

## Welsh Language Assessment

### Impact on the Welsh Language

The application site is located within Crynant, which falls within the Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan's designated Language Sensitive Area. The proposal has therefore been considered against Strategic Policy SP22 (Welsh Language) and Policy WL1 (Development in Language Sensitive Areas), together with the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance: Development and the Welsh Language (July 2017). The only survey data available for Welsh speakers dates back to 2011 where it already has shown a consistent decline. Data suggest this will be even less again with up-to date data.

The proposal comprises the change of use of a long-term vacant former chapel to a C2 Residential Institution. The development involves the re-use of an existing building and does not include any new residential dwellings or significant expansion of the built form.

The proposal is not anticipated to result in any material increase in the permanent resident population of Crynant, nor is it expected to alter the linguistic balance of the community. Occupancy will be limited to the capacity of the existing building and staffing requirements are expected to be modest. The nature and scale of the development are therefore materially different from housing developments that may introduce substantial population growth into a language-sensitive area.

Furthermore, the proposal secures the beneficial re-use of a vacant building of local importance, preventing further deterioration and ensuring its continued contribution to the local community.

Having regard to the scale and nature of the development, it is concluded that the proposal will have a neutral impact on the Welsh language and accords with Strategic Policy SP22, Policy WL1 and the Council's Welsh Language Supplementary Planning Guidance.