

Estyn's response to the proposal to close Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton and the Welsh stream of Heol y Celyn Primary School and create a new Welsh medium community primary school.

This report has been prepared by Her 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 act in 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 and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

This is a proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to improve and increase Welsh medium primary provision in the Pontypridd area. The proposal forms part of its larger 21st Century Schools proposal to reorganise primary and secondary schools along with sixth form provision in the wider Pontypridd area. The proposal is to close a Welsh medium primary school along with the Welsh stream of a dual language school and to replace them with a new Welsh medium school.

Summary

The proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council forms part of its larger 21st Century Schools proposal to reorganise primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form provision in the Pontypridd area. The proposal is to close Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Pont Sion Norton and the Welsh stream of Heol y Celyn Primary School and create a new Welsh medium community primary school. A separate proposal by the proposer seeks to transfer pupils who are currently educated through the medium of English at Heol y Celyn Primary School to a new 3-16 school, which will be built on the adjoining sites of the current Hawthorn High and Hawthorn Primary schools. The new Welsh medium primary school will be built on the site of the old Heol y Celyn Primary School.

The proposal also notes changes to the catchment area of the new school. This will include the existing catchment of YGG Pont Sion Norton along with that of the current Welsh medium stream of Heol y Celyn Primary School. Although the proposer recognises that it is likely that pupils currently attending YGG Pont Sion Norton will have further to travel to attend the new school, it has not noted sufficiently the impact of this on the wellbeing of pupils.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer have given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to improvement in educational provision, pupil outcomes, the learning environment and leadership. They also explain clearly how the proposal fits with the local authority's broader plan for the review of school provision as part of its 21st Century Schools programme and it's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the local area.

The proposer notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal. These include efficient and effective use of resources, access to a purposeful learning environment and increased capacity for Welsh medium education in the area. The proposer has only identified a very few disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on implications for staff currently employed at the two schools as well increased home to school journeys for YGG Pont Sion Norton pupils and subsequent increased transport costs for the local authority. The proposal also includes appropriately the advantages and disadvantages in relation maintaining the status quo.

The proposal also notes changes to the catchment area of the new school. This will include the existing catchment of YGG Pont Sion Norton along with that of the current Welsh medium stream of Heol y Celyn Primary School. This proposal does not change the current provision of home to school transport. This includes pupils of the existing YGG Pont Sion Norton catchment area who will qualify for free home to school transport to the new school as it is more than 1.5 miles from their home addresses. However, the proposer does not provide sufficient details on the impact of the change in catchment areas on the travelling time and wellbeing of pupils.

Both schools included in the proposal currently provide education through the medium of Welsh. This arrangement will continue under the proposal. The proposer has noted appropriately how the proposal forms part of the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The proposer notes suitably that the increased capacity of the new school will help promote Welsh medium school provision in the area and ensure that they meet the demand for places. The proposal is therefore likely to have a positive impact on the Welsh language.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes and provision for both schools. However, it has not considered sufficiently the impact on the leadership and management of the schools.

The proposal includes an appropriate summary of outcomes for the schools, which is concise and clear. It compares performance with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals over an appropriate period. The proposer has considered appropriately the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and school categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system for all three schools.

Estyn inspected Heol y Celyn Primary School in June 2014 and the judgements for the school's performance and prospects for improvement were both adequate. YGG Pont Sion Norton was inspected in September 2014, the current performance of the school was judged as adequate along with a judgement of good for prospects for improvement. Both schools were placed in a category of 'Estyn Monitoring' following these inspections. Estyn removed YGG Pont Sion Norton its list of schools requiring follow-up in April 2016. However, Heol y Celyn Primary School was deemed to not have made sufficient progress following a monitoring visit in November 2015 and was placed in statutory category of a school requiring 'Significant Improvement'. Estyn inspectors removed the school from this category of follow-up following a further monitoring visit in January 2017.

The local authority has also evaluated each school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. The system aims to provide a clear and fair picture of how well a school is performing compared with other schools across Wales and helps to identify the schools that need the most help, support and guidance to improve. Under the system, schools are categorised according to a four-point 'traffic light' system, with red being schools which require the greatest support and green requiring the least. Both schools are currently categorised as 'yellow'. This defines them as effective schools which already doing well, know the areas needed to improve, and by identifying the right support and taking action have the potential to do even better.

