

## **BRYNFORD, LIXWM & RHOSISMOR AREA SCHOOL REVIEW**

### Drop-In Session Frequently Asked Questions

#### **1. Why does the Local Authority review schools?**

Please refer to the Options Appraisal, page 3.

(<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Modernisation-Area-Schools-Review/BrynfordLixwmRhosismorDocs/Option-Appraisal-Document.pdf>)

#### **2. Why has my school been included?**

Please refer to the Options Appraisal, page 4.

(<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Modernisation-Area-Schools-Review/BrynfordLixwmRhosismorDocs/Option-Appraisal-Document.pdf>)

#### **3. What is an Area School Review?**

Please refer to the Options Appraisal, page 3.

(<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Modernisation-Area-Schools-Review/BrynfordLixwmRhosismorDocs/Option-Appraisal-Document.pdf>)

#### **4. What are the options for the area?**

Please refer to the Options Appraisal, page 3.

(<http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Modernisation-Area-Schools-Review/BrynfordLixwmRhosismorDocs/Option-Appraisal-Document.pdf>)

#### **5. When will parents/carers and staff in our area be involved?**

Informal Consultation on the options for the area (Brynford, Lixwm & Rhosesmor) began on 1st July 2016 and end 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Drop-in sessions were arranged at all the schools in the area for invited stakeholders. These events provided an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions, review and discuss the options and provide the Council with their views and opinions. These sessions were open to parents, carers, staff and governors of each school and took place on the following dates:

- Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 5pm-6pm;
- Lixwm C.P. School – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 5pm-7pm;
- Brynford C.P. School – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 6pm-8pm.

## **6. What if I cannot make the drop-in session?**

All documents are available at the following link [www.flintshire.gov./schoolmodernisation](http://www.flintshire.gov./schoolmodernisation).

Persons wishing to provide their opinion and views can do so using a number of methods such as by letter, email or by completing an online survey.

### By Post:

School Modernisation Team, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6ND

### By email

21stcenturyschools@flintshire.gov.uk

### Online

A response form is also attached in hardcopy at the end of this document. This can be returned either by post or email to the above addresses. Additionally the form can be completed electronically using the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ASRLBR>

Should you require any further information or want to ask any questions you can call the School Modernisation Team on 01352 704134/4014

## **7. I am a resident / member of the community, why couldn't I attend a drop-in session?**

There is no requirement to have public meetings, therefore the drop in sessions were specifically for parents, carers, staff and governors, although members of the community did attend all sessions. However, we appreciate that the views of the community are also important and therefore welcome your views. Please refer to question 6.

## **8. Why bother with Informal Consultation? Hasn't a decision already been made?**

No decisions have been made, the Cabinet who are the constituted decision makers for the Council, cannot pre-determine decision making. The views of stakeholders are important to the Council, therefore you are encouraged to complete a survey and offer your opinion regarding the options presented for the area. All correspondence received during consultation will be made available to decision makers (Cabinet) together with a cover report and the option appraisal work. Cabinet members will carefully consider all correspondence before determining on the most suitable option to pursue for the area.

**9. If the drop-in sessions identify a clear preferred option from the communities will that be the one chosen by Cabinet?**

Cabinet will make a decision based on all evidence, the views of stakeholders, the strategic aims of the School Modernisation Programme and the Council, this may be the same as community or it could be different. Cabinet in the past have been persuaded by stakeholders where there has been is a clear option to ensure a sustainable Education model for the school or area.

**10. When will a decision by Cabinet be made and if Option 2 or 3 is selected when will they be completed?**

Cabinet will meet in the autumn of 2016, to determine which option officers should pursue. Should either option 2 or 3 be chosen, then this requires further formal consultation with the affected schools and stakeholders through the School Organisation Code. Additionally Capital investment will be needed therefore submission of Business cases to Welsh Government (WG) will be required. Based on current information from the WG, 21<sup>st</sup> century Band B programme funding will not be available till 2019, this would be the earliest possible capital investment date from this funding source. The Council will endeavour to provide more information on timelines at an appropriate time in the future. Further information will be provided to the schools and posted on the Council's website.

**11. Why has Lixwm site been discounted in the Buildings Options Appraisal?**

All options have been compared against the same criteria, Building Bulletin 99 and School Premises Regulations, these prescribe the mix of facilities and area provisions (both internal and external) required when designing schools. Due to the limited site area at Lixwm CP, the existing land available is unable to accommodate the design requirements and area provisions for option 2 and 3.

**12. What if I do not wish for my child to attend one of the new schools?**

Parents can request a preference to any school. However, the Council administer admissions to schools through its admissions policy. Full details of the Local Authority's Admissions Policy can be found here: <http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Admissions/Guide-to-Education-Services-2016.pdf>

**13. I have chosen this primary due to the secondary catchment, will any proposed changes affect this?**

Flintshire County Council does not operate a catchment area system nor does it have feeder primary schools.

The Admissions Policy, is based on geographical location to the Secondary school (i.e. actual distance from home address to school) and not on a catchment or feeder school basis, please refer to the policy as above.

**14. Would my child get free transport even though we live less than 2 miles from the proposed new area school?**

Free transport will be provided if your child is of statutory school age and the nearest school is under 2 miles (primary) but the route is deemed hazardous by the Council. Individual circumstances would need to be assessed to determine eligibility for free transport.

Full details of the Local Authority's Transport Policy can be found here <http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/School-Transport/Transport-Eligibility-Criteria-.pdf>

**15. Will any of the proposed changes improve teaching standards?**

School reorganisation does provide the opportunity for educational standards in the area to improve in a number of ways.

Being part of a larger staff team allows individual teachers to learn from a wider range of colleagues who have different skills and experiences; it allows for better sharing of the best practice to improve the teaching skills of all and this has a direct impact on raising outcomes for learners.

In very small schools, teachers often have to carry a large number of subject responsibilities which can create quite a workload and sometimes does not allow for particular expertise to be developed or shared. Spreading curriculum leadership responsibilities across a larger number of staff ensures everyone's workload is reasonable and encourages teachers to further develop their subject knowledge in areas of interest and/or expertise. This can then be disseminated across the staff via a model of more equitable distributed leadership.

Being part of a larger school also provides better opportunities for teachers to teach in different year groups which broadens their experience and improves their knowledge of expectations of other year groups. This strengthens their knowledge of the curriculum and of teaching methodologies e.g. Foundation Phase/Key Stage 2. This, in turn, contributes to a stronger school team overall which can have a positive impact on raising standards of achievement as it can lead to greater consistency of approach and the sharing of expertise between colleagues.

It can also provide greater sustainability in terms of budgets and staffing posts which, in turn, gives Head teachers and Governors the opportunity to make the best of the resources they have to support raising standards for pupils e.g. support for pupils with Additional Learning Need, Basic Skills, English as an Additional Language and More Able and Talented..