



REVIEW OF POST 16 EDUCATION IN TORFAEN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

November 2016



Your re/Eich cyf:
Our ref/Ein cyf: MH/
Date/Dyddiad: 11th November 2016

Please contact/Cysyllter â Mark Horton
Direct line/Llinell union: 01495 766910
Direct fax/Llinell ffacs: 01495 766904

To: Statutory Consultees and Other Interested Parties

Dear Consultee,

PROPOSALS TO:-

i) ESTABLISH A 6th FORM CENTRE FOR TORFAEN

ii) MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO CROESYCEILIOG SCHOOL, CWMBRAN HIGH SCHOOL AND ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL BY ENDING 6TH FORM PROVISION

At its meeting held on 13th September 2016, Torfaen County Borough Council's Cabinet agreed to commence consultation on the above mentioned proposals.

This consultation relates to the proposal to establish a 6th form centre for Torfaen,

It should be noted that consultation is being undertaken separately in relation to a proposal to reduce the 11 – 16 capacity to 1200 places at Croesyceiliog School.

The regulations require that consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days. Taking this into account, the consultation period will begin with the issue of this letter (11th November 2016), and will close on Friday 23rd December 2016.

Any comments/observations on the proposals can be made:

- By writing to Mr Dermot McChrystal, Head of Education Services (FAO Mark Horton) c/o Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB.
- By email: secondaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk

THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN LARGER PRINT AND BRAILLE UPON REQUEST

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English.
Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and will not lead to delay.
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.
Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd yn arwain at oedi.

- By attending one of the consultation “drop - in” events (details below) and completing a response proforma (attached to the Consultation document) and returning it to the above address.

Separate arrangements will be made for children and young people to participate in the consultation, which will include the views of the school councils.

Consultation events have been arranged as follows:

DAY/DATE	TIME	VENUE	INTENDED AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 23 rd November 2016	4.30pm 6.30pm	– Pontypool Active Living Centre. NP4 8AT	Pupils & students; Staff (teaching, non-teaching and support) from schools and Coleg Gwent; Governors; Parents/carers; Local residents; Statutory consultees and; other interested parties.
Monday, 5 th December 2016	4.30pm 6.30pm	– Cwmbran Stadium. NP44 3YS	
Wednesday, 14 th December 2016	5.00pm 7.00pm	– Blaenavon Community Campus. NP4 9AW	

Officers will attend these “drop-in” sessions to answer questions and ensure comments/views made are recorded to allow Elected Members to make an informed decision at the appropriate time.

Further information on these specific proposals (including the consultation document) and the authority’s other 21st Century Schools proposals can be found on the Council website at: www.torfaen.gov.uk.

An executive summary of this document is available in the medium of Welsh and can be obtained by telephoning 01495 766910 or by visiting the Council’s website: www.torfaen.gov.uk.

If you are unclear about anything or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 01495 766910.

Yours sincerely



Mark Horton
PRINCIPAL OFFICER, FORWARD PLANNING

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Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Tel 01495 762200 Fax 01495 766904

Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Pont-y-pŵl, Torfaen, NP4 6YB Ffôn 01495 762200 Ffacs 01495 766904

www.torfaen.gov.uk

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1. Introduction

The intention to bring forward proposals to change the way that post 16 education is delivered in Torfaen was included as part of the council's overall 21st Century Schools Programme.

That programme was well documented, with the council taking the decision to include every school as well as post 16 delivery as part of it in October 2010. The council sought the views of all interested parties on its programme during a series of roadshows that were held across the county borough in March 2011.

The outcome of this public engagement was reported to cabinet in July 2011. Subsequent to this meeting, Welsh Government asked councils to revise their original Band A proposals (originally submitted in October 2010) against the following prioritisation criteria:

- The level of match funding required by the council increased from 30% to 50%
- The poorest condition of the estate (prioritisation to reside with the council although the independent school survey data will be applied)
- Surplus capacity – the key indicator being surplus places (both as a percentage and as an estimated actual reduction in the number of places)
- Running efficiencies (e.g. reduction in running costs, backlog maintenance)

The revised Strategic Outline Programme was approved by Council in November 2011 with the Welsh Government confirming match funding in principle in December 2011.

2. Why change to post 16 education is needed

Welsh Government published a document called 'The Transformation of Education and Training Provision' in September 2008 which challenged councils, further education colleges and their partners to review their provision at 16 plus and consider how to transform it so that it is fit for the future. In 2011 that challenge was brought into the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Specifically Welsh Government wanted those who work in the sphere of post 16 education to:

- Widen the options available for students at 14-19 in a way that prepares young people for the full range of pathways open to them and that respects the different learning styles of those students.
- Reduce unnecessary duplication of provision by increased levels of collaborative curriculum planning and delivery.

- Move to excellence across networks of providers, building on the progress made by individual providers in raising the quality of institutional management and of students' learning experience.

The council and its partners have developed several proposals over the years in response to this challenge. None have secured the support necessary to advance them to the point of completion, and the transformation has not happened in any part of the delivery system.

During that time the situation has also become more acute as a result of year on year reductions to the funding to run post 16 courses available to providers in Wales, including our schools. This has presented a serious challenge to maintain provision, to the point that without additional funding in future years it will simply not be possible to continue to deliver post 16 courses to the same degree in the existing smaller units. However, bringing those smaller units together, which is at the heart of the proposal in this consultation, will improve overall viability, protect future provision for learners in a way the current set up cannot and increase provision for those who to date have not engaged as fully with post 16 education as we would like to see.

The core concern driving this proposal is that the post 16 offer to learners will get progressively worse if we do not take action now to make the money made available from Welsh Government go further.

The current business case for post 16 provision in Torfaen has been developed following Welsh Government's response to the 'Integrated Post 16 Education & Training in Torfaen' Strategic Outline Case submitted by Coleg Gwent in March 2015. That response invited a proposal which was more affordable, achievable and sustainable.

The revised proposal will see Torfaen County Borough Council build a purpose built 6th form centre in Cwmbran which will open in September 2019 and cost £20,000,000. It will be run by Coleg Gwent on behalf of the council through a partnership agreement between the two organisations which will ensure the best possible scope and standard of provision for learners in the county borough.

The 6th form centre will replace English Medium school 6th forms and benefit post 16 learners from across the county borough, including those with additional learning needs. It will deliver a mix of A & AS level courses and the Welsh Baccalaureate along with a range of complementary Level 2 & 3 qualifications.

Welsh medium post 16 provision would continue at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, working in partnership with Ysgol Cwm Rhymni and Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed (Newport) which opened in September 2016.

The main driving forces behind the proposal are:

- the need to improve retention and stay - on rates and learner outcomes
- the need to transform post 16 education in line with Welsh Government's vision

- the need to replace 6th forms with a more efficient and sustainable delivery model
- linkages with other projects within the council's 21st Century Schools Programme, most notably the provision of a new school for Croesyceiliog School.

The four Investment Objectives we will deliver against as a result of this project are:

- Improving the effectiveness and outcomes of service to all learners.
- Providing economies and efficiencies in the provision of the service.
- Providing new and enhanced opportunities to all learners.
- Improving learner experience and attractiveness to all learners.

3. Consultation arrangements

Before any decision is made on the proposals to remove 6th forms from schools and establish a 6th form centre the council is required to hold a statutory consultation with all interested parties. The following information is therefore provided to set out the process by which consultation will be conducted.

Consultation on these proposals will follow the School Organisation Code. Consequently, the main purpose of this document is to provide information and to gather the views of identified stakeholders.

Consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days. Taking this into account, the consultation period will run from Friday 11th November 2016 until Friday 23rd December 2016.

A list of all those being consulted is attached as an appendix (1) to this document.

