

## What is this booklet about?

This booklet has been prepared for parents/carers, school staff, school governors and the wider community of Blaenau Gwent. The booklet provides an overview of the consultation process associated with the Council's proposal to reduce the primary capacity in the Abertillery Learning Community. It will be of particular interest to parents/carers whose children are attending or looking to attend the current Abertillery Learning Community Primary and Secondary Campuses.

If you would like this information in any other format, please contact the Education Resources and Planning Team either via email or telephone, as follows:

- **Email us:** [21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk) or,
- **Call us on:** (01495) 311556



## Glossary of Terms - Please note the following terms used throughout this document:

<b>All Through School</b>	Where children can start aged three or four and stay all the way to 16 years of age investing in one seamless educational journey. This may be on several sites or one site
<b>Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</b>	A learner has ALN if he/she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for additional learning provision (ALP).
<b>Council or Local Authority (LA)</b>	An organisation that is officially responsible for all the public services and facilities in a particular area.
<b>Local Development Plan (LDP)</b>	Sets out each <b>local planning</b> authority's proposals for future <b>development</b> and use of land in their area.
<b>Numbers on Roll</b>	The number of pupils at a school (not including nursery pupils).
<b>Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC)</b>	PLASC is an electronic collection of pupil and school level data provided by all maintained sector primary, middle, secondary, nursery and special schools in January each year (more information can be found on the Welsh Government website).
<b>Resource Base RB</b>	A small class in a mainstream school for pupils with significant ALN. Not all pupils attending an RB will have a statement of ALN. Pupils are taught by specialist teachers and learning support assistants. Sometimes RB pupils also have opportunities to attend mainstream classes.
<b>Statutory Notice</b>	A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. This will only be undertaken if a decision is made by the Council's Executive Committee to proceed with a proposal, following consideration of all responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).
<b>Statutory School Age (SSA)</b>	A Child who is over the age of 5 and under the age of 16 that is eligible to attend school

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## Section 1: Introduction



Blaenau Gwent Education directorate established the Abertillery Learning Community in September 2016. The learning community comprises three primary campuses located on Roseheyworth Road, Six Bells Road and Tillery Street along with one secondary campus on Alma Street: together forming an All Through School.

It has been nearly 9 years since implementation. Over the last few years there has been a decline in birth rates across the county borough resulting in surplus places.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (“the Council”) reviews the capacity of its schools on an annual basis. As such, the Council is responding to the high level of capacity places at Abertillery Learning Community Primary campuses.

Abertillery Learning Community caters for pupils (aged between 3-16 years) over 4 campuses. The school operates from:

- Alma Street Secondary Campus (Years 7 to 11)
- Roseheyworth Road Campus (Nursery to year 6)
- Six Bells Campus (Nursery to year 6) and
- Tillery Street Primary Campus (Nursery to year 6)

The All Through School also provides Local Authority Resource Base provision, with primary provision located on the Six Bells campus and secondary provision located on the Alma Street campus.

In addition, the Roseheyworth Road campus hosts an external childcare provider.

The school mission is: ***Raise Aspirations – Realising Potential – Securing Futures***

Pupils are taught over 4 campuses. The organisation of classes on each campus is dependent on pupil numbers and includes mixed age classes. Facilities for secondary pupils include purpose-built classrooms, a resource base and wellbeing areas along with shared use of the Aneurin Leisure Sports Centre facilities including sports hall, gym, 3G pitch and swimming pool.

There is also an alternative off site provision for a small number of Key Stage 4 learners educated outside of mainstream classes.

Primary-aged pupils also have access to the sports centre and swimming pool as well as campus-based facilities. These include external play areas as well as internal spaces such as classrooms, along with teaching corridors, dining halls, wellbeing areas and a resource base.

## Section 2: Consultation Process

Prior to any decision being made on this proposal to reduce primary capacity in the Abertillery Learning Community, the Council is required to undertake formal statutory consultation with all interested and affected parties. This is necessary due to the fact that if the proposal is implemented, this will result in a reduction in the capacity of the primary phase at Abertillery learning Community, the closure of one primary phase campus and the transfer of pupils from that campus to one of the two remaining primary phases campuses. This section provides an overview of the consultation process.

This consultation will provide consultees with the opportunity to learn more about, understand and express their views on the Council's proposal. Feedback from the consultation will inform the final decision as to how the proposal is taken forward. The feedback and comments captured throughout the consultation process will be collated, analysed and reported via the Council's political processes. The Council's Cabinet will then make the final decision based on the outcome of and feedback associated with the consultation.

### Who are we Consulting with?

This Consultation Document will be distributed, in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code Version 2 (November 2018). **Appendix 1** details the full list of consultees who will have opportunity to share their views during the statutory consultation period.

### Consultation Overview

The consultation period for this proposal will commence on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**, concluding on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Consultees can submit their views on the proposal; however, it should be noted that responses received during this period will not be counted as objections to the proposal. Objections can only be registered following publication of the notice. Should the proposal proceed, and consultees wish to make page 18.

The Council would like you to consider the information set out in this document and provide your views on the proposal. If you have any questions or queries on the information contained within this document, or you wish to suggest alternatives to the proposal, please contact us either by using the email address below, or by calling us on (01495) 311556.



[21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:21stcenturyschools@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

You can provide your views on the proposal using the Consultation Questionnaire in Section 9. You are also welcome to complete the online survey using the following link - <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/n94ji6>

You may also provide your comments through the post to: Education Directorate, The General Office, Steelwork Road, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6DN

All consultation responses should be received by **5pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, at the latest.**

The Education Resources and Planning Team has planned virtual meetings with Trade Union and drop-in sessions below for all affected School Governing Bodies, staff, pupils, parents and the wider community throughout the consultation period. At all of the below events in **Table 1**, Council officers will be available to answer any questions that you may have.

**Table 1 -Drop in Sessions**

Location	Date	Time(s)	Session aimed at:
ALC – Secondary Campus Alma Street Abertillery NP13 1YL	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Staff
ALC – Secondary Campus Alma Street Abertillery NP13 1YL	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	5:00pm - 6:00pm	Governing Body
The Metropole, Abertillery NP13 1LA	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	5:00pm - 6:30pm	Parents and Wider Community
The Metropole, Abertillery NP13 1LA	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Parents and Wider Community
Virtual Teams meeting	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Trade Union Representatives

### Consultation with Children and Young People

There will be an opportunity for the pupils of Abertillery Learning Community, along with other children and young people who are likely to attend the school, to participate in the consultation process. All information gathered from the consultation process will form part of the consultation out-turn report.

Location	Date	Time(s)	Session aimed at:
ALC – Secondary Campus Alma Street Abertillery NP13 1YL	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	10:00am - 11:00am	School Council Meeting

Where possible the team will engage with the Youth Forum and Blaenau Gwent’s Children’s Grand Council should their scheduled meetings fall within the consultation period.

### Section 3: The Proposal

This consultation proposes reducing the overall capacity of primary places within Abertillery Learning Community from 980 to 770—a reduction of 210 places (21%)—through the closure of one primary campus. The preferred option is the closure of the Roseheyworth Road Campus, which has the lowest number of statutory-age pupils on roll (119) and the highest levels of backlog maintenance due to the age and condition of the building. All pupils currently attending the Roseheyworth Road Campus can be accommodated at the remaining primary campus sites.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will support the Abertillery Learning Community senior leadership team to ensure continued high-quality primary learning opportunities across the school. The Council remains committed to working collaboratively with the school to develop a long-term plan that supports sustained growth, development, and improved outcomes.

