



**Review Area 2
Usk Town & the Surrounding
Areas**

Consultation period:

18th January 2019 to 1st March 2019

Contents

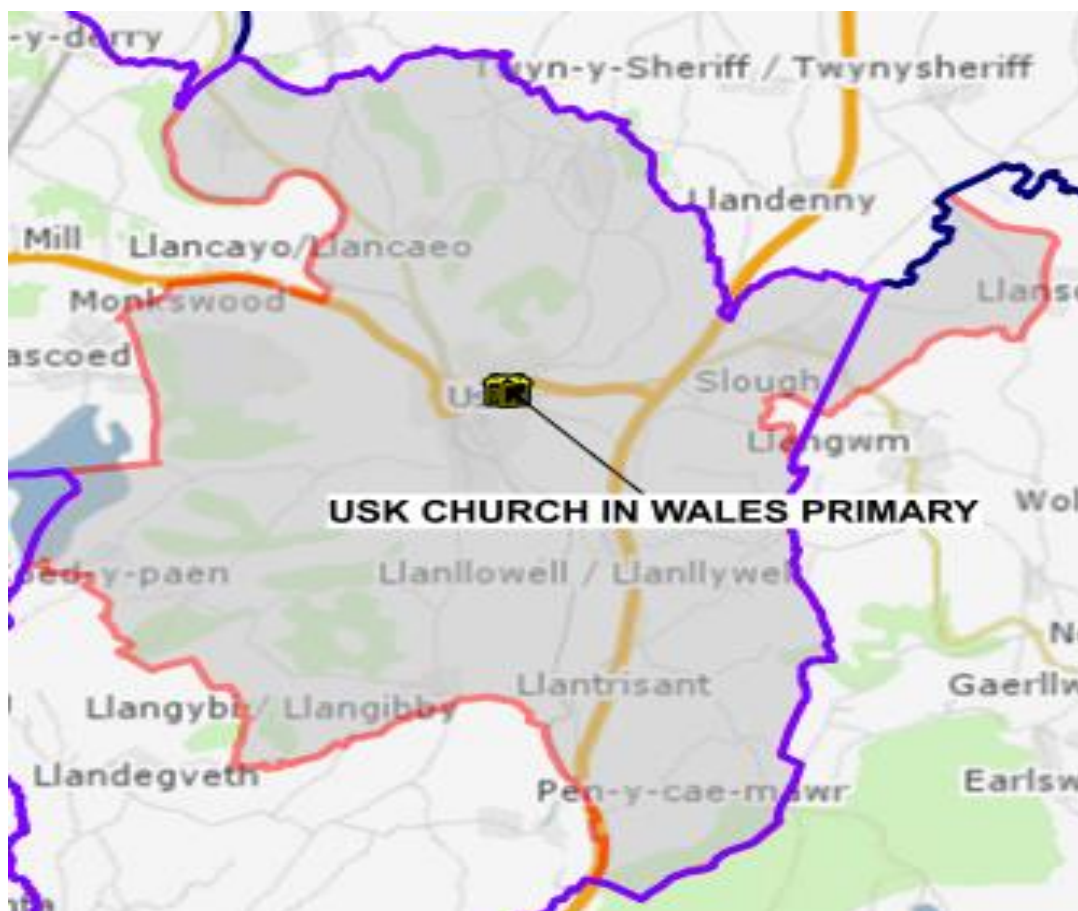
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1. The Proposal

The Council are considering amending the secondary school catchment area for children and young people currently residing within the town of Usk and the immediate surrounding areas.

The areas identified as being affected by these proposals currently form part of the catchment area for Usk Church in Wales Primary School. The Secondary catchment area at large is designated to Caerleon Comprehensive School, with a small pocket in the area of Llansoy designated to Chepstow School.

The map below illustrates the areas that are being considered under this proposal, and will help you to understand whether you could be affected by the proposed changes.