Consultation events in relation to these proposals will be held as follows:

DAY/DATE	TIME	VENUE	INTENDED AUDIENCE
Wednesday, 23 rd November 2016	4.30pm 6.30pm	– Pontypool Active Living Centre. NP4 8AT	Pupils & students; Staff (teaching, non-teaching and Support) from schools and Coleg Gwent;
Monday, 5 th December 2016	4.30pm 6.30pm	– Cwmbran Stadium. NP44 3YS	Governors; Parents/carers; Local residents; Statutory consultees and; other interested parties.
Wednesday, 14 th December 2016	5.00pm 7.00pm	– Blaenavon Community Campus. NP4 9AW	

Officers will attend these “drop in” sessions to answer questions and ensure comments/views made are recorded to allow Elected Members to make an informed decision at the appropriate time.

In addition, any views or comments can be made:

- By writing to Mr Dermot McChrystal, Head of Education Services (FAO Mark Horton) c/o Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB.
- By email: secondaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk.
- By completing a response proforma (attached as an appendix to this document) and returning it to the above mentioned address.

It is important to note that any unfavourable comments made during the consultation period will not be treated as objections and that if you wish to object, you will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period should the proposal proceed to that stage. If consultees submit a request during the objection period that a response submitted at the consultation stage should be treated as an objection this will be accepted.

The views of children and young people remain important and therefore the views of those children and young people attending all the schools identified in this document (and those in Primary Schools for which these proposals will impact in the future) will be able to participate in the consultation process through their school councils. All the views obtained from the children and young people will be included in the consultation report to Cabinet.

4. The proposals

Torfaen County Borough Council proposes to end sixth form provision within the county borough’s 11 to 18 secondary schools at the end of the 2018/2019 academic session with pupils attending the new 6th form centre for their post 16 education from 1st September 2019.

The proposals link to the Council’s 21st Century Schools programme as explained earlier. The aim of these proposals is to replace English Medium school 6th forms and benefit all post 16 learners from across the county borough, including those with additional learning needs. It will deliver a wider range and quality of courses that will meet the council’s expectations and those of Welsh Government, through a mix of A & AS level courses and the Welsh Baccalaureate along with a range of complementary Level 2 & 3 qualifications.

The specific proposals in this consultation document are outlined as follows:-

- i) To establish a 6th Form centre for Torfaen.

In terms of procedure, it is important to note that before this consultation document could be published the council had to undertake the following steps in line with the School Organisation Code:

Step 1: *LA's may also make proposals to add or remove school 6th forms at voluntary and foundation secondary schools, but only if they have first gained the consent of Welsh Ministers to do so. Consent **must** be sought by means of a written application that clearly sets out the LA's rationale for the proposal.*

In this regard, Welsh Ministers gave approval to proceed with these proposals in a letter dated 12th July 2016.

Step 2: *In the case of proposals to reorganise schools for which land and/or buildings are held on trust or which have a designated religious character, the proposer **must** conduct consultation with the trustees and/or religious body before the consultation document is published. The proposer **must** allow 28 days for the receipt of comments and **must** have due regard to those comments before any decision is made to proceed to general consultation.*

In this regard, consultation was held between 18th July 2016 and 15th August 2016.

No comments or observations were made by the Diocese during this period.

ii) To make a regulated alteration to Croesyceiliog School, Cwmbran High School and St Alban's RC High School by ending 6th form provision.

Formal consultation is required because the ending of 6th form provision at the above mentioned schools is proposed.

5. Background information

The School Organisation Code requires that we provide detailed background information across a range of topics to explain why we are advancing a proposal. Section 2 provided a summary of the reasons why change is necessary, but the following sections provide more detailed information.

Pupil Numbers on Roll/Pupil Projections

The Secondary Schools affected or likely to be affected by the proposals are as follows:-

Name of School	Location	Category	Language	Age Range
Abersychan	Incline Road, Abersychan, Pontypool. NP4 7DF	Community	English Medium	11 to 16
Croesyceiliog	Woodland Road, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran. NP44 2YB	Community	English Medium	11 to 18
Cwmbran High	Ty Gwyn Way,	Community	English	11 to 18

	Fairwater, Cwmbran. NP44 4YZ		Medium	
St Alban's RC High	The Park, Pontypool. NP46XG	Voluntary Aided	English Medium	11 to 18
West Monmouth	Blaendare Road, Pontypool. NP4 5YG	Community	English Medium	11 to 16

Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, the Welsh Medium secondary school has been excluded on the assumption that these proposals will not significantly impact because 6th form provision will remain at this school.

The following tables are provided to give an indication (longer term) of potential numbers in English Medium secondary schools, and given current trends, the number of potential students who may attend a 6th form centre.

Table 1

This provides details of numbers on roll (Years 7 to 11) for the previous four annual school census years, currently on roll (as of September 2015) and a five year forecast for those schools that may be affected by these proposals.

School (current capacity (11 – 16))	11 to 16 numbers on roll									
	Act Sept 2011	Act Sept 2012	Act Sept 2013	Act Sept 2014	Act Sept 2015	Proj Sept 2016	Proj Sept 2017	Proj Sept 2018	Proj Sept 2019	Proj Sept 2020
Abersychan (952)	909	888	882	875	839	881	965	974	1009	1037
West Monmouth (1253)	835	761	690	679	659	671	683	685	672	674
Croesyceiliog (1370)	1279	1314	1309	1314	1319	1337	1351	1345	1372	1391
Cwmbran High (1065)	1696	1514	1258	1041	930	915	906	944	983	995
St Alban's RC High (725)	762	770	762	754	752	786	780	806	835	842
TOTALS (5365)	5481	5247	4901	4663	4499	4590	4685	4754	4871	4939

Notes:

- 1) Numbers exclude those pupils attending Special Needs Resource Bases

- 2) School capacity is calculated using Welsh Government guidance, specifically the Welsh Government Circular No 21/2011 "Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales". Current School capacities (calculated Autumn Term 2015) are provided in above table.
- 3) The capacity having been calculated using the guidance in 2) above means for the 11 to 18 schools there is a total capacity which makes provision for post 16 provision. In this instance, the 11 – 16 capacity is based on the admission number and multiplied by 5 (year groups 7 to 11) to provide a notional capacity.
- 4) Numbers on roll for Cwmbran High pre September 2015 are combined numbers for Fairwater High and Llantarnam Schools which closed at the end 2014/15 academic year to be replaced by Cwmbran High School.
- 5) Projected/forecasted numbers are based on current admission and parental preference trends, health authority live birth data and potential pupils from new known housing developments. Any future admissions will be restricted to published admission numbers for individual schools during the appropriate admissions round, with oversubscription criteria applied where necessary.

Table 2

In terms of 6th form (Years 12 and 13) numbers for the respective years are as follows:

School	16 to 18 numbers on roll									
	Act Sept 2011	Act Sept 2012	Act Sept 2013	Act Sept 2014	Act Sept 2015	Proj Sept 2016	Proj Sept 2017	Proj Sept 2018	Proj Sept 2019	Proj Sept 2020
Abersychan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
West Monmouth	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Croesyceiliog	292	226	244	257	243	254	254	241	229	243
Cwmbran High	479	447	462	376	317	227	199	166	174	195
St Alban's RC High	342	293	290	285	269	286	289	257	264	301
Coleg Gwent "A" Level students	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122
TOTALS	1235	1088	1118	1040	951	889	864	786	789	861

Notes:

- 1) Numbers exclude those pupils attending Special Needs Resource Bases.
- 2) Numbers on roll for Cwmbran High pre September 2015 are combined numbers for Fairwater High and Llantarnam Schools which closed at the end 2014/15 academic year to be replaced by Cwmbran High School.
- 3) It should be noted that St Alban's RC High School draws pupils from other schools at year 12 for 6th form courses.
- 4) The Coleg Gwent "A" Level students are those (September 2015) attending in both years 12 & 13 and it is assumed that should the 6th form centre proceed would attend that setting in similar numbers. As information on previous years for Coleg Gwent is not available, this number has been used for those years to establish a notional total number of "A" level students from within Torfaen.
- 5) Appendix 2 explains how 6th form numbers have been calculated.

