

# 21st Century Schools Summary Document 2021

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN):  
GREENHILL SCHOOL

CONSULTATION PERIOD: 14 DECEMBER 2021 – 01 FEBRUARY 2022



This document can be made available in Braille.  
A full version of the consultation document is available at: [www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNschoolproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNschoolproposals)  
Information can also be made available in other community languages if needed.  
Please contact us on 029 2087 2720 to arrange this.



## Background

In 2017, we identified a need to increase the number of secondary school places and the need to improve school buildings as part of the Council's 21st Century, Band B Schools Programme.

This booklet contains summarised information about proposals to provide more secondary age special school places for children with Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs at Greenhill School. The existing Greenhill School buildings would be replaced.

This is your chance to ask questions and make comments. We want to know your views because this will help us to make sure any proposal that goes forward really works for young people, their families and the communities local to the school.

## What are we proposing to do?

To meet the increasing demand for special school places for learners with emotional health and wellbeing needs it is proposed to:

- **increase the capacity of Greenhill School from 64 to 160 places.**
- **transfer Greenhill school to new build accommodation across two sites at the Dutch Garden Centre site, Maes Y Bryn Road (near to M4 J30) and Ty Glas Road in Llanishen, with 80 pupils on each site from September 2025.**

The development of this proposal is at an early stage. Any detailed school design or site layout would be considered later if the proposal progresses.

## How you can find out more and let us know your views?

- Full details can be found in the Consultation Document on the Council website at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals)
- If you are unable to access the document on-line, printed copies of this consultation document will be available by post on request. You may request a copy by telephoning **02920 872720**.
- We have organised an online meeting and drop-in sessions that you can attend if you would like us to explain the suggested changes to you. You can also ask us questions. If you would like to attend an online meeting, please contact us by e-mailing [schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk) and tell us which meeting you would like to attend. We will then provide a link and instructions for attending the meeting.

The dates of the public consultation meeting and drop in sessions are set out below:

<b>Nature of consultation</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Online Public meeting	Wednesday 12 January 2022 5:30pm	Online via Microsoft Teams
Drop in sessions	On request by emailing <a href="mailto:schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk">schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk</a>	Online via Microsoft Teams

Separate meetings have been arranged for staff and governors.

The views of children and young people are key to the way education is delivered. We will consult with pupils in Greenhill School and include their feedback in the final consultation report.

## How can I give my views?

Your views matter and we want you to tell us what you think about the changes we have suggested in this document.

You can do this by:

- You can attend the public meeting or a drop-in session
- You can provide your views at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals)
- You can fill in the response form on pages 12 and 13 of this booklet.

**The closing date for responses to this consultation is 1 February 2022.**

## Why are we proposing these changes?

**School places** - All councils in Wales must provide enough school places for pupils of all ages. School places must meet the needs of all pupils and must be suitable for any additional learning needs.

**Condition & Suitability** - School facilities must be fit for purpose. Schools must support the delivery of high-quality learning.

## What is the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme?

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a major, long-term investment programme. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and Local Authorities. The aim is to provide high quality educational facilities that will meet the diverse requirements of the 21st Century.

The first part of the Programme (Band A) ran until March 2019.

The second part of this funding (Band B) started in April 2019. As part of this, Cardiff Council is planning an investment programme of around £284million.

## Why are more places needed?

Most learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) attend a local mainstream school and have extra support there. Learners who have more severe or complex needs attend a special school or Specialist Resource Base. This can include pupils with Emotional Health & Wellbeing Needs.

The number of pupils in Cardiff who need a place in a special school or specialist resource base is increasing.

In 2021/22 there are a total of 172 specialist Emotional Health and Wellbeing places for learners aged 11-16 funded by Cardiff Council. These were in maintained schools including Greenhill School, and in other establishments commissioned by the Council.

The total demand for places in Cardiff is estimated to be approximately 322 in 2021/22, projected to rise to 348 by 2025/26.

Allowing for some surplus to support flexibility, sufficient capacity would be to provide 354 places in 2021/22, and 383 places by 2025/26.

In summary, there is an estimated shortfall of 182 places for learners aged 11-16 in 2021/22, rising to 211 by 2025/26.

## Post 16 provision

Ideally, specialist provision should include support for the majority of learners to stay on until they are 18 or 19.