Therefore, this proposal will be delivered as follows:

- **To reduce the capacity of the primary school, which is part of the Abertillery Learning Community, from 980 to 770, to reduce the physical capacity of Abertillery Learning Community by closing Roseheyworth Road Campus and to move pupils to the remaining campuses (Six Bells Campus and Tillery Street Campus) with phased implementation commencing from September 2026 and with full implementation by September 2027.**

The proposal would support the Blaenau Gwent's Vision for Education as follows:

***'Empowering our communities to be ambitious, ethically informed, life-long learners who lead full and healthy lives.'***

The proposal is in keeping with Blaenau Gwent's investment objectives and the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme Priorities (SCfL) which are:

### **Investment Objectives**

- **Investment Objective 1:** to raise standards and achievement in line with localised targets at Foundation Phase, KS2, KS3 and KS4; and secure improved transition into post 16 learning - The programme would allow for improved education and engagement facilities for pupils and parents alike, which will impact positively upon learning across the board.
- **Investment Objective 2:** to create a sustainable model for the school estate, along with the condition and suitability of buildings – The programme would decrease backlog maintenance costs and improve key areas of the school estate, and consequently, create a more sustainable school estate.
- **Investment Objective 3:** to establish effective management and provision of school places, by having the right schools of the right size in the right place – the programme would create schools that are better suited to the needs of current and the projected pupil population along with their families; this will ensure that the facilities are able to meet local and regional need.
- **Investment Objective 4:** to implement the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme in line with local, regional and national school organisation policy; – the programme would support the implementation of key strategic and policy developments, including the Community Focussed Schools agenda and the Welsh In Education Strategic Plan.
- **Investment Objective 5:** meeting the needs of vulnerable learners – the programme would address current and predicted needs in terms of the provision for pupils with ALN from both a learning and recreational/play perspective. Additionally, the programme would assist engagement with parents and pupils who require additional on-going support in order to ensure consistent attendance and improved standards of learning and attainment.

## Rationale and Background Information - Why Change is Necessary



Abertillery Learning Community caters for learners across the 3-16 age range and was set up under school reorganisation in September 2016. There is one Governing body whose remit cover all the school's sites. The senior leadership team consists of one Headteacher, two Deputy Headteachers and four Heads of School.

Since its inception in September 2016, the school has had a capacity for 750 learners in secondary and 840 statutory school aged learners in primary. In September 2019, the capacity of primary phase rose to 980 as a result of the closure of the Queen Street and Bryngwyn Campuses in creating the newly built Six Bells Road Campus. However, over the last 7 years birth rates have fallen significantly across the County Borough. With the current drop in pupil population in the Abertillery area, it has created surplus capacity in the primary campuses which has resulted in the need to reduce the capacity of the primary phase.

Welsh Government guidance for current practice on the use of surplus school accommodation (Oct 2014) recommended that Councils should aim to retain no more than 10% surplus places. If the figure is less than 7% there may be concerns around sufficiency of places. If the figure is more than 15% higher, teaching accommodation will be taken out of the school building capacity to suit the needs of the school.

The Council is projecting a continued downward trend in terms of demand/pupil numbers going forward for places in the Abertillery Learning Community primary phase. The school continues to have surplus places and therefore needs to consider options to reduce the need for 3 primary campuses as all primary pupils can be placed over 2 sites. Having 3 primary campuses when there are surplus places also creates additional financial pressure on the school.

The Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council seeks to address the aforementioned issues by reducing the capacity of Abertillery Learning Community Primary Phase to a level which is appropriate for the demand for places.

### **Demand for Places**

Abertillery Learning Community is situated within the Ebbw Fach Valley. Demand for places is decreasing. This might be due to a number of factors such as decline in birth rates and parental choice. In September 2017, the newly established Abertillery Learning Community school population in primary phase was 875, and 613 in Secondary campus.

**Figure 1 – provides both historic and predictive information relating to placement trends and anticipated future placement requirements at the school. Abertillery Learning Community Pupil Placement last 5 years Primary and Secondary Trend (based on numbers on roll data.)**

Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community	Capacity and Numbers on Roll											
	2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25		2025/26	
	School Capacity	Numbers on Roll	School Capacity	Numbers on Roll	School Capacity	Numbers on Roll	School Capacity	Numbers on Roll	School Capacity	Numbers on Roll	School Capacity	Numbers on Roll
<b>Primary</b>	980	637	980	747	980	702	980	685	980	672	980	615
<b>Secondary</b>	750	654	750	705	750	699	750	720	750	702	750	722

The learning community has operated within its capacity limit for the last 5 years. However, in 2025/26 it can be seen that at the primary campuses there were around 365 (37.2 %) surplus places. (i.e. 615 pupils on the roll compared to its capacity of 980 pupils).

**Figure 2 – Abertillery Learning Community Pupil Projections for Primary and Secondary places over the next 6 years.**

Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community	Prediction based on five-year Trend based on numbers on roll					
	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
<b>Primary campuses</b>	725	691	661	667	628	620
<b>Secondary campus</b>	714	679	670	688	664	652

The above table shows further decline of pupil numbers, creating additional surplus places for primary campuses and for secondary campus figures.

**Figure 3 – Abertillery Learning Community – Campus capacity, Statutory School Age numbers on Roll Reception, Year 1 through to year 11 (Based on September PLASC)**

Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community	Capacity and Numbers on Roll											
	2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25		2025/26	
	Campus Capacity	Numbers on Roll	Campus Capacity	Numbers on Roll	Campus Capacity	Numbers on Roll	Campus Capacity	Numbers on Roll	Campus Capacity	Numbers on Roll	Campus Capacity	Numbers on Roll
<b>Roseheyworth Road Campus</b>	210	174	210	144	210	164	210	154	210	151	210	127
<b>Six Bells Campus</b>	350	272	350	233	350	271	350	248	350	251	350	232
<b>Tillery Street Campus</b>	420	398	420	322	420	369	420	387	420	366	420	340
<b>Total</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>699</b>
<b>Secondary Campus Total</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>717</b>

**Figure 4 Abertillery 3-16 Learning Community Primary Numbers in year group for 2025/26 (based on September 2025 pupil count figures)**

<b>Pupils by NCY Group</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Yr 1</b>	<b>Yr 2</b>	<b>Yr 3</b>	<b>Yr 4</b>	<b>Yr 5</b>	<b>Yr 6</b>	<b>SSA</b>
<b>ALC - Roseheyworth Road Campus</b>	9	27	21	23	19	17	11	<b>127</b>
<b>ALC - Six Bells Campus</b>	35	30	27	41	35	29	35	<b>232</b>
<b>ALC - Tillery Street Campus</b>	40	35	49	58	45	54	59	<b>340</b>

The projection for pupil numbers in relation to Abertillery Learning Community is reducing based on the Council’s assessment of historic data and associated trends. The Education Resources and Planning Team have considered the number of admission requests over the last six academic years and it is anticipated that the number of admissions will reduce due to falling birth rates.

