



Review Area 1
Goytre & the Surrounding Areas

Consultation
Report

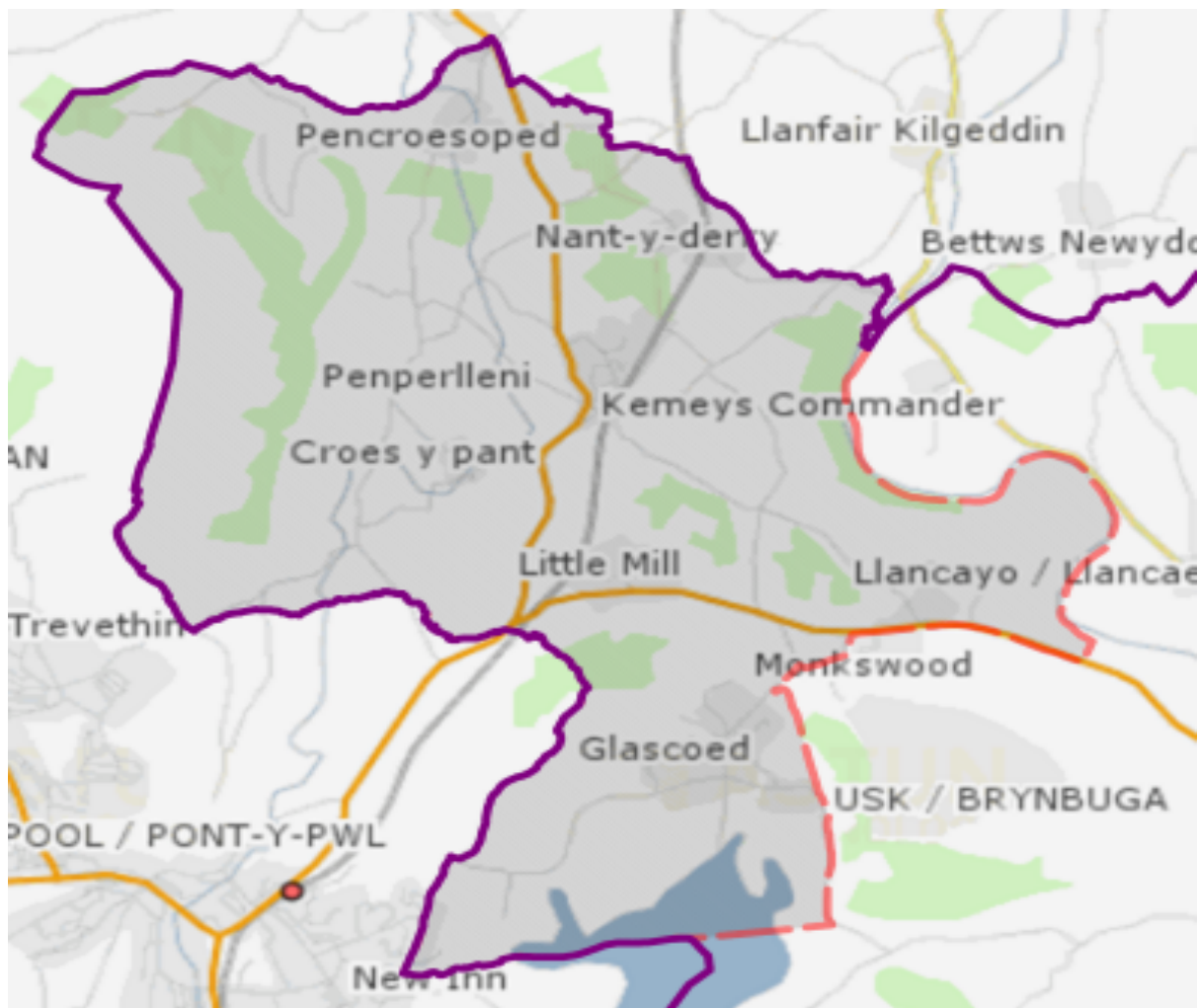
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1. The Proposal

The Council consulted on amending the secondary school catchment area for children and young people currently residing within the village of Goytre and the immediate surrounding areas. The main areas affected by this proposal were identified to be Goytre, Penperlleni, Nantyderry, Little Mill, Monkswood and Glascoed.

