

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Report

This form should be completed for each Equality Impact Assessment on a new or existing function, a reduction or closure of service, any policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project which has been screened and found relevant to Equality and Diversity.

Please refer to the ‘Equality Impact Assessment Guidance’ while completing this form. If you would like further guidance please contact the Access to Services Team (see Guidance for details).

Where do you work?
Service Area: Education
Directorate: People

(a) This EIA is being completed for a...

Service/ Function	Policy/ Procedure	Project	Strategy	Plan	Proposal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) Please name and describe below...

Home to School Transport (Passenger Assistants)

Only provide passenger assistants on home to school transport services where there is assessed to be a significant risk to passenger safety if one was not provided.

(c) It was initially screened for relevance to Equality and Diversity on 03/10/2013

(d) It was found to be relevant to...

Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poverty/social exclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

(e) Lead Officer

Name: Rhodri Jones

Job title: Stakeholder and Communications Manager

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 11/06/2014

(f) Approved by Head of Service

Name: Brian Roles

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 13/06/14

Section 1 – Aims (See guidance):

Briefly describe the aims of the function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan, proposal or project:

What are the aims?

To reduce the provision of passenger assistants on free home to school transport services and only provide them where there is an identified risk to passenger safety.

Who has responsibility?

Council, Cabinet, Executive Board, Director of People and Chief Education Officer.

Who are the stakeholders?

Pupils who live more than 2 miles from their primary sector school and more than 3 miles from their secondary sector school qualifying for free home to school transport. Pupils with Special Educational needs will not be affected by this proposal.

Section 2 - Information about Service Users(See guidance):

Please tick what information you know about your service users and provide details/ evidence of how this information is collected.

Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Race	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion or (non-)belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carers	<input type="checkbox"/>		

What information do you know about your service users and how is this information collected?

Currently passenger assistants are provided on transport for 5 English medium primary, 1 English medium secondary, 20 Welsh medium primary and 17 faith primary contracts. Passenger assistants are provided to supervise children during their home to school transport journeys and when they get on and off the vehicles.

Breakdown of School Transport that currently has Passenger Assistants

Route Nos.	School	Vehicle Capacity	Passenger Assistant
315	C'church C in W Pri.	16	Yes
317	C'church C in W Pri.	7	Yes
337	Pontarddulais Primary	16	Yes
339	YGG Bryniago	16	Yes
341	YGG Pontybrenin	16	Yes
342	YGG Pontybrenin	8	Yes
343	YGG Pontybrenin	35	Yes
344	YGG Pontybrenin	16	Yes
345	YGG Pontybrenin	16	Yes
661	YGG Y Login Fach	16	Yes
662	YGG Y Login Fach	16	Yes
663	YGG Y Login Fach	16	Yes
664	YGG Y Login Fach	16	Yes

666	YGG Y Login Fach	16	Yes
670	St David's RC Pri.	16	Yes
671	St David's RC Pri.	16	Yes
672	St David's RC Pri.	47	Yes
673	St David's RC Pri.	49	Yes
681	YGG Llwynderw	16	Yes
682	YGG Llwynderw	16	Yes
683	YGG Llwynderw	16	Yes
684	YGG Llwynderw	16	Yes
685	YGG Llwynderw	16	Yes
686	YGG Brynymor	8	Yes
687	YGG Brynymor	47	Yes
693	St Joseph's Cath. Pri.	16	Yes
694	St Joseph's Cath. Pri.	16	Yes
695	St Joseph's Cath. Pri.	60	Yes
696	St Joseph's Cath. Pri.	49	Yes
697	St Joseph's Cath. Pri.	70	Yes
698	St Joseph's Cath. Pri.	16	Yes
699	St Joseph's Cath. Pri.	29	Yes
701	Cila Primary/Olchfa	16	Yes
717	Llanrhidian Primary	55	Yes
735	Pennard Primary	16	Yes
751	Knelston Primary	57	Yes
752	Knelston Primary	53	Yes
814	St Illtyd's Primary	7	Yes
815	St Illtyd's Primary	16	Yes
816	St Illtyd's Primary	33	Yes
829	YGG Lonlas	16	Yes
840	YGG Gellionen	16	Yes
Totals		1030	

Any Actions Required?

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Section 3 - Impact on Protected Characteristics (See guidance):

Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics. This could be based on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Needs further investigation
Age	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh language	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers	➔ <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why this is the case?

Pupils will only be supervised on their home to school transport journeys by the driver which could result in a negative impact upon pupil behaviour.

Journeys could take longer if drivers have to get in and out of the vehicle to help children get on and off.

This proposal will not affect SEN pupils who qualify for free transport on grounds of their specific needs but could affect disabled pupils without a statement of SEN eg those with mobility difficulties.

This proposal could affect pupils who may be at risk of bullying because of their protected characteristics eg young carers, those of different ethnicities, disabled pupils, pupils of different (or perceived) sexual orientations, pupils who don't speak English or Welsh.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken (e.g. with the public and/or members of protected groups) to support your view? Please provide details below.

A full statutory consultation has taken place, as required by Welsh Government. The following groups were consulted using the recorded method.

Audience	Method
Pupils	Pupil questionnaire via email to all School Councils
Parents/carers	Local media, social media, CCS website
Governors	Email to all Governing Bodies
Headteachers	Email to all Headteachers
The Council's Executive Board	Email
Cabinet	Formal process
All Councillors	Email
Trade Unions	Email
Evening Post	Press Release
Diocese	Email and meetings as appropriate
Gower College Swansea	Email and invitation to meet
Neath Port-Talbot College	
Coleg Sir Gar	Email
Welsh Government	Email
Estyn	Email
AMs	Email
MPs	Email
School Staff	Email, Local Media, Twitter, Social Media, CCS Website
Other Media	Press release
Senior Managers in Education	Email
All Council Staff	Staffnet
Swansea Residents	Local Media, CCS website, social media
Local Businesses	Local Media, CCS website
Bus Companies and Taxi Operators	Email
Neighbouring Authorities – ERW plus Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan	Email
RhAG	Email
Children's Commissioner	Email
SNAP Cymru	Email
Scrutiny Board	Email
Out of County Establishments e.g. Heronsbridge School	Email
School Councils	Email

In total, 884 people responded to the consultation and their views on this proposal were as follows:

	<i>I agree with this proposal</i>	<i>I disagree with this proposal</i>	<i>I neither agree nor disagree with this proposal</i>	<i>Did not respond</i>
<i>Passenger Assistants</i>	105	431 (49%)	310	38

Who responded

Parent	(63.8%)
Pupil / Student	(13.9%)
School / College Staff	(9.3%)
Councillor	(0.7%)
Governor	(2.0%)
Transport Provider	(0.0%)
Other, please state	(10.3%)

Male	239 (35.3%)
Female	439 (64.7%)

(86.1%)	White - British, any other White background		
(1.2%)	Mixed - White & Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White & Asian, any other Mixed background		
(10.5%)	Asian or Asian British- Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, any other Asian Background		
(1.5%)	Black or Black British - Caribbean, African, any other Black background		
(0.7%)	Chinese or Other ethnic group		
(13.9%)	No religion / belief	(0.0%)	Jewish
(82.4%)	Christian (including Church of England, Catholic Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	(0.8%)	Muslim
(0.0%)	Buddhist	(0.0%)	Sikh
(0.2%)	Hindu	(2.7%)	Prefer not to say

The key points raised in consultation were:

1. The removal of passenger assistants is detrimental to the safety of pupils
Before any route has its passenger assistant removed it will be assessed to ensure that no unacceptable risks are being placed on the children.

In order to comply with the duty under the Measure and to ensure the continued safety of children travelling to school the Authority will undertake risk assessments on routes and consider the needs and risks posed. The risk assessment will include any risk posed by the age of the pupils, any special educational needs, disabilities, any other areas of vulnerability, and general standards of behaviour on the route. Any risk identified will be assessed and a decision made as to whether a passenger assistant should be provided on that route. This will ensure that the duty under the Measure and general duty of care is discharged.

For SEN transport routes, the provision of a passenger assistant would remain

necessary in the majority of cases.

The removal of passenger assistants will make journeys too stressful for children and their parents

Routes will be carefully inspected before any passenger assistants are removed and possible causes of stress for the passengers and parents will be considered before a decision is made

2. Safeguarding and child protection concerns for children, particularly on their way home, and in terms of the vulnerability of the driver, which would need to be mitigated
All staff that work on school transport services have to be checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service and approved by the Council prior to employment. School transport services carrying pupils of secondary school age do not currently have passenger assistants travelling on them and so the proposal would be consistent with this approach. There may be occasions when there is no responsible adult at the drop off point to collect a primary aged child. A procedure for dealing with this circumstance is already included in the school transport contract terms and conditions and also in the School Transport Code of Conduct. Pupils are not allowed off the vehicle if there is no responsible adult there to meet them
3. Safety concerns in terms of ensuring the use of seatbelts, supervision of children and opportunities for bullying
The size of the vehicle used on the service will be a factor to be considered as part of the risk assessment process alongside the number and age of pupils as it would be easier for the driver to supervise a smaller number of pupils on a minibus or car than on a larger bus or coach
4. The potential impact on school admissions and particularly the choices of pre-school parents
Approximately 20 pupils of pre school age purchase spare seats on school transport. Most of these are mainstream pupils who would not be able to purchase seats if this proposal is implemented. There is no legal requirement for the Council to provide transport for pupils under statutory school age, but the removal of this facility is likely to be unpopular with parents who will have to make alternative arrangements to get their pre school aged children to and from school. Most of the pre school age pupils who purchase spare seats attend Welsh Medium or Voluntary Aided provision and therefore the impact of withdrawing this concession is likely to have a greater impact on these schools than English medium schools. The Measure (section 10) does require each local authority to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh when exercising their functions under the Measure.
5. The Council does not have the ability to assess routes effectively
The Council employs qualified road safety officers, transport professionals and health and safety officers and in the case of pupils with SEN employs an officer with many years' experience of working with children with the full range of SEN. This officer also has access to the educational psychology team and the wider resources of the Additional Learning Needs team if necessary

Any actions required (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- Monitoring of pupil behaviour on home to school transport as part of the risk assessment prior to the removal of any passenger assistants.

●

Section 4 - Other Impacts:

Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues.

You could base this on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

Foster good relations between different groups	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Reduction of social exclusion and poverty

(Please see guidance for definitions on the above)

Please explain any possible impact on each of the above.

Potential to impact upon vulnerable pupils on home to school transport journeys as supervision will be by the driver only.

Risk of driver being distracted (safety issue) and/or driver complaints about the situation.

The proposal will not impact upon poverty as transport will continue to be provided, however social inclusion/exclusion issues eg potential for bullying, vulnerability on home-to-school transport could increase.

What work have you already done to improve any of the above?

Is the initiative likely to impact on Community Cohesion (see the guidance for more information)?

Reduced opportunity for adult intervention on home to school transport journeys to resolve conflict of pupils.

How will the initiative treat the Welsh language in the same way as the English language?

Passenger assistants to be removed on all faith, English and Welsh medium home to school transport services across the Local Authority area. If a driver is not Welsh speaking and is transporting Welsh speaking pupils who do not speak English they may be at an increased risk.

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- Mitigation to be considered as part of the risk assessment
-

Section 5 - Monitoring arrangements:

Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project:

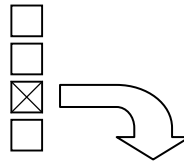
- **Monitoring arrangements:** If Cabinet and Council approve the change to the policy the risk assessments carried out on each of the routes will act as our monitoring arrangement

Actions: Carry out risk assessment prior to the removal of any passenger assistants.

Section 6 – Outcomes:

Having completed sections 1-5, please indicate which of the outcomes listed below applies to your initiative (refer to guidance for further information on this section).

- Outcome 1: Continue the initiative...
- Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative...
- Outcome 3: Justify the initiative...
- Outcome 4: Stop and remove the initiative...



For outcome 3, detail the justification for proceeding here:

It is regrettable that the financial position of the Council has made this proposal necessary. However, the provision of passenger assistants in future will be on the basis of a risk assessment where it is assessed that there would be a significant risk to passenger safety if a Passenger Assistant was not provided. This would be for all categories of passengers. This is currently the practice in around half of the Local Authorities in Wales. For children with statements of SEN this would be done as part of their annual review. For other pupils this would be carried out annually when routes are reviewed for the start of the new academic year.

The risk assessment will also be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

Section 7 - Publication arrangements:

On completion, please follow this 3-step procedure:

1. Forward this EIA report and action plan to the Access to Services Team for feedback and approval – accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk
2. Make any necessary amendments/additions.
3. Provide the final version of this report to the team for publication, including email approval of the EIA from your Head of Service. The EIA will be published on the Council's website - this is a legal requirement.