**Figure 5 Number in Nursery Class (Pupil Count 2025)**

<b>Abertillery Learning Community</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Roseheyworth Road Campus</b>	26	27	21	26	9	25
<b>Six Bells Campus</b>	38	65	26	30	37	36
<b>Tillery Street Campus</b>	76	78	47	36	40	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>102</b>

**Figure 6 Number in Reception Class (Pupil Count 2025)**

<b>Abertillery Learning Community</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Roseheyworth Road Campus</b>	19	18	18	21	26	9
<b>Six Bells Campus</b>	25	37	37	27	30	35
<b>Tillery Street Campus</b>	59	43	44	51	35	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>84</b>

Blaenau Gwent Council is aware that there is a lower birth rate across the country and in areas of the County Borough which informs the number of schools and pupil numbers accessing education. Neighbouring Authorities have also undertaken School Organisation proposals leading to consultations upon school closure and reduction in numbers of places. If Blaenau Gwent Council does not address surplus places in any of its schools estate including Abertillery Learning Community Primary Phase, it may result in higher revenue costs associated with running a number of separate provisions. This in turn results in poor value for money which can impact on teaching and learning.

### **Early Years and Nursery Provision**

Abertillery Learning Community’s Roseheyworth Road campus hosts a private childcare facility base operated by MiniMe’s. There are no plans for the Council to establish an alternative facility to facilitate pre-school provision. All primary campuses offer part-time Nursery places.

Therefore, by closing this Campus it is anticipated that there will be a direct impact upon this private childcare provision. However, the Education directorate will support the provision and school to secure alternative accommodation.

### Additional Learning Needs Provision

The proposal to reduce the capacity via the preferred option: (the closure of Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus in Abertillery Learning Community) will have no effect on the resource bases in the wider Learning Community. The same amount of ALN provision will be available in campuses and will not be affected by this proposal.

### Options Considered

A detailed option appraisal was undertaken in order to explore ways to reduce the capacity of primary places at Abertillery Learning Community. Factors such as location, site and type of provision were considered.

The long list of options detailed within Figure 7 below, were later re-evaluated and a short-list drawn up, so that the benefits, risks, timelines, costs etc. could be explored in much greater detail.

The key factors are to reduce the surplus places for pupils in the primary phase and reduce the number of buildings if they are not needed. This can be delivered over the course of this academic year, enabling a phased reduction in surplus places from September 2026 onwards.

**Figure 7 – Long List of Options**

Options	Description	Conclusions
1	Business as Usual- maintain the status quo- continue with 3 primary campuses at Abertillery Learning Community.	This option will not meet the need to address the surplus places at the Abertillery Learning Community which will have a negative impact on the school's affordability and finances in running 4 campuses. <b>Discounted</b>
2	Closure of Roseheyworth Road Campus and distribute primary school places into Tillery Street and Six Bells Campus for full implementation September 2027	This was an option for consideration. An evaluation of the pupil numbers and building suitability was undertaken. <b>Considered</b>
3	Closure of Tillery Street Campus and distribute primary school places into Roseheyworth and Six Bells Campus for full implementation September 2027	This was an option for consideration. An evaluation of the pupil numbers and building suitability was undertaken. <b>Considered</b>
4	Closure of Six Bells Campus and distribute primary school places into Tillery Street and Roseheyworth Campus for full implementation September 2027	This was an option for consideration. An evaluation of the pupil numbers and building suitability was undertaken. <b>Considered</b>
5	Closure of Roseheyworth Road Campus, Tillery Street Campus and Six Bells Campus moving all pupils into one new build site.	This option will meet the School's needs. However, there is no availability of land nor are funds available to build a new school. Closure of newly opened campuses at Tillery Street and Six Bells would result in a clawback of funding from Welsh Government. This would result in less localised provision for parents. <b>Discounted</b>

### Options 1 and 5 have been discounted as they would potentially:

- Not address the immediate and medium-term need to reduce the capacity.
- Option 5 would not be financially viable, would not provide a localised solution for learners and would need extensive funding to build a new school. Also, there is no available land in the catchment area suitable for a new build.

### Short List of Options

Options 2, 3 and 4 have been considered to formulate a short list. **Option 2** is the preferred recommendation as a result of the following.

- Roseheyworth Road Campus has the least number of pupils to displace and can be accommodated within the remaining campuses of the Abertillery Learning Community. Transition arrangements will be needed for fewer pupils.
- Roseheyworth Road Campus was built in 2000 as the Millennium School and has the highest backlog of maintenance costs of the 3 campuses being considered for closure making it the campus with the most risk to maintain.
- Both Tillery Street and Six Bells Campuses were new builds as part of Band A funding and are built with modern design concepts providing higher suitability rating. Roseheyworth Road Campus is the oldest building within the options provided.
- Funding to build both Tillery Street and Six Bells Campus was received from Welsh Government, formally 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band A funding. Closing any of these could result in a clawback of funding due to the premature closing of the building within 10 years of being built.

### Risks and Mitigation

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has a proven record of accomplishment of managing both school build and school organisation projects via school reorganisation and the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme– including the requirement to deal with school capacity. The following risks can be managed and largely mitigated as follows:

**Figure 8 – Risks and Mitigation**

Risk	Mitigation
<b>If the proposal is not taken forward or runs late, there is both a financial risk in terms of the school budget and the sustainability of running 4 campuses against the backdrop of reduced pupil numbers.</b>	The Council is working closely with key colleagues to produce an accurate projection of school finances for the forthcoming financial years. This work includes a detailed review of site running costs and a thorough analysis of the relationship between pupil numbers, premises-related expenditure, and the funding allocated to the school. This assessment has enabled the Council to evaluate the long-term sustainability of operating four campuses.  Following this review, the Council has concluded that continuing to fund four campuses is not financially sustainable.

<p><b>If the proposal is taken forward there is a risk that there will be an increase strain on the home to school transport budget as additional transport might be needed for those pupils who would have further to travel to school.</b></p>	<p>The Council is working closely with key colleagues to ensure that any impact on the home-to-school transport budget is minimised. Initial analysis shows that the majority of pupils currently attending the Roseheyworth Road Campus live within 1.5 miles of the Tillery Street Campus, meaning most will continue to fall within the defined walking distance set out in the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. As a result, only a small number of pupils are expected to qualify for additional transport support.</p> <p>Any increase in transport demand will be planned for in advance and managed within the existing Home to School Transport budget to ensure a local, cost-effective, and appropriate solution for learners.</p>
<p><b>The consultation process does not address stakeholder perspective. Therefore, the proposal is not supported and does not progress.</b></p>	<p>Blaenau Gwent Council's Education Directorate are experienced in and have recently undertaken consultations upon proposals, whilst being fully compliant with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (Version 2, 2018). Transparent communication, stakeholder engagement, and provision of solutions will be at the forefront of the discussions.</p>
<p><b>Redundancy of staff employed by the Learning Community.</b></p>	<p>There will be full consultation with the Council's Organisational Department. Redeployment opportunities will be available across the campuses of the Learning Community. A Voluntary redundancy scheme will be actioned before the need to address compulsory options. The use of natural attrition will also be managed to reduce the need for compulsory redundancies.</p>
<p><b>Disruption to the pupil's education during transition to a new site.</b></p>	<p>A detailed transition plan, phased implementation, and support for staff and pupils will be provided and agreed by the school leadership team. Open and transparent communication will be held with staff, and pupils with a phased transition being adopted.</p>
<p><b>Insufficient capacity for future demand.</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this proposal is to reduce capacity to align with future demand and to allow the Council to monitor and explore long-term options to secure sustainable future of the Community. Although the capacity is being reduced, there will be adequate provision to meet the future demands on the Learning Community in line with projected pupil numbers and Welsh Government guidelines.</p>
<p><b>Reduction in capacity does not take place.</b></p>	<p>Should nothing change, the combination of declining pupil numbers and the current challenging financial position of Abertillery Learning Community, means there is an increased risk to its long-term viability which may make it difficult to sustain consistent education standards across all campuses.</p>

## **Benefits of Proposal**

Should the proposal be accepted the Council believe this will ensure financial sustainability, improved education quality, and secure the long-term viability of the Abertillery Learning Community.

