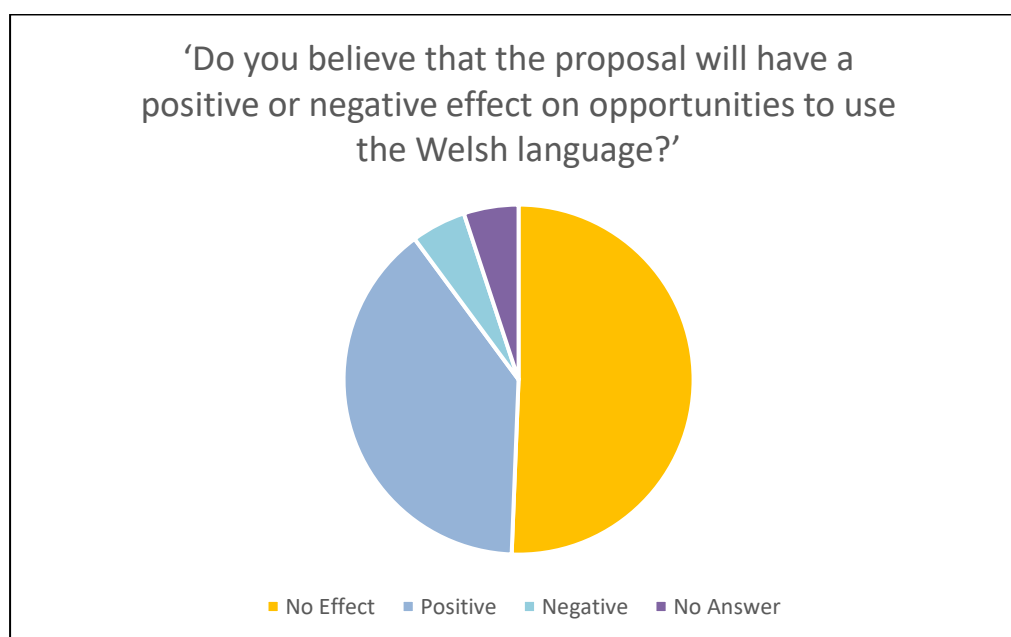
- The local authority has outlined a clear rationale for its proposal.
- The local authority provides an appropriately detailed description of the proposal.
- The proposer identifies clearly and fairly the expected advantages and disadvantages compared to the status quo.
- It is presumed that nearly all of the risks are low impact, and clear and achievable countermeasures are proposed in response to the four possibilities that may arise.
- The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the effect of the changes on pupils' travel arrangements and on the accessibility of provision.
- The local authority has shown the effect of the proposal on surplus places appropriately.
- The proposal considers the effect of the proposal on Welsh-medium provision within the local authority.
- The local authority has given appropriate consideration to the financial implications of the proposal.
- The proposal usefully considers the effect of the proposal on quality and standards in education.
- The proposal considers appropriate information from the latest Estyn reports for each school that may be affected either directly or indirectly by the proposal.
- The proposal provides a useful description of its impact on the community and on vulnerable groups, including children with additional learning needs (ALN).

The response notes that the proposal identifies a few disadvantages to the proposal. However, the response also states that the consultation document includes explanations for the approach being taken.

Impact on the Welsh language

The consultation response pro-forma also asked respondents to give their views on the likely impact of the proposal on the Welsh language.

'Do you believe that the proposal will have a positive or negative effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?'



31 out of 79 respondents (39%) answered 'Positive'. 40 respondents (51%) answered 'No effect', 4 respondents (5%) answered 'Negative', and 4 respondents (5%) did not answer.

In response to the question 'Do you believe that the proposal will treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?', 19 out of 79 respondents (24%) answered 'Yes'. No further comments were received.

Assessment of the Proposal

Following the public consultation period, the Council maintains the view that the proposal is still the preferred option over the alternative options available when considering the establishment of a primary school on the Great Milton Park development. The options considered are listed below with reasoning as to why they are discounted or preferred.

Option 1 - *To establish the school from September 2026 as a Welsh-medium school under a seedling school arrangement.*

This option was discounted due to the close proximity of Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, the fact that Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Gwenlli is not yet grown to full capacity, and the current number of surplus Welsh-medium primary school places across the city. No representations made during the consultation period suggested that the Council should reconsider this option.