Table 3

The following table takes projections forward and provides potential numbers of post 16 aged students to 2026 based on current numbers in primary schools (again excluding those pupils in Welsh Medium settings). Also excluded are nursery aged children and those attending SNRB's.

This provides details of current pupils and potential numbers who may continue with post 16 courses based on the assumption of a "stay on" rate (Y11 to Y12) of 45% and "drop out" rate (Y12 to Y13) of 22% (shown in column 6). For illustrative and comparative purposes, an aspirational "stay on" rate of 55% (and "drop - out rate of 15%) is applied given Torfaen's current performance at GCSE A* to C grade is mid-fifties % and is shown in column 7.

In summary, this table provides a comparison of the number of current pupils and potential numbers based on the following:

"Stay on" rates of 45% and 55% (Y11 to Y12) and
"Drop out" rates of 22% and 15% (Y12 to Y13)

School Year	Projected Year 11 cohort	45% of Year 11 cohort (Potential Year 12)	Plus 2 nd year 6th (Potential Year 13+)	Plus Coleg Gwent (based on September 2015 numbers)	Potential Total Post 16 students (6)	Potential Total Post 16 students (7)
2015(ACT) (Sept 15)	938 (ACT)	466 (ACT)	363 (ACT)	122 (ACT)	951(ACT)	951(ACT)

Y11)						
2016 (Sept 15 Y10)	933	420	328	122	870	1071
2017 (Sept 15 Y9)	898	404	315	122	841	1036
2018 (Sept 15 Y8)	836	376	293	122	791	973
2019 (Sept 15 Y7)	894	402	314	122	838	1032
2020 (Sept 15 Y6)	963	433	338	122	893	1102
2021 (Sept 15 Y5)	993	447	349	122	918	1132
2022 (Sept 15 Y4)	950	428	334	122	884	1090
2023 (Sept 15 Y3)	933	420	328	122	870	1071
2024 (Sept 15 Y2)	960	432	337	122	891	1099
2025 (Sept 15 Y1)	950	428	334	122	884	1090
2026 (Sept 15 YR)	988	445	347	122	914	1127

Note:

- 1) Because whole cohorts are represented above and average “stay on” and “drop out” rates have been applied the potential total post 16 students from 2016 to 2020 do vary from those in the previous table which are based on an individual school analysis.
- 2) Appendix 2 explains how “stay on”/“drop out” rates have been calculated.

6. Options considered

In developing Torfaen’s 21st Century Schools Programme, a number of options were considered in relation to post 16 provision in Torfaen.

Scoping solutions (Who, what and where):

Options	Advantages / Disadvantages
<p><u>Do Nothing</u></p> <p>Continue with existing provision structure. i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mix of 11-16 and 11-18 schools and an FE college. - Separate 6th Forms at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croesyceiliog • Cwmbran • St. Alban's <p>Offering A levels + a few vocational qualifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further Education (FE) college in Pontypool unchanged offering vocational. 	<p><u>Advantages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low capital cost No consultation required. No disruption for learners <p><u>Disadvantages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inequality in provision across Torfaen continues. Small 6th Forms unable to offer all subjects due to lack of student numbers. Small 6th Forms are uneconomical to run.
<p><u>Do Minimum</u></p> <p>Retain and extend 6th Form provision for academic curriculum in schools and keep vocational curriculum at FE college. i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change the two 11-16 schools to 11-18. - Separate 6th Forms at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croesyceiliog • Cwmbran • St. Alban's • West Mon • Abersychan <p>Offering A levels + a few vocational qualifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FE college in Pontypool unchanged offering vocational. 	<p><u>Advantages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower capital cost (£4 million) Equality of provision Lowest pupil transport costs <p><u>Disadvantages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small 6th Forms unable to offer all subjects due to lack of student numbers. Small 6th Forms are uneconomical to run. Likely to make the existing 6th Forms smaller. Unlikely to attract Welsh Government funding.
<p><u>Intermediate</u></p> <p>Change the three 11-18 schools to 11-16, creating a single new build 6th Form centre working alongside the FE college.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close three school 6th Forms 	<p><u>Advantages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concentration of A Level student numbers enables more cost efficient subject delivery. Single site curriculum planning for A Levels and some BTECs able to offer students

<p>- Create a new single 6th Form centre offering A levels + a few vocational qualifications.</p> <p>- FE college adapts to work alongside new centre.</p>	<p>wider choice.</p> <p>Larger 6th Forms are more economical to run.</p> <p><u>Disadvantages</u></p> <p>Requires significant capital investment in a new site.</p> <p>Some students may have to travel between sites to do mix of A levels and certain BTECs.</p>
<p><u>Do Maximum</u></p> <p>Combine all academic and vocational offerings on a single site. i.e.:</p> <p>- Create a single new build Post 16 Centre</p> <p>- Close all school 6th Forms</p> <p>- Close the FE college campus in Pontypool.</p>	<p><u>Advantages</u></p> <p>All students and courses on a single site.</p> <p>Offers equality across Torfaen for all Post 16 learners.</p> <p>Likely to be economical to run.</p> <p><u>Disadvantages</u></p> <p>Highest capital cost option.</p> <p>This option involves the added closure and disruption to the college site in Pontypool as well as 6th Forms in 3 schools.</p> <p>Most complex consultation</p>

Service solutions (How):

Options	Advantages / Disadvantages
<p><u>Do Minimum - baseline comparator</u></p> <p>This sees a realistic investment in the status quo service scope option above, to enable it to go forward as baseline comparator.</p> <p>Provide new or refurbished facilities for 6th Forms in the following schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croesyceiliog • Cwmbran • St. Alban's <p>For Croesyceiliog which is currently condition grade C, this is estimated to be £6m of investment linked to the new build 11-16 school project.</p> <p>For Cwmbran, due to the recent investment in the school, a lower</p>	<p><u>Advantages</u></p> <p>Delivers investment at 3 schools</p> <p>No consultation required</p> <p>Lower capital cost option.</p> <p><u>Disadvantages</u></p> <p>Does not fully address the business needs.</p> <p>Inequality in provision across Torfaen continues.</p> <p>Small 6th forms unable to offer all subjects due to lack of student numbers.</p> <p>Small 6th Forms are uneconomical to run.</p> <p>Unlikely to attract Welsh Government funding.</p>

<p>figure of up to £4m would be invested in the school.</p> <p>For St. Alban's, a new build for the entire school is required and planned for Band B. It is estimated that an investment in the region of £6m linked to the new build school project is needed.</p> <p>Total capital cost £16M maximum.</p>	
<p><u>Do Minimum</u></p> <p>Create the single 6th Form centre on the site of Cwmbran, Croesyceiliog or St. Alban's schools.</p> <p>A new 6th Form centre to be created on one of the school sites for an estimated £20M.</p>	<p><u>Advantages</u></p> <p>May share some revenue costs with the chosen school site.</p> <p><u>Disadvantages</u></p> <p>Inequitable, effectively making one school 11-18 and unlikely to be acceptable to all.</p> <p>Less favourable location and transport links</p> <p>Site limitations</p> <p>Potential access, parking and highways issues, adding to costs.</p>
<p><u>Intermediate</u></p> <p>Create a new 6th Form centre on Site 2 in Cwmbran.</p> <p>A new 6th Form centre to be created on 'Site 2' in central Cwmbran for an estimated £20M.</p>	<p><u>Advantages</u></p> <p>Is equitable.</p> <p>Is centrally located.</p> <p>Site has been earmarked and is available.</p> <p>Excellent transport links and infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Disadvantages</u></p> <p>Requires site acquisition and integration as part of the overall site development plan.</p>
<p><u>Maximum</u></p> <p>Create a single 6th Form centre on the FE campus in Blaendare Road, Pontypool.</p>	<p><u>Advantages</u></p> <p>Is co-located with FE college vocational courses.</p> <p>Equitable in terms of not associated with one school.</p> <p><u>Disadvantages</u></p> <p>Not geographically central.</p> <p>Site has severe highways and access issues which, to rectify, add significant costs.</p> <p>May not receive planning permission</p> <p>Requires demolition of some existing</p>

The Long List also considered options for service delivery, implementation and funding with assessments made for benefits, critical success factors, advantages and disadvantages. The Options Framework was then used to generate the Short List of options which were then subject to comparative assessment of net present costs (including sensitivity analysis) and risks.