The Council would like to know your views on whether the secondary school catchment boundary should be amended for the specified areas (shaded area above), to form part of the catchment area for Monmouth Comprehensive School, thus enabling children and young people to continue their education through a Monmouthshire education system.

Alternatively, the Council would like to know your views on whether the status quo should continue, i.e. Caerleon Comprehensive School remaining as the designated catchment school for the affected area.

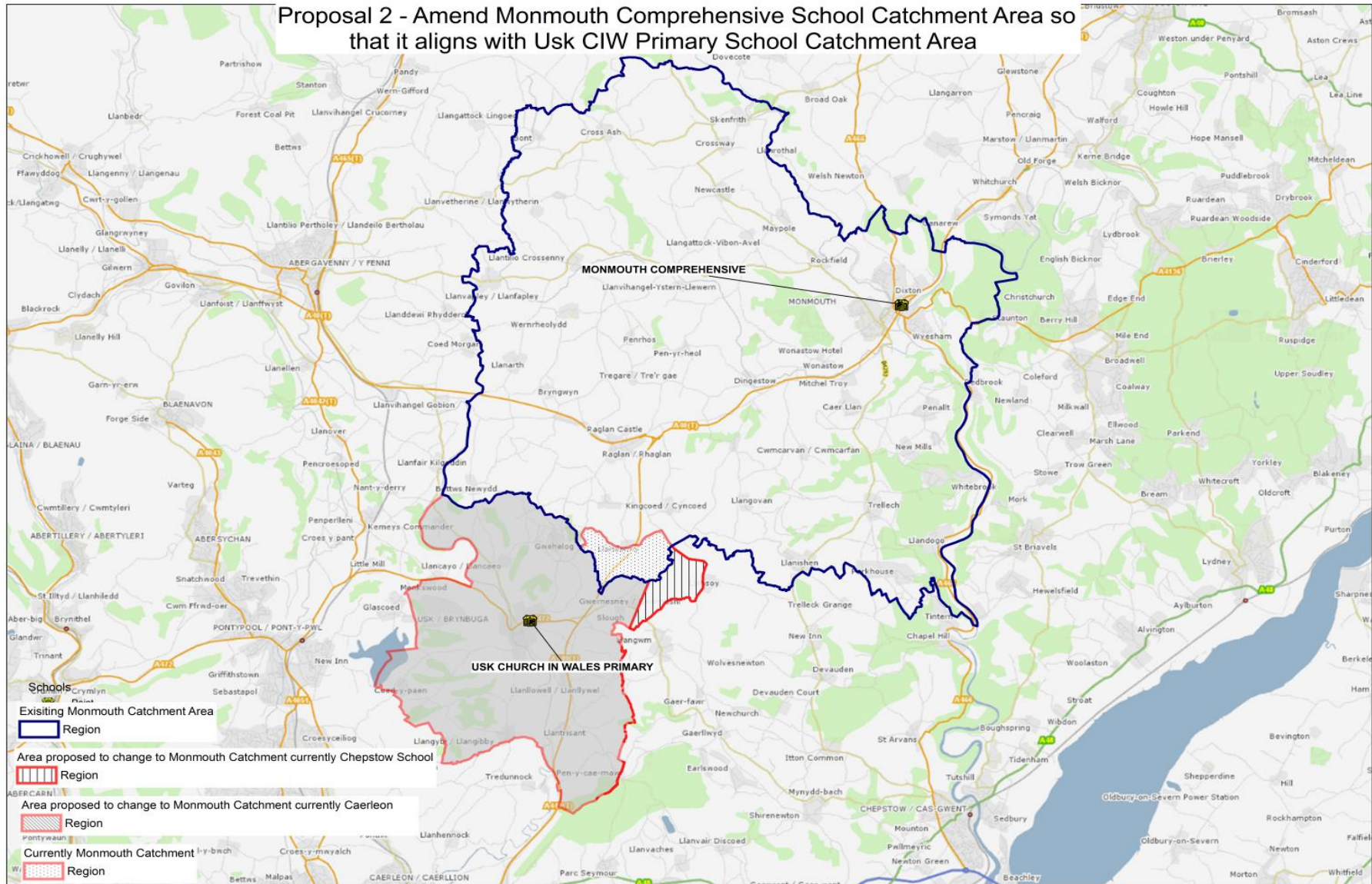
2. The Current Position

The area under review as part of this consultation forms part of the catchment area for Usk Church in Wales Primary School. Usk Church in Wales Primary School is located in the county of Monmouthshire and is considered to be a designated feeder school for Monmouth Comprehensive School, however, its catchment area serves more than 1 secondary school:

- Caerleon Comprehensive School. Situated in the City of Newport and forms the secondary catchment and nearest school for the majority of children and young people that reside within the Usk Church in Wales Primary School catchment area.
- Chepstow Comprehensive School. Situated in Chepstow, Monmouthshire and forms the secondary catchment school for a small number of children and young people that reside within the Usk Church in Wales Primary catchment area. Chepstow School also forms the nearest Monmouthshire Secondary school for a small proportion of the affected area.
- Monmouth Comprehensive School. Situated in Monmouth and forms the nearest Monmouthshire school for the majority of children and young people that reside within the catchment area for Usk Church in Wales Primary School.

The map overleaf illustrates the current position, identifying the area under review and the Secondary school catchments in their current form. For clarity, the shaded area of this map current forms part of the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive School / Chepstow School but is proposed to form part the catchment area for Monmouth Comprehensive School under these proposals

Proposal 2 - Amend Monmouth Comprehensive School Catchment Area so that it aligns with Usk CIW Primary School Catchment Area



3. Why are we considering the proposed change?

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. 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.

Usk Church in Wales Primary School is the designated primary school for the affected area and is a feeder school for Monmouth Comprehensive School. The proposed changes would see complete alignment between the catchment area for Usk Church in Wales Primary School and Monmouth Comprehensive 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.

Monmouth Comprehensive School is the nearest Monmouthshire school for the majority of children and young people residing within the affected area. Parental preference together with the feedback from residents of the affected community suggest that there is a keen interest for their children to remain within the Monmouthshire education system as they transition to Secondary School.

Over recent years, the Council has experienced an increasing number of application requests for children and young people from within the affected area to attend Monmouth Comprehensive School. Many of these applications have been unsuccessful at times of oversubscription due to the area not forming part of the catchment area for the preferred school. It has also been suggested that many

parents would apply for a place at Monmouth Comprehensive school if they felt their application would have a high chance of being successful.

The proposals outlined would help in addressing 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 majority of affected area sees home to school transport provision offered to Caerleon Comprehensive School only, as this is both the nearest and catchment school. There is no free home to school transport entitlement for children and young people residing within the affected area that wish to attend a Monmouthshire Secondary School.

Should the proposals be supported and agreed, it would see free home to school transport becoming available to those in the affected area to Monmouth Comprehensive as the newly formed catchment school

4. Background information

An analysis of parental requests made over the last 5 years show that the vast majority of children and young people attending Usk Church in Wales Primary School opt to transition to either Monmouth or Caerleon Comprehensive Schools. The table below provides the numbers transitioning to each of the secondary schools from Usk Church in Wales Primary over the last 5 years.

| | Transition to Monmouth Comprehensive | Transition to Caerleon Comprehensive |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| September 2014 | 9 | 10 |
| September 2015 | 8 | 21 |
| September 2016 | 10 | 16 |
| September 2017 | 12 | 24 |
| September 2018 | 9 | 20 |
| Total | 48 | 91 |

The numbers within the above table are children and young people that have been on roll at Usk Church in Wales Primary School, and shows that the majority seek admission into Caerleon Comprehensive School, which in the majority of cases is the designated catchment school.

However, the above does not reflect children that have been unsuccessful in their applications for Monmouth Comprehensive School due to oversubscription issues. The above also does not reflect recent feedback received by the council confirming

that more families wish to attend Monmouth Comprehensive School, however, they do not feel their applications will be successful.