The benefits include:

### **1. Financial Sustainability**

- Reduction in operational costs (utilities, maintenance, security).
- Improved budget position by eliminating overheads associated with the closed campus.
- Ability to redirect funds to enhance teaching resources and facilities at remaining campuses.

### **2. Enhanced Educational Quality**

- Consolidated staffing allows for better deployment of teachers and support staff.
- More opportunity to establish a one school vision and reduce variability in managing curriculum planning with concentrated leadership and staffing across two primary campuses rather than across three.
- Improved collaboration among staff, leading to consistent teaching standards.
- Enhancing pupil progress through widening the scope of intervention and in class support with a consolidated and larger team of Teaching Assistants

### **3. Better Use of Facilities**

- Access to more modern facilities and spaces for staff and pupils moving from Roseheyworth Road campus to Tillery Street and Six Bells campuses.
- Investment can focus on upgrading fewer campuses to higher standards.
- Enhanced learning environments for pupils through concentrated resources.

### **4. Stronger Community and Pupil Experience**

- Larger pupil groups improve social interaction and peer learning.
- Easier provision of specialist services (e.g., ALN support, counselling).
- Easier access to the secondary campus for transition activities and more developed joint timetabling opportunities, including secondary staff delivering in the primary phase.

### **5. Strategic Planning for the Future**

- Aligns school structure with current and projected pupil numbers.
- Positions the Learning Community for long-term viability and adaptability.

Should nothing change, the combination of declining pupil numbers and the current challenging financial position of Abertillery Learning Community, means there is an increased risk to its long-term viability which may make it difficult to sustain consistent education standards across all campuses.

## Disadvantages:

### 1. Community Impact

- Loss of Local Identity: The Roseheyworth Road campus may hold historical or emotional significance for the local community. Closure can be perceived as a decline in educational provision, potentially affecting community trust.

### 2. Pupil and Parent Concerns

- Disruption to Pupils: Moving pupils to a new campus can cause anxiety and adjustment issues.
- Transport Challenges: Increased demand for school transport and potential costs for families or the authority. Annual fluctuations transport in uptake for home to school are normal and any variations in cost will be managed within the existing Home-to-School Transport budget.

### 3. Staff Implications

- Job Security Concerns: Some staff may face redeployment or redundancy, which can affect morale.
- Impact on Admissions: Some families may choose alternative schools due to perceived instability.

## Attainment and Attendance data

### Free school meals (FSM) - (Primary & Secondary)

Abertillery Learning Community	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Primary</b>	24.9%	24.9%	27.5%	31.1%	31.3%	28.7%	25.7%
Local Authority (LA)	22.3%	23.6%	27.2%	31.2%	30.8%	27.8%	24.5%
Wales	18.5%	19.3%	21.3%	23.0%	23.7%	22.9%	21.7%
<b>Secondary</b>	24.9%	24.9%	27.5%	31.1%	31.3%	28.7%	25.7%
Local Authority (LA)	22.5%	22.8%	25.1%	28.2%	28.0%	26.0%	23.8%
Wales	16.5%	17.0%	18.7%	20.4%	21.2%	20.9%	20.1%

Abertillery Learning Community has a higher FSM entitlement compared to the LA's and Welsh National average.

### English as an additional language (EAL) (Primary & Secondary)

Abertillery Learning Community	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Primary</b>	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.4%	3.1%	4.2%	3.1%
Local Authority	1.9%	2.2%	1.7%	1.8%	2.9%	3.4%	4.3%
Wales	6.0%	6.1%	6.0%	6.2%	6.7%	7.1%	7.4%
<b>Secondary</b>	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.4%	3.1%	4.2%	3.1%
Local Authority	1.6%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.7%	2.0%	1.9%
Wales	2.9%	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%	3.4%	3.4%	3.7%

The percentage of pupils in the primary phase at Abertillery Learning Community for whom English is an additional language is below compared to the LA's and Welsh National 3-year average. Whereas in the secondary phase the school is higher than the LA average and nearer the Welsh average.

### Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Pupils (Primary & Secondary)

Abertillery Learning Community	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Primary</b>	5.1%	5.4%	5.3%	5.9%	6.8%	10.6%	11.1%
Local Authority	5.3%	5.7%	5.5%	6.1%	7.0%	8.6%	9.6%
Wales	12.5%	12.8%	12.9%	13.3%	14.4%	15.3%	16.0%
<b>Secondary</b>	5.1%	5.4%	5.3%	5.9%	6.8%	10.6%	11.1%
Local Authority	4.9%	4.8%	5.0%	5.5%	6.3%	8.0%	8.4%
Wales	10.3%	10.8%	11.4%	11.9%	12.9%	13.7%	14.4%

The primary phase of Abertillery Learning Community has a higher percentage of Black, Asian and minority ethnic pupils than the Local Authority average, though it remains below the Welsh national three-year average. In the secondary phase, the proportion is higher than the Local Authority average and closer to the Welsh national average.

### Reception Numbers of Abertillery Learning Community

#### Attendance during the year

- Attendance in 2024 at the Primary settings is 91.3% just below the LA average 91.4% and higher than the Welsh average 90.8%
- Attendance in 2024 at the Secondary settings is 89.6% which is above the LA average 88.5% and higher than the Welsh average 89.4%

### Attainment Key Stage 4 2025 data

In the Secondary campus at Abertillery Learning Community the:

- **Capped 9 points score** is 345.62 higher than the Local Authority average 342.9 but still below the Welsh National average 354.3.
- **Literacy points score** is 33.01 below the Local Authority average 35.7 and below the Welsh National average 38.6.
- **Numeracy points score** is 34.49 slightly higher than the Local Authority average 33.6 and below the Welsh National average 36.0
- **Science points score** is 31.19 below the Local Authority average 33.7 and below the Welsh National average 35.8.

### Governance Model

There will be no changes to the existing governance model and structure within Abertillery Learning Community.

### Learner Travel Arrangements

Blaenau Gwent Council will provide free transport for children attending their nearest suitable school, where the distance from home to school is over the specified walking distance detailed below:

- more than 1.5 miles from home for children aged under 8 years (at the commencement of the academic year) but of statutory school age. Any transport awarded will remain in place for the whole of the academic year
- more than 2 miles from home for children aged 8 years and over (at the commencement of the academic year).

## Section 4: Consultation Outcome and Next Steps

**Consultation Report:** Feedback from the consultation will be collated, analysed and presented in a Consultation Out-turn Report to a special Council’s Cabinet week commencing **30<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. The report will be available on the Council’s website 2 weeks prior to a decision being made to proceed or not to proceed to statutory notice. Hard copies can be obtained on request via the email addresses detailed above. Consultees can also register their wish to be notified of publication of the consultation report by the email address above.

**Statutory Notice:** Should this proposal be approved at Cabinet; the Council will then publish a statutory notice. The statutory notice period will run for 28 days **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026**. During this time, you will be able to make formal objections should you wish to do so, via the email address provided in this consultation booklet.