The **Preferred Way Forward** that emerged is as follows:

- **Scope :** Centralise 6th Form provision for academic curriculum working alongside the FE college.

- **Service Solution:** Create a new single 6th Form centre on Site 2 in Cwmbran offering A levels & a range of complementary level 2 and 3 qualifications. (£20m investment)

FE college adapts to work alongside the new centre.
Change the three 11-18 schools to 11-16.

- **Service Delivery:** 6th Form centre built by the LA, but run by the FE college.

- **Implementation:** Deliver the scheme over a 3-5 year period.

- **Funding** Blended funding package Local Authority and Welsh Government.

- **Advantages:**
 - Concentration of A Level student numbers enables more cost efficient subject delivery.
 - Single site curriculum planning for A Levels and some BTECs.
 - Spreads resource demand over longer period of time.
 - In line with funding matrix / affordability
 - Is equitable.
 - Is centrally located.
 - Site has been earmarked and is available.
 - Excellent transport links and infrastructure.
 - Larger 6th Forms are more economical to run.
 - This option is affordable.

- **Disadvantages:**

- Requires investment in a new site.
- Requires complex consultation on 6th Form closures
- Delay to scheme and benefits realisation.
- Requires site acquisition.
- Investment is potentially delayed as a result of the grant application process.

In the development of this proposal, a risk appraisal was presented in the Strategic Outline Case in March 2015. This was subsequently re-visited in May 2016 and updated. The risks and counter measures are described below:

Risk	Counter Measure
Potential critical building failure or substandard facilities for 6th Form students.	Should the proposals for Post 16 / 6th form centre not go ahead, the fall-back is to continue provision in existing school settings. Cwmbran High has received some investment in band A and more is planned for Band C. Croesyceiliog School is subject to a business case proposal alongside this one. It can be changed from an 11-16 proposal to an 11-18 proposal if necessary. A business case submission for the replacement of St. Alban's RC School is planned for Band B. It could be 11-16 or 11-18 if required.
An uncertainty about policy and funding leads to confusion within the project or stakeholders about what direction the transformation project is going in.	Seek regular feedback from WG about current funding likelihood and manage expectations of stakeholders via regular communications.
Failure to complete 5 Case Treasury Model and achieve timescales for development of project.	Through attendance at Better Business Case networking meetings and training courses, the production of business cases has improved. Continue attendance at such events.
Failure to get political approval (TCBC) and Coleg Gwent approval for the business case.	Use regular communication sessions to brief and consult with council members, cabinet and Coleg Gwent at appropriate decision making points in the project to ensure a successful outcome.
OBC fails to secure funding from Welsh Government.	Seek regular feedback from Welsh Government. The previous SOC submission done in collaboration with Coleg Gwent in March 2015 was rejected. The September 2015 SOC written by the LA was

Risk	Counter Measure
	<p>approved. A scoping document for a conflated SOC/OBC has been submitted to Welsh Government and agreed.</p> <p>(The OBC was subsequently submitted in September 2016 and approval given by Welsh Government to proceed to a full business case in November 2016)</p>
Funding available is not sufficient to deliver project. i.e. the capital project is not affordable.	Funding bodies to be clear about level of funding available and the affordability of each option is to be examined.
Delay in 'go-ahead' and funding release at each stage delays delivery of transformation.	Notify Welsh Government of key decision milestones and phased payments required to allow project to proceed on time and keep in regular communication with them.
Stakeholder opposition to change.	Conduct consultation in accordance with Welsh Government guidelines.
Insufficient links with other TCBC services leads to poor planning and implementation.	Engage other service departments (e.g. planning, quantity surveying, legal, financial, procurement) early in planning process during development of the Business Case.
Lack of available land and/or planning permission.	Ensure early engagement with planning and public protection service. A detailed examination of a long list of possible sites has taken place.
Capital build not properly costed and goes over budget.	Review space requirements and carry out some comparative market analysis early on.

There are significant advantages to developing the 6th Form centre and some disadvantages, although the latter are not considered significant.

Advantages

- The range and quality of courses will meet the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 for learners.
- A wider range of academic courses will be delivered, with the opportunity to work collaboratively with vocational course providers.
- Larger and better qualified pool of potential employees with a greater range of qualifications.

- The building will be to 21st century standard with purpose built facilities promoting better educational attainment.
- As all courses can be offered in one facility, this assists in maximising curriculum time, leading to better attendance and an increase in the % of 16 – 19 learners in Education and Training (EET).
- More opportunities for professional and personal development for staff at the facility.
- Ease of access to training resources for both staff and students.
- Improved financial stability.
- Any existing training links between schools in Torfaen and Coleg Gwent can be strengthened across a full range of vocational courses.

Disadvantages

- Potential loss of some staff from Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran High and St Alban's RC High Schools.
- Pupils may not opt to take a place at the new 6th Form centre.
- Post 16 provisions will no longer be provided in the three schools mentioned above.
- Transitions for learners may be potentially disrupted due to the transition to a new learning environment.
- Learners may opt to move to other post 16 learning provision.
- Some pupils may have to travel further to gain access to their post 16 provision.

Disadvantages/Risks will be mitigated through effective transition arrangements and good liaison to ensure continuity in learning and the recruitment process. Support will also be provided to pupils and their families to ensure they are given advice and guidance where needed.

Costs/Financial Implications of the proposals

Capital Expenditure definition – Expenditure on non-current assets (land and buildings, vehicles, plant and equipment) intended to benefit future accounting periods or expenditure that increase the capacity, economy, efficiency or life span of the existing asset.

Revenue Expenditure definition – The day-to-day costs of running Council services including expenditure on: staff, supplies and services, and repairs and maintenance of assets. Also included are charges for the repayment of debt, and interest on debt.

Capital

The preferred option above was prioritised within the 21st Century Schools Programme, and agreed in principle by Welsh Government in December 2011 as follows:

Band B (2020-2022)

Post 16 Centre Reconstruction (New site)	New –	Band B not prioritised	Estimated cost - £45.0M
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The revised total capital costs for the 6th Form centre is now estimated at £20 million but includes costs associated with the site which is in Welsh Government ownership.

Revenue

The additional revenue costs for the Post 16 Centre is in the region of £1m, which include leadership and premises costs for a centre to accommodate around 1000 pupils and teaching & learning costs.

The council has determined that savings can be achieved from efficiency of the grant and are in talks with the college on how these will be found. The revenue cost of teaching and learning are based on the contracts and terms of conditions of teachers in the Local Authority, however the college would be able to reduce their teaching and learning costs as they would appoint staff on Further Education contracts and terms and conditions. It can also be assumed that efficiencies could be made on the number of staff required to release money from teaching and learning to fund the other factors (leadership and premises).