Action Plan:

Objective - What are we going to do and why?	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	Outcome - How will we know we have achieved our objective?	Progress
Monitoring of pupil behaviour on home to school transport as part of the risk assessment to consider impact upon behaviour, health and safety of travellers.	Transport Team	Ongoing	Include as part of route risk assessment if the Policy is approved by Council	
Carry out Equality Impact Assessment on the proposed Risk Assessment	Transport Team Access to Services Team	December 2014	EIA completed and mitigation put in place where possible	
Carry out risk assessment prior to the removal of any of the passenger assistants	Transport Team	Ongoing	Each route will have been risk assessed prior to the removal of any passenger assistants	

*** Please remember to be 'SMART' when completing your action plan (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely).**

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Please refer to the ‘Equality Impact Assessment Guidance’ while completing this form. If you would like further guidance please contact the Access to Services Team (see Guidance for details).

Where do you work?
Service Area: Education
Directorate: People

(a) This EIA is being completed for a...

Service/ Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy/ Procedure <input type="checkbox"/>	Project <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>
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(b) Please name and describe below...

Home to School Transport (Voluntary Aided Schools)

Only to provide free transport to Voluntary Aided (faith) sector schools where pupils meet the statutory distance criteria and where there is no nearer Mainstream school.

(c) It was initially screened for relevance to Equality and Diversity on...03/10/2013

(d) It was found to be relevant to...

Age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment <input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language <input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership <input type="checkbox"/>	Poverty/social exclusion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity <input type="checkbox"/>	Carers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race <input type="checkbox"/>	Community cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

(e) Lead Officer

Name: Rhodri Jones

Job title: Stakeholder and Communications Manager

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 11/06/2014

(f) Approved by Head of Service

Name: Brian Roles

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 13/06/14

Section 1 – Aims (See guidance):

Briefly describe the aims of the function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan, proposal or project:

What are the aims?

Only to provide transport to voluntary aided (faith schools) for pupils living more than 2 miles from a primary sector and 3 miles from a secondary sector voluntary aided school if there is no nearer alternative mainstream school.

Who has responsibility?

Council, Cabinet, Executive Board, Director of People and Chief Education Officer

Who are the stakeholders

Pupils of parents seeking faith medium education for their children.
Faith medium schools across the City and County of Swansea.

Section 2 - Information about Service Users(See guidance):

Please tick what information you know about your service users and provide details/ evidence of how this information is collected.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Age | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Race | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion or (non-)belief | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Gender reassignment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sex | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marriage & civil partnership | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sexual orientation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pregnancy and maternity | <input type="checkbox"/> | Welsh language | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Carers | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

What information do you know about your service users and how is this information collected?

Currently there are 683 pupils aged between 5 and 16 plus a further 113 pupils in sixth form provision who receive free home to school transport to attend faith medium schools across the City and County of Swansea.

Further information on each pupil is available on our SIMS system including age, disability, race and sex. Work is required to match the pupils currently receiving free home to school transport against the SIMS system. The wider demographic of our faith schools are as follows:












School	WIMD (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation) – Percentage of pupils living in the most deprived 30% of all areas	Claiming Free School Meals	Those pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN)	Ethnic Background (not White British)
Bishop Vaughan	54.6%	22.1%	13.5%	20.4%
Christchurch	60.9%	14.1%	20.6%	30.6%
St David's	17%	3.4%	13.8%	35.9%
St Illtyd's	74.5%	26.3%	37.3%	13.2%
St Joseph's Cathedral (Greenhill)	50.7%	16.3%	25.6%	35%
St Joseph's Catholic (Clydach)	17.3%	4.6%	10.6%	21%

Any Actions Required?

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Section 3 - Impact on Protected Characteristics (See guidance):

Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics. This could be based on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Needs further investigation
Age	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh language	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why this is the case?

Some parents wishing their child to receive a faith education may be deterred from participating if free transport provision is ceased due to increased costs and less convenient transport arrangements involved in getting to and from the faith medium school of choice. There could be an impact on young carers with disabled parents and their ability to get to school.

The proposal will not affect SEN pupils who qualify for free transport on the grounds of their specific needs but could affect disabled pupils without a statement of SEN eg those with mobility difficulties.

Numbers of pupils attending faith medium schools could potentially fall and pupils could transfer to alternative maintained schools within the City and County of Swansea affecting projected pupil numbers used to forecast future education provision across the local authority area.

It could also impact upon the numbers of pupils attending faith medium schools and have impact upon falling roles at these schools.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken (e.g. with the public and/or members of protected groups) to support your view? Please provide details below.

A full statutory consultation has taken place, as required by Welsh Government. The following groups were consulted using the recorded method. In addition to this a number of the schools that are potentially impacted by this proposal carried out specific consultation with their pupils and parents.

Audience	Method
Pupils	Pupil questionnaire via email to all School Councils
Parents/carers	Local media, social media, CCS website
Governors	Email to all Governing Bodies
Headteachers	Email to all Headteachers
The Council's Executive Board	Email
Cabinet	Formal process
All Councillors	Email
Trade Unions	Email
Evening Post	Press Release
Diocese	Email and meetings as appropriate
Gower College Swansea	Email and invitation to meet
Neath Port-Talbot College	
Coleg Sir Gar	Email
Welsh Government	Email
Estyn	Email
AMs	Email
MPs	Email
School Staff	Email, Local Media, Twitter, Social Media, CCS Website
Other Media	Press release
Senior Managers in Education	Email
All Council Staff	Staffnet
Swansea Residents	Local Media, CCS website, social media
Local Businesses	Local Media, CCS website
Bus Companies and Taxi Operators	Email
Neighbouring Authorities – ERW plus	Email

Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan	
RhAG	Email
Children's Commissioner	Email
SNAP Cymru	Email
Scrutiny Board	Email
Out of County Establishments e.g. Heronsbridge School	Email
School Councils	Email

In total, 884 people responded to the consultation and their views on this proposal were as follows:

	<i>I agree with this proposal</i>	<i>I disagree with this proposal</i>	<i>I neither agree nor disagree with this proposal</i>	<i>Did not respond</i>
<i>Transport to Voluntary Aided Schools</i>	89	741 (84%)	39	15

Who responded

Parent	(63.8%)
Pupil / Student	(13.9%)
School / College Staff	(9.3%)
Councillor	(0.7%)
Governor	(2.0%)
Transport Provider	(0.0%)
Other, please state	(10.3%)

Male	239 (35.3%)
Female	439 (64.7%)

(86.1%)	White - British, any other White background		
(1.2%)	Mixed - White & Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White & Asian, any other Mixed background		
(10.5%)	Asian or Asian British- Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, any other Asian Background		
(1.5%)	Black or Black British - Caribbean, African, any other Black background		
(0.7%)	Chinese or Other ethnic group		
(13.9%)	No religion / belief	(0.0%)	Jewish
(82.4%)	Christian (including Church of England, Catholic Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	(0.8%)	Muslim
(0.0%)	Buddhist	(0.0%)	Sikh
(0.2%)	Hindu	(2.7%)	Prefer not to say

The key points raised in consultation were as follows and a summary of the Local Authority's response follows each point. The full Local Authority response is available in the main report which is available here (ENTER WEB ADDRESS):

1. Restriction on learner and parental choice, especially for less wealthy families.
It cannot be denied that poorer families may find it more difficult to find the resources to get their children to a VA school. They will however, have access to a good local school.
2. Perceived discrimination on religious grounds and will treat Aided schools differently than Welsh medium schools.
The proposal to remove this transport is not viewed as discriminatory. The Council is currently treating the voluntary aided sector more favourably than the other English medium schools and the new policy will treat both groups equally. It is recognised that this proposal will only impact on the VA schools and it is regrettable that the financial position of the Council has made this proposal necessary. The Council can offer assurances that no child currently in receipt of free transport who is attending a VA school will have their transport removed for their time at that school. As such, the policy is not unlawfully discriminatory, however, the new policy does include the removal of certain long standing discretionary provisions for faith. However, the Measure (section 10) does require each local authority to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh when exercising their functions under the Measure.
3. The proposal will cause parents financial difficulties / financially unfair / general disagreement.
There may be a cost to parents. This cost is likely to be the same as the cost for any other parent deciding not to send their child to the nearest mainstream local school. A good education will be available locally should the parents not be able to meet the transport costs. We understand that this may cause difficulties, hence the phasing in over 6 years.
4. The proposal goes against Statute i.e. Section 6 of Education Act, or Learner Travel (Wales) Measure or Operational Guidance, UNCRC, Human Rights Act, Equality Act 2010.
The Legal view highlighted in the report assures us that we are not contravening any of the above statutes.
5. The proposal will affect the long term viability of the Faith schools.
There may be some impact on the number of pupils on roll at Faith schools, however, most Aided schools are currently over-subscribed. Consequently, the Council does not envisage any school becoming non-viable as a result of the proposed transport changes.
6. Increased traffic congestion across the City
It is thought that the overriding effect of this policy is more likely to be less travel rather than more. It is true that in the shorter term there may be increased drop off traffic at some schools, but this will be mitigated by the transitional implementation of the new policy
7. Impact on NEETS
It is possible that if pupils are not able to take up the option of faith based education because of the inconvenience and costs of travelling then some pupils may be discouraged from attending school. They will however have the option of attending their local school
8. Administrative impact on the Local Authority
There would be a significant increase in administration costs if the Council chose to in future charge or means test parents for Aided transport, however, this is not what is being proposed here

Any actions required (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- Monitor numbers at all Faith Schools to review impact of the policy (if approved)
- Consider the impact on young carers and disabled pupils (those without SEN) and what mitigation (if any) could be put in place

Section 4 - Other Impacts:

Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues.

You could base this on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

Foster good relations between different groups	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Reduction of social exclusion and poverty

(Please see guidance for definitions on the above)

Please explain any possible impact on each of the above.

It is possible that families wishing a faith education for their children who are disadvantaged by poverty will not be able to afford transport costs for their children and will therefore have to seek a place at the local mainstream school as an alternative. Additional pupils will need to travel on public transport which is less convenient and in some cases there may not be capacity on buses to accommodate additional pupils at peak times, it is also possible that the timings of public transport would not fit with school start and finish times. Families could be disadvantaged by reduced equality of opportunity.

Potential for conflict between the Local Authority and Diocese representatives.

The Diocese is hugely supportive of the poverty agenda and provide financial support to a number of initiatives in deprived areas. There is a risk of damage to both the relationship and the initiatives in the future if this proposal goes ahead.

Pupils who would be unable to travel to a faith school as a result of the changes due to eg carer responsibilities or low income would need to consider attending a local mainstream school which would be closer to their home this would be a reduction in the equality of opportunity in terms of choice of Education available to pupils and their families.

What work have you already done to improve any of the above?

Is the initiative likely to impact on Community Cohesion (see the guidance for more information)?

The following issues are considered pertinent to this proposal:

- Not everybody has an equal chance to take part
- Not everybody gets equal use of services
- People feeling left out or isolated
- Potential to impact upon Christian community

How will the initiative treat the Welsh language in the same way as the English language? There are no Welsh medium faith schools in Swansea. No impact is therefore anticipated.

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- Investigate timings of public transport on routes to faith schools.

*Unfortunately, due to the nature of the proposal, no further action is possible to mitigate the potential impacts identified above.

Section 5 - Monitoring arrangements:

Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project:

Monitoring arrangements: If Cabinet and Council approve the change to the policy there will be regular monitoring of the impact on pupil numbers at these schools.

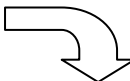
Actions: Ongoing monitoring of pupil numbers at all faith schools.

Section 6 – Outcomes:

Having completed sections 1-5, please indicate which of the outcomes listed below applies to your initiative (refer to guidance for further information on this section).

- Outcome 1: Continue the initiative...
Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative...
Outcome 3: Justify the initiative...
Outcome 4: Stop and remove the initiative...

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>



For outcome 3, detail the justification for proceeding here:

It is recognised that this proposal will only impact on the Voluntary Aided schools and it is regrettable that the financial position of the Council has made this proposal necessary. The Council can offer assurances that no child currently in receipt of free transport who is attending any of these schools will have their transport removed for the remainder of their time at that school. The phased introduction of the change will ensure this. Legal advice states that these changes do not contravene any statutes including the Equality Act 2010.

Section 7 - Publication arrangements:

On completion, please follow this 3-step procedure:

4. Forward this EIA report and action plan to the Access to Services Team for feedback and approval – accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk
5. Make any necessary amendments/additions.
6. Provide the final version of this report to the team for publication, including email approval of the EIA from your Head of Service. The EIA will be published on the Council's website - this is a legal requirement.