Any issues raised by interested parties will then be summarised in an Objections Report and presented to the Cabinet for a final decision to be made in **June 2026**. Should the proposal proceed, a copy of the Statutory Notice will be displayed on the Council’s website and all the campuses of Abertillery Learning Community. Hard copies of the statutory notice will be available upon request.

**Determination of the Proposal:** Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will determine the proposal taking into account the responses received to the statutory notice. This may lead to the approval, rejection or approval of the proposal with modifications.

**Decision Notification:** Once a decision has been made, an electronic copy of determination will be sent out to all interested parties and published on Blaenau Gwent’s County Borough Council’s website within 7 days of the decision.

### The Statutory Process Timeline

February 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	September 2027			
Consultation Period								
		Consultation report to Cabinet						
						Statutory Notice		
							Objections Report	
							Decision Notification	
					Implementation September 2027			

## Section 5: Details of Affected Schools



### Schools Affected

Abertillery Learning Community all campuses will be directly affected by this proposal.

- Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus, Roseheyworth Rd, Abertillery, NP13 1SR
- Six Bells Road Primary Campus, Six Bells Rd, Six Bells, Abertillery, NP13 2NJ and
- Tillery Street Primary Campus, Tillery Street, Abertillery, NP13 1EH
- Alma Street Secondary Campus, Alma Street Abertillery, NP13 1QD (Key Stage 3 transition)

## Section 6: Other Considerations

### Finance

The Council approved an increase to the Individual Schools Budget (ISB) of £2.44m for both 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 to provide further financial support to schools, enabling them to manage cost pressures and rebalance budgets.

School deficits are forecast to increase by around £3m to £4.3m by March 2026 despite the additional funding approved by the Council. Schools are finding it increasingly challenging in balancing their budgets due to:

- Declining pupil numbers, resulting in surplus places in some settings and reducing pupil led funding
- Growing demand for additional learning needs
- Rising operational costs

As part of the budget considerations to support schools in achieving financial stability and mitigate the deficit balances, there is a need to review the school estate for opportunities to:

- Reduce the school estate where surplus capacity exists
- Federate schools to share leadership, resources and administrative functions
- Reduce the number of buildings to lower maintenance and operational costs
- Grow and sustain provision

This proposal forms part of this process

## Revenue Costs

Abertillery Learning Community is funded in line with Blaenau Gwent Council's Fair Funding policy. Like all other schools in the area, its funding is determined by pupil numbers and the size of the school premises.

For the 2025/26 financial year, the annual budget for Abertillery Learning Community is £11.1 million, with a projected deficit of £898,000. If no action is taken, this deficit is expected to increase significantly over the next five years as below, placing the school in an unsustainable financial position.

Actual Deficit 2024/25 £	Anticipated Deficit 2025/26 £	Anticipated Deficit 2026/27 £	Anticipated Deficit 2027/28 £	Anticipated Deficit 2028/29 £	Anticipated Deficit 2029/30 £
<b>-310,011</b>	<b>-898,436</b>	<b>-1,704,448</b>	<b>-2,660,673</b>	<b>-3,657,053</b>	<b>-4,694,390</b>

This proposal will support the school in moving closer to achieving an in-year balanced budget by delivering annual cost reductions of approximately £670,000 from the reduction in staffing levels, over five years, these savings are expected to total around £2.2 million, significantly reducing the anticipated deficit as outlined below:

Actual Deficit 2024/25 £	Anticipated Deficit 2025/26 £	Anticipated Deficit 2026/27 £	Anticipated Deficit 2027/28 £	Anticipated Deficit 2028/29 £	Anticipated Deficit 2029/230 £
<b>-310,011</b>	<b>-898,436</b>	<b>-1,526,448</b>	<b>-1,822,673</b>	<b>-2,139,253</b>	<b>-2,476,396</b>

In addition, there will be approximately £200,000 savings annually in relation to premises costs. Due to the continuing and anticipated deficit position, additional measures will need to be considered going forward. Abertillery Learning Community is expecting a further decline in pupil numbers, which will reduce the school's budget by approximately £500,000 per year. This reduction has been reflected in the figures above, and an associated decrease in staffing levels has already been built in. However, this will require further review to ensure the position is fully addressed.

These actions will support the school in moving towards greater financial sustainability and will help ensure that resources are used more effectively to support learners. By strengthening its financial position, the school will also be better able to focus on improving educational outcomes rather than managing escalating budget pressures.

In addition, these changes are likely to affect other Authority services that provide SLA support to schools, including Catering and Cleaning. These services may also need to plan for potential downsizing; however, this will be managed primarily through natural staff turnover.

## Capital Costs

There are minimal capital costs associated with this proposal. Minor works will need to be undertaken across the remaining two campuses to allow works to be undertaken to accommodate additional learners, this is estimated to cost approximately £100,000, which will be financed from existing maintenance budgets.

## **Capital Receipts**

It is not anticipated that there will be a capital receipt associated with this proposal at the present time, as there are repurposing requirements and ongoing demands across the Education School Estate. Consequently, the Roseheyworth Campus will therefore be considered for repurposing in line with these demands. This will be subject to a full options appraisal and a further public consultation to ensure transparency and alignment with community needs, through this process this may then result in a future capital receipt.

## **Home to School Transport Costs**

Blaenau Gwent's Home to School Transport Policy is more generous than the Learner Travel Wales Measure as indicated on page 21 in the consultation document.

This approach ensures that pupils affected by campus changes will continue to have safe and reasonable access to education without incurring additional costs for families, maintaining Blaenau Gwent's commitment to equitable access for all learners.

An analysis of the impact of this proposal on home-to-school transport has been undertaken, and it is anticipated that a minimal number of pupils will qualify for transport requiring a minibus provision, this will likely result in increased annual costs for the Council of £30,000.

## **Admission Arrangements**

All pupils on roll at the campuses named in the proposal will be guaranteed a place at the primary campuses from 1 September 2026. Continuity of Additional Learning Needs provision for pupils educated in the resource base at campuses is also guaranteed subject to there being no change to the needs of the individual child, which would require a further assessment of their needs.

Parents of nursery children as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026 will need to apply for a reception place at the Abertillery Learning Community in line with Blaenau Gwent's admissions process. The new school as part of the application for school places, which will commence during the 2026/27 academic year, and further information will be publicised at this time.

Should parents at any time wish to express a preference to attend an alternative campus they can do so by contacting the Learning Community and asking for an internal transfer.

## **Impact of the Proposal on the Welsh Language**

This proposal does not impact upon the number and availability of Welsh-medium school places within Blaenau Gwent. The Council does not expect any negative impact on the Welsh Language as a result of this proposal. More so the nearest Welsh medium primary, which is less than 5 miles away, has seen an increase in admissions which could be reflective in the decrease of English medium places in Abertillery Learning Community primary campuses.

Welsh is taught in English-medium schools in line with the National Curriculum. The proposal will therefore have no impact upon the Welsh Language Measure (2011).

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

A full Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been undertaken by Blaenau-Gwent County Borough Council can be found on our webpage. <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/council/consultations/proposal-to-reduce-the-capacity-at-abertillery-learning-community-primary-phase>

## Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

A community impact assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the impact of key proposals and decisions upon stakeholders and the wider community (Please refer to **Appendix 2** for more information).