Option 2 - *To establish an English-medium primary school from September 2026 under a growing school arrangement.*

This is the preferred option. Stakeholders expressed their thoughts around other local schools being nearby with places available. However, there are not enough surplus places within any one of the primary schools nearby (Alway Primary, Milton Primary, Ringland Primary, Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd) to accommodate all children from the housing development. Without the new school, children of families moving to the new development would potentially have to attend different primary schools across the area.

Stakeholders also raised that the new school would likely be empty for the first few years. The new school is being established on a growing school basis to support the growing Great Milton Park development while limiting any detrimental impact on pupil numbers other schools in the local area. This model has previously been used successfully at Jubilee Park and Glan Llyn primary schools.

Stakeholders raised concerns around the potential increase in traffic on the development. All options considered would establish a primary school of the same size, at the same location. Therefore option 2 will not see any more traffic than the other options considered.

Stakeholders commented that the school site should be arranged to minimise noise and consider the outlook for residents. Again, all options considered would establish a primary school of the same size, at the same location. Therefore option 2 will not see any difference in the location/noise level of the school. Traffic, noise and neighbourhood impact considerations are currently being addressed in relation to the planning application for the school.

Option 3 - *To establish an English-medium primary school from September 2026 on a seedling basis, restricted to Nursery, Reception and Year One in the first year, and growing incrementally for the next five years.*

This was discounted due to the increased possibility of siblings being unable to attend the same school. No representations made during the consultation period suggested that the Council should reconsider this option.

Option 4 - *To establish an English-medium primary school from September 2026 to full 1.5 form entry capacity arrangements.*

This was discounted due to the fact that it would not meet the needs of the local community in the medium to long term. This would pose additional risk as places at the school could be taken by children who live outside of the catchment area, resulting in the possibility of more traffic around the development. There could also be some disruption to other schools if large numbers of pupils elect to move to the new school. Some classes could be difficult to resource if a significant number of places remain vacant across certain year groups. No representations made during the consultation period suggested that the Council should reconsider this option.

Option 5 - *To defer establishing the new school until the housing development is fully complete.*

This was discounted due to the fact that it would not meet the needs of the local community in the short term. If the school didn't open until 2038, an estimated 330 pupils would need to find school places in the local area. Children of families moving to the new development would most likely have to attend different primary schools. No representations made during the consultation period suggested that the Council should reconsider this option.

To conclude, after re-considering all options, the preferred option is option 2, which is to establish an English-medium primary school from September 2026 under a growing school arrangement.

Recommendations

It is recommended that permission be sought to move this proposal forward by publishing a statutory notice. This decision will be referred to the Cabinet Member for Education & Early Years and taken through the Council's agreed democratic process.

In accordance with the School Organisation Code (2018) this report is published electronically on Newport City Council's website at <https://www.newport.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/proposals-and-consultations>

To request a hard (paper) copy of this document please contact Newport City Council's Education Information and Development Officer on 01633 656656 or email school.reorg@newport.gov.uk

Appendix A - Consultation Response Pro-forma

This response relates to the proposal to establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026.

Your views matter. Please tell us what you think about the proposal by completing this questionnaire online at www.newport.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/proposals-and-consultations. Alternatively, you can complete this form and return it to the Education Information and Development Officer, Newport City Council, Room 425W, Civic Centre, Newport NP20 4UR or email your response to school.reorg@newport.gov.uk

The closing date for the submission of responses to this consultation is midnight on 22nd December 2024. Please note that negative responses made to this consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal, they will be recorded as adverse comments. Objections can only be registered following the publication of a statutory notice.

1) Do you support the proposal to:

Establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026.

Yes No In part

Please use the box below to provide comments or explain which element of the proposal you do/do not support.

The Council has a duty to consider and identify all the possible effects a policy decision may have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

2) Do you believe that the proposal will have a positive or negative effect on opportunities to use the Welsh language?

Positive Negative No effect

3) If you think it will have a negative effect, what steps could we take to lessen or remove this and improve positive effects?

4) Do you believe that the proposal will treat the Welsh language less favourably than the English language?