Action Plan:

Objective - What are we going to do and why?	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	Outcome - How will we know we have achieved our objective?	Progress
Monitor numbers at all Faith Schools to review impact of the policy (if approved)	Education Department	Annually		
Consider the impact on young carers and disabled pupils and what mitigation (if any) could be put in place	Education Department	December 2014	Young Carers and disabled pupils (those without SEN) identified and mitigation considered and implemented where possible	
Investigate timings of public transport on routes to faith schools	Transport Department	December 2014	Routes assessed and matched against faith schools to identify any gaps	

* Please remember to be 'SMART' when completing your action plan (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely).

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Report

This form should be completed for each Equality Impact Assessment on a new or existing function, a reduction or closure of service, any policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project which has been screened and found relevant to Equality and Diversity.

Please refer to the 'Equality Impact Assessment Guidance' while completing this form. If you would like further guidance please contact the Access to Services Team (see Guidance for details).

Where do you work?
Service Area: Education
Directorate: People

(a) This EIA is being completed for a...

Service/ Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy/ Procedure <input type="checkbox"/>	Project <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>
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(b) Please name and describe below...

Home to School Transport (post-16)

Remove free transport provision for post 16 students at Swansea schools and Gower College Swansea and introduce contributory payment.

(c) It was initially screened for relevance to Equality and Diversity on 03/10/2013

(d) It was found to be relevant to...

Age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment <input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership <input type="checkbox"/>	Poverty/social exclusion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity <input type="checkbox"/>	Carers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

(e) Lead Officer

Name: Rhodri Jones

Job title: Stakeholder and Communications Manager

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 11/06/2014

(f) Approved by Head of Service

Name: Brian Roles

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): 13/06/14

Section 1 – Aims (See guidance):

Briefly describe the aims of the function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan, proposal or project:

<p>What are the aims? To remove provision of free transport for post 16 education and to introduce a contribution of £300 per student per annum for travel on transport provided by the Council</p>
<p>Who has responsibility? Council, Cabinet, Executive Board, Director of People and Chief Education Officer</p>
<p>Who are the stakeholders? Post 16 students, Swansea schools, Gower College Swansea, Neath Port Talbot College, Bridgend College, Coleg Sir Gar and University of Wales Trinity Saint David.</p>

Section 2 - Information about Service Users(See guidance):

Please tick what information you know about your service users and provide details/evidence of how this information is collected.

Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Race	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual orientation.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh language.....	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers	<input type="checkbox"/>		

What information do you know about your service users and how is this information collected?

Currently there are 1,582 students attending Swansea sixth form school provision of which 525 are eligible for free transport and 4,631 students attending Gower College Swansea of which 1,953 are eligible for free transport. This figure includes 113 pupils who attend sixth form provision in Voluntary Aided schools. Numbers also include some pupils with SEN but any post 16 students who have a Statement of Special Educational Need may be awarded specific transport entitlement as part of their Statement. This will not change under the proposals.

Further information on each pupil is available on our SIMS system including age, disability, race and sex. The wider demographic of our 6th Forms are as follows:












School	WIMD (in the most deprived 30% of all areas) <i>Whole School</i>	Those with a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) - Whole School	Ethnic Background (not White British)	
			Y12	Y13
Bishop Gore	46.2%	22.1%	39.3%	36%
Gowerton	23.2%	25.2%	8%	4.8%
Morrison	43.1%	34.3%	10.9%	13.2%
Olchfa	12%	10.5%	14.7%	13.7%
Bishop Vaughan	54.6%	13.5%	16.5%	21.9%
Bryn Tawe	32.7%	21.5%	1.9%	0.9%
Gwyr	15.3%	15.7%	1.6%	0%

Any Actions Required?

- Source demographic data for those attending Gower College Swansea
- Source geographical data for those attending 6th Forms

Section 3 - Impact on Protected Characteristics (See guidance):

Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics. This could be based on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Needs further investigation
Age	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh language	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why this is the case?

£300 per annum would be a barrier to some potential students wishing to pursue post 16 education options. It is possible that the charge could have an impact on the long-term viability of 6th Forms in the area. Young Carers could also be impacted by the charges leading to them becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). The proposal will not affect SEN pupils who are still covered by a Statement and qualify for free transport on grounds of their specific needs, however could affect students who have other disabilities not addressed by SEN provision. Possible greater impact on students attending faith and Welsh medium schools as they have less choice of establishments and therefore travel further.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken (e.g. with the public and/or members of protected groups) to support your view? Please provide details below.

A full statutory consultation has taken place, as required by Welsh Government. The following groups were consulted using the recorded method. In addition to this a number of the schools and colleges that are potentially impacted by this proposal carried out specific consultation with their pupils, parents and students. RhAG (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg) also carried out a survey (the findings of which are reported back in the Cabinet report).

Audience	Method
Pupils	Pupil questionnaire via email to all School Councils
Parents/carers	Local media, social media, CCS website
Governors	Email to all Governing Bodies
Headteachers	Email to all Headteachers
The Council's Executive Board	Email
Cabinet	Formal process
All Councillors	Email
Trade Unions	Email
Evening Post	Press Release
Diocese	Email and meetings as appropriate
Gower College Swansea	Email and invitation to meet
Neath Port-Talbot College	
Coleg Sir Gar	Email
Welsh Government	Email
Estyn	Email
AMs	Email
MPs	Email
School Staff	Email, Local Media, Twitter, Social Media, CCS Website
Other Media	Press release
Senior Managers in Education	Email
All Council Staff	Staffnet
Swansea Residents	Local Media, CCS website, social media
Local Businesses	Local Media, CCS website
Bus Companies and Taxi Operators	Email
Neighbouring Authorities – ERW plus Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan	Email
RhAG	Email
Children's Commissioner	Email

SNAP Cymru	Email
Scrutiny Board	Email
Out of County Establishments e.g. Heronsbridge School	Email
School Councils	Email

In total, 884 people responded to the consultation and their views on this proposal were as follows:

	<i>I agree with this proposal</i>	<i>I disagree with this proposal</i>	<i>I neither agree nor disagree with this proposal</i>	<i>Did not respond</i>
<i>Charging for Post 16 Transport</i>	62	482 (55%)	300	40

Who responded

Parent	(63.8%)
Pupil / Student	(13.9%)
School / College Staff	(9.3%)
Councillor	(0.7%)
Governor	(2.0%)
Transport Provider	(0.0%)
Other, please state	(10.3%)

Male	239 (35.3%)
Female	439 (64.7%)

(86.1%)	White - British, any other White background		
(1.2%)	Mixed - White & Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White & Asian, any other Mixed background		
(10.5%)	Asian or Asian British- Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, any other Asian Background		
(1.5%)	Black or Black British - Caribbean, African, any other Black background		
(0.7%)	Chinese or Other ethnic group		
(13.9%)	No religion / belief	(0.0%)	Jewish
(82.4%)	Christian (including Church of England, Catholic Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	(0.8%)	Muslim
(0.0%)	Buddhist	(0.0%)	Sikh
(0.2%)	Hindu	(2.7%)	Prefer not to say

The key points raised in consultation were as follows and a summary of the Local Authority's response follows each point. The full Local Authority response is available in the main report which is available here (ENTER WEB ADDRESS):

1. The proposed charge is too expensive / financially unfair.
The average cost to the Council of a pupil's seat on school transport is £750 per year so

on this basis the proposed charge of £300 is reasonable. For families with a low income or for students with a low income living independently, the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available to help with further education costs

2. Charging will be a disincentive to pupils staying on in sixth form.
EMA is available to support students from low income families. There are already students attending College paying transport costs at more than £200. The proposal will help towards keeping post 16 students in education (as opposed to a removal of support altogether).
3. The proposal discriminates against language and/or religious choice.
We recognise the possible greater impact on students attending faith and Welsh medium schools as they have less choice of establishments and therefore travel further. Currently the students of the Welsh medium and Catholic sixth forms receive free transport whereas students attending College are charged.
4. There is no evidence that the Authority has paid due attention to Clause 10 of the Measure to promote access to education and training through the medium of the Welsh Language.
When a Council is using its powers under Section 6 of the Measure to offer discretionary travel arrangements for learners not entitled to free transport provision, a charge can be made for these arrangements. The Council is promoting access to Welsh education by treating the Welsh medium and English medium post 16 pupils the same, i.e. they will all have to pay the same charge. The Council is proposing to continue to provide transport for Welsh Medium provision but a charge will be made.
5. This proposal adversely affects choice
With the new proposed charge, the cost will be equitable for all post 16 across the borough. Any student living more than three miles from the nearest provision will pay the same price
6. There needs to be concessions for those in receipt of certain benefits / low income families
The Education Maintenance Allowance remains available for these families and this provides up to £30 per week during term time for eligible students. The possibility of means testing pupils for entitlement has been considered, but this would involve considerable extra administration as there would need to be continual monitoring of entitlement as families incomes change
7. Will encourage greater student vehicle traffic, congestion and parking issues
There is no evidence to suggest this might be the case. If students elect to transport themselves, it is highly likely that the cost of personal transport will exceed the proposed cost per annum

Any actions required (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- If the proposal goes ahead, more detailed monitoring of NEETS (not in education, employment or training) would be necessary compared to previous years to assess if a higher number of the post 16 population have opted out of further education opportunities as a result of increased costs. This would also monitor against the protected characteristics.

Section 4 - Other Impacts:

Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues.

You could base this on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

Foster good relations between different groups	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Reduction of social exclusion and poverty

(Please see guidance for definitions on the above)

Please explain any possible impact on each of the above.

This proposal could result in inequality for post 16 students disadvantaged by poverty who will not be able to afford to pay the contribution in order to engage in further education opportunities. However, the proposal will mean that there will be the same charge for post 16 students accessing transport to school or college.

In addition, the proposal could impact upon social exclusion and inability to compete in the workplace at a later stage and therefore be a threat to individuals who are trying to break cycles of family poverty.

If the proposal goes ahead it could further increase the inequality gap in attainment, life chances, education opportunities, social mobility which contradicts the Council's priority to tackle poverty.

The only post 16 provision in Swansea East is at Morrision Comprehensive School, therefore there could be a disproportionate impact in this area.

What work have you already done to improve any of the above?

For students from families on a low income, the Education Maintenance Allowance is available to assist with these costs.

Is the initiative likely to impact on Community Cohesion (see the guidance for more information)?

The following issues are considered pertinent:

- not everybody has an equal chance to take part
- not everybody gets equal use of services
- people feeling left out or isolated
- poverty can lead to poor community cohesion
- potential for a higher demand on public services

How will the initiative treat the Welsh language in the same way as the English language?

All post 16 students will be affected regardless of whether they attend an English medium or Welsh medium or faith provision. Possible greater impact on students attending Welsh medium schools as they have less choice of establishments and therefore travel further.

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

- *Unfortunately, due to the nature of the proposal, no further action is possible to mitigate the potential impacts identified above.

Section 5 - Monitoring arrangements:

Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project:

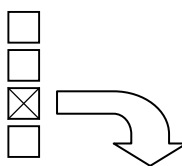
Monitoring arrangements: If Cabinet and Council approve the change to the policy there will be regular monitoring of the impact on post-16 student numbers and the number of youngsters who are NEET

Actions: Ongoing monitoring of post-16 numbers and NEETS

Section 6 – Outcomes:

Having completed sections 1-5, please indicate which of the outcomes listed below applies to your initiative (refer to guidance for further information on this section).

- Outcome 1: Continue the initiative...
- Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative...
- Outcome 3: Justify the initiative...
- Outcome 4: Stop and remove the initiative...



Should this be an Outcome 4?

Section 7 - Publication arrangements:

On completion, please follow this 3-step procedure:

7. Forward this EIA report and action plan to the Access to Services Team for feedback and approval – accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk
8. Make any necessary amendments/additions.
9. Provide the final version of this report to the team for publication, including email approval of the EIA from your Head of Service. The EIA will be published on the Council's website - this is a legal requirement.

For outcome 3, detail the justification for proceeding here:
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Whilst the potential impact on take up of post 16 education is uncertain and of concern, the potential saving is significant. The Education Maintenance Allowance will provide support to those students and families who are eligible to receive this support. There is no duty to provide transport or make transport arrangements for those over 16. Section 6 of the Learner Travel Measure allows for this discretionary service to be provided and for it not to be free of charge. In making any change, regard must be given to the 2009 Learner Travel Operational Guidance. However, the Measure (section 10) does require each local authority to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh when exercising their functions under the Measure. There is no further mitigation for young carers, disabled students without an SEN statement or those disproportionately affected i.e. Welsh Medium students and Faith students. .
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Action Plan:

Objective - What are we going to do and why?	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	Outcome - How will we know we have achieved our objective?	Progress
Source demographic data for those attending Gower College Swansea	Education Department	September 2014	Full breakdown available of the student' demographics	
Source geographical data for those attending 6 th Forms	Transport Department Education Department	July 2014	Full breakdown available of location students are currently travelling from	
If the proposal goes ahead, monitoring of NEETS (not in education, employment or training) would be necessary compared to previous years to assess if a higher number of the post 16 population have opted out of further education opportunities as a result of increased costs	Education Department	Annually	No increase in the number of NEETS 16-18 Action taken to reduce the number of NEETS 16-18 if an increase is evidenced	

* Please remember to be 'SMART' when completing your action plan (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely).