It should be noted that any revenue savings will not include home to school/college transport costs. Home to school/college transport as a non-delegated budget is held and administered centrally by the Council.

7. Admission arrangements

As the centre will be run by Coleg Gwent on behalf of the council, admission for sixth form provision will remain unchanged from the current Coleg Gwent arrangements.

A partnership agreement between the two organisations will be established and as a consequence it is anticipated that the Head/Principal of the 6th Form centre will, in collaboration with the Torfaen “partner” secondary schools lead in this process.

8. What will be offered and how will it be delivered

The range of subjects and courses offered will be similar to what is currently on offer in Torfaen School 6th Forms and Coleg Gwent in Crosskeys and Ebbw Vale.

Offering these in a single facility would enable some classes to be effectively amalgamated, thereby reducing the overall number of classes and making them more economical to run. The following table shows some examples:

Subject and level	Yr 12 pupil numbers	Current number of classes across 4 school 6 th Forms	Potential number of classes in a single 6 th Form centre
Biology AS	81	4	3
English GCSE	23	3	1
History AS	51	4	2
Maths GCSE	43	4	2
Maths AS	88	5	3 or 4
French AS	15	2	1

Combining 6th Form provision in one location would also make courses less susceptible to cancellations due to low enrolment numbers.

Analysis across Torfaen 6th forms in Year 12 showed an average class size of 16, excluding Welsh Baccalaureate. It is not unreasonable to suggest that the average class size for the preferred option is not less than 18.

The number of level 3 courses currently offered in Post 16 venues varies, but some examples are:

- St. Alban's – 35
- Croesyceiliog - 36
- Coleg Gwent Crosskeys- 30

A similar number and range of qualifications will be on offer in Torfaen's new 6th Form centre. It is realistic to expect that 35 to 40 Level 3 courses will be on offer in Year 12 and Year 13.

The new 6th Form centre will provide classroom based courses mainly at Level 3, but there will also be a number of Level 2 courses, particularly GCSE Maths and English Language for those students who have not achieved C grade or higher in Year 11. There is also the possibility that a full time (16-18 hours per week) Level 2 course (BTEC, Tutorial, Welsh Baccalaureate, Maths and English) is offered as a foundation year for those not yet ready for Level 3 study.

The centre will ensure that all learners are provided with teacher led support for English/Literacy and Maths/Numeracy. All learners with GCSE grade D will re-sit, while those with grade E or below will be supported towards re-sits when appropriate.

The Welsh Baccalaureate is currently offered to an increasing number of students each year and in many schools and colleges this course is compulsory. The course is not delivered by subject specialists and the group sizes are usually large 25+. This would also be offered in the 6th Form centre.

The new centre will also provide the opportunity for the delivery of higher level skills and potentially some University level study with Higher Education partners.

Length of working day and occupancy rate

It is proposed the core working day in the 6th Form centre will be 9am to 4.30pm for full-time learners, operating flexibly with scope for evening provision if required.

9. Transport Arrangements

Free transport is currently provided if a student lives more than 3 miles from the school or college campus if their parents/carers (or students themselves) are in receipt of Income Support/Income Based Jobseekers Allowance or who qualify under regulations governing Child Tax Credit. Those 16 – 18 aged students who live the required distance but whose parents (or themselves) are not in receipt of the above mentioned benefits will be provided with an annual grant (currently £146) towards the cost of transport.

As a discretionary provision it should be noted that this is subject to annual review, but there are no current plans to change this policy.

10. Staffing at the new centre

The centre will require a number of new of staff to deliver the curriculum. Coleg Gwent will employ the staff of the Centre on the established terms and conditions for Further Education. In the first instance, the recruitment and selection process for teaching staff will be restricted to current employees of Torfaen Secondary schools and Coleg Gwent.

11. The quality and diversity of education

Educational standards within Torfaen's secondary schools vary from school to school.

The most recent Estyn reports for potentially affected schools are summarised below.

During each inspection, inspectors aim to answer three key questions:

- Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?
- Key Question 2: How good is provision?
- Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?

Inspectors also provide an overall judgement on the school's current performance and on its prospects for improvement. In these evaluations, inspectors use a four-point scale:

Judgement	What the judgement means
Excellent	Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice
Good	Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
Adequate	Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
Unsatisfactory	Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

At the time of the publication of this document Estyn had carried out inspections as follows:-

Abersychan School

Date of Inspection: November 2009

It should be noted that at that time, a five-point scale was used to represent all inspection judgements in the report as follows:

What the judgement means	Judgement/Grade
good with outstanding features	Grade 1
good features and no important shortcomings	Grade 2
good features outweigh shortcomings	Grade 3
some good features, but shortcomings in important areas	Grade 4
many important shortcomings	Grade 5

Table of grades awarded to Abersychan against the 7 Key Questions:

Key Question	Inspection grade
1 How well do learners achieve?	2
2 How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	2
3 How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	1
4 How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	1
5 How effective are leadership and strategic management?	2
6 How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	2
7 How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	1

Croesyceiliog School

Date of Inspection: March 2011.

Note: Croesyceiliog School was judged to have made good progress in respect of the key issues for action following the Estyn visit in May 2012. The school was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring, and there would be no further Estyn monitoring visits in relation to this inspection.

Summary	Judgement
The school's current performance	Adequate
The school's prospects for improvement	Good
Key Question 1: How good are outcomes?	Adequate
Key Question 2: How good is provision?	Good
Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?	Good

Cwmbran High School

Date of Inspection: December 2015

Summary	Judgement
The school's current performance	Adequate
The school's prospects for improvement	Adequate
Key Question 1: How good are outcomes?	Adequate
Key Question 2: How good is provision?	Adequate
Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?	Adequate

St Alban's RC High School

Date of Inspection: December 2015

Summary	Judgement
The school's current performance	Good
The school's prospects for improvement	Good
Key Question 1: How good are outcomes?	Good
Key Question 2: How good is provision?	Good
Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?	Good

West Monmouth School

Date of Inspection: March 2016

Summary	Judgement
The school's current performance	Adequate
The school's prospects for improvement	Adequate
Key Question 1: How good are outcomes?	Adequate
Key Question 2: How good is provision?	Good
Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?	Adequate

Full reports can be accessed via the following links:-

Abersychan School: <http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6784070>

West Monmouth School: <http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6784072>

Croesyceiliog School: <http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6784051>

Cwmbran High School: <http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6784076>

St Alban's RC High School: <http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6784603>

Latest Estyn report and results for Coleg Gwent

According to the 2012/2013 Learner Outcomes Reports published by the Department of Education and Skills (DfES), Coleg Gwent:-

- achieved excellent results in more subject areas than any other college in Wales
- is one of the top performing colleges in Wales
- is one of the best colleges for ensuring students attain their qualifications

Coleg Gwent proved to be amongst the best performing further education colleges in Wales according to feedback from the 2014 Annual Review of Performance report on the college by Estyn. Full reports can be accessed via the following link:-

<http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/F0009010>

A snapshot of recent performance is provided below:

Academic results 2013-2014:

Overall cross-college A Level pass rate of 98%
Pass rate of 98% for full time learners
100% pass rate in 27 subjects
Achieved the best A Level results in Blaenau Gwent ever
More than 25% of students gained at least one A or A*

Vocational results 2013-2014:

97% of Extended Diploma students passed their course
267 (34.7%) Extended Diploma students achieved triple Distinctions – the equivalent of 3 A grades at A Level
Pass rate at level 1 is 94%
444 (57.7%) Extended Diploma students gained at least 1 Distinction
Pass rate at level 2 is 92%

Local Authority Assessment

National Categorisation of Schools

The Welsh Government published the outcomes of the National School Categorisation System for primary and secondary schools for the first time in January 2015. The purpose of the national categorisation system is to ensure that the right support is provided to schools that need the most help and guidance. The system is also designed to enable schools to learn from each other and to share effective practice.