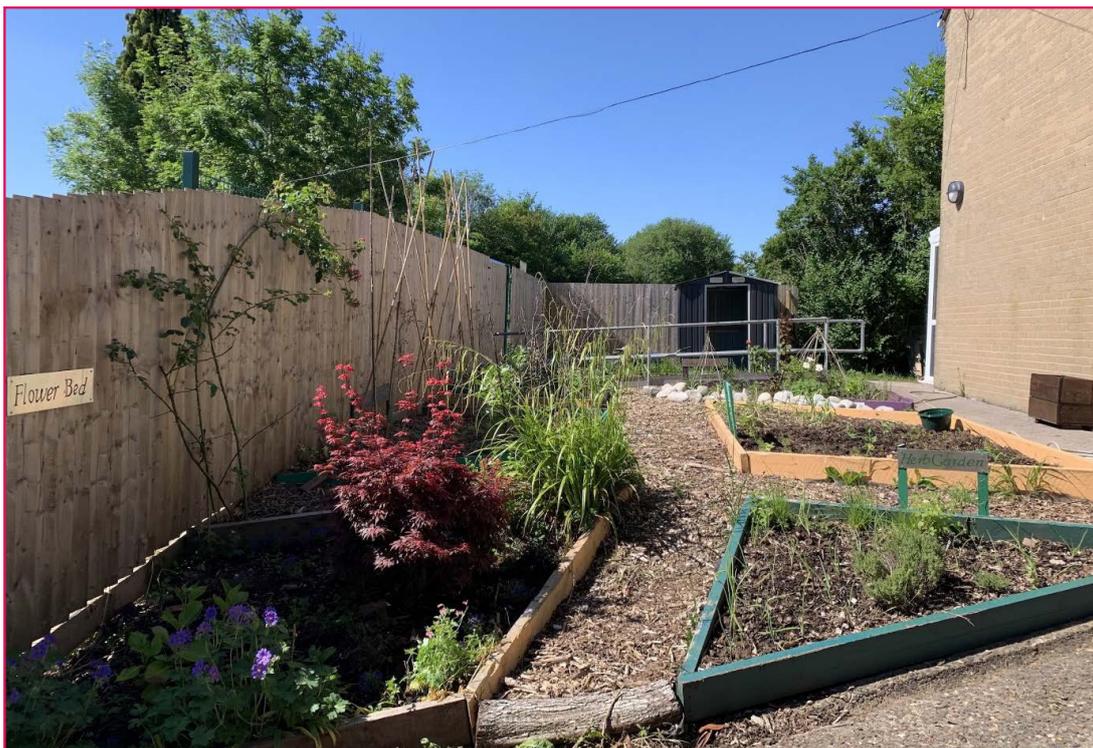
## Why expand and replace Greenhill School?



Greenhill School is a 64-place special school for learners from across the city with significant emotional health and wellbeing needs aged 11 – 19.

An expansion of Greenhill over two sites, each of 80 places, would:

- support the school to develop its curriculum further
- enable the school to provide more of Cardiff's most vulnerable learners the opportunity to learn in a purpose-built specialist learning environment.



## Dutch Garden Centre Site

Cardiff Council owns a 2.84-hectare site next to Junction 30 of the M4. The site is currently occupied by the Dutch Garden Centre. The site has been identified as having a number of potential uses including additional learning needs school facilities, subject to planning approvals.

The site's size and semi-rural location would:

- allow for the site to be suitably designed to create a 21st Century School
- support outdoor learning, horticulture and small animal care as part of the curriculum
- complement the urban location of the Ty Glas site where students can access the city's opportunities e.g., travel training, work experience and local businesses
- allow potential opportunities for out of county placements (subject to availability)
- allow the site to serve a wide area with reasonable home to school travel times



## Ty Glas site, Llanishen

The Council has purchased a site in north Cardiff on Ty Glas Road of around 7.2 hectares. This site would be an excellent location for both mainstream secondary school provision and Additional Learning Needs education provision.

The location of the site would:

- Provide access to the city's opportunities e.g., travel training, work experience and local businesses
- Provide good potential for active travel connections
- complement the semi-rural location of the Dutch Garden site where students can access outdoor learning, horticulture and small animal care learning opportunities as part of the curriculum



## Condition and Suitability of School Buildings

All school properties in Cardiff have been assessed for the condition of their buildings. All have been rated from A to D, with schools rated D in the poorest condition. This process helps us to prioritise which schools need improvements to their buildings and which need investment.

Greenhill School is rated as a “C” category for condition. This means the buildings are in poor condition with major defects. The poor state of the buildings makes it hard for staff to deliver the curriculum. The school buildings have been rated as D (Very poor) for their suitability for teaching and learning.

Further details on the ratings can be found in the consultation document at:

[www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals)

## Quality and Standards

Every school in Wales is inspected by Estyn.