The Council is now seeking formal feedback through this consultation on whether parents would wish for their children to remain within the Monmouthshire education system through Primary to Secondary transition.

Projected Numbers on roll

The table below identifies the number of children that are currently residing within the affected area and therefore those most likely to be affected by the proposed change. The numbers identify the children that will transition from Primary to Secondary school between September 2020 and September 2025.

| Current NCY | Transition from Primary to Secondary | Number of Pupils Affected |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Year 5 | Sep-20 | 31 |
| Year 4 | Sep-21 | 27 |
| Year 3 | Sep-22 | 29 |
| Year 2 | Sep-23 | 35 |
| Year 1 | Sep-24 | 36 |
| Rec | Sep-25 | 33 |
| | Total | 191 |

The Council's projected numbers on roll for Monmouth Comprehensive school support that the above children could be accommodated should the proposals be supported and agreed. However, there is an increasing risk of children and young people from the affected area not obtaining places should the status quo remain.

Pupils currently on roll at Caerleon Comprehensive School.

Children and Young People who are currently on roll at Caerleon Comprehensive School will not be affected by these proposals and existing home to school transport arrangements will remain in place until they are no longer attending the school.

5. Advantages and Disadvantages of the proposal

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|--|--|
| The proposals are supporting Monmouthshire children attending Monmouthshire Schools | Families residing within the affected area would be removed from the catchment area for Caerleon Comprehensive should proposals be agreed. |
| Families residing within the affected area would have a designated catchment school within the county in which they live | Children and Young People from within the affected area can apply for a school place at Caerleon Comprehensive should they wish. However, there is an increased risk that their application will be unsuccessful as they would then be considered to be an out of catchment applicant. |
| School catchment areas form part of the oversubscription criteria used to award school places. Children and young people from the affected area would gain an advantage in obtaining a school place at a Monmouthshire school should they form part of the catchment area. | Free home to school transport would only be provided to Caerleon Comprehensive school to those children and young people currently on roll, or in the instance that Caerleon Comprehensive is the nearest school. |
| Children and young people residing within the affected area would meet the criteria to receive free home to school transport to a Monmouthshire School. | Caerleon Comprehensive school is the nearest school for the majority of the affected area. Therefore, travel distances for some may increase, although travelling times are felt to be relatively similar |
| Enabling the above would support the robust transition links between Usk Church in Wales Primary and Monmouth Comprehensive, enabling peer groups to remain together on transition to secondary school. | |

6. Financial Implications

The aims of this proposal are not are not financially driven, but to enable Monmouthshire children and young people to continue their education at a Monmouthshire Secondary School. However, a full cost analysis looking at the financial impacts of the proposal will be undertaken alongside this consultation, paying particular attention to the impact on the Monmouthshire schools affected by the proposal, as well as the impact on home to school transport costs.

A full cost analysis will be presented to the Council's Cabinet alongside the views received as part of this consultation, to determine whether the proposal should be implemented.

7. What Next?

Your views on the proposed changes to secondary school catchment areas are important to us. We really do want you to engage in this consultation and tell us what you think of the proposals, particularly if they may affect you or your children.

Important: This consultation will not make any assumptions, so whether you are for or against the proposed changes, please take this opportunity to have your say

You can tell us what you think by:

- 1) Attending one of the consultation sessions:

| Review Area | Date | Venue |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Usk and surrounding area | 20 th February 2019 at 6pm | Usk Church in Wales Primary School |
| All areas day time drop in session | 14 th February 2019 9.30am to 11.30am | County Hall, Usk |

- 2) To enable us to carry out detailed analysis of the feedback provided we would urge you to complete the consultation questionnaire, which is available on our website at www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/catchmentconsultation

If you have any questions on the proposals please contact the Access Unit on 01633 644508 or by emailing accesstolearning@monmouthshire.gov.uk.

Please note that the deadline for responses to this consultation is 1st March 2019 at 5pm. Any responses received by the local authority after this closing date will not be considered as part of this consultation.