The system provides a clear and simple way of understanding how well a school is performing for all its pupils, how effectively it is led and managed, the quality of teaching and learning and the level of support and challenge it needs to do even better.

The system is based on a three-step process:

1. The Welsh Government uses a range of **performance data** to place each school in a standards group from 1 to 4(1 being the best and 4 being the worst). Schools in standards group 1 demonstrate very good overall performance while those in standards group 4 demonstrate the greatest need for improved performance.
2. Starting from the school's own self-evaluation, Education Achievement Service (EAS) Challenge Advisers will have discussed with each Head teacher their current capacity to improve taking account of evidence about **standards, quality of leadership, teaching and learning**. Schools will be in one of four groups (improvement capacity A to D) with schools in improvement capacity A showing the most capacity to improve themselves and those in improvement capacity D showing the least capacity. As a result of this discussion a judgement about improvement capacity from A -D is awarded.
3. The Challenge Adviser will have agreed with each school its support category which is colour coded from **green, to yellow then amber and red**. This is to ensure that the use of resources is planned effectively and directed at where the need is greatest.
The colour coded support category shows, at a glance, the schools that need the most help and guidance to improve, those that are doing well but could be doing better, and those that are already highly effective and can help others to do better.

Green support category – A highly effective school which is well run, has strong leadership, and is clear about its priorities for improvement. These schools have a track record in raising the standards that pupils achieve and have the capacity to support other schools to do better.

Yellow support category - An effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve. By identifying the right support and taking action, it has the potential to do even better.

Amber support category – A school in need of improvement which needs help to identify the steps to improve or to make change happen more quickly. Through discussions with the EAS and local authority, the school will receive a tailored package of support.

Red support category – A school in need of greatest improvement and will receive immediate, intensive support. Progress will be closely monitored to make sure that the necessary improvements take place as quickly as possible.

The categorisation outcomes of each school are published annually and provide a snapshot of schools as at November.

School Name	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Abersychan	3	C	Red
West Monmouth	3	B	Amber
Croesyceiliog	2	B	Yellow
Cwmbran High	N/A	B	Amber
St Alban's RC High School	3	B	Yellow

For a guide to the National School Categorisation System and information on individual schools please use the following link:

<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk/index.html?lang=eng>

There are no banding arrangements for colleges. However further information in relation to the quality and diversity of education provided by Coleg Gwent, compared to other Further Education Institutions across Wales can be found on the Learner Outcome reports produced by the Skills Observatory Wales (Welsh Government).

The link to this data is here: <http://www.learningobservatory.com/fe/>

Specifically, **Learner Outcomes Reports** are summaries of the learner success rates achieved by each further education institution in Wales. The reports show colour-coded information on success rates – the percentage of all qualifications that are achieved by learners – for the past three years.

These reports are published annually to inform learners, employers, parents and the general public about the outcomes of further education funded by the Welsh Government.

Learner Voice Reports are summaries of learners' satisfaction with their further education institution. The reports show learner satisfaction data for 2015 and are colour-coded to show how the learning provider compares to the national benchmark.

If the proposals are agreed it is expected there will be enhanced opportunities for effectively meeting the needs of post 16 learners. The 6th Form centre will provide a secure and supportive base for addressing post 16 learners' needs, within a fit for purpose, modern educational facility.

Providing for post 16 learners in a central learning hub will enhance learning opportunities as curriculum flexibility will increase. Additionally, there is potential for developing a wider curriculum offer and improving learner attainment to be more in line with that across Torfaen and Wales. It will also reduce learner dropout rates, maximise curriculum time by removing the need for potential travel during the day and also provide better opportunities to blend academic and vocational courses within the offer made to learners.

The proposed 6th Form centre for Torfaen is considered to have the following benefits.

- Breadth of provision: The scale of the centre will allow it to provide a broad range of subject options, making it more likely that students will be able to study subjects that fit both their interests and abilities. This means that such a centre can offer high quality resources which create a good learning environment in a range of subject areas.
- Specialised teaching expertise: Due to their specialised nature, 6th form colleges/centres have developed high levels of expertise in the teaching of A-level subjects. Teachers are all specialist A-level teachers, which is not always the case in school 6th forms, where teachers will typically teach across a range of Key Stages.
- An environment that prepares for Higher Education: 6th Form colleges/centres often create a campus-like environment, in which students have an experience of freedom and scale that is closer to university life than can typically be offered to students in a school 6th form. This may help ease the transition to university by providing students with an intermediate step between the more regulated and personal nature of a school and the freedom and scale of a university campus.
- Specialist pastoral support: As well as specialised teaching expertise, 6th Form Colleges/Centres can also offer a range of specialist pastoral support, including faith based support, and careers advice. Again the scale differences with school 6th form provision and the specialised nature of 6th form colleges/centres allows them to focus on the specific needs of their students are key factors in enabling this.
- New start/focus on learning: Moving to a 6th form Campus environment also allows the learner to begin afresh and to focus on his or her learning.
- Progression Route to Post 16 is better: The benefits of partnership and links with years 9 & 10 through structured dialogue will mean that in the longer term the 6th Form centre will potentially increase learner take up as curriculum opportunities increase and standards of achievement rise.

For all the reasons provided above, the case for change with regard to school 6th forms coming together as a 6th Form centre represents a real step change forward in terms of choices, opportunities, and outcomes for young people in Torfaen.

If the proposals are agreed the Council will establish transition groups to oversee the process of closing 6th forms in existing schools and preparing for the new 6th Form centre. These groups will involve officers, Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of the affected schools, as well as Coleg Gwent representatives who will meet on a regular basis up to and beyond any implementation date. A Transition Plan will be developed to address key issues/risks associated with the proposals and will identify timelines and attach responsibilities to individual group members. Parents/carers/staff and other key stakeholders will be kept informed of the transition arrangements and any support that can be offered to ensure the process is as smooth as possible for all concerned.

12. Impact Assessments

Impact assessments consider two distinct elements contained within these proposals, namely the removal of 6th form provision from schools with transfer of the provision to a 6th Form centre.

The impact assessments for the proposals are attached as appendix 3 to this document.

13. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

As the schools/provision involved are English Medium, it is not anticipated that there will be any impact on the Welsh Language by virtue of the following:-

- The council has determined that Welsh Medium post 16 provision will remain at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, as a regional provider for South East Wales.
- Along with 6th form provision remaining at this 11 – 18 setting, the school will, at the same time, continue to work in partnership with Ysgol Cwm Rhymni and also Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, a new 11 – 18 provision in Newport which opened (as a “seedling” school) in September 2016.
- Coleg Gwent offers a comprehensive scheme/pastoral care service via its bi-lingual manager along with other support centred at its Crosskeys Campus.

14. Frequently asked questions

- **When would the school 6th forms close and the new Centre open?**

It is proposed that the schools’ 6th forms would close at the end of the 2018/19 academic session with the new Centre opening at the start of the 2019/20 academic session.

- **Have decisions already been made?**

No, this is the consultation on the proposals. A report will go back to Cabinet in January 2017 to determine the next steps (see “**What happens next?**” below).

- **If I make comments now will they be counted as an objection?**

No, it is important to note that comments made during the consultation period will not be counted as objections to the proposal. Objections can only be registered following the publication of a statutory notice, should the Council determine this to be the next course of action. A decision on whether to proceed to the statutory notice stage will be made in January 2017.

- **Where will the Centre be located?**

The location of the proposed Centre is Cwmbran, in the town centre on a site adjacent to the Morrison Store.