The proposer has not considered sufficiently the likely impact of the proposals on standards and curriculum delivery at the new school. The proposal includes appropriate community and equality impact assessments, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability. However, the proposal does not evaluate suitably the impact of the changes on pupils with special educational needs.

Estyn's response to the proposal to change primary and secondary school provision in Pontypridd.

This report has been prepared by Her 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 act in 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 and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

This is a proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to change primary and secondary school provision in the Pontypridd area. The proposal forms part of its larger 21st Century Schools proposal to reorganise primary and secondary schools along with sixth form provision in the Pontypridd area. The proposal is to build a new all through 3-16 school to replace an existing primary school and a secondary school in Pontypridd. The proposer notes changes to the catchment area for the new school, which will affect other schools in the area. A separate school reorganisation proposal made by the proposer seeks to relocate pupils currently attending the Sixth Form at the secondary school to another provision as part of their proposal to reform Sixth Form provision in the Pontypridd area.

Summary

The proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council forms part of its larger 21st Century Schools proposal to reorganise primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form provision in the Pontypridd area. The proposal is to close Cilfynydd Primary School and Pontypridd High School, along with its sixth form, to create a new 3-16 all through school on the site of the current Pontypridd High School. Pupils

from the sixth form will transfer to either Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School or Coleg y Cymoedd, dependent on student choice.

The proposal also includes proposed changes to the catchment area of the new 3-16 all through school. However, the proposer has not noted sufficiently the impact of these changes in catchment areas on other schools in the area nor on its impact on the wellbeing of pupils.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer have given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to improvement in educational provision, pupil outcomes, the learning environment as well as leadership and financial benefits. They also explain clearly how the proposal fits with the local authority's broader plan for the review of school provision as part of its 21st Century Schools programme. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the local area.

The proposer notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal. These include efficient and effective use of resources, the continuity and progression in pupils' learning, access to a purposeful learning environment, improved professional development opportunities for staff including leadership along with better use of financial resources. The proposer also notes appropriately that the proposal is likely to have an impact on reducing the current level of surplus places across the local authority.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact on travel arrangements for pupils including those currently attending the Sixth Form provision. It also notes appropriately the impact on staff in terms of job security particularly in relation to the removal of the Sixth Form curriculum. The proposal also includes appropriately the advantages and disadvantages in relation to each of the alternative proposals including maintaining the status quo.

The proposal also includes proposed changes to the catchment area of the new 3-16 all through school. The admission of pupils 3-11 years of age will remain the same and include the current catchment area for Cilfynydd Primary School. However, the proposal notes changes for the admission of pupils 11-16 years of age. The new catchment area will include that for the existing Pontypridd High School along with the addition areas that are currently part of the catchment area of Hawthorn High School. These include the the Graig area of Pontypridd, that is currently in the catchment area of Maesycod Primary School along with the catchment area of Coedpenmaen Primary School.

This proposal does not change the current provision of home to school transport.

This includes pupils of Pontypridd High School's Sixth Form who will continue to receive free transport to the nearest post-16 establishment that offers the choice of courses that they require, provided they meet the current qualifying criteria. However, the proposer has not provided sufficient information as how many pupils will have to travel further to their new school or college of their choice. In addition, the proposal does not provide sufficient details on the impact of the change in catchment areas on the travelling time and wellbeing of pupils. This is particularly relevant in respect to pupils currently attending Cilfynydd Primary school which is located at the centre of the community and the journey to the 3-16 school will present greater risks for the primary school pupils.

Cilfynydd Primary School and Pontypridd High School currently teaches Welsh as a second language but does not provide education through the medium of Welsh. This arrangement will continue under the proposal. There would therefore appear to be no impact on the Welsh language arising from this proposal.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management for both schools. The proposal includes an appropriate summary of outcomes for the schools, which is concise and clear. It compares performance with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals over an appropriate period. The proposer has considered appropriately the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and school categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system for both schools.