### United Nation Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

The Council in all its corporate responsibilities ensure that they will always engage positively with children and young people. If this proposal is implemented, it will realise benefits for children and young people in accordance with the seven core aims of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically:

**Core aim 1** - have a flying start in life.

**Core aim 2** - have a comprehensive range of education and learning opportunities.

**Core aim 3** - enjoy the best possible health and are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation.

**Core aim 4** - have access to play, leisure, sporting and cultural activities.

**Core aim 5** - are listened to, treated with respect, and have their race and cultural identity recognised.

**Core aim 6** - have a safe home and a community which supports physical and emotional wellbeing; and

**Core aim 7** - are not disadvantaged by poverty.

### Engagement of Children and Young People in this Consultation

As part of this consultation process, the Council's Education Resources and Planning Team, in partnership with the school, will consult with pupils that are affected by the proposal, as well as engaging with both the Blaenau Gwent Youth Forum and Schools Grand Council.

### Housing Developments

On average over the course of the last 5 years, 79 houses have been built in Blaenau Gwent each year. This level of growth is expected to continue. These potential homes either already have planning permission, are seeking legal agreement or are included in the Local Developments Plan. This is likely to have an impact upon pupil place planning. The Education Resources and Planning Team monitor the impact upon schools.

**Figure 7** – Below illustrates the number of housing Developments which are currently in the Local Development Plan (LDP) for the next 3 years.

	According the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for <b>Tredegar Valley</b> .					According the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5-year timescale the following figures are identified for <b>Ebbw Fawr Valley</b> .					According the Housing Land Availability Study which looks at a 5 year timescale the following figures are identified for <b>Ebbw Fach Valley</b> .				
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Housing Associations:	0	0	0	0	0	15	20	0	0	0	0	34	34	0	0
Private Sector Housing:	0	0	0	0	0	98	40	10	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

For more information please visit the following webpage: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/planning/local-development-plan/ldp-allocations/> The above data tells us that there are 56 housing development planned between 2026 – 2029. There is a potential for this to increase demand within both mainstream and special schools going forward.

## **Human Resources**

The proposal is to reduce the number of primary campuses within the Abertillery Learning Community Primary setting, this will require the Governing Body of the School and Senior Leadership team to consider the impact on the plan for the workforce, this will involve the reduction in staffing levels across the Learning Community. There are posts that have become vacant already that will help in terms of managing this process

Organisational Development will provide advice, support and guidance to the Headteacher and Governing Body in relation to the management of change processes which will include consultation with Staff and Trade Unions.

## **Partnerships**

The Gwent Public Services Board (PSB) undertook a regional Well-being Assessment during 2021-22 which reviewed the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing in Gwent. The assessment used a wide range of qualitative and quantitative information including data, academic research, evidence, and people's views (engagement) to help understand Wellbeing in Gwent.

The assessment took an asset-based approach, rather than focussing purely on need, to build upon and identify the strengths of both individuals and communities and it also identified problems and challenges that need to be addressed. The evidence and key issues identified in the assessment have been used to develop the Well-being Plan for Gwent.

The Gwent Well-being Plan 2023-28, published in July 2023, was the first actioned regional well-being plan for Gwent. It sets out the Gwent PSB's Well-being Objectives and the steps it intends to take to meet those objectives, in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Delivery of these will come via the Gwent PSB for regional at-scale activity as well as through five Local Delivery Groups in each of the Gwent LA areas.

## **Objectives:**

- We want to create a fairer, more equitable and inclusive Gwent for all
- We want a climate-ready Gwent, where our environment is valued and protected, benefitting our well-being now and for future generations

## **Steps:**

- Take action to reduce the impact of the cost-of-living crisis in the long-term
- Provide and enable the supply of good quality, affordable and appropriate homes
- Take action to reduce our carbon emissions, help Gwent adapt to climate change, and protect and restore our natural environment
- Take action to address inequalities, particularly in relation to health, through the framework of the Marmot Principles
- Enable and support people, neighbourhoods, and communities to be resilient, connected, thriving and safe

Local Delivery Groups (LDG) of the Gwent PSB exist in each of the five local authority areas to ensure the delivery of local actions and priorities that contribute to the PSB's well-being objectives.

The Blaenau Gwent LDG, known as the BG Local Well-being Partnership, has developed a set of local well-being priorities, based on public and stakeholder engagement, to help deliver the Well-being Plan at a local level: -

- Reducing Inequalities amongst children, young people & older persons
- Integrated Travel and Transport
- Access to healthy, local, affordable food
- Climate Change and Nature

These well-being objectives and local priorities are ones we consider having real power to bring about change, which are the most urgent and that the evidence tells us need the combined force of the PSB partners to deliver and improve local well-being.

## **Section 7: Present Arrangements**

### **ESTYN**

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise standards achieved by their pupils (Estyn). Abertillery Learning Community's last Estyn inspection was undertaken in 2025. For a full copy of the inspection report, please use the link provided [Inspection report Abertillery Learning Community 2025](#).

### **Quality and Standards in Education**

Please note that the inspection report above does not refer to the Learning Standards. A summary of results for Abertillery Learning Community is detailed below:

#### **Teaching and Learning:**

The report highlights that most teachers foster positive classroom environments and manage behaviour effectively, leading to purposeful pupil engagement. While many teachers set high expectations and plan challenging lessons, inconsistencies exist in expectations, questioning, feedback and opportunities for independent learning. Curriculum provision is generally balanced, but gaps remain in literacy, numeracy, digital skills, and Welsh language development, particularly in the upper school. Pupils with additional learning needs make suitable progress, and enrichment activities are strong, though strategic skill development and PSE provision for older pupils need improvement.

#### **Care Support and Guidance**

Abertillery Learning Community demonstrates a strong commitment to pupils' well-being, working effectively with counsellors, youth workers, children's services and the police to ensure personalised support for every learner. The school provides accessible online guidance and takes proactive steps to reduce the impact of poverty, offering targeted help for vulnerable or homeless pupils through its dedicated Family Engagement Officer. Attendance is a notable strength, with robust monitoring, productive partnerships and close engagement with families contributing to significantly improved rates across all groups, consistently outperforming national averages. Focused efforts to reduce persistent absenteeism have been especially successful.

Pupil leadership thrives through an inclusive pupil Senedd that benefits from strong links with the Abertillery Community Council, while a wide range of extracurricular clubs enhances pupils' social, personal and creative development. Transitions between primary and upper school are well structured, and older pupils receive comprehensive careers support that helps raise aspirations and ensures almost all progress into education, employment or training. Safeguarding

procedures are well established and reinforced through regular staff training, and recent improvements to behaviour, bullying and anti-racism policies have strengthened pupils' attitudes to learning. Provision for pupils with additional learning needs is generally strong, particularly in the lower school, with nurturing environments such as the Nest and Complex Needs Resource Bases playing an important role in supporting social and emotional development, inclusion and wider community engagement.

### **Well-being and Attitudes to Learning:**

Abertillery Learning Community prioritises pupil well-being through strong partnerships, proactive attendance strategies, and targeted support for vulnerable learners. The school has improved attendance significantly, strengthened pupil voice, and developed inclusive provisions for pupils with complex needs and behavioural challenges.