Yes No

Please indicate who you are (e.g. parent/carer of a child attending a local nursery)

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Please select your Ethnic group			
White British		Asian-Bangladeshi	
White Irish		Asian-Indian	
Any other White background (please state): _____		Asian-Pakistani	
Gypsy or Irish Traveller		Any other Asian background	
White and Asian		Black Caribbean	
White and Black African		Black African	
White and Black Caribbean		Any other Black background	
Any other Mixed background (please state): _____		Arab	
Asian-Bangladeshi		Chinese	
Asian-Indian		Any other ethnic group (please state): _____	
Asian-Pakistani		Prefer not to say	

Welsh language			
Do you consider yourself a Welsh speaker?			
Yes		No	Prefer not to say

Caring Responsibilities			
Do you care for children of school age?			
Yes		No	Prefer not to say
Do you care for children of pre-school age?			
Yes		No	Prefer not to say
Do you care for a dependent adult or child above school age?			
Yes		No	Prefer not to say

If you wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report, please supply your contact details:

E-mail: _____

Postal address: _____

Appendix B – Estyn’s Response

Estyn’s response to the proposal to establish a new primary school on the Great Milton Park development from September 2026

Introduction

This report has been prepared by His Majesty’s Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to acting accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

The proposal is to establish a new English-medium community-maintained primary school on the new Great Milton Park housing development from September 2026.

Summary / Conclusion

Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to at least improve the standard of education provision and outcomes for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

The local authority has outlined a clear rationale for its proposal, which is to establish a new 3-11 English-medium primary school on the Great Milton Park housing development in the Llanwern area of Newport. A new 1.5 form school will be acquired from the housing developer as part of the agreement with the council to meet the needs of the local community. Over time, this means that 45 places will be available for each year group. It will also be possible to offer places for 48 Nursery pupils between two morning and afternoon sessions by the time the school grows with the size of the development. It proposes that this development will increase the number of primary school places in this area of the city over a specified period.

The local authority provides an appropriately detailed description of the proposal. It also provides an expected timetable for statutory procedures. It proposes that a new English-medium community-maintained school will open in September 2026 under a ‘growing school’ arrangement to support the growing housing development. It appears that the new school will be fully operational from September 2031 for pupils aged 3-11.

The proposer identifies clearly and fairly the expected advantages and disadvantages compared to the status quo. One of the main advantages is that opening a new school as a ‘growing school’ allows it to grow in size as the population of the development increases. By implementing this model, it is possible to mitigate the risk of a lack of places available for children who move to the catchment area at a later date, meaning that they would be forced to attend other schools across the city. As a result, the school’s capacity will increase incrementally over a six-year period. By 2031/32, it is anticipated that the school will have 315 pupils, and the school will have reached its capacity. Another advantage is that additional school places will be created across all year groups. This, in turn, will support families moving to the area who may have more than one child of primary school age. The number of staff will also increase over time which, in turn, provides stable, phased recruitment opportunities. The school will grow in line with the population of the development and will ensure that places are available for families who move during the final stages of the

housing development. It appears that this proposal will have a positive effect on the number of pupils who attend Llanwern High School, as the size of the cluster's Year 6 cohort will eventually increase by up to 45 pupils.

The proposal identifies a few disadvantages to the proposal, namely the possibility that some families who move to the development may have to wait until the beginning of the following academic year before their children can join the school. It appears that if the school has a reduced published admission number, pupils who live outside the school's catchment area can still apply for a place at the school and may be successful. The new school will not meet the needs of families moving to the development who want Welsh education for their children. As a result, it appears that the proposal does not contribute purposefully to the council's plans to increase Welsh-medium education provision throughout Newport, as outlined in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The council acknowledges that opening this new school as an English school does not provide this development with equal access to Welsh medium education. However, families living in the new development who choose Welsh-medium education will be approximately 1.2 miles from their Welsh medium catchment primary school, namely Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd.

It is presumed that nearly all of the risks are low impact, and clear and achievable countermeasures are proposed in response to the four possibilities that may arise. The local authority has considered five other options, outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each option clearly. As one of the options, deferring the establishment of the new school until the new housing development is completed in full is considered. However, it states that this proposal would not meet the needs of the local community in the short term.