- **I am happy with the current 6th form arrangements. Why is the Council changing it?**

It is the council's view that given the inherent sustainability issues with standalone 6th forms, the only realistic, affordable, sustainable and achievable option going forward is a 6th Form centre built by the council and run by Coleg Gwent

It will deliver a wider range and quality of courses that are currently available across the existing provision. It will meet the Learning and Skills Measure for learners through a mix of A & AS level courses and the Welsh Baccalaureate along with a range of complementary Level 2 & 3 qualifications.

- **What happens if my child is in already at a school 6th form and has to move?**

If the proposals are approved a transition group will be established which will ensure that all pupils including those potentially in a setting for one year, receive support that helps their continued learning and well-being.

- **Will my child have to change courses if the school 6th form closes?**

No, the intention is that whatever Year 12 courses are started in the year ahead of the opening of the new centre, students will be able to complete those same courses in the new setting. As indicated above, a transition group will be established to ensure that there is as little disruption as possible for students in this particular situation.

- **What will be the catchment area?**

The new 6th Form centre will serve the whole of Torfaen and therefore students residing in the borough council area will be given a priority when applying for a place.

- **What about transport?**

Please refer to page 23 (Transport Arrangements).

- **What about staff?**

Please refer to page 23 (Staffing at the new centre).

- **What are the financial implications? Is this not just a money saving exercise?**

No, the purpose of the new centre is to provide a greater breadth of provision as a result of being more economic to run. The scale of the centre will allow it

to provide a broad range of subject options, making it more likely that students will be able to study subjects that fit both their interests and abilities. This means that such a centre will be able to offer high quality resources which create a good learning environment in a range of subject areas.

For this reason, the case for change with regard to school 6th forms coming together as a 6th Form centre represents a real step change forward in terms of choices, opportunities, and outcomes for young people in Torfaen.

- **Will the 6th Form centre only offer “A” level courses?**

The 6th form centre will replace English Medium school 6th forms and benefit post 16 learners from across the county borough, including those with additional learning needs. It will deliver a mix of A & AS level courses and the Welsh Baccalaureate along with a range of complementary Level 2 & 3 qualifications.

15. What happens next?

The statutory process to be followed in respect of the proposals included in this document will comply with the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and specifically, the School Organisation code (006/2013).

The process and timetable is summarised as follows:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Comment:</u>
November/December 2016	Statutory Consultation. The regulations require that consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days.
December 2016	Closing Date for receipt of comments on the proposal.
January 2017	Consultation Report presented to Cabinet. Publication of Consultation Report. Cabinet to decide whether to approve publishing a statutory notice. If approved – Proceed to Statutory Notice If not approved – proposal ends.
February 2017	Publish Statutory Notices. If approved, the statutory notice will be published on the Council’s website and posted in the named schools. Copies of the notice will be made available to the relevant schools to distribute to pupils, parents/carers and members of staff.
March 2017	Closing date for receipt of objections to proposal. (28 days after date of statutory notice)
April 2017	Objections and Objection Report to be submitted to Welsh Ministers. Welsh Ministers to determine proposal in light of the objections received and the content of the Objection Report.(35 days after the end of the objection period)

To Be Confirmed

Publication of Welsh Minister's Decision.

September 2019

Implementation of Proposals

16. Response pro-forma

A response pro-forma for comments and suggestions of alternatives to the proposals, including an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report, is attached to this consultation document (Appendix 4).

It is important to note that any unfavourable comments made during the consultation period will not be treated as objections and that if you wish to object, you will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period. If consultees submit a request during the objection period that a response submitted at the consultation stage should be treated as an objection this will be accepted.

17. Other information

Further information on this and other proposals can be found on the Council website at: www.torfaen.gov.uk.

Appendix 1

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

- The Governing body of each school maintained by Torfaen LEA
- The Headteacher of each school maintained by Torfaen LEA
- The School Council of each school maintained by Torfaen LEA
- The Diocesan Director of Education of the Roman Catholic Church
- The Diocesan Director of Education of the Church in Wales
- Awdurdod Cynwysterau, Cwricwlwm ac Asesu Cymru (the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales)
- The Welsh Joint Education Committee
- The Welsh Language Commissioner
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- Welsh Government (Welsh Ministers)
- ESTYN
- Pan - Gwent Chief Education Officers (Caerphilly, Newport, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, to distribute to schools in their areas as appropriate)
- The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- Children & Young People's Partnership
- Coleg Gwent
- The Careers Service
- Torfaen Association of School Governors
- Libraries; (Blaenavon, Cwmbran and Pontypool)
- Other Directorates of Torfaen County Borough Council
- Schools Library Service
- Blaenavon Community Council
- Cwmbran Community Council
- Pontypool Community Council
- Ponthir Community Council
- Henllys Community Council
- Croesyceiliog and Llanyrafon Community Council
- Welsh Government (Schools Management and Effectiveness Division)
- All relevant Professional Associations (NUT; NASUWT; ATL; UCAC; UNISON; GMB; NAHT; ASCL)
- Local AM – Lynne Neagle
- Local MP – Nick Thomas-Symonds
- Other AMs and MPs representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals.
- All Elected Members of Torfaen County Borough Council
- Parents/Carers of all pupils affected by proposals
- RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education)
- Registered Private/Voluntary Early Years Settings/Providers in Torfaen

- Torfaen Voluntary Alliance
- Communities First Partnership Board
- CYDAG (Cwmdeithas Ysgolion Dros Addysg Gymraeg)
- Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin
- Education Achievement Service (EAS)
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area
- The relevant Health Authority(Aneurin Bevan Health Board)

Appendix 2

i) 6TH FORM NUMBERS ON ROLL CALCULATIONS

The following school by school assessment has been used to provide the projected total number of 6th forms (years 12/13 students) to 2020.

Croesyceiliog School

Current 6th form = 243

2013 Year 11 = 270

2014 Year 11 = 255

Total = 525

Current 6th form/ total of Year 11 x 100 = 46.29%

Projected number of pupils staying on in 6th form

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Current Year 11	273	276	245	249	275
Previous Year 11	<u>276</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>276</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>249</u>
Total	<u>549</u>	<u>549</u>	<u>521</u>	<u>494</u>	<u>524</u>

Above total x the calculated %age = projected 6th form pupils

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
254	254	241	229	243

Croesyceiliog 6th form Check – Actual Numbers

School Year	Year 13	%	Year 12	Year 11	%
2010	124	86	144	263	55
2011	110	60	182	241	76
2012	115	104	111	274	41
2013	85	53	159	270	59
2014	111	76	146	255	57
2015	103	74	140	276	51

Cwmbran High School

Note: 2013 and 2014 NOR are combined Fairwater and Llantarnam numbers on roll

Current 6th form =	317
2013 Year 11 =	316
2014 Year 11 =	<u>291</u>
TOTAL	607

Current 6th form/total Year 11 x 100 = 52.22%

Projected number of pupils staying on in 6th form:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Current Year 11 =	220	161	156	178	196
Previous Year 11 =	215	220	161	156	178
TOTAL	<u>435</u>	<u>381</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>334</u>	<u>374</u>

Above total x the calculated %age = Projected 6th form pupils:

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
227	199	166	174	195

St Alban's RC High School

Note: The school draws Year 12/13 pupils from other schools

Current 6th form =	269
2013 Year 11 =	149
2014 Year 11 =	<u>147</u>
TOTAL	296

Current 6th form/total Year 11 x 100 =
90.88%

Projected number of pupils staying on in the 6th form

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Current Year 11 =	172	146	137	154	177
Previous Year 11 =	143	172	146	137	154
TOTAL	<u>315</u>	<u>318</u>	<u>283</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>331</u>

Above total x the calculated %age = Projected 6th form pupils

<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
286	289	257	264	301

ii) **“STAY - ON”/“DROP - OUT” CALCULATIONS**

Pupil numbers from Reception year to Year 11 are from September 2015.