Leaders collaborate with a wide range of external agencies and provide a dedicated well-being section on the school website provides guidance for pupils, families, and staff. There is revised approach through the pupil voice Senedd which strengthens pupil voice and leadership skills. Proactive Post-16 Progression identifies pupils at risk of not progressing to education, employment, or training with targeted support provided to minimise risk. The Abertillery Learning Community has two alternative curriculum centres which support pupils with behavioural needs and those at risk of exclusion and also has two Complex Needs Resource Bases which offer calm, caring environments focused on social and emotional well-being.

### **Leading and Improving:**

The headteacher provides strong, resilient leadership with high expectations and a clear vision which is understood by staff and pupils. Leadership roles are well-defined, supported by structured evaluation processes and professional learning opportunities. Leaders focus on national priorities such as attendance and poverty alleviation, maintain positive relationships with parents, and use effective communication tools to celebrate pupil success.

### **Recommendations for Improvement**

- **R1** Improve the quality of teaching so that pupils of all abilities make suitable progress, particularly in the secondary phase
- **R2** Provide meaningful challenging opportunities for pupils to develop their literacy and numeracy skills
- **R3** Ensure that leaders identify clear and specific actions when planning for improvement, particularly in relation to improving teaching
- **R4** Ensure that the school meets the statutory requirement for pupils to study Welsh up to the age of 16

### **Some of the comments from the inspection are below:**

- *Most teachers at Abertillery Learning Community develop positive working relationships with pupils and create calm and supportive classrooms.*
- *In a majority of sessions, teachers plan activities that support and challenge pupils successfully. As a result, pupils often demonstrate positive attitudes, participate enthusiastically, and make appropriate progress.*
- *The school's curriculum reflects its community well and includes relevant themes such as local mining history. There is a clear vision for Curriculum for Wales, with a focus on developing pupils' life skills.*

## **Impact of the proposal**

Should the proposal be approved, the condensed learning environment will allow for greater control, and a high-quality provision that enhances the learning experience for all pupils. The proposal will ensure that resources are managed efficiently to ensure the standards are improved and maintained.

## **The likely impact of the proposals on the five areas of Estyn is:**

**Learning standards** - Concentrating teacher and teaching assistant support across two campuses, rather than dispersing resources across three, will have a positive impact on learning standards. A more focused distribution of staff allows for the consolidation of expertise and specialised skill sets, strengthening pedagogical practice through collaboration, mentoring, and shared instructional approaches. This concentration supports higher-quality teaching, more responsive student support, and improved consistency in curriculum delivery.

**Wellbeing and attitudes to learning** - Reducing provision from three campuses to two will create increased opportunities for the integration of pupils, supporting the development of positive relationships and a stronger sense of belonging. This is particularly beneficial for older primary pupils, enabling them to build connections as a single cohort in preparation for, and during, transition into Year 7. In addition, the pooling and concentration of staff expertise will strengthen the school's capacity to support student wellbeing, allowing needs to be identified and addressed more effectively and consistently.

**Teaching and learning experiences** – Reducing provision from three campuses to two will allow resources to be used more efficiently while also strengthening professional collaboration. Bringing staff together across fewer campuses creates increased opportunities for practitioner-to-practitioner working, shared practice, and cross-campus collaboration. The delivery of professional learning will be more coherent and operationally manageable across two campuses, enabling greater participation and more consistent pedagogical approaches. This increased collaboration among teachers and teaching assistants will enrich teaching and learning experiences for pupils.

**Care, support and guidance** – Reducing provision from three campuses to two will strengthen the school's capacity to provide timely and responsive care, support, and guidance for pupils. Concentrating resources and staff expertise across fewer campuses allows specialist skill sets to be more effectively deployed to meet pupil needs. In particular, the proximity of the TS campus and the increased number of pupils based there will enable greater engagement in cross-campus work with the wellbeing team on the secondary campus, enhancing access to support and continuity of care.

**Leadership and management** – The proposal aims to strengthen leadership through closer collaboration and improved coherence across the school. Reducing provision from three campuses to two will enable leaders to work in closer proximity, supporting stronger alignment in planning, decision-making, and strategic direction. This will enhance consistency of practice and clarity of priorities across the school.

## Section 8: Overview of the Proposal

The table below details the category, language, age range and other relevant details relation to the proposed new school:

Capacity Proposal Overview	
<b>Admission no and arrangements</b>	Admissions to this school are via Abertillery Learning Community
<b>Age range</b>	3-16 years
<b>Pupil places</b>	As of September 2025, There are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 980 primary places</li> <li>• 750 secondary places</li> </ul>
<b>Capacity of the school</b>	As of September 2027, There will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 770 primary capacity</li> <li>• 750 secondary capacity</li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	Abertillery Learning Community Secondary Campus, Alma Street, Abertillery, NP13 1YL  Abertillery Learning Community Primary Campuses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tillery Street Campus, Tillery Street, Abertillery, NP13 1EH</li> <li>• Six Bells Campus, Six Bells Road, Six Bells, Abertillery, NP13 2NJ</li> </ul>
<b>Category school and language</b>	English-medium Community School
<b>Schedule of accommodation</b>	To be determined post consultation
<b>Transport arrangements and policy</b>	Transport will be delivered in accordance with the Blaenau Gwent Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy 2026/27. Please refer to Section 1 for more information.
<b>Cost per Pupil 2024/25</b>	£6,425
<b>Estyn Inspection Results</b>	<a href="#">Inspection report Abertillery Learning Community 2025</a>
<b>Building Condition Categorisation</b>	Secondary Campus B Tillery Street Campus A Six Bells Road Campus A
<b>Building Suitability Categorisation</b>	Secondary Campus B Tillery Street Campus A Six Bells Road Campus A

### School Catchment Area

Abertillery Learning Community has a formally designated catchment area set by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, covering the town of Abertillery and its immediate surrounding communities. Children who live within that boundary are given priority under the local authority's school admissions policy.

## Transition Arrangements

Should this proposal proceed, pupils will transition into their new primary campus at the beginning of September 2027. Arrangements and preparation will commence in the 2026/27 academic year and will provide opportunities for pupils to experience their new classes and trips to support a smooth and positive transition. The Abertillery Learning Community will work with staff to prepare them for the transitional arrangements

## Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
<b>When would children from Roseheyworth Road move to a different Campus?</b>	Should the proposal be approved, your children will start at the new campus in September 2027.
<b>How will my child be supported during the transition?</b>	The school will put in place a transition plan to support pupils moving to a new campus. This will include visits to the new campus, transition activities, and meetings with parents/carers to ensure all pupils settle well and feel safe and supported.
<b>What about staff?</b>	There will be some impact on staff with possible redundancies and opportunities for redeployment.
<b>How is my child going to get to school?</b>	The existing arrangements under the home to school & post 16 learning policy 2026/27 will continue, should your child be eligible for transport arrangements due to change in campus
<b>How will my child access school dinners?</b>	Both Six Bells campus and Tillery Street Campuses have a hall and dining area, so school dinners will be accessed in a similar fashion to the current arrangements at the Roseheyworth Campus.
<b>What is going to happen to the empty school building?</b>	The Council's Education Resources and Planning team will investigate and determine options for using the school building to meet the Council's other education requirements.
<b>Why is the preferred option to close Roseheyworth Road campus and not one of the other sites?</b>	The preferred option is to close the campus with the lowest pupil numbers and the greatest level of surplus places. This allows all pupils to be accommodated safely and appropriately across the remaining campuses.

