

## **The Council's Response to ESTYN**

The Local Authority would like to thank Estyn for its consideration of the proposal to reduce the physical capacity of Abertillery Learning Community through the closure of Roseheyworth Road Campus and the relocation of pupils to the remaining Six Bells and Tillery Street campuses.

The Authority welcomes Estyn's conclusion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the standard of educational provision and outcomes for pupils. We note Estyn's recognition that the proposal has been developed with a clear rationale, supported by detailed planning, consideration of alternatives, and appropriate assessment of risks.

The Local Authority acknowledges Estyn's confirmation that the proposal adequately considers learner travel arrangements, the reduction of surplus places, and the likely impact on Welsh-medium provision, which is not expected to be adversely affected. We also welcome Estyn's view that the financial considerations underpinning the proposal are reasonable and proportionate, particularly in light of the current and projected budgetary challenges facing Abertillery Learning Community.

Noting Estyn's comments regarding the educational aspects of the proposal, including the likely benefits of improved efficiency, enhanced professional collaboration, and strengthened practitioner-to-practitioner working arising from the consolidation of provision across fewer campuses, the Authority agrees that these changes provide an opportunity to make more effective use of resources in support of improved outcomes for learners.

The Local Authority also notes Estyn's reference to the most recent inspection outcome, specifically that Abertillery Learning Community remains in the statutory follow-up category. We acknowledge that this status could have been made more explicit within the proposal documentation. The Authority wishes to confirm that the proposal has been developed with full cognisance of the school's current inspection status and that it forms part of a wider strategic approach to stabilising and improving provision, leadership capacity, and sustainability across the Learning Community.

In relation to pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), the Authority notes Estyn's view that the proposal is unlikely to have a negative impact on provision. The Local Authority remains committed to ensuring that ALN provision continues to meet learners' needs throughout the implementation of the proposal.

The Local Authority is grateful for Estyn's professional feedback and will take these comments into account as the proposal progresses through the statutory process.