The areas identified currently form part of the catchment area for Goytre Fawr Primary School, and Caerleon Comprehensive School. The map below illustrates the affected areas which formed part of this consultation



Through this consultation, the Council sought the views of consultees and interested parties on whether the secondary school catchment boundary should be amended for the specified areas (area identified above), to form part of the catchment area for King Henry VIII Comprehensive School, thus aligning the entire catchment area for Goytre Fawr Primary to a single secondary school.

The below table identifies the number of children and young people residing within the affected area who would be affected by the proposals over the next 6 years should they proceed.

Current year group	Admission to Secondary	Numbers affected
Year 5	September 2020	28
Year 4	September 2021	32
Year 3	September 2022	17
Year 2	September 2023	17
Year 1	September 2024	28
Reception	September 2025	18
Total		140

2. Why did we consult on this proposal?

No designated secondary catchment school within Monmouthshire.

One of the identified aims of our catchment review was to consider the areas of Monmouthshire that do not currently have a designated Secondary catchment School that falls within Monmouthshire. The secondary catchment school is presently one that falls within the city of Newport, and is not one that is considered to be the nearest school. The proposed changes to the affected areas would allow children resident in Monmouthshire to access a secondary school that is within the county in which they live.

Transitional arrangements between Primary and Secondary School.

Goytre Fawr Primary School is the designated primary school for the affected area and is a feeder school for King Henry VIII Secondary School. The proposed changes would see complete alignment between the catchment area for Goytre Fawr Primary School and King Henry VIII Secondary school, lending support to the existing transitional arrangements, and enabling the cohorts of children to remain together when entering into that daunting transition between Primary to Secondary School.

Access to School places

The parents of children and young people currently residing within the affected area have the opportunity to express a preference for a school at which they wish for their child to attend. This preference does not need to be for the designated catchment school, however, children residing within the catchment area for a preferred school receive a priority in the event of oversubscription.

Those residing within the affected area are not afforded with the above priority for a Monmouthshire School as they do not have a designated secondary catchment school within the county in which they live. The proposals would address this matter.

Provision of Home to School Transport

A further consideration of the proposed change is the current provision for home to school transport that currently serves the affected area. The council's current policy provides free home to school transport to the nearest or catchment school if residing 2 miles or more from the home address.

The affected area sees home to school transport provision offered to multiple secondary schools for some of those children and young people residing in affected area, dependent on parental preference:

- **Caerleon Comprehensive School** as the designated catchment school for most of the affected areas, although not considered to be the nearest school.
- **West Monmouth School** as the nearest school for the majority of the affected area
- **King Henry VIII School** – discretionary transport on the basis of being the nearest Monmouthshire Secondary School serving parts of the affected area.

The offer of transport to multiple secondary schools is financially unsustainable and would be addressed through these proposals.

3. Formal responses to this Consultation

The Council have received a number of formal responses to this proposal, submitted either via the online survey or via email / letter. The table below offers a broad profile of the consultees responding to the consultation, together with a view on whether they are in support of or against the proposals.

Respondent category	Total number of responses	Total number in support of proposals	Total number not in support of proposals
Parent / Carer	55	15	40
School Governor	2	0	2
Staff Member	2	0	2
Pupil	4	0	4
Other	9	4	7
Total	74	19	55

Having reviewed the detail of the consultation responses, it was identified that the above table included many duplicate entries from the same households.

Total number of duplicate household entries	16
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For the purposes of this consultation, the Council has counted the duplicate responses as a single household response. However, all comments raised have been recorded included in identifying the themes of support and concern towards these proposals.

In addition to the duplicate entries, the results have also identified a number of responses that have been submitted by parties who are not considered to be directly affected by the proposals i.e. they do not reside within the affected area and in some cases who do not reside within Monmouthshire:

Respondent category	Total number of responses identified	Reason identified
Parent / Carer	15	Consultee resides in Newport / area of Monmouthshire not affected by proposal
School Governor	2	
Staff Member	1	
Pupil	0	
Other	0	
Total	18	

The responses received from those detailed in the above table have been removed from the results of this consultation. The Council has received an individual response from both Newport City Council and Caerleon Comprehensive School which is detailed later in this report, and is assumed to incorporate the views of staff and governors at Caerleon Comprehensive School.

The below table reflects the results of the formal responses received to this consultation based on the views of those considered to be directly affected by the proposals.

Total number of responses received	Number in favour of the proposals	Number not in favour of the proposals
Parent / Carer	11	21
Pupil	0	2
Other	4	2
Total	15	25
Percentage	37%	63%

4. Public Consultation session

The Council facilitated a public consultation session at Goytre Fawr Primary School on 5th February 2019. There were 13 consultees present who, following a very useful debate, seemed to offer an opinion of general support for the proposals to amend the secondary school catchment area.

In addition to the above, the Council facilitated a “drop in” session on 14th February 2019 at County Hall Usk. There were 7 consultees in attendance.

During the two sessions, the key comments / concerns / questions relating to the proposals:

Consultee Question	LA summary Response
<p>Some children from the affected area attend Usk CIW Primary not Goytre Fawr Primary. Therefore, they will lose their peer group as those who live in Usk catchment will go to Monmouth and those who live in Goytre catchment will be going to King Henry. How are you going to address that?</p>	<p>The Council understands that parents have the right to express a preference for their child, and that often this can result in children and young people not attending their catchment school, however, the large majority of families identified as being affected by these proposals attend Goytre Fawr Primary School.</p> <p>The Council is committed to keeping peer groups together where possible, and this forms a key objective behind these proposals. However, there is an acknowledgement that children attending out of catchment primary schools are at risk of being separated by peer groups. To mitigate this risk, the Council is consulting on introducing a criteria into its admissions policy that affords a level of priority to those attending a feeder school.</p>
<p>There are children at Goytre Fawr who live in Pontymoile and will therefore be at the feeder school for King Henry. Will transport be available?</p>	<p>The Council's current policy in respect of secondary school transport offers free home to school transport to the nearest / catchment school if situated 2 miles or more from the home address. Those attending a feeder school but residing outside of the catchment area for the preferred Secondary School will not receive this entitlement, unless it is identified as being the nearest school.</p>
<p>Where does the feeder school come in the oversubscription criteria?</p>	<p>The Council has an agreed criteria for awarded places in the event of there being more applications than places available. After consideration is given to those residing within the catchment area, the current policy determines places on a distance criteria. The proposals are for a priority to be afforded to children attending a feeder school before the distance criteria is applied.</p>

<p>Have Newport been consulted on potentially losing some of their catchment area and are they happy with our proposals.</p>	<p>Newport City Council form a key stakeholder in this consultation. Discussions have been held to notify them of our proposals prior to launching this formal consultation. Both Newport City Council and Caerleon Comprehensive School form one of our key consultees and have been asked to respond formally to this consultation.</p>
<p>If the proposals are agreed, children wanting to attend Caerleon after 2020, will they have to pay for transport?</p>	<p>If proposals are agreed, the Council has committed to maintaining transport for those residing within the affected area that are on roll at Caerleon comprehensive school. Should proposals proceed, free home to school transport will be provided to the catchment school or nearest suitable school as determined by the Council</p>
<p>Children with siblings in Caerleon at present, if the proposals are implemented will they lose the right to free transport?</p>	<p>The commitment to honour free home to school transport is for those currently on roll at Caerleon Comprehensive, or for those where Caerleon is determined to be the nearest school. There has been no commitment to transport siblings free of charge, however, there may be concessionary options. Parents have the opportunity to put their views forward through this consultation</p>
<p>Why can't we have joint catchment areas Caerleon / King Henry?</p>	<p>The Council will consider any views that come forward through this consultation in determining how proposals move forward.</p>
<p>Are Newport intending changing Caerleon catchments to counteract the potential loss of the Goytre pupils?</p>	<p>The Council has not as yet been notified by Newport City Council of an intention to review catchment areas as a result of our proposals. They have, however, been asked to respond to this consultation.</p> <p>Newport City Council could opt to review their catchment areas through consultation at any point in the future.</p>
<p>Usk Primary is the feeder for Monmouth Comprehensive, however we live in the King Henry catchment. Will we get transport to Monmouth?</p>	<p>The proposals are to align the catchment area for Usk Primary School with Monmouth Comprehensive, and the catchment area for Goytre Fawr Primary with King Henry VIII. Those attending Usk CIW Primary school who live outside of the catchment area would receive a level of priority for admission under the feeder school criteria, however, would not receive free transport to Monmouth Comprehensive unless its determined to be the nearest school.</p>
<p>There is currently a discussion on changing ward areas. Has this been taken into account, or does it have an impact on</p>	<p>Any discussions concerning a review of ward areas would not affect the catchment review proposals.</p>

the proposed catchment areas?	
If agreed, when will these changes be implemented?	The new catchment areas would be implemented from September 2020 should proposals be agreed.
If King Henry reaches its admission number, what happens then?	The Council's policy is to consider placement at the next nearest school / alternative preference in the event that a place at the preferred school cannot be offered. However, our projections provide us with reassurance that the school is of sufficient size to accommodate those residing within the affected area.
Are the proposed changes anything to do with upping the admissions at King Henry to get funding for the new school?	Absolutely not, the proposals to build a new school at King Henry VIII do not rest on the proposals being put forward to amend school catchment areas. However, the new school will need to be built to be of sufficient size and will need to incorporate the pupils from the affected area should proposals be agreed.
Why were the proposals shelved in 2015?	The proposals brought to consultation in 2015 did not receive sufficient response to ascertain whether the proposals were supported or not supported. It was felt that a further consultation should be undertaken before such significant changes are made
Are these proposals about saving on transport costs	The proposals put forward are not financially driven. However, if implemented are likely to come at cost to the Council.
The oversubscription criteria for Newport and Monmouthshire is not aligned. How is that fair?	Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council are separate admission authorities and determine their own admission arrangements based on the requirements of their area needs.
Can you speak to Newport to ask if a transitional period for existing siblings can be put into their policy?	The Council is liaising with Newport City Council as part of this consultation.

All interested parties in attendance at the consultation session were advised of the need to put their individual views forward by responding to this consultation either via email or via the online survey.

5. Consultation with Newport Local Authority

The Council consulted with Newport City Council as a key party affected by these proposals. Newport City Council are the maintaining local authority and admission authority for Caerleon comprehensive School.

On 18th February 2019, the Council received a formal response from Newport City Council, which offered an overwhelming level of support for the proposals put forward.

The key aspects of the response can be summarised into the following points:

Air quality Management

A desire to reduce the levels of traffic in the area of Newport. Caerleon has been designated as an air quality management area due to the elevated levels of pollution caused by road traffic. Any reduction in the number of vehicles travelling through Caerleon will help alleviate some of the pressures causing the high pollution levels.

Pressure on school places

Newport City Council have confirmed that there has been a challenge across the city in terms of primary school places in recent years, and from September 2019 this will manifest in the secondary sector. Given this position, and the fact that this is likely to be the case for some years, the LA requires as many secondary school places as possible to support the education of Newport children.

Current catchment arrangements

Newport City Council have confirmed that, as the admissions authority for Caerleon Comprehensive School, they would not be seeking to remove the affected areas from the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School for September 2020. They may, however, seek to bring forward proposals in future to remove the affected areas from Caerleon Comprehensive School, subject to consultation. The earliest opportunity to implement such proposals would be September 2021.

6. Consultation with Caerleon Comprehensive School

The Council consulted with Caerleon Comprehensive School as a key party affected by these proposals. Caerleon comprehensive School is the current catchment school for the affected areas.

On 21st February 2019, the Council received a formal response from the Headteacher at Caerleon Comprehensive school, which offered a clear objection against the proposals put forward by the Council.

The concerns raised by the Headteacher of Caerleon Comprehensive School are included under the consultation themes found under section 8 of this report.

7. Consultation with Children and Young People

During the consultation, the Council engaged with the children and young people in years 5 and 6 at Goytre Fawr Primary School. When referring to the pupils affected by these proposals over the next 5 years, 81% attend Goytre Fawr Primary School.

The purpose of this consultation was to find out which secondary school they would like to go to and the reasons why. The results of this consultation are detailed below:

Preferred School	Number of year 6 pupils	Number of year 5 pupils	Total	%
King Henry	16	21	37	72%
Caerleon	1	2	3	6%
Other	6	5	11	22%
Total	23	28	51	

A summary of the reasons children and you people tell us they wish to attend King Henry are:

- Friendship and peer groups staying together
- Family links
- Easy / quicker transport links
- Think it's a better school

A summary of the reasons children and you people tell us they wish to attend Caerleon Comprehensive School are:

- Family links
- Caerleon is a better School

8. What has the consultation told us?

The Council has studied the formal responses received in relation to this proposal and has extracted the key themes for consideration in determining how the proposal moves forward.

The themes coming through from those in favour of the proposals are:

Theme	Comment
1. Aligning Primary and Secondary catchments	A view that aligning primary and secondary catchments it's the right thing to do, as it keeps peer groups together and forms robust transitional arrangements.
2. Cluster arrangements	A view that the affected school forms part of the Abergavenny cluster arrangements so should be able to transition to King Henry VIII Comprehensive School.
3. Democracy	A view that Monmouthshire children should be able to access a Monmouthshire School where as residents they have a say in the education offer within the county.
4. Journey times	A view that, for many of the affected areas, journey times are quicker to King Henry VIII as its closer and more easily accessible
5. Transport	A view that Monmouthshire residents should not have to pay for transport to a Monmouthshire School
6. Transitional arrangements	A view that the transitional arrangements to King Henry VIII School are excellent
7. Parental Preference	A view that the proposals reflect the increasing wish of parents residing within the affected areas.
8. Standards of education and facilities	A view that King Henry VIII is an excellent school, who offer greater opportunities and facilities.

The themes coming through from those not in favour of the proposals are:

Theme	Concern summary	LA Response
1. Travel times and distance to school.	A concern that Caerleon is the closest school for the much of the affected area and therefore proposals will result in increased journey times and distances travelled	The Council is aware that for small parts of the affected areas, Caerleon Comprehensive School is the nearest school – the opportunity for parents to express a preference for Caerleon Comprehensive School will remain.

		The majority of the affected areas are significantly closer to King Henry than Caerleon so we would anticipate a reduction in travelling distances / journey times for the majority of those affected.
2. Friendship / peer groups	A concern that the proposals split peer and friendship groups, as not all attend Goytre Primary but some attend Usk Primary, who will transition to either Monmouth or Caerleon.	<p>The Council appreciates that not all children attend their catchment school. Alongside this consultation, the council are consulting on the introduction of those attending a feeder school being prioritised for placement within the oversubscription criteria. This will increase the chances of keeping peer groups together during transition.</p> <p>However, free home to school transport is only available to the nearest or catchment school</p>
3. Home to school transport concerns	A concern that removing free home to school transport to Caerleon Comprehensive school removes the long established principle of parental preference	<p>In line with current policy, the Council will provide free home to school transport to the catchment school or nearest suitable school as determined by the Council.</p> <p>The current position results in many parents not being able to go to a Monmouthshire School as they would not receive free home to school transport.</p>
4. Impact on Parental preference	A concern that proposals remove the rights of parents/carers to choose the most appropriate education establishment for their children.	The Council receives regular concerns from families residing within the affected areas who feel that the status quo deprives parents of the right to choose the most appropriate education establishment for their children, as they are unable

		<p>to receive transport to a Monmouthshire School.</p> <p>However, regardless of the outcome of this review, parents will continue to have the opportunity to put forward a preference for their child's school place.</p> <p>Newport City Council have confirmed that the admission arrangements for September 2020 will remain the same and the affected areas will remain in catchment for Caerleon. Newport City Council are, however, able to consult on changing these arrangements from September 2021.</p> <p>If proposals are implemented, Monmouthshire's admission arrangements will determine the catchment school for the affected area to be King Henry VIII</p>
<p>5. Joint catchment</p>	<p>A view that parents should be provided with a choice of which school they would like facilitated via a joint catchment.</p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for determining the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School. Monmouthshire's admission arrangements will confirm that, if proposals are taken forward, the affected areas to be within the catchment area for King Henry VIII Comprehensive School. Newport City Council's admission arrangements determine the affected areas to be part of the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive and this will remain to be</p>

		the case for September 2020. Newport have, however, indicated an intent to consult on amending Caerleon's catchment area, possibly for September 2021.
6. Quality of education	<p>A concern that the proposals place the affected areas in a worse performing school, as Caerleon is a better performing school and achieves better results.</p> <p>Parents have moved into the area to be part of Caerleon catchment</p>	The Council understands that each parent will have a preference for their child's school. The Council is very pleased with the current performance of both Monmouthshire schools affected by these proposals, both categorized as being "Green" schools in line with Welsh Government's categorisation
7. Historical arrangements	A view that children and young people from the affected area have historical links with Caerleon which should continue	Our analysis over the last 3/5 years show the large majority of children and young people residing in the affected area opt to attend King Henry VIII Comprehensive School.
8. Sibling links	A concern that families with older siblings educated at Caerleon will not be able to send younger siblings to the same school	The response received by Newport City Council confirms that they are not seeking to remove the affected areas from Caerleon's catchment area for September 2020. In line with Newport's admission arrangements, this will result in the affected area remaining within catchment for Caerleon Comprehensive. Any changes to these arrangements would be subject to consultation and implemented no earlier than September 2021.
9. Decision making	A concern that proposals are politically and financially motivated and run contrary	The Council has conducted and open and honest consultation, and has confirmed its intent to evidence community

	to the best interest of families.	support for any proposals taken forward. Any decision taken to implement these changes are likely to be at cost to the Council.
10. Implementation timescales	A concern that proposals are rushed and should be phased in or implemented in future years.	The timescales under which the Council are able to implement changes to its admission arrangements are determined under the School Admissions Code Wales (July 2013). September 2020 admission arrangements must be determined by 15 th April 2019.

9. Home to School Transport

The Council currently provide free home to school transport to the catchment or nearest suitable school.

The impact of these proposals proceeding to implementation would be that free home to school transport would either be provided to King Henry VIII Comprehensive School as the catchment school, or the nearest suitable school as determined by the Council.

10. General overview on consensus

The consultation process undertaken by the Council has without question been a useful exercise, providing a full and open opportunity to test and critic the proposed changes to school catchment areas.

In general terms, the number of formal responses received to this proposal sways against implementing the following changes:

To amend the Secondary School catchment boundary for King Henry VIII Comprehensive School so that it aligns with Goytre Fawr Primary School

There is a level of concern relating to the number of formal response received to this proposal, which appears to be extremely low. A total of 40 responses have been received to this consultation with 140 identified children and young people affected by these proposals over the next 5 years.

When referring to the feedback received from the public consultation sessions, the voice of the children and young people affected, as well as the increasing parental preference for King Henry VIII from the affected areas, it suggests heavily that this is a proposal that should move forward.

The response to this consultation received from Newport City Council confirmed that they would not be seeking to amend their admission arrangements for Caerleon Comprehensive School for September 2020 and, therefore, they will continue to determine the affected areas to remain within catchment for Caerleon Comprehensive School. This decision is seen to mitigate the vast majority of concerns raised by those not in favour of the proposals, should they proceed to implementation.

However, in recognising the above, we must also recognise that Newport City Council have shared an intent to review the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive, which could result in proposals to remove the affected areas from its catchment area. If proposals for change are brought forward, they would be subject to consultation by Newport City Council and could not be implemented any earlier than September 2021.

Should proposals proceed in the form on which we consulted, Monmouthshire's admission arrangements would determine the catchment school for the affected area to be King Henry VIII Comprehensive School and not Caerleon Comprehensive School.