The proposer has given appropriate consideration to the effect of the changes on pupils' travel arrangements and on the accessibility of provision. It appears that most of the homes within the development will be closer to the new on-site school than to any other primary school. The next nearest schools are Milton (0.6 miles), Ringland (1.2 miles) and Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd (1.2 miles). As a result, it appears that attending the new school will be the most convenient option for families living at the new housing development. Free home-to-school transport is provided for all pupils who live 2 miles or more from their catchment area school and this proposal will not affect the arrangement. The availability of home-to-school walking routes will be maintained.

The local authority has shown the effect of the proposal on surplus places appropriately. As the new housing development continues to grow in size, there will be surplus places available at the school until 2037-2038. After that, it is anticipated that there will not be enough space available for pupils as the school will have reached its capacity. The proposer has identified a risk of the possibility that the school will not receive enough applications in the first year. Opening as a 'growing school' will enable mixed-age classes to operate during the first year. In addition, the school will grow in line with the population of the development. As a result, it appears that leaders will manage class sizes sensibly to support the school's staffing and budget. It is likely that the proposal will not have an adverse effect on other schools in Newport. However, there are four schools within 2 miles of the new development, and they are defined in Newport City's Council's home-to-school transport policy as having safe walking routes. The proposal is also likely to increase the demand for places at Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, as the number of families living within the catchment area of this school will increase.

The proposal considers the effect of the proposal on Welsh-medium provision within the local authority. It appears that the proposal to open the new school as a school in language category 1, namely English-medium, will not have a detrimental effect on Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd. This is because there are currently a significant number of Welsh-medium places across the city. It appears that families living at the new development will be able to

access Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd. The proposal states that the new school will not support the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan directly. However, Ysgol Nant Gwenlli will be moving to a larger site in 2025, which will enable the school to grow to a 2-form entry. As a result, it appears that alternative options are being considered to increase the number of Welsh-medium education places available across the city from 2026 onwards, in line with the council's WESP commitment. The local authority has given appropriate consideration to the financial implications of the proposal. The capital cost of the new building appears to be around £9m and will be paid for by the housing developer and Newport City Council, with support from the Welsh Government. It is possible that there will be an increase in staff costs throughout the whole authority through the creation of a new school and a headteacher will need to be appointed before the school's opening date to support the initial set-up. Newport City Council appears to have a policy of awarding a sum of £35,000 to any newly established school. The recurring costs associated with the staffing and running of the school will also be met by Newport City Council.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposal usefully considers the effect of the proposal on quality and standards in education. It is unlikely that the proposal will have any impact on the quality and standards of teaching and learning at any of the other primary schools within the Llanwern High School cluster. Teaching and learning experiences will continue to follow Curriculum for Wales, with English as the language of teaching and learning. In terms of well-being and attitudes to learning, the construction of the new primary school is likely to enable children to attend school in their local community. It is also likely to have a positive effect on their teaching and learning experiences as they attend a new school building with a learning environment and range of facilities of a high standard. It states further that the proposal will not affect well-being and attitudes to learning at any other schools.

It is unlikely that there will not be any change in terms of support, care and guidance. In terms of leadership and management, it appears that there will be no change in leadership and management at any other school. It appears that the leadership team will receive support and guidance from the local authority and the Education Achievement Service to ensure that best practices in leadership and management are adopted.

The proposal considers appropriate information from the latest Estyn reports for each school that may be affected either directly or indirectly by the proposal. Newport appears to have a positive track record of establishing new primary schools that provide good standards, with each having received a positive inspection or an invitation to prepare good practice case studies from Estyn since October 2022.

The proposal provides a useful description of its impact on the community and on vulnerable groups, including children with additional learning needs (ALN). It appears that there will be a specific additional learning needs class that provides places for 10 pupils between 3-11 years old with additional learning needs, specifically for supporting pupils diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The school is likely to be completely accessible for pupils with physical disabilities and sensory impairments, which promotes the sense of establishing an inclusive learning community purposefully. It is possible that, following a period of targeted support for individual pupils based on their needs, the intention is to reintegrate them into mainstream classes. A good range of specialist resources and facilities will be provided, for example a therapy and hygiene room, a lift and accessible toilets and showers. It appears that this proposal will not have any adverse effect on existing special educational provision across the city.