The 2015 Reception year will start their Year 11 studies in September 2026.

In September 2014 there were a total of 1033 Year 11 pupils. In September 2015 there were 466 Year 12 pupils. This would suggest that 45% of the cohort went on to study a Post 16 course in an 11 to 18 school in Torfaen. In addition there will be students who attended an alternative post 16 setting (e.g. Coleg Gwent) or went into employment.

The “drop out” rate between year 12 and year 13, based on total numbers in Torfaen’s 11 to 18 schools is 22% (September ‘14 Year 12 = 463; September ‘15 Year 13 = 363).

However, current A* - C grade GCSEs performance in Torfaen (including English and Maths) is in the mid-fifties (53.4% in 2014, 56.7% in 2015, 52.9% in 2016) and the aspiration is that a similar percentage of students ought to progress to study A Levels or equivalent Level 3 courses. It is therefore reasonable to want to cater for a 55% 'stay on rate'. Any higher may be unrealistic in terms of performance and also detrimental to the FE College which delivers the bulk of the vocational curriculum that is more appropriate for the remainder of students. Also it seems reasonable to aim to reduce the “drop out” rate to 15%.

Appendix 3

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Community and Equality

Community and Equality Impact Assessments are a structured way for the Council to fully understand the implications of our decisions and whether they are detrimental or discriminatory to certain groups or sections of the community. They help us to consider the impact of Council decisions and policies within and between communities more generally. The assessment process will ensure that our decision making process is robust and impacts on all communities within Torfaen ensuring that they are fully considered in Council business. By carrying out impact assessments, the Council is working to promote equality for all our service users, employees and the wider community that we serve.

The proposals for the future delivery of Post 16 education that Cabinet agreed should go to statutory consultation are for a significant and transformative change in the way it is delivered in Torfaen.

In terms of community impact:

- Despite the scale of change proposed, there will be comparatively little change in 11 – 16 secondary school provision across Torfaen.
- It is very unlikely that the proposals will result in an increase in crime and disorder.
- The changes will result in some pupils travelling longer distances for their studies in other cases shorter. The pupils who are likely to have to travel furthest are those living in the north of the borough who would ordinarily attend St Alban's RC High School, Pontypool.
- Schools have an important role within their wider communities and are a focus for them. The proposals will not affect spaces that are being utilised by the community out of school hours or sports facilities that are used by the wider community.
- Schools are also significant employers. The location of where people who are employed by the council in communities will not change significantly. The proposals will not affect where school based staff's spending power is exercised.
- The proposals are unlikely to have an effect on the local economy. Proposals maintain secondary school provision in the places where it is currently provided. As a result, any change that results from the proposals is likely to be slight.

In terms of equality impact:

Protected Characteristics	Current schools	Proposal	Impact
Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torfaen has a low proportion of people from an ethnic minority. No discrimination against race in Admission Policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people from an ethnic minority background are unlikely to be adversely affected by the proposals. No discrimination against race in Admission Policy. 	No Change
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young disabled people are more likely to live in Torfaen's main towns. Access plans will indicate any issues in relation to the physical environment and how to improve them. Improved access will allow disabled people to take advantage of education and associated services in schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New school for Croesyceiliog and a new 6th Form centre for Torfaen as a whole as part of the 21st Century Schools Programme will have full accessibility. Buildings will also have better IT and network facilities which makes it easier to support pupils with additional needs through IT. 	Positive
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools named in this document are mixed sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New provision will be mixed sex. 	No Change
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four secondary schools within Torfaen are 11 to 18 range while two are 11 to 16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the exception of Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw all schools would become 11 to 16 providers. The loss of 6th forms in three 	Positive

		<p>schools will result in Year 12 and Year 13 students being educated at a central 6th Form centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners will be able to access a wider range of post 16 subjects. 	
Religion & Belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Alban's RC High School is a Voluntary Aided School, while the other schools affected by this proposal are Community Schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although the age range is proposed to change, it is not proposed to change the category of St Alban's RC High School. The 6th form centre will ensure that the pastoral needs of learners, including faith based needs will be met through close working with relevant bodies and organisations. 	Positive

Transport Impact Assessment

The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 places a duty on the council to assess the travel needs of learners under the age of 19. In addition to those children who qualify for free transport provision due to meeting the eligibility for distance between home and school, the council is under a legal obligation to assess the travel needs of learners who walk to school.

Parents/carers and students should be aware however, that there is no legal requirement to provide transport for post 16 aged pupils/students. Therefore, as a discretionary provision it should be noted that this is subject to annual review. It should also be noted that there are no current plans to change current policy.

Free transport is currently provided if a student lives more than 3 miles from the school or college campus if their parents/carers (or students themselves) are in receipt of Income Support/Income Based Jobseekers Allowance or who qualify under regulations governing Child Tax Credit. Those 16 – 18 aged students who live the required distance but whose parents (or themselves) are not in receipt of the

above mentioned benefits will be provided with an annual grant (currently £146) towards the cost of transport.

Staff Impact Assessment

It is inevitable that various teaching and non-teaching staff will be affected by such a large scale proposal.

In addition to their role as statutory consultees, meaningful consultation will take place with affected staff and recognised trade unions on the possible impact of the outcome of the statutory consultation. During this period, staff and trade unions will be given the opportunity to comment on the changes and governing bodies and Local Authority representatives (which will include designated support from the Education Human Resources Team) will listen and take account of views expressed. Discussion will take place through agreed joint consultative processes with recognised trade unions (PSJCC) and collective consultation (and as required 1:1) meetings with staff.

How would Special Educational Needs provision be affected?

A child has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty which requires special educational provision. A learning difficulty means the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that child has a disability that needs different educational facilities for those that the school generally provides for children.

For ages 11 – 16, children’s needs will continue to be met in mainstream settings or at schools with a specialist resource base provision (Abersychan and Cwmbran High Schools). Crownbridge School will continue to provide specialist provision for those pupils with specific learning needs (aged 3 – 19).

Coleg Gwent, who will be running the 6th form centre on behalf of the council already offer learning difficulty and disability support through a team of highly qualified staff with specialist skills and knowledge to deliver high quality, personalised support programmes for those that need it. Support is currently available in the following areas:

- Visual impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Speech and language therapy
- Specific learning difficulties

Coleg Gwent staff work collaboratively with cross-college teams in efficiently managing individual needs as well as organising and implementing a wide range of support programmes, each tailored to the learner.

Coleg Gwent is also working closely with all of the Local Authorities in the region to ensure it is well placed to implement the requirements of the new ALN Act.

The expectation is that in collaboration with Torfaen secondary schools, this provision will continue.



PROPOSALS:-

- 1) TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE AT CROESYCEILIOG SCHOOL, CWMBRAN HIGH SCHOOL AND ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL, PONTYPOOL FROM 11 - 18 TO 11 - 16.
- 2) TO ESTABLISH A 6th FORM CENTRE TO SERVE THE WHOLE OF THE TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA.

YOUR VIEWS

WE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON THE ABOVE PROPOSALS. THIS IS ALSO YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST ALTERNATIVES TO THIS PROPOSAL. PLEASE EITHER COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE HEAD OF EDUCATION SERVICES (FAO MARK HORTON) C/O TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL, CIVIC CENTRE, PONTYPOOL, TORFAEN, NP4 6YB, OR EMAIL: secondaryreview@torfaen.gov.uk

Should you require a copy of the consultation report please provide your contact details below.

Name:

Email:

Address:

