



# Proposal to establish an additional learning needs (ALN) facility and make an alteration to the schools capacity at Monmouth Comprehensive School

Consultation Report

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## Introduction

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The Welsh Government (WG) has a long-term investment programme that will create a generation of 21st Century Schools. The Welsh Government, in collaboration with the council, will deliver through the 21st Century Schools programme:

- Learning environments for children and young people in Wales aged 3 to 19 that will enable the successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes;
- A sustainable education system through better use of resources to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate, and which enhances local public service provision; and
- A 21st Century Schools Standard for all schools in Wales which reduces recurrent costs, energy consumption and carbon emissions

For further information on 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools visit <http://21stcenturyschools.org>

### Monmouthshire's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme

The authority's approach to the programme will build significantly on the progress already made with its Education Strategic Review.

Our vision is....

*“To transform teaching and learning and encourage whole communities to reach their full potential as well as provide all with better life chances.”*

Our shared vision will

- Raise standards of achievement and attainment by meeting the vision for 21st Century learning and teaching in Monmouthshire.
- Manage surplus places within the county and ensure that the school environment is focused on raising the aspirations of the children and young people.
- Improve inefficiencies throughout the service offer, both financial and non-financial achieved by the use of an inspirational and creative curriculum, modern flexible/adaptable learning and teaching environments, effective streamlining of services, sustainable low energy low maintenance solutions and change management strategies.

- Be catalysis in the regeneration of the Monmouth area as well as the community the school serves.
- Provide the appropriate integrated, engaging, supportive, teaching and learning environments (within mainstream education) for our students with learning, behavioural and physical challenges at point of most need and within their own communities.
- Provide the appropriate vocational offering to meet the needs and aspirations of our young people and the regional business community.
- To ensure that the transition between KS2 and KS3 is as efficient and effective for all learners no matter their ability or needs.
- To provide educational opportunities to the wider community through the development of a highly efficient, flexible and responsive whole school environment.
- We are committed to raising individual achievement and narrowing the gap for pupils with ALN so that they achieve the best outcomes, are independent, have high levels of self-esteem and well-being and have the best possible long term life chances. We believe that improving outcomes for pupils with special educational needs is everyone's responsibility and accordingly work in partnership with schools, parents and other agencies to ensure that all pupils, whatever their need, are valued, experience success in their learning, achieve their potential and personal goals and maximise their chances of a full and meaningful life.

The Council is determined to improve educational attainment through achieving the aspirational objectives contained in the Single Integrated Plan 2015-2018. This document contains three specific high level themes and two of these have a clear focus on improving educational performance of children and young people.

- Theme 2 – People are confident, capable and involved
- Theme 3 – Our County Thrives

The review of education remains a top priority for the Council, as identified in the Council's Capital Programme and our 21st Century School Programme aims to:

- Transform the education provision throughout the county.
- Raise standards of achievement and aspirations for all.
- Reduce the number of surplus places.
- Raise life chances for all within the community.
- Provide an efficient, effective and well managed educational offer that is acceptable to all.

The challenge for the Council is to ensure that Monmouthshire residents can access services as locally as possible and that the Authority can deliver services to dispersed communities. The Council sees that the new build for Monmouth Comprehensive School as one of the opportunities to do this.

The Council is committed to providing lifelong learning opportunities in an environment, which is fit for 21st Century learning, ensuring children and young people have access to modern learning provision, which will raise educational standards for all learners.

The Council will, as part of the overall strategy for the 21st Century School Programme, embrace the authority wide change in learning and teaching. An outcome of this change will be the transformational approach to reorganisation and redevelopment of the school estate.

Over recent years, progress has been made to transform education in Monmouthshire. Good progress has been achieved in the areas of:

- Improving access and school places
- Reducing surplus places;
- Post 16 learning;
- Improving school attendance
- Initiatives to raise standards in literacy and numeracy;
- Reviewing Additional Learning Needs and meeting them at the point of need and location

The implementation of this project will enable the Council to improve its school estate within Monmouth and improve education provision in terms of curriculum, staffing and organisation whilst meeting the above objectives for future education within Monmouthshire.

## Distribution of the Consultation Report

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**The consultation report will be put on the Council's website and the following will be informed of this:**

- Parents, Guardians and carers of all pupils on roll at Monmouth Comprehensive School.
- Parents, Guardians and carers of all pupils on roll at Osbaston, Overmonnow, Cross Ash, Kymin View, Llandogo and Trellech Primary Schools.
- Consultees who have requested notification

**The following will receive an emailed link to the website where the consultation report has been published.**

- Headteacher, staff and governors of schools directly affected by the proposal including out of county schools.
- Pupils/Pupil Councils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Headteachers of all schools in MCC area
- All MCC Members
- Welsh Ministers
- All MCC Town and Community Councils
- All MCC Assembly Members representing the area served by the school
- All Members of Parliament representing MCC area
- All MCC Libraries
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Powys, Torfaen, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire
- Principals of Coleg Gwent, Gloucestershire College, Hereford Sixth Form College and Hereford College of Arts
- MCC Youth Service
- GAVO
- Monmouthshire Governors Association
- Careers Wales
- Teaching Associations
- Support Staff Associations
- Policy Officer (Equalities & Welsh Language)
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Welsh Government – Schools & Post-16 Divisions
- ESTYN
- RHAG
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Church in Wales Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- South East Wales Consortium
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service
- South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA)
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner

- Transport Department, MCC, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire
- In the case of proposals affecting SEN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest;

## Consultation Arrangements

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The consultation document was published on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015, and this date also represented the start of the consultation process. The Consultation period lasted 7 weeks with one week being during half term, therefore the consultation period ended on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

All consultees were directly advised of the consultation process, a list can be found at Appendix 1. The consultation document was made available on the Council's website at [www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/schoolreorganisation](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/schoolreorganisation).

The public were also made aware on the Council's Twitter and Facebook pages on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

### **Consultation Meetings**

A consultation drop in session was held for Staff, the Governing Body and Parents /Carers of pupils and any other interested parties.

The session was held at Monmouth Comprehensive School on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 from 3:30pm – 6:30pm to allow all interested parties to attend at a time that is convenient to them during the late afternoon or early evening.

A number of Council Officers attended to answer questions. A copy of the Consultation Document and feedback form was provided to attendees. They were encouraged to provide feedback using one of the preferred methods.

### **Pupil Consultation**

A consultation meeting was held with the School council on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015, a summary guide in relation to the proposal was produced for pupils and questions were prepared to stimulate discussion. See Appendix 3.

### **Public Consultation**

The public were made aware on the Council's Twitter and Facebook pages on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Posters were also put up in the vicinity of the school site to raise awareness to the public.

## Results and Comments

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A broad profile of respondents are shown in the table below, with narrative descriptions attached at Appendix 1.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Parents</b>	16
<b>Staff</b>	3
<b>Governors</b>	3
<b>Elected members</b>	1 Incl.in above
<b>Residents</b>	3
<b>Total</b>	25

A file of all the comments and views received during the consultation period have been made available to Elected Members as part of this process and, before any decisions are made.

### **Response from Estyn**

Estyn response to the proposal to establish an additional learning needs facility and make and alteration to the school's capacity at Monmouth Comprehensive School.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales. Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.



## **Introduction**

The proposal is by Monmouthshire County Council.

The proposal is that Monmouth Comprehensive School reduces its capacity from 1671 to 1600, and adds an additional learning needs (ALN) facility to cater for pupils with moderate to severe learning difficulties.

## **Summary / Conclusion**

The proposer has clearly outlined the benefits of the proposal in addressing the need for adding an additional learning needs facility to the school. This will provide suitable educational provision for pupils with moderate to severe learning difficulties at key stages 3 and 4 within the county of Monmouthshire and their home community. There is currently no provision for this in the county of Monmouthshire.

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

## **Description and benefits**

The proposer has provided a clear rationale for the proposal to establish a 55-place facility for pupils with moderate to severe learning difficulties at Monmouth Comprehensive School. These proposal aims to provide the appropriate integrated, engaging, supportive, teaching and learning environments (within mainstream education) for its students with learning, behavioural and physical challenges at point of most need and within their own communities.

The proposer clearly outlines the expected benefit of the proposal. The proposer provides a suitable analysis of the current and surplus numbers of the school along with the projected numbers for the school for the next five years. However, when considering the current trends of parental choice of Monmouth Comprehensive School for pupils out of catchment, there would not be enough space to accommodate all pupils within catchment and parents who wish to send their children to the school who live out of catchment.

The proposer has however, demonstrated that there are sufficient spaces available for those pupils who live out of catchment for Monmouth Comprehensive School in their catchment schools. The catchment area for the school will remain the same.

The proposer has appropriately outlined the benefits of adding an additional learning needs facility to the school and has suitably considered the impact on leadership and management and outcomes at the school.

The proposer has clearly outlined the need for a special needs resource base within the county of Monmouthshire. There is currently no provision for this at key stage 3 or 4 and pupils currently in special needs resource bases in the Foundation Phase and key stage 2 currently have to travel out of the county to access this provision.

The proposer has clearly demonstrated the need for the Special Needs Resource base, outlining a rising projection in trend of pupils who will need access to this over the next five years.

The proposer has provided clear evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives appropriately. The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal of learner travel arrangements, which is likely to reduce the travel time significantly for the pupils who will be educated in the Special Needs Resource base.

The proposer has suitably considered the substantial saving that the proposal will have by placing pupil's in its own authority's schools. The proposer has clearly outlined the admission procedures for pupils who will attend the Special Needs Resource Base. All other pupils will be admitted in line with the council's current admissions policy.

The proposer has completed a suitable equality impact assessment, which clearly considers the impact of the proposals on pupils demonstrating the protected characteristics.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposals on outcomes, provision and leadership and management.

Monmouth Comprehensive School has shown a clear upward trend in results over the last four years. At key stage 3, performance is above Wales and Local Authority averages and is currently in line with its family of schools for the first time. Performance of key stage 4 has improved over four years. The level two threshold including English and Mathematics has been above Wales and the Local Authority but below the family for the last four years. This is also the case for performance in the level one threshold.

The proposer has appropriately considered the recent Estyn inspection outcomes for schools in the area. The proposer has appropriately considered the implications to leadership and management in the school. It believes reasonably that the establishment of a Special Needs Resource base is well within the capacity of the current leadership team.

The proposer has suitably outlined the likely impact on the delivery of the curriculum and reasonably asserts that this will be enhanced with the addition of a new building fit for the 21st century. The proposer also clearly outlines the benefits of the proposal for pupils with additional learning needs, allowing them to access a broad, balanced, relevant and accessible curriculum.

## General Overview and Consensus

Following the consultation meetings and responses received during the consultation period it was clear that there is general agreement from all parties that establishing the Additional Needs Unit at Monmouth Comprehensive School will enhance the provision at the school. The school aims to be fully inclusive community for students of all abilities, challenges, race, gender and social origin and this proposal will enable the school to be even more inclusive and enable children and young people with moderate to severe learning difficulties at key stages 3 and 4 to access education within the County and own community.

It is generally felt that the proposal will offer a broad, balanced and relevant range of learning opportunities within a modern and inspirational environment.

In relation to the proposal to reduce the capacity of the school, overall there has been little comment on this part of the proposal. The main comments have been around catchment areas and admissions criteria.

The Local Authority has to take account of the surplus places for all 4 secondary schools across the County which currently stands at 17.01%. Whilst Monmouth Comprehensive was oversubscribed last year there is adequate provision for all catchment area pupils including any pupils generated from future housing developments going forward.

The Local Authority is aware that Monmouth is a popular school but remains mindful of the effect on other secondary schools in the County and whilst there is scope for out of catchment pupils to be admitted to the school, the new school cannot be built larger than necessary to serve the pupils within its catchment area.

## Appendix 1 – List of Consultees

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- Parents, Guardians and carers of all pupils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Parents of Pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer
- Headteacher, staff and governors of schools directly affected by the proposal including out of county schools.
- Pupils/Pupil Councils of schools directly affected by the proposal
- Headteachers of all schools in MCC area
- All MCC Members
- Welsh Ministers
- All MCC Town and Community Councils
- All MCC Assembly Members representing the area served by the school
- All Members of Parliament representing MCC area
- All MCC Libraries
- Directors of Education of all bordering LAs – Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Powys, Torfaen, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire
- Principals of Coleg Gwent, Gloucestershire College, Hereford Sixth Form College and Hereford College of Arts
- MCC Youth Service
- GAVO
- Monmouthshire Governors Association
- Careers Wales
- Teaching Associations
- Support Staff Associations
- Policy Officer (Equalities & Welsh Language)
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Welsh Government – Schools & Post-16 Divisions
- ESTYN
- RHAG
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Church in Wales Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Director of Education
- South East Wales Consortium
- South East Wales Education Achievement Service
- South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA)
- Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Transport Department, MCC, Herefordshire, Gloucestershire
- In the case of proposals affecting SEN provision, any relevant health or third sector bodies with an interest;

## Appendix 2 – Record of Drop-in Session

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<b><u>Question</u></b>	<b><u>Answer</u></b>
Will my child be able to access mainstream lessons with support?	This is a decision made by the Senior Leadership Team under the day to day management of the school, they will ensure that pupils' needs are met appropriately to enable them to meet their potential.
Will my child be able to use all the facilities within the school?	Certainly, this is a DDA compliant school and all pupils will have access to facilities.
When will the school be open for business?	September 2017
Will the teachers for the 55 children be additional to the current staff?	Yes
Who will manage the Special Need Resource Base?	This will be a decision for the Senior Leadership Team of the School to agree. The funding for this additional resource will come from the authority and the staff will be appointed by the school's Governing Body.

## Appendix 3 – Record of Pupil Consultation

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Question	Answer
Is there any demand / need for the ALN Facility?	Yes there is because currently there is no provision in the North of the County for pupils with ALN to access. The only provision is in Caldicot School which is a 50 + mile round trip. So many pupils who live in Monmouth who may attend Overmonnow School in particular would have to travel either to Caldicot or out of county.
Will it be separate or integrated into the school building?	It will be part of the school building, there will be an area designated as the ALN facility but where possible the pupils will be integrated within the school. Within Science, Maths and English faculties there are designated learning areas for pupils with additional learning needs.
Will there be more staff or same staff?	There will be existing staff and probably more staff will need to be employed in due course. The Local Authority will fund any additional staff, it will not be to the detriment of existing budgets.
The school is new with less capacity – are we going to have space for everybody?	Initially the number on roll will be slightly over the capacity but the pupils can be accommodated in the short term. The numbers will be managed down through applying the admissions criteria.
What is the admissions criteria?	The current admissions criteria area: 1. Looked After children, or previously looked after children. i.e. Children who are or have been in the care of the Local Authority 2. Children with exceptional medical circumstances, supported by a medical consultant's report.

	<p>3. Children with brothers and sisters at the school at the date of admission</p> <p>4. Children residing within the preferred school's catchment area will be given prior consideration over those children living outside the catchment area</p> <p>5. Should the school continue to be in a position of over subscription after applying points (1) to (4), priority will be based on closeness to the preferred school</p>
Why can't we have more pupils?	As a Council we have to look at the bigger picture and look at the surplus places across the Council not just in Monmouth. We currently have too many surplus places within secondary schools and need to reduce this. Monmouth currently take pupils who reside in the catchment areas for King Henry and Chepstow and this could be detrimental to the viability of those schools.
How will we reduce numbers if admissions criteria is not changed?	The numbers will reduce through applying the oversubscription criteria as above and it is likely that those that live furthest away from the school and not within the Monmouth catchment area will not be admitted to the school.
When will it take place?	The reduction in the capacity and establishment of the ALN Unit will be in the academic year 2017/18.
Why is there a bigger population?	Monmouth Comprehensive School is a very popular and successful school and a lot of parents would like their children to be educated at the school. Parents from within and outside Monmouthshire.
Do you agree it is going to be hard to change perception and children can't come here?	Yes it will be hard to change perception and there will be some parents and young people who will be unhappy that they cannot attend the school.
Are we reducing the capacity because of the Unit?	No we have to reduce the capacity of the school to address a wider issue within the County with surplus places.

Do current catchment areas overlap?	Some parts of some catchment areas split between secondary schools. This is partly because Monmouthshire is a rural county.
Will reducing the capacity affect 6 <sup>th</sup> form admissions?	No this will not affect the 6 <sup>th</sup> form and these admissions are managed by the school. Last year 73% of pupils in the school went on to 6 <sup>th</sup> form last year.
What types of Additional Learning Needs will the pupils who come into the Unit have?	The pupils who will attend the Unit will have moderate to severe learning difficulties. The school will be DDA compliant so the pupils will be able to access all areas of the building.
I think it will be another brilliant thing for our school to add an ALN Unit. A better thing for attracting more pupils.	
There have been rumors that pupils from the Forest of Dean will not get in because they are over the border	It may be that young people who are out of catchment will be unable to attend the school if it is full, this will be managed through the admissions oversubscription criteria as discussed previously.
How is it working at the moment with pupils who will be attending the Unit?	At the moment the pupils either have to travel to Caldicot School in the South of the county or travel to a provision out of county.
Out of the 4 secondary schools in Monmouthshire are they all being redeveloped?	Yes Monmouth and Caldicot are being developed as part of the Band A of 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme and the other 2 secondary schools will be redeveloped as part of Band B, around about 2018/19.
What was the criteria for the new builds – why was Monmouth chosen?	The criteria for choosing the schools was around suitability, sufficiency, building condition.
Why is there a catchment area – what is the difference between distance?	We have to have a method of being able to determine which areas of the County would feed into which schools, and these are what we have as catchment areas.  Distance is the last criteria and that the person who lives out of catchment area



	and is closer to the school would be admitted over somebody who lived further away.
Monmouth Comprehensive is a figurehead in education – could it be that you would encourage Year 6 pupils to go somewhere else and not attend Monmouth	As a Local Authority we do not speak to pupils in Year 6 over which school they wish to attend for Year 7, so we would not discourage anybody from attending Monmouth – the decision is that of parents and carers where they would prefer to send their children.

## Appendix 4 – Correspondence from Consultees including FAQ'S

<b>FAQ</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<p>In order to keep the overall capacity of the school at 1600 pupils will you cease taking children in from out of county? If this is not the case where will the extra numbers go? Also, if there is an overall reduction in numbers how many do you propose will attend the Additional Learning Needs Facility?</p>	<p>The capacity of the mainstream school is 1600 with the capacity of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) facility being 55 places in addition to the 1600. In line with the School Admissions Policy the oversubscription criteria will be applied if necessary to determine who gets places in mainstream, the following link explains this in more detail <a href="http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/admission-criteria">http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/admission-criteria</a> Admitting pupils to the 55 place ALN facility will fall under a different policy and will be considered for a pupil following an assessment by an Educational Psychologist. The ALN Panel will recommend pupils to the school for consideration, and as part of the information gathering process, school will observe the pupil in their present placement on at least one occasion to confirm the suitability of the placement. Placement at the provision will be coordinated by the Authority, Educational Psychology Service in collaboration with Monmouth Comprehensive School and parents.</p>
<p>The plans do not have space allocated as a 'unit'. Does this mean that if this proposal is successful the new build will have to go back to planning to incorporate this addition or that there will be an additional build which stands alone from the main school and therefore subject to its own planning application?</p>	<p>The 55 place ALN facility has always been part of the plans for the new school so therefore has been put through the planning application process. There are areas of the school that have been designated for the ALN facility within each faculty, there is also an ALN hub which will provide one to one support for pupils. The intention is not for the facility to be stand-alone but for the pupils to be integrated within the school where possible.</p>
<p>Clarification of the Catchment area for the school would be helpful?</p>	<p>The catchment area for the school will remain the same and can be viewed on the following link <a href="http://maps.monmouthshire.gov.uk/myMonmouthshire.aspx">http://maps.monmouthshire.gov.uk/myMonmouthshire.aspx</a></p>
<p>The reduction in numbers of 71 needs to consist of external catchment pupils (Ross,</p>	<p>Unfortunately the catchment area does not extend into Gloucestershire or Herefordshire and there are no plans for this to change. In line with the School Admissions Policy the oversubscription criteria will be applied if necessary to</p>