Estyn inspected Cilfynydd Primary School in May 2014 and the judgements for the school's performance and prospects for improvement were both adequate. Pontypridd High School was inspected by Estyn in January 2014 and the school's current performance was judged as adequate, with prospects for improvement was good. Both schools were placed in the category of 'Estyn Monitoring' following these inspections. The local authority has also evaluated each school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. The system aims to provide a clear and fair picture of how well a school is performing compared with other schools across Wales and helps to identify the schools that need the most help, support and guidance to improve. Under the system, schools are categorised according to a four-point 'traffic light' system, with red being schools which require the greatest support and green requiring the least. Pontypridd High school is currently categorised as 'yellow' whilst Cilfynydd Primary school is categorised as 'green'. The proposer believes that the proposal will have a positive impact on the quality of education outcomes and provision in the area.

The proposer has appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals on standards and curriculum delivery including better transition and extra-curricular opportunities for pupils. It has considered appropriately the positive effect this will have on pupil outcomes and wellbeing. The proposal includes appropriate community and equality impact assessments, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability. However, the proposal does not evaluate suitably the impact of the changes on pupils with special educational needs.



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Estyn's response to the proposal to change primary and secondary school provision in the Hawthorn area.

This report has been prepared by Her 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 act in 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 and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

This is a proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to change primary and secondary school provision in the Hawthorn area. The proposal forms part of its larger 21st Century Schools proposal to reorganise primary and secondary schools along with sixth form provision in the wider Pontypridd area. The proposal is to close a secondary school and two primary schools and to build a new all through 3-16 school on the site of the current Hawthorn High School. The local authority designated ALN class will also be accommodated in the new school. The proposal also includes proposed changes to the catchment area of the new 3-16 all through school. A separate school reorganisation proposal made by the proposer seeks to relocate pupils currently attending the Sixth Form at the secondary school to another provision as part of their proposal to reform Sixth Form provision in the Pontypridd area.

Summary

The proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council forms part of its larger 21st Century Schools proposal to reorganise primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form provision in the Hawthorn area. The proposal is to close Hawthorn Primary School, Heol y Celyn Primary School and Hawthorn High School along with its Sixth Form provision. A new 3-16 all through school is to be built on the adjoining

sites of the current Hawthorn High School and Hawthorn Primary School. This will also accommodate the local authority's designated Additional Learning Needs (ALN) class for key stage 3. A separate proposal on the future of ALN provision in the area could have an impact on pupils attending the new school. The proposer notes that this ALN proposal includes the closure of two ALN classes at Heol y Celyn Primary School due to the reduction in numbers attending. Should both proposals be successful, there will no dedicated ALN provision at the new 3-16 school for neither foundation phase pupils nor those in key stage 2. The proposer does not provide sufficient evidence as to how the needs of these pupils will be met in the new school. The proposal also notes changes to the catchment area of the new 3-16 all through school. However, the proposer has not noted sufficiently the impact of these changes in catchment areas on other schools in the area nor on its impact on the wellbeing of pupils.

The proposal notes that only those pupils currently being educated through the medium of English at the current Heol y Celyn Primary School, will transfer to the new 3-16 all through school. The proposer has submitted a separate proposal for the establishment of a new Welsh medium primary school to accommodate those pupils currently being educated through the medium of Welsh at Heol y Celyn Primary School. A separate school reorganisation proposal has also been submitted as part of the local authorities plans to reform Sixth Form provision in the Pontypridd area. Under the proposal, pupils currently attending Hawthorn High School Sixth Form will transfer to either Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School or Coleg y Cymoedd, dependent on student choice.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer have given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to improvement in educational provision, pupil outcomes, the learning environment as well as leadership and financial benefits. They also explain clearly how the proposal fits with the local authority's broader plan for the review of school provision as part of its 21st Century Schools programme. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the local area.

The proposer notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal. These include efficient and effective use of resources, the continuity and progression in pupils' learning, access to a purposeful learning environment, improved professional development opportunities for staff including leadership along better use of financial resources. The proposer also notes appropriately that the proposal is likely to have an impact on reducing the current level of surplus places across the local authority.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact on travel arrangements for pupils including those currently attending the Sixth Form provision and an increase in travel costs for the local authority. It also notes appropriately the impact on staff in terms of job security particularly in relation to the removal of the Sixth Form curriculum. The proposal also includes appropriately the advantages and disadvantages in relation to each of the alternative proposals including maintaining the status quo.

The proposal includes proposed changes to the catchment area of the new 3-16 all through school. The admission of pupils 3-11 years of age will remain the same and include the current combined catchment areas for Hawthorn Primary School and the Heol y Celyn Primary School (English Medium). However, the proposal notes changes for the admission of pupils 11-16 years of age. The new catchment area will include the existing Hawthorn High catchment area along

with that of Gwauncelyn Primary School, Tonteg. However, the new catchment area will exclude the Graig area of Pontypridd that is in the catchment area of Maesycoed Primary School and that of Coedpenmaen Primary School. The proposer notes appropriately that these changes are necessary to match the demand with the available supply across the secondary school provision in East Taf Ely, along with additional demand for places as a result of a housing development in the south east of the County Borough.

This proposal does not change the current provision of home to school transport. This includes pupils of Hawthorn High School's Sixth Form who will continue to receive free transport to the nearest post-16 establishment that offers the choice of courses that they require, provided they meet the current qualifying criteria. However, the proposer has not provided sufficient information as how many pupils will have to travel further to their new school or college of their choice. In addition, the proposal does not provide sufficient details on the impact of the change in catchment areas on the travelling time and wellbeing of pupils.

All schools included in the proposal currently teaches Welsh as a second language but does not provide education through the medium of Welsh. This arrangement will continue under the proposal. There would therefore appear to be no impact on the Welsh language arising from this proposal.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management for both schools. The proposal includes an appropriate summary of outcomes for the schools, which is concise and clear. It compares performance with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals over an appropriate period. The proposer has considered appropriately the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and school categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system for all three schools.

Estyn inspected Heol y Celyn Primary School in June 2014 and the judgements for the school's performance and prospects for improvement were both adequate. Hawthorn Primary School was inspected in January 2012 and Hawthorn High School in March 2014. The current performance of both schools was judged as adequate with a judgement of good awarded for prospects for improvement. All three schools were placed in a category of 'Estyn Monitoring' following these inspections. Both Hawthorn Primary School and Hawthorn High School were removed from this followup category in April 2013 and October 2015 respectively. However, Heol y Celyn Primary School was deemed to not have made sufficient progress following a monitoring visit in November 2015 and was placed in statutory category of a school requiring 'Significant Improvement'. Estyn inspectors removed the school from this category of follow-up following a further monitoring visit in January 2017.

The local authority has also evaluated each school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. The system aims to provide a clear and fair picture of how well a school is performing compared with other schools across Wales and helps to identify the schools that need the most help, support and guidance to improve. Under the system, schools are categorised according to a four-point 'traffic light' system, with red being schools which require the greatest support and green requiring the least. All three schools are currently categorised as 'yellow'. This defines them as effective schools which already doing well, know the areas needed to improve, and by identifying the right support and taking action have the potential to do even better.

The proposer has appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals on standards and curriculum delivery including better transition and extra-curricular opportunities for pupils. It has considered appropriately the positive effect this will have on pupil outcomes and wellbeing. A separate proposal on the future of ALN provision in the area could have an impact on pupils

attending the new school. The proposer notes that this ALN proposal includes the closure of two ALN classes at Heol y Celyn Primary School due to the reduction in numbers attending. Should both proposals be successful, there will no dedicated ALN provision at the new 3-16 school for neither foundation phase pupils nor those in key stage 2. The proposer does not provide sufficient evidence as to how the needs of these pupils will be met in the new school.

The proposal includes appropriate community and equality impact assessments, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability. However, the proposal does not evaluate suitably the impact of the changes on pupils with special educational needs.

Estyn's response to the proposal to change sixth form provision in the Pontypridd area

This report has been prepared by Her 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 act in 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 and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

This is a proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to change sixth form provision in the Pontypridd area. The proposal forms part of its larger 21st Century Schools proposal to reorganise primary and secondary schools along with sixth form provision in the area. The proposal is to develop two post 16 centres of excellence in the area by closing three sixth forms currently located in three secondary schools. Pupils will transfer to either of the two sixth form centres, or in the case of those wishing to continue their Roman Catholic education, provision will be made available at a college in Cardiff for these pupils.

Summary

The proposal by Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council forms part of its larger 21st Century Schools proposal to reorganise primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form provision in the Pontypridd area. The proposal is to close the sixth forms of Hawthorn High School, Pontypridd High School and Cardinal Newman Roman Catholic (RC) School and transfer the post 16 provision to Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School and Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw. The proposal notes that sixth form provision will be made available at St David's College, Cardiff for those pupils transferring from Cardinal Newman RC School who wish to continue their Roman Catholic education.

The proposer has also submitted separate proposals under its wider plan to reorganise primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form provision in the Pontypridd area. These include a proposal to close Pontypridd High School and Cilfynydd Primary School, replacing them with a new 3-16 all through school. Similarly, another proposal seeks to close Hawthorn High School, Hawthorn Primary School and Heol y Celyn Primary to create a new English medium 3-16 all through school. Under a separate proposal, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton will close and a new Welsh medium school will be created to accommodate its pupils and those pupils currently receiving their

education in the Welsh stream in Heol y Celyn Primary School.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the present standard of education provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer have given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to improvement in educational provision and the effective and efficient use of resources. They also explain clearly how the proposal fits with the local authority's broader plan for the review of school provision as part of its 21st Century Schools programme. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the local area.

The proposer notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal. These include efficient and effective use of resources, removal of duplicated courses and improving learning for pupils by creating larger sixth forms. The proposer also notes appropriately that the proposal is likely to have an impact on reducing the current level of surplus places across the local authority, including the current sixth form provision at Cardinal Newman RC School, Hawthorn High School and Pontypridd High School.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact on travel arrangements for pupils currently attending the Sixth Form provision within their catchment. It also notes appropriately the impact on staff in terms of job security for staff currently employed at the three secondary schools should the Sixth Form curriculum be removed. The proposal also includes appropriately the advantages and disadvantages in relation to each of the alternative proposals including maintaining the status quo.

The proposal also includes proposed changes to the notional catchment areas for post 16 education for the purpose of managing home to school transport. RCT students that attend sixth form outside their catchment area are not eligible for home to school transport unless the Programme of Study of their choice is not available in the catchment school. The proposer notes amendments to the catchment areas of both Pontypridd and Hawthorn High Schools for post 16 provision, to place these areas in the sixth form catchment area of Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School.

Pupils from Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School, Hawthorn High School and Pontypridd High School will have the option of attending another school's sixth form provision of their choice or Coleg y Cymoedd for their post 16 education. Pupils who wish to continue their post 16 education through the Catholic faith could choose to attend St David's Sixth Form College, Cardiff. The local authority will provide free transportation to the nearest provision that offers the chosen selection of courses for RCT-resident students, providing that they meet the initial qualifying distance criteria. However, the proposer has not provided sufficient information as how many pupils will have to travel further to their new school or college of their choice. In addition, the proposal does not provide sufficient details on the impact of the change to student travelling time on their wellbeing.

Pontypridd High School, Hawthorn High School and Cardinal Newman RC School does not provide education through the medium of Welsh. This arrangement will continue under the proposal. There would therefore appear to be no impact on the Welsh language arising from this proposal.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the provision and management for the four schools included in the proposal. The proposal includes an appropriate summary of outcomes for the schools, which is concise and clear. The proposer has considered appropriately the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports and school categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system for all four schools along with Coleg y Cymoedd and St David's College.

Estyn inspected Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School in February, 2016; Hawthorn High School in March 2014; Pontypridd High School in January 2014 and Coleg y Cymoedd in November 2017. All four were judged as adequate for current performance and good for prospects for improvement. Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School was inspected by Estyn in May 2018 under new inspection arrangements and were judged as 'good' for all five inspection areas. St David's College was last inspected in 2010 and was judged as excellent for both current performance and prospects for improvement.

The local authority has also evaluated each school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. The system aims to provide a clear and fair picture of how well a school is performing compared with other schools across Wales and helps to identify the schools that need the most help, support and guidance to improve. Under the system, schools are categorised according to a four-point 'traffic light' system, with red being schools which require the greatest support and green requiring the least. However, the National School Categorisation System does not take into account Post 16 provision and outcomes. The proposer notes that Pontypridd High School, Hawthorn High School and Bryncelynnog are categorised as 'yellow' schools whilst Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School has been categorised as a 'green' school. The proposer believes that the proposal will have a positive impact on the quality of education outcomes and provision in the area. However, the rationale for locating the sixth form centre in Bryncelynnog as opposed to Cardinal Newman is not clear. Bryncelynnog is located near Y Pant which retains its sixth form provision.

The proposer has appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals on standards and curriculum delivery including better learning experiences and a reduction in duplication of courses available. The proposal includes appropriate community and equality impact assessments, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability. However, the proposal does not evaluate suitably the impact of the changes on pupils with special educational needs.