## Section 9: Consultation Pro-forma



### Consultation Questionnaire

Please provide your comment on the proposal: To reduce the capacity of the primary school which is part of the Abertillery Learning Community, from 980 to 770, to reduce the physical capacity of Abertillery learning Community by closing Roseheyworth Road Campus and to move pupils to the remaining campuses (Six Bells Campus and Tillery Street Campus) with phased implementation commencing from September 2026 and with full implementation by September 2027.  
<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/n94ji6>

You may also wish to indicate which of the following reflects your views:

I fully support the proposal	
I partially support the proposal	
I do not support the proposal	

Your comments:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate if you are:**

**Primary:** Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary:** Teacher/Non-Teaching School Staff / Governor / Parent / Pupil /Local Resident / Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your time and contribution to the consultation. Your views, comments and responses will be recorded and reported to the Council's Executive Committee in the Consultation Outcome Report.**

**Please detach this form and return by post:** Education Directorate, The General Office, Steelwork Road, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6DN

**All comments to be received no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

## Appendix 1 - Distribution List for the Consultation Document

Parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians, and staff members of schools affected by the proposals	The Welsh Ministers
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to that secondary school	Constituency and Regional Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MP's) representing the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The maintaining or proposed maintaining authority for any school likely to be affected by the proposals	ESTYN
Any other local authority (including those in England where appropriate) likely to be affected – including in the case of dedicated ALN provision, any authority placing or likely to place pupils with ALN in it to distribute to schools in their areas as appropriate	Teaching and staff trade unions (NUT; NASUWT; ATL; UCAC; UNISON; GMB) representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located	The relevant Regional Education Consortium
Any other appropriate religious body for any school likely to be affected by the proposals	The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Governing body of any school which is the subject of the proposals	Any community or town council for the area served by/intended to be served by any school which is the subject of the proposals
The Governing body of other schools which the proposer consider are likely to be affected by the proposal.	In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, any independent or voluntary providers who may be affected including Mudiad Meithrin. Also all Registered Private/Voluntary Early Years Settings /Providers in Blaenau Gwent;
In the case of proposals affecting nursery provision, the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships where present	In the case of proposals affecting ALN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest
In the case of proposals affecting secondary provision, any further education institutions serving the area of the school (Coleg Gwent)	In the case of proposals affecting Welsh Language provision, the Welsh Language Commissioner

In addition to the above, the following are also included in the distribution:

The Headteacher of each school maintained by Blaenau Gwent LEA	Other Directorates of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
All Elected Members of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council	Blaenau Gwent Association of School Governors
The Careers Service	Libraries
Childcare providers	SNAP Cymru

## Appendix 2 – Abertillery Learning Community, Community Impact Assessment

Community 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 Community Impact Assessment process will ensure that our decision-making process is robust and impacts on all communities within Blaenau Gwent ensuring that they are fully considered in Council decision making processes.

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.

Abertillery Learning Community is located in the Ebbw Fach South Ward, the ward profile can be viewed by clicking on the following link: [Abertillery \(Blaenau Gwent, Wales / Cymru, United Kingdom\) - Population Statistics, Charts, Map, Location, Weather and Web Information](#)

Ebbw Fach South Ward has several areas of deprivation according to the Welsh Index for Multiple Deprivation (2025) area with Cwmtillery being in the 21% - 30% most deprived area. [WIMD](#)

### Proposed Development

If approved, the preferred option being the closure of Roseheyworth Road Campus of Abertillery Learning Community will be implemented by September 2027. Pupils at this campus will move to either Six Bells Campus or Tillery Street Campus. There will be transition activities planned between campuses for ease of pupils. The decrease of school capacity will ensure the sustainability of the school estate. Therefore, in total this gives the school a reduced capacity of 210 places overall.

### Proportion of Pupils:

The Council's proposal seeks to ensure a continued high quality learning environment for pupils in the Abertillery Learning Community. The falling numbers of babies being born can be seen from the volume of applications for Nursery/Reception figures. By reducing the capacity of the Abertillery Learning Community, the Council will be able to accommodate pupils in less primary campuses. As you will see from the data presented in the consultation document the overall school population has decreased 27.014% from 2020 (845) to 2025 (615) with Roseheyworth road campus only having 119 statutory school age pupils on roll. The building was built for 210 places.

### Current facilities and/or services offered

The following facilities are offered at Roseheyworth Road Campus:

- Private childcare
- Classrooms
- Breakout spaces
- Dining hall/canteen area

The above provision/services will cease to exist for Roseheyworth Road Campus, and the school building will revert into the Council's Education Property Portfolio for educational use.

### **Travel Time**

Given the implementation of the proposal there will be little impact on travel distances for existing pupils. As both Roseheyworth Road and Tillery Street are primary phases in the Abertillery Learning Community Secondary Campus on Alma Street which is directly opposite the Tillery Street campus and Abertillery leisure centre.

The distance from Roseheyworth Road campus to Tillery Street Campus is less than 1.2 miles. Approximately 4 minutes by car/bus. It is noted that the distances/travelling times will increase for those pupils who will transition to Six Bells Campus /Tillery Street Campus.

### **How would parents and pupils engage should the proposal be agreed?**

The Council recognises the importance of an effective and smooth transition process to ensure there is little if any disruption should the proposal to expand reduce the capacity of Abertillery Learning Community with the preferred option of closure of the Roseheyworth Road Primary Campus be approved.

Parents/carers and pupils will be provided with relevant information to aid their understanding of the proposal and the most appropriate support they can offer their children during the transition process. The school will also work together with other services and where necessary, in identifying families who may need additional support. Parental and community engagement will remain a key priority throughout this process.

### **The wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions.**

The proposal is not expected to have any significant implications for public transport provision in the area. There is a local bus services with the 1b timetable running every day between the hours of 7:50am and 17:35pm which will have sufficient capacity to transport pupils to use this service.

### **Wider community safety issues.**

The proposal would have some direct impact on the wider community from a building perspective as:

- The Roseheyworth Road school building will be closed and remain within the education portfolio.
- The childcare provision would have to be relocated
- The building would not be able to accommodate meetings or be accessible by the wider community.

No significant safety issues are anticipated. However, the building would be vacant until the Council propose alternative use by another education purposes.

Some safety issues are anticipated; this will be mitigated by the Council putting in place measures to secure building whilst it is unoccupied.

### **What would be the impact on health and well-being?**

As the Roseheyworth Road campus is part of the wider Abertillery Learning Community and pupils will move to new campuses within the same school there is no significant detriment to pupils' health and wellbeing, should the transition for pupils run smoothly. All services offered to pupils via engagement in schools will be carried out on the two campuses of Tillery Street and Six Bells Road Campus.

### **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 criteria, the Council is under a legal obligation to assess the travel needs of learners who walk to school. There will likely be an impact upon transport and travel; however, any implications on transport arrangements will be more positive if the Council is able to meet the children's needs.

### **Staff Impact Assessment**

There will be implications and direct impact for existing staff over the whole of the Abertillery Learning Community. This may be in the form of redundancies or school teaching staff being moved to work from different campuses. The Council's Organisational Development team will be engaged in meaningful consultation with any affected staff and recognised trade unions on the possible impact and outcome of the statutory consultation.

### **Additional Learning Needs Provision**

Within Abertillery Learning Community there are 2 add Additional Learning Needs Resource areas in a mainstream school. One located at the secondary campus and one in the primary setting located in Six Bells Road Campus. This proposal specifically addresses capacity issues in the main school and will have no impact on the Learning Resource Bases in the Abertillery Learning Community.