Royal Forest of Dean etc.) and not at the expensive of Monmouthshire school children within the current catchment designation.	determine who gets places in mainstream, the following link explains this in more detail <a href="http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/admission-criteria">http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/admission-criteria</a>
Does the 1600 places provide optimum funding levels for the school?	A minimum of 70% of funding delegated to schools is based on pupil numbers, therefore if the school was full it would attract the maximum funding from Monmouthshire County Council.
Will my child be able to access mainstream lessons with support?	This is a decision made by the Senior Leadership Team under the day to day management of the school, they will ensure that pupils' needs are met appropriately to enable them to meet their potential.
Will my child be able to use all the facilities within the school?	Certainly, this is a DDA compliant school and all pupils will have access to all facilities.
When will the school be open for business?	The school is opening in the academic year 2017/18
Will the teachers for the 55 children be additional to the current staff?	Yes
Who will manage the Special Need Resource Base?	This will be a decision for the Senior Leadership Team of the School to agree. The funding for this additional resource will come from the authority and the staff will be appointed by the school's Governing Body.
Will the new facility draw away funding from the existing successful inclusion provided at the school?	The funding for an SNRB is quite separate from the funding for ALN within mainstream.
What will be the exact purpose of the facility?	The purpose of the SNRB will be to meet a wider range of needs than can currently be met within the school. Pupils who are supported by this facility may have moderate to severe learning difficulties and/or disability.
Who is this facility intended to cater for? Children who are already at the school and are included or is this intended or an additional intake of	Children with complex special educational needs are placed in schools by statement of SEN and this placement also considers parental preference. It may be that pupils in special schools outside of the county would wish to consider returning to a special placement in Monmouth which of course is perfectly reasonable.

<p>pupils who are currently at special schools out of county?</p>	
<p>Who will staff the facility? Existing staff from Monmouth Comprehensive School?</p>	<p>The recruitment and staffing of the SNRB will be agreed by the Governing Body of the school and in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team for Monmouth Comprehensive School.</p>
<p>Will the facility fall under the remit of the existing head teacher or will it be a standalone entity which will be managed separately from the existing school?</p>	<p>The facility will fall under the responsibility of the head teacher of Monmouth Comprehensive School.</p>
<p>I agree with the logic of establishing a KS3/4/5 ALN facility within Monmouthshire. This is clearly required</p> <p>I object to the reduction of the capacity of the comprehensive provision at Monmouth Comprehensive for mainstream pupils on the following basis –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current catchment area has not changed so the numbers quoted on potential intake are inappropriate and not a true reflection of reality.</li> </ul>	<p>The numbers quoted are a true reflection of numbers on roll from within the catchment area</p> <p>Applicants from outside Monmouthshire would only be admitted before applicants from within the County in the following circumstances :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Looked After children, or previously looked after children. i.e. children who are or have been in the care of the local authority</li> <li>2.Children with exceptional medical circumstances, supported by a medical consultant’s report</li> <li>3.Children with brothers and sisters at the school at the date of admission</li> <li>4.Children residing within the preferred school’s catchment area will be given prior consideration over those children living outside the catchment area</li> <li>5.Should the school continue to be in a position of over subscription after applying points (1) to (4), priority will be based on closeness to the preferred school</li> </ol>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicants from schools inside Monmouthshire were rejected for the 2015 intake despite being inside Monmouthshire due to applicants from outside Monmouthshire being given preference because they are inside the catchment area.</li> <li>• If the current catchment areas and the current admissions policy remain the only way to prevent more applicants from inside Monmouthshire being rejected is to maintain or increase the capacity in addition to introducing the new ALN provision.</li> <li>• The provision of the leisure facilities for community integration should not be at the expense of the provision of a 21st century learning environment for the pupils, either mainstream or ALN.</li> </ul>	<p>The pupils within Monmouthshire that were refused admission into the school recently were outside of the schools catchment area and due to the other admission criteria for oversubscription, mainly sibling, pupils from out of county were admitted over pupils out of catchment.</p> <p>We cannot increase the capacity of the school because of the number of surplus places within the County and one of the criteria for the funding of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme is to reduce surplus places within the authority.</p> <p>The only new provision on the site which the community will use is the swimming pool. This is being replaced as the old pool needs to be demolished for the new school to be built. The pool is not only required for community use but it is required to deliver swimming lessons as part of the National Curriculum</p>
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<p>The plans should accommodate all requirements maintaining capacity of mainstream, introducing an additional ALN provision and providing a community / leisure facility.</p>	
<p>How will the reduction in available places be managed?</p>	<p>The reduction of available places will be managed through the admission criteria.</p>
<p>Will the 'sibling 'rule be used?</p>	<p>As this is one of the criteria of the admissions process at the moment it will be used</p>
<p>What is the anticipated impact of the Wonastow Road development</p>	<p>The housing development on Wonastow Road has been included within the projections provided in the consultation document</p>
<p>What other schools are being considered as replacements?</p>	<p>At present Caldicot School is being replaced with a new build as part of the LA 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. The next tranche of funding is expected around 2018 and the LA will be looking to fund works at King Henry V111 in Abergavenny and Chepstow School.</p>
<p>Could you clarify whether in order to keep the overall capacity of the school at 1600 pupils you will cease taking children in from out of County?</p> <p>If this is not the case where will the extra numbers go?</p> <p>Also, if there is an overall reduction in numbers how many do you propose will attend</p>	<p>The number of admissions will be determined by the agreed admission criteria of the Local Authority.</p> <p>If Monmouthshire children who live within the catchment area of the school are unable to be admitted to the school they will be offered a place in their next nearest Monmouthshire School</p> <p>The ALN Unit will be able to accommodate 55 pupils.</p>

<p>the Additional Learning Needs Facility?</p>	
<p>Although overall the additional learning needs of the children and young people of Monmouthshire will be better served through the establishment of a resource base in Monmouth Comprehensive, the question should be raised as to whether or not there is a need for a 55 place facility in the North of Monmouthshire as well the south. A concern is that one or indeed both of the facilities may become inviable due to low numbers</p>	<p>Monmouth Comprehensive School’s special class was closed approximately 5 years ago because of a flood in the building. The Special Needs Resource Base which is being proposed will be run on very different lines to that class but will support children who have special educational needs and will enable them to attend a secondary school within their locality.</p> <p>Currently the Special Needs Resource Base in the South of the County is a 75 place facility, this will be reduced by 20 to 55 under the new plan. Therefore only an additional 35 places will be created overall in the county which is needed to increase the high level of inclusion within the Authority that we currently have.</p>

Other Comments received that did not require a response.

<p>I am a parent of twin boys who are in year 5 at Usk Primary School. One of my sons, has ASD so I was interested in learning about the proposed ALN facility at Monmouth Comprehensive School.</p> <p>I attended the drop-in session that was held on the 12th November and was immediately impressed with how attentive the staff and volunteers were, in bringing me up to speed with the proposals.</p> <p>I had the opportunity to catch up with Stephanie Hawkins and she introduced me to Hayley Page who explained things clearly to me. I understand the proposal is going ahead which I fully support, and hope that my son (and his brother)! has the opportunity to attend such a wonderfully progressive school.</p>
<p>I am a parent of a child at Monmouth Comprehensive School.</p> <p>I support the proposed changes, including additional Learning Needs facility, and reducing overall numbers. I think that these changes will</p>

improve the quality of learning provided, and relieve pressure on teachers, pupils and parents.

I am writing to you regarding the above alteration at Monmouth school. I am the parent of a little boy x. Who at present is in Overmonnow SEN Unit. Monmouth.

I think it is very important to include a SEN units into main stream schools, this is because

- SEN children need to mix with main stream children to achieve their potential, this is because they will try to do what the other children are doing so learning, e.g. social skills, communication skills, everyday life skills.
- Main stream children need to have SEN children amongst them so as they can learn how to communicate and treat SEN's later in life. All too often SEN's are ignored or wheelchair users spoken over the top of. This is because, unless people have had dealings with a SEN, they do not know what to say so chose to say nothing. Or think the SEN wouldn't understand anyway.

I have experienced what happens when a SEN is in main stream. X was in a mainstream school for the first two years of school life, then he was moved to Overmonnow because he developed epilepsy and was falling behind even more and needed specialist care. But the point I am coming to is that the class of children the mainstream school he was with when they see him in the shop, or in the school still come over to him and talk to him as an equal. Asking him what he's been doing and are quite excited about him possibly meeting up with them in Monmouth. These children have experienced how to live alongside SEN's and will look out for him for the rest of their lives. Making those better people.

I am the parent of a child at Monmouth Comprehensive School. I support the proposed changes, including additional learning needs facility and reducing overall numbers. I think that these changes will improve the quality of learning provided and relieve pressure on teachers, pupils and parents.

The establishment of an ALN resource base at Monmouth Comprehensive brings several benefits, the most important being that it will offer children and young people with moderate to severe learning needs the opportunity to experience an inclusive education as close to home and their local community as possible. Presently pupils face a long daily journeys to access their most suitable ALN facility thus restricting their contact with other children and young people who live in their communities.



This proposal also brings with it a reduction in costs that are associated with providing specialist education places for pupils outside of the Local Authority. This, coupled with the ongoing costs of transport for these pupils and others travelling from the North of Monmouthshire to a SNRB facility in the South, will amount to a considerable saving that could be used to build capacity within the LA to meet a wider range of children's needs.

Monmouth comprehensive takes a very inclusive approach to educating all the pupils at the school. There is no segregation of pupils with additional needs. All pupils are a part of a form group and spend the majority of their time with their peers whilst accessing some small, focused group work for areas of the curriculum with which they need the most support. This a model of inclusion which should be commended and encouraged for the benefit of the children with ALN and also for their typically developing peers.

Having discussed the plans for the school with Liz Hackett-Pain, Stephanie Hawkins, Hayley Page and the architect Simon Kneafsey, I am delighted to hear that there are no changes planned for the way children are included in the school but that they will continue to be included in every way possible and have their needs met on an individual basis.

I hope that there will be support from MCC for the school to meet the additional training and resource needs to be able to extend their excellent level of inclusion to more pupils with ALN. For inclusion on a greater scale there will be a need for more technology - i-pads/laptops for individual pupils for example, more teaching assistants to support individual children, more specialist resources such as PECS and Numicon, condition/syndrome specific training across the school, training to enhance the differentiation skills of all teachers within the school and of course, a building with appropriate access throughout.

I also feel strongly that in order to ensure an equitable provision across Monmouthshire and to assist parents in choosing their local school for their child, all four secondary schools in the county should be working in a very similar way and receiving the support and training necessary to ensure that pupils with ALN have the same opportunity wherever they live.

## Appendix 5 – Future Generations

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