School Councils Responses**Terrace Road Primary**

20 children on school council (Years 2-6)

- We think that passenger assistance should stay for safety reasons. They are a reassuring link person especially for primary aged children. These assistants sometimes bring the children into school and collect them from the yard at the end of the school day and this is a good thing. They ensure that parents are less worried about their children's safety.
- We think that there should be free transport to all schools not just religious schools.
- We think that everyone should pay the same amount to go to any college. This would mean more choice of where and what to study. It must be fair for everyone.
- We think that every school should have their own mini bus. We should walk to school because it saves petrol, there would be less pollution and you wouldn't get fat. Cycle lanes to school would be a great idea too.

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bryniago

14 Children on school council.

- We strongly believe that passenger assistance should stay on every bus that is travelling to a school. For example what if the bus goes on fire? Or what if a child is ill on the bus? The bus driver can't ensure that everybody is safe and well. Pupils may not wear seatbelts. If there are a lot of buses, how will the pupils know that they are on the correct bus? What if someone opens the fire door? It could cause a huge accident.
- As we attend a Welsh school, there are no welsh schools near to us so free school transport is a must. The City and County of Swansea should provide transport to all primary and secondary schools. A lot of parents work and are unable to take their children to school.
- We disagree with the proposal stopping free school transport for over 16's for college/sixth form because it is unfair. What if they don't have enough money? Then they would have to finish with their education. We believe that 3 miles is a long way to walk with all of your school stuff such as files and books etc.
- Finally without free school transport a lot of pupils would not be able to get to school which would mean no education.

Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn

12 children on school council.

- We think you should keep escorts for certain people. Some people rely on the escorts. Some escorts and drivers do not sit in the back or wear seatbelts. Some escorts ignore us and won't speak to us.
- We do not think we should pay for our transport. We would have to spend all our EMA money on transport. We would lose our independence. We use our EMA money to pay for our school trips and socialising with friends.
- Some further comments on school transport: they are either too late or too early, my driver smokes inside my taxi before I get in the taxi, I don't like some of the people I am in the taxi with, I am in the taxi for a long time because there are lots of people on the taxi.

St Joseph's Cathedral Primary

20 children on school council.

- 20 out of 20 disagree with the proposal to stop school passenger assistants for the reasons below. Because of the size of the bus some children may not behave well because there is no one to supervise them.
- Seatbelts might be taken off and the little ones might walk around the bus or if the seatbelt is jammed or doesn't work there is no one to help the children sort this problem out when seatbelts are the law.
- If it is noisy the driver may lose concentration and crash the bus. Children could get hurt and there is no one to help them. Also if the bus crashes by accident and the driver is hurt there is no one to calm the children down or get the children off the bus safely.
- If there are younger children they might open windows and stick their hands out and get hurt.
- The guides sometimes have to pass important messages onto our parents from the teachers or the school, for example if we are unwell or have been naughty.

We also disagree with the second proposal that free school transport will be stopped to Catholic schools because:

- My parents want me to have a Catholic education because this is our faith. We believe that it is unfair that we cannot go to a church school.
- The other schools close to where we live are not Catholic and this is very important to our family and the reason that they chose the school.
- I come to this school because my parents think that this is a safe, good school and teaches us the Catholic faith.
- It means that our school numbers will fall because everyone on the school council lives closer to another school and then the school will get smaller and smaller and some jobs might also have to be cut.
- If our parents are living in different houses how do they then agree on the school that we go to? It could cause arguments.
- It is discriminatory against our religion. Welsh schools are not more important than faith schools. Why should they have school buses and we don't?

Regarding the proposal to take away free transport to post 16 students we disagree and feel that you are making it unfair for poor families to attend college.

- They might have to go out and get a job instead of being able to stay in school to learn and have the chance to get better jobs and have better futures. You are taking peoples decisions and the right to have an education away.

Gwyrosydd Primary School

12 children on school council

- We think there should be passenger assistants on the bus because children might distract the driver – this could cause an accident.
- In regards to stopping free school transport to Catholic schools we think that you could ask for a small donation once a week.
- We believe regarding post 16 education that it will be fair to pay the same amount.

- Lastly we think that children have the right to an education and the council should help children get to school.

Dunvant Primary

24 children on school council

- We disagree with the proposal to stop passenger assistance on school buses because someone might feel ill and need help. We were shocked to hear that you would think about removing the assistants from the buses because we wouldn't feel safe without them.
- There may be trouble with bullying
- Some children may need a grown up to feel safe-somebody they know.
- We also need someone to check seatbelts.

We disagree with the 2nd proposal to stop free school transport to Catholic schools because:

- We think all schools should be treated the same because it's not fair for some to be paid for and not others.
- In regard to the 3rd proposal to stop post 16 education we think they should help because going to college is important.

Bishop Vaughan

Sixth Form Committee:

- We understand that cuts need to be made, however we believe that the financial cuts proposed would have dramatic and negative effects on the community as a whole.
- We see this as discrimination against the children who attend this school because they've chosen, with the legal rights they have, to attend a Catholic school which will support and nurture the faith they have chosen to follow.
- We would like to know why has the council decided to take away the funding to provide buses to the thousands of children (40%) of Bishop Vaughan pupils attending Catholic school while those in Welsh-medium schools have been allowed to keep the same service even if they have a closer school to attend.
- In taking away this service you are infringing on their rights, as parents, to decide which school they should send their children to. They may end up sending them to a school that they're less happy with in order to avoid the sum of up to £400 per child, per year.
- A lot of the schools population come from deprived background and 20% of the pupils at Bishop Vaughan qualify for free school meals so with this additional cost they may not have the funds for breakfast and dinner meals either.
- Dangers of global warming- there will be more cars on the road if parents are forced to take their children, which will lead to more emissions that the council are supposed to be working to reduce. Very few bus routes would be suitable and most would require multiple bus changes which is impractical, costly and unsafe.
- Also concerned about charging buses for all post 16 pupils. With this additional charge future generations will choose to not attend post 16 education in either a school or Catholic school community as many parents would expect them to pay.

Since the work in post 16 education is tough it is not always possible to work for long periods to earn enough to cover the bus fees-especially when most jobs are minimum wage.

- Carmarthenshire council have withdrawn from instating similar policies (which we also object to) which means that there are clearly some real concerns with the structure of plans and the local community would not benefit from the changes.

Townhill Community School

14 pupils on school council

- We think that it would be very difficult for the bus driver to keep an eye on all the children if some children are misbehaving. Also, children could take their seatbelts off and the driver wouldn't know.
- We feel that older children shouldn't need an assistant as they should be able to be sensible on a bus.
- In response to the proposal to stop free school transport to Catholic schools the children felt that there were lots of schools in our area so they would be able to walk to either Comprehensive school. However, they did say you could get a public bus to school instead if you went to a school further away from your home.
- Regarding the proposal to change post-16 education fees for colleges and sixth forms some of the children felt it was fair for both to pay. However, if the sixth form is chosen because it is closer to their house then they shouldn't have to pay.
- Most of the children felt that school transport should be free because children need to go to school and that there should be a bus provided for each school. They also said that for some of them, even though they go to our school they have moved out of the area but still travel back and forth every day because they don't want to move schools.

Bishop Vaughan

Number of pupils on school council not stated

- As individuals we have the basic right to practise our faith. If you remove free school transport from Bishop Vaughan School, one of our most fundamental principles as a Catholic school is endangered. Many Catholic families will not be able to afford to pay for school transport for their son/daughter. Our reputation consists of our catholic faith accepting all those who choose to come here and if this is changed, our faith's ethos is not as widely spread in the city and cannot serve its greater purpose. If free school transport is removed then our basic human right to practise a religion of our choice is undermined.
- Not providing free school transport will have a huge impact on all families who want to go to any catholic school. This will affect families of all sizes, big or small, as the cost of around £390 will all add up, depending on the number of children in the family. Sadly, not all families can afford this and this will then lead to the fragmentation of our Catholic community.
- Future generations of Catholic families will also be affected, and are likely to go to a closer non-Catholic school. Removal of the free transport will therefore also affect the future generations' opportunity to practise the Catholic faith and grow in a Christian

lifestyle. So if you take the free transport away now, it will not only effect the current youth but will leave a legacy for the Catholic Community of Swansea.

- We strongly feel that depriving Catholic Schools of free transport is an appalling act of discrimination. This will effect individuals dramatically. This will be stopping them from fully practising their faith. Do you really think this is right? Why should we be affected just because we are Catholic?
- We understand that you are only thinking of applying this rule to Catholic Schools and not to Welsh Schools. We believe that the current proposals are wholly unfair and on balance the financial savings are at a large social cost for the city of Swansea. We urge you to reconsider the current plan to remove free school transport.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary

Number of pupils on school council: 17

- We need to continue having a guide on the bus to help us on and off the bus. Also a person we can tell if we are feeling unwell or having problems that can be sorted without the driver having to stop and increasing our journey time.
- We are a Rights Respecting School and so fully believe that we have the Right to our own religion and have an education in our religion. We are a Christian Country and should be allowed free transport to those schools, just as we are Welsh and would have free transport to a Welsh Medium School.
- If the proposals go ahead to charge for post-16 transport to sixth forms then it will be an additional cost to parents who have chosen to keep their children in 6th form because they cannot afford to send their children to college. If there was a charge imposed there would be fewer children from deprived backgrounds being given the chance of Higher Education.
- Transport to our schools is vital important to ensure these schools that have been fought for, for many years continue to thrive and flourish.

Gowerton Comprehensive

Number on school council: 14

- In response to the first issues re passenger assistants. We believe that we need someone at all times for the following reasons: stop misbehaving, stop them opening windows, ensure seat belts are worn, prevent any other dangers.
- Regarding the proposal to remove free school transport to the Catholic and church of Wales schools we disapprove because Catholic religion is important in Wales as it is our national heritage. Therefore it is unfair to ask pupils to pay/find their own way, purely due to religious belief. Maybe they should co-ordinate one route to cover most pupils. It would reduce traffic and environmental problems.
- In response to the proposal to remove post-16 free transport to sixth form pupils who live more than 3 miles from their school we think that they are all in full time education and with the cost of university etc increasing-should allow them to save up! Also prevent them driving their own cars.
- We would like to add that buses are always breaking down and have inconsistent arrival times. Pupils who live 'closer' to school but outside of catchment have to pay very expensive travel expenses. Also we believe that there should be CCTV on comprehensive buses.

Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr

Number on school council: 14

- From the point of view of the younger pupils in the school we understand that passenger assistants are important in order to ensure confidence for the passenger. Despite this we understand that this costs a lot of money and on the assumption that most primary school pupils wouldn't travel without their parents then we do not consider this proposal to be unreasonable.
- In regards to the 2nd proposal- to stop providing free school transport we are completely against this proposal as we are a school with pupils coming from all parts of Swansea as we have a large catchment area. Therefore we believe that this will affect our brothers and sisters that will study here in the future.
- Regarding the proposal to stop post-16 education transport to sixth forms we do not believe that this is a good idea for us as pupils who will be attending the sixth form class in future. Most of the pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr live more than 3 miles from the school. Therefore we believe that if there was a charge to attend a Welsh sixth form then pupils would choose to attend an English sixth form within the 3 mile radius. This proposal is disadvantageous to Welsh schools and to some it shows a tendency to favour English medium schools.
- We believe that school transport is extremely important because of our choice of school which has a large catchment area and many pupils travel 3 miles or further. We have pupils travelling from as far as Pontarddulais or Oxwich. During these tough economic times we believe that it is unfair to ask parents and children to pay for transport. Primary and Secondary education is not for the elite and we need to ensure that this continues.

Pontarddulais Comprehensive

No on school council: 15

- Regarding the proposal to remove a passenger assistant we believe that if there are very young children then there needs to be an assistant on board. Pupils usually travel to primary with parents or walk. It seems ok but if something went wrong with say a 5 year old, it would be said: why was there no supervision?
- We believe that the proposal to stop free school transport seems sensible.
- We think that the proposal to remove post-16 education sounds fair, as college is the same as sixth form.
- We would like to add that the safety is compromised on secondary school transport as there is no assistant. Pupils can misbehave on the busses, getting out of seats, throwing things around. This makes it unsafe. One time, the driver had to stop on the hard shoulder.

Response to the Home to School Transport Policy Proposals

Bishop Vaughan School is most strongly opposed to these proposals for several reasons. These include:

- 1) the impact upon learner and parental choice and rights
- 2) the particularly significant impact upon learner and parental choice for those facing some measure of deprivation
- 3) the disparity between provision for Welsh-medium schools and that for denominational schools
- 4) our observations regarding the financial savings to be made
- 5) the potential effect upon NEETS in the Local Authority
- 6) further practical consequences for the Local Authority

1) The impact upon learner and parental choice and rights

The inevitable outcome of this proposal will be a reduction in parental choice, and in the long term, a possible reduction in the diversity of educational provision within the Local Authority. Neither national nor local elected members have a mandate from the electorate to do this.

It has been recognised since the debate on the 1944 Education Act, that schools with religious character will, in many instances, have a natural catchment area of much larger size than community schools. This is reflected in the provision of the Education Act 1944 which is still in the Statute Book.

The UN declaration on the Rights of the Child states:

Principle 7

The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages. He shall be given an education which promotes his general culture and enables him on a basis of equal opportunity, to develop his abilities, his individual judgement, and his sense of moral and social responsibility, and to become a useful member of society. The best interests of the child shall be the guiding principle of those responsible for his education and guidance; that responsibility lies in the first place with his parents.

The European Convention of Human Rights as incorporated in the Human Rights Act 1998 states:

Article 2

No person should be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

These instruments outline the concept that parents are foremost educators of their children and that the state should be a facilitator to ensure that all children as far as practicable can be educated in accordance with their parents' religious and philosophical convictions.

The proposal to discontinue discretionary provision of free transport for the VA sector places at risk the whole concept of parents being in a position to educate their children according to their beliefs and convictions.

2) The particularly significant impact upon learner and parental choice for those facing some measure of deprivation

VA schools serve some of the most deprived and disadvantaged communities, achieving good academic outcomes. It is a Welsh Government priority to reduce the impact of poverty on educational achievement. This proposal places significant and fundamental obstacles to some children attending schools which help them overcome the impact of deprivation. It means some parents will have to substitute personal household financial considerations for fundamental beliefs and convictions regarding their children's schooling.

Catholic schools were set up in partnership with Local Authorities as part of their provision to serve a particular community. The removal of dedicated transport loosens their partnership arrangement and the historical tradition on which it was based.

This tradition includes such tenets of the Catholic Church as:

Parents as well as those who take their place are obliged and enjoy the right to educate their offspring; Catholic parents also have the duty and the right to select those means and institutions through which they can provide more suitably for the Catholic education of the children according to local circumstances.

Parents also have the right to make use of those aids to be furnished by civil society which they need in order to obtain Catholic education for their children.

It is necessary that parents enjoy true freedom in selecting schools; the Christian faithful must therefore be concerned that civil society acknowledge this freedom for parents and also safeguard it with its resources in accord with distributive justice.

It is very important to remember that Catholic families paid to have Catholic schools built, often funding 25% or more of the building costs, and that Catholic parents currently have to find 15% of the capital costs of Catholic schools. In other words, Catholic schools already cost Catholic parents money, money which they were glad to contribute to ensure a Catholic education. This proposal means an extra financial burden on Catholic families - a burden that other families living less than three miles from their appropriate primary or secondary schools, would not have to find. Catholic parents have already paid tax to provide schools – Catholic, Welsh Medium, and other – and then had to find a further 25% and later 15% on top of that.

It is therefore the case that Catholic parents will be charged twice for a right enshrined in the 1944 Education Act and hitherto supported by the partnership in school provision between the Local Authority and the Diocese.

Plainly, learners facing economic disadvantage and deprivation will not be able to sustain the financial burdens imposed by these proposals and will not enjoy the same choices regarding faith education as their more affluent peers. This is unacceptable on every level and seriously contradicts the commitments made by the Welsh Government to reduce the impact of poverty.

3) The disparity between provision for Welsh-medium schools and that for denominational schools

We would draw your attention to page 51 of the 'Proposed Guidance on Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance' document. Here, in outlining the current measures in place, it states in paragraph 5.7 that:

If parents enact their parental preference and choose a learning establishment which is not the nearest suitable school or relevant place of learning for their child(ren), local authorities are not legally bound to provide transport although they do have power to make provision on a discretionary basis under section 6 of the Measure.

This reflects paragraph 1.26 of the Learner Travel Operational Guidance:

If the school is not the nearest suitable school, the pupil generally does not have a right to free school transport even if they live beyond walking distance. In such cases, parents are responsible for making their own transport arrangements, although an authority has discretion (using its

powers under section 6 of the Measure) to provide free or assisted transport for such pupils.

In clarifying what constitutes exercise of parental preference, paragraph 5.8 of the 'Proposed Guidance on Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance' document states:

If a parent chooses a school for their child on grounds of language or denominational preference and that school is not the nearest suitable school as agreed by the relevant local authority, then this constitutes the exercise of parental preference.

If it is conceded that choosing a school for either language or faith-based reasons constitute an exercise of parental preference, then the position where Local Authorities use their discretionary "power" to fund one set of parental preferences whilst removing provision for another set of parental preferences is most contentious and, we would argue, an indefensible position.

Paragraph 2.19 makes reference to the fact that:

The Welsh Assembly Government, like local authorities, recognise the value and role of faith based education and want local authorities to continue to use their discretionary powers to make transport arrangements which take account of parental preferences for schools with a religious character.

This consultation, sadly and tellingly, makes no reference to the contribution of faith schools being valued.

Paragraph 2.5 of the Learner Travel Operational Guidance clearly states that:

If a local authority does make use of the powers in section 6 of the Measure, it must ensure that any policies are fair, reasonable, and comply with relevant legislation including equality legislation and the Human Rights Act 1998. Local authorities must not discriminate unlawfully between learners when using their section 6 powers.

We would argue, therefore, that making financial provision for one set of parental preferences and removing provision for another is subject to legal challenge under the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

4) Our observations regarding the financial savings to be made

While we contest the proposals for their infringements of the rights of learners, we must also point out at this early stage a number of practical considerations for the Local Authority. These proposals can not produce the desired outcomes

in terms of savings to the Local Authority, and will seriously impact upon the success achieved in areas of key importance to the Authority.

The proposals relating to provision for Voluntary Aided schools aim to achieve savings of the following sums, these having been projected by the LA and representing the maximum possible savings in each given year: £22.5k in 2015-16, £87.7k in 2016-17, £138.4k in 2017-18 and rising to a maximum of £683k in 2022-23. The phased introduction dictates that savings will be modest for a considerable period, yet costs associated with this proposal will be immediate and significant.

It was agreed at a recent meeting of the working group called to consider these proposals that removal of transport provision, with its associated requirement that families pay up to £400 p.a. for each seat will require the employment of two administrative assistants to manage the payment system, allocations, contracts, etc. The salaries, on-costs, etc., will be in excess of £40k p.a., thus resulting in a loss in the first year, and the rather indefensible position for several years to come of money being diverted from where it is truly needed and can justifiably be spent to be spent instead on administration.

5) The potential effect upon NEETS in the Local Authority

The great successes that the Authority has been able to report with reducing NEETS figures, increasing learner choice and the Swansea Guarantee are jeopardised by the threats to post-16 transport provision. Here it is absolutely inevitable that a proportion of learners will not continue to post-16 education if faced with the need to pay £300 p.a. (although at the working group the figure was actually calculated as being up to £400 p.a.) for transport costs alone to access it. The burden of this goes beyond the proportion of pupils in receipt of EMA, the families of whom already find the additional costs associated with remaining in education difficult to bear. We are often faced with the very real concerns of families about their inability to pay the one-off UCAS fee of £26 in order to make applications to universities. It has been a success on the Authority's part and on that of post-16 schools to keep such students in education in order to allow them to fulfil their potential and make a meaningful contribution to society as they progress. We have no doubt whatsoever that the number of NEETS post-16 will rise if transport provision is removed.

Linking to point 4 above, we would ask what the cost to the Authority of each NEET pupil is; we are aware that the cumulative costs of identifying, tracking and engaging them are extremely high. These costs, added to those of the administration posts, make these proposals impractical. We also suggest that this undermines the work of the Swansea Guarantee which, while costly, has been effective. The inevitable effects upon learners in Swansea mean not only unnecessary spending on increased levels of NEETS in the years ahead, but also that the spending on this project to date has been, at least to some degree, wasted, as the NEETS figures will go on to demonstrate negative trends.

We urge you to look also at the consequences for learner choice: fewer learners remaining in post-16 education will mean smaller numbers in options classes. With the significant budgetary cuts facing schools, this of course means that these subjects will not be offered. Effective partnership working between the schools and colleges across Swansea means that staffing and resources are currently being used to optimum effect. Removing subjects, therefore, in any one of these schools narrows learner choice not only within the school itself but for learners across Swansea, who benefit from being able to access these courses. In our own case, for example, we work closely in partnership with Morriston Comprehensive. Should Sixth Form classes in certain subjects be cut because of a falling roll post-16, Bishop Vaughan learners will have a narrower choice of pathways, and this will also limit the choices for Morriston students. It will not be straightforwardly the case that these learners will instead apply to the colleges. Transport costs will be prohibitive there also, whilst most students accessing Bishop Vaughan courses from our partner school are within walking distance or make use of their own school's minibus service. Certain groups of learners, therefore, whom we have been able to keep in education due to the accessibility of their post-16 education, and due to the continuity offered by the school overcoming many of their concerns regarding their ability to continue in education, will no longer find it possible to continue their learning post-16. With no institutions offering funded transport, many will choose to leave education at this level; it is fair to say that a percentage of these young people will be unable to find employment or training opportunities and will therefore become NEET.

6) Further practical consequences for the Local Authority

We further contend that these proposals do not consider the inevitable consequent effects. It is the case that over 20% of Bishop Vaughan's pupils qualify for free school meals. Plainly, those families, and indeed many who are perhaps just above the threshold for qualifying for these, will be unable to pay up to £400 p.a. for transport for each child using it. With over 40% of pupils currently using the school transport, there is the potential for up to 40% of those currently on roll having to transfer to what is described in the proposals as the 'nearest mainstream school'. We are aware that there is not the scope for large numbers of learners being accommodated elsewhere - quite apart from the concerns that this raises about learner choice and the position that this sets up with families only being able to access education at a faith school if they are sufficiently affluent to pay for it.

While there is not scope, then, to accommodate these learners in other Swansea schools, this school, with the staffing and provision already in place, will face making staff cuts when numbers inevitably fall, and narrowing provision, a concern highlighted in section 5, above. Further, it is likely that due to the smaller numbers of pupils using even those transport services that they will then have to

pay for, some private hire companies and/or service routes will either not be able to provide transport due to the losses that they will incur or will set higher charges for doing so. This further limits access and choice for all learners, not only those unable to pay for the transport.

We would add that those pupils able to remain at Bishop Vaughan but denied transport will in some cases make use of private transport, where able to do so, with the consequent environmental and resourcing concerns that are associated with this. The environmental implications of this proposal need to be considered carefully, especially in the context of carbon reduction targets.

We ask therefore that a detailed costing of the actual savings that might be made is undertaken; we ask for a realistic projection of the costs of the administration that will be required if current provision is removed; we ask that the likely expenditure for increased numbers of NEETS is assessed. With the potential savings balanced against these costs, we believe that it will be deemed as not being in the Authority's interest to further consider these proposals, particularly when considered within the context of the negative impact upon learner choice and the additional concerns outlined above.

We feel that the savings to be made cannot possibly be used as justification for narrowing provision, as justification for discrimination against one set of parental preferences whilst funding another and as justification for increasing – contrary to the Welsh Government's priorities – the barriers presented by poverty.

In light of the above concerns we contest the proposals wholeheartedly.

**TRANSPORT
AND POST-16 WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION**

**A review of the effect of charging for transport for pupils to attend
post-16 Welsh medium education in Swansea**



Hafan Language Consultancy

Parents for Welsh Medium Education (RhAG)



With the assistance of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Gŵyr and YGG Bryn Tawe

April 2014

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CONTENTS

CONCLUSIONS	3
FINDINGS	3
1. Background	4
2. Geography	4
3. Survey method	4
4. Responses	5
5. Place of residence and method of travel to school	5
6. Distance from school	7
7. Desire to receive post-16 Welsh medium education	8
8. Willingness to pay	10
9. Desire to receive post-16 Welsh medium education and willingness to pay for school transport	12
10. Post-16 English medium establishments and other establishments	14
11. Parents' comments and social deprivation	14
GRAPHS	
Graph 1 How Gŵyr pupils travel to school	6
Graph 2 How Bryn Tawe pupils travel to school	6
Graph 3 Gŵyr pupils' distance from school	7
Graph 4 Bryn Tawe pupils' distance from school	8
Graph 5 Desire to receive post-16 education at Ysgol Gŵyr	8
Graph 6 Desire to receive post-16 education at Ysgol Bryn Tawe	9
Graph 7 Willingness to pay for transport for post-16 education at Ysgol Gŵyr	11
Graph 8 Willingness to pay for transport for post-16 education at Ysgol Bryn Tawe	11
Graph 9 Desire to continue in post-16 Welsh medium education and pay £300 for school bus transport to Ysgol Gŵyr	12
Graph 10 Desire to continue in post-16 Welsh medium education and pay £300 for school bus transport to Ysgol Bryn Tawe	13
CHARTS	
Chart 1 Distance from school and desire to receive post-16 education at the school	9
Chart 2 Distance from school and desire to receive post-16 education at the school	10
APPENDIX A Parents' Comments	15

CONCLUSIONS

1. An annual charge of £300 for transporting post-16 pupils to Gŵyr and Bryn Tawe will probably mean the end of viable post-16 education at these schools.
2. Charging for transport will disproportionately affect those receiving post-16 education through the medium of Welsh in the county. This will affect 8 out of 10 pupils attending Gŵyr and Bryn Tawe.
3. Charging for school transport will penalise those from less affluent backgrounds more than anyone else, and mean that pupils from poorer backgrounds will be unable to continue in Welsh medium education.
4. Post-16 English medium education is much more accessible for the majority of pupils, therefore a charge of £300 puts Welsh medium education at a clear disadvantage.
5. The county has not investigated the effect charging for school transport will have on post-16 Welsh medium education, on post-16 education in general or on less affluent families.
6. The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 places a duty on local authorities to arrange transport to schools whose aim is to promote Welsh medium education. The proposal currently being discussed would have the opposite effect, and be very harmful to Welsh medium education.

Findings

1. There is a very strong desire among Gŵyr and Bryn Tawe pupils to continue their post-16 education at these schools.
2. If their parents had to pay £300 a year for transport to a post-16 Welsh medium setting, only 19% would definitely send their children to these schools, with a further 19% saying they would probably choose this option.
3. Effective transport is vital for ensuring equality for Welsh medium education, as the majority of pupils who choose this option live at some distance from the provision.
4. A higher percentage of pupils travel by bus to Welsh medium schools than to English medium schools, therefore the effect of charging £300 for transport costs would be more detrimental to Welsh medium education than to English medium education.
5. Parents are generally concerned that their children's education would suffer.
6. Parents are worried that their financial circumstances would mean they could not afford the school bus.
7. A number of pupils live within walking distance from English medium post-16 provision and requiring them to pay £300 to attend a Welsh medium establishment would put Welsh medium education at a significant disadvantage.
8. 81% of survey respondents said their children depended on the bus to travel to Gŵyr and Bryn Tawe, with three quarters of pupils living more than 3 miles from their school.

9. There is no convenient public bus service to Gŵyr and Bryn Tawe, therefore the vast majority of pupils depend on school buses provided by the authority.

1. Background

In February 2013, Swansea County Council launched a public consultation on transport to school or college for post-16 pupils. The proposal under discussion is to charge £300 a year for transport to post-16 education in the county.

It is apparent that the authority has not investigated the effect charging for school buses to post-16 education would have on:

- Welsh medium education
- Low income families
- Remaining in post-16 education in general.

The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 allows local authorities to pay travel costs in full or partially for pupils where there is no statutory obligation to provide free travel. Part of the authority's duty is to provide transport which does not cause unreasonable levels of long-term stress for pupils which would prevent them from taking advantage of the education provided.

Clause 10 of the Measure states:

Promoting access to education and training through the medium of the Welsh language
Each local authority and the Welsh Ministers must promote access to education and training through the medium of the Welsh language when exercising functions under this Measure.

There is no evidence that the authority has paid due attention to this clause, and no consideration has been given to how the present proposal would promote education through the medium of Welsh.

2. Geography

The county of Swansea is fairly compact compared with some other counties in Wales. The distance from west to east is about 15 miles and about 9 miles from north to south.

The population is concentrated in the urban area of Swansea with its extremely busy roads and traffic, which has a bearing on ease of walking to an educational establishment.

The county has some more remote areas, including the Gower peninsula and some parts of the north.

Ysgol Gŵyr takes pupils from primary schools within 3 miles, such as Pontybrenin and Login Fach and others which are further away such as Bryn-y-môr, Llwynderw and Bryn Iago.

Ysgol Bryn Tawe pupils come from primary schools within 3 miles, such as Tirdeunaw and Felindre, as well as others which are further than 3 miles such as Gellionnen and Lôn-las.

Consequently, a considerable proportion of pupils of both schools live more than 3 miles from the school.

3. Survey method

We decided to carry out a survey which would seek the following information from respondents:

1. School year of the pupil
2. Place of residence
3. Approximate distance from school
4. Method of travel to school

5. Desire to receive post-16 education at the school
6. The sum the parent would be willing to pay for school transport
7. The pupil's right to free school meals
8. The likelihood of returning for post-16 education at the schools if a charge of £300 were levied.

Parents were also asked how they felt about the idea of charging £300 a year for school transport.

We are grateful for the co-operation of Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe in conducting the survey. The completed questionnaires were processed using SPSS software which enabled us to compare different variables.

The following report outlines the main findings which arose from the questionnaires and includes additional comments from 98 parents.

4. Responses

Responses were received from 62 parents of Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr pupils and 71 responses from parents of pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe. The parents' responses reflected the location of their homes, with a higher number received from those who live further from the school.

It could be that the response rate was greater from those who already have an interest in the subject, which is a common occurrence with such questionnaires. This may mean that there is some degree of bias in the responses towards those who wish to continue post-16 education through the medium of Welsh or those who are generally interested in Welsh medium education. Having said that, the clear patterns which emerged from the responses demonstrate that there is a keen interest in the issue and considerations which must be taken on board.

5. Place of residence and method of travel to school

5.1 Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr

Respondents' children attended the following schools:

	Percentage	Number
Pontybrenin	13%	8
Bryn Iago	29%	18
Logan Fach	5%	3
Llwynderw	18%	11
Bryn-y-môr	34%	21

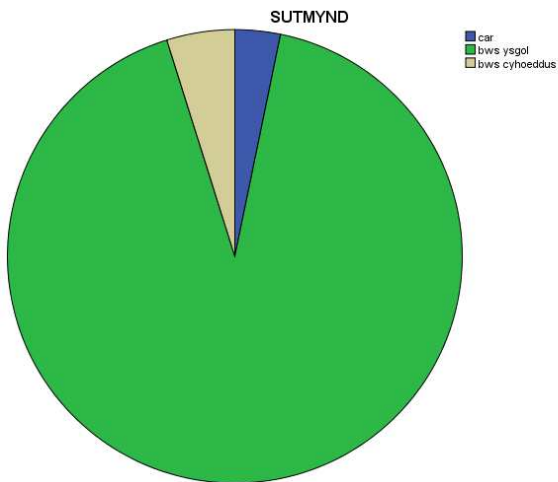
The comparatively high response from Bryn Iago, Llwynderw and Bryn-y-môr reflects the concern of parents who live more than 3 miles from their child's school.

The majority of respondents said their child travelled to school by bus:

	Percentage	Number
Car	3%	2
School bus	92%	57
Service bus	5%	3

58 respondents said their child was entitled to free school transport. This is one more than the number who travel by bus but it would be fair to conclude that free school bus travel is essential for most pupils to get to school.

Graph 1 How Gŵyr pupils travel to school



Method of Transport [translator's note – unable to edit graph key. Green represents school bus, beige service bus and blue car]

5.2 Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe

Respondents' children attended the following schools:

	Percentage	Number
Tirdeunaw	13%	9
Lôn-las	61%	43
Gellionnen	21%	15

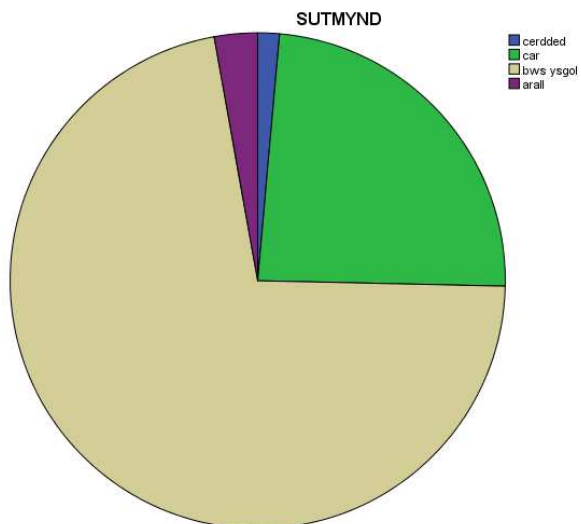
The comparatively high response from Lôn-las reflects the concern of parents who live more than 3 miles from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe.

The majority of respondents said their child travelled to school by bus:

	Percentage	Number
Car	24%	17
School bus	72%	51

The percentage who travel by car is greater than for Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr, probably because a higher percentage live within 3 miles of the school. 51 (72%) respondents said that their child was entitled to free school transport. It is fair to conclude that free school transport is essential for the majority to travel to school.

Graph 2 How Bryn Tawe pupils travel to school



[Beige represents school bus, green car, purple other and blue walking]

Conclusion:

Welsh medium education at Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe depends, to a great extent, on the provision of a school bus.

6 Distance from school

6.2 Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr

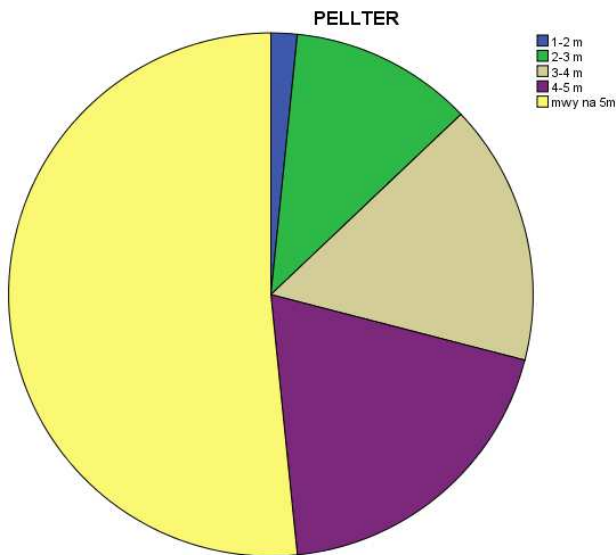
77% of respondents live more than 3 miles from the school:

	Percentage	Number
Less than 2 miles	1.6%	1
2-3 miles	11%	7
3-4 miles	16%	10
4-5 miles	19%	12
More than 5 miles	52%	32

Distance patterns are very different from overall patterns in the county; in general, the vast majority of pupils in English medium education live within 3 miles of their comprehensive school.

To ensure that access to Welsh medium education is as convenient as access to English medium education, there needs to be easy access to transport.

Graph 3 Ysgol Gŵyr pupils' distance from school



Distance [Yellow represents more than 5 miles; purple 4-5 miles; beige 3-4 miles; green 2-3 miles; blue 1-2 miles]

6.3 Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe

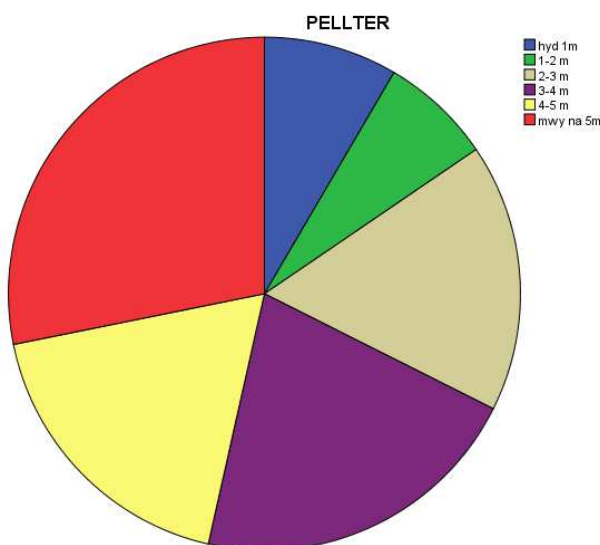
68% of respondents live more than 3 miles from the school:

Distance Category	Percentage	Number
Less than 2 miles	15.56%	11
2-3 miles	17%	12
3-4 miles	21%	15
4-5 miles	18%	13
More than 5 miles	28%	20

Distance patterns are very different from overall patterns in the county; in general, the vast majority of pupils in English medium education live within 3 miles of their comprehensive school.

To ensure that access to Welsh medium education is as convenient as access to English medium education, there needs to be easy access to transport.

Graph 4 Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe pupils' distance from school



Distance [Red represents more than 5 miles; purple 3-4 miles; yellow 4-5 miles; beige 2-3 miles; blue one mile or less; green 1-2 miles]

Conclusion:

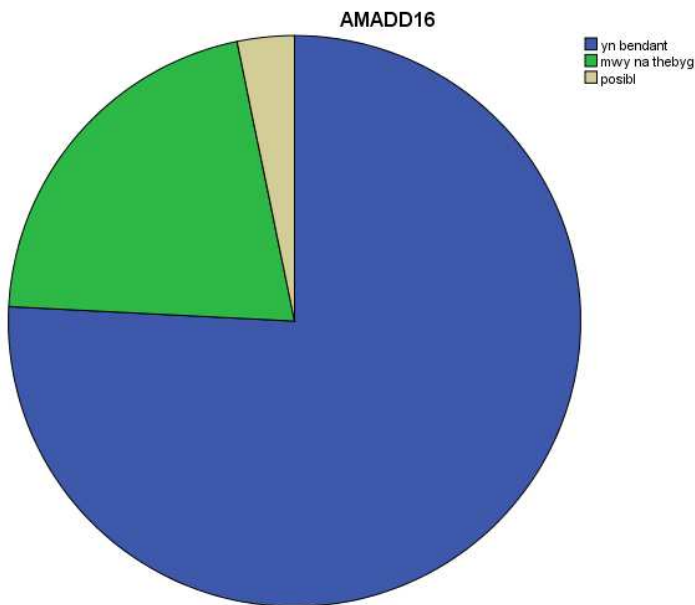
Among the respondents, a high percentage of pupils at Welsh medium comprehensive schools in Swansea live more than 3 miles from their school and are eligible for free transport to statutory education. Taking both schools into account, 77% of pupils live more than 3 miles away. Approximately three quarters of pupils at both schools will be affected by the authority's decision to charge for transport to post-16 education.

7 Desire to receive post-16 Welsh medium education

7.1 Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr

There was a very positive response to the question enquiring about the desire to receive post-16 education through the medium of Welsh. 76% said yes, definitely, and 21% said they would probably wish to receive Welsh medium education.

Graph 5 Desire to receive post-16 education at Ysgol Gŵyr

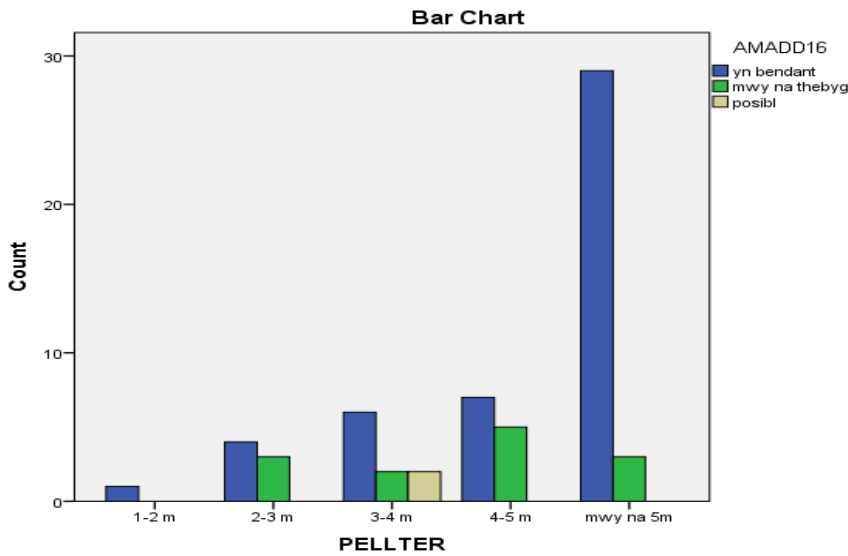


[Blue represents definitely; green probably; beige possibly]

As will be shown further on, this positive pattern will be wiped out by the introduction of a charge for school transport.

It can be seen that the desire to receive post-16 education at Gŵyr does not diminish according to distance between home and school. Of the 32 who live more than 5 miles away, 29 said they would definitely wish to receive post-16 education at the school.

Chart 1 Distance from school and desire to receive post-16 education at the school

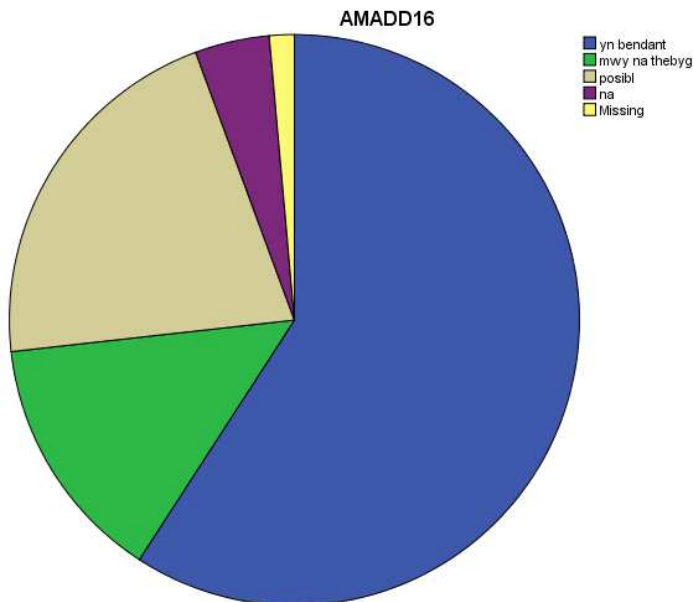


[Blue equals definitely; green probably; beige possibly]

7.2 Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe

There was a very positive response to the question enquiring about the desire to receive post-16 education through the medium of Welsh. 60% said yes, definitely, and 14% said they would probably wish to receive Welsh medium education. A further 21% said they would possibly want to receive Welsh medium education.

Graph 6 Desire to receive post-16 education at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe

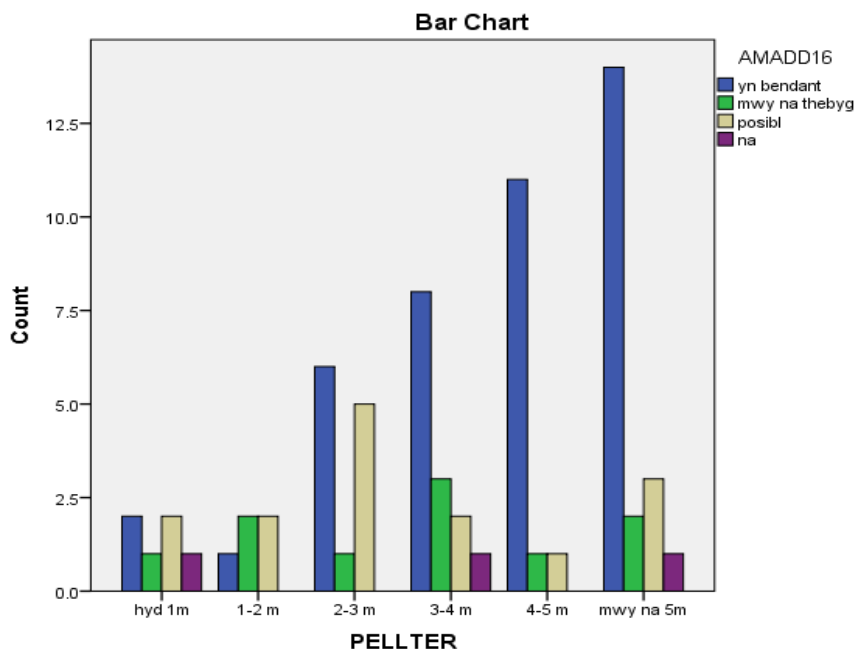


[Blue equals definitely; green probably; beige possibly; purple no; yellow missing]

As will be shown further on, this positive pattern will be wiped out by the introduction of a charge for school transport.

It can be seen that the desire to receive post-16 education at Bryn Tawe does not diminish according to distance between home and school. Of the 33 who live more than 4 miles away, 24 said they would definitely wish to receive post-16 education at the school.

Chart 2 Distance from school and desire to receive post-16 education at the school



[Blue equals definitely; green equals probably; beige equals possibly; purple equals no]

Conclusion:

Desire to receive post-16 education is as great among pupils who live some distance from the schools as it is among pupils who live nearby, if not greater. The authority's decision to introduce a charge for pupils in post-16 education will affect those who live further away from the schools.

8 Willingness to pay

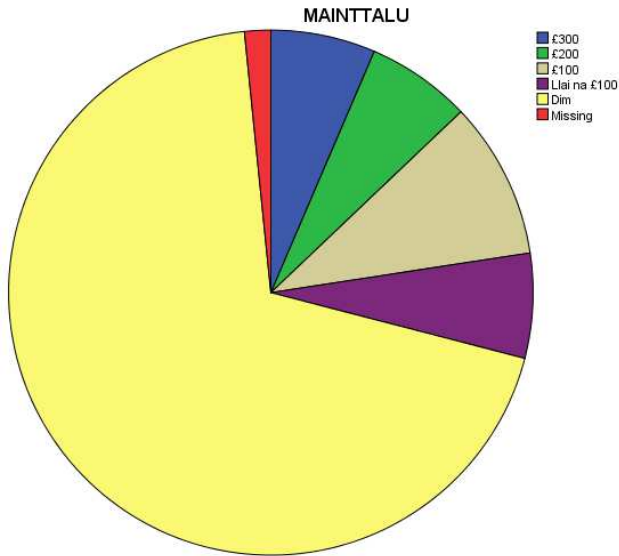
8.1 Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr

It was evident that asking parents who have always received free transport to pay £300 for transport to post-16 education has provoked a very negative reaction. The survey enquired about their willingness to pay other sums, including less than £100, £100, £200 or £300.

69% said they were unwilling or unable to pay at all.

	Percentage	Number
Willing to pay £300	6.5%	4
Willing to pay £200	6.5%	4
Willing to pay £100	10%	6
Willing to pay less than £100	6.5%	4
Unwilling to pay anything	69%	43

Graph 7 Willingness to pay for transport for post-16 education at Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr



Willingness to pay [yellow equals nothing; purple equals less than £100; beige equals £100; green equals £200; blue equals £300; red equals answer missing]

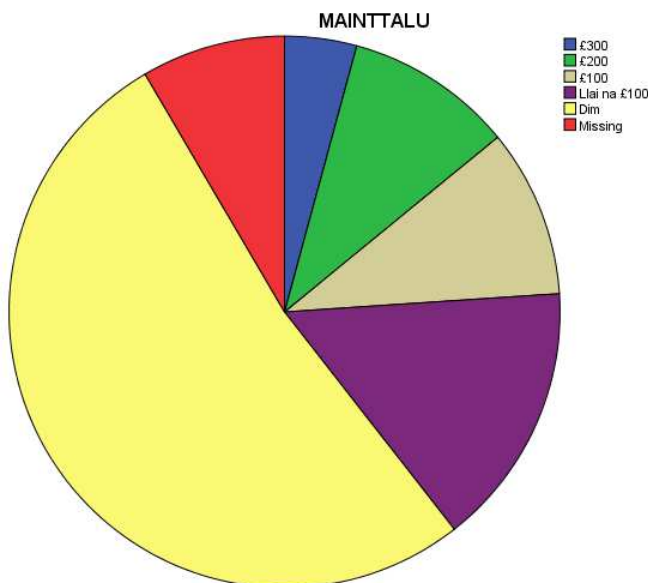
8.2 Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe

It was evident that asking parents who have always received free transport for post-16 education to pay £300 for transport to post-16 education has provoked a very negative reaction. The survey enquired about their willingness to pay other sums, including less than £100, £100, £200 or £300.

57% said they were unwilling or unable to pay at all.

	Percentage	Number
Willing to pay £300	4.5%	3
Willing to pay £200	11%	7
Willing to pay £100	11%	7
Willing to pay less than £100	17%	11
Unwilling to pay anything	57%	37

Graph 8 Willingness to pay for transport for post-16 education at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe



Willingness to pay [yellow equals nothing; purple equals less than £100; beige equals £100; green equals £200; blue equals £300; red equals answer missing]

Conclusion:

Of 100 respondents with children at both schools who live more than 3 miles at the school, 70 were unwilling or unable to pay anything.

The authority might wish to discuss to what extent asking parents to pay a substantial sum for a service which has always been free has provoked a negative reaction which could have been avoided with a more gradual introduction. It is clear that parents are strongly opposed to the idea, with more than 6 out of 10 refusing to pay or unable to pay and 7 out of 10 who live more than 3 miles from the school giving the same response.

9 Desire to receive post-16 Welsh medium education and willingness to pay for school transport

There was a steep drop in the desire to receive post-16 education through the medium of Welsh when faced with the sums required to pay.

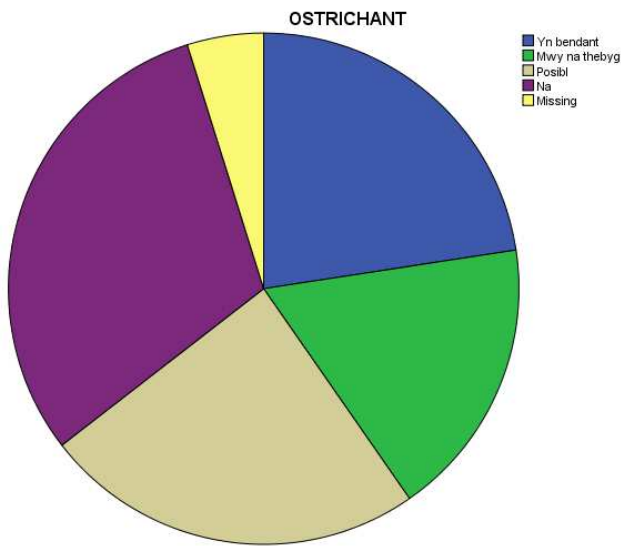
10.1 Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr

There is a clear reduction in the desire to receive post-16 education through the medium of Welsh when faced with the requirement to pay £300 for transport. The percentage who would definitely choose this has changed from 76% to 23%. The other 18% say that they would probably continue. We can predict that the number who choose to continue will be reduced by half at best. It appears that it would be difficult to sustain viable post-16 provision through the medium of Welsh at Bryn Tawe without free school transport.

The table below shows the number of parents who would choose to send their children to Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr if they had to pay £300 for school transport.

	Percentage	Number
Would definitely continue	23%	14
Probably	18%	11
Possibly	15%	24
Would not continue	31%	19

Graph 9 Desire to continue in post-16 Welsh medium education and willingness to pay for school transport, Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr



[Blue equals definitely; purple equals no; green equals probably; beige equals possibly; yellow equals answer missing]

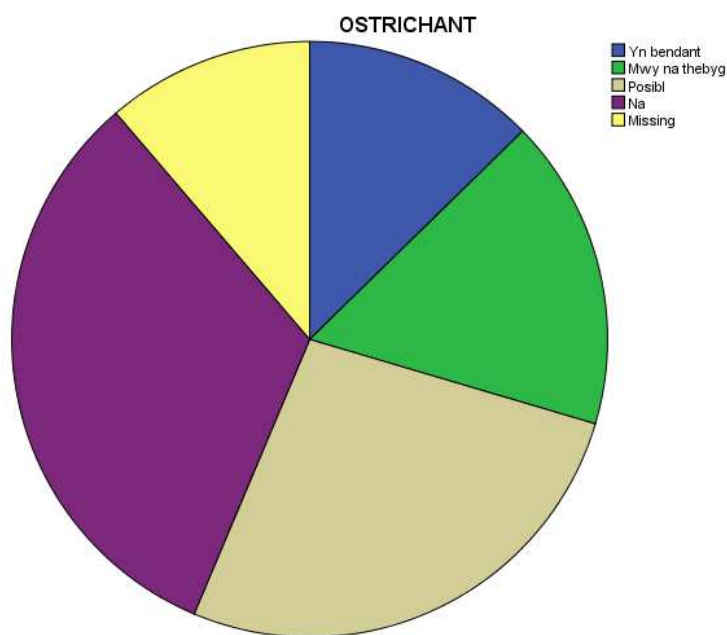
10.2 Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe

There is a clear reduction in the desire to receive post-16 education through the medium of Welsh when faced with the requirement to pay £300 for transport. The percentage who would definitely choose this option has changed from 60% to 14%. The other 19% say that they would probably continue. We can predict that the number who choose to continue will be reduced by half at best. It appears that it would be difficult to sustain viable post-16 provision through the medium of Welsh at Bryn Tawe without free school transport.

The table below shows the number of parents who would choose to send their children to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe if they had to pay £300 for school transport.

	Percentage	Number
Would definitely continue	14%	9
Probably	19%	12
Possibly	30%	19
Would not continue	36%	23

Graph 10 Desire to continue in post-16 Welsh medium education and willingness to pay £300 for school bus transport to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe



[purple equals no; beige equals possibly; green equals probably; blue equals definitely; yellow equals answer missing]

Conclusion:

Taking both schools into account, 19% said they would definitely want their child to receive post-16 education at the school if they had to pay and another 19% said they would probably choose this option. We can predict that the number who would be able to continue with their post-16 education through the medium of Welsh would be halved and the provision would be at risk in Swansea.

11 Post-16 English medium establishments and other establishments

There is ample provision of post-16 education through the medium of English in Swansea, particularly in the west of the city. This means that a comparatively low percentage of pupils in west Swansea would pay for transport to post-16 education as there are post-16 educational establishments within reasonable walking distance.

On the other hand, pupils in east Swansea are more likely to need to travel by bus to post-16 education. East Swansea is a more deprived area than west Swansea and the requirement to pay £300 for transport is likely to have a detrimental effect on pupils in that area. This would reinforce disadvantages already existing in east Swansea.

12 Parents' comments and social deprivation

Parents' comments centred on 4 main themes:

1. Disadvantage to Welsh medium education
2. Impact on those from less affluent backgrounds
3. The harmful effect on education

4. Lack of savings

Parents mentioned the personal difficulties they would face in paying for transport in the current economic recession. These parents are not necessarily unemployed, but are earning a comparatively low income and an additional charge, where there are cheaper options available, would mean they would be unable to send their children to Welsh medium schools.

Parents are very aware of the effect this will have on the Welsh language and on the promotion of education in general.

Parents' comments raised issues which are regarded as social deprivation. This includes income deprivation but also involves work, health and education deprivation. Distance from education facilities is one of the factors used to measure social deprivation. The authority appears not to have considered these factors in proposing to charge for educational transport. It is possible to predict that the present plan will increase social deprivation in remote areas of the county, particularly among those already considered to be suffering from income and work deprivation.

Parents' comments can be read in **Appendix A**.

APPENDIX A

This outlines parents' responses to the proposal to charge £300 for transport to post-16 education.

COMMENTS OF PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ATTEND YSGOL GYFUN GŴYR

Disadvantage to Welsh medium education

1. Unfortunately there are only two Welsh medium schools in Swansea and therefore travel is essential.
2. We have 5 children who are all in Welsh medium education. It would cost us £10000 to put them through 6th form in Gŵyr. This would be a reason to reconsider whether they should remain in Welsh schools.
3. We live within walking distance of Tycoch college and my daughter could attend education provision for free. This would be disappointing as we would prefer her to have education through the medium of Welsh.
4. This is very unfair as it is impossible to walk to any Welsh medium secondary school from Uplands.
5. This will affect our decision on the next stage.
6. 10% Council tax rise this year... my salary is only rising by 1%. College might be an option to consider instead.
7. There will clearly be a reduction in the number of pupils in Welsh medium secondary education. Lack of equal opportunities
8. A £300 charge would be very discouraging. We have Gower College on our doorstep.
9. Where is equal opportunities?
10. This will mean big losses for Welsh medium education as people choose English schools which are closer to home.
11. Distance from school should not disadvantage the pupil.

Impact on the less affluent

1. We only have one wage coming to our household. Money is tight enough.
2. The current climate is causing concern for everyone, charging will only cause more stress and hardship.
3. We have two children that this would affect (£600 p.a.).. will have a detrimental affect on our family – ultimately their education.
4. I will be retired with a reduced income by then. Charging will place pressure on my reduced income.
5. Honestly would not be able to afford it, he would have to go to somewhere else where that is cheaper/free. I am a single parent and can't afford the extra expense.
6. I'm barely surviving financially as it is. To pay for school bus on top of that would be impossible.
7. The extra charge would be too much for many people to afford.
8. The charge could have a real impact on low incomes and may put some parents off sending their children to sixth form.
9. This charge would definitely put a financial strain on me.
10. We are a low income family, this is too much as we have 1 other child who we will also have to pay for.
11. There is only one salary coming into the house so I feel that this is a high cost for me to pay each year.
12. I won't be able to afford more.
13. Prohibitively expensive for some.

14. The result of the £300 charge would mean that my son would be unlikely to be taking the bus to school.
15. I have twins in this year and it would cost us £600 which we cannot afford
16. It will most likely discourage lower income households' pupils from attending sixth form. Do you really believe this will benefit the education system?
17. It gives the impression that only those who can afford to pay for transport will be able to continue with post-16 education.
18. We are encouraging young people to continue with education but also placing hurdles for some who will find this charge for transport unacceptable.
19. I could not afford it.
20. A lot of families will not be able to pay this and it will no doubt deter some pupils from going to 6th form.
21. Prohibitively expensive for some families, especially if more than one young person.
22. This would have a huge effect.. any pay rise that I have will completely disappear.

Harmful effect on education

1. I do feel that the council has a moral obligation to support the choice of education we have made for our children.
2. I strongly believe that children are entitled to free post-16 education.
3. Is likely to stop children from entering the 6th form.
4. The charge would have a significant impact on my son going to 6th form. I am being held to ransom to educate my child.
5. Would be disappointed due to zero encouragement to continue in education... it's hard enough for the age group to find their place in society now.
6. I disagree with the principle of charging for education, which is basically what this charge amounts to.
7. Education is paramount. The cost would adversely affect education.
8. We do not feel that even a nominal cost for school transport is justified for a state school.
9. Feels as though the child is being punished for wanting to stay on in school.
10. Education should be free.

Lack of savings

1. The bus is running anyway.
2. If there is going to be a free bus supplied for the younger pupils of the school, I don't see why 6th form pupils should be singled out and discriminated against.
3. Why should parents have to pay for a seat on a school bus that is already transporting children to Gŵyr in the lower school?

COMMENTS OF PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ATTEND YSGOL GYFUN GYMRAEG BRYN TAW

Disadvantage to Welsh medium education

1. I have two boys who will overlap in post-16 education, paying £600 will significantly influence our decision as to where
2. Charging for transport will have a detrimental affect on post-16 Welsh medium education in this area.
3. Unfair as she attends the nearest Welsh medium school.
4. This move jeopardizes 6th form Welsh medium education.
5. It would certainly be a struggle to find £300 each year and we would have to consider other options i.e. college etc.
6. Not everyone will be able to afford to pay, so will remove their children from Welsh medium education.
7. Just can't afford it, I have to take a massive pay cut Alternative option to attend Neath College if we have

to pay.

- 8 I would have to consider a different 6th form.
- 9 Not having to pay for the bus was a major factor in our choice of secondary school.
- 10 I could not afford to pay and would have no choice to change to a closer school.

Impact on the less affluent

- 1 Financially difficult.
- 2 I have 2 children at Bryn Tawe at the moment. I cannot afford to pay for them to travel on the school bus... to add another cost ... would mean cutbacks at home with food or heating.
- 3 I am a single parent with the added cost of school Transport will cost a small fortune to keep J... in further education in 6th form.
- 4 It's a bit expensive. £200 would be more reasonable.
- 5 The £300 yearly fee would have a great impact on our household budget. I'm afraid we simply could not afford it.
- 6 My husband and I wouldn't be able to afford to send him.
- 7 This could be a problem, particularly with more than one child in the sixth form.
- 8 I feel the charge is discriminating sixth formers who are still in full timed education.. why isn't this the same as Neath Port Talbot - £100
- 9 We would not be able to afford to pay £300.
- 10 I will not be able to afford £300 a year for a school bus.
- 11 I'm not in a financial position to pay for school Transport at the moment as it is.. [it] would mean less money for food or heating at home.
- 12 I would envisage that this amount would cause financial hardship to some families especially where they have more than one child in 6th form.
- 13 I will have 2 children in post 16 education at the school and £600 is beyond my budget.
- 14 I am in a bracket whereby our disposable income is rapidly sinking.. by the economic restraints placed upon most working people.
- 15 Not all people can afford it, people are penalised if they can't afford it.
- 16 As a single parent I would find paying this amount out of income would not be ideal.
- 17 Excessive.
- 18 Can't afford it.

Harmful effect on education

- 1 I would love my child to continue till the very end, but would not be able to afford to pay £300 a year to get her there.
- 2 Would not be able to afford £300/year so my child would go without further education.
- 3 Would think twice about going to 6th form.
- 4 There should not be a charge on educating children.
- 5 It makes 6th form education impossible for my household budget.
- 6 These children should be encouraged to attend further education - some will see this sum as a barrier for their children and there's a risk that they won't attend college or the sixth form as a result.
- 7 With the cost of living going up, we as many others are, will find it very difficult to find an extra £300 on top of our outgoings which may result in my child not being able to carry on with his education.

Lack of savings

- 1 By continuing to create larger and larger schools where all other costs can be reduced, except transport, therefore transport costs should be seen as a necessary consequence.