Estyn ensures that schools are providing a good quality of education to their pupils and that all children are supported to learn by excellent teaching and learning staff.

Schools are also placed in one of the four colour-coded support categories (green, yellow, amber and red) as part of the Welsh Government’s National School Categorisation System. Amber and Red schools are those that require the most support.

Details of standards at Greenhill School as set out in the school’s most recent Estyn report are outlined in the table below:

School	Inspection Date	Standards	Prospects for Improvement
Greenhill School	March 2013	Good	Good

In the most recent Welsh Government School Categorisation at January 2020, Greenhill School was categorised as **Green**.

This means that Greenhill School is:

- A well-run school with strong leadership
- Clear about priorities for improvement
- Has a track record in raising standards
- Has the capacity to support other schools

Further details on quality and standards can be found in the consultation document on at

[www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals)

## How would support for pupils be affected?

The school would continue to provide support that is appropriate to the individual needs of each pupil.

There is no information to suggest that the needs of any of the below groups would be negatively affected by the proposed changes:

- pupils with Additional Learning Needs
- pupils with English as an Additional Language
- pupils receiving Free School Meals
- Minority Ethnic pupils

## What are the benefits of the proposed changes?

- The proposals would increase the number of special school places for secondary aged learners with emotional health and wellbeing needs.
- A dual site would offer flexibility for managing pupils.
- Two sites could allow pupils to be educated closer to home and provide a better spread of specialist provision across the city.
- A dual site would allow for a wider range of resources for the school. The sites have been selected to comprise a rural site that could offer outdoor learning experiences, horticulture, animal care, while the urban site could offer vocational experiences and travel training.
- The proposals would remove the poor condition existing Greenhill School buildings.
- New build facilities provide high quality learning environments, which improve learning choices and opportunities for pupils.
- The new buildings would be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
- The close proximity of the Dutch Garden Centre site to major road routes would allow the site to serve a wide area with reasonable home to school travel times.
- The Ty Glas site is close to public transport routes and has good potential for active travel connections.

## Potential Disadvantages of the Proposal

- Some pupils with Additional Learning Needs can find change difficult. The Council would therefore need to plan and support this change carefully.
- There could be increased traffic congestion around the school sites. The Council would work with the Governing Body of Greenhill school to develop its Travel Plan. This would seek to minimise any potential disruption.
- The Dutch Garden Centre site is not easily accessible by public transport. It does not currently have active travel routes for walking and cycling to the site. However, 72% of learners at Greenhill School travel to school by taxi. The greater spread of places across the city may reduce the average journey length.
- Part of the Dutch Garden Centre site lies close to the M4 motorway. The site would need to be carefully designed and the behaviour of pupils safely managed.
- As part of the Dutch Garden Centre site lies close to the M4 motorway there may be some traffic noise. However, there are few other roads nearby and for most of the site the traffic noise may be less than at many urban schools in Cardiff. The location of the school on the site, landscaping and noise barriers such as trees would reduce noise on the site.
- Part of the site at Ty Glas could be used for another school. The site would need to be carefully designed and the behaviour of pupils safely managed. Separate entrances and exits for each school and the possibility of different start and finish times would need to be considered.

## Risks Associated with the Proposal

- Consultation on new schools is undertaken at an early stage of developing proposals. The extensive design and feasibility studies are undertaken later. Whilst this limits the risk of the Council using its funds, some survey and planning information is not yet available. Site surveys and geo-technical reports would also be undertaken at a later stage.
- The proposed changes require funding from the Welsh Government. The Council would need to secure funding in a business case to the Welsh Government.
- If the Council did not get funding from the Welsh Government, the Council would be fully responsible for all costs relating to the proposal. In this case, the Council would need to consider how best to provide the additional school places.

## Transport to Greenhill School at the Proposed Site at the Dutch Garden Centre

The development would require a Transport Assessment which would identify ways in which we can maximise travel by sustainable modes. The Dutch Garden Centre site can only be accessed by vehicles at present. Changes would need to be made in order to access the site in other ways.

There are currently no pedestrian links, cycling facilities or public transport to the site. Bus access and safe waiting facilities for staff and any pupils travelling independently and using scheduled and additional school bus services would need to be provided, with safe pedestrian access to bus stops convenient to the school.

## Transport to Greenhill School at the Proposed Site at Ty Glas

The Ty Glas site has a relatively central location and is close to both Ty Glas railway station and bus routes so it can be travelled to using public transport. There is good potential for learners as well as staff who live within a reasonable cycling or walking distance to travel to the site by active modes. Greenhill School has already developed its own Active Travel Plan.

Greenhill School pupils are supported by the Council's Independent Travel Training initiative where school pupils are supported in planning and making journeys to school independently. The site location near public transport services would lend it itself well to pupils being supported by this initiative.

Greenhill School also forms part of the Cardiff Schools Bike Fleet project where bikes (and scooters) are being placed in schools to allow everyone access to cycling, using them for cycle training and for school or extra-curricular activities.

## How would staff be affected?

The proposed increase in pupil numbers for Greenhill School would mean that the Governing Body would need to plan for additional staff ahead the expansion. The Governing Body would be encouraged to undertake this work in line with the School Organisation Planning HR Framework.

The Council would provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Body for the workforce planning and recruitment processes. Where Governing Bodies have adopted the Council's School Redeployment and Redundancy Policy, any new vacancies arising from an increase in the numbers on roll would provide opportunities for school-based staff on the school redeployment register.

The proposal includes the relocation of Greenhill School and dual site arrangements. Staff and trade union consultation would be undertaken. Clear communication plans for the arrangements of transferring sites would be required. Staff would be involved in the development of building specifications and designs.

## What happens next?

The Council will collect and summarise the feedback from this consultation. Council officers will then report this to the Council's Cabinet. This will help the elected members understand stakeholders' views and will give them information to help make their decision.

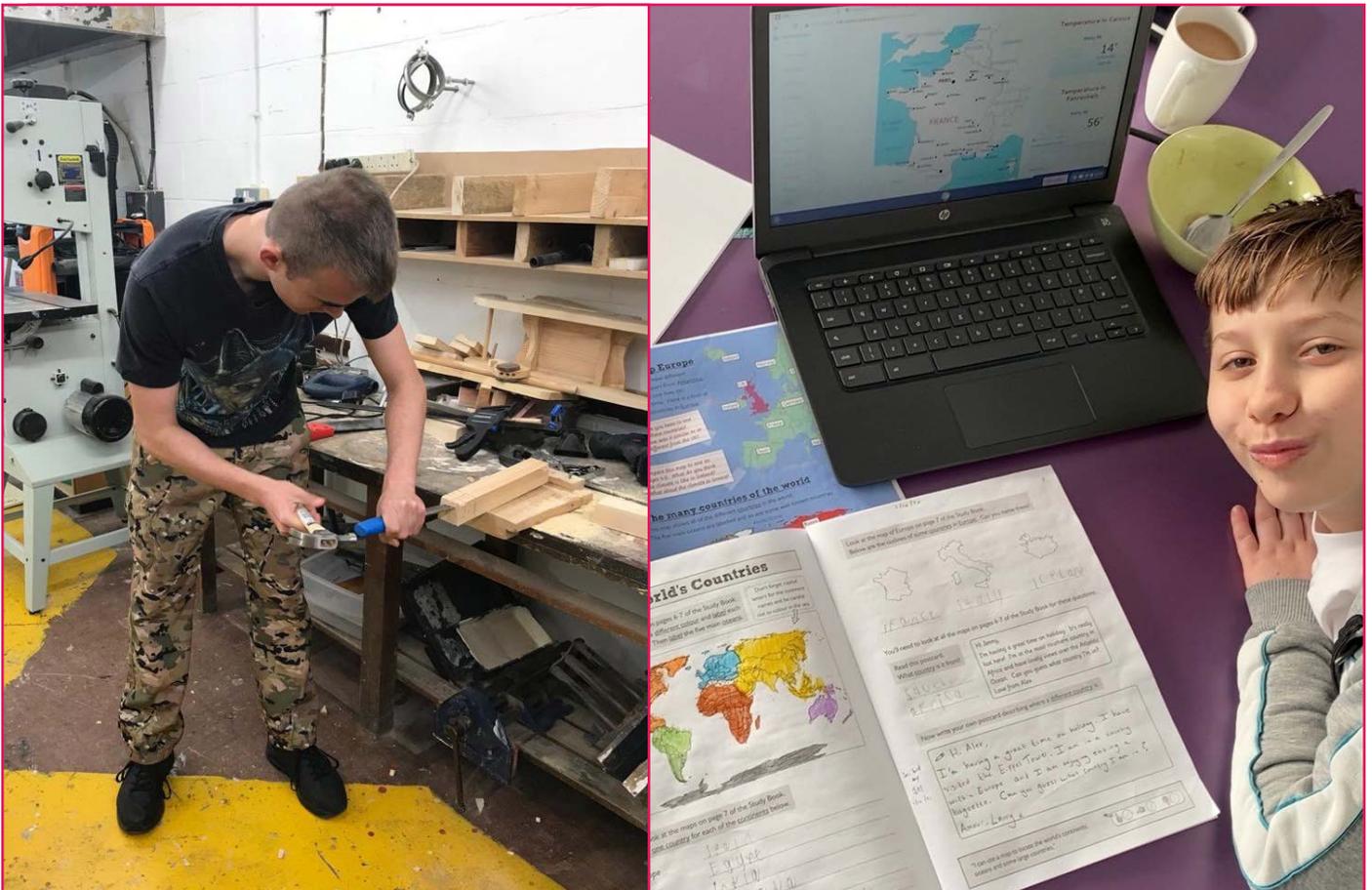
If the Cabinet decides to continue with the proposals, it must publish a document called a 'statutory notice'. The statutory notice sets out the details of the proposals and asks anyone who wants to object to do so. Objections must be written. They must be sent to the Council within the dates given on the notice.

The Cabinet may decide to approve or reject the proposal, or they may approve the proposal with some changes (modifications). The Cabinet would take any objections received in the Objection Period into account when making their decision.

Once a decision is made, we will let everyone affected by the proposal know. The decision will also be published on the Council's website.

## If these proposals were agreed, when would the new school buildings open?

It is intended that building work would start in the 2023/24 school year and be completed for pupils to use all new facilities in the 2025/26 school year.



# Have Your Say!

You can complete this response form online at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALNSchoolproposals)

We are proposing to:

- increase the capacity of Greenhill School from 64 to 160 places.
- Transfer the school to new build accommodation across two sites at the Dutch Garden Centre, Maes Y Bryn Road (near to M4 J30) and Ty Glas Road in Llanishen, with 80 pupils on each site from September 2025.

Please note that the development of this proposal is at an early stage. Any detailed school design or site layouts would be considered at a later date. There would be opportunities to comment on detailed plans at the pre-planning and planning application stages, should the proposal be progressed.

Please tell us whether you are responding as (tick all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent or Guardian*          | <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent*   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of Staff*             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pupil*         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor*                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |   |

\*Please confirm which schools you are affiliated with

1. Do you support the proposal to increase the capacity of Greenhill School from 64 to 160 places?

- YES       NO       NO OPINION

Please explain why:

**2. Do you support the proposal to transfer Greenhill School to new build accommodation across two sites at the Dutch Garden Centre, Maes Y Bryn Road and Ty Glas Road, Llanishen?**

YES

NO

NO OPINION

Please explain why:

**3. Are there any changes you think could improve these proposals?**

**4. Are there any alternative options you would like to suggest?**

**5. Do you have any other comments?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

## The closing date for responses to this consultation is **1 February 2022**.

The Council is not able to consider any consultation responses received after this date.

Consultation responses will **not** be counted as objections to the proposal.

Objections can only be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

If you wish to be notified of publication of the Consultation report please provide an email address. If you do not provide an email address we cannot keep you up to date.

**Thank you for your comments.**

**Please return this form to the School Organisation Planning Team, Room 401, County Hall, CF10 4UW or by email to [schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk) by no later than 1 February 2022.**

### ABOUT YOU

Please provide your postcode below to allow us to more accurately pinpoint respondents' views and needs by area:-

What was your age on your last birthday?

- Under 16       25-34       45-54       65-74       Prefer not to say  
 16-24       35-44       55-64       75+

Are you...?

- Female       Male       Other       Prefer not to say

Do you identify as a disabled person?

- Yes       No       Prefer not to say

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

- Deaf/ Deafened/ Hard of hearing       Visual impairment       Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)  
 Mental health difficulties       Wheelchair user       Prefer not to say  
 Learning impairment / difficulties       Mobility impairment       Other

Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

What is your ethnic group?

Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British    | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Bangladeshi                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Irish  | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Indian                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Any other                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White - Any other white background                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - African   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White & Asian             | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black Welsh/British - Any other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black African   | <input type="checkbox"/> Arab  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups - Any other                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group (please specify)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Chinese                      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Pakistani                    | Prefer not to say  |

The information you have provided above will be processed by Cardiff Council in line with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation. The information provided to us in relation to this consultation will be treated as confidential but it may be used by the Council or disclosed to others when required by law. The purpose of processing the personal data is required to perform a specific task in the public interest. Any responses received can be requested under the Freedom of Information Act and may have to be made public, however any information that would identify an individual such as name and address would be removed.

For further information on how Cardiff Council manages personal information, see our full Privacy Policy on the Council's website

[https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Home/New\\_Disclaimer/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Home/New_Disclaimer/Pages/